



PreEmptive Dotfuscator and Analytics Community Edition Users' Guide

Version 5.22

PreEmptive Solutions

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www.preemptive.com

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PreEmptive Dotfuscator and Analytics CE

Dotfuscator is the leading [.NET obfuscator](#) and compactor that helps protect programs against reverse engineering while making them smaller and more efficient. Dotfuscator and Analytics also provides a way of injecting additional pre-built functionality that provides usage tracking, tamper detection, and expiration into your .NET applications.

In the PreEmptive Dotfuscator and Analytics CE Documentation

[Introduction](#)

Explains the benefits of using PreEmptive Dotfuscator and Analytics Community Edition 5.22.

[Getting Started](#)

Explains how to launch PreEmptive Dotfuscator and Analytics Community Edition 5.22 and register your product.

[Configuration Options](#)

Explains how to obfuscate your application using renaming. Then explains how to add feature usage tracking, tamper detection, and expiration to your application using Dotfuscator's code injection capabilities.

[Building](#)

Explains how to build your Dotfuscator project and where you can inspect a visual representation of your application after Dotfuscator and Analytics rebuilds it.

[Beyond Obfuscation](#)

Explains the new category of detective control in Dotfuscator and Analytics CE, allowing you to better monitor, manage, and protect your applications

[Free Analytics Portal](#)

Describes the freely available reports and dashboards that give you insight into how your application is being used.

Introduction

Your copy of Microsoft Visual Studio includes a free license for *PreEmptive Dotfuscator and Analytics Community Edition 5.22* (Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22). Like earlier versions of Dotfuscator and Analytics CE included in Visual Studio, it provides you with tools to protect and harden your .NET applications. Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 works on compiled assemblies without the need for additional programming or even access to source code.

Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 also offers a range of services for developers, architects and testers. Examples of [.NET Obfuscation](#) and [Code Protection](#) included in Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 are:

- *Exception tracking* to monitor unhandled, handled, or thrown exceptions occurring within the application.
- *Tamper defense* to detect the execution of tampered applications, transmit incident alerts, and terminate tampered sessions.
- *Application expiration* behaviors that encode an “end-of-life” date, transmit alerts when applications are executed after their expiration date, and/or terminate expired application sessions.
- *Session tracking* to determine what applications have been executed, what versions of those applications, and for how long.
- *Feature usage tracking* to determine what features are being used, in what sequence, and for how long.

In this section

[Capabilities](#)

[Upgrades](#)

Capabilities

This section focuses on the capabilities of Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 with some references to advanced options available through upgrades.

Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 is a *post-build* system for .NET applications. With Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22, Visual Studio users are able to obfuscate assemblies and inject tamper detection, application expiration, session monitoring, and feature tracking functionality - all without programming or access to the original source code. This information can be directed to one or more endpoints (or clouds) for reporting and analysis.

Application Protection

Intellectual Property theft, piracy, and tampering each materially increase financial, operational, and reputational risk - for both application suppliers and consumers. Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 includes baseline obfuscation to reduce the risk of unauthorized access to source code through reverse engineering.

Application Defense

Advances in application architectures and distributed computing have made application components increasingly vulnerable to attack and more difficult to defend on instance-by-instance and session-by-session bases. Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 includes the ability to inject logic that detects the execution of tampered code and, optionally, transmit an incident alert to a developer-specified endpoint and/or terminate the tampered session - all in real-time, across devices, platforms, and distribution models.

Application Measurement

Access to detailed information regarding the behavior of .NET applications once they've been deployed to users - whether in beta, early release or general availability - has been a dream of application developers. Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 can help answer such questions as:

- How often does my application crash and how often are handled exceptions encountered?
- What applications are my users running, by version?
- What features are being executed and in what order?
- How long do those features take to execute and what is the trend over time?
- Just how stable is the users' experience in the real world?

Traditionally, the impact of gathering this information on end-user performance has meant that few development teams have taken the steps to get access to such information. And when they do, the complexity of maintaining the analytics makes it brittle and hard to adapt to changes.

Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 makes it easy for developers, testers and architects to obtain this information with little or no impact on end-user performance. Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 can inject session, feature, and exception monitoring down to the method level and transmit runtime data to one or more endpoints. Whether you are managing a beta cycle, a portfolio of web services, or a product evaluation lifecycle, Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 can provide powerful insight into adoption, user behavior, stability, and ultimately, the business impact of software.

Application Management

Application portfolio management is becoming a critical issue for ISVs and enterprises alike, which means it's becoming an issue for developers. As software becomes easier to build and more difficult to track, organizations are looking for ways to safely and reliably encode business rules and IT policies directly into their software.

The challenge becomes how to deliver on these requirements without the need to make significant changes to the software. To meet this challenge, Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 can enforce end-of-life deadlines and transmit audit streams to track attempted usage on or after an application's expiration date.

Upgrades

Professional developers requiring ongoing support, maintenance and product updates will want to upgrade their copy of Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22 to a commercial edition of Dotfuscator that meets the unique needs of their

application development organization. For more information on the advanced application security, monitoring, measurement, and management capabilities of the full Dotfuscator product, including a detailed [comparison of all editions](#) of Dotfuscator, please visit our [Dotfuscator Overview](#). Fully-supported trials of Dotfuscator are available on request.

Commercial versions of Dotfuscator include enhanced security, tighter integration with Visual Studio, and other major extensions to the monitoring and management capabilities of Dotfuscator and Analytics CE 5.22. These include:

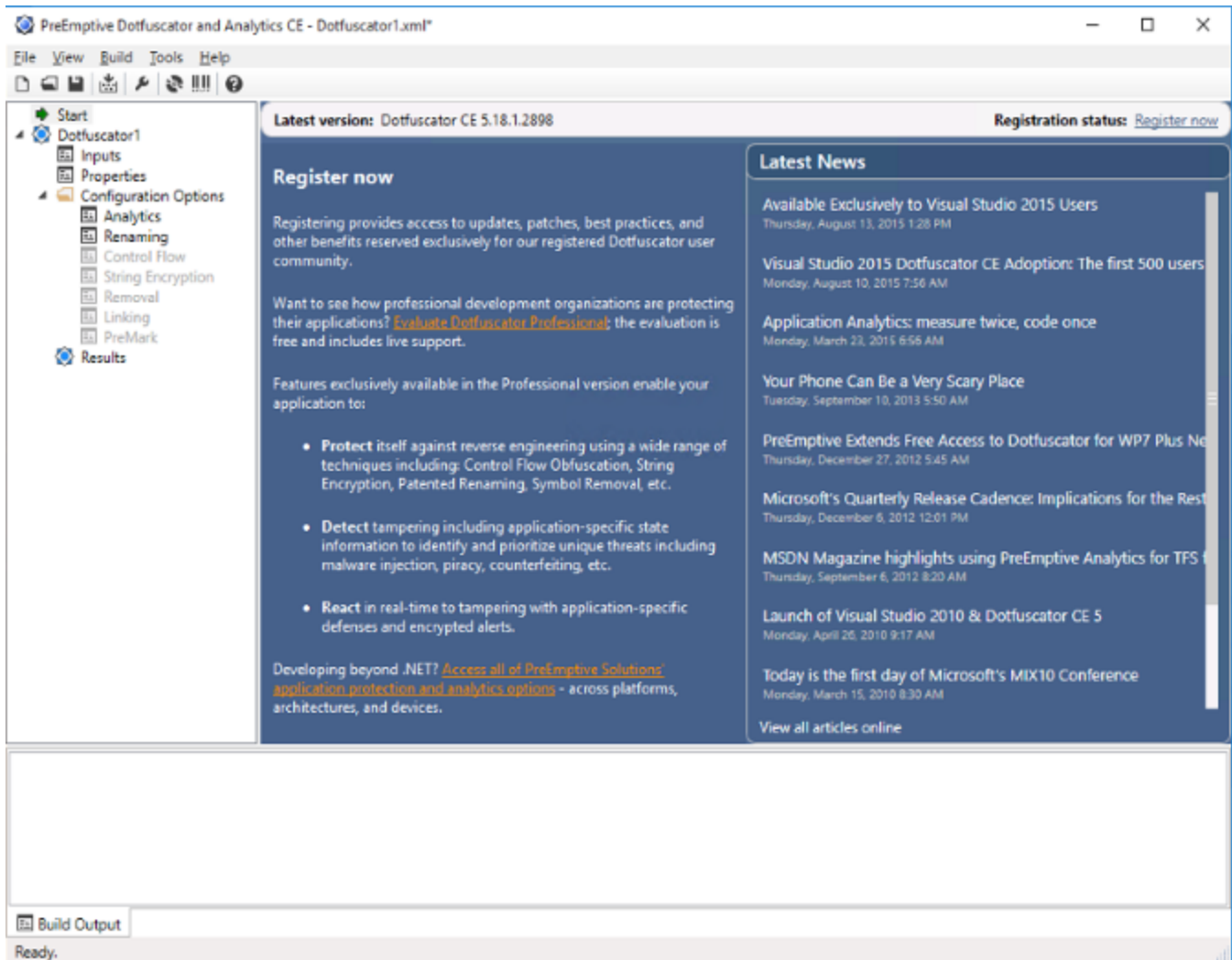
- *Application protection*: Access to the full range of expanded obfuscation transforms, as well as the ability to embed watermarking and the ability to link and/or prune assemblies.
- *Application defense*: The ability to inject custom application defense behaviors and activate tamper incident reporting services.
- *Application measurement*: The ability to create extensible data “signals”, create encrypted transmissions, track an unlimited number of features and methods, access a rich set of application analytics services, and the ability to report on caught or thrown exceptions (in addition to unhandled).
- *Application management*: The ability to inject custom behaviors, add a warning date, obtain reporting analytics and encrypt transmissions.

Getting Started

To begin using Dotfuscator and Analytics CE, follow these steps:

- Launch Visual Studio.
- From the Visual Studio menubar, click **Tools > PreEmptive Protection - Dotfuscator**.

When PreEmptive Dotfuscator and Analytics CE opens, the Start screen displays on your desktop:

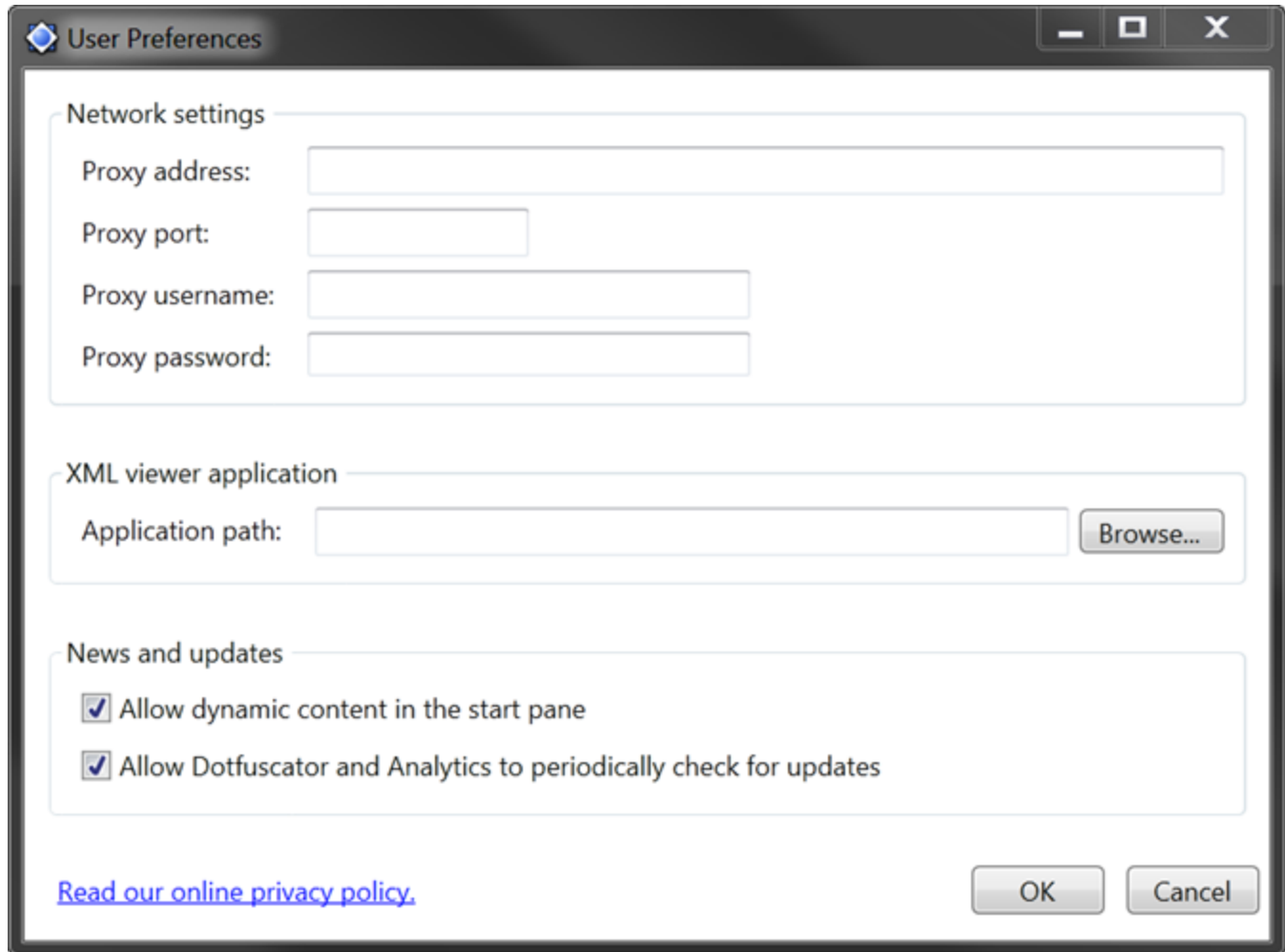


The program consists of three panels: the navigation tree, work area, and build output.

From the Start screen, you may perform several actions. If [Dynamic Content](#) is enabled, then you can view the release notes about the [latest version](#) of Dotfuscator Pro and see the latest news releases from PreEmptive Solutions. If [Dynamic Content](#) is disabled, then the option to set user preferences displays on the Start screen. The option to [register Dotfuscator and Analytics](#) is visible at all times. Dynamic Content can be enabled or disabled in [User Preferences](#).

Setting User Preferences

In the Start screen, if Dynamic Content is disabled, there is a link you may click to set User Preferences, or you may click **Tools > User Preferences**. Regardless of which path you choose to get to User Preferences, this dialog box displays:



The User Preferences dialog box is a standard Windows-style window with a title bar containing the text "User Preferences" and standard minimize, maximize, and close buttons. The dialog is divided into three main sections, each with a header and a light blue border:

- Network settings:** This section contains four text input fields: "Proxy address:", "Proxy port:", "Proxy username:", and "Proxy password:".
- XML viewer application:** This section contains a text input field for "Application path:" and a "Browse..." button to the right of the field.
- News and updates:** This section contains two checked checkboxes: "Allow dynamic content in the start pane" and "Allow Dotfuscator and Analytics to periodically check for updates".

At the bottom of the dialog, there is a blue hyperlink "Read our online privacy policy." on the left, and "OK" and "Cancel" buttons on the right.

If necessary, enter the configuration details of your network's proxy server requirements in the *Network settings* section of the User Preferences dialog. Proxy information is not required if you do not have a proxy server or if those settings are controlled via Internet Explorer.

If you wish to use an XML viewer for viewing Dotfuscator XML files that is *not* your system's default viewer, you may click **Browse...** in the *XML viewer application* section and locate the application you wish to use.

In the *News and updates* section, you may opt to allow Dotfuscator to periodically check for updates. Also, this section is where you can enable Dynamic Content to be displayed in the Start screen.

Latest Version of Dotfuscator and Analytics

The work area contains a link to the latest release notes for Dotfuscator and Analytics. If Dynamic Content is disabled, this link will take you to the Dotfuscator and Analytics version history page at www.preemptive.com.

Registration Status

You can register Dotfuscator and Analytics CE via the **Register Now** link. Clicking this link displays the registration dialog.

Dotfuscator Community Edition Registration

Register your copy of Dotfuscator to get access to updates and additional features such as command line support.

PreEmptive Solutions will notify you by email with news, updated products and services (you may opt-out of being contacted).

i Important: a valid email address is required and will be used to send you your confirmation code.

First name: *

Last name: *

Email address: *

Phone number:

Company/Affiliation:

Country/Region: *

☒ I would like to evaluate Dotfuscator Professional Edition

☒ Register by web
☐ Register by email

Please enter your name in the first name field.

[Read our online privacy policy.](#)

Next > Cancel

Register your product to receive updates and enhancements to Dotfuscator and Analytics CE. Enter your information within each field. For automated submission, select **Register by web**.

Clicking **Next** takes you to the second page of the Registration dialog. If necessary, enter the configuration details of your network's proxy server requirements. Click **Submit** upon completion.

Once your registration request is received and processed, you will receive a confirmation email from PreEmptive Solutions containing your registration verification code and credentials to the registered support area of www.preemptive.com where you will be able to access updated versions of Dotfuscator and Analytics CE. If you checked **Send me Dotfuscator Professional so I can try its advanced features**, you will also receive information on how to obtain an evaluation copy of Dotfuscator Professional Edition.

You are now ready to begin obfuscating and instrumenting your application with Dotfuscator and Analytics CE.

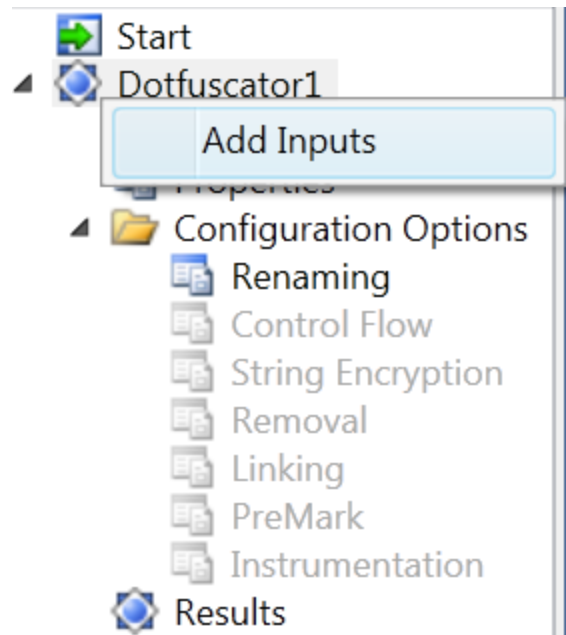
In this section

[Inputs](#)

[Properties](#)

Inputs

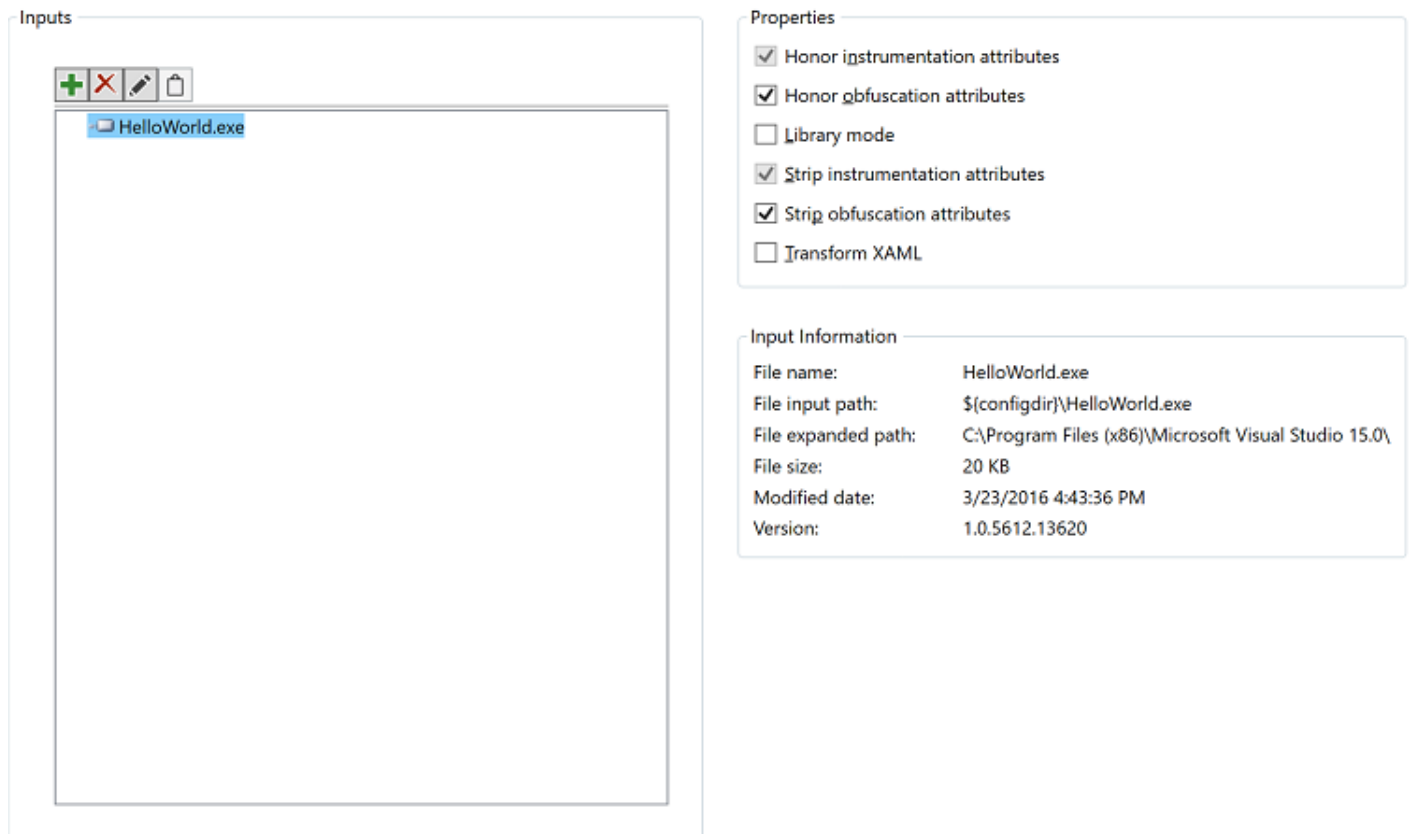
To start using Dotfuscator and Analytics CE, add one or more input assemblies or packages to your project. To add inputs to your project, you need to have the Inputs screen open in your work area. You can activate this screen by right-clicking the project node in the navigation tree and selecting **Add Inputs** or by selecting the Inputs option in the navigation tree.



To add your input assemblies or packages to the list of Inputs you may drag and drop your files or directories into the *Inputs* section of the page.

You may also click the "Add Input" button or right click in the *Inputs* area and choose Add Input. When adding inputs this way, you can browse to where your input is located and select it or enter the path to the input manually.

Input Properties



In the *Properties* section of the work area panel, select or de-select:

Honor instrumentation attributes: Selecting *Honor instrumentation attributes* tells Dotfuscator to process these attributes and perform the indicated instrumentation transformations on the target assembly. De-selecting this option tells Dotfuscator to ignore any instrumentation attributes.



[Instrumentation attributes](#) are custom attributes that can be applied in your source code to track application stability, features, usage, and to add shelf life functionality.

Honor obfuscation attributes: Selecting *Honor obfuscation attributes* tells Dotfuscator to process these attributes and perform the indicated obfuscation transformations on the target assembly. De-selecting this option tells Dotfuscator to ignore any obfuscation attributes.



Obfuscation attributes are custom attributes that can be applied in your source code to explicitly declare the inclusion or exclusion of types, methods, enums, interfaces, or members from various types of obfuscation. The attribute you would use to include or exclude types, methods, enums, interfaces, and members from obfuscation is **System.Reflection.ObfuscationAttribute**. If you want to denote that a specific assembly will have its items included or excluded from obfuscation, you would use **System.Reflection.ObfuscateAssemblyAttribute**. Dotfuscator and Analytics CE only supports renaming. Additional obfuscation functionality is available in the commercial version of Dotfuscator.

Library mode: This setting tells Dotfuscator that the selected input assembly constitutes a library. For obfuscation purposes, a library is defined as an assembly that is referenced from other components not specified as one of the inputs in this run. When an assembly is obfuscated in Library Mode, publicly visible items are not renamed, thus keeping your public API accessible to external callers.

Strip obfuscation attributes: Dotfuscator can strip out all of the obfuscation attributes when processing is complete, so output assemblies will not contain clues about how it was obfuscated. Selecting this option tells Dotfuscator to remove these attributes from the target output assembly. De-selecting this option tells Dotfuscator to leave the attributes in the output assembly unless the individual attributes designate that they should be stripped via the StripAfterObfuscation property.

Transform XAML: Dotfuscator can rename items in markup resources. The default value is True, which tells Dotfuscator to attempt to rename items in the markup resources and match the renaming to the items' references in the code-behind. Leaving this option enabled significantly strengthens the obfuscation of applications that rely on markup resources as well as decreases the number of items that must be manually excluded from renaming.

Input Information

This section of the Inputs work area provides general data about the currently selected assembly, including the file name, file path, expanded file path (useful if `${configdir}` or other properties are used), file size, last modified date, and version.

Properties

The **Properties** item on the navigation tree brings up the Properties configuration in the work area. It contains six tabs, three of which are available to Dotfuscator and Analytics CE users.

Project Properties

Project Properties can be thought of as simple string substitution macros that may be used wherever a filename or path is required. The **Project Properties** screen is where you can view, delete, and manually add user-defined name/value pairs as Project Properties and to view External Properties. External properties are those either defined by Dotfuscator (e.g. `configdir`, `appdatadir`) or those passed on the command line via the `/p` switch. Project Properties are especially useful in creating obfuscation build templates to support multiple projects and configurations. Properties are referenced with the following syntax:

Property Reference Syntax

```
${property_name}
```

Property references are case sensitive, therefore `${MyProjectDir}` references a different property than does `${myprojectdir}`. Property references are interpreted literally and may not be nested. Currently, property references may only be used as values in the `dir` or `name` attributes of the `<file>` element.

Dotfuscator uses the following algorithm to find a value associated with the property:

- Check the external property list for a value.
- If not found, check for an environment variable with the same name as the property.
- If not found, check for a project property.
- If still not found, use the empty string as the value.

Project Properties	External properties:	
Assembly Load Paths	Property	Value
Feature Map Strings	configdir	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio 11.0\PreEmptive Solutions\Dotfuscator
Build Settings	appdatadir	C:\ProgramData\PreEmptive Solutions\Common
Build Events	applicationdir	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio 11.0\PreEmptive Solutions\Dotfuscator
Signing		
	Project properties:	
	Property	Value
	projectdir	myproject

External Properties

The *Property* column contains the name of the property, and the *Value* column contains the value of that property. Dotfuscator and Analytics CE defines the following three Properties and Values:

- `applicationdir` reflects Dotfuscator and Analytics' installation directory where the Dotfuscator application files are located.
- `appdatadir` reflects Dotfuscator and Analytics' local data directory.
- `configdir` reflects the directory in which the current project's configuration file resides.

Project Properties

This section allows for the definition and assignment of arbitrary additional properties that will be used during the build process. These properties will be evaluated in the same manner as the external properties. In the above example, `projectdir` is the *Property* and `myproject` is the *Value* of the Property.

Feature Map Strings

The Feature Map Strings section is used for Declarative Obfuscation. Declarative Obfuscation is implemented via attribute decoration within the source code while it is being written. The attributes that are used to control Declarative Obfuscation are **System.Reflection.ObfuscateAssemblyAttribute** and **System.Reflection.ObfuscationAttribute**. **System.Reflection.ObfuscateAssemblyAttribute** controls the obfuscation of the assembly as a whole. **System.Reflection.ObfuscationAttribute** controls the obfuscation of individual types and their members. Feature Map Strings enable you to declare, within the source code, what should and should not be obfuscated by using attributes.

Feature map strings:	
Map string	Features
testmode	renaming

☒ Renaming
 ☐ Control Flow
 ☐ String Encryption
 ☐ Include Triggers
 ☐ Conditional Includes

In this section, you can add, edit, and remove feature map strings. To add a map string, click in the *Map String* field and type the **name** of the string. When you do this, a row of checkboxes displays beneath the current row containing the feature you can select. For example,

- `testmode` is the **name** of the *Map string* that was entered
- `renaming` is the **Feature** of the Map string that was selected from the row beneath.

In Dotfuscator and Analytics CE, renaming is the only available feature. Commercial versions of Dotfuscator support additional features as follows:

Feature String	Action
*controlflow	attribute configures control flow obfuscation
*stringencryption	attribute configures string encryption
*trigger	attribute configures pruning by marking the annotated item as an entry point
*conditionalinclude	attribute configures pruning by conditionally including the annotated item

By decorating items with an obfuscation attribute and ensuring that their input assemblies are set to honor obfuscation attributes, you can specify which items in your application should not be renamed. In the following code sample your method is invoked via reflection and should be excluded from renaming.

Invoked via Reflection, Excluded from Renaming:

```
[System.Reflection.Obfuscation(Exclude=true, Feature="renaming")]
public void CalledFromReflection(int someValue) {
```

If you need to exclude a method from obfuscation in a specific build configuration, then create a Feature Map declaration and set the feature value of the obfuscation attribute to match. In the screenshot above, we have set a Feature Map string of "testmode" that will be used to exclude items from being renamed. In the code sample below, we have decorated our method so that it will be renamed by Dotfuscator unless the "testmode" feature string is defined.

Testmode Feature Map Declaration:

```
[System.Reflection.Obfuscation(Exclude=true, Feature="testmode")]
public void OnlyCalledFromReflectionInTestMode(int someValue){
```

Build Settings

This is where you set the destination directory, build configuration, and global obfuscation settings.

Directories

The *Destination directory*: is required as that is where the output from the build will reside. For example, you would type `${projectdir}\output` in this field, or click **Browse** to determine its location.

Build Configuration

Selecting *Investigate only* shows you what will occur as a result of processing the input assemblies, without actually writing output assemblies. This is useful for creating map files and reports.

Build output verbosity: enables you to determine the amount of information presented to you in the **Build Output** panel. Selecting **Quiet** keeps the output information minimal. Selecting **Verbose** provides you detailed information about all actions occurring during the build process. The Verbose option is especially helpful if you are attempting to fine-tune your results.

The *Temporary directory*: is optional and is used to store temporary files during processing. By default Dotfuscator and Analytics CE uses your Windows Temporary directory. If you wish to specify this directory, enter the **name** of the directory in this field. For example, you could enter `${projectdir}\temp` in this field, or click **Browse** to determine its location.

Global Obfuscation Settings

In this section, you can select or deselect *Inherit obfuscation attributes* and *Smart obfuscation*. *Inherit obfuscation attributes* specifies whether an obfuscation attribute that is put on a type will also be applied to derived types. *Smart Obfuscation* uses static analysis to determine what elements should be excluded from renaming. Sometimes a rule can recognize that an action needs to be taken, but cannot determine what specific action to take because static analysis does not yield enough information. When this happens, the rule issues a warning.

You can also determine if you want Smart obfuscation reporting by selecting **All** for all messages, **None** for no messages, or **Warnings only**. When Smart Obfuscation is enabled, and the project is built, a Smart Obfuscation report will be presented in its own tab near the Build Output tab and if any Smart Obfuscation warnings are generated, they will be presented in the Smart Obfuscation Warnings tab.



Assembly Load Path, Build Events, and Signing

These features are exclusive to Dotfuscator Professional Edition. To request information and a free evaluation (where applicable), click the [Try Now](#) button on the toolbar. To learn how to purchase Dotfuscator Professional Edition, click the [Buy Now](#) button on the toolbar. Alternatively, you may select these options from the Help menu.

Configuration Options

The Configuration Options section is where you can set renaming options and exclusions, choose built-in renaming rules, and configure analytics settings.

Options such as [Control Flow Obfuscation](#), [String Encryption](#), [Removal](#), [Linking](#), and [PreMark \(Watermarking\)](#) are exclusive to [Dotfuscator Professional Edition](#). To request information and a free evaluation (where applicable) click the [Try Now](#) button on the toolbar. To learn how to purchase Dotfuscator Professional Edition, click the [Buy Now](#) button on the toolbar. Alternatively, you may select these options from the Help menu.

In this section

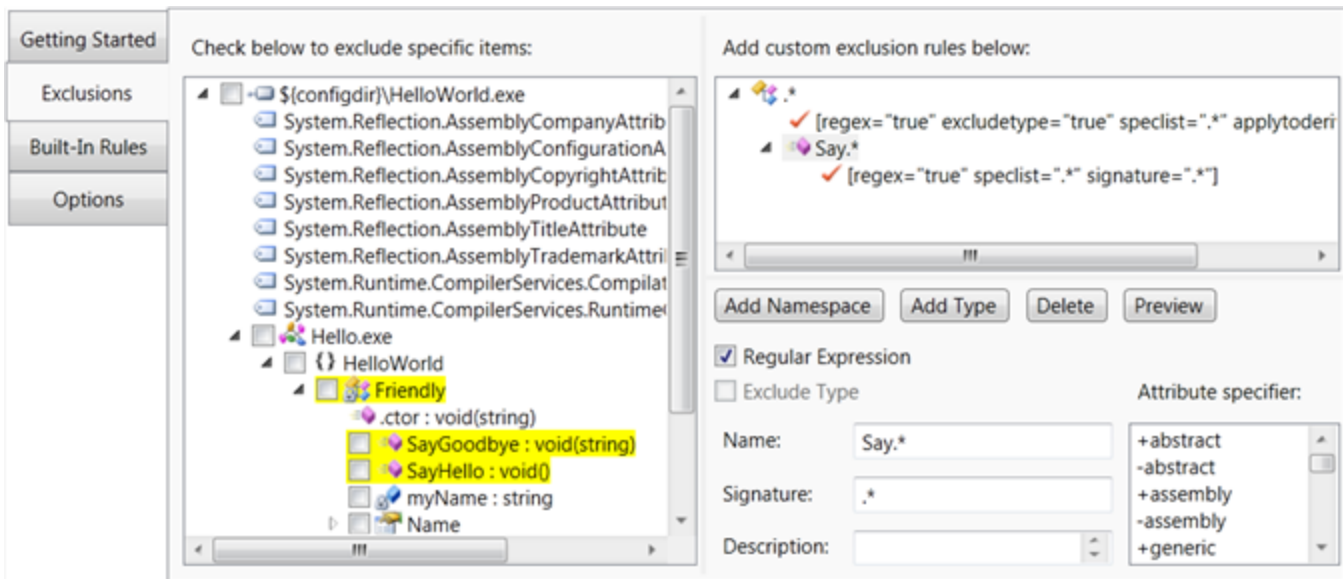
[Renaming](#)

[Analytics](#)

Renaming

The Renaming editor displays four configuration tabs: the Getting Started tab, which describes various application protection features and explains how to configure renaming settings and exclusions; the [Exclusions](#) tab, which is used to graphically set custom exclusion rules; the [Options](#) tab, which is used to configure other options related to renaming; and the [Built-in Rules](#) tab, which displays pre-configured renaming exclusion rules that apply to specific application types or technologies.

Renaming Exclusions



The **Renaming Exclusions** tab lets you determine which parts of your program are to be excluded from the renaming process. You may exclude specific items from renaming by browsing the navigation tree and checking those items.

The *Rename Exclusions* Tab gives you complete granular control over all parts of your program that you may wish to exclude from the renaming process.

You may exclude specific items from renaming by browsing the tree view of your application and checking the items you want to exclude. In addition, you may visually create your own custom rules for selecting multiple items for exclusion.

Custom rules can be defined to exclude larger selections of items without requiring you to individually select them for exclusion in the treeview. Rules can be defined to exclude namespaces, classes, methods, properties, events, and fields based on their name. Additionally, a Regular Expression can be used to provide a way to specify a pattern with any items that match that pattern from being excluded from obfuscation.

To help you fine-tune your exclusion rules, you can preview their cumulative effects at any time by clicking the **Preview** button. The application tree view shades all items selected for exclusion.

To preview a specific rule, right click on the rule whose effects you wish to see, select **Preview**, and Dotfuscator highlights items that will be excluded due to that rule.

Excluding a namespace will exclude all types and their members in the specified namespace. To exclude a namespace select the **Add Namespace** button and enter the name of the namespace you wish to exclude in the *Name* field. If you wish to use a regular expression to match multiple namespaces ensure that the *Regular Expression* box is checked and that the *Name* field contains the regular expression you wish to match against.

Types can be excluded by either matching only on their names or by optionally including a set of attribute specifiers that will further restrict the types excluded from renaming. Nested classes can be excluded by using a backslash “\” as a delimiter between the outer and inner class. By checking the *Regular Expression* box the value in the *Name* field will be matched as a regular expression rather than a literal string when determining which items to exclude from obfuscation. Type exclusion can follow inheritance rules. If the *Apply to Derived Types* option is selected then the exclusion rule will additionally be applied to the matched types and any types that inherit from them.

A number of other exclusion options are available and are defined as child rules to a containing type rule. To create a child rule right click on the type rule you wish to enhance and select the particular child rule implementation you wish to add.

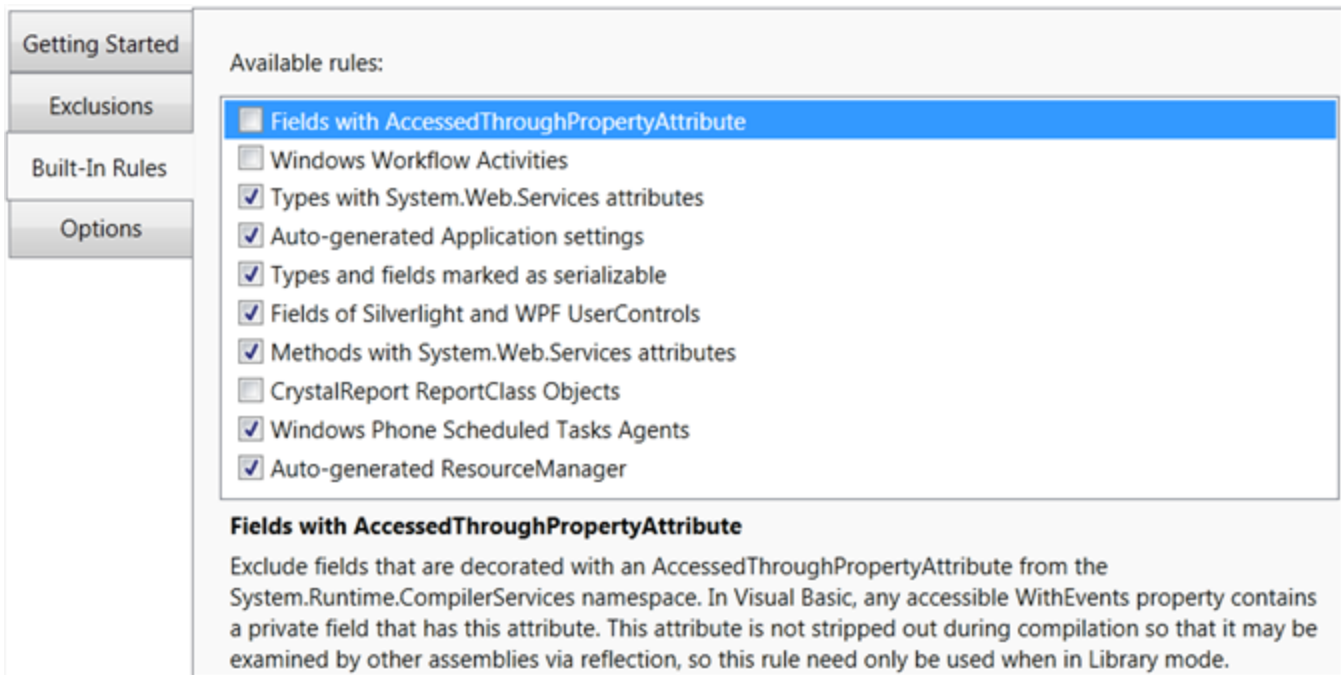
Rules to exclude methods, fields, properties, and events are set by creating a type rule for the type(s) that contain those items and adding a child rule for the appropriate item. As with namespaces and types, the exclusion of other items can be based on their literal name or a regular expression.

Types, methods, fields, and properties can be selected for exclusion by annotating them with custom attributes, then creating a type exclusion rule containing a **CustomAttribute** child rule. Matching on the name of the CustomAttribute is used to determine if an item should be excluded and regular expression matching logic will be implemented if the *Regular Expression* option is selected. Exclusion by custom attribute can also be propagated down the inheritance hierarchy by using the *Allow Inheritance* option which additionally excludes any subtypes or overriding methods and properties with the specified attribute.

Supertypes can also be excluded from obfuscation by adding a supertype child rule to a type rule definition. An item is excluded from obfuscation if it inherits from one or more supertypes that match the supertype exclusion condition.

In order to specify that an exclusion rule apply only to a method, field, property, event, supertype, or custom attribute and to include the containing type in obfuscation, select the *Exclude Type* option when defining the type rule. This option leaves the type included for renaming purposes and only evaluates the child rules.

Renaming Built-in Rules



The **Renaming Built-in Rules** tab displays pre-configured renaming exclusion rules that apply to specific application types or technologies. Each rule has a description that displays on the screen when the rule is selected. You can apply a built-in rule to your project by checking it.

Renaming Options

The **Renaming Options** tab is used to set renaming options and to identify map file output options. The *Renaming Options* section contains configuration settings that control how renaming is performed.

- **Enable renaming** - Select this to enable renaming. You may also right click on **Renaming** in the navigation tree and check **Enable** to enable renaming. Likewise, if renaming is enabled, you may disable it by right clicking on Renaming in the navigation tree and unchecking Enable. If this option is unchecked, Dotfuscator will not perform renaming when your project is built.
- **Ensure compatibility with XML serializer** - Select this to configure renaming in such a way as to allow XML serialization.
- **Introduce explicit method overrides when renaming** - Select this to allow overriding methods to have different names from those of the methods they override.

You may also select the appropriate *Namespace handling* options:

- **Flatten and rename** removes the namespaces.
- **Rename only** renames the namespaces, but keeps the hierarchy.
- **Preserve** keeps the namespaces exactly as they are in the input assembly.

The *Output map* section is where the destination of the output map file is set. You also have the option of overwriting the output file each time you build the application without generating a backup of any existing map files.

Analytics

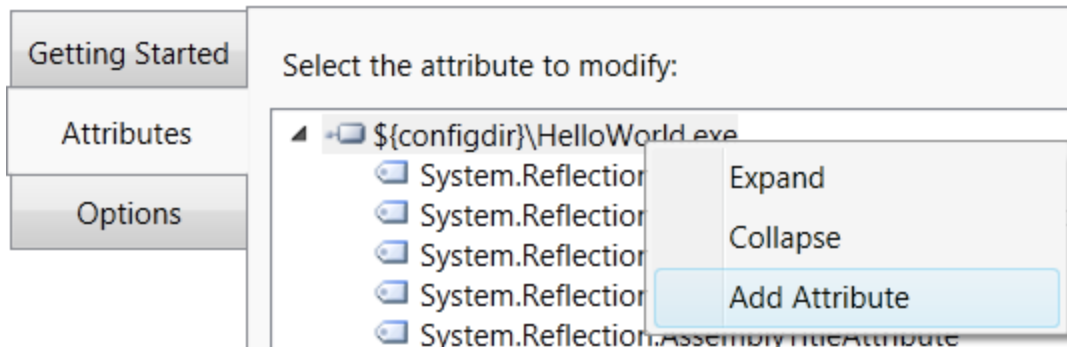
Analytics adds pre-built application usage tracking, exception reporting, [binary tamper detection](#), and application expiration to your applications without requiring any additional code. Dotfuscator and Analytics injects the required code for you. You can define injection points either via custom attributes in your source code or via extended attributes specified within the Dotfuscator and Analytics user interface.

The Analytics editor allows you to add, edit, and review custom and extended attributes. In Dotfuscator and

Analytics CE, the Analytics editor displays three configuration tabs: the Getting Started tab, the [Attributes](#) tab and the [Options](#) tab. The Getting Started tab describes the various analytics options available and how to configure them. The Attributes tab is where you add new extended attributes to methods or modify custom attributes that are already present. The [Options](#) tab is where you select which types of messages - application analytics, shelf life notification, and tamper alert - you want to send to the analytics endpoint.

Assembly Attributes

Assembly attributes are attributes that may be applied at the assembly level. Assembly attributes are used by the code injection process to add unique identification data to an assembly, such as company information, or to track exceptions across the entire assembly.



Required Assembly Attributes

To instrument your application for PreEmptive Analytics, there are two required assembly attributes. These attributes are added to the application by right clicking on an assembly node in the *Select the attribute to modify:* tree.

BusinessAttribute

The BusinessAttribute is required and contains values that are used to identify the company that owns the application being instrumented. This attribute consists of a *CompanyKey*, which should be set to "7d2b02e0-064d-49a0-bc1b-4be4381c62d3" for use with the Free Analytics Portal. For your convenience, the CompanyKey is set to this GUID by default. If you target a different endpoint, please use the *CompanyKey* provided by PreEmptive Solutions or generate a new unique identifier by pressing the "..." button associated with the *CompanyKey* entry area. The *CompanyName* may be left empty; however, you are encouraged to enter the name of the company for analytics endpoint personalization.

ApplicationAttribute

The ApplicationAttribute is required and contains values that are used to identify the instrumented application:

- **ApplicationType.** This identifies the type of application being instrumented such as a Windows application.
- **GUID.** This is a unique identifier for the application that is generated by clicking the "..." in this field.
- **Name.** This is the name of the application. If you leave this blank, the name will be filled in via reflection (if allowed at runtime). Only fill it in if you want a name in the portal that is different from the name in the assembly, or if reflection can't be used by your application at runtime (e.g. it is a Silverlight application).
- **Version.** This is the version of the application. If you leave this blank, the name will be filled in via reflection (if allowed at runtime). Only fill it in if you want a version in the portal that is different from the version in the assembly, or if reflection can't be used by your application at runtime (e.g. it is a Silverlight application).

BinaryAttribute

The BinaryAttribute contains a value that is used to identify the specific assemblies that make up the instrumented application. The *GUID* is the unique identifier for the assembly and is used to specify which assembly was altered when tampering was detected. Although this attribute is not required, if you are using tamper detection, you should

set a binary attribute on each assembly so the notifications can include the assembly information.

ExceptionTrackAttribute (Assembly level)

The `ExceptionTrackAttribute` is used to track unhandled exceptions at both the assembly and method level. The assembly level `ExceptionTrackAttribute` can be used to detect exceptions that occur anywhere in an assembly. When Dotfuscator and Analytics encounters an `ExceptionTrackAttribute`, it adds code that detects unhandled exceptions by registering an `UnhandledException` event handler on the current `AppDomain` (for .NET Framework applications) or current `Application` (for Silverlight applications). A explicit exception report opt-in can be set through a built-in or custom-built exception dialog, which can also present a privacy policy URI and collect end user contact information or information about the context in which the exception happened as written by the end user.

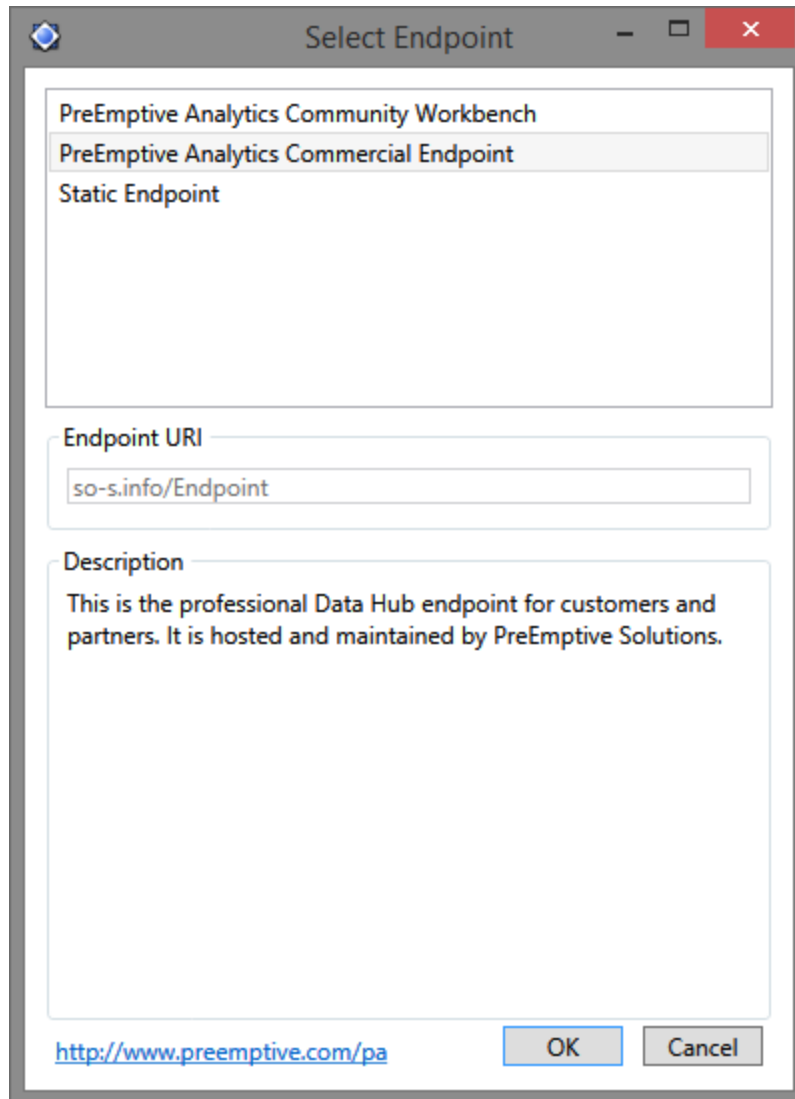
Functional Attributes

Functional Attributes can be used to track application stability, feature usage, tampering attempts, and the frequency of an application's use. They may also be used to make an application cease to function after a specified date.

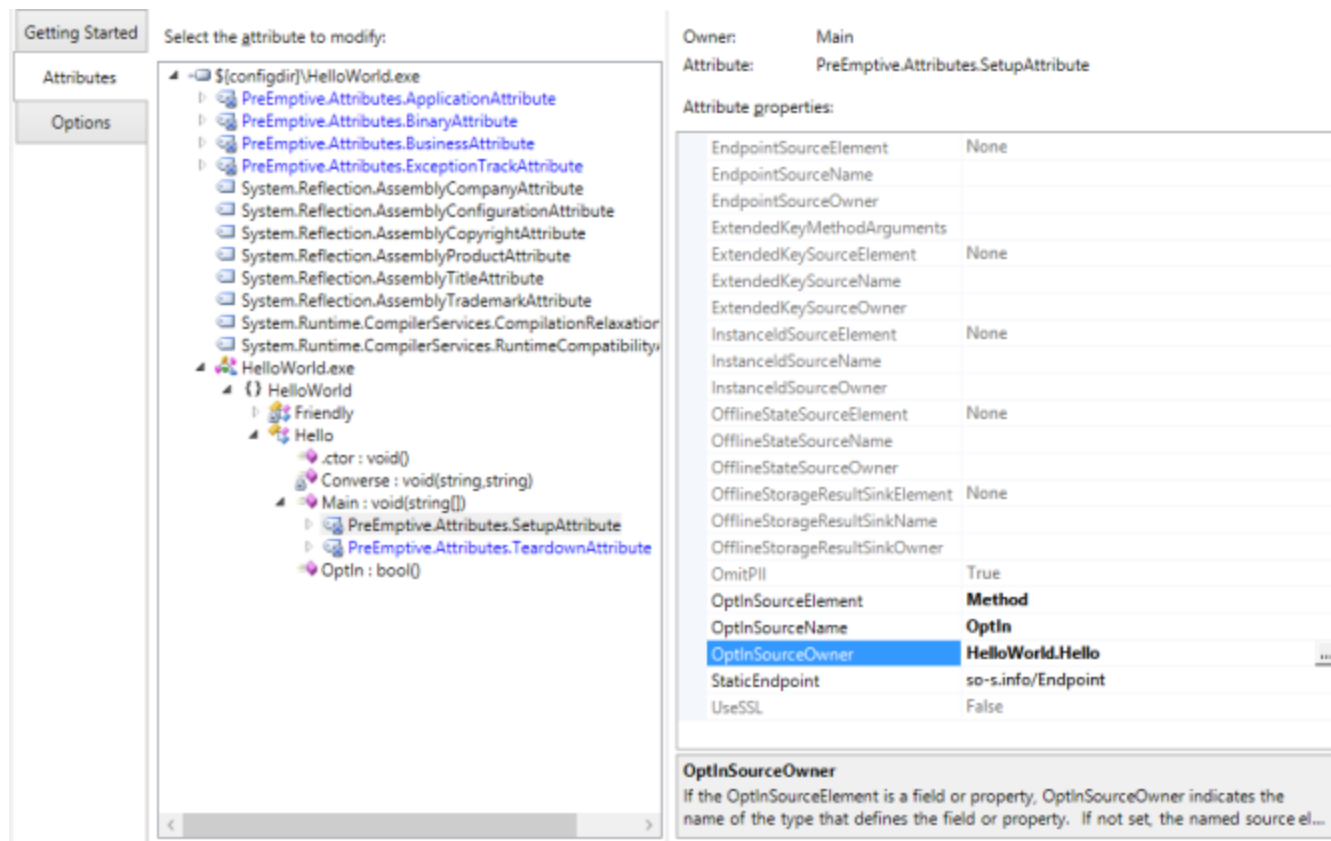
SetupAttribute

The `SetupAttribute` is used to track when an application has started. Dotfuscator and Analytics injects startup code for message sending and sends the startup message. There must be one or more methods with this attribute in an assembly or application that uses PreEmptive Analytics. This attribute should be placed as closely as possible to the normal application startup logic. At runtime, the functionality generated by this attribute will begin sending usage data back to the analytics endpoint. Optionally, you may specify the location in your code of functionality that controls the transmission of messages (opt-in or opt-out behavior). Dotfuscator and Analytics will use this information when generating the initialization code.

When you add the SetupAttribute, you may set the **Custom Endpoint** destination of the messages. The endpoint options include the [PreEmptive Analytics Community Workbench](#) as a default, the PreEmptive Analytics Commercial Endpoint, or a custom endpoint of your own choosing.



The SetupAttribute also provides the ability to implement either opt-in or opt-out functionality within your application. This functionality enables your users to elect to provide their usage data or not. To provide the setting determining if execution and usage data will be collected and sent to analytics endpoint, you can specify either a method, method argument, field, or property containing or returning a boolean value. If the value is **true** then the application will transmit usage data as configured. If the value is **false** then no usage data will be transmitted by the application.



To configure the opt-in/opt-out behavior you must configure the **OptInSourceElement** property with the appropriate type of code element that will contain the Boolean value. The **OptInSourceName** must be the name of the element that contains the Boolean value to be used to determine if analytics data will be collected and transmitted. At runtime, the source value should be set by your application code before the setup method is called. The **OptInSourceOwner** property may be left off if the element is defined in the same class as the method attributed with the SetupAttribute. If the **OptInSourceElement** is a method argument then it must correspond to a method parameter on the method that is annotated with the SetupAttribute.

TeardownAttribute

The TeardownAttribute is used to track when an application has successfully stopped. Dotfuscator and Analytics injects teardown code for message sending and sends the shutdown message. There must be one or more methods with this attribute in an assembly or application that uses analytics. The teardown method does not necessarily have to be the last method called, but it should have the property that it is executed exactly once when the application shuts down, as close as possible to exit.

FeatureAttribute

The FeatureAttribute is for tagging features you wish to track using analytics. This attribute may be placed on any method or property. PreEmptive Analytics tracks features using the name provided in this property. Multiple methods can be given the same name. A feature can be either an atomic event or the execution duration can be measured. To simply track that a feature has been executed, use a FeatureEventType of 'Tick.' To measure the execution duration of the feature, use two feature attributes with the same name, one with a FeatureEventType of 'Start' and

the second with a FeatureEventType of 'Stop.' In the Feature Scorecard report on the Portal, you will see the minimum, maximum, and average durations for each feature execution.

InsertShelfLifeAttribute

Add an `InsertShelfLifeAttribute` to any property or method where you would like an application expiration check to occur. At runtime, your application can send an expiration notification message to the analytics endpoint if the application is executed after the expiration date has occurred. Upon expiration, the default behavior is to send the expiration notification message; however, you may set the `ExpirationNotificationSinkElement` property to `DefaultAction`, which will optionally send an expiration message to the analytics endpoint and cause the application to immediately exit. In order for the expiration notification messages to be sent, the application must contain methods marked with a Setup and Teardown attribute.

A Shelf Life Activation Key (SLAK) is required to instrument your application with this feature. To obtain a SLAK, please go to our Support site: <http://www.preemptive.com/support/index.html>.

InsertSignofLifeAttribute

The `InsertSignofLifeAttribute` sends a message each time the method tagged with this attribute is called. At runtime, the sign of life code sends a message indicating that the application has been executed. In order to use this attribute, the application must contain methods marked with a Setup and Teardown attribute.

A Shelf Life Activation Key (SLAK) is required to instrument your application with this feature. To obtain a SLAK, please go to our Support site: <http://www.preemptive.com/support/index.html>.

InsertTamperCheckAttribute

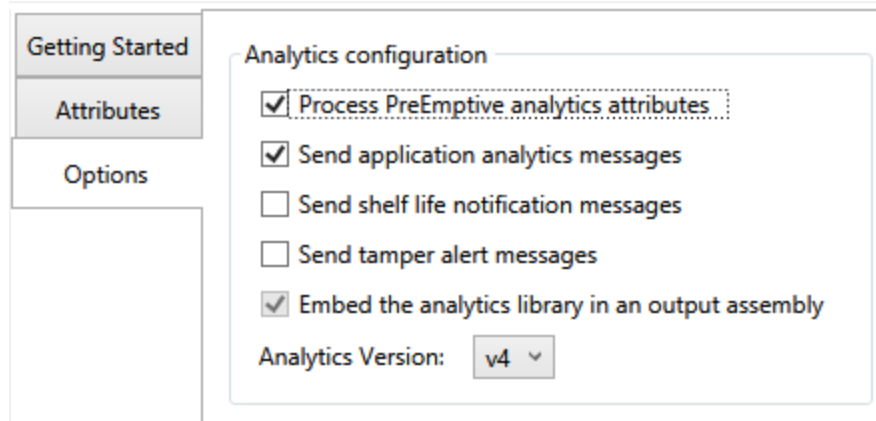
The `InsertTamperCheckAttribute` injects code that detects if a user has modified your assemblies. If it detects that the assemblies have been altered, it can send a tamper notification message to the analytics endpoint. Upon detection, the default behavior is to send the tamper notification message and exit the application; however, you may set the `ApplicationNotificationSinkElement` property to `DefaultAction`, which will cause the application to immediately exit. If you wish to send tamper messages, do not put this attribute on the same method containing the Setup Attribute. Also, ensure that any methods marked with the tamper check attribute are executed after the method containing the setup attribute.

ExceptionTrackAttribute (Method level)

The method level `ExceptionTrackAttribute` can be used to detect locally unhandled exceptions that pass through a particular method. When Dotfuscator and Analytics encounters a method level `ExceptionTrackAttribute`, it adds code that wraps the method in a try/catch block and re-throws the exception. Method-level `ExceptionTrackAttributes` can collect the same opt-in and extra information as assembly level `ExceptionTrackAttributes`.

Analytics Options

The **Analytics Options** tab is where you may configure the behavior of your instrumented applications. Instrumentation (code injection) of your applications may be enabled or disabled for your current project by either un-checking the *Process PreEmptive analytics attributes* check box, or by right clicking on Analytics in the navigation tree and un-checking the **Enable** option. If this option is unchecked, Dotfuscator will not perform code injection when your project is built.



The *Options* section of this tab is where you may select which message types will be sent to the analytics endpoint. The Send application analytics messages option enables the sending of messages related to feature usage. The Send shelf life notification messages option enables the sending of shelf life expiration and sign of life messages. The Send tamper alert messages option enables the sending of tamper notification messages. Un-checking either the Shelf Life or Tamper message options will only affect the transmission of those messages; if you have selected the DefaultAction to occur, your application will still exit as expected. The *Analytics Version* option allows you to specify the *maximum* version of the Instrumentation API to inject. Normally you should not have to adjust this setting from the default provided, unless directed by PreEmptive Solutions support.

Building

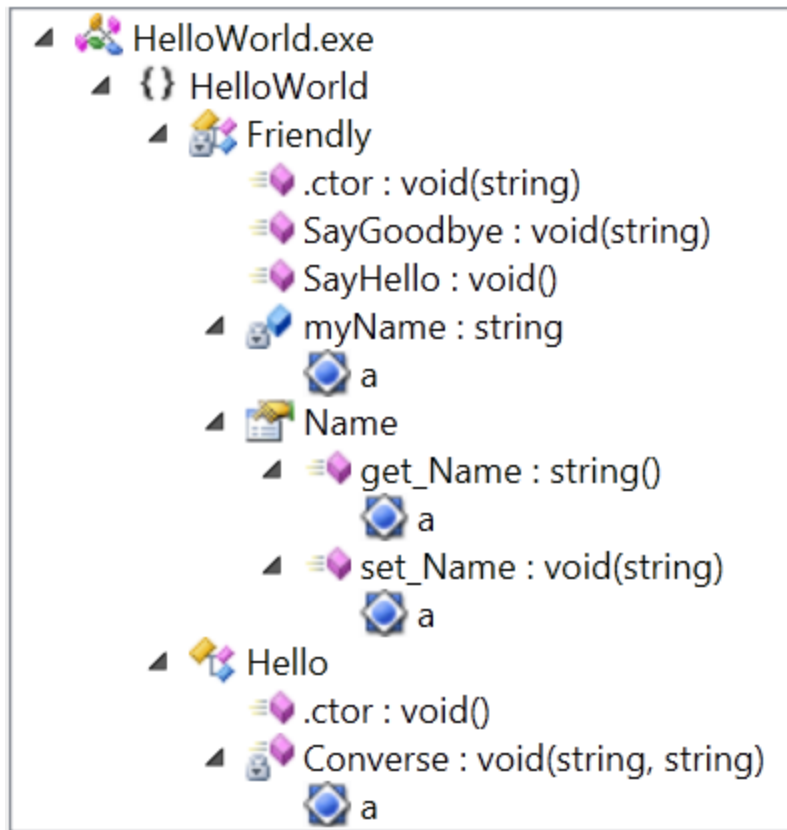
Build the Project

Click the "Build Project" button or choose **Build > Build Project** from the menu. Your application will be rebuilt with the obfuscation and protection settings specified in your Dotfuscator project configuration.

Alternatively, you can execute the build from the commandline version of Dotfuscator and Analytics CE, if you have [registered](#) your copy of Dotfuscator and Analytics CE. Find the installation directory for Microsoft Visual Studio in the appropriate Program Files folder. Inside of this folder, you will find */PreEmptive Solutions/Dotfuscator and Analytics Community Edition/dotfuscatorCLI.exe*. Read detailed help about using the commandline version of Dotfuscator and Analytics CE by running this executable at a command prompt with */?* as an option.

View Results

Once your project is built, you can inspect the results in the *Results* Tab.



Here you can browse the tree view and see how Dotfuscator and Analytics renamed your types, methods, and fields. The new names appear as child nodes under the original nodes in the tree. This information is also saved to the map file as configured in the [Renaming Options](#).

Beyond Obfuscation

Dotfuscator and Analytics CE combines its trusted obfuscation technology with injection technology to provide near real-time views into application deployment, stability, and usage. In addition to obfuscation, Dotfuscator and Analytics CE offers a new category of detective control to better monitor, manage, and protect your applications. Dotfuscator and Analytics CE can:

- Provide a near real-time view into application integrity and activity at runtime.
- Instrument applications to detect if they have been tampered with and if so, optionally send a message to the Analytics Service.
- Instrument applications with expiration, de-activation, and notification logic that reacts to application expiration by exiting the application and/or sending an analytics message.

In this section

[Application Analytics](#)

[Exception Tracking](#)

[Active Tamper Defense](#)

[Application Expiration](#)

Application Analytics

In addition to obfuscation, Dotfuscator and Analytics also provides features that inject code into an application.

Some of that code is used to enhance the protection provided by obfuscation (e.g. Tamper Notification), but Dotfuscator and Analytics can also inject code that sends messages back to you about how the application is used in production. This powerful capability lets you deeply understand your application usage, which can help you make better decisions about your software priorities.

This injected code is called **Instrumentation**, and is most-often used with one of the **PreEmptive Analytics** products.

PreEmptive Analytics Workbench

PreEmptive Analytics Workbench accepts, processes, transforms, and aggregates analytics messages for display in a web browser. It is highly configurable and customizable so that it can provide role-based, real-time visibility into application usage, adoption, user behavior and software quality - saving you time and money.

To learn more, please [read about PreEmptive Analytics Workbench on our website](#).

PreEmptive also hosts a free [Community Workbench](#) for use with e.g. Dotfuscator and Analytics.

PreEmptive Analytics for Team Foundation Server (TFS)

PreEmptive Analytics for Team Foundation Server aggregates and analyzes exceptions and automatically creates Visual Studio / TFS work items based entirely upon rules and operational thresholds that you define. PreEmptive Analytics for TFS is designed specifically to help streamline feedback driven development, improve software quality and user experience, and increase development efficiency.

PreEmptive Analytics for TFS uses exception instrumentation. It does not require feature, platform, performance, etc. instrumentation.

To learn more, please [read about PreEmptive Analytics for TFS on our website](#).

In this section

[Supported .NET Application Types](#)

Supported .NET Application Types

Dotfuscator can perform analytics processing for all .NET assemblies except for the following:

- Managed C++ input assemblies containing native and managed code.
- Multi-module input assemblies.
- Input assemblies that target .NET 1.0

Community Workbench

PreEmptive Solutions maintains a free instance of the PreEmptive Analytics Workbench, called the Community Workbench. This Workbench instance allows anyone to test PreEmptive Analytics instrumentation against a live Workbench and see how the Workbench can be used to provide role-based, real-time visibility into application usage, adoption, user behavior and software quality.

Use of this service and portal comes with no guarantees or service level agreements.

To use the Community Workbench, configure the instrumentation endpoint to be <http://so-s.info/community> and use a CompanyKey of 7d2b02e0-064d-49a0-bc1b-4be4381c62d3. To access the portal, and learn more about the Community Workbench, please see <http://www.preemptive.com/support/resources/community-workbench>.

Exception Tracking

Exception Tracking is a method for automatically detecting and responding to exceptions in the target application as they occur. Dotfuscator and Analytics injects code that can detect caught, thrown, or unhandled exceptions. Once detected, the exception tracking code can collect details from the user and report the detected exception to the analytics endpoint. A user can explicitly allow an exception report to be sent even if he or she has previously opted

out of sending analytics messages, and can provide comment and contact information to be sent along with the report. In addition, the developer can specify a custom action be taken when an exception is detected.

To facilitate the common use case of unhandled exception reporting, Dotfuscator and Analytics can inject a pre-made Exception Report Dialog which provides a consistent user experience for reporting exceptions. Minimal configuration is needed to instruct Dotfuscator and Analytics to track unhandled exceptions, display the exception report dialog which will obtain explicit user consent and collect optional comment and contact information from the user, and send the report to the configured analytics endpoint.

In this section

[Exception Reporting and the ExceptionTrack Attribute](#)

[Collecting User-specified Exception Report Information](#)

Exception Reporting and the ExceptionTrack Attribute

Exception Reporting

Once an exception is detected, it can be reported to the configured analytics endpoint by setting the [SendReport](#) property of the ExceptionTrack attribute to true (the default). The sending of exception reports will honor the opt-in setting of the user if an [OptInSource](#) has been configured. Dotfuscator and Analytics can be configured to obtain explicit consent from the user to send the exception report message. In this case, the user's explicit consent will override the opt-in setting if one has been configured. To obtain explicit consent to send the exception report message, specify a [ReportInfoSource](#).

Dotfuscator and Analytics can also be configured to obtain information from the user such as a description of the actions leading to the exception and a contact address that the developer can use to solicit additional information or provide notification of an issue that has been fixed. This information will be attached to the exception report message. To obtain this type of user-provided information, specify a [ReportInfoSource](#).

The report info source settings are optional. If they are omitted, no user-provided information will be collected, and the sending of the exception report messages will be controlled by the opt-in setting.

Collecting User-specified Exception Report Information

When using Exception Tracking, Dotfuscator and Analytics can be configured to obtain explicit user consent to collect comment and contact information from the user. These are provided in the form of key-value pairs that are read at runtime during the construction of an exception report message.

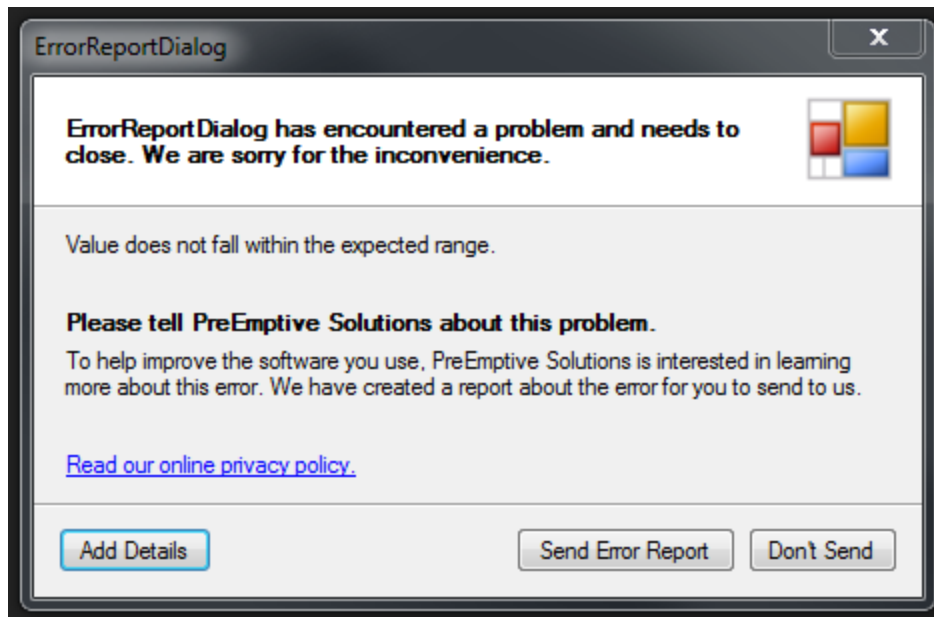
To provide this user-specified report information, specify a [ReportInfoSource](#) on the attribute corresponding to the message you wish to send. Dotfuscator and Analytics uses the [ReportInfoSource](#) to generate code that gathers the key-value pairs at runtime. The ReportInfoSource is an [IDictionary](#) or [IDictionary<string, string>](#) valued property, method, field, or when using method-level exception tracking, method argument; it is the developer's responsibility to ensure that correct values are available in the [ReportInfoSource](#) at the time an exception is detected.

Using the Built-in Exception Report Dialog as the ReportInfoSource

Dotfuscator and Analytics can inject a pre-made Exception Report Dialog to ease configuration for most scenarios and provide a consistent user experience for exception reporting. To use the built-in dialog, your assembly must target version 1.1 (or higher) of the .NET Framework, or Silverlight version 2 (or higher). To instruct Dotfuscator and Analytics to use the built-in dialog as the [ReportInfoSource](#), set the [ReportInfoSourceElement](#) value to "DefaultAction".

When using the built-in dialog on the .NET Framework, the dialog will be constructed and displayed using the Windows Forms API. This may have unintended consequences for console or service applications; it may be preferable to use a custom [ReportInfoSource](#) in these situations. If your assembly does not already reference the

appropriate Windows Forms libraries, references will be added.



Using a Custom ReportInfoSource

The **ExceptionTrackAttribute** defines three properties for specifying a **ReportInfoSource**:

- **ReportInfoSourceElement**. The **ReportInfoSourceElement** can be any of the values defined in the **SourceElements** enumeration: a field, a property, a method, or when using method-level exception tracking, a method argument. If the **ReportInfoSourceElement** is a method argument, it must correspond to a method parameter on the method to which the attribute is attached.
- **ReportInfoSourceOwner**. If the **ReportInfoSourceElement** is a field, method, or property, **ReportInfoSourceOwner** must indicate the class that defines the field, method, or property.
- **ReportInfoSourceName**. The **ReportInfoSourceName** should be set to the name of the field, method, property, or method argument of type **IDictionary** or **IDictionary<string, string>** that contains the user-specified report information at runtime.

There are three key-value pairs that may be included in the dictionary provided by the **ReportInfoSource**:

- **consent**. This is a string representation of a boolean that indicates whether the user has explicitly opted-in or out of sending the current exception report message. This consent is independent of and overrides the global analytics opt-in setting.
- **comment**. This is a custom comment that is optionally provided by the user. It can be used to solicit feedback from the user, such as what he or she was doing when the exception occurred.
- **contact**. This is a contact point that is optionally provided by the user. Its content is not structured, and may for example contain an e-mail address, phone number, or username for a social networking website. The built-in dialog requests the user provide this as an e-mail address.

Any key-value pairs other than those described above will be ignored.

Collecting user-specified report information is optional. If the retrieved dictionary is null, does not contain a **consent** key, or the value for the **consent** key is null or does not parse to a boolean, the global analytics opt-in setting is respected. If the **comment** or **contact** keys are omitted, the resulting analytics message does not include this information.

Sample **ExceptionTrack** attribute usage with **ReportInfoSource** defined as a method called "**GetDictionary**":

Exception Track Attribute Usage with ReportInfoSource

```
[ExceptionTrack(
```

```

        ReportInfoSourceElement = SourceElements.Method,
        ReportInfoSourceName = "GetDictionary"
    }]
    private void Foo() {
        ...
    }

    // Creates and populates a dictionary with user-specified report information
    public IDictionary<string, string> GetDictionary() {
        Dictionary<string, string> dict = new Dictionary<string, string>();
        dict.Add("consent", "true");
        dict.Add("comment", "The Foo() method threw an exception.");
        dict.Add("contact", "foo@bar.com");
        return dict;
    }

```

Introduction to Active Tamper Defense

Dotfuscator and Analytics CE provides a way for your applications to detect and optionally notify you if they have been tampered with since they were instrumented with tamper notification.

To detect tampering, place **InsertTamperCheck** attributes on one or more methods in the application that are always executed. When Dotfuscator and Analytics encounters an **InsertTamperCheck** attribute during its processing, it adds code that performs an assembly level integrity check at runtime. If the integrity check fails, it sends a tamper detected message to the analytics service. It can also call code that exits the application. **InsertTamperCheck** attributes are not required at runtime; therefore, Dotfuscator and Analytics strips them from the output application.

An application can contain any number of **InsertTamperCheck** attributes. In the event that an application has been tampered with, multiple tamper detected messages from the same application session will be sent with the same group ID.

Do not put this attribute on the same method containing the Setup Attribute. Methods with this attribute must be executed after the method containing the Setup Attribute.

In Dotfuscator and Analytics CE, **InsertTamperCheck** attributes may only be placed in assemblies that are EXEs. Dotfuscator and Analytics CE does not support tamper detection on library assemblies (DLLs).

In this section

[Simulating Tampering](#)

[Supported .NET Application Types](#)

Simulating Tampering

Dotfuscator ships with a simple command line utility that ‘tampers’ with an assembly. It is called **TamperTester.exe** and is installed in the same folder as Dotfuscator itself.

Usage

```
tampertester <file_name> [destination folder]
```

By running your Dotfuscator and Analytics assemblies through this utility, you can test that the tamper notification messages are being generated and sent as expected. You can also test any application code you have written to execute in response to tamper detection.

Supported .NET Application Types

Dotfuscator and Analytics CE can perform Tamper Notification processing for all .NET assemblies except for the following:

- Managed C++ input assemblies containing native and managed code.
- Multi-module input assemblies.
- Input assemblies that target .NET 1.0
- .NET Compact Framework assemblies.
- Silverlight assemblies.
- Any library assemblies.

Application Expiration

[Shelf Life](#) is an application inventory management function that allows you to embed expiration, or de-activation, and notification logic into an application via code injection. Dotfuscator and Analytics injects code that reacts to application expiration by exiting the application and/or sending an analytics message. This functionality is helpful with beta applications, as it enables applications to self regulate and it enforces aging and expiry policies. You can schedule your application's expiration/de-activation for a specific date or a number of days after application instrumentation.

In this section

[Shelf Life Activation Key Overview](#)

Shelf Life Activation Key Overview

A Shelf Life Activation Key (SLAK) is a data file that is required to inject Shelf Life functionality into the appropriate locations within your application.

A Shelf Life Activation Key is issued by PreEmptive and provided to Dotfuscator and Analytics by the user during shelf life configuration. To obtain a Shelf Life Activation Key, contact PreEmptive Solutions. PreEmptive will issue you a data file containing the Shelf Life Activation Key that is to be stored on your Build Machine.

Once you obtain a Shelf Life Activation Key, you can add the Shelf Life Attribute to a method or group of methods. In the *Analytics* tab in the *Attribute Editor*: section, in the *ActivationKeyFile* field you must select the path to the Shelf Life Activation Key file, thereby activating Shelf Life within your application.

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