

How do I rename an entire project in VC++ 2005

Asked 16 years, 2 months ago Modified 10 years ago Viewed 2k times



1



I've got a really large project I made for myself and recently a client asked for their own version of it with some modifications. The project name was rather silly and my client wants the source so I figured it'd be best if I renamed all my files from

```
sillyname.h  
sillyname.cpp  
sillyname.dsp
```

etc.. Unfortunately after I added everything back together I can't see any way to change the project name itself. Plus now I'm getting this error on compilation.

```
main.obj : error LNK2001: unresolved external symbol  
__imp__InitCommonControls@0  
Debug/New_Name_That's_not_so_silly.exe : fatal error LNK1120: 1 unresolved  
externals  
Error executing link.exe.
```

There has to be an easier way to change all this, right?

visual-c++

Share

Improve this question

Follow

edited May 5, 2012 at 3:54



Chilledrat

2,605 ● 3 ● 30 ● 39

asked Sep 26, 2008 at 20:35



Jack

Alright It actually compiles fine just the Debug Version doesn't... Strange. – Jack Sep 26, 2008 at 21:00

This comment is in response to "where is solution explorer?" Here are some images of where it is: [images.google.com/...](#) – pestophagous Sep 26, 2008 at 21:08

If only the debug version is bad, then did you try a CLEAN, then rebuild? just one more idea. apologies if you already tried that. :) – pestophagous Sep 26, 2008 at 21:09

5 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)



Here is a [Step by Step](#) on Steve Andrews' blog (he works on Visual Studio at Microsoft)

3

Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Sep 26, 2008 at 20:46



Ray Hayes

15k ● 8 ● 56 ● 78



"When you rename a project, most likely you will want to rename the output assembly and/or the root namespace for the project. To do this, right-click on the project node and choose Properties. You can also double-click on the Properties (C#) or My Project (VB) node. " Where is Solution Explorer? – Jack Sep 26, 2008 at 20:53

This comment is in response to "where is solution explorer?" maybe a google image search will turn up some helpful screenshot that is recognizable: [images.google.com/...](http://images.google.com/) – pestophagous Sep 26, 2008 at 21:06

If it's not already on screen (looking like que's link) try the menu item "View | Solution Explorer" OR type Ctrl+Alt+L – Ray Hayes Sep 26, 2008 at 21:26



1



I haven't verified this, but I've done this a number of times and if my memory serves me right, you can actually use the search-and-replace functionality in VS2005 to rename all instances of the string "X" to "Y" in any type of file. Then you need to close the solution and change the project (and any other file with the same name regardless of extension) file name(s).



You will obviously need to do a full rebuild afterwards.



Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Sep 26, 2008 at 20:55



Niklas

5,836 ● 8 ● 37 ● 42

Actually this is what I did initially. The worst part is I just found a tool that does this and I'm still getting the same error on compile.. grr – Jack Sep 26, 2008 at 20:56



1



I find it always annoying too, to do this manually.

So I tried some tools available by googling- two didn't work (VS C++ here), dunno, if they are more useful for C#.

The following tool worked good for me: I have used the trial version, but I will pay 39,- bucks for it. For me it is worth it. It has also a VS add-in. VS 2013 was not supported directly, at least not mentioned, yet, when I looked: <http://www.kinook.com/CopyWiz>

In-place rename didn't work (access error), but "rename-while-copying" worked fine.



But I really wonder, if it is so difficult as some programmers claim. For most parts file renaming and a search&replace of all occurrences in all text files in the project dir should be a quite easy and working approach. Maybe someone can contribute what shall be so difficult.

The rational part of my brain forbids the dreaming part to program an own tool- I am lucky ! :-)

Share

edited Aug 22, 2014 at 21:56

answered Aug 20, 2013 at 13:39

Improve this answer



Philm

3,674 ● 1 ● 30 ● 29

Follow



0



You can simply rename the .vcproj or .dsp file and then either create a new workspace (sln dsw) and include the renamed project or simply change the name inside the sln file (it's just xml) I can't remember the format of the old workspace but it's still text.

You can either manually rename and reinclude all the .cpp or edit the project file and rename them in there.

sorry don't know of refactoring tool that will do all this but there probably is one.

Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Sep 26, 2008 at 20:40



Martin Beckett

96k ● 28 ● 195 ● 268



0



I assume that in addition to the renamed set of files, you also still maintain a complete "parallel" set of the original files in some other directory, am I right?

Assuming you have both versions, what I would do is:

Get a file comparison tool like [Beyond Compare](#) or [DiffMerge](#) and compare the old SLN file and the new SLN file side-by-side. Also do this for each "proj" file and any other "config" type files.

It is possible to edit these files by hand. Usually looking at what is different between two copies will help illuminate what you should do to get the second one working.

You might as well start tinkering with the renamed project by hand, anyway, given that it already isn't working. You can't make it much worse. And: you might learn some handy tricks about the XML structure of these files.

Even if you do make small mistakes when hand-tweaking these files, I have repeatedly been very impressed by how Visual Studio handles things. Visual Studio will usually

tell you exactly where you got it wrong.

Share

edited Nov 24, 2014 at 19:39

answered Sep 26, 2008 at 21:01

Improve this answer

Follow



pestophagous

4,233 ● 3 ● 35 ● 48
