

Display solution/file path in the Visual Studio IDE

Asked 16 years, 3 months ago Modified 1 month ago Viewed 54k times



I frequently work with multiple instances of Visual Studio, often working on different branches of the same solution.

87



[Visual C++ 6.0](#) used to display the full path of the current source file in its title bar, but Visual Studio 2005 doesn't appear to do this. This makes it slightly more awkward than it should be to work out which branch of the solution I'm currently looking at (the quickest way I know of is to hover over a tab so you get the source file's path as a tooltip).



Is there a way to get the full solution or file path into the title bar, or at least somewhere that's always visible, so I can quickly tell which branch is loaded into each instance?

visual-studio

projects-and-solutions

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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 15:54



Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

asked Aug 27, 2008 at 15:47



James Sutherland

3,863 ● 2 ● 28 ● 24

3 11 years and still not available out of the box :-/ – [joym8](#) Dec 18, 2019 at 18:02

1 Preferences > Window:Title. No plugin needed. => existed since 2017 at least. – [Jason LeMonier](#) Jun 4, 2021 at 16:48

@JasonLeMonier, I can't find this setting in Visual Studio but I can find it in Visual Studio Code, are you mixing them up? Perhaps you could post a fully fleshed out answer to make it clearer. EDIT - Just noticed you did post an answer, good.

– [RyanfaeScotland](#) Sep 28, 2021 at 12:38 ✎

2 @visitors: don't search for JasonLeMoniers answer as it is indeed for VS Code - sry JLM – [Nicolas](#) Mar 1, 2023 at 14:54

15 Answers

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34

This is a extension available in the online gallery specifically tailored for this job. Checkout [Labs > Visual Studio Extension: Customize Visual Studio Window Title](#).



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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 13:48

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Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133



answered Jul 5, 2011 at 16:48



Bruno Vinicius

349 ● 3 ● 2



3 Awesome. Minimalistic extension that just works. No config needed. – [Erik Öjebo](#) Nov 15, 2013 at 19:33

4 Works in 2015 as well – [Danny Beckett](#) Jun 30, 2016 at 14:35

2 Works in 2017 as well – [irsis](#) Dec 6, 2017 at 6:28

3 Works in 2019 as well. Optionally [Re-enable the Window Title Bar](#) or just observe your changes in the Taskbar. Tested on v16.4.2. – [Christopher](#) Dec 18, 2019 at 16:29

Preferences > Window:Title. No plugin needed.
– [Jason LeMonier](#) Jun 4, 2021 at 16:45



25



There is not a native way to do it, but you can achieve it with a macro. The details are described here in full: [How To Show Full File Path \(or Anything Else\) in VS 2005 Title Bar](#)

You just have to add a little Visual Basic macro to the EnvironmentEvents macro section and restart Visual Studio.

Note: The path will not show up when you first load Visual Studio, but it will whenever you change which file you are viewing. There is probably a way to fix this, but it doesn't seem like a big deal.

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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 12:14



[Peter Mortensen](#)

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered Aug 27, 2008 at 15:58



[Adam Haile](#)

31.3k ● 60 ● 195 ● 290

4 [File Path On Footer](#) is also a good extension – [dan](#) Jul 31, 2016 at 7:40

2 @dan ...but eats a line in the editor bottom (not in the status bar (you know, the blue one changing to orange when debugging)). Take it in consideration especially for little screens etc. Anyway thank you for the pointer. – [yO_](#) Feb 22, 2019 at 9:28 ✎



17



Check out the latest release of [VSCommands 2010 Lite](#). It introduced a feature called Friendly Solution Name where you can set it to display the solution file path (or any part of it) in Visual Studio's main window title.

More details:



<http://vscommands.com/releasesnotes/3.6.8.0> and
<http://vscommands.com/releasesnotes/3.6.9.0>



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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 13:33

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[Peter Mortensen](#)

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered Apr 29, 2011 at 12:21



[Registered User](#)

1,640 ● 14 ● 11

vs2013 version : visualstudiogallery.msdn.microsoft.com/...
– [Simon_Weaver](#) Jul 1, 2014 at 2:42

All links (domain [vscommands.com](#)) seems to be broken (times out). – [Peter Mortensen](#) Dec 18, 2019 at 13:33 ✎

However, there is [VSCommands for Visual Studio 2010](#). Is it the same? – [Peter Mortensen](#) Dec 18, 2019 at 14:01



5



For Visual Studio 2008, a slightly better way to write the macro from the accepted answer is to use the Solution events instead of the document ones - this lets you always edit the title bar, even if you don't have a document selected.



Here's the macro my coworker and I put together based on the other one - you'll want to change lines 15-18 to pull your branch name from the source directory for however you're set up.

```
Private timer As System.Threading.Timer

Declare Auto Function SetWindowText Lib
"user32" (ByVal hWnd As System.IntPtr, ByVal
lpstring As String) As Boolean

Private _branchName As String = String.Empty

Private Sub SolutionEvents_Opened() Handles
SolutionEvents.Opened
    Try
        If timer Is Nothing Then
            ' Create timer which refreshes the
caption because
            ' IDE resets the caption very often
            Dim autoEvent As New
System.Threading.AutoResetEvent(False)
            Dim timerDelegate As
System.Threading.TimerCallback = _
                AddressOf tick
            timer = New
System.Threading.Timer(timerDelegate,
```

```

autoEvent, 0, 25)
    End If
    Dim sourceIndex As Integer =
DTE.Solution.FullName.IndexOf("\Source")
    Dim shortTitle As String =
DTE.Solution.FullName.Substring(0, sourceIndex)
    Dim lastIndex As Integer =
shortTitle.LastIndexOf("\")
    _branchName =
shortTitle.Substring(lastIndex + 1)
    showTitle(_branchName)
    Catch ex As Exception

    End Try
End Sub

```

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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 13:47

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Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered May 3, 2011 at 14:08



Drew Miller

675 ● 6 ● 15



How to customise the Visual Studio window title

4

Install the [Customize Visual Studio Window Title](#) plugin.



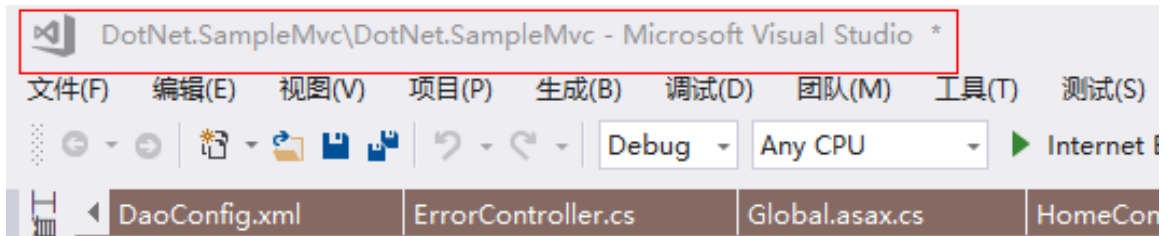
After installing the extension, the settings can be found in the menu.



Menu *Tools* ► *Options* ► *Customize VS Window Title*.

More information

Customize Visual Studio Window Title is a lightweight extension to Visual Studio, which allows you to change the window title to include a folder tree:



Features

- A configurable minimum and maximum depth distance from the solution/project file
- Allows the use of special tags to help with many other possible scenarios, which include [Git](#), [Mercurial](#), and [TFS](#).

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edited Jun 20, 2020 at 9:12



Community Bot

1 • 1

answered Jun 21, 2017 at 13:12



YanZhiwei

49 • 1

While this code may answer the question, providing additional context regarding how and/or why it solves the problem would improve the answer's long-term value. Please read this [how-to-answer](#) for providing quality answer.

– [thewaywewere](#) Jun 21, 2017 at 13:33

Preferences > Window:Title. No plugin needed.

– [Jason LeMonier](#) Jun 4, 2021 at 16:45

@JasonLeMonier No such option exists in Visual Studio, which is the IDE that the OP is asking about.

– [Rich Armstrong](#) May 26, 2023 at 17:23



It's awkward indeed. Hovering on the tab is indeed one of the few things useful.

3



Alternative: right click on the file tab: [Find your File Path in Visual Studio](#). It seems we have to do with that.



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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 13:31



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[Peter Mortensen](#)

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered Sep 16, 2009 at 13:42



user174348



I am using VSCommands 10 to show the full path of the solution file open.

2



```
Friendly Name: {repo}  
Solution Path Regex: (?<repo>.*)
```



Now my main title window looks like this:



```
c:\repositories\acme.marketplace.trunk\Acme.Marketpl
```



I can quickly glance and see that I am working in the trunk folder or a rc folder because we use Mercurial (Hg) and keep separate folders for trunk, rc, preprod, prod like this:

```
c:\repositories\acme.marketplace.rc1  
c:\repositories\acme.marketplace.rc2  
c:\repositories\acme.marketplace.trunk  
c:\repositories\acme.marketplace.preprod  
c:\repositories\acme.marketplace.prod
```

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answered Jun 27, 2012 at 10:49

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[superlogical](#)

14.9k ● 9 ● 68 ● 76

Is it the same as [VSCommands for Visual Studio 2010?](#)

– [Peter Mortensen](#) Dec 18, 2019 at 14:02



As [Dan](#) also mentioned it in a comment, the [File Path On Footer](#) extension serves the same purpose.

2



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answered May 6, 2018 at 14:02

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[jciloa](#)

1,117 ● 2 ● 12 ● 23

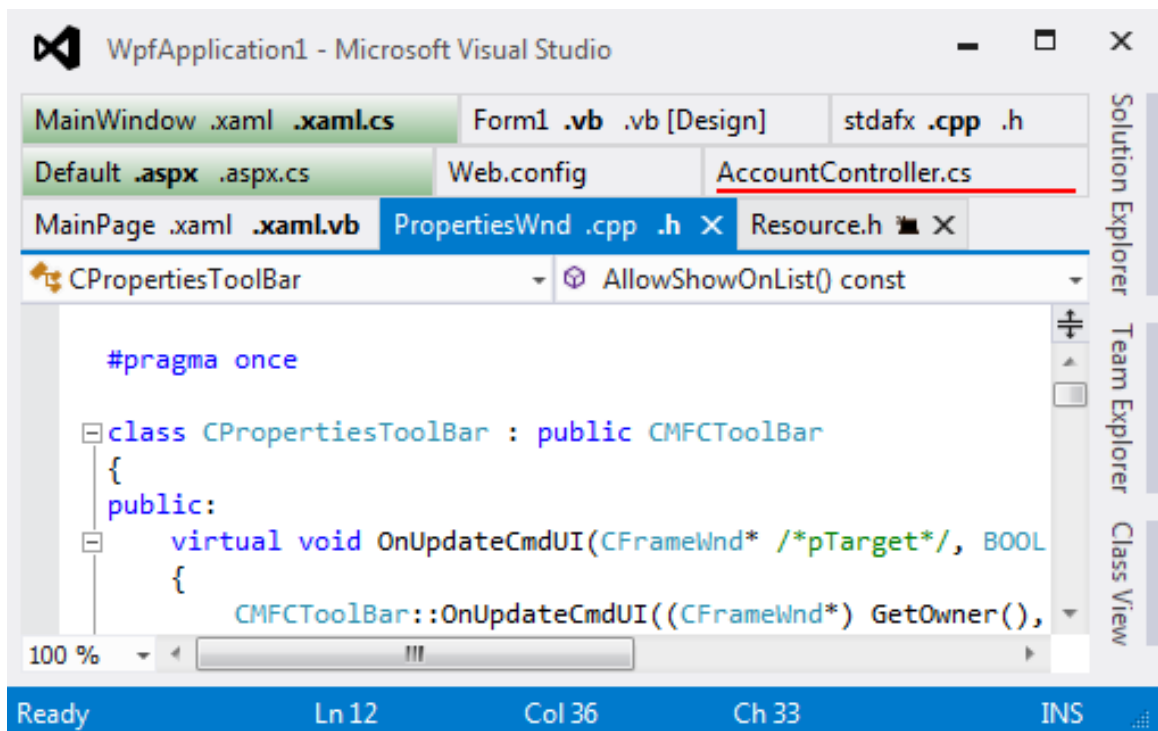


[TabsStudio](#) | US\$49

2

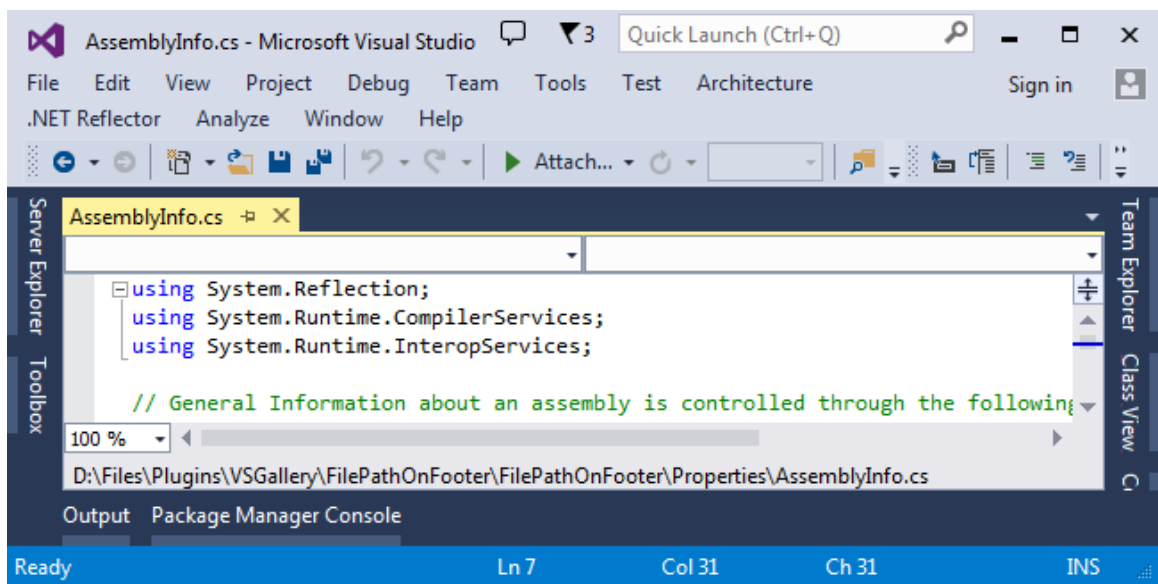
It is a pretty good (although paid) Visual Studio extension that provides:

- Tab grouping
- Tab coloring
- Title transformation
- Lots of customization and extensions



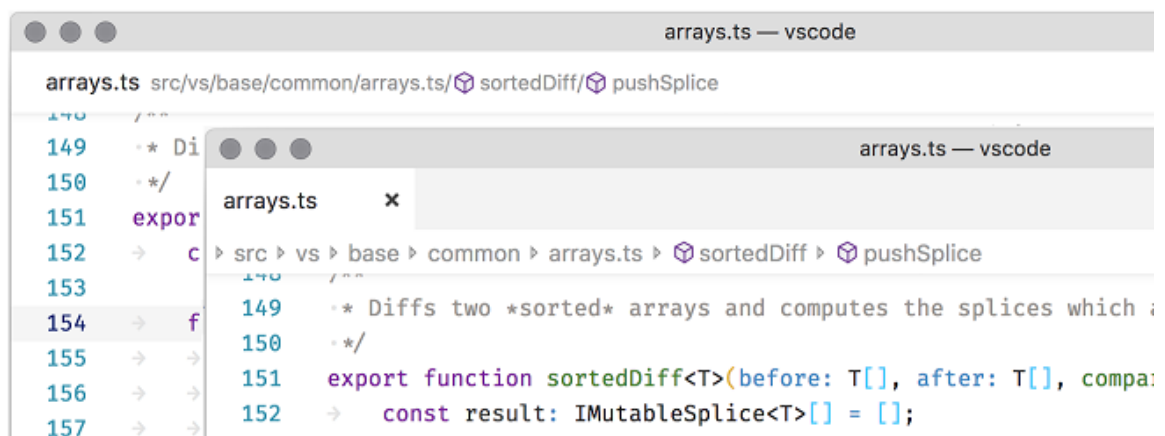
[File Path On Footer](#) | Free

It displays the full file path on the bottom of the editor window:



Honorable Mention: Visual Studio Code

Visual Studio Code [version 1.26 implemented breadcrumbs](#) which displays the file path in a separate row at the top of the editor window when using tabs or inline the file name when in its own window.



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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 15:53



Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered Aug 29, 2018 at 16:49



KyleMit ♦

29.2k ● 72 ● 501 ● 696



1



Related note: As an alternative, for Visual Studio 2005 you can use the command menu *File* → *Advanced Save Options*. The dialog displays the full path of the current file, and you are able to copy the text.

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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 13:30



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Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133



answered Dec 9, 2008 at 19:51



Phil



1



Use the MKLINK command to create a link to your existing solution. As far as Visual Studio is concerned, it's working with the link file, but any changes go to the underlying .sln file.

I wrote a blog entry here about it...



<http://willissoftware.com/?p=72>



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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 13:49

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Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered May 3, 2012 at 21:38



Lee Willis

19 ● 1

The link is broken ("We can't connect to the server at www.willissoftware.com"). Domain expired?

– [Peter Mortensen](#) Dec 18, 2019 at 13:51

This answer is not very useful with the broken link.

– [Peter Mortensen](#) Dec 18, 2019 at 13:53



1

For the people that didn't get the VB method to work (like me) you can use a plugin:

[Customize Visual Studio Window Title](#)



It was tested it in Visual Studio 2008 Ultimate. You can configure it in the *Options* menu of Visual Studio.



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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 13:57

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[Peter Mortensen](#)

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered May 4, 2012 at 8:36



[Leroy](#)

318 ● 2 ● 7

Preferences > Window:Title. No plugin needed.

– [Jason LeMonier](#) Jun 4, 2021 at 16:45



0

If you are using Visual Studio 2010 or above you can you the extension "Visual Studio Window Title Changer".



Install this and use the following 'Window Title Setup' expression to display the solution path:



```
'sln_dir + "/" + orig_title'
```

Use the extension manager to download and install the extension. Details of the extension and how to use it can be found here:

<https://visualstudiogallery.msdn.microsoft.com/2e8ebfe4-023f-4c4d-9b7a-d05bbc5cb239?SRC=VSIDE>

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edited Dec 18, 2019 at 15:31



Peter Mortensen

31.6k ● 22 ● 109 ● 133

answered Apr 13, 2015 at 2:59



Muad'Dib

569 ● 5 ● 11

-
- 1 The link is broken (404). – Peter Mortensen Dec 18, 2019 at 15:31

Preferences > Window:Title. No plugin needed.

– Jason LeMonier Jun 4, 2021 at 16:45



0



I have visual studio 2022 with the [vsvim 2022](#) extension installed. This means I have access to commands like

```
:echo @%
```

to view details of the current file on the vim status line.

For more info see the vi stack exchange answer:

<https://vi.stackexchange.com/a/1885/54033>

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answered Oct 25 at 14:58

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Spangen

4,710 ● 5 ● 39 ● 45



-2



File > Preferences > Settings >> Window:Title

I just changed `${activeEditorShort} => ${activeEditorLong}`

within the setting:

`${dirty}${activeEditorLong}${separator}${rootName}${separator}${appName}`

Worked immediately when I clicked a file.

Great help right in the setting ...

Window: Title -- Controls the window title based on the active editor. Variables are substituted based on the context:

`${activeEditorShort}`: the file name (e.g. myFile.txt).

`${activeEditorMedium}`: the path of the file relative to the workspace folder (e.g. myFolder/myFileFolder/myFile.txt).

...

Visual Studio Code Version: 1.56.2 Date: 2021-05-12

I found one reference saying this existed since 2017.

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answered Jun 4, 2021 at 16:46

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[Jason LeMonier](#)

193 ● 1 ● 7

-
- 3 The question is for Visual Studio, not Visual Studio Code.
– [RyanfaeScotland](#) Sep 28, 2021 at 12:41
-