

# Disable designer in Visual Studio?

Asked 15 years, 10 months ago   Modified 6 years, 10 months ago

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38



I'm using Visual C# Express to write Windows Form applications, and call me old school, but I don't like the designer. It is a nuisance and pollutes my project with lots of unwanted files, as well as unwanted monkey-generated source code.



Please tell me there's a way to turn it off completely.



visual-studio

windows-forms-designer

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edited Feb 3, 2015 at 18:33

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asked Feb 19, 2009 at 22:47



I. J. Kennedy

25.7k ● 17 ● 65 ● 88

6 Answers

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Add a `[System.ComponentModel.DesignerCategory("")]` attribute before a UI class to avoid designer activation on double-click.

106



Note that including `System.ComponentModel` at the top of the file and then just adding the attribute as `[DesignerCategory("")]` will not work (at least not in Visual Studio 2010/2013). You must use the full, namespace-qualified attribute type name.

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edited Feb 1, 2018 at 14:08

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JotaBe

39k ● 8 ● 101 ● 119

answered Mar 2, 2009 at 14:48



Andrew

- 
- 2 You also seem to have to remove "`<SubType>Form</SubType>`" from the file's entry in the project file (e.g. .csproj file), at least in VS 2010  
– [Matt Jacobsen](#) Dec 24, 2012 at 10:20

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I echo the comments from @wizlb for VS2012 – [Steve](#) Jan 15, 2013 at 20:12

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In VS2013, it was "`<SubType>Component</SubType>`" rather than form, but Matt's point is correct. Nothing will happen otherwise. – user502255 Jul 30, 2014 at 19:32

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But how to enable designer for derived class? For example, I have `[System.ComponentModel.DesignerCategory("")]` class `MyUserControl : UserControl{}` and class `MyDerivedFromMyUserControl: MyUserControl{}` Is it possible to make first one non-designable, but make second one designable? – [Eugeniy Maksimov](#) Oct 8, 2014 at 10:49



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Set the

`[System.ComponentModel.DesignerCategory("Component")]`



Right clicking on a project file and selecting open with allows you to set the defaults for opening file types.

30



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answered Feb 19, 2009 at 22:55

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[Richard](#)

109k ● 21 ● 210 ● 272



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OK, thanks, that's a big help. I didn't realize I could set the default opener for a file. It was a small nuisance to right click and pick "view code" every time. – [I. J. Kennedy](#) Feb 19, 2009 at 23:08

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This just showed me how to get rid of the SQL Design view stuff in Visual Studio 2012 and set it back to just opening it with a T-SQL Editor. Thanks, Richard from the past! – [Jeremy Pridemore](#) Feb 18, 2013 at 22:13

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That's right but be careful. If you open the designer by accident, then it might mess up your handwritten code. – [SQL Police](#) Oct 2, 2016 at 5:44

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7



Actually, all you have to do in VS2010 is right click the .cs file that you *don't* want to open in the designer, select the "Open With.." option, then make CSharp Editor the default. Notice that the form view is the default before you change it.



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answered Nov 26, 2011 at 19:37



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[Keith Mattix](#)

401 ● 5 ● 13

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That's right, but then you could still accidentally open up the designer. I have a form where I strictly **must** prohibit invocation of the designer, because the designer is messing up the code. – [SQL Police](#) Oct 2, 2016 at 5:33

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Just **dont** add "new form" , add to the project new class and inherit him from the Form class.

2



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answered Feb 20, 2009 at 13:40

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[Avram](#)

4,277 ● 34 ● 40



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1 I think this answer just changed my life. I can now write C++/CLI form applications the same way I would normally write Java, without having to use C#. I never thought of using C++/CLI without designer before, but it's beautifully powerful. – [Dmytro](#) Apr 23, 2016 at 11:36

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2

Frederik, sure you're right, but not in one fact. ( this one I.J wanted to know ) As soon as you inherit from any Component, the studio tries to open it in a designer editor. That is a default behaviour of the visual studio.



If you double click a file in the solution explorer, then a designer opens. So it's really annoying if you always get such strange designer for classes that are just inherited from a Component, but do not contain any visible things.

The only thing that really helped me out, was to set this attribute:

```
[System.ComponentModel.DesignerCategory("")]
```

I didn't knew this => so cool hint !

I just get a problem with partial MainForm classes. Then it yells "duplicate attribute"...

Does here anybody knows a solution to avoid in some partial class-files the designer to be opened on double click ( without the duplicate attribute error on compile ? )

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I think I found a small bug, in VS2005... By setting the DesignerCategory-Attribute on the partial form class, on save the solution explorer shows up an icon, identifying the file as a c# file (no form).

Then I put a comment (//) before the attribute - and it keeps opening the file in code view. Also after closing and reopening it's stored internally as a non designable form-part. Even on re opening the complete solution.

So I think there is any information in the solution or project file...

... I found this in the .csproj file: ...

```
<Compile Include="GUI\VFormMain_Test.cs">
</Compile>
<Compile Include="GUI\VFormMain_Theme.cs">
</Compile>
<Compile Include="Core\VTTEnv.cs" />
<Compile Include="GUI\VFormMain.cs">
  <SubType>form</SubType>
</Compile>
```

...

Studio updates from time to time - then it updated the form files again (doh)... ok.. but there is probably a workaround to avoid this.

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snip... last edit... found something:

<http://social.msdn.microsoft.com/Forums/en-US/csharpide/thread/64c77755-b0c1-4447-8ac9-b5a63a681b78>

( name the file you want to open without designer into .Designer.cs )

( Yes you have to name something to switch it of LOL )  
Seems to work.

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edited Jun 9, 2010 at 15:39

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answered Jun 9, 2010 at 13:03



fishy\_pkat151

21 ● 2



-1



If you don't want to use the designer, then don't use it ?

You can create a new form from scratch, without the designer generating any code by creating a new empty class, and let the class inherit from

`System.Windows.Forms.Form`



Then, VS.NET will probably still indicate that your class is a Form, and you can still open it up in the designer if you want. (And drop controls on it).

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answered Feb 19, 2009 at 23:03

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[Frederik Gheysels](#)

56.9k ● 11 ● 102 ● 155

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The problem is when it opens by default every time you open a specific file type. – [Cephron](#) Feb 11, 2014 at 22:00

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