

# Office XP Shared Addin VS 2008

Asked 15 years, 11 months ago    Modified 13 years, 3 months ago

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I'm trying to create a Shared Addin using VS 2008 for Office XP (Excel to be precise). However, after creating the project in Visual studio and changing the references to Office XP (apart from Extensibility which I don't seem to be able to find a copy for office xp) and adding excel.exe to the references as well. I now don't seem to be able to get the addin to install on any computers.

Does anyone have any guides on writing Office XP addins using VS 2008 (Com Addins I might add)?

Does anyone know the reference that I'm meant to have or things prior that I'm meant to have installed on the pc?

I have three test pcs, this one has office xp, 2003 and 2007 on it and I can write an addin using 2003 references that runs on this but no other box. One with just office xp on it but also office xp PIAs installed and .NET and another one just with office xp on.

Any help would be very much appreciated.

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edited Jan 29, 2009 at 19:59



Scott Ivey

41.5k ● 21 ● 84 ● 118

asked Dec 30, 2008 at 12:48



Henry B

8,047 ● 11 ● 44 ● 47

## 3 Answers

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I found the problem with this in the end.

The problem came from a KB entry [908002](#).

Unfortunately, to run the fix you need Visual Studio 2005 and Office 2003 installed otherwise it won't deploy the fix and so I had glossed over this quite a few times. In the end I found an old copy of VS2005 and Office 2003 on a spare machine, installed the fix, created an installer and tried it on a machine with Office XP and everything worked fine.

There are two fixes that are needed for this to work on any machine with Office XP:

```
extensibilityMSM.msi - installs the
extensibility.dll
lockbagRegKey.msi    - adds a fix to a registry
key
```

I couldn't find these to be downloaded separately from the KB908002 fix but I have copies locally.

After applying these fixes it was easy to use COM Addins like using VSTO and it took me less than an hour to write the actual code. I'm not looking for a way to include these in my MSI installer as prerequisites.

Any questions chuck them in a comment and I'll try and update asap.

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answered Jan 2, 2009 at 10:25



Henry B

8,047 ● 11 ● 44 ● 47



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You need the PIAs installed as a prerequisite. Does the addin install at all, or fail at installation? An add-in misbehaving at startup may be banned by the host application (Excel). You can reenable it in the Add-in settings dialog in Excel.



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answered Dec 30, 2008 at 18:51



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Øyvind Skaar

1,840 ● 14 ● 22



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@PintSizedCat - [Here](#) is a link to a msdn blog that shows how to extract the msi's without having VS2005 installed.

See the section "Building the Shared COM add-in setup project" - use the command line:

vs2005-kb908002-enu-x85.exe /T:"C:\Test" /C





For us it was Excel 2003 with .Net 2.0 and the extensibility.dll was missing. I don't think VS2008 / VS2010 have this as a prerequisite. The dll is not redistributable (According to this [blog](#) - see the "The Answer" section) - you must use the msi to redistribute it.

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answered Sep 20, 2011 at 3:30

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[Carl Pritchett](#)

684 ● 7 ● 14

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