

# How to run executable at end of Setup Project?

Asked 16 years, 3 months ago    Modified 11 years, 10 months ago

Viewed 27k times



21



I have a Visual Studio Setup Project that I use to install a fairly simple WinForms application. At the end of the install I have a custom user interface page that shows a single check box which asks the user if they want to run the application. I've seen other installers do this quite often. But I cannot find a way to get the Setup Project to run an executable after the install finishes. Any ideas?

NOTE: You cannot use Custom Actions because these are used as part of the install process, I want to run my installed application once the user presses the 'Close' button at the end of the install.

winforms

installation

Share

Improve this question

Follow

asked Sep 13, 2008 at 14:25



[Phil Wright](#)

22.9k ● 16 ● 85 ● 141

7 Answers

Sorted by:

Highest score (default)





7



I believe this is one of the real limitations of the Visual Studio installation project. You need to be able to modify the last page of the installation UI but VS.NET does not give you a way to do this. You could modify the tables in the .MSI after it has been built but VS.NET would probably overwrite these changes each time it is built. You may be able to override the last page using a merge module that you include in the installation project. Either way you will need to become familiar with how the UI dialogs are authored in an .MSI and this is not trivial.

You may want to consider switching to a free script based installer or buy a commercial setup authoring application (just don't buy InstallShield for the love of Pete). Take a look at InstallAware (although I have not used it).

Share Improve this answer

answered Sep 13, 2008 at 17:17

Follow



[jmatthias](#)

7,595 ● 7 ● 30 ● 37



5



I've just found a very easy way which does not require external tools. You only have to add a class file to the main project and a custom action to the setup project.

<http://www.codeproject.com/KB/install/Installation.aspx>



Share Improve this answer

answered Nov 24, 2010 at 12:30

Follow



[Tommy Blackbird](#)

179 ● 2 ● 11

---

thanks the link helped me understand the whole process a lot better – [DeveloperChris](#) May 9, 2011 at 3:02

---



You also can use custom actions

4

Share Improve this answer

answered Dec 10, 2009 at 9:32

Follow



[Sly](#)

15.2k ● 13 ● 62 ● 89



- 
- 1 Under the commit folder in customs actions you can select add a custom action and browse to your primary output exe. This will get execute after installation. You can also make it conditional base upon a checkbox that you can add to setup dialogs. In the condition property you would have CHECKBOXA1=1 for example – [Peter Jamsenson](#) Apr 25, 2015 at 11:45
- 



I've done this for internal apps by creating a VB Script harness that launches the setup executable, waits for it to close, and then launches the second program.

1



You could also accomplish this with a little more polish using a few Win API calls in a C executable.



Share Improve this answer

answered Sep 13, 2008 at 16:03

Follow



Nick

13.4k ● 17 ● 66 ● 100



You can use MSILAUNCH (though I've only got it to work with MSICREATE).

1

<http://www.cornerhouse.ca/en/msi.html>



Share Improve this answer

answered Nov 17, 2008 at 2:55



Follow



Jonathan Parker

6,795 ● 4 ● 46 ● 55



I managed it by doing invoking the Main method the assembly using the following line:

0

```
(typeof(ClassWithinAssemblyToExecute)).Assembly.EntryPoint  
Object[] {} )
```



Share Improve this answer

answered Sep 13, 2011 at 4:32



Follow



Grub

883 ● 2 ● 11 ● 21

okay, so that doesn't start a new process but it worked for my needs as all i needed to do was run a small config form.

– Grub Sep 13, 2011 at 5:23



you can do it by custom installer. just add installer class and there u will see many event like after install, before

0



install. just hook up after install and from there run ur exe by process class. i would suggest u google to find more about custom installer. here is one good link that might help u

<http://www.codeproject.com/Articles/19560/Launching-Your-Application-After-Install-using-Vis>

thanks

Share Improve this answer

answered Jan 29, 2013 at 12:34

Follow



Thomas

34.2k ● 129 ● 372 ● 641

---