

# Creation Date of Compiled Executable (VC++ 2005)

Asked 16 years, 4 months ago   Modified 7 years, 5 months ago

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The creation date of an executable linked in VS2005 is not set to the real creation-date of the `.exe` file. Only a complete re-build will set the current date, a re-link will not do it. Obviously the file is set to some date, which is taken from one of the project-files.



So: is there a way to force the linker to set the creation-date to the real link-date?



date

executable

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edited Jul 10, 2017 at 19:09



GRUNT

32.8k ● 15 ● 121 ● 114

asked Aug 20, 2008 at 15:40



Christof Schardt

4 Answers

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Delete the executable as part of a pre-link event.

Edit: Hah, I forgot about Explorer resetting the creation date if you name a file exactly the same as a file that was recently deleted.

Why are you keying off the creation date anyway?

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edited Jul 3, 2012 at 14:54



user142162

answered Aug 20, 2008 at 16:02



Mat Noguchi

1,080 ● 6 ● 7



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A complete rebuild will delete that file forcing the linker to create it, hence the reason it gets a new creation date.

You could try disabling incremental linking under project properties (Linker | General). If that doesn't do it you could add a build event to delete the exe file and force it to create a new file each time. Both of these things could increase your build time.

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answered Aug 20, 2008 at 16:02



Brian Ensink

11.2k ● 3 ● 51 ● 63



Deleting the executable doesn't do the job. That's the problem. Also I could not identify any projectfile, whose

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datetime was the same as the later linked executable.



That lets me conclude, that the 'creation date' is an information taken from within some project-file.



The project has 400000 lines, so a full build is no option.



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answered Aug 20, 2008 at 17:12

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Christof Schardt



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What about using somethign like DirDate (or write a little util yourself) to set the creation date and call it from the post-build step?



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answered Oct 2, 2008 at 23:21

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[Martin Beckett](#)

96k ● 28 ● 195 ● 268

