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Setting up SDL in Visual Studio.NET 2005 Express

Last Updated 8/06/07

Before you start, make sure you have the latest versions of Visual C++ 2005 express, the Visual Studio service pack, and the latest version of the platform SDK properly installed. If you don't, **SDL will not work** with Visual C++ 2005 express. I have a mini tutorial to properly set up VC++ and the SDK available [here](#).

1) First thing you need to do is download SDL headers and binaries. You will find them on the SDL website, specifically on [this page](#).

Scroll Down to the Development Libraries section and download the Windows development library



Open the zip and there should be a folder inside of it. Open the folder and it'll contain a bunch of subfolders.

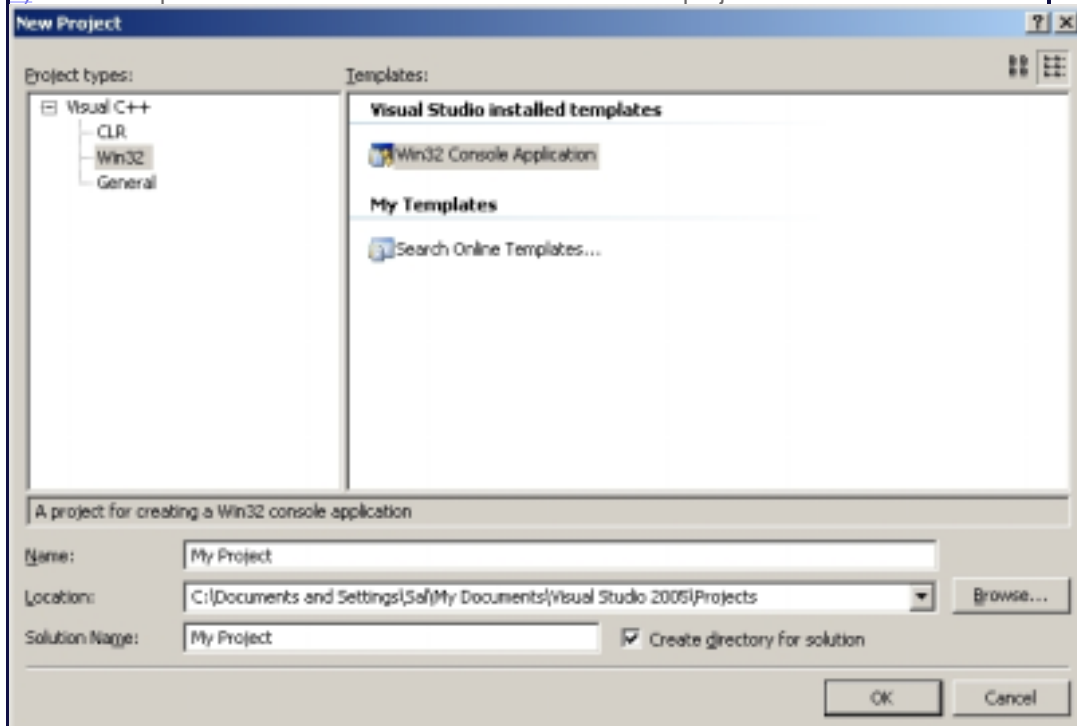
2) Copy SDL.lib and SDLmain.lib from the lib subfolder in the archive to the Visual C++ lib folder. The Visual C++ lib folder should be at C:\Program Files\Microsoft Visual Studio 8\VC\lib.

3) Next go to the Visual C++ include folder and create a folder called "SDL". The Visual C++ include folder should be at C:\Program Files\Microsoft Visual Studio 8\VC\include.

4) Then open the include subfolder in the archive and extract its contents to the folder you just made, which should be at C:\Program Files\Microsoft Visual Studio 8\VC\include\SDL.

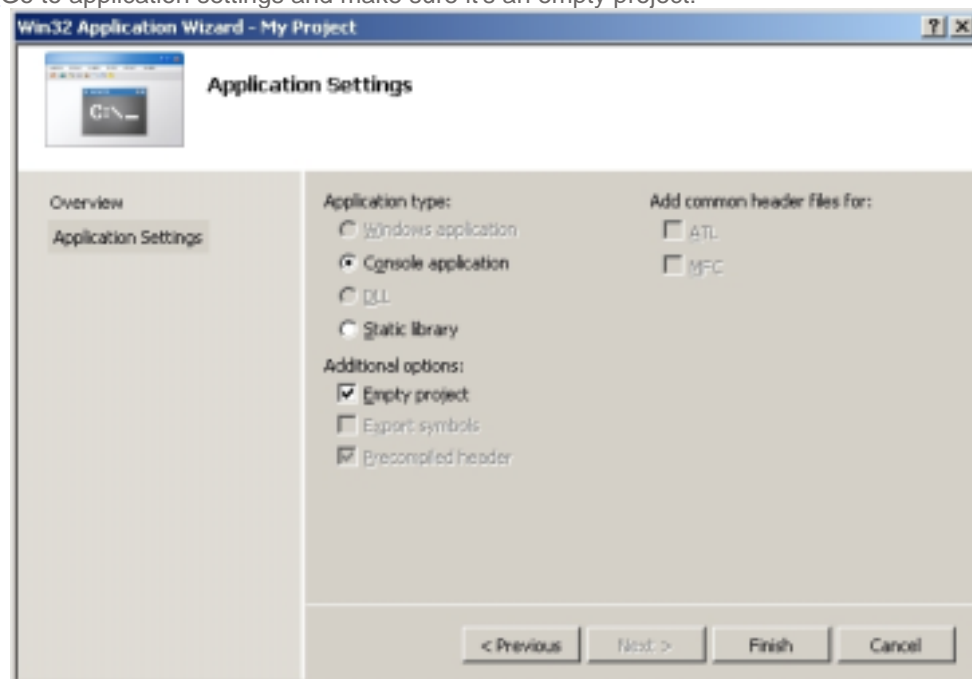
5) Now take the SDL.dll from the archive (it should be inside the lib subfolder), and extract it to C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32. This is so whenever you make an SDL app, the program will be able to find SDL.dll even if SDL.dll is not in the same directory.

6) Now start up Visual Studio and start a new win32 console project:



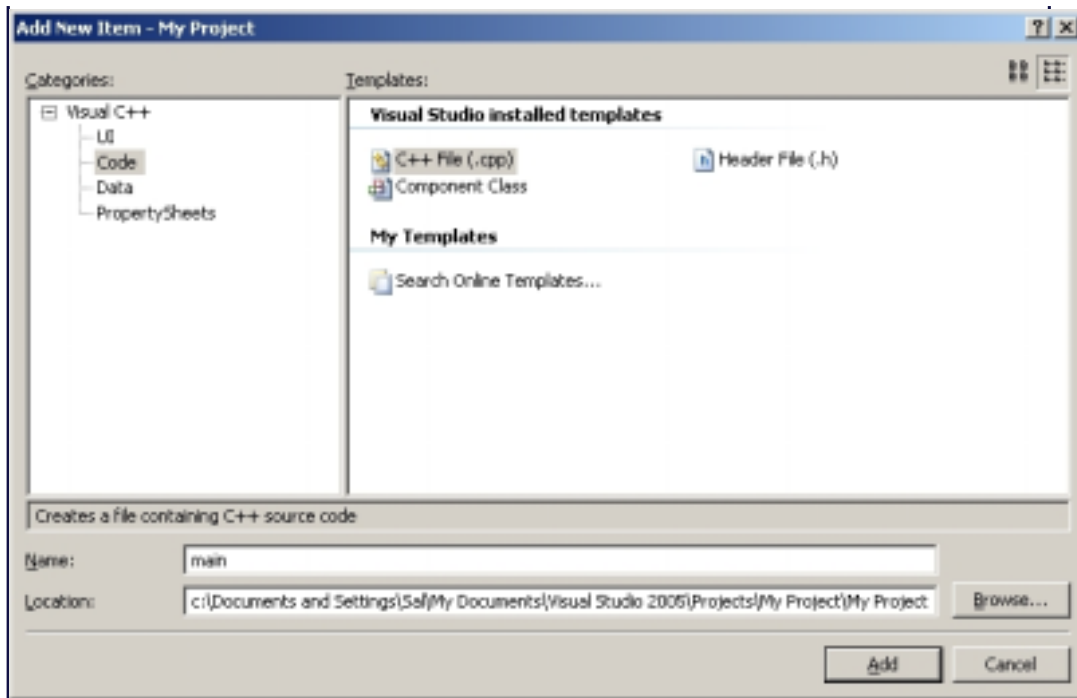
and click ok.

7) Go to application settings and make sure it's an empty project:



and click ok.

8) Then add a new source file to the project:



9) Now paste the following code into your new source file:

```
#include "SDL/SDL.h"

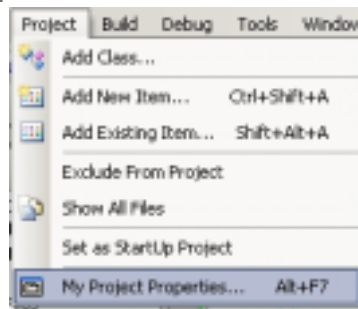
int main( int argc, char* args[] )
{
    //Start SDL
    SDL_Init( SDL_INIT_EVERYTHING );

    //Quit SDL
    SDL_Quit();

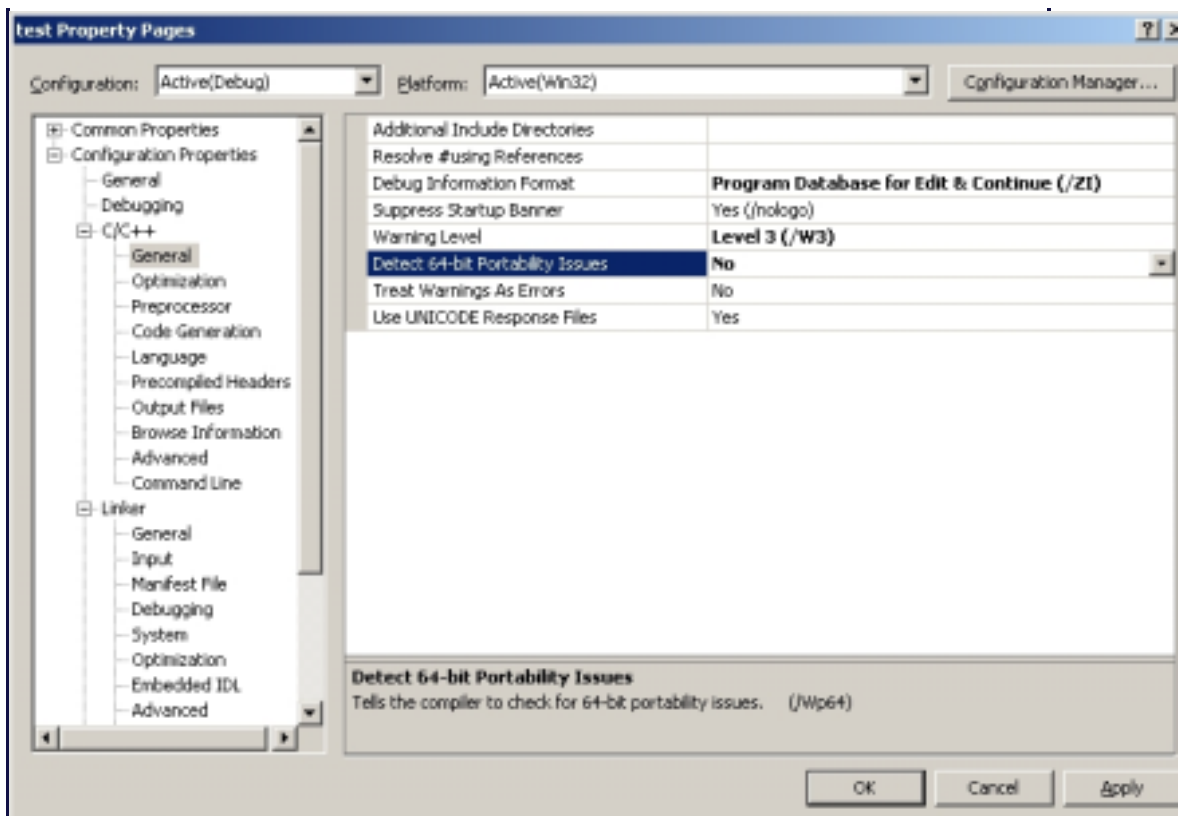
    return 0;
}
```

and save the source file.

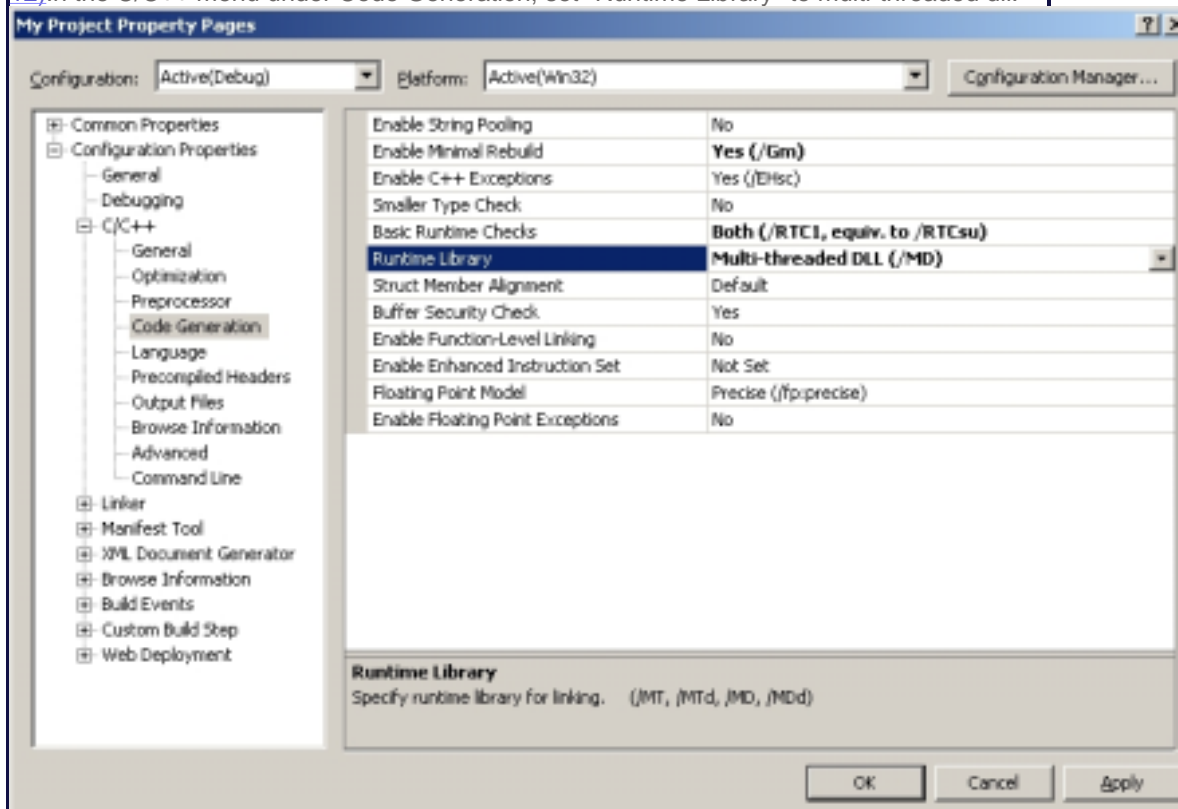
10) Next go to project settings.



11) In the C/C++ menu under general, set "Detect 64-bit Portability Issues" to "No".



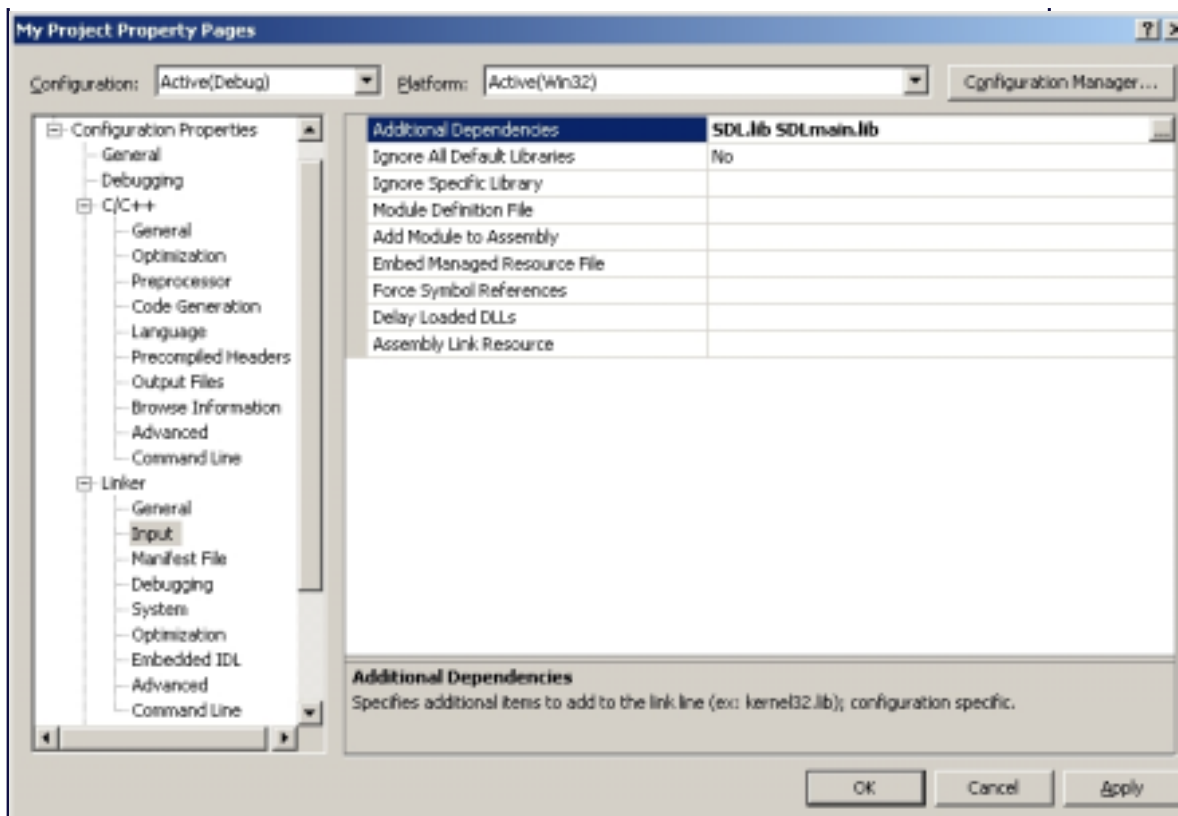
12) In the C/C++ menu under Code Generation, set "Runtime Library" to multi-threaded dll.



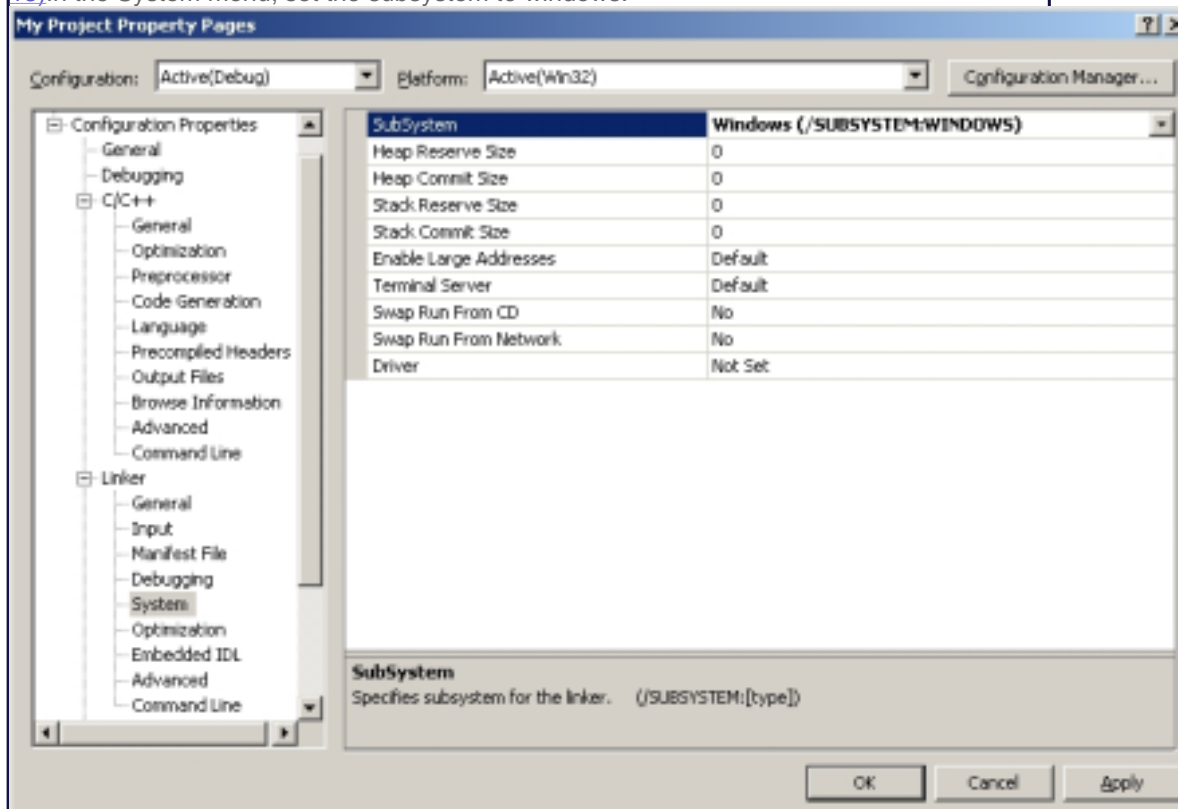
13) In the Linker menu under Input, paste:

SDL.lib SDLmain.lib

in the additional dependencies field.



13) In the System menu, set the subsystem to windows:



Now Build. If there are no errors, you're finished. Otherwise go back and make sure you didn't skip a step.

Also, In the archive you just downloaded there's a subfolder called "docs". It contains the SDL documentation.

I highly recommend that you extract them somewhere and keep it for reference.

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