Limnor Studio – User's Guide

Use Non-Embedded Files

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1   Problem with non-Embedded Files

Suppose we create an image resource using an image file. This image file will be embedded in the compiled binary files of the software. From the point of view of the program being developed there is not a file involved, no file path and file name are involved. When the program is distributed to users the image is distributed automatically within the program and no new file for the image is created in the users' computers because the image is embedded inside the program.

For more information on using resources in a program, see Limnor Studio Users' Guide -- Resource Manager.

If we decide to use a file but not to embed it in the program then the distribution could be an issue.

For example, suppose we use an action to play a video file "f:\my resources\video1.avi". This file name, "f:\my resources\video1.avi", is a parameter value of the action. At the development computer the program runs fine.

The problem occurs when the program is distributed to users' computers. The video file, video1.avi, can be distributed to users' computers. But it is impractical to assume that we may distribute the video file to a folder named "f:\my resources" in every user's computer. Most likely the video file will be copied to users' computers in different folders. Thus the action will fail because its parameter value, "f:\my resources\video1.avi", points to an invalid file path.

Limnor Studio lets you handle this situation easily.
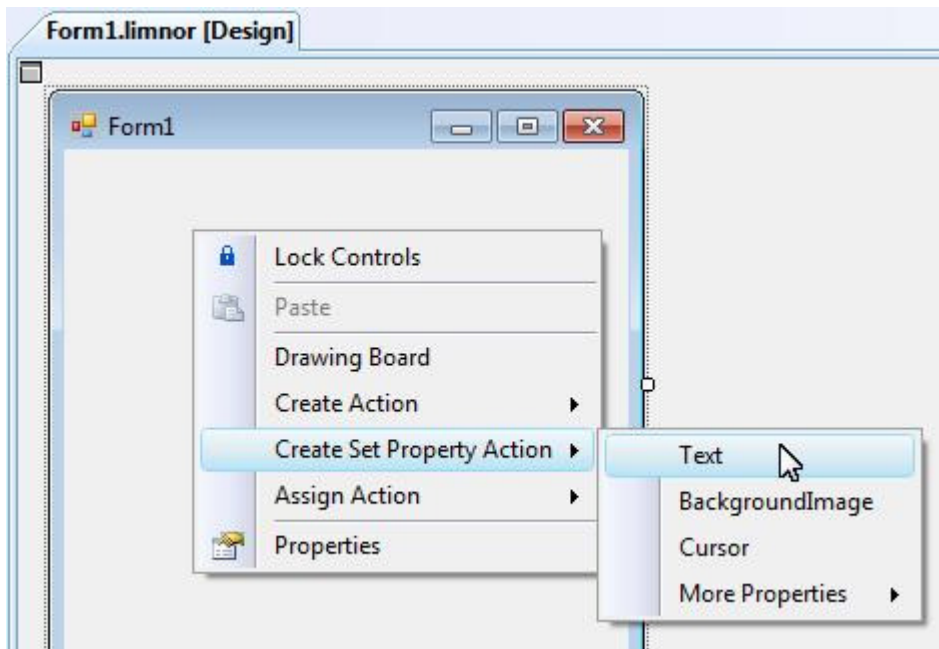
2   Use Filename Resources

The solution to the problem is to use a Filename resource to replace the constant file name in the action parameter.
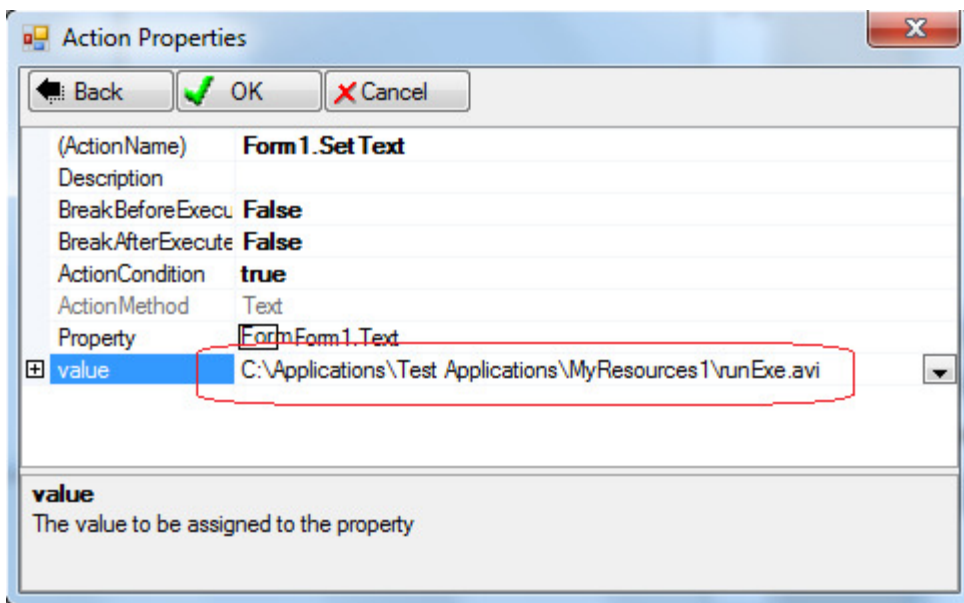
We use an example to demonstrate it.

2.1   Use file path in action

Instead of playing a video file, we display the full path of the video file on the title of a form so that we can see clearly how the file path problem is automatically handled.
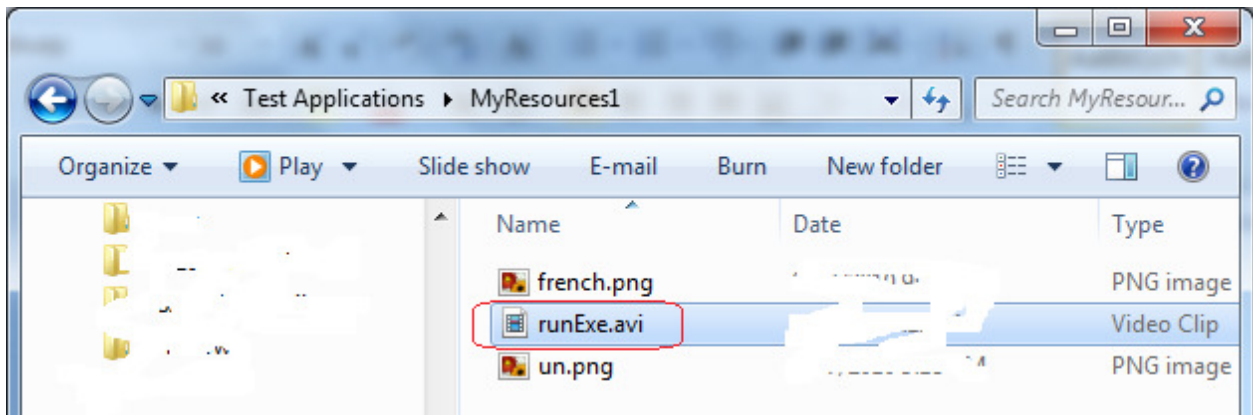
Create an action to set the Text property of the form:
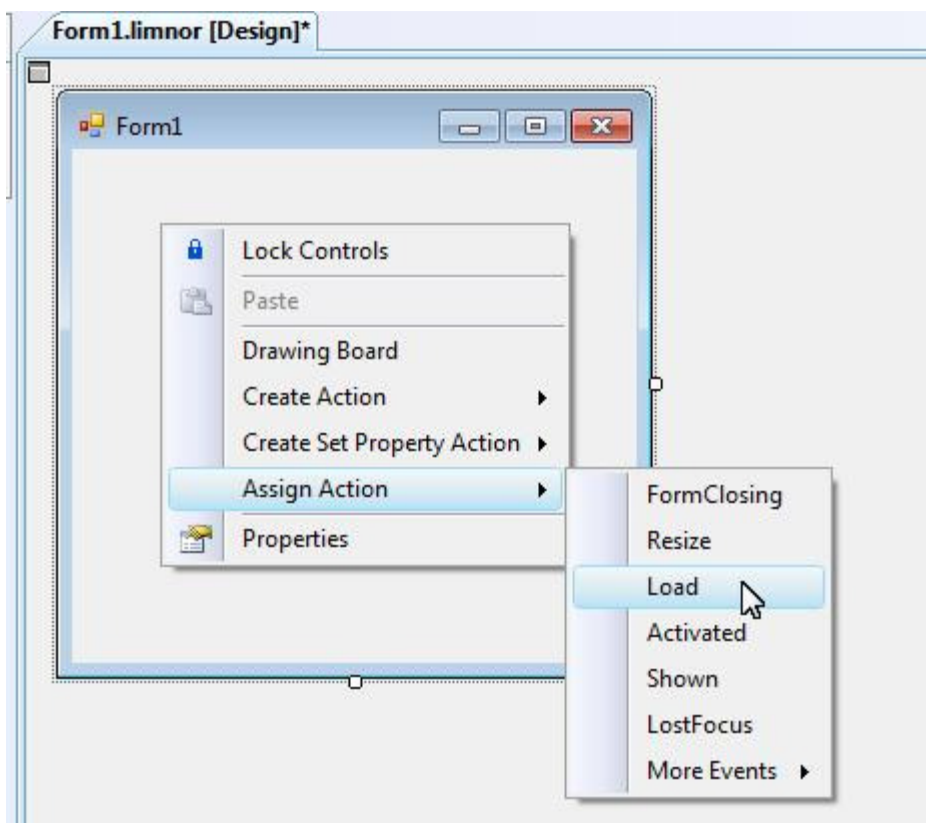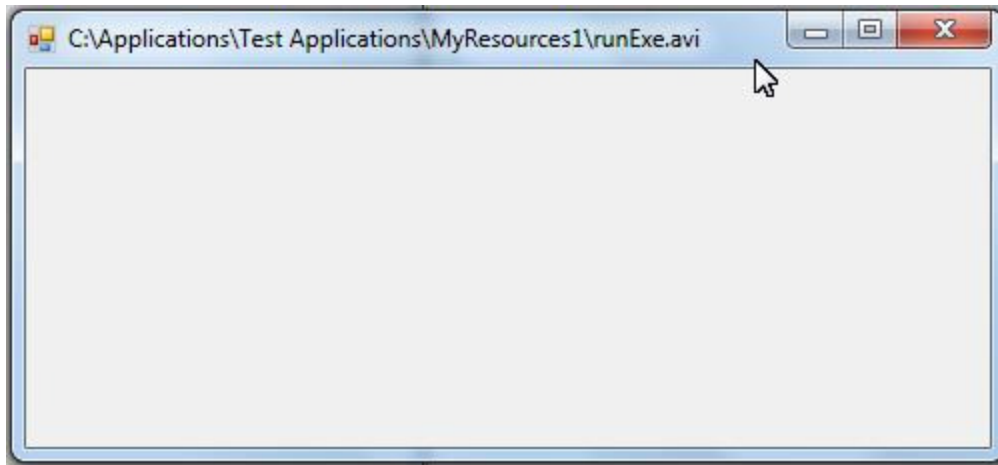
Give a constant file path:

This is a valid file path in the development folder:

Assign this action to the Load event of the form:

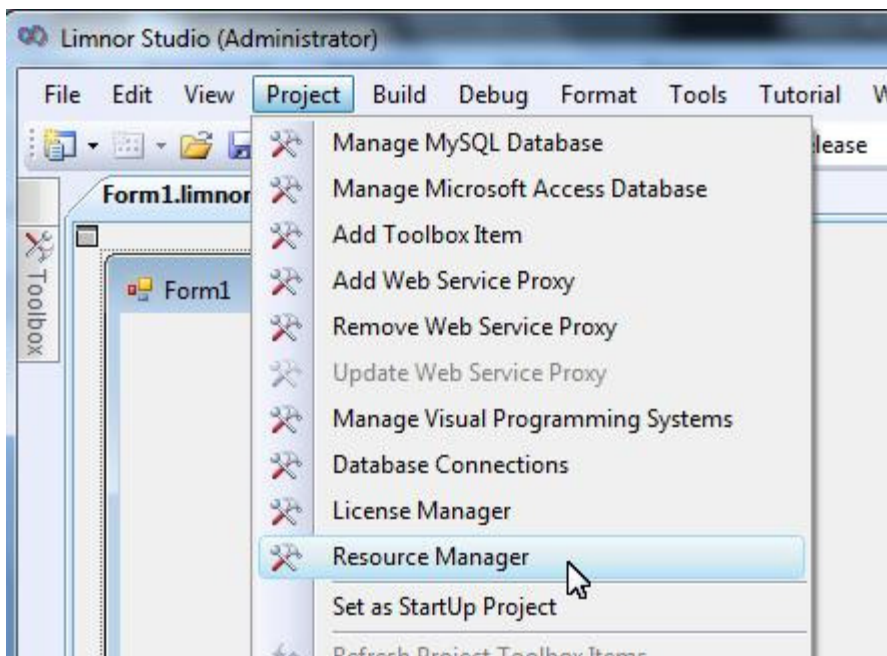Run the application. We see that the file name is displayed in the title bar:

This is a simulation of using a file path in an action. This action does not really use the file. If an action really opens the file then the file path must be valid. In users' computers this file path is most likely invalid. We need to let the action automatically use the valid file paths on the users' computers. In different users' computers the path can be different.
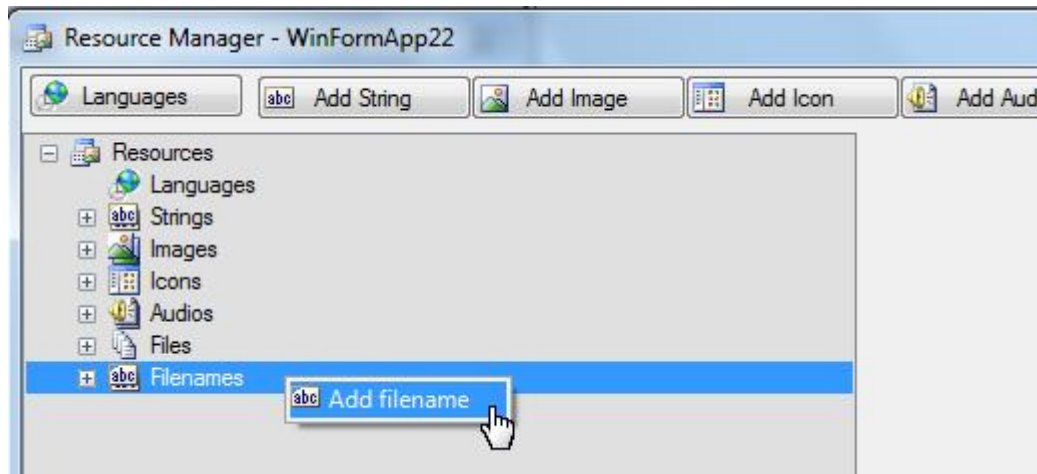
2.2   Create Filename resource

Let's change the action to use a Filename resource instead of a constant string.

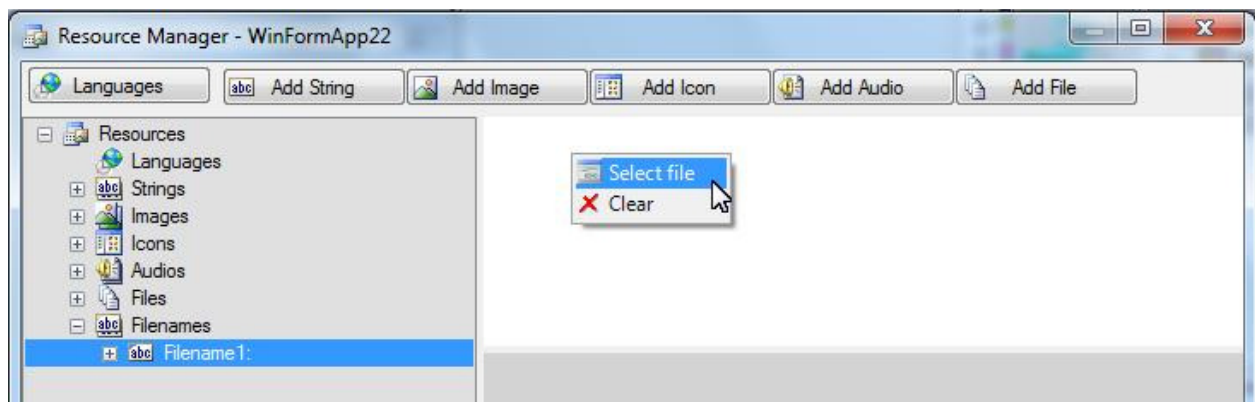First, let's create a Filename resource.
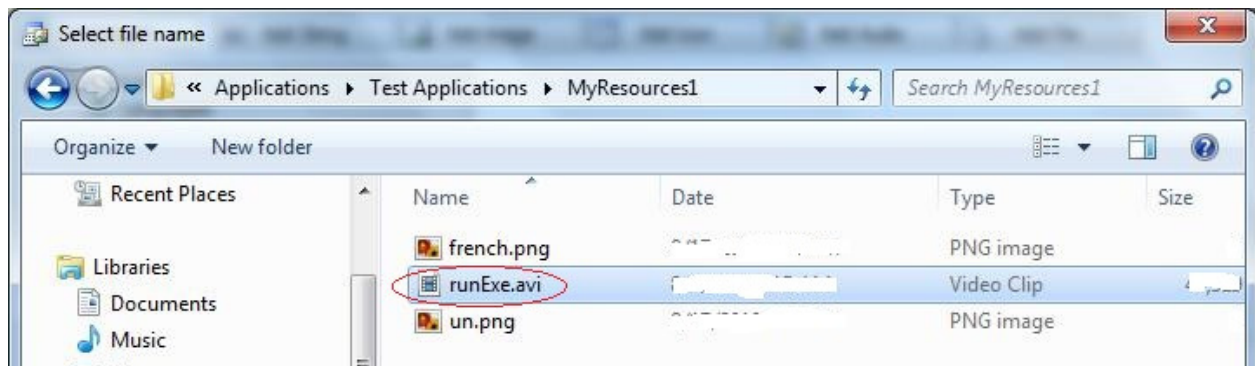
Open the Resource Manager:

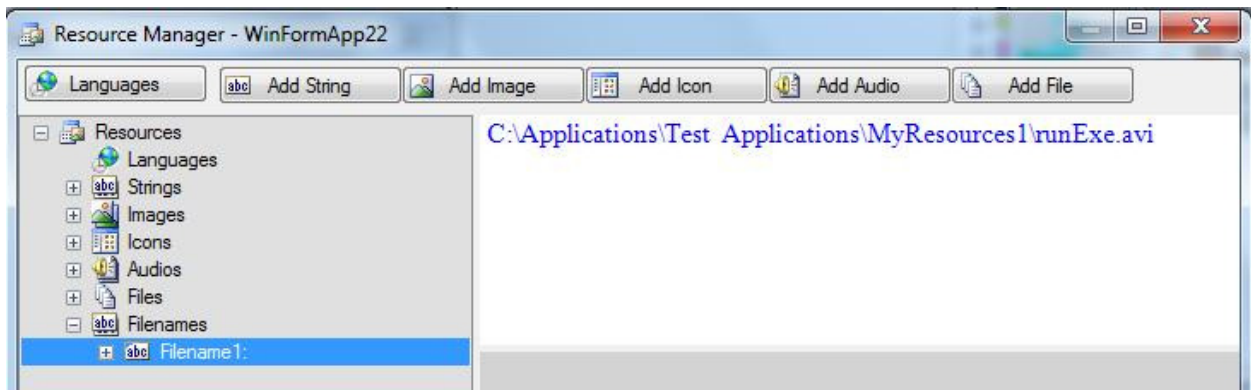

Create a new Filename resource:

A new Filename resource named Filename1 is created. We may select file for it:
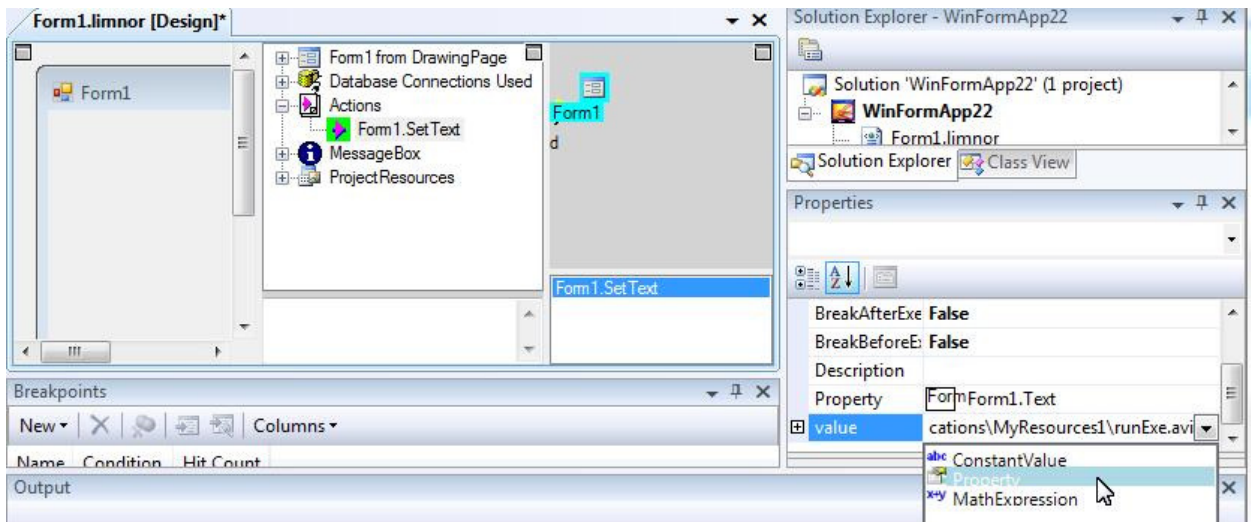

Select the file we want to use:

The file path appears:

For details on using the Resource Manager, see the Users' Guide at
http://www.limnor.com/support/Limnor%20Studio%20-%20User%20Guide%20-
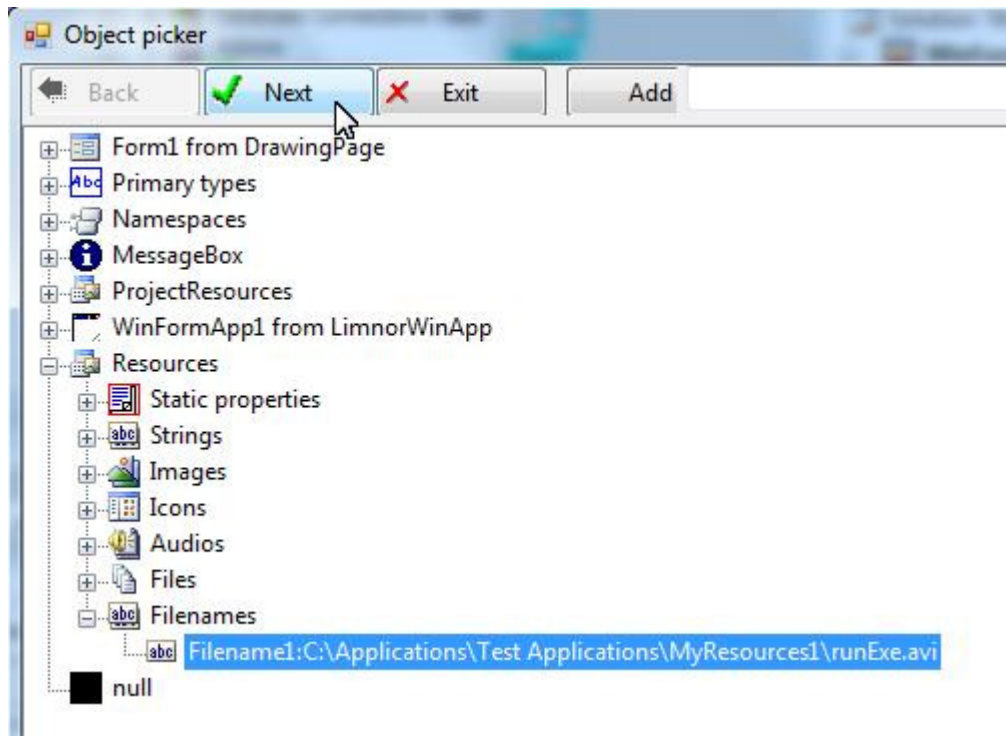%20Resource%20Manager.pdf

2.3   Use Filename resource in action

We may modify the action to use the Filename resource to replace the constant string. Select "Property" for the "value" parameter:
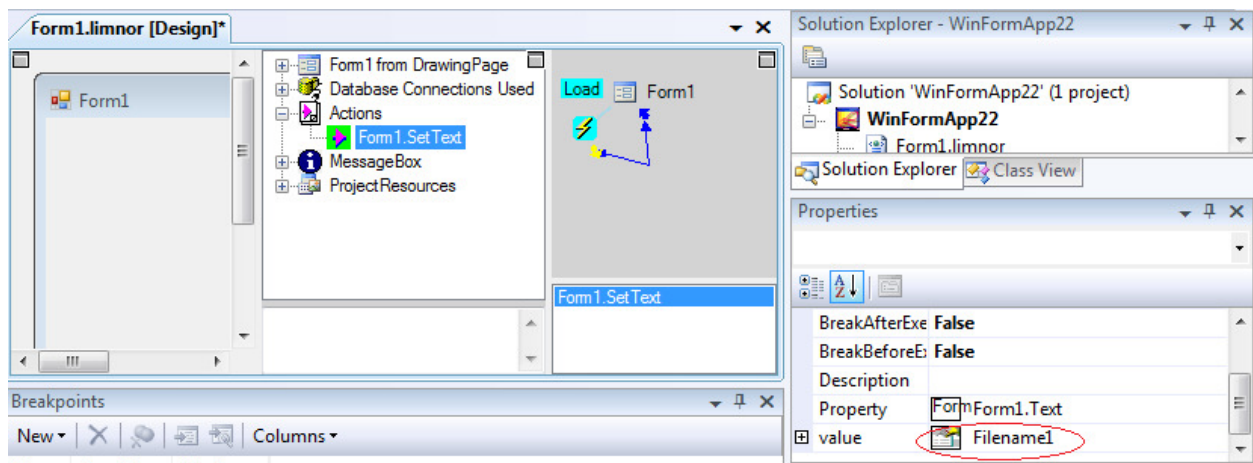

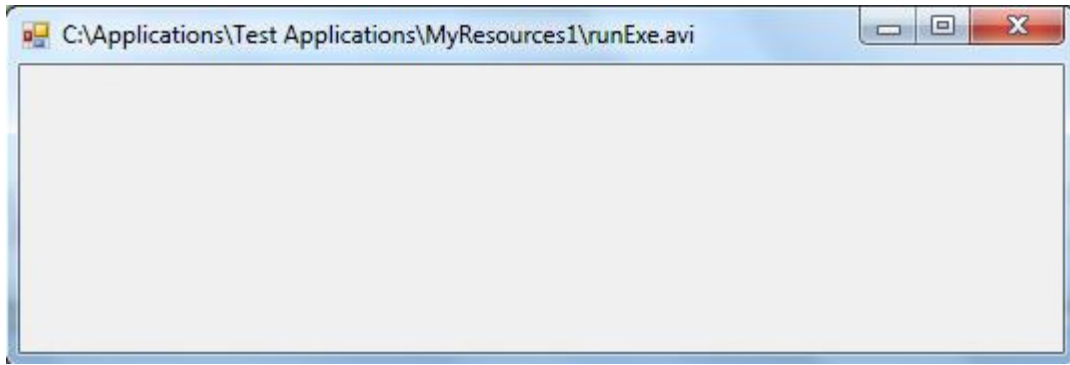Select the Filename resource. Click Next:

The Filename resource replaces the constant string in the action:

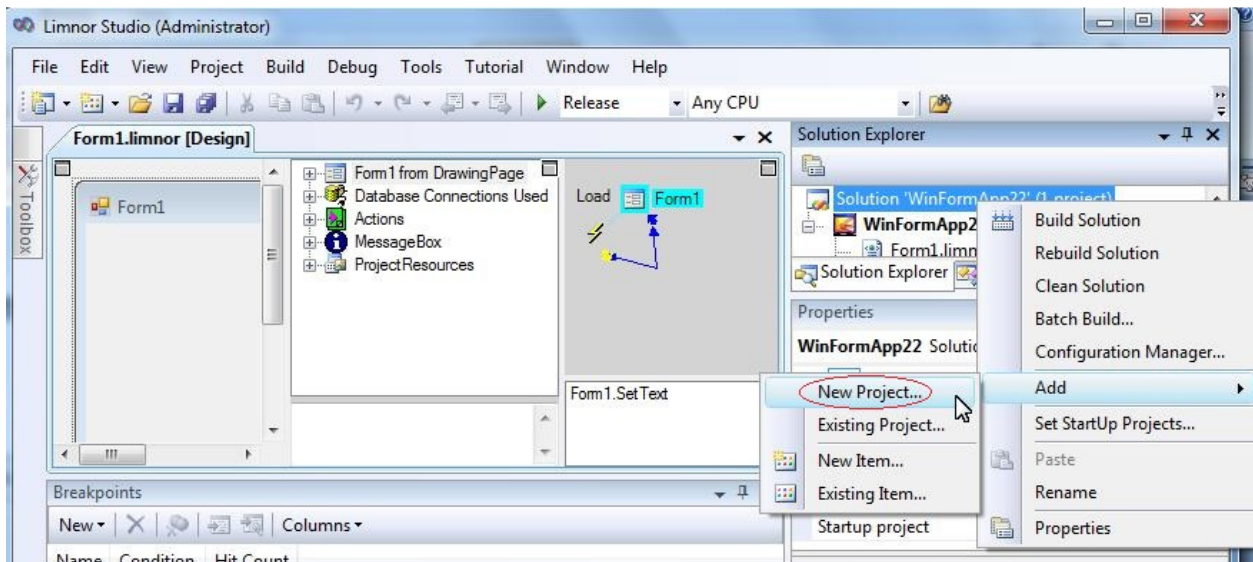Run the application. We can see the same file path is used:

For now the using of the Filename resource and a constant string produce the same result on the development computer.

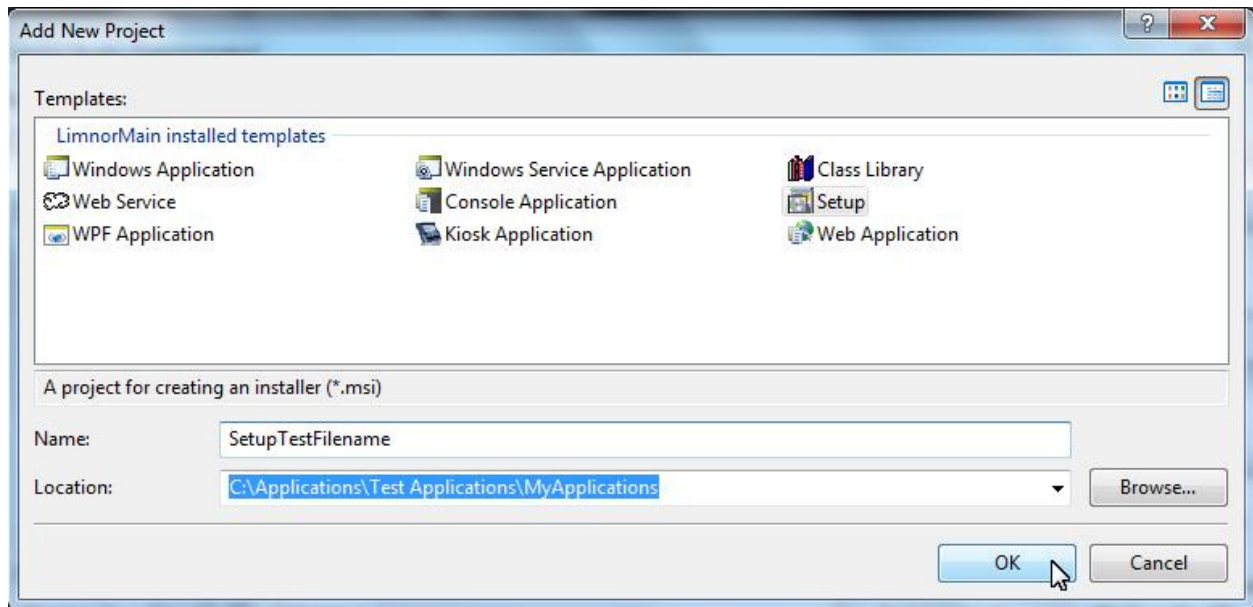When this program runs on the users' computers we will see the differences.

Let's make a distribution.
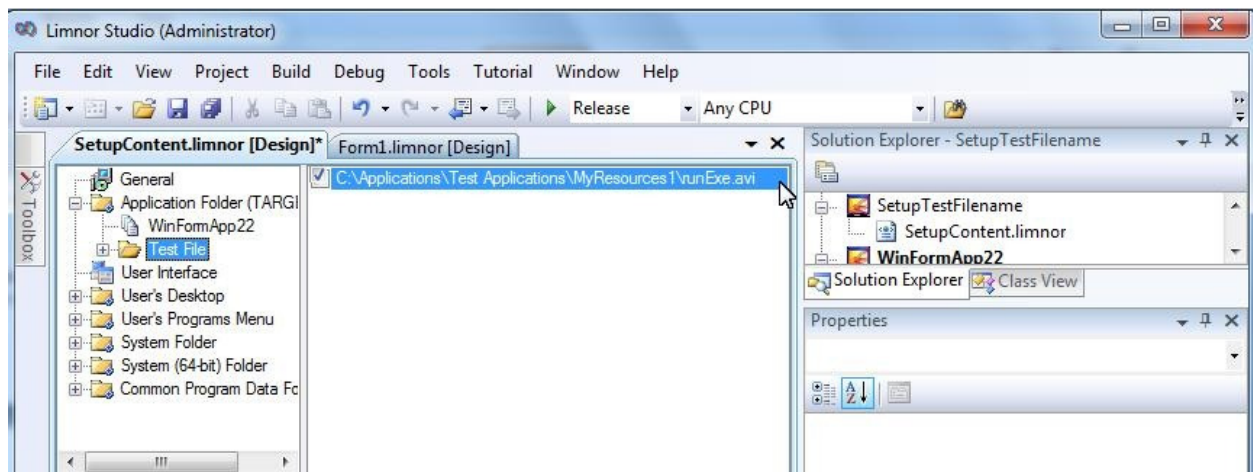
3 Create a distribution

Add a new project:

Select the Setup project and give a name:

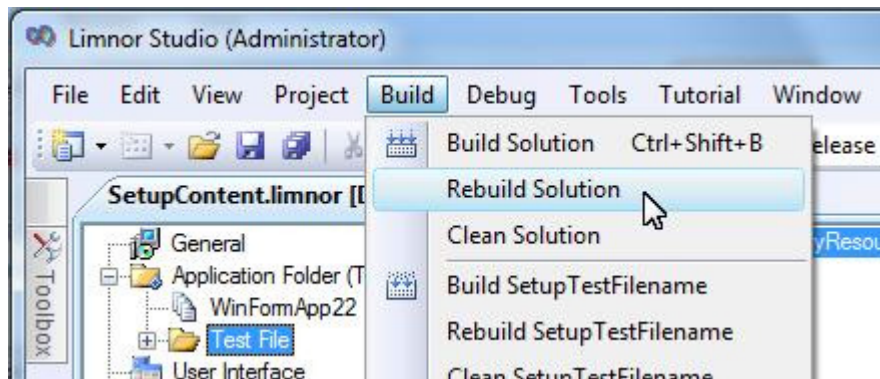For details on creating an installer, see the Users' Guide at
http://www.limnor.com/support/Limnor%20Studio%20-%20User%20Guide%20-%20Installer.pdf

Here we create a folder named "Test File" under the target folder, and add the video file to the folder. Using a sub-folder is not necessary. You may decide folder structure as you desire.
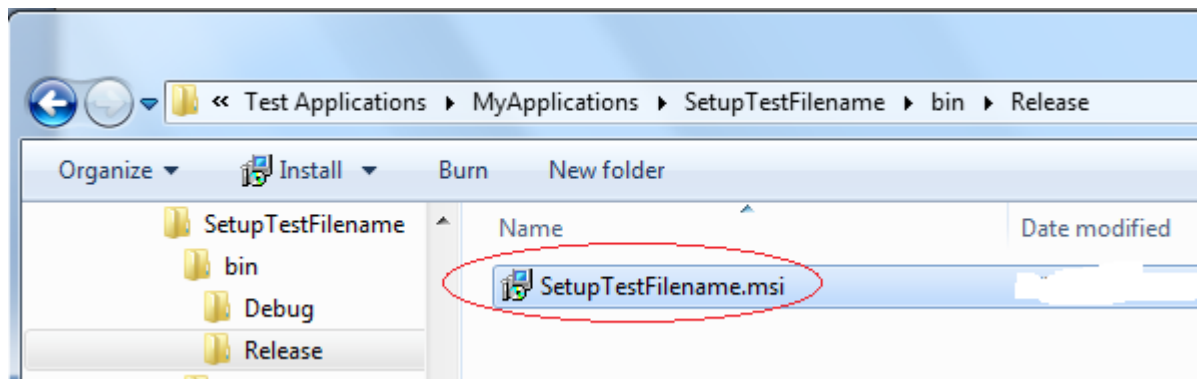

For the Filename resources to work, the files may be added to the Application Folder, System Folder and the Common Program Data Folder. But it is strongly recommended not to add files to the System Folder.
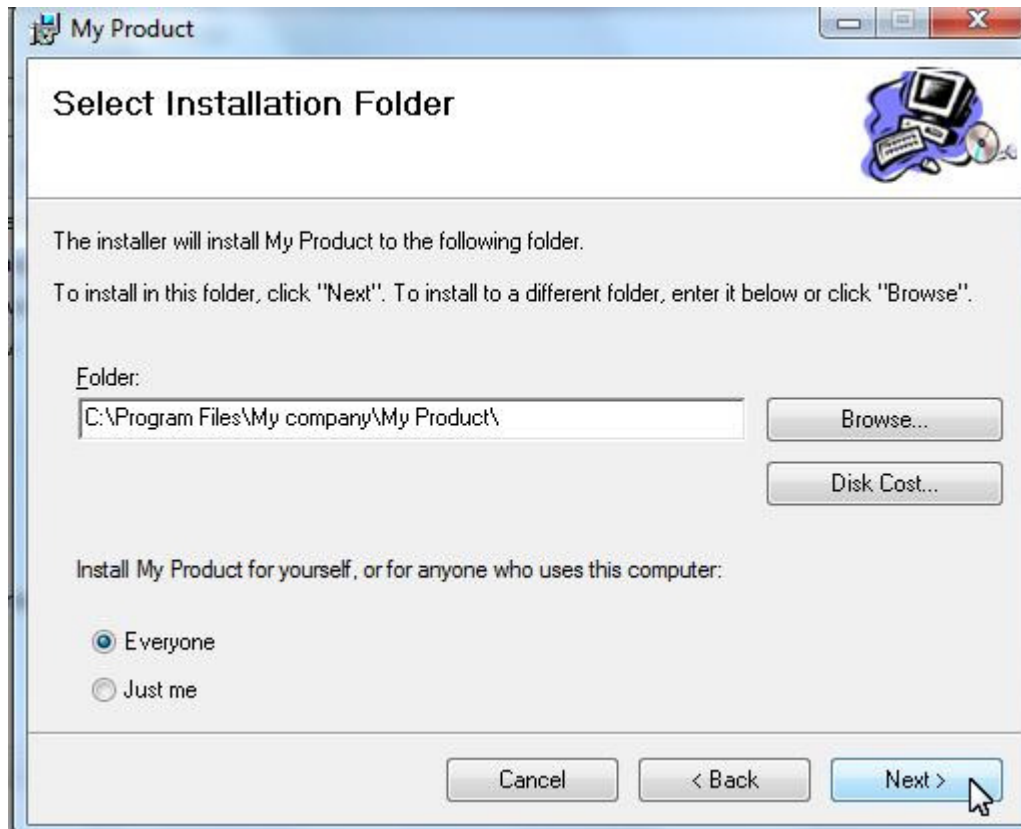
Compile the solution:
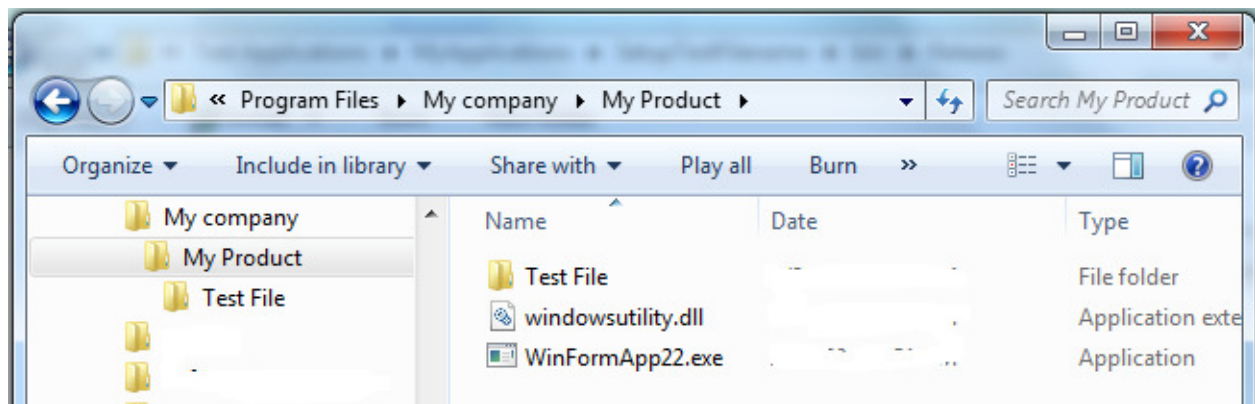
The installer is created:
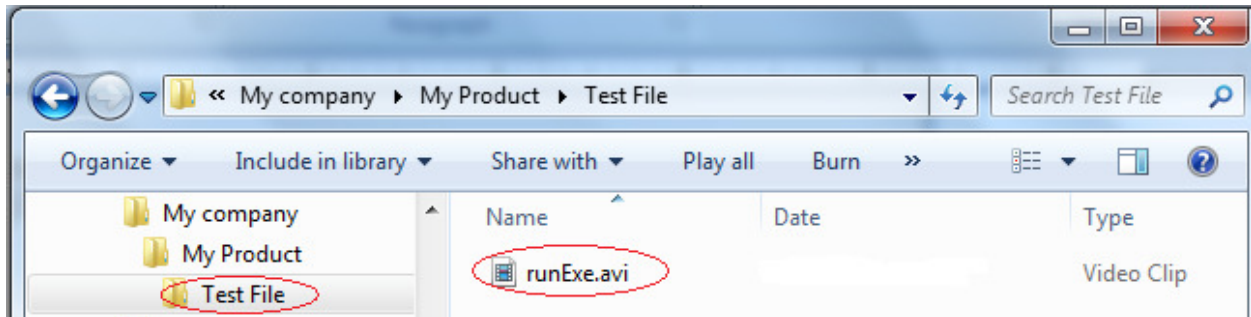

4   Distribute and run on users' computers

Distribute the installer, SetupTestFilename.msi, to other computers and run the installer.
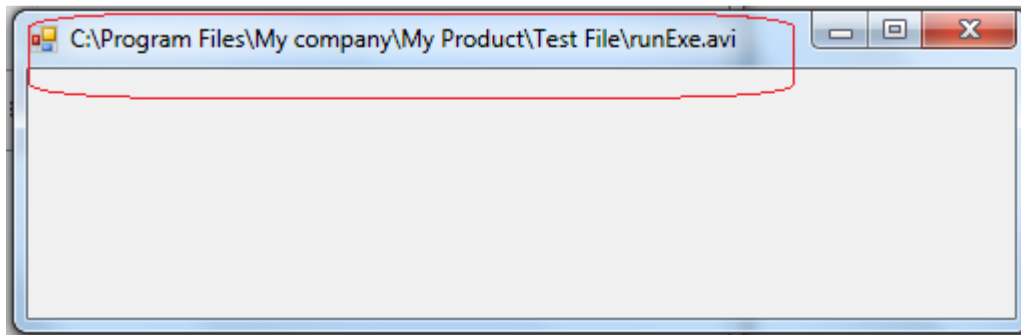

The program is installed:

The file, runExe.avi, is installed in the folder "Test File":

Run the program, WinFormApp22.exe, we can see that the correct file path displays on the title bar:

If the action is to play the video file then we may expect it will work fine because the correct file path is provided to the action.

If the user chooses to install the program to a different folder then this file path will automatically be using the different folder.