

Manipulate Microsoft Office Word

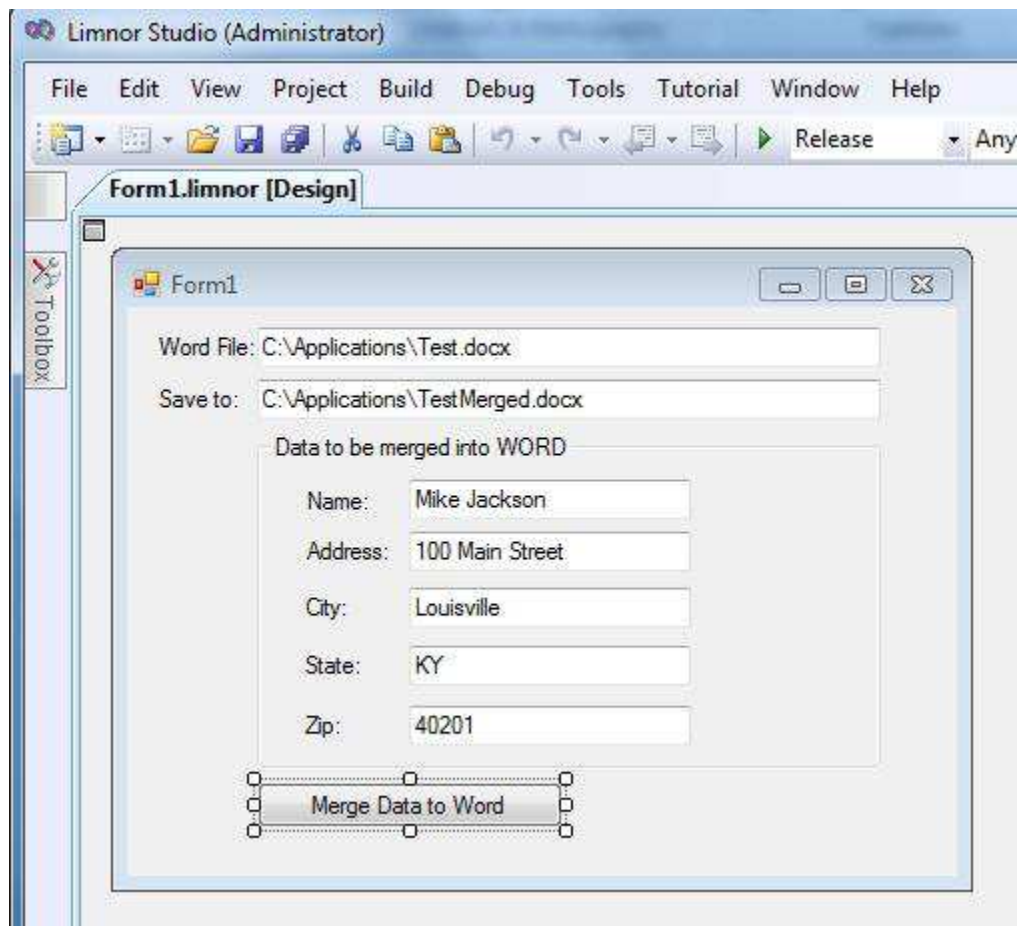
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Introduction

All Microsoft Office applications can be manipulated programmatically using .Net Framework interfaces provided by Microsoft. This sample demonstrates merging data into a Word document and save the document to a new file.

The sample is a Windows Form application. The data to be merged into the Word document are entered into text boxes. A button is used to initiate the data merging action.



Suppose we use such a test WORD document:

Font Paragraph

1 2 3 4

Test Document

Name: <name>

Address: <address>

City: <city>

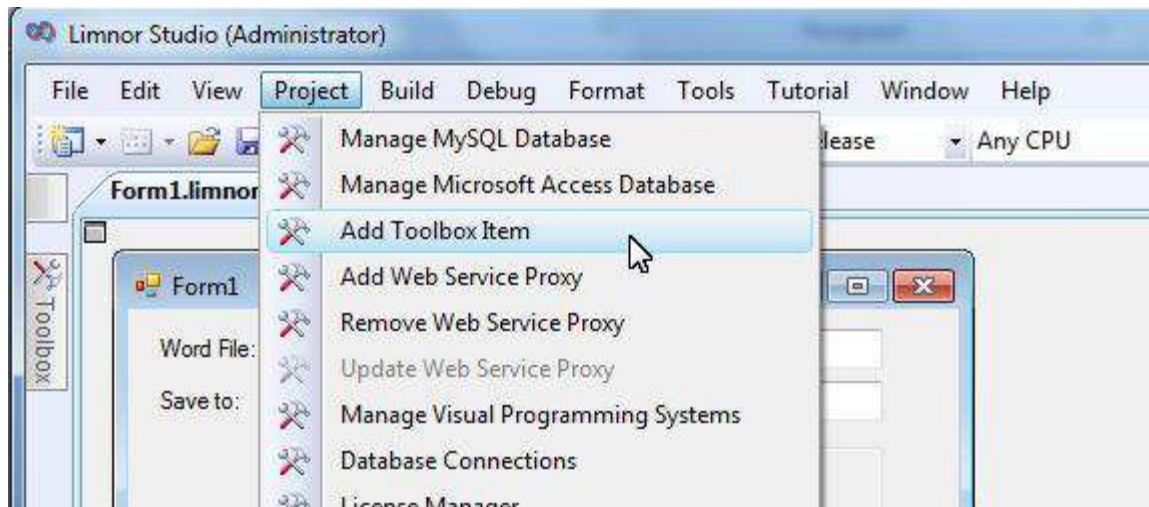
State: <state>

Zip: <zip>

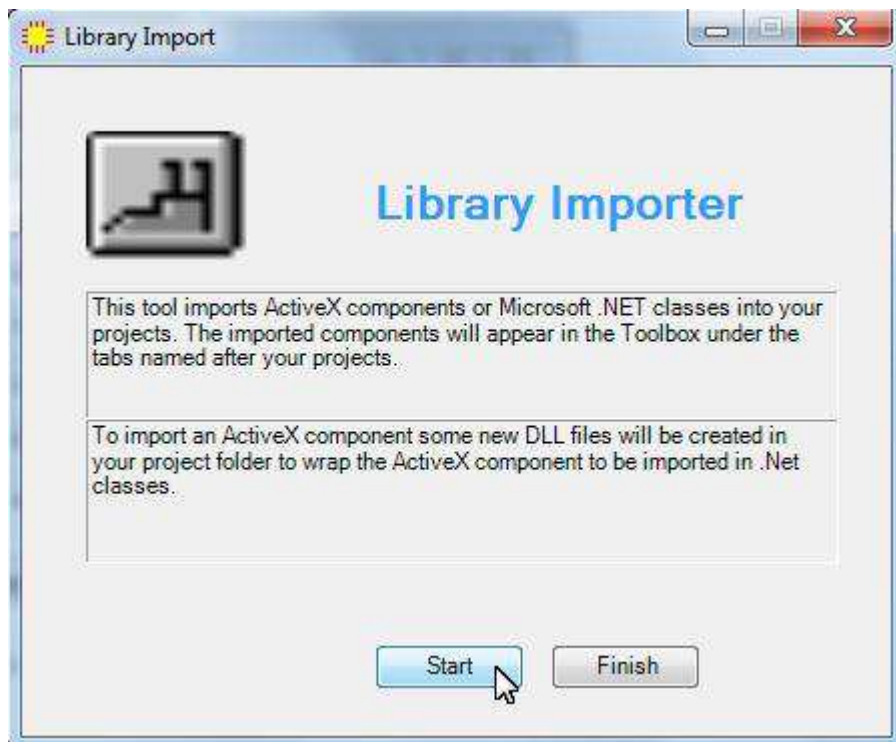
When the button is clicked we want to use the data in the text boxes to replace the place holders marked with "<" and ">".

Add a Word Application to the form

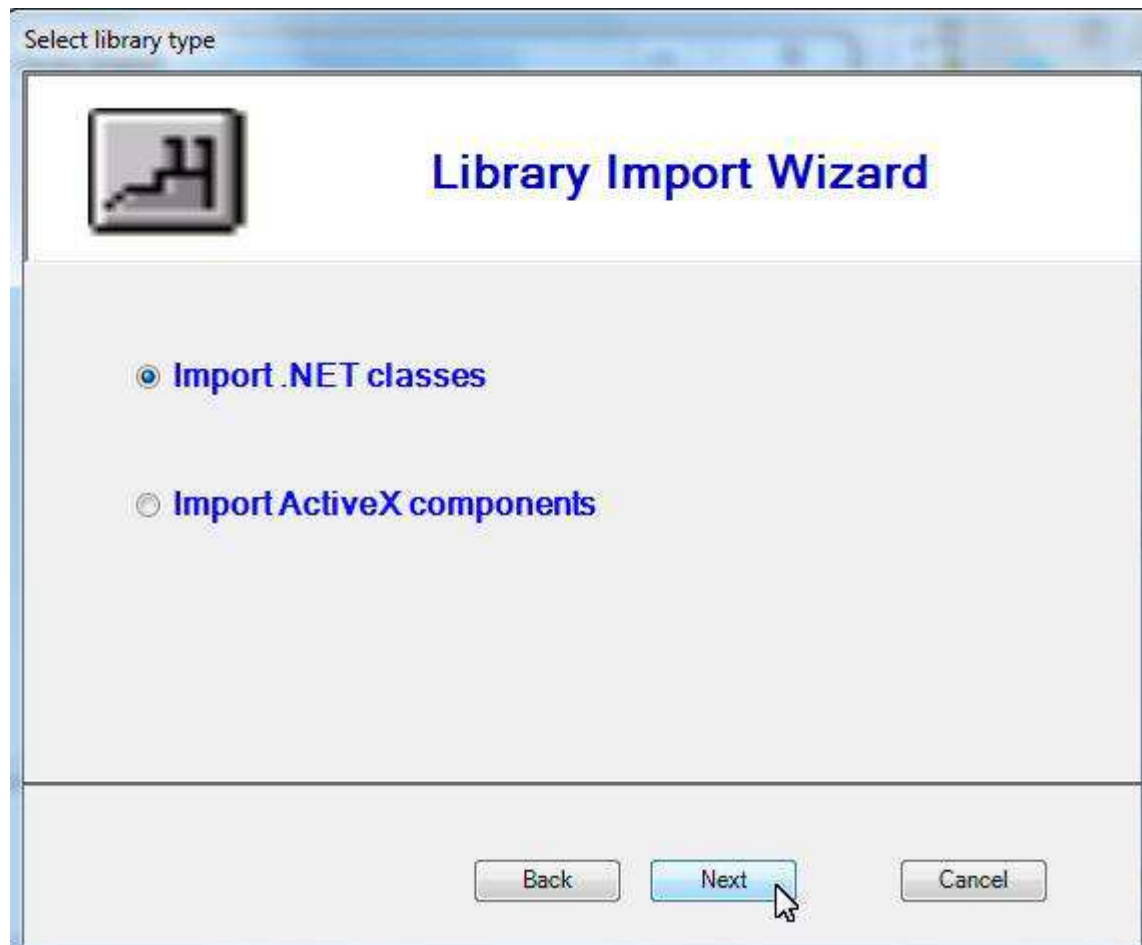
We want to add a Word Application object to the form so that all methods we will be creating can access it. We may add a Word Application object to the Toolbox first. Select "Project" menu and choose "Add Toolbox Item"



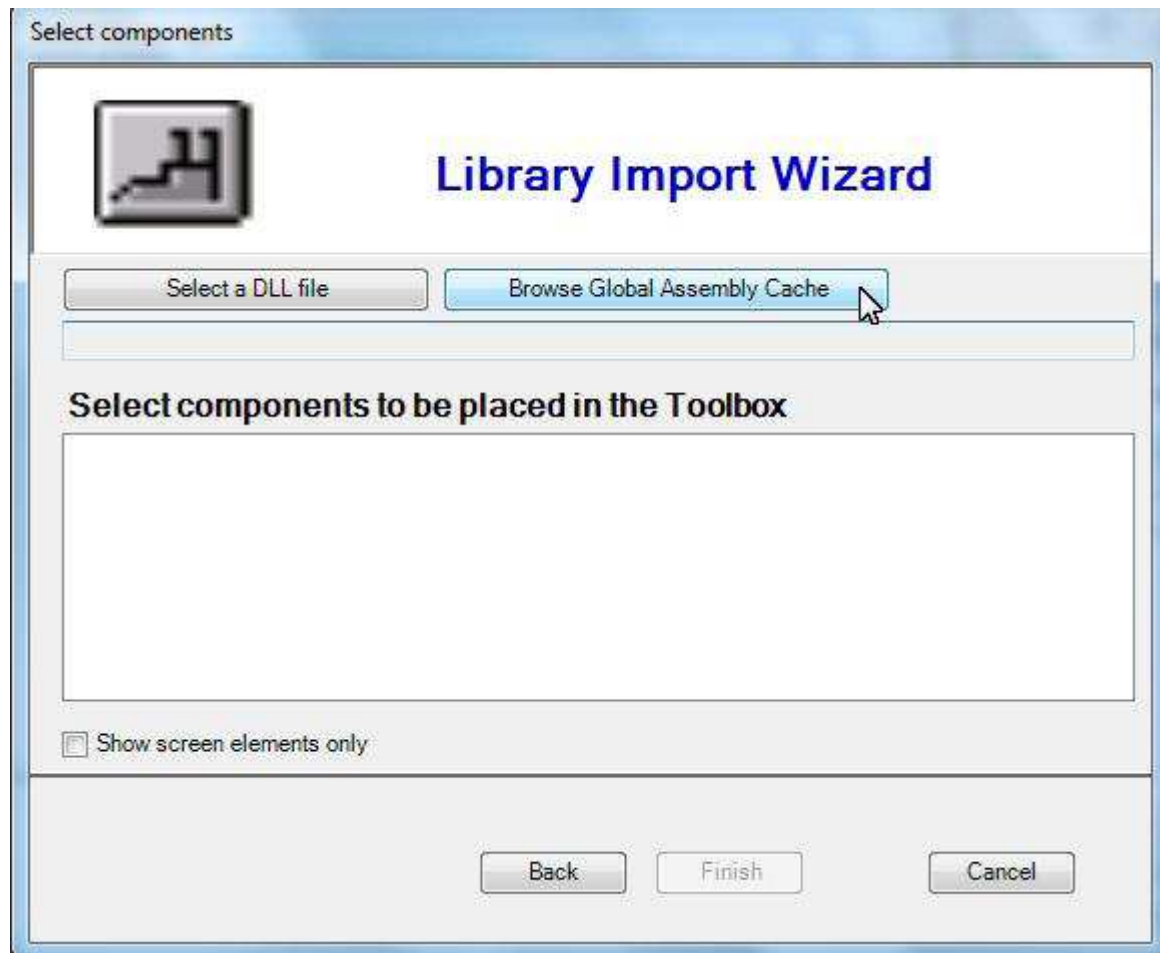
Click Start:



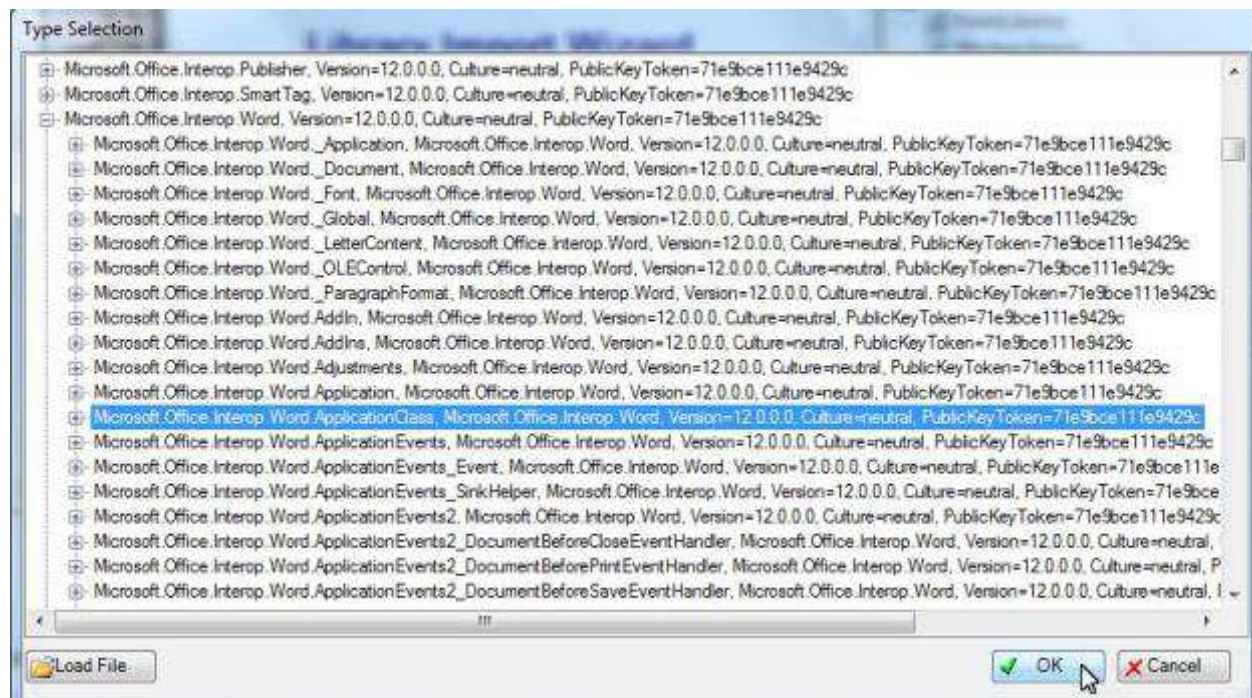
Select "Import .Net classes"; click "Next":



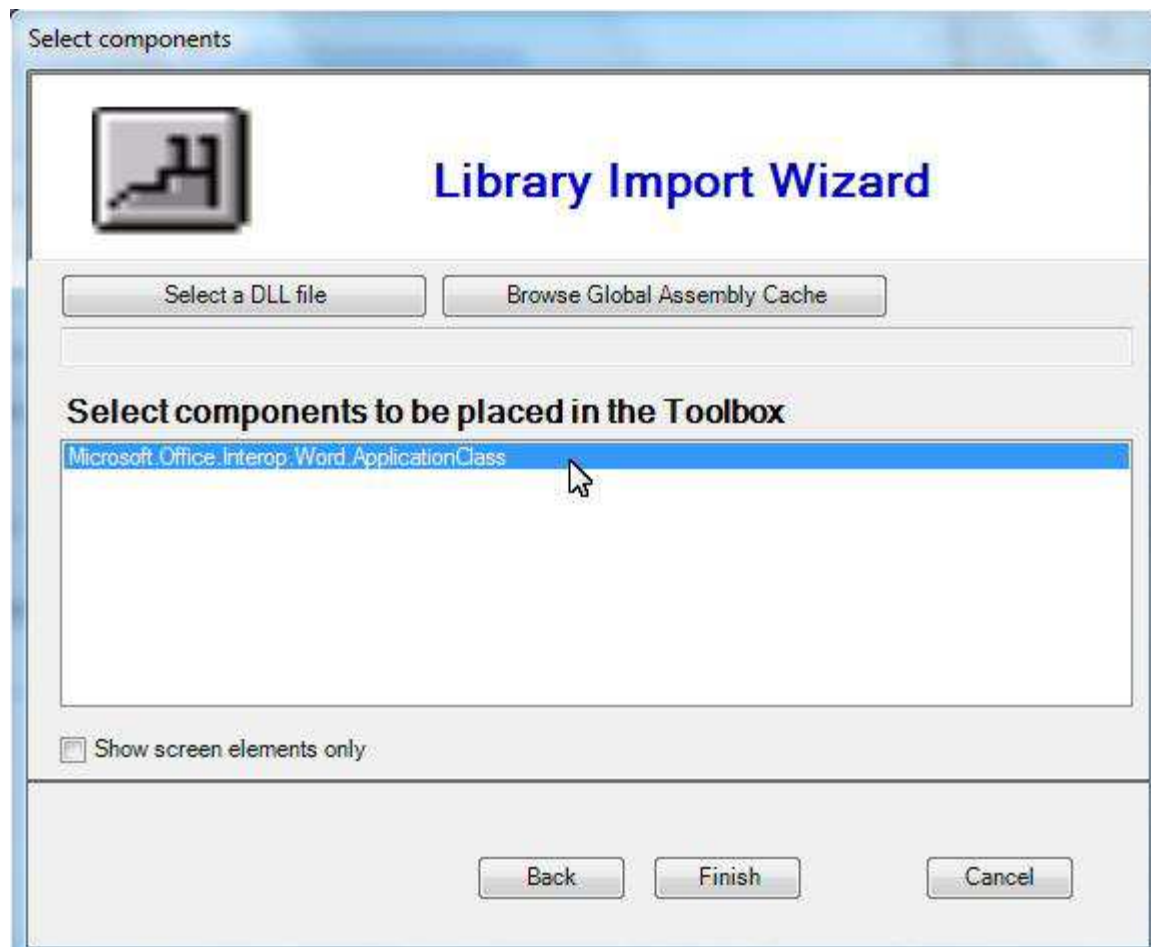
Click "Browse Global Assembly Cache":



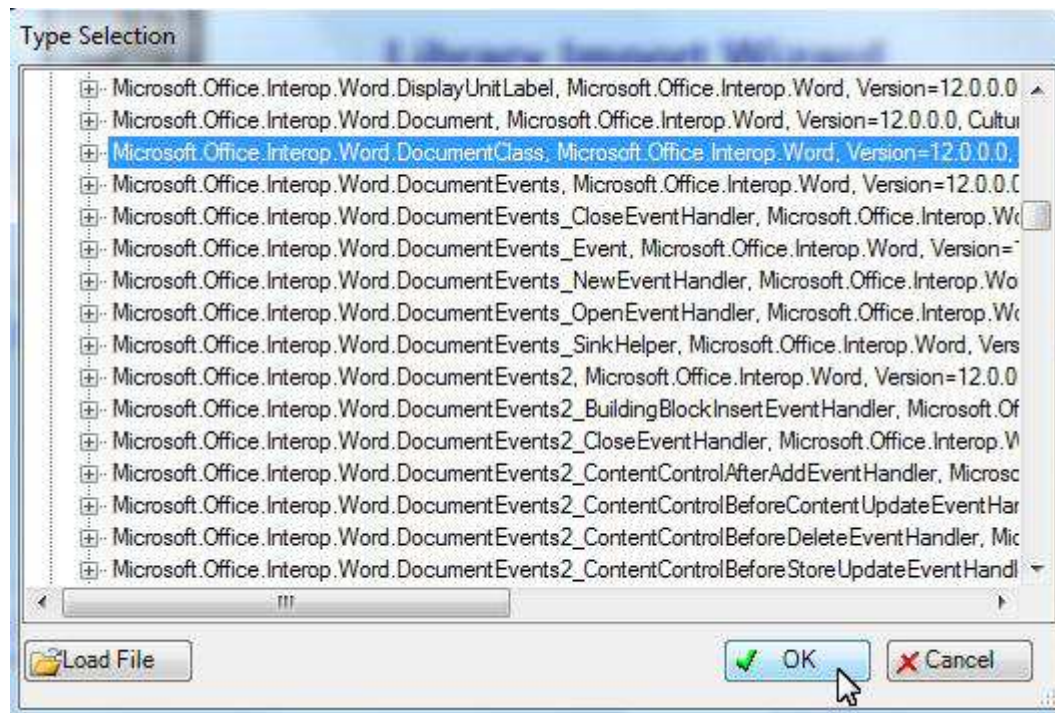
Expand "Microsoft.Office.Interop.Word"; select "Microsoft.Office.Interop.Word.ApplicationClass"; click OK:



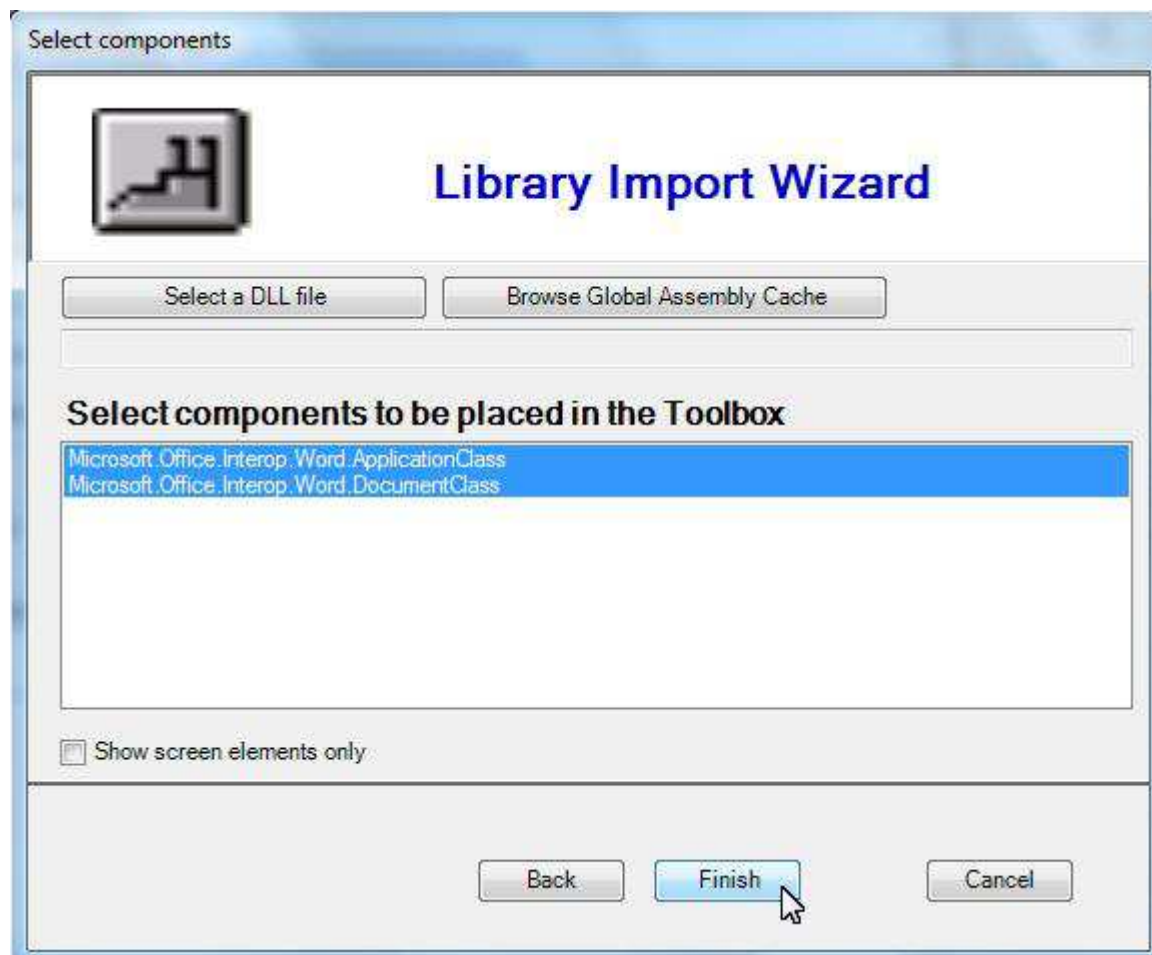
The selected component appears in the list:



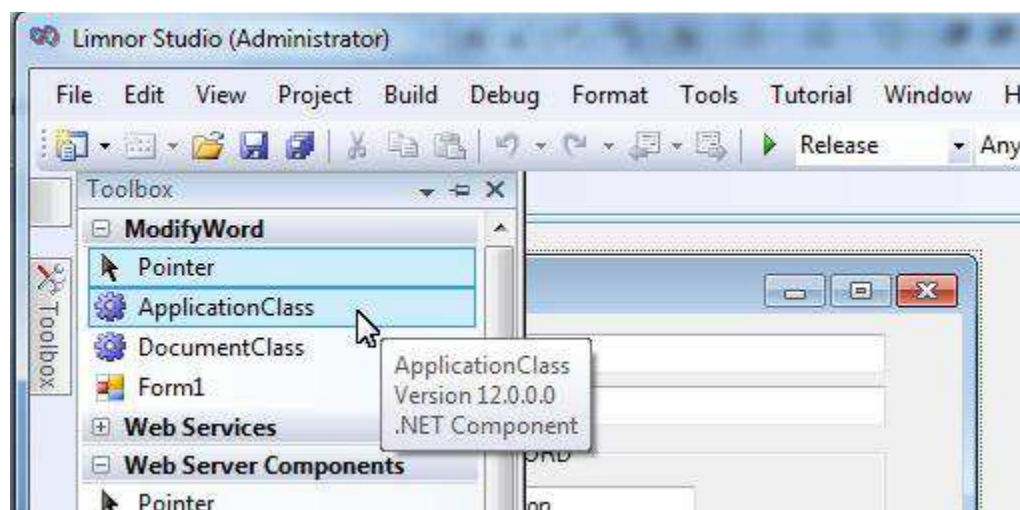
We may add all components we are going to use. For example, add DocumentClass:



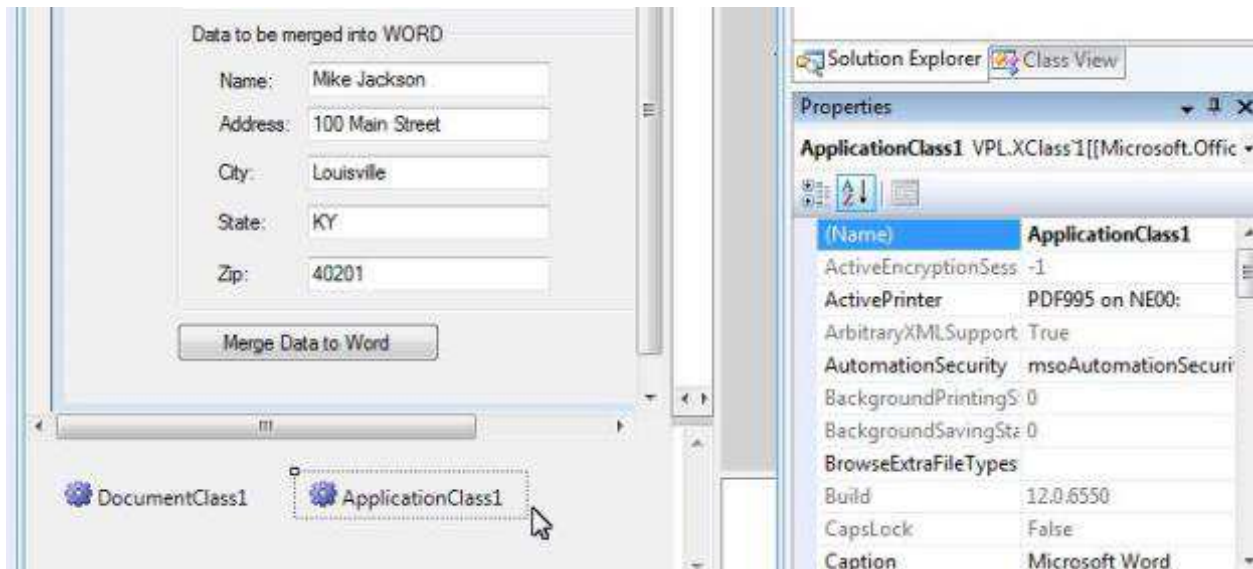
Highlight the components in the list; click Finish button:



The components appear in the Toolbox. We may use them just like other components in the Toolbox:



The ApplicationClass component appears in the designer:



Manipulate Word Document – Search and Replace

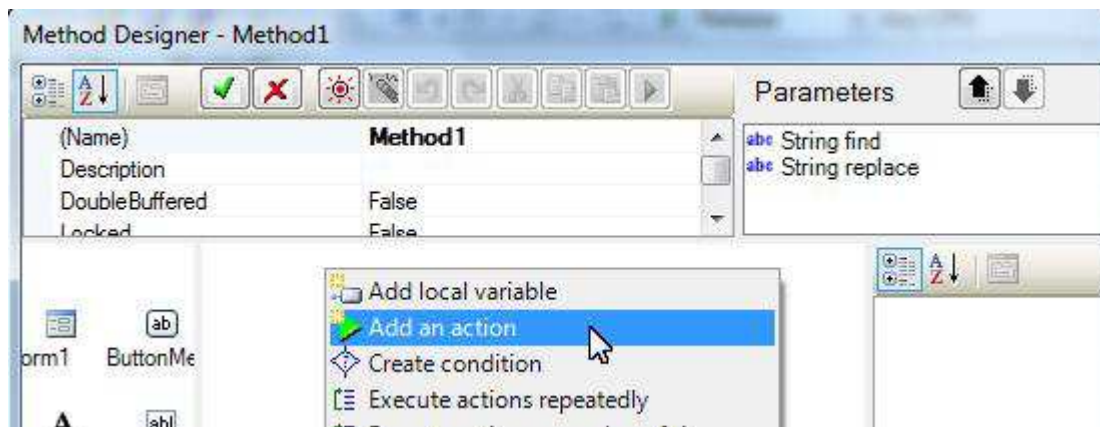
Let's make a method to do search and replace in a Word document.



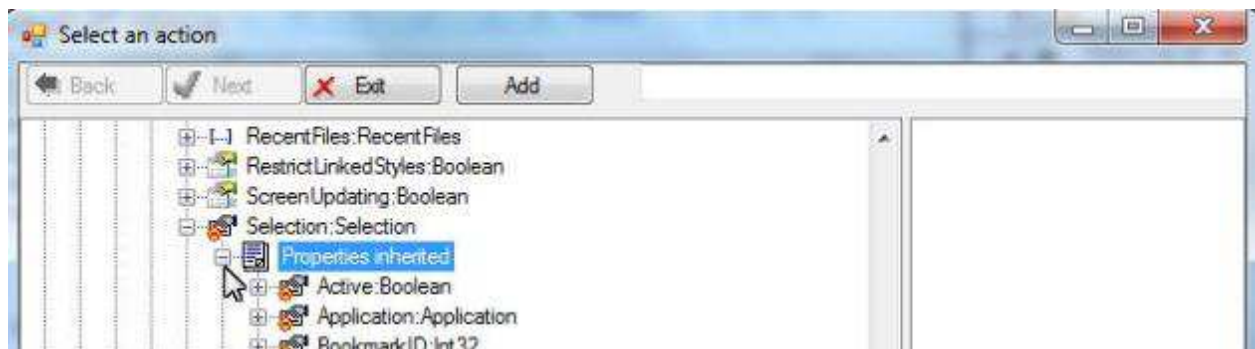
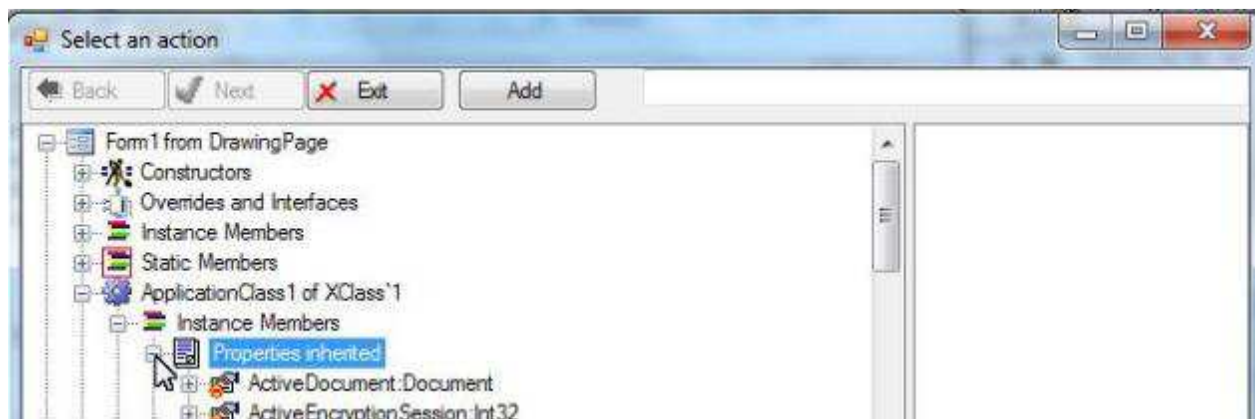
Add two parameters: find and replace

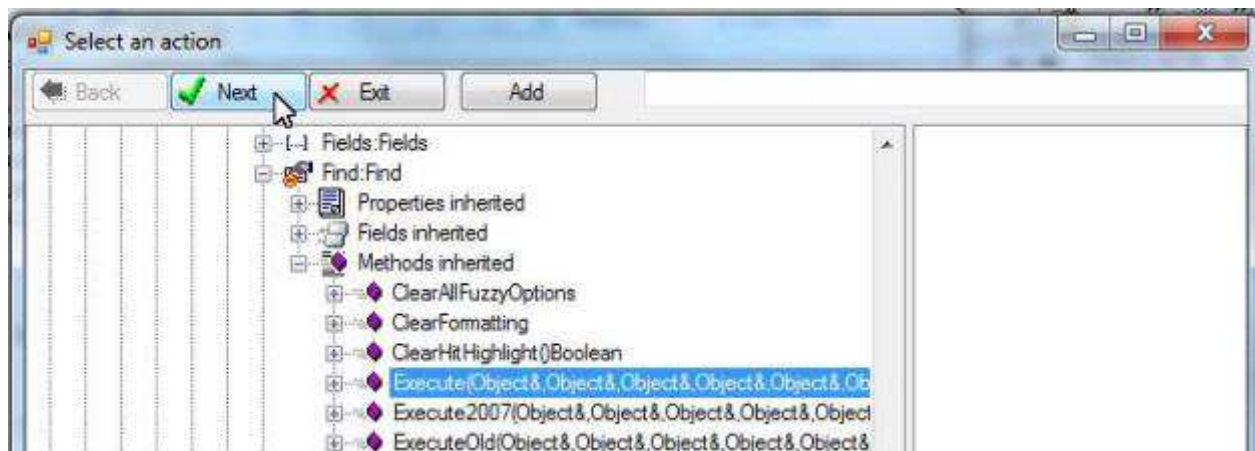


Right-click the Action Pane; choose "Add an action":

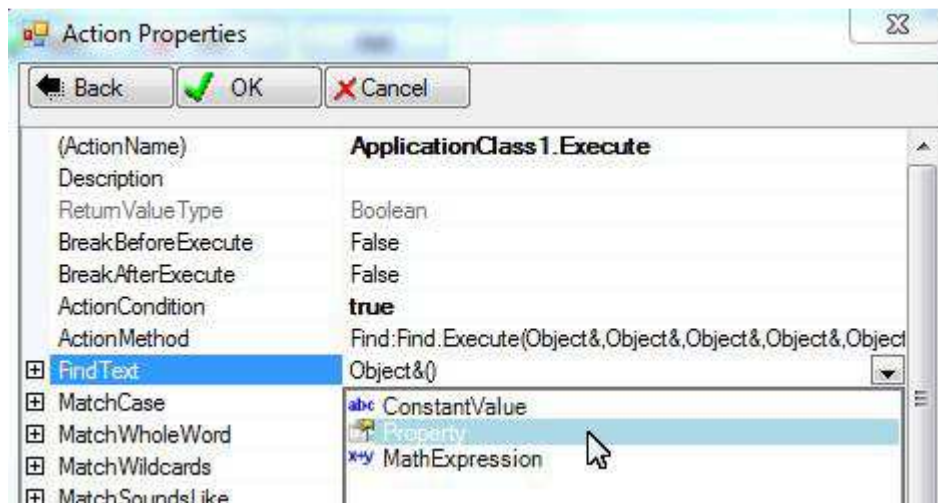


Select Execute method of the Find property of the Selection property of the Word application:

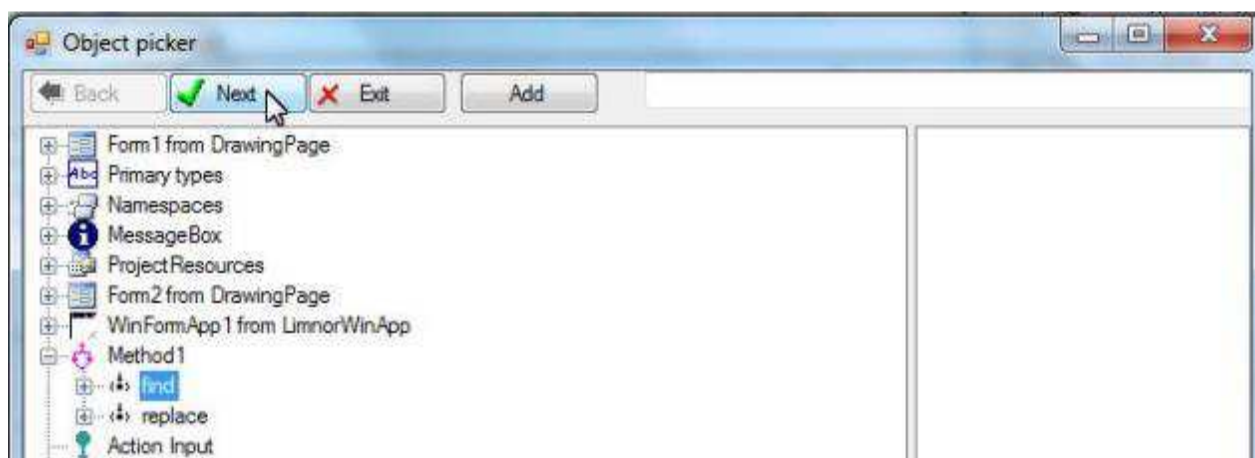




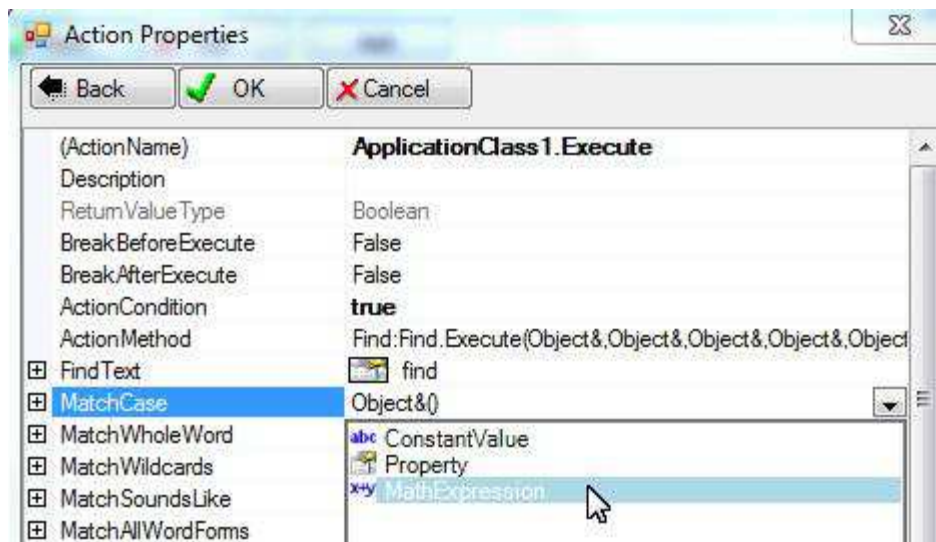
For "FindText" of the action, select "Property":



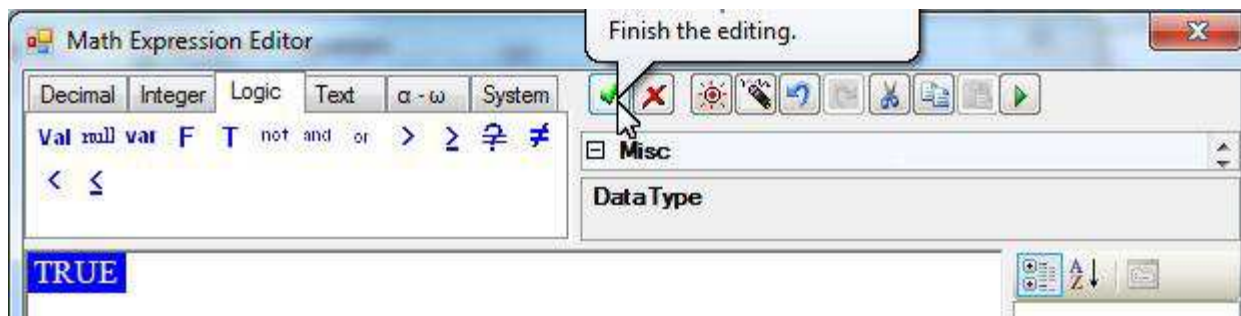
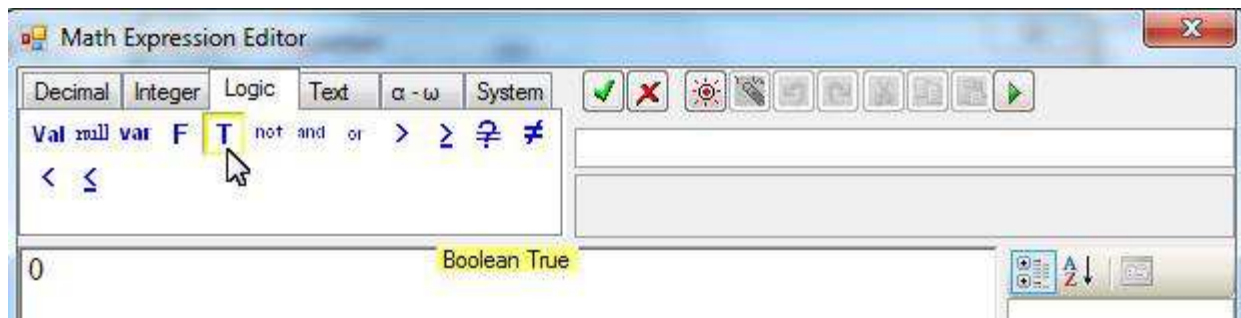
Select "find" parameter of the method; click "Next":



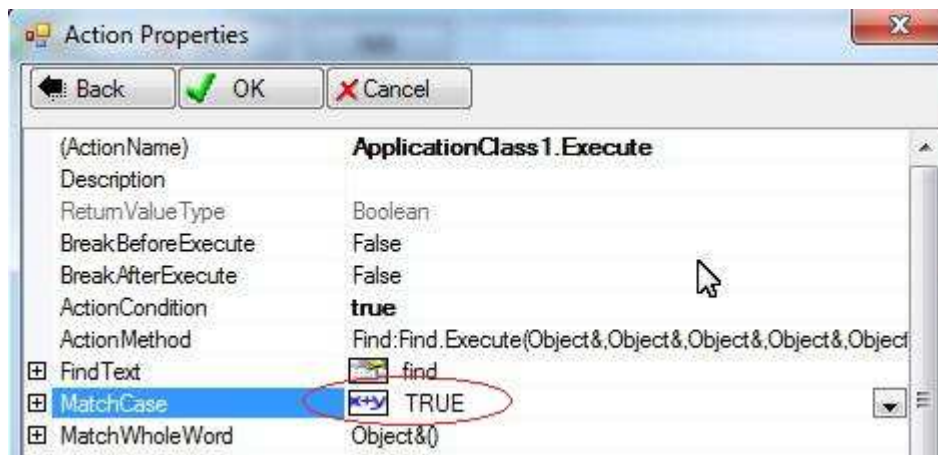
For "MatchCase", select "MathExpression":



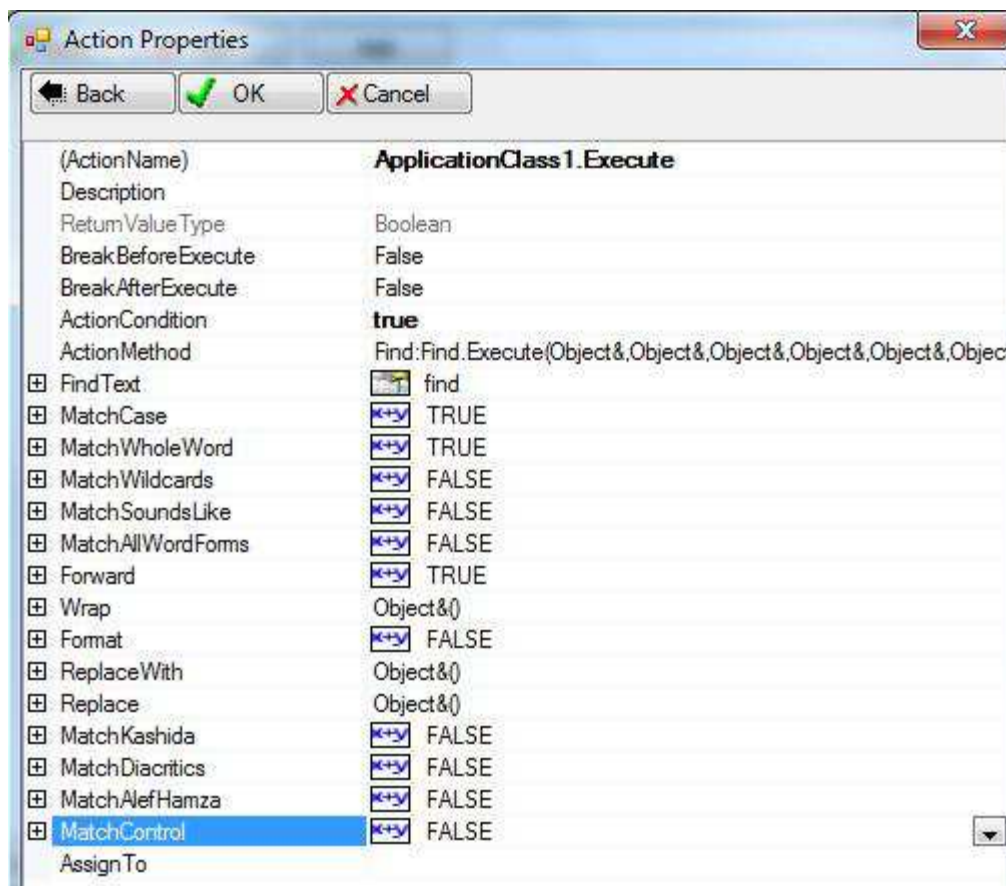
Select logic True:



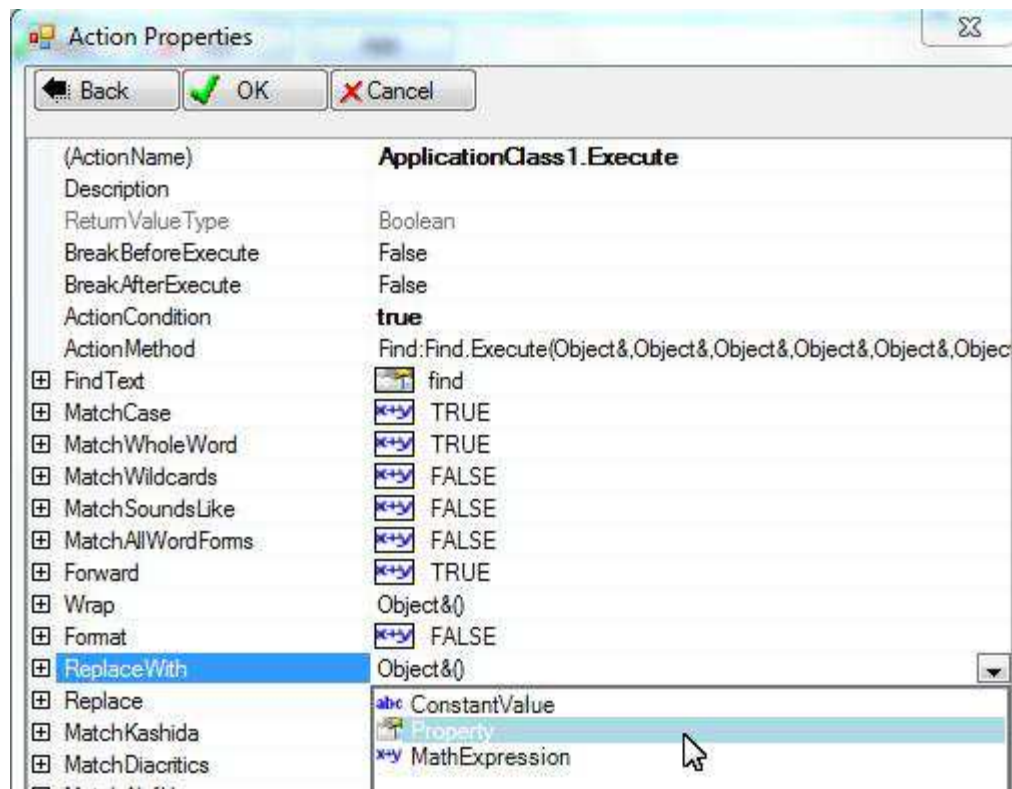
"True" appears as the value for "MatchCase":



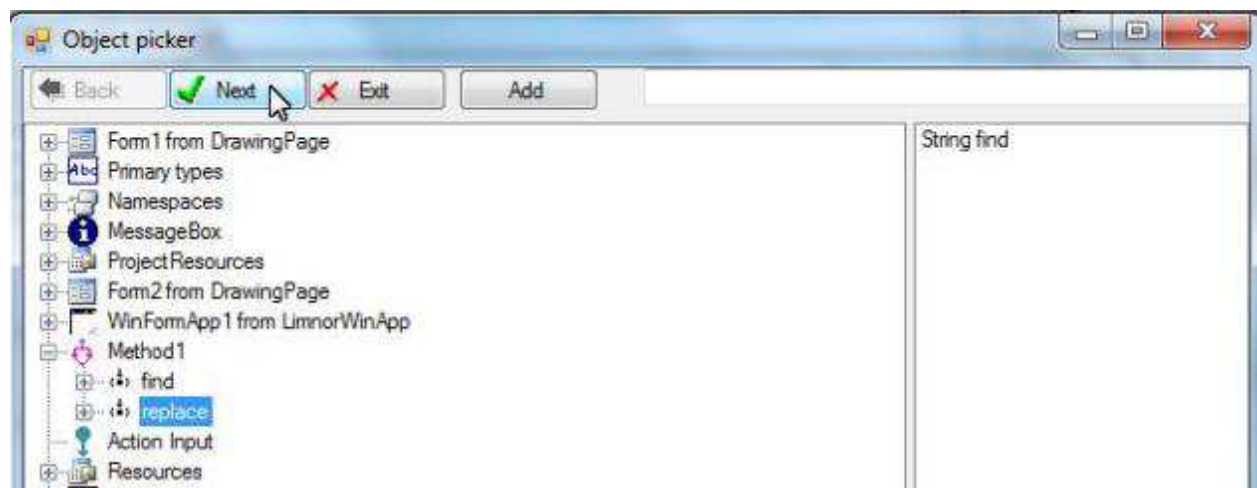
Set other parameters use True or False:



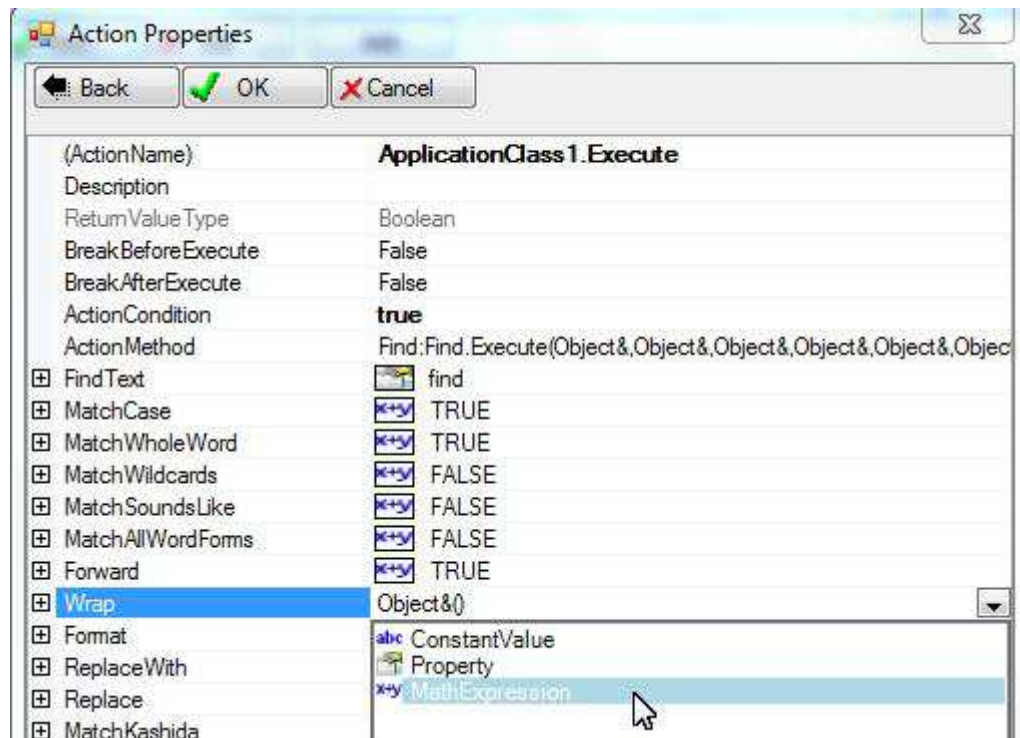
For "ReplaceWith" of the action, select "Property":



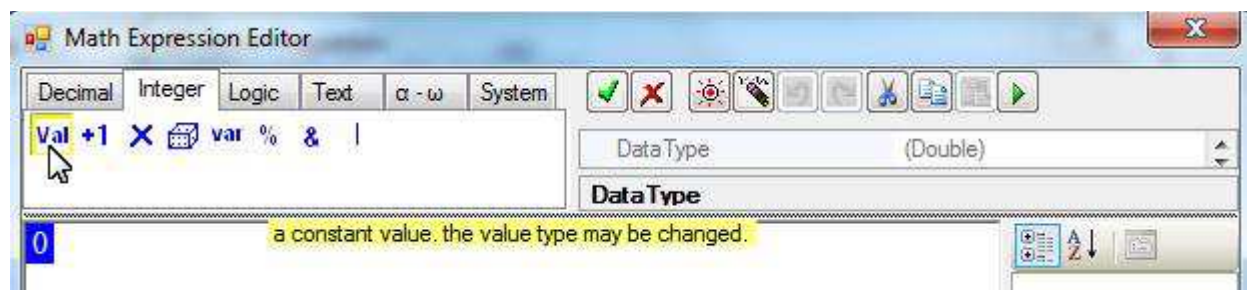
Select "replace" parameter of the method:



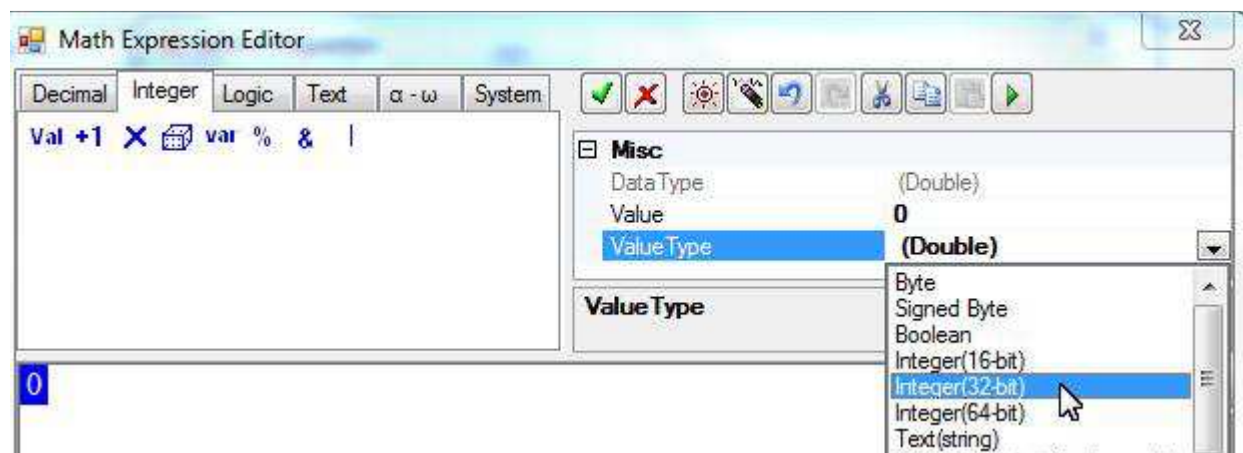
For "wrap", select "MathExpression":

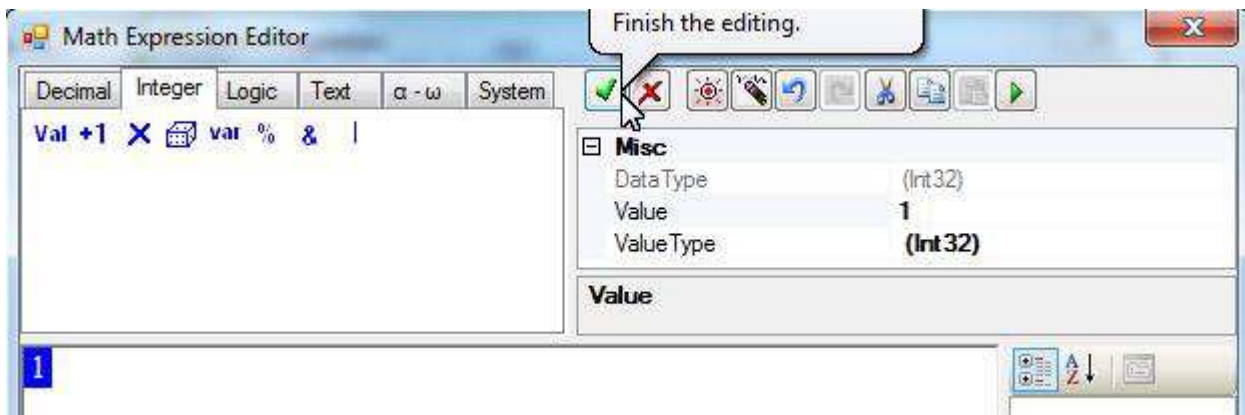
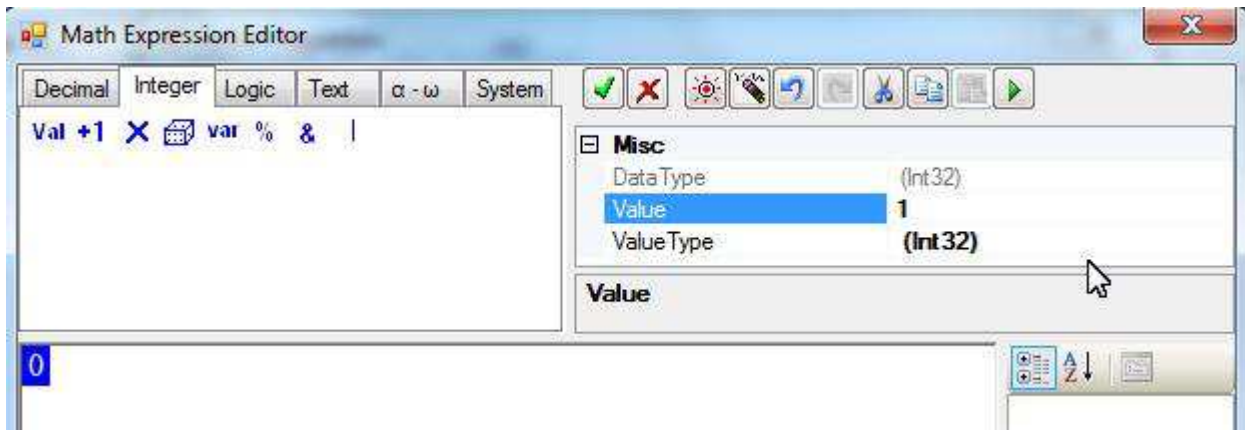


Click integer constant icon:



Switch ValueType to 32-bit integer:



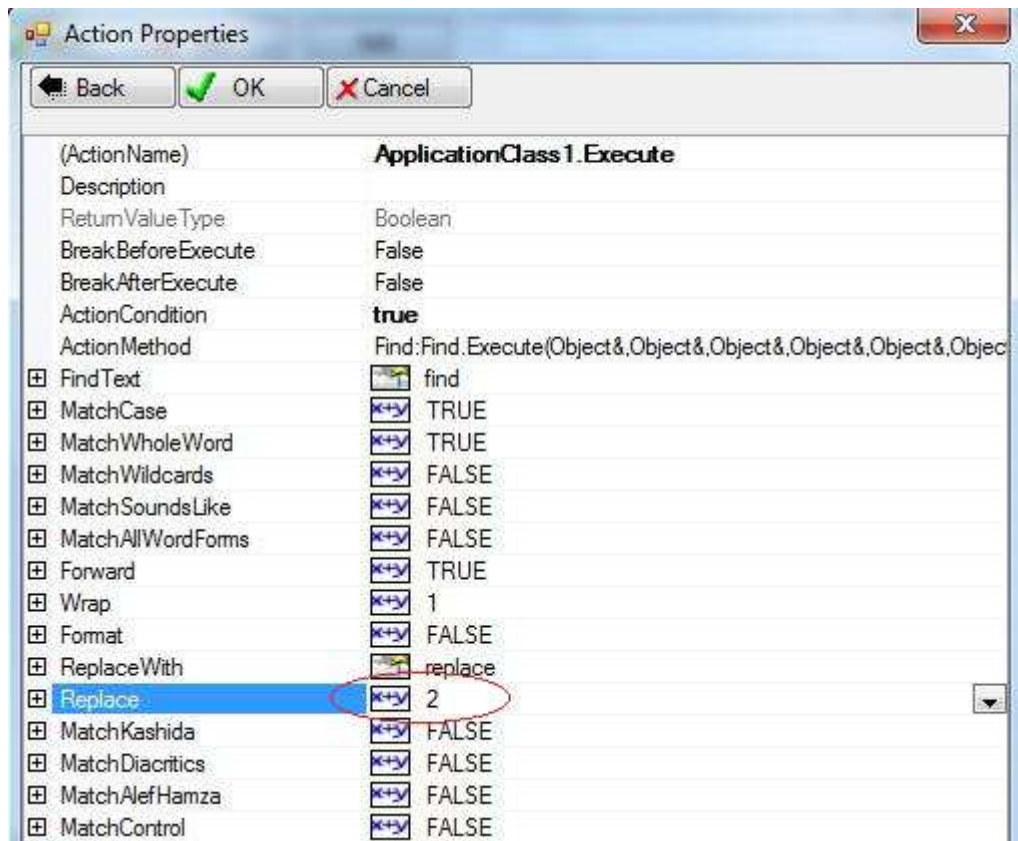


Action Properties

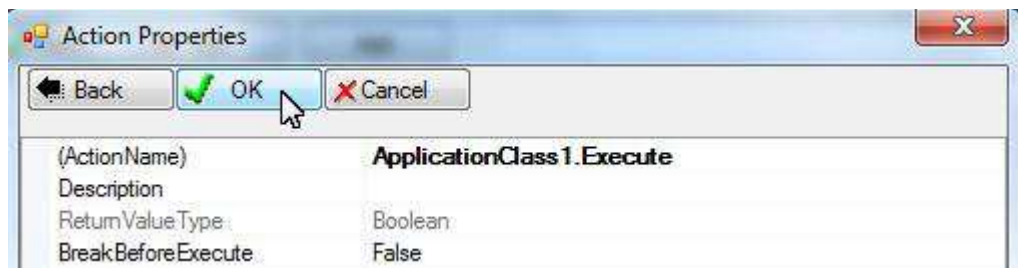
Back OK Cancel

(ActionName)	ApplicationClass1.Execute
Description	
Return Value Type	Boolean
Break Before Execute	False
Break After Execute	False
Action Condition	true
Action Method	Find:Find.Execute(Object&,Object&,Object&,Object&,Object&,Object&)
Find Text	find
Match Case	TRUE
Match Whole Word	TRUE
Match Wildcards	FALSE
Match Sounds Like	FALSE
Match All Word Forms	FALSE
Forward	TRUE
Wrap	1
Format	FALSE
Replace With	replace
Replace	Object&()
Match Kashida	FALSE
Match Diacritics	FALSE
Match Alef Hamza	FALSE
Match Control	FALSE

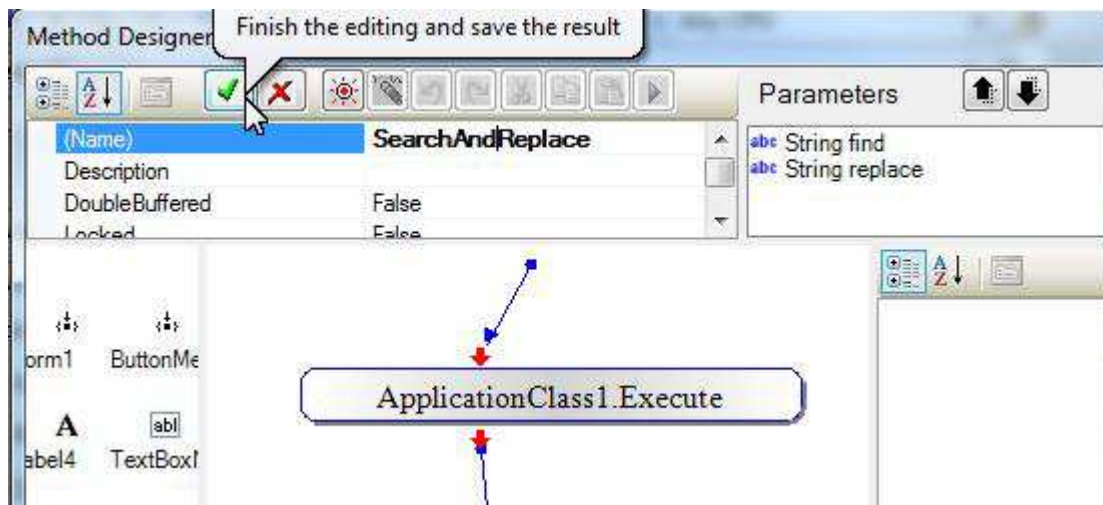
Set "Replace" to 2:



Click OK to finish creating this action:



The action appears in the Action Pane. For this method we just need this one action. Rename the method to SearchAndReplace

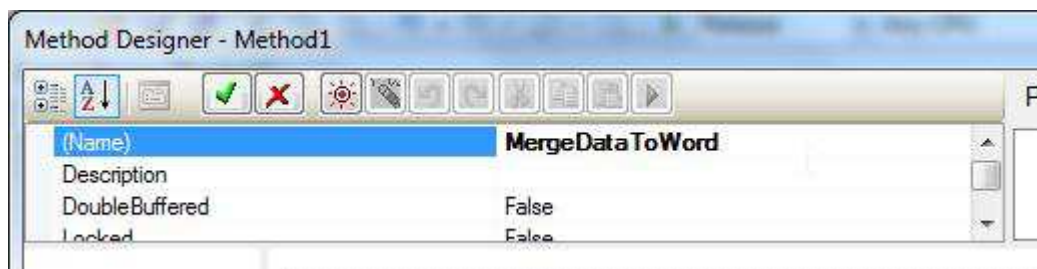


Manipulate Word Document – Modify and Save

Let's create a method to do following actions: open a Word document; search and replace using text boxes values; save to a new file; close Word document.

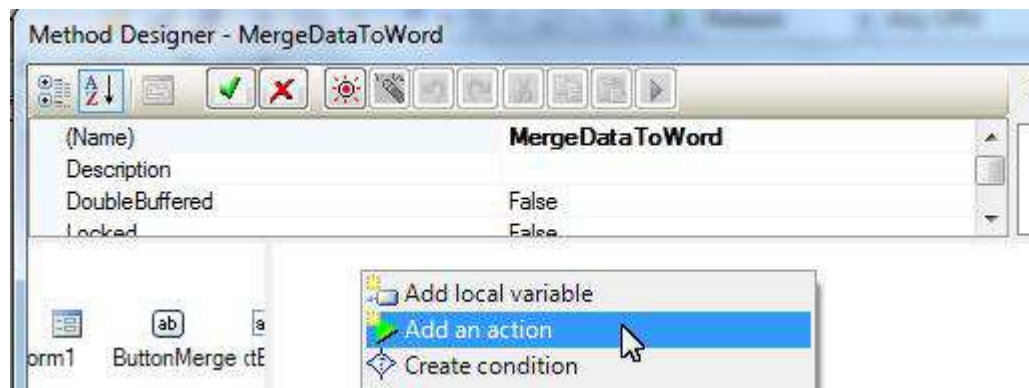


Rename the method to MergeDataToWord:

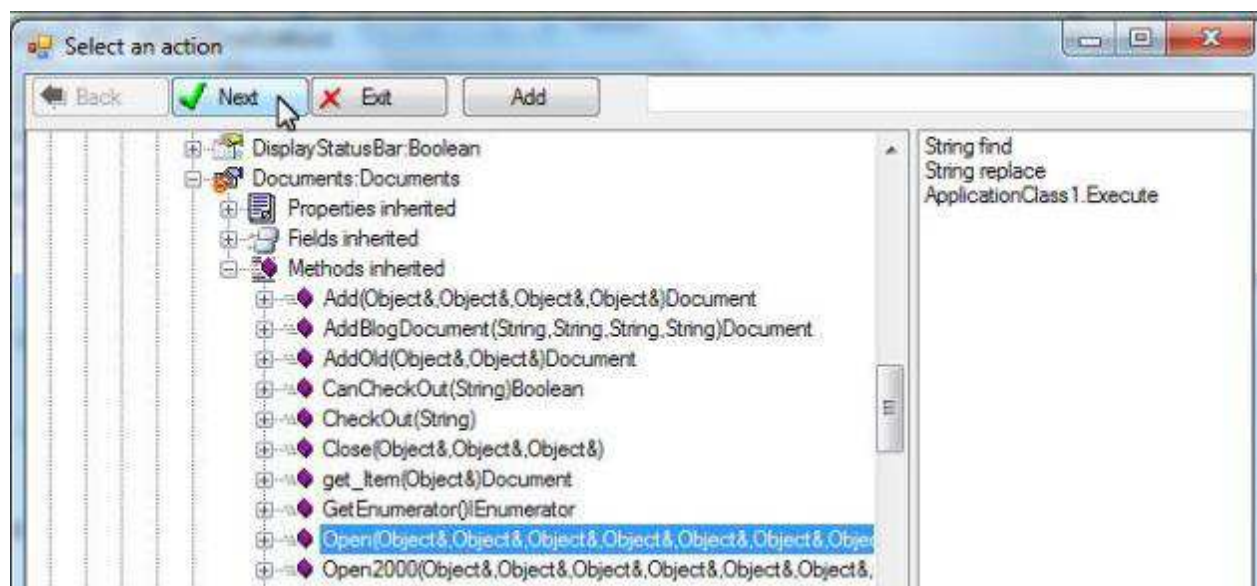
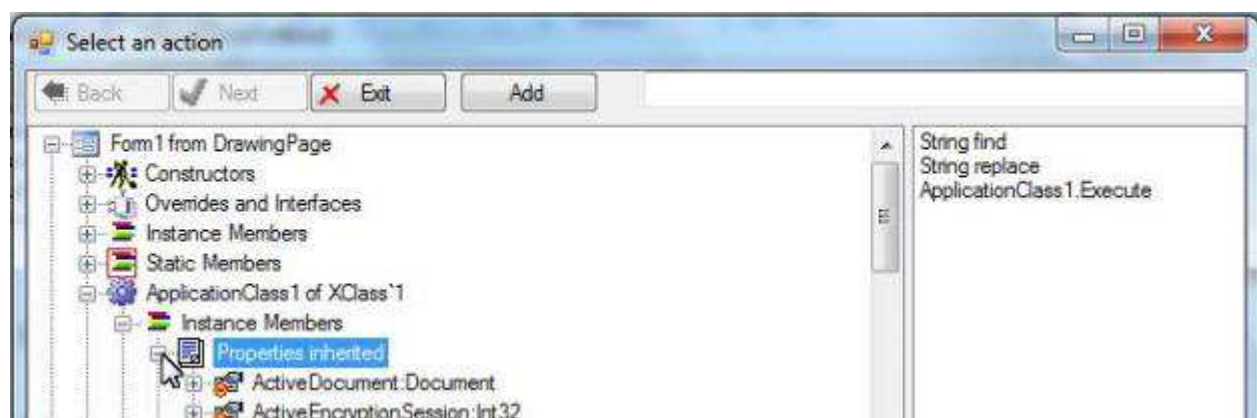


The Word Application has a Documents property. The Documents property has an Open method. We may use it to open a Word document.

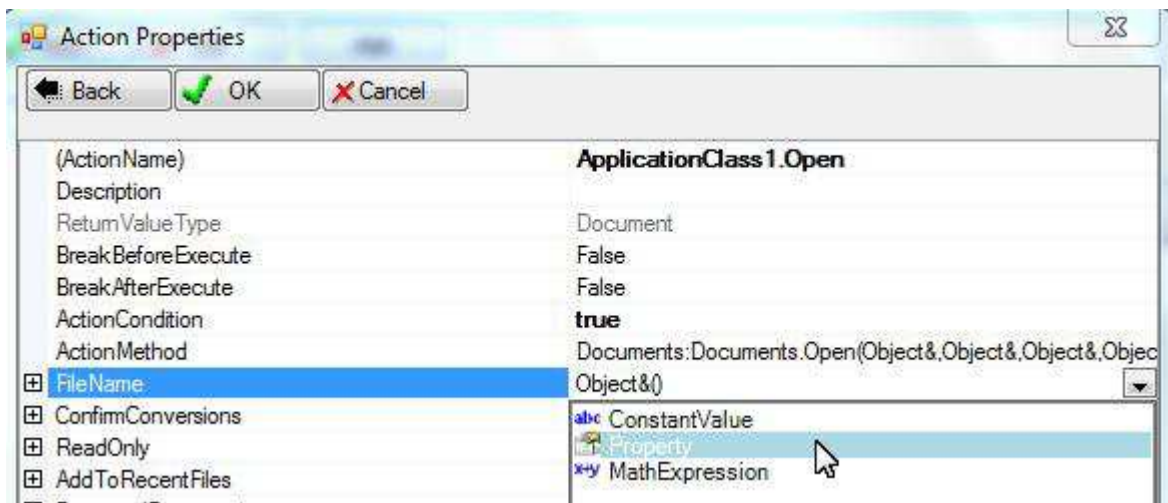
Right-click the Action-Pane, choose "Add an action":



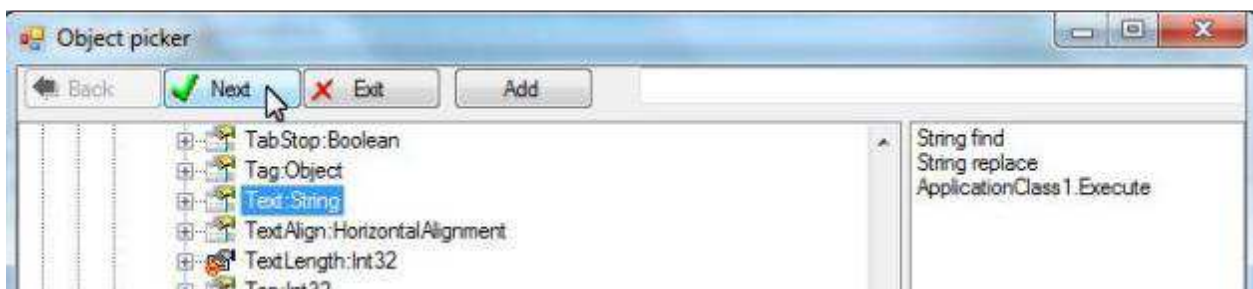
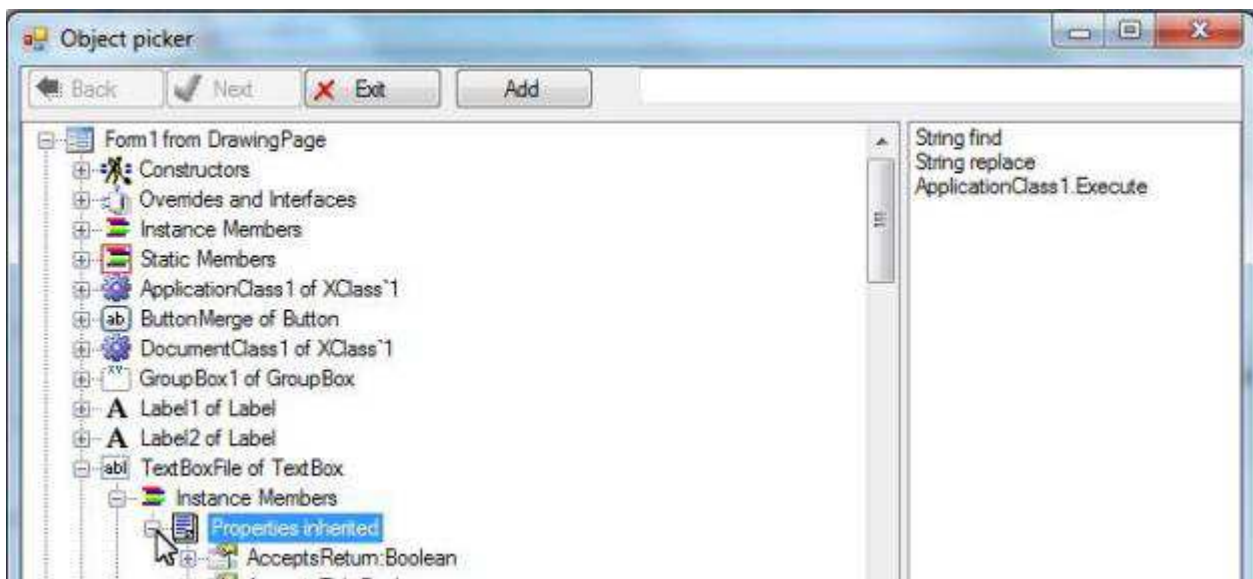
Select the Open method of the Documents:



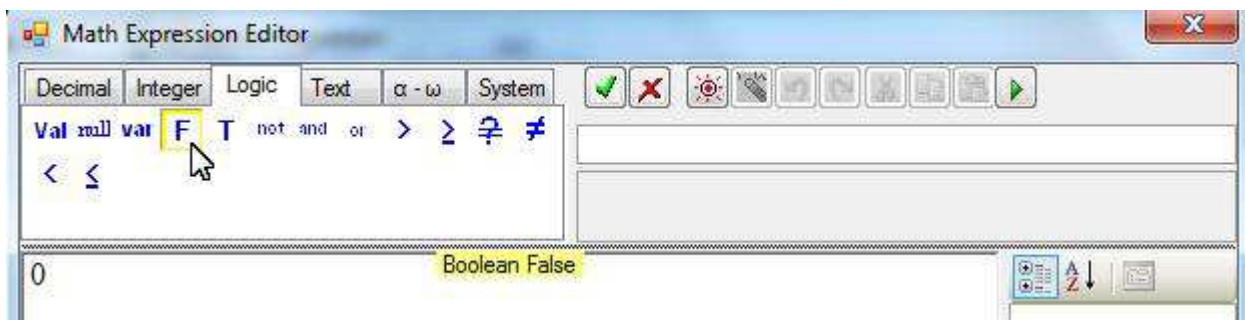
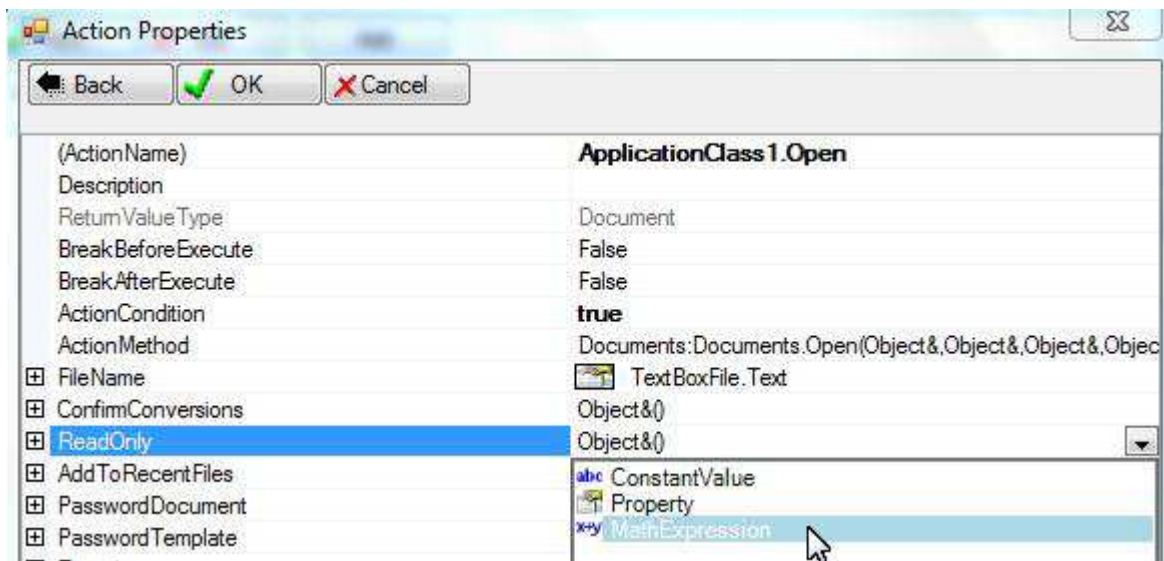
Choose "Property" for "FileName":

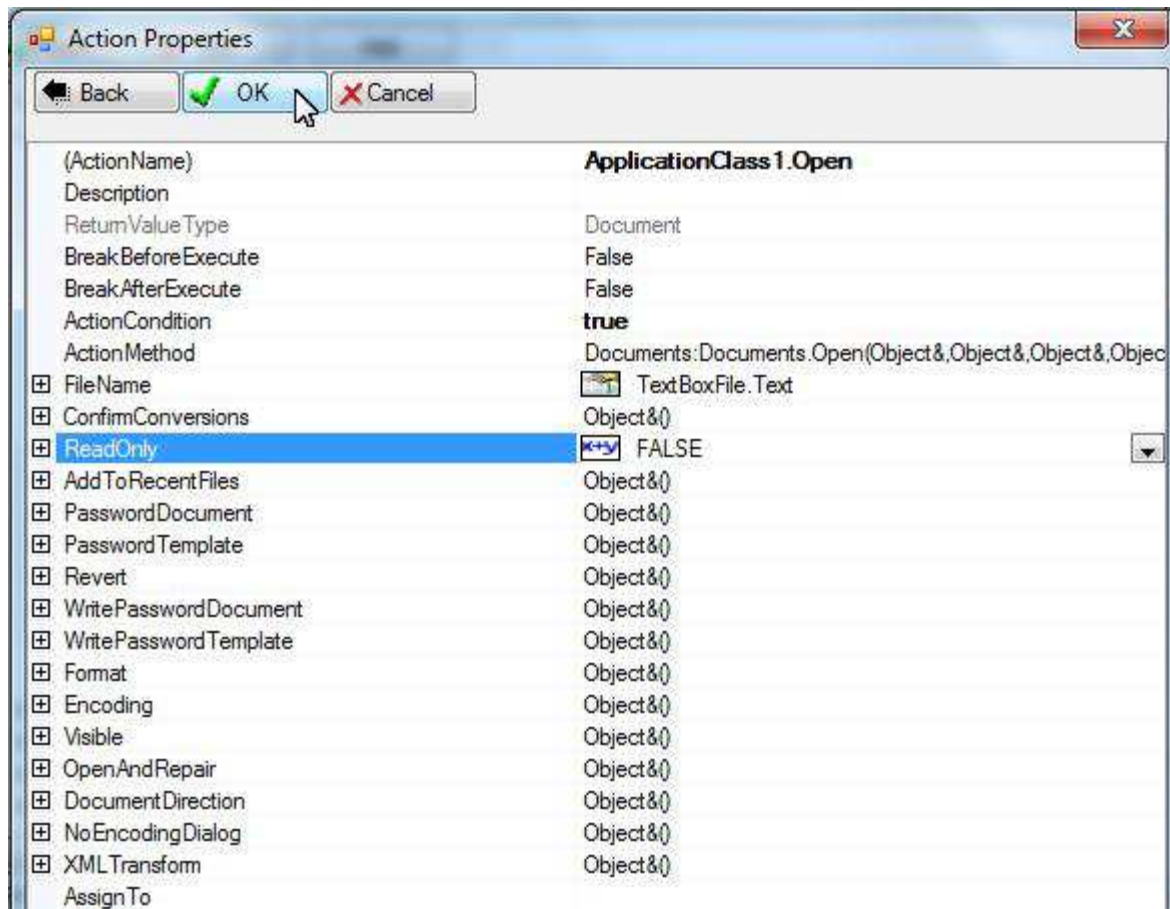


Select the Text property of the text box for the Word document:

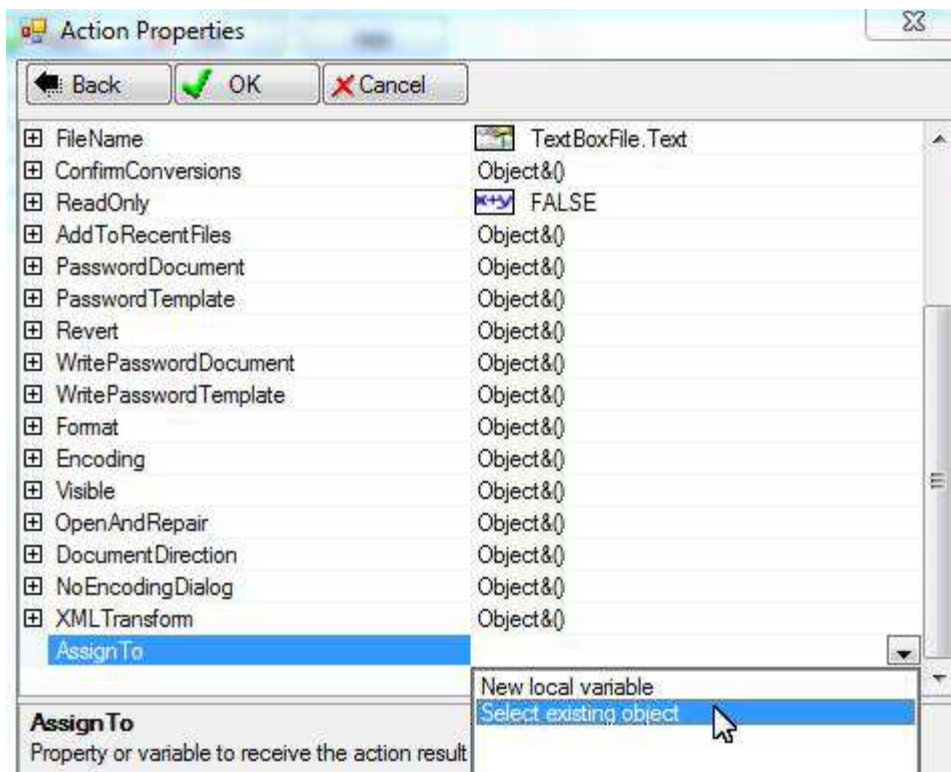


For "ReadOnly", use "MathExpression" to set it to False:

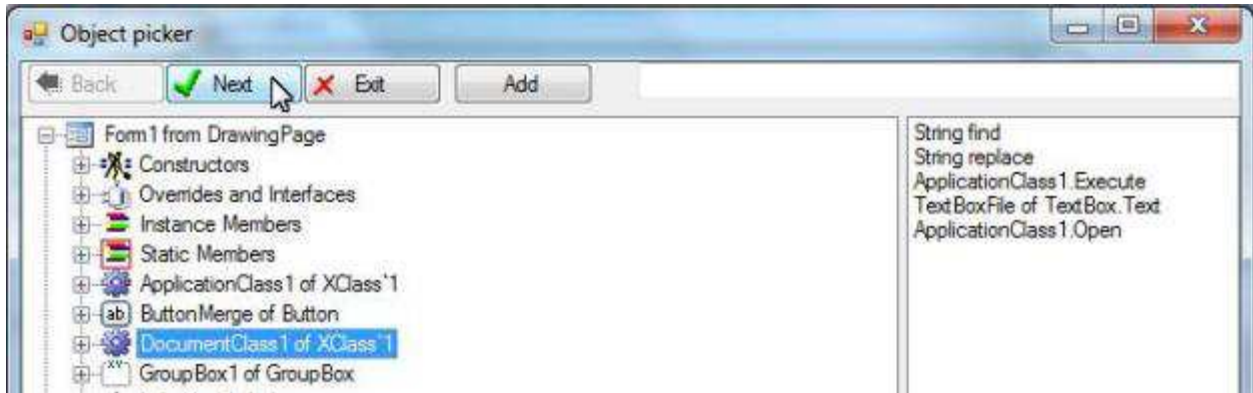


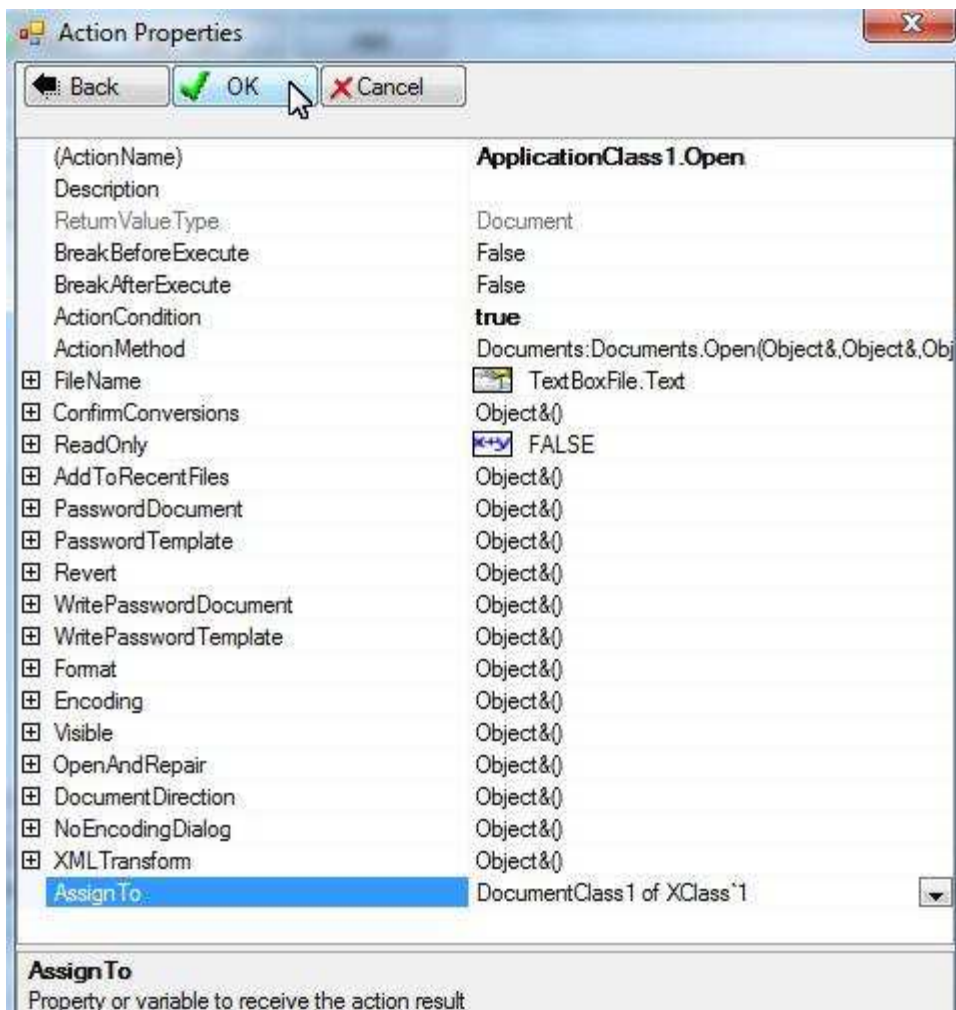


This action returns a Word document object. Set its "AssignTo" to point to a variable to receive the object. We may choose "New local variable" to create a new local variable to receive the object. In our sample, since we already created a Word document, we select "Select existing object" to use it.

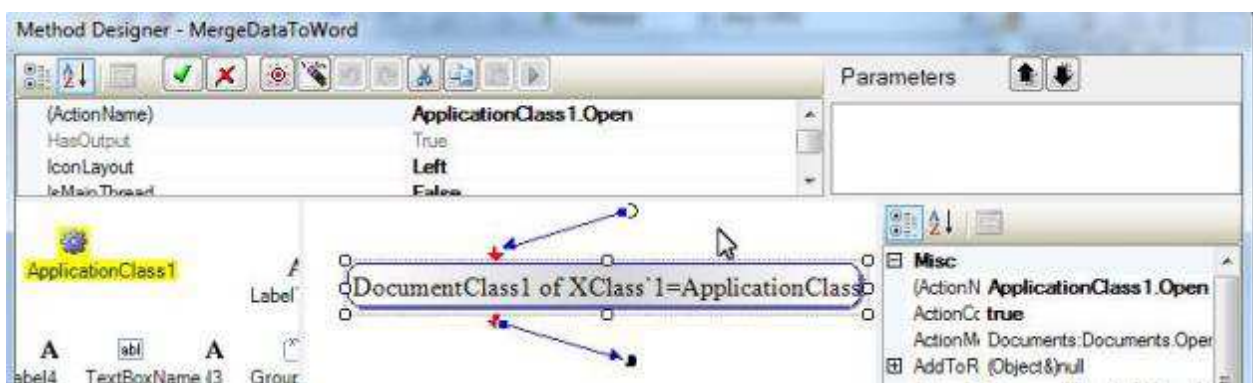


Select the document object:

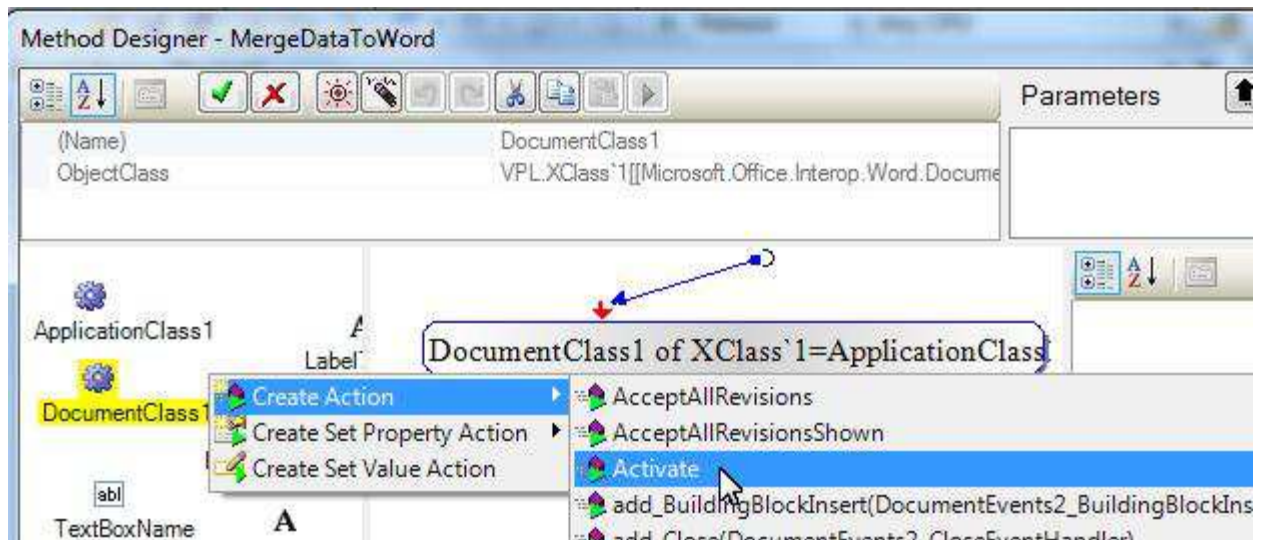




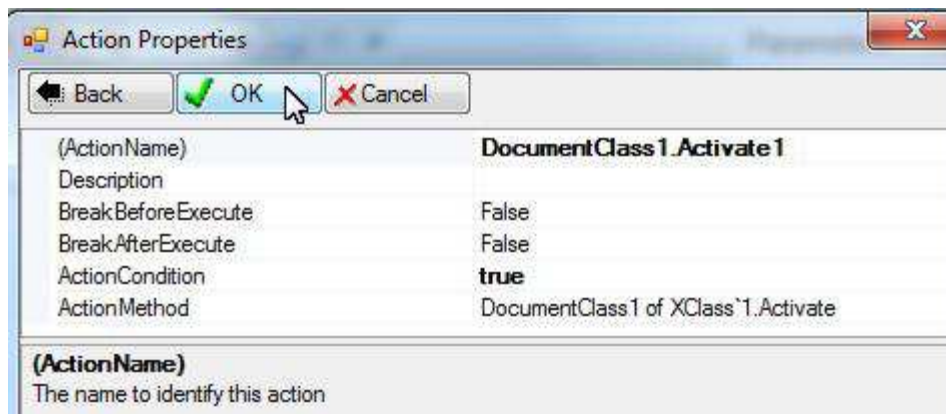
The action appears in the Action Pane:



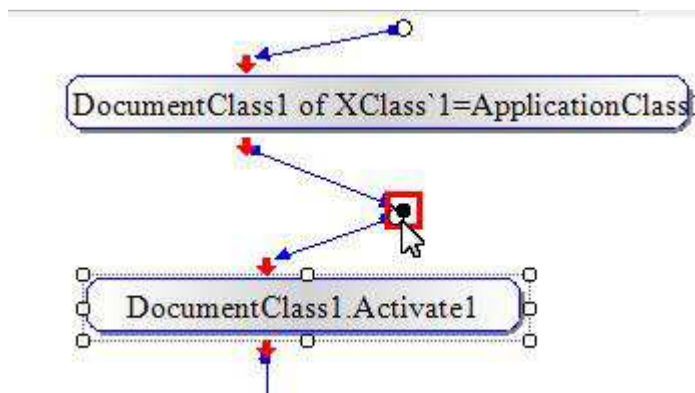
Create an action to activate the newly opened document. Right-click the document class icon; choose “Create Action”; choose “Activate” method:



Click OK:

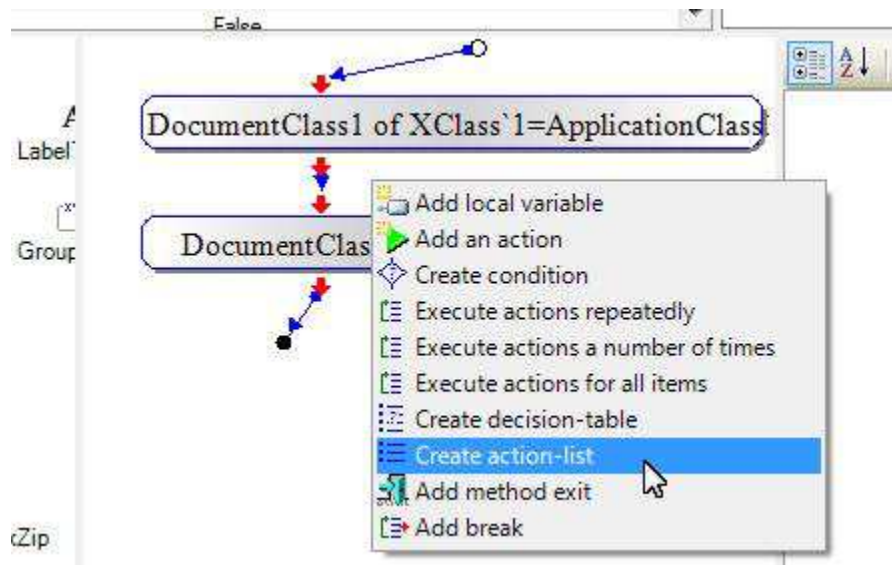


Link the two actions:

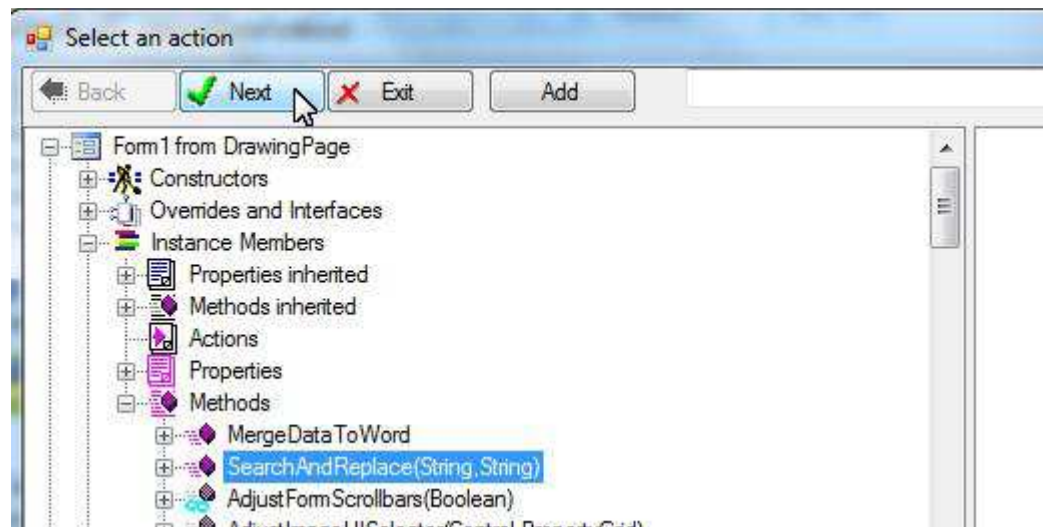


We now may call the SearchAndReplace method to modify the contents of the document. Because we want to call this method many times by creating many actions, instead of showing all actions individually in the Action-Pane, we may add an action-list to include all such actions.

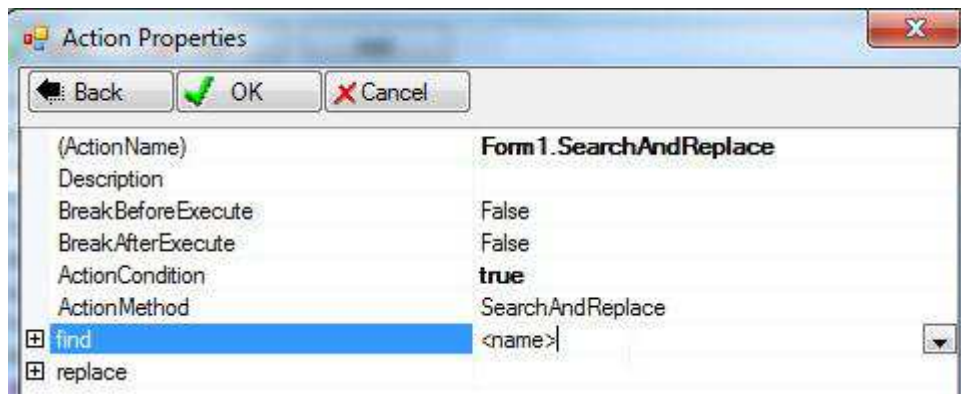
Right-click the Action-Pane; choose “Add action-list”:



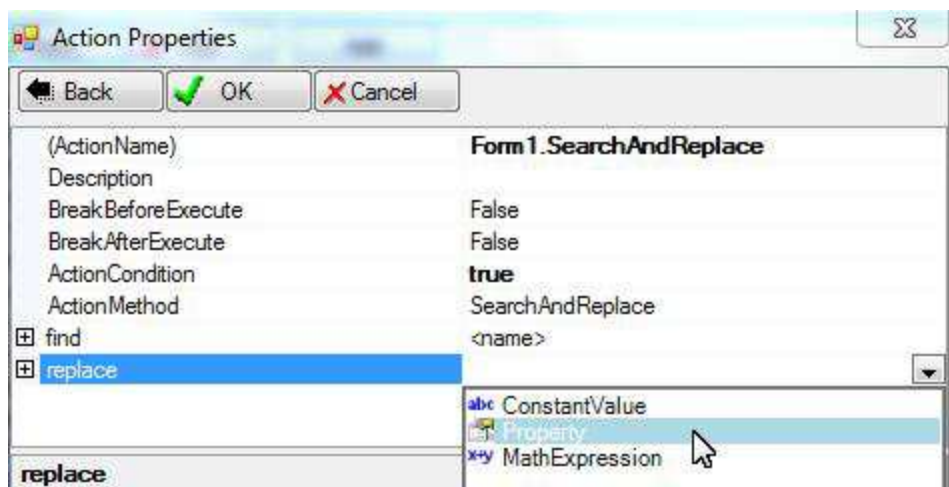
It asks us to select the actions to be included in the action-list. We haven't created the actions to be included in the action-list. We may create the first action now. Choose “SearchAndReplace” method; click “Next”:



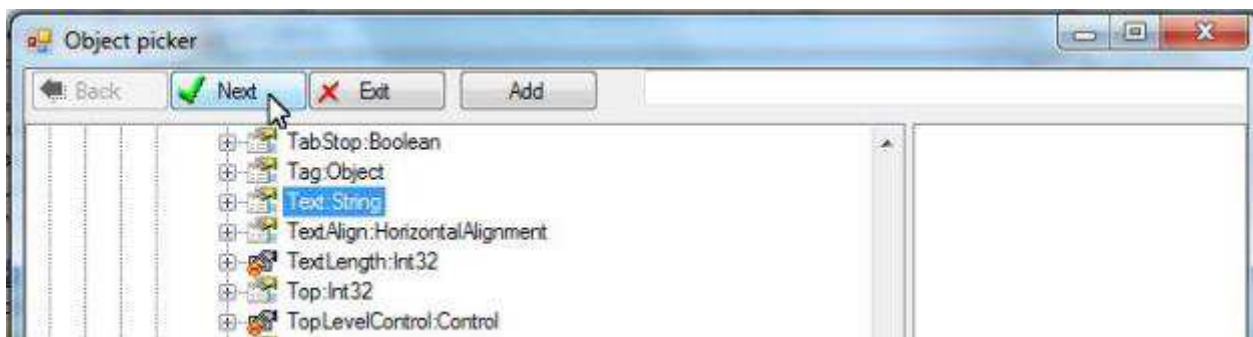
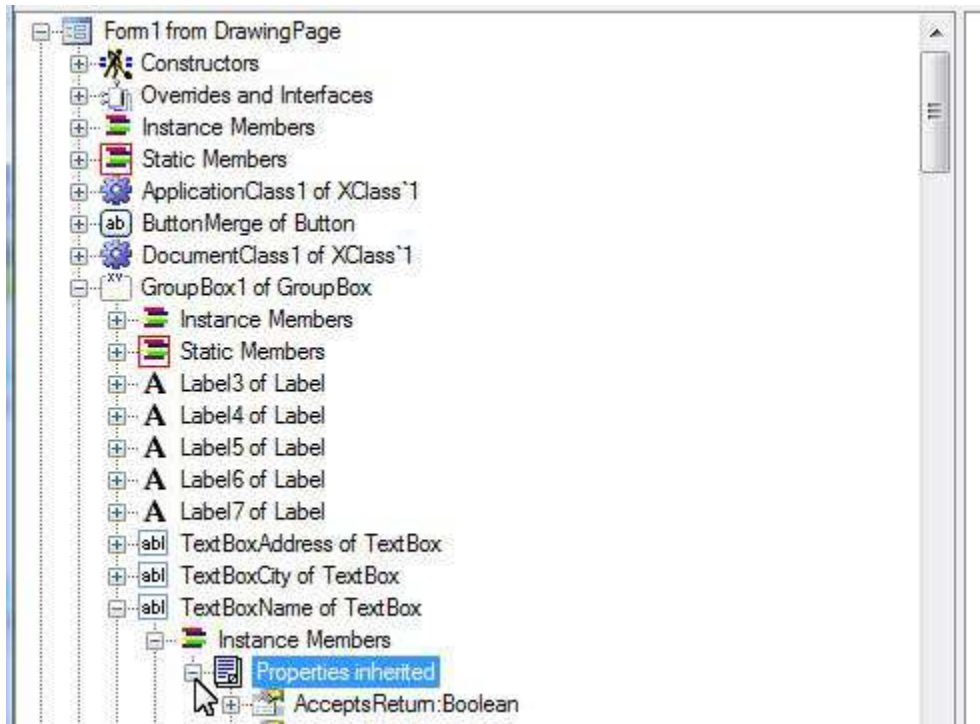
For the “find” parameter of the action, type the text to be replaced. For this action, type “<name>”:



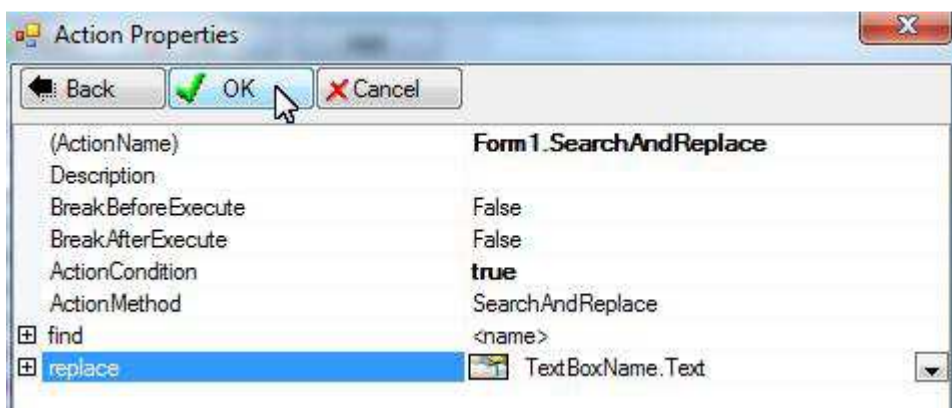
For parameter “replace”, select “Property” because we want to use value from a text box:



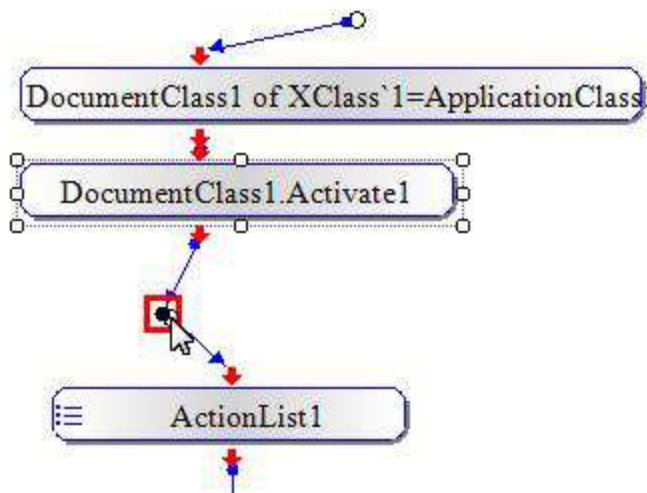
Select the Text property of the text box for name:



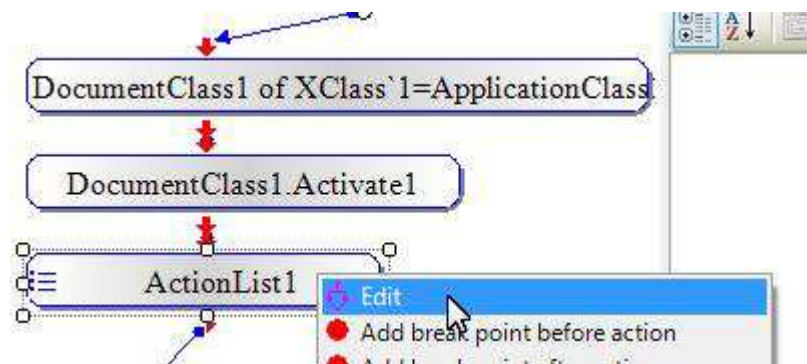
Click OK:



The action-list appears in the Action-Pane. Link it to the previous action:



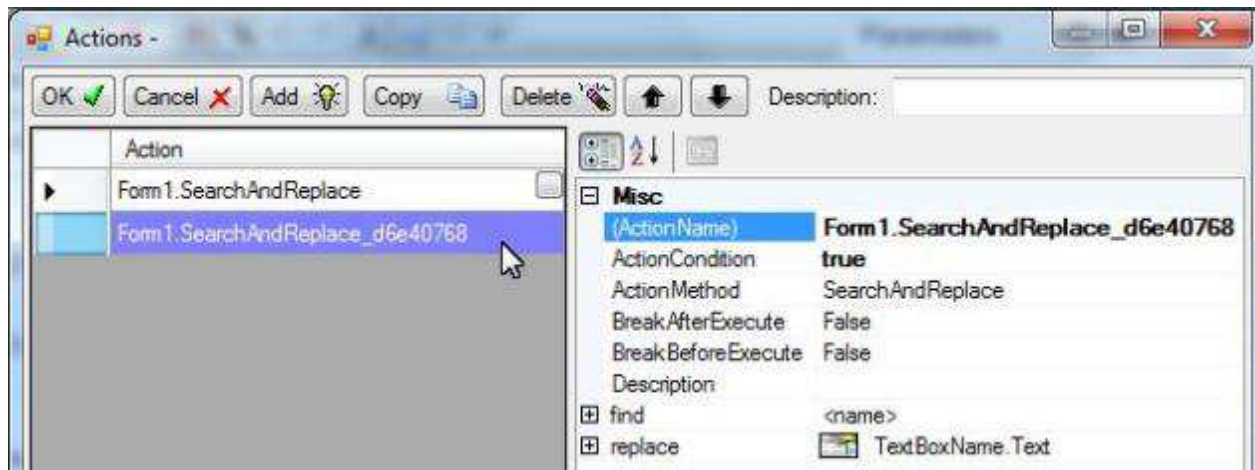
To add more actions into the action-list, right-click the action-list; choose "Edit":



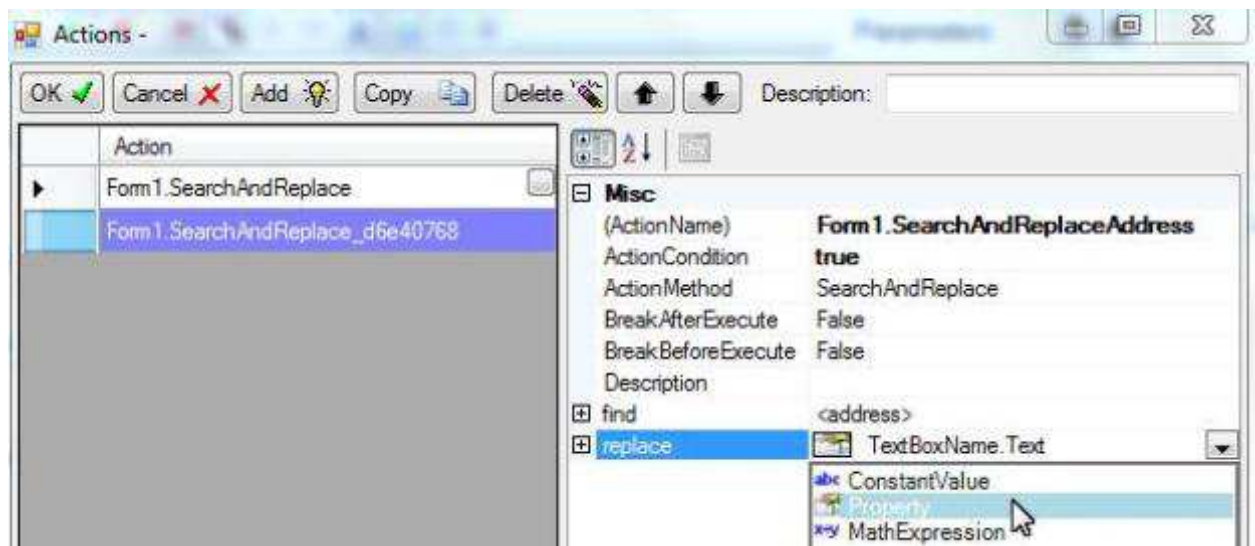
We can see that the search and replace action we created is in the action list. Click "Copy" button to create a new Search and Replace action:



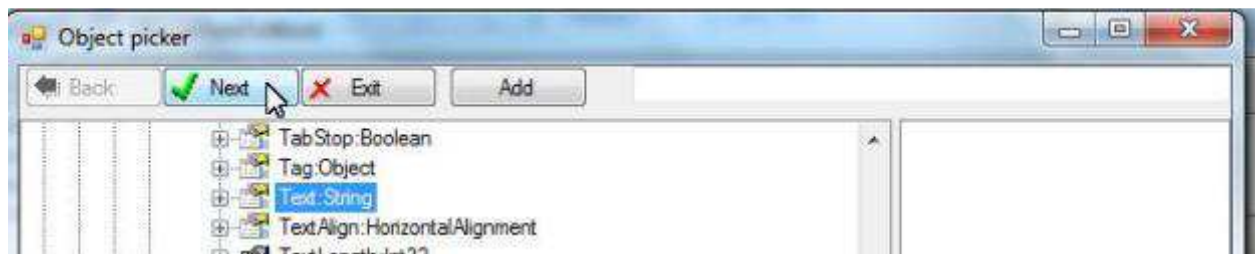
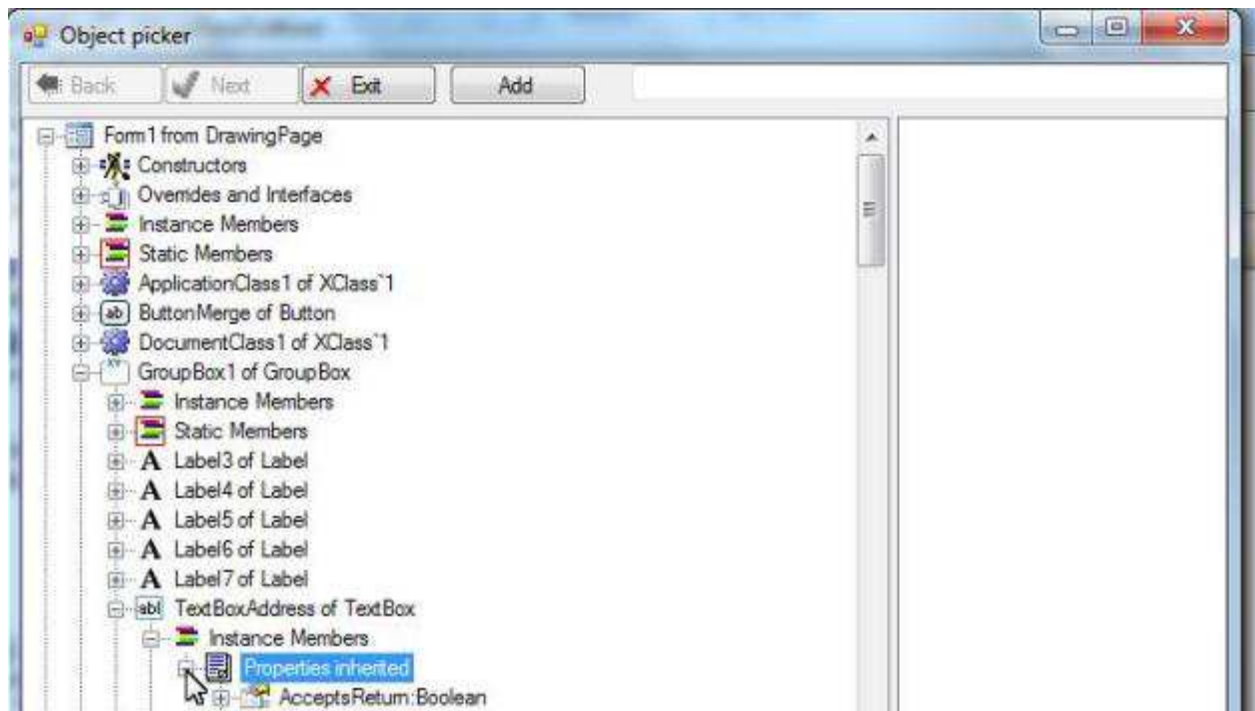
A new action appears in the list:



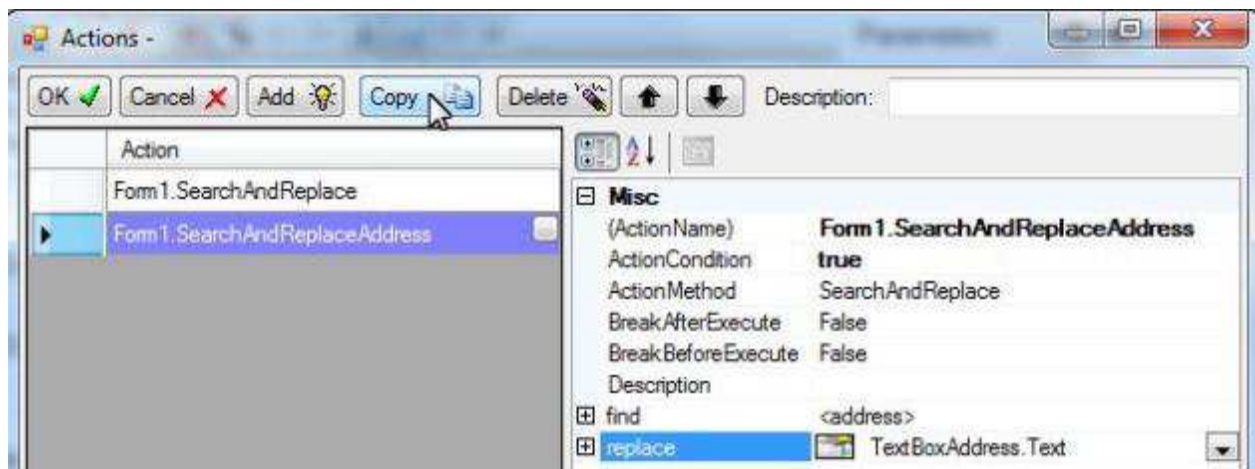
We may rename the action to SearchAndReplaceAddress. Set “find” to <address>. Select “Property” for “replace”:



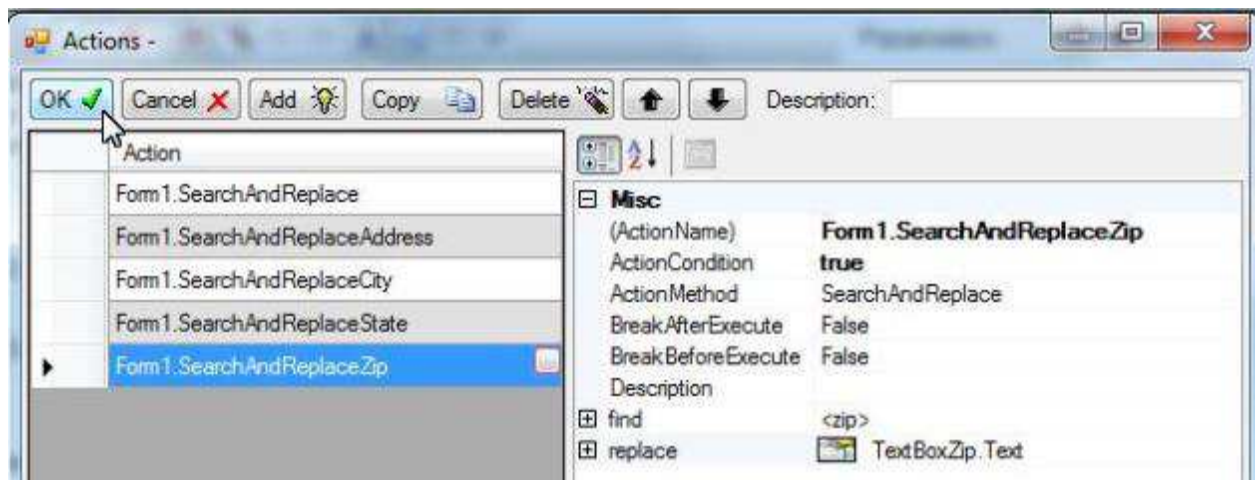
Select Text property of the text box for address:



The new action will replace <address> with value from the text box:

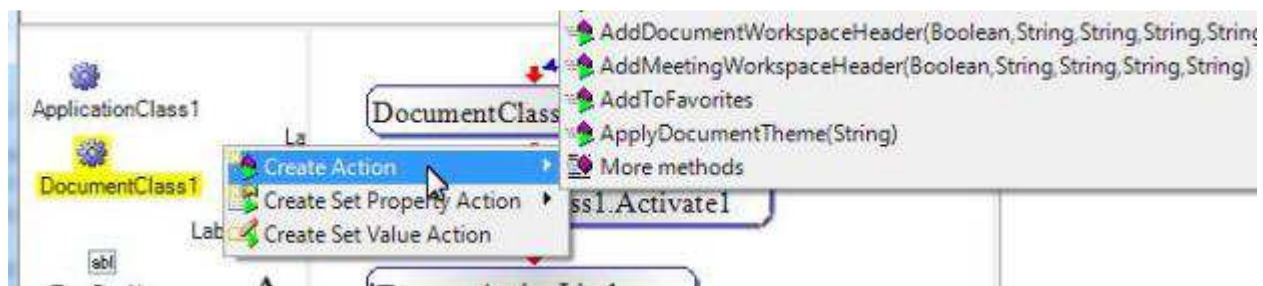


We may copy more actions for other data to be replaced:

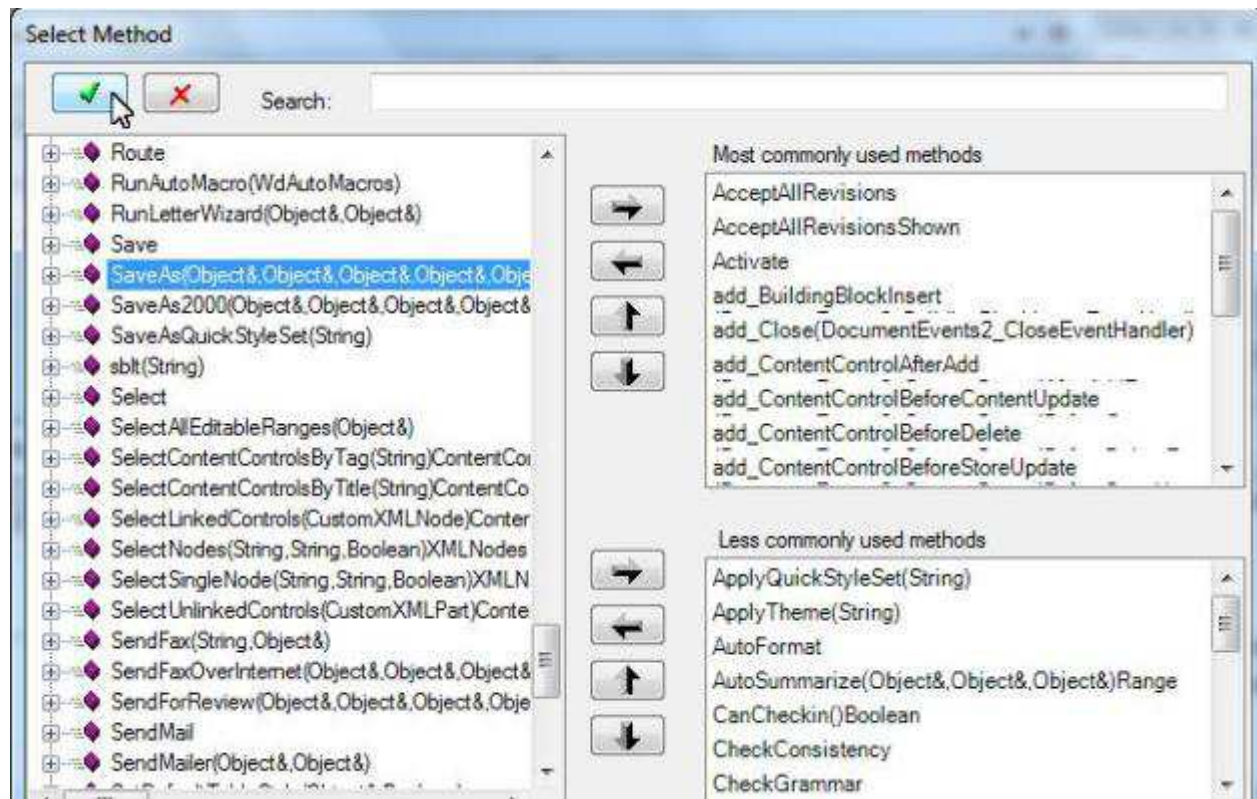


We may create actions to save and close the document.

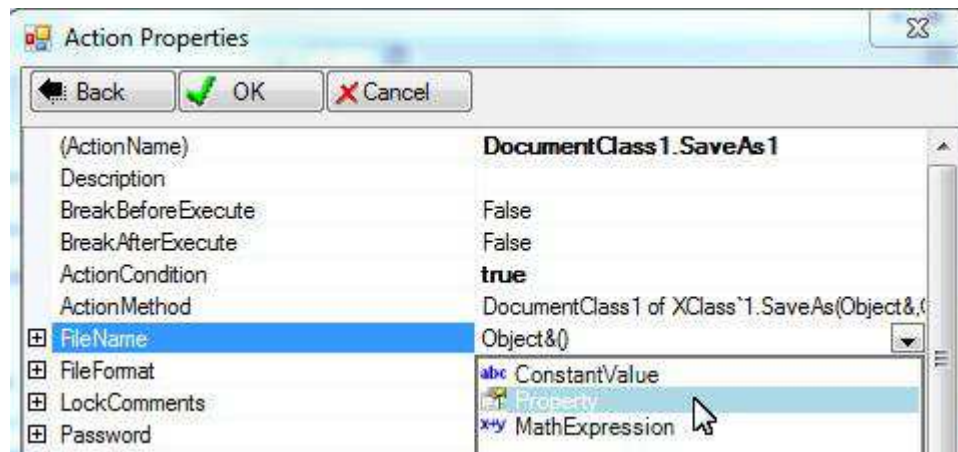
Right-click the document class icon; choose "Create action"; choose "More methods"; choose "*All methods* =>":



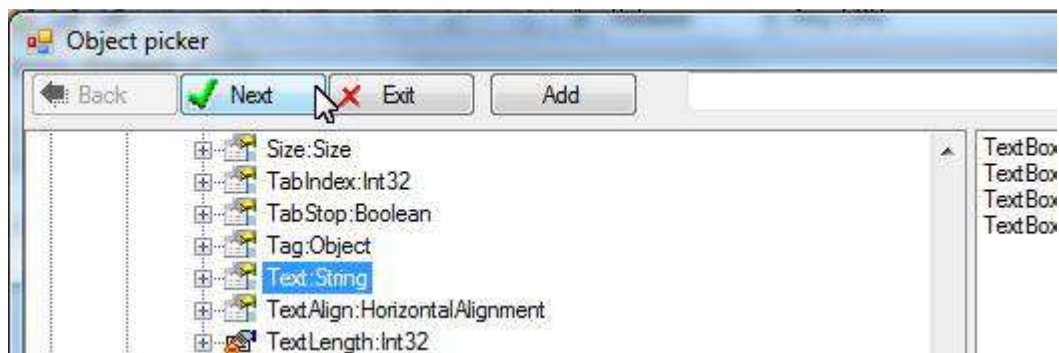
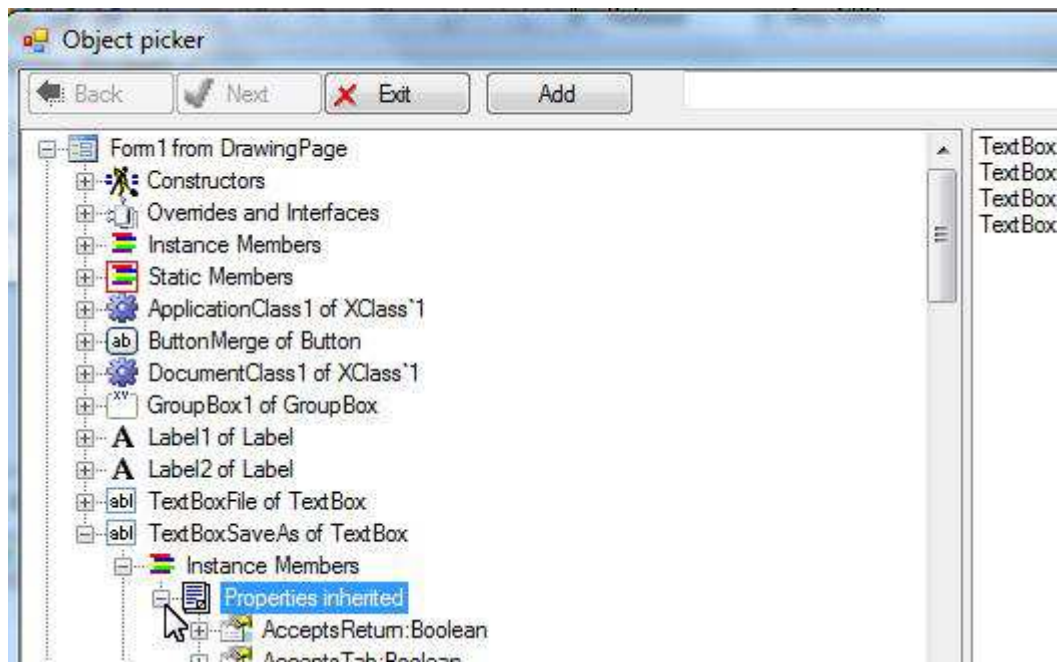
Select "SaveAs" method:



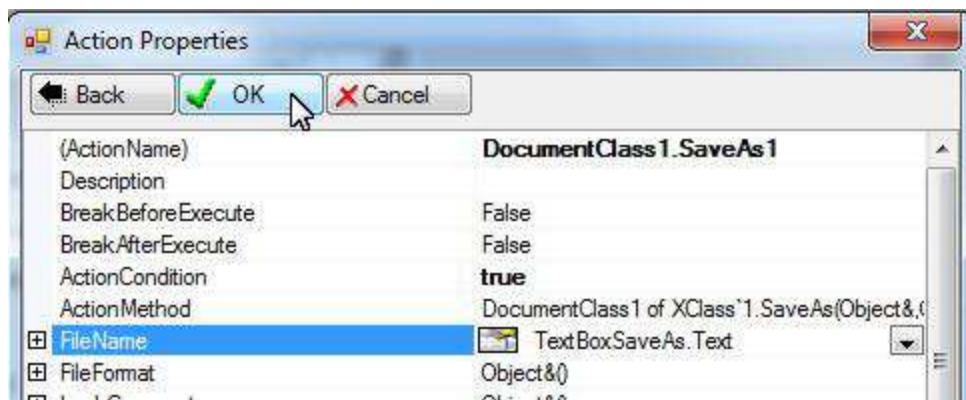
Select "Property" for the "FileName" parameter:



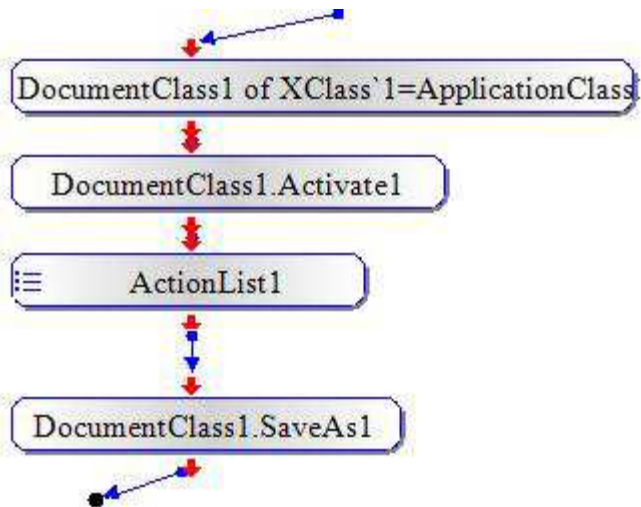
Select Text property of the text box for target file path:



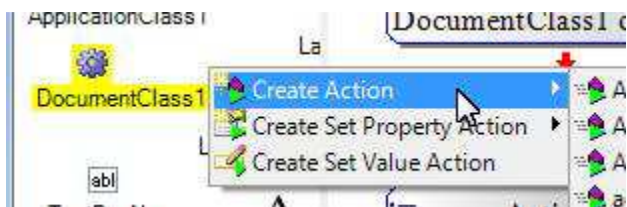
Click OK:



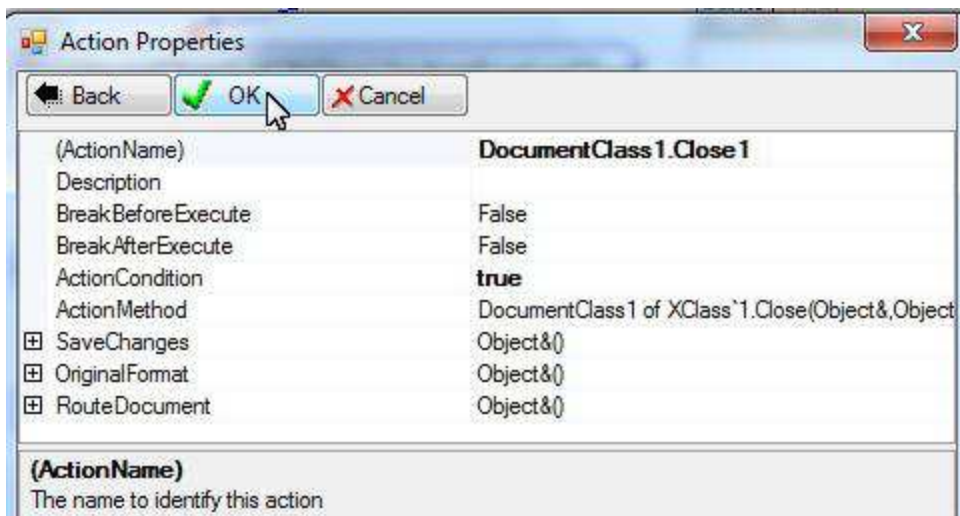
Link the action to the last action:



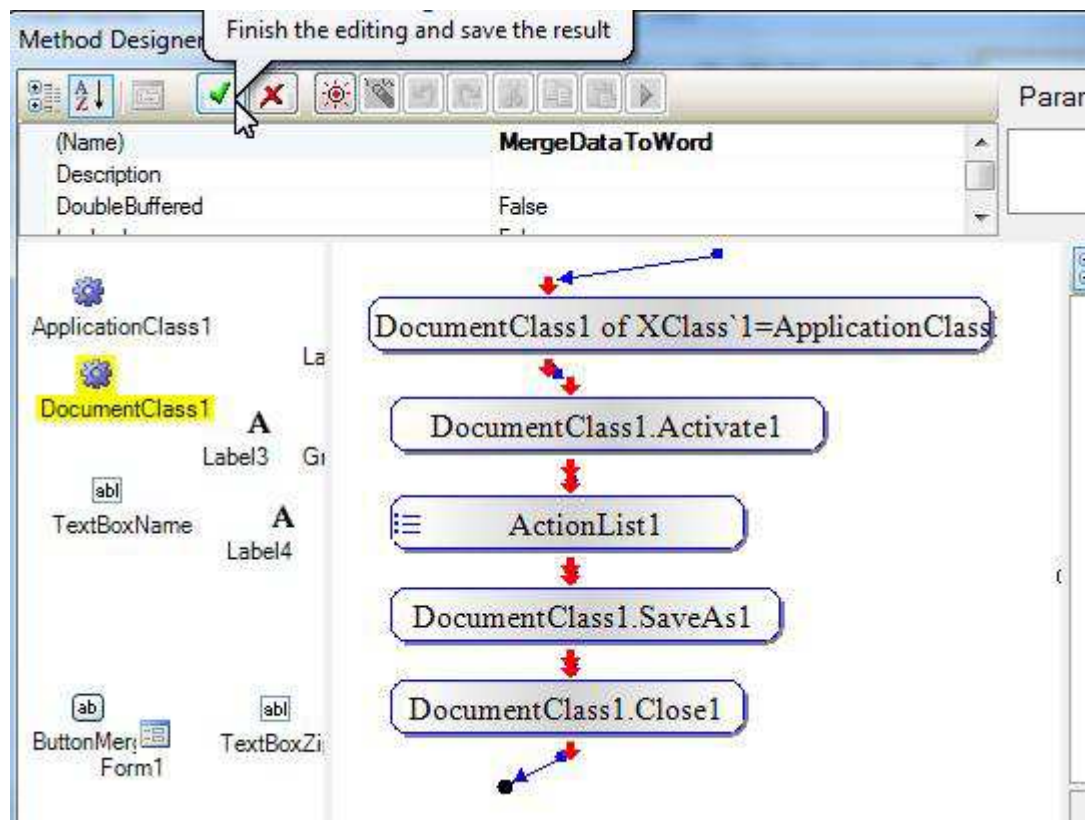
To create a Close document action, right-click the document class icon; choose “Create action”; choose “More actions”; choose “Close” method.



Click OK:

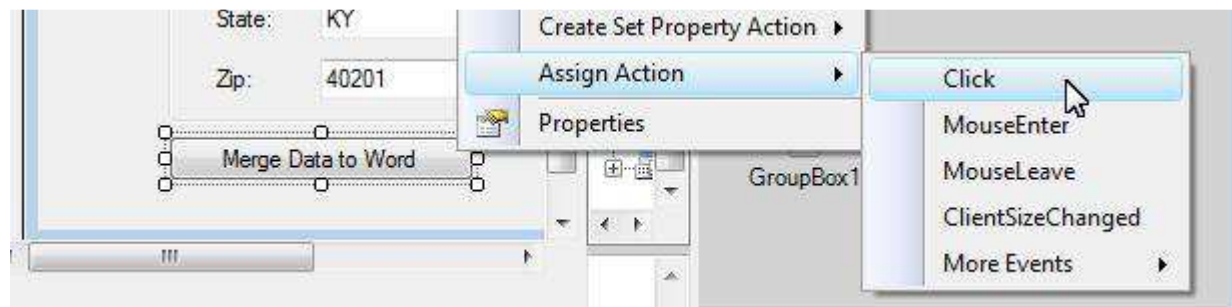


Link it to the last action. We are done creating this method:

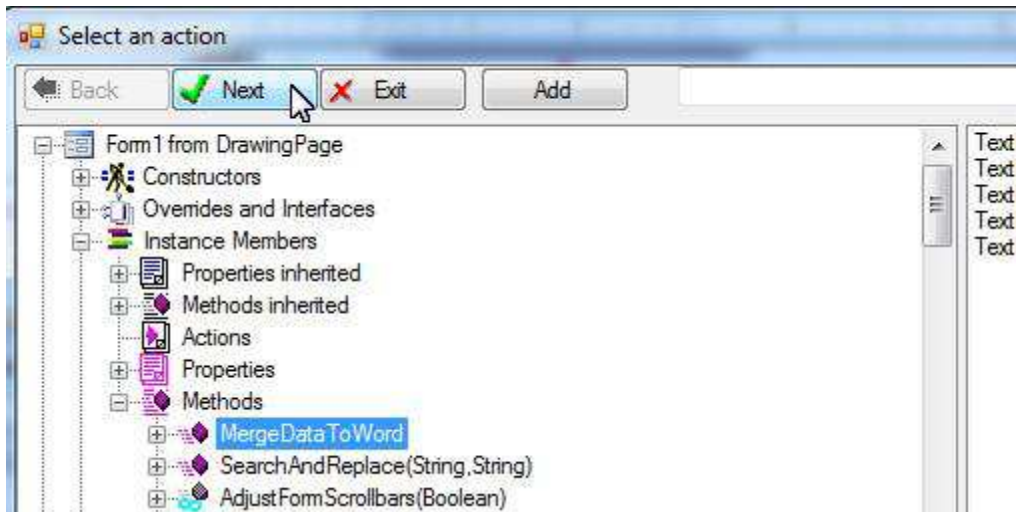


Execute Method

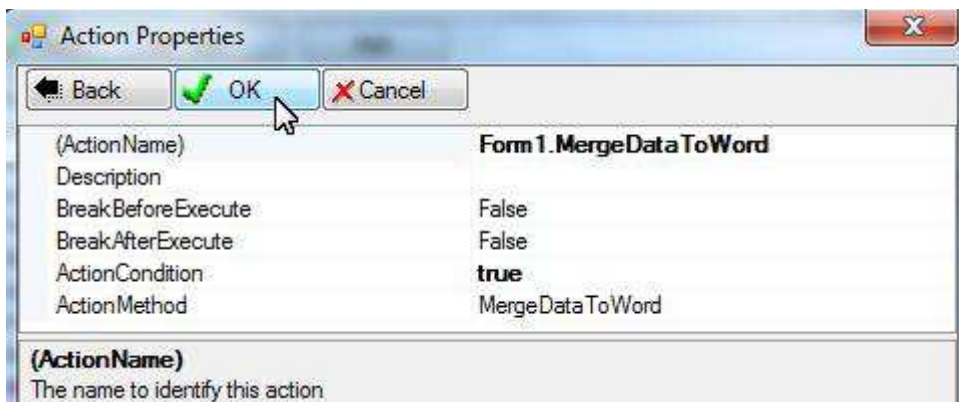
Right-click the button; choose "Assign action"; choose "Click" event:



Select MergeDataToWord method:



Click OK:

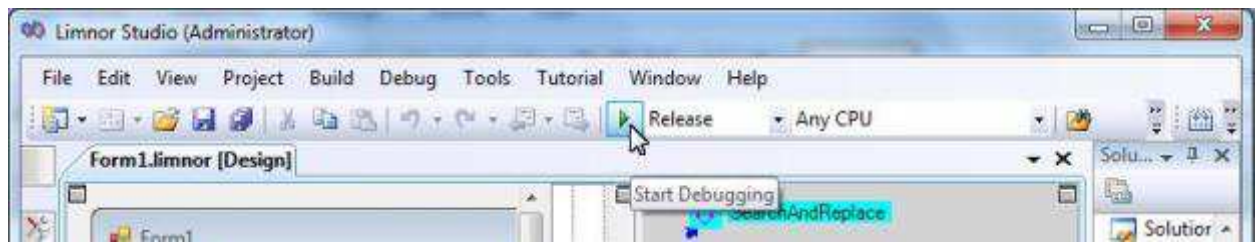


An action is created and assigned to the button:



Test

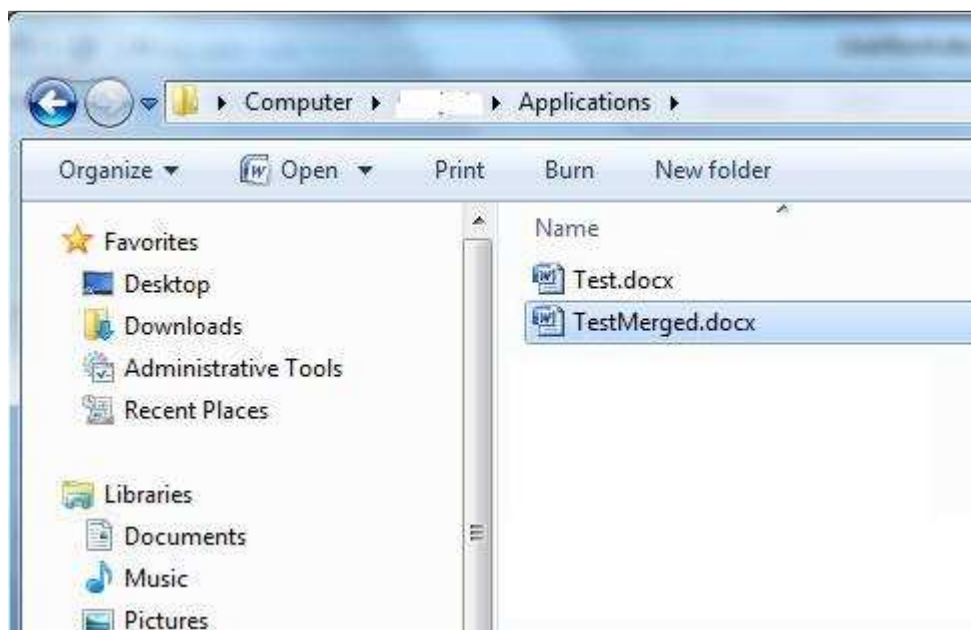
Click the Run button to compile and run the sample.



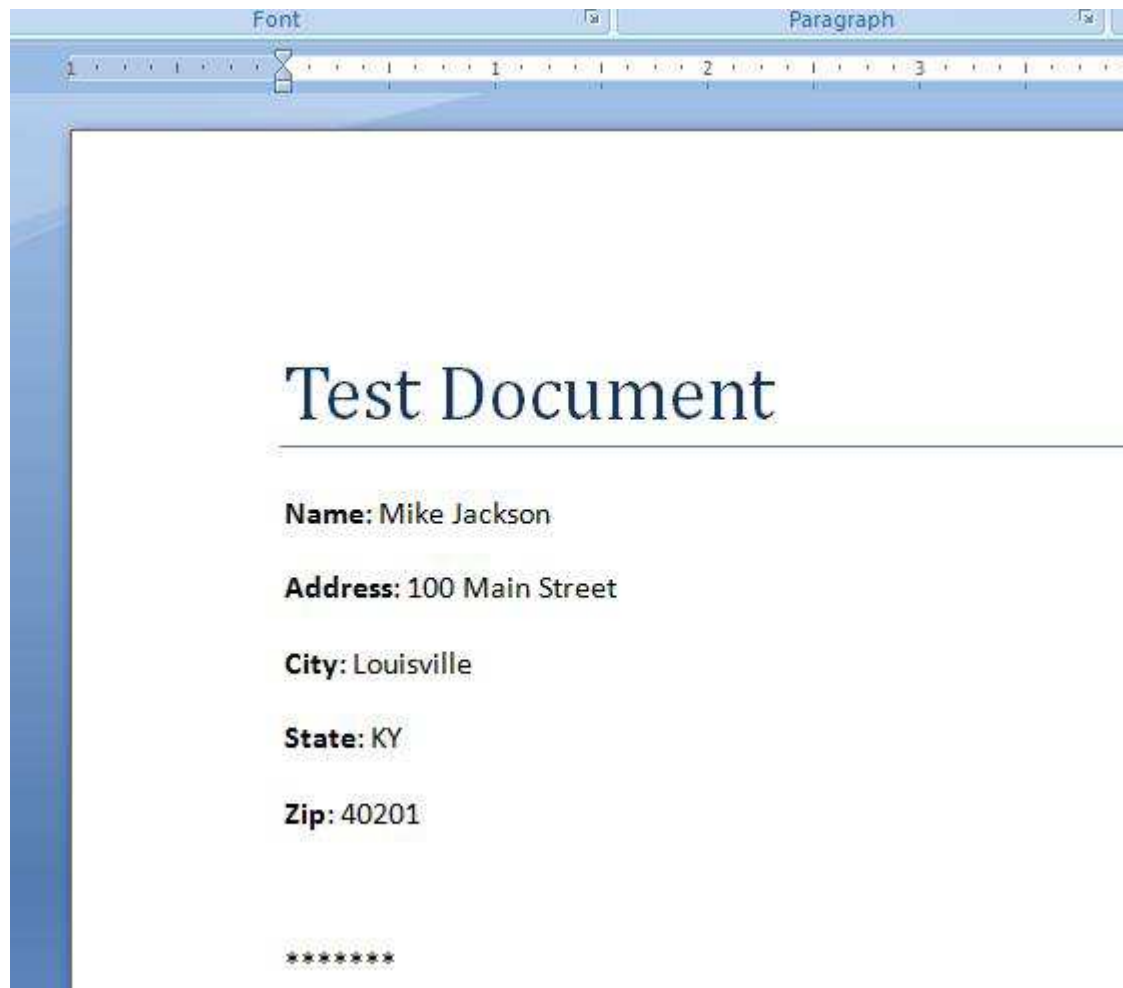
The form appears. Click the button.

A screenshot of a dialog box titled 'Form1'. It has a 'Word File' field containing 'C:\Applications\Test.docx' and a 'Save to' field containing 'C:\Applications\TestMerged.docx'. Below these is a section titled 'Data to be merged into WORD' containing five text boxes: 'Name' with 'Mike Jackson', 'Address' with '100 Main Street', 'City' with 'Louisville', 'State' with 'KY', and 'Zip' with '40201'. At the bottom is a button labeled 'Merge Data to Word' with a mouse cursor hovering over it.

We can see that the “Save to” file, TestMerged.docx, is created:



Open this document file; we can see that the data from the form are merged into the document:



So, the sample works as we expected.

Problems and fixes

One problem we found during the creation of this sample is that an empty Word document kept showing up. It is because we create a Word document instance on the form, `DocumentClass1`. Actually for the sample, we do not need to create a `DocumentClass` instance on the form because we do not need to access it outside of the `MergeDataToWord` method. We may use a local variable of `DocumentClass` inside the `MergeDataToWord` method. To do it, when creating the Open action, instead of choosing "Select existing object", choose "New local variable". The SaveAs and Close action should be created using the new local variable. We'll leave it as an exercise for you.