

Use Webcam in Web Pages

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Introduction

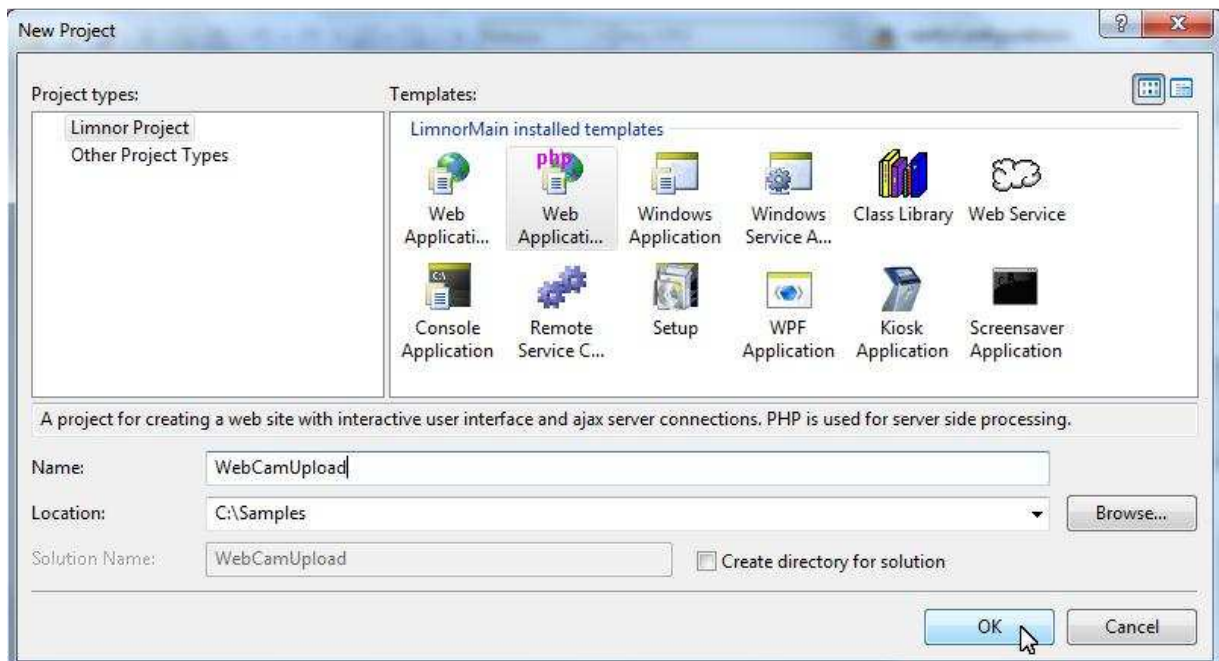
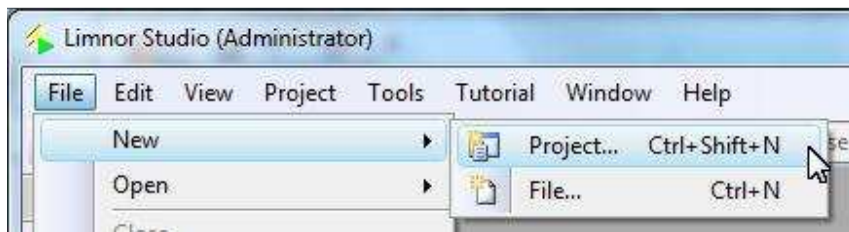
jpegcam (<http://code.google.com/p/jpegcam/>) is a JavaScript library for using webcam in web pages. This document presents an example of using this library. It uses a web page to display and capture live webcam image and uploads it to web server.

It demonstrates of using JavaScript libraries via a component named JavascriptFiles. The technologies used in each JavaScript library may be outdated in time but the ways of using JavaScript libraries in your web pages demonstrated in this sample will stay. You need to pay attention to see how a JavaScript library is merged into the rest of your web application, as demonstrated in this document.

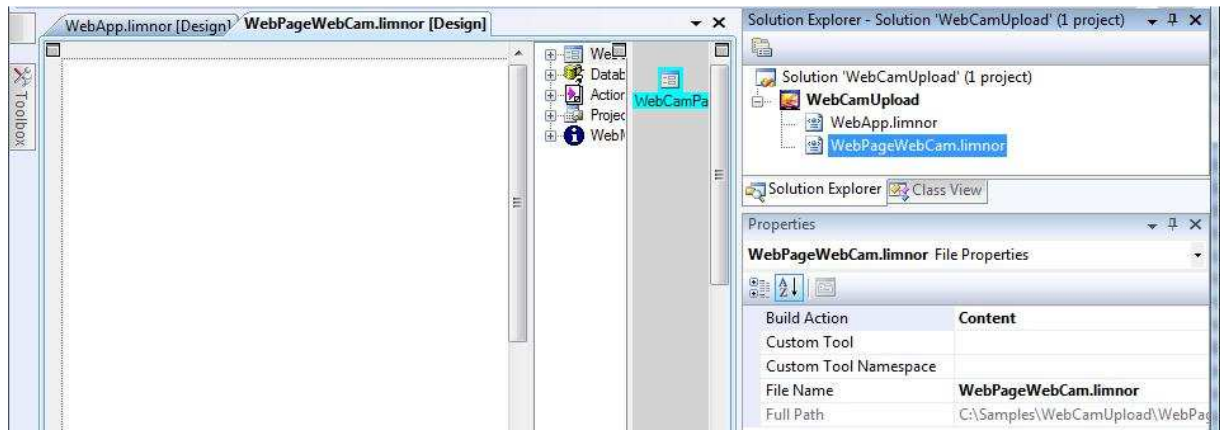
Preparation of using jpegcam

Create a PHP web project

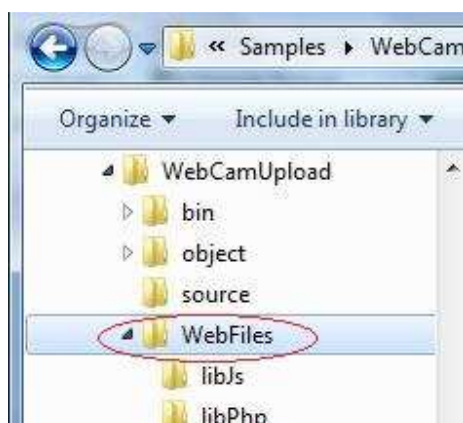
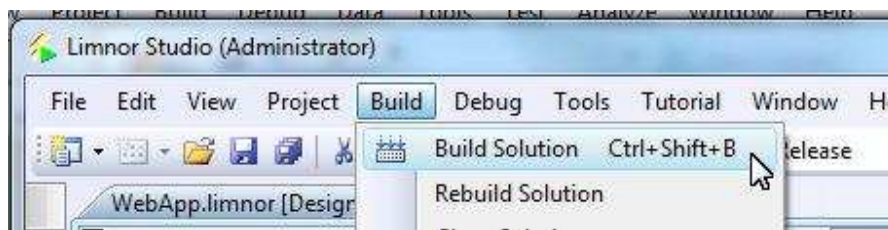
We create a PHP web project first because we need to explain where the files go.



Rename the web page file name and web page name:



Compile the project so that a WebFiles folder will be generated under the project folder:



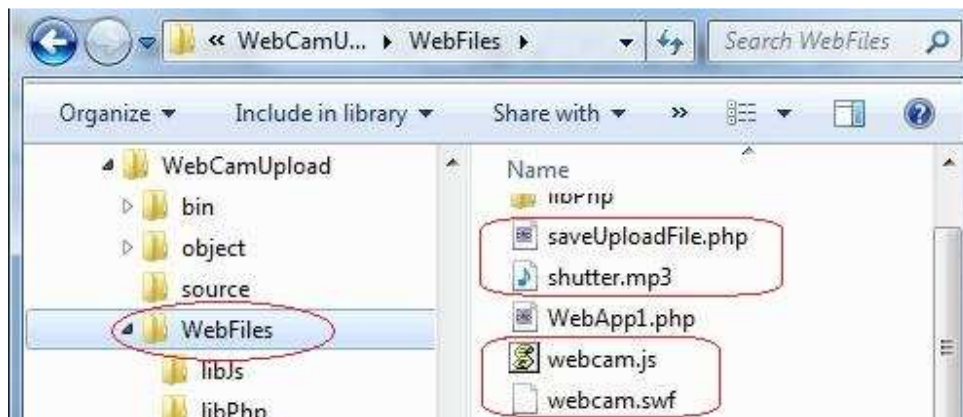
Add JavaScript Library

Add library files

The files needed by jpegcam library can be downloaded from

<http://www.limnor.com/studio/jpegWebCam.zip>

Unzip the files to WebFiles folder:

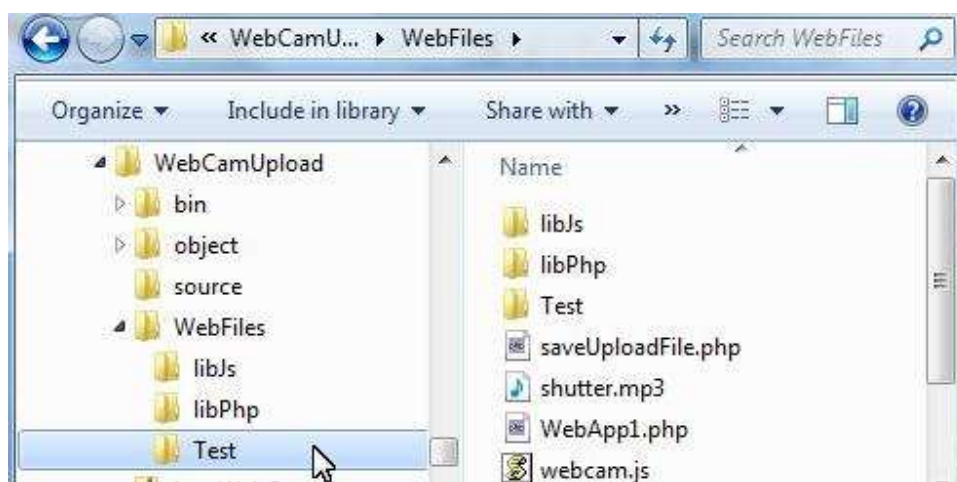


Prepare folder for saving uploaded file

The folder name for saving uploaded files is specified in a PHP file saveUploadFile.php. You may use the Notepad to open it and modified it:

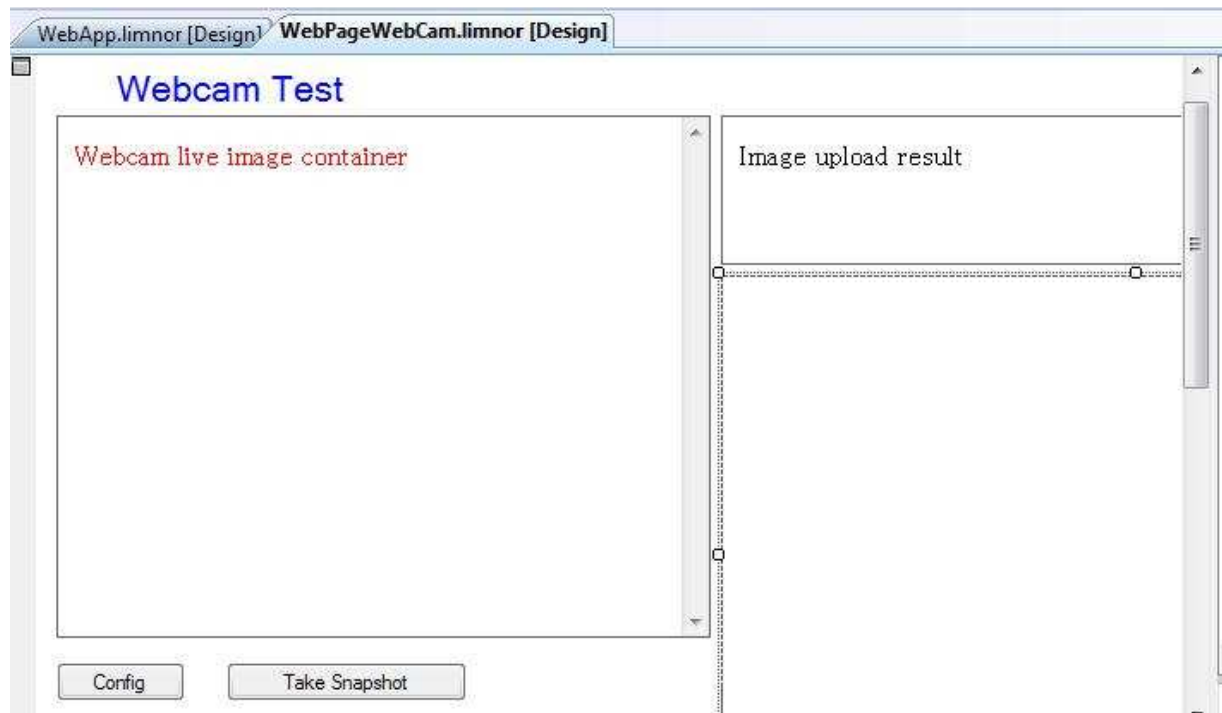


You need to create the folder under WebFiles folder:



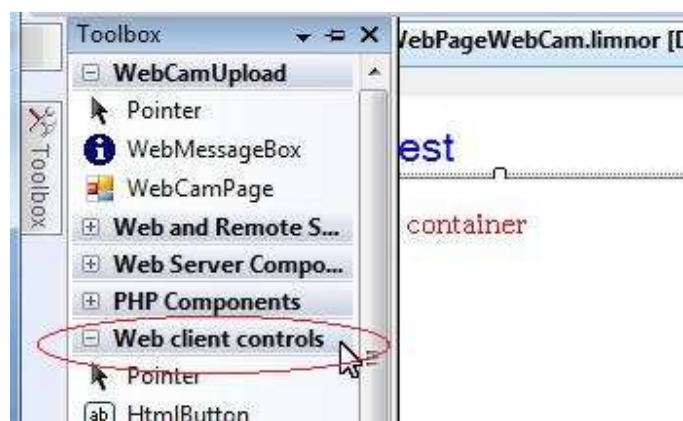
UI for Working with Webcam

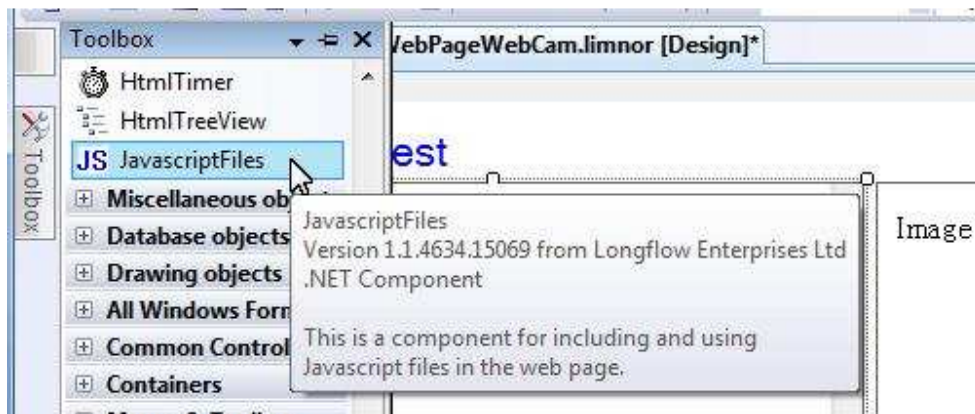
We use a button to configure webcam and a button to take snapshot and upload it to web server. We use one HtmlContent to show live webcam image. We use another HtmlContent to show operation messages. We use an HtmlImage to display the last image uploaded to the web server.



Add JavascriptFiles Component

JavascriptFiles component is used to interface with JavaScript libraries.



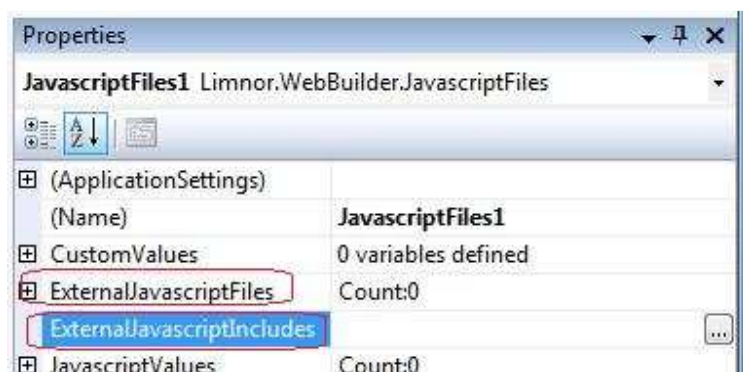


Drop a JavascriptFiles to the web page:



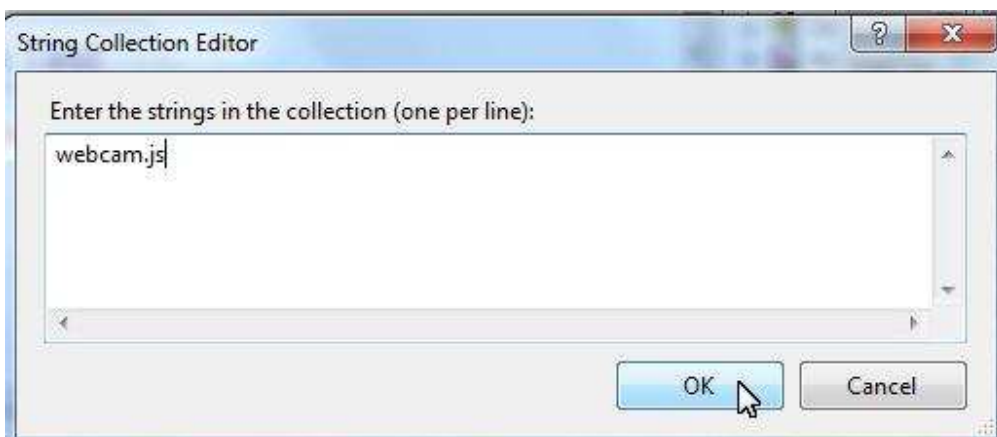
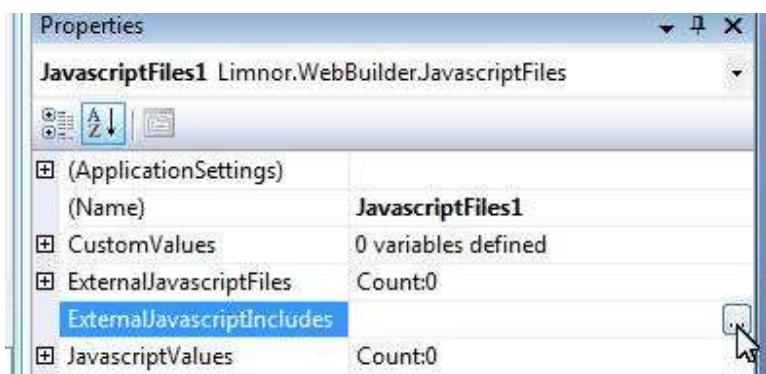
Include JavaScript Library to Web Page

JavaScript libraries usually are *.js files. Two properties of JavascriptFiles component can be used to include *.js files in web pages:

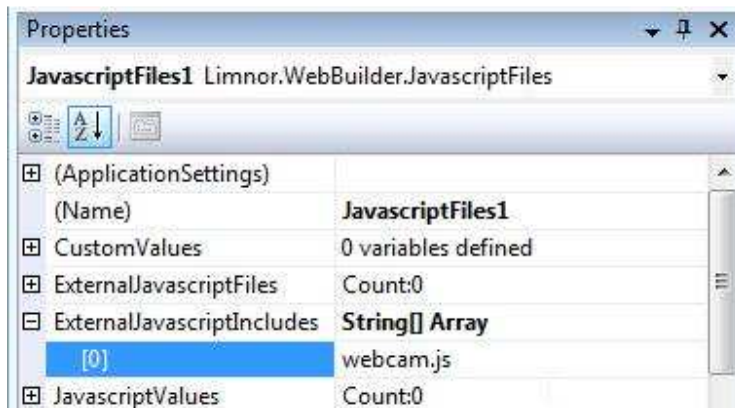


- **ExternalJavaScriptFiles** – The files added to this property will be copied to libJs folder under WebFiles folder during compiling. Therefore the *.js files must exist in your hard disk. Any support files needed by the *.js files also need to be copied to folders relative to folder libJs.
- **ExternalJavaScriptIncludes** – The files added to this property will be included in the web page as it is. No file copying is performed during compiling. It can be used to include files from other web servers. For example, it can be used to include Google Maps library.

Here we use ExternalJavaScriptIncludes to include jpegcam file, webcam.js. It is not because webcam.js is in another web server. It is because we unzipped webcam.js and supporting files to WebFiles folder and we do not want the compiler to copy webcam.js to libJs folder.



The js file is added to the property:



Use of jpegcam JavaScript Library

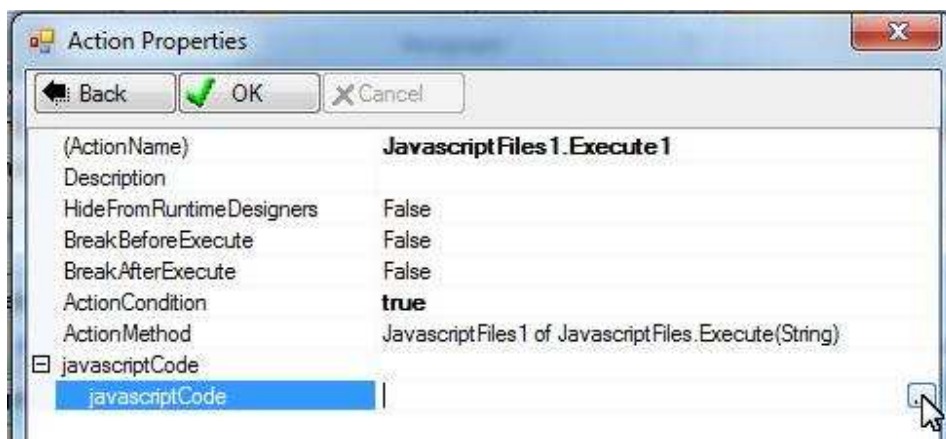
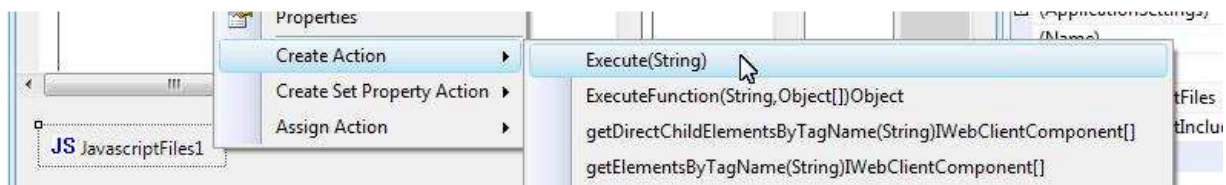
Sample web pages are the best way of learning the use of a JavaScript library. jpegcam contains some samples. We take its test.html to do this sample.

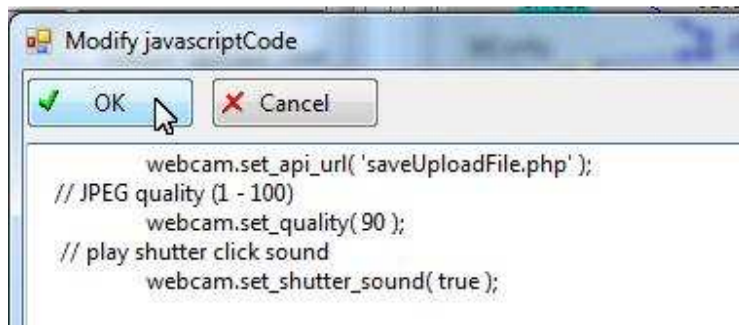
Setup webcam

In test.html, it uses following code to setup webcam:

```
<!-- Configure a few settings -->
<script language="JavaScript">
    webcam.set_api_url( 'test.php' );
    webcam.set_quality( 90 ); // JPEG quality (1 - 100)
    webcam.set_shutter_sound( true ); // play shutter click sound
</script>
```

We may create an action to execute the above code:





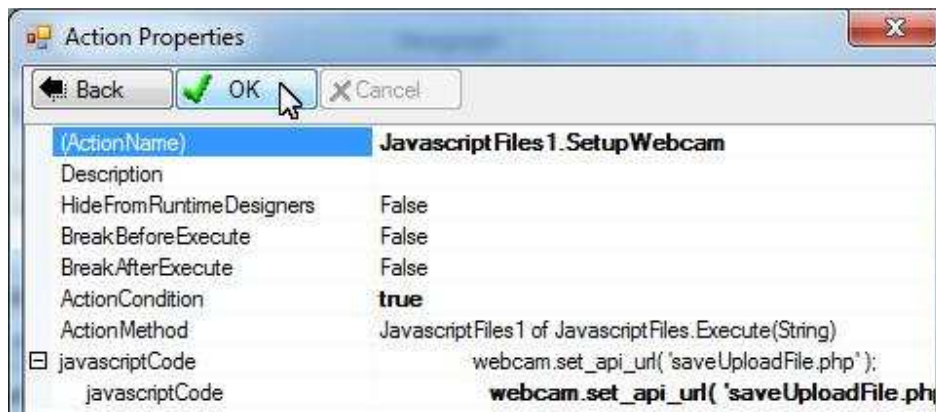
The code we use is as following:

```
webcam.set_api_url( 'saveUploadFile.php' );
// JPEG quality (1 - 100)
webcam.set_quality( 90 );
// play shutter click sound
webcam.set_shutter_sound( true );
```

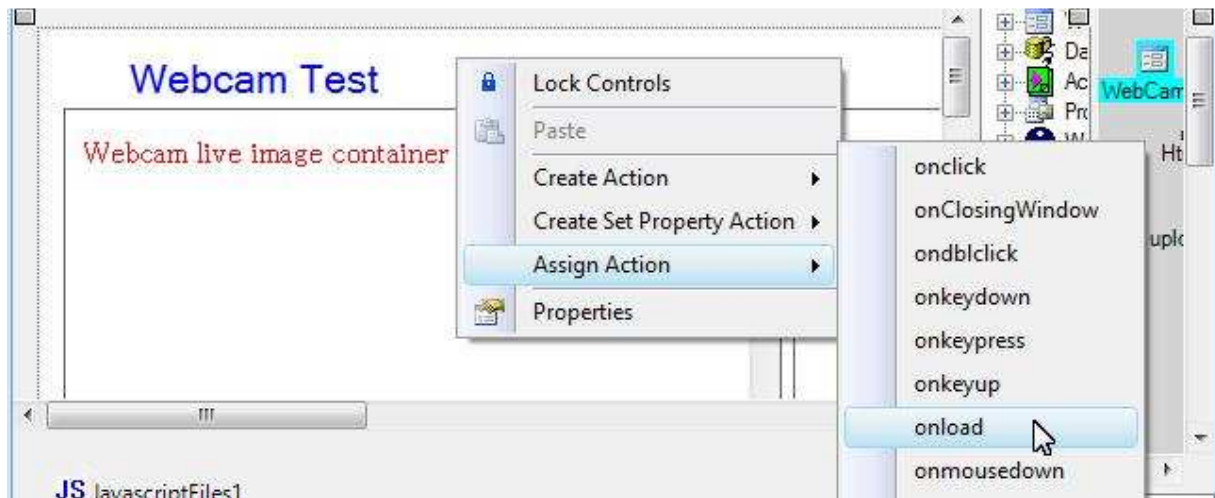
Note that we changed test.php to saveUploadFile.php.

Be careful not put comments at the end of the code. It might damage the code following it.

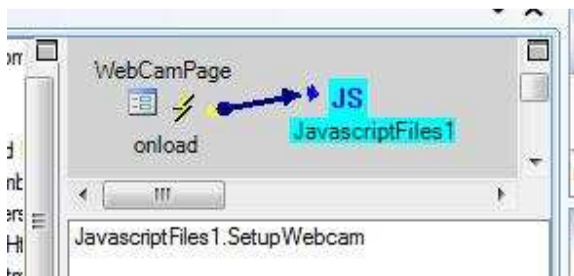
Rename the action to SetupWebcam:



We may assign the action to onload event of the web page:

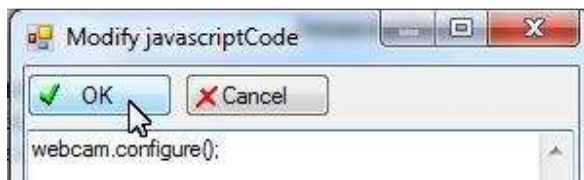
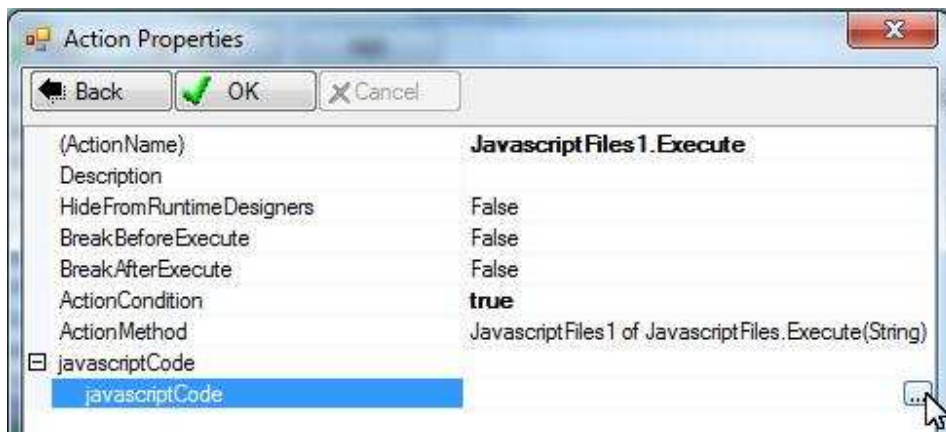
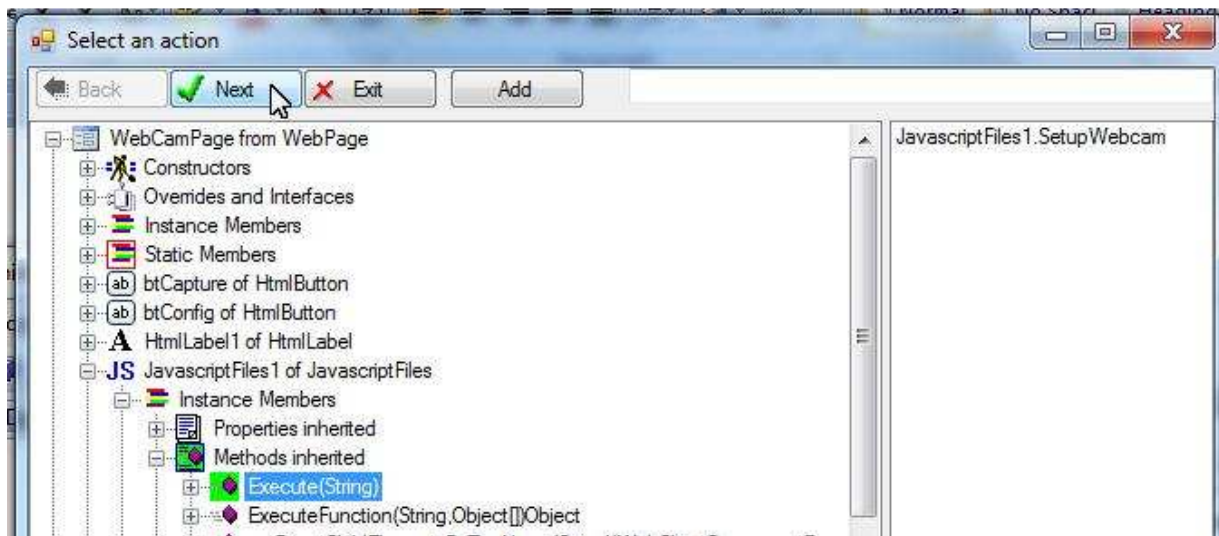
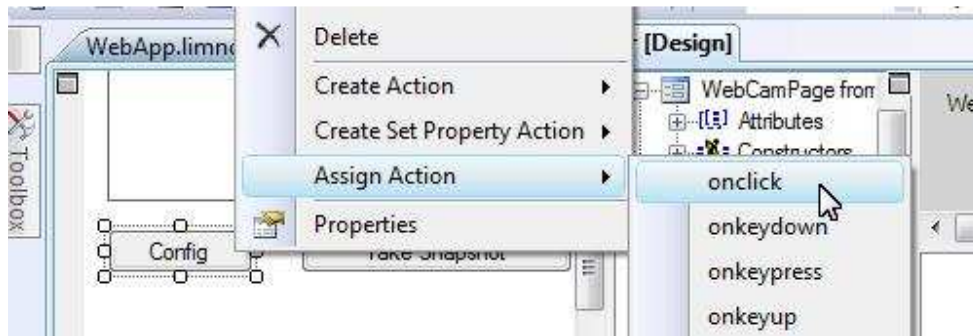


The action is assigned to onload:

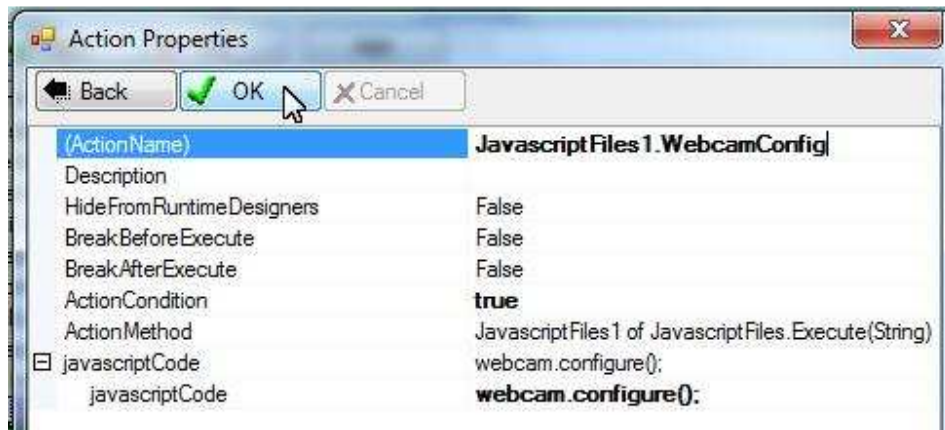


Webcam Configure

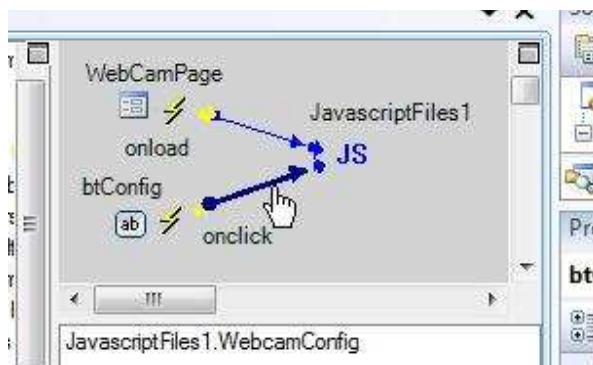
Jpegcam uses code `webcam.configure()` to do webcam configuration. We may execute this code on clicking configure button:



Rename the action to WebcamConfig:



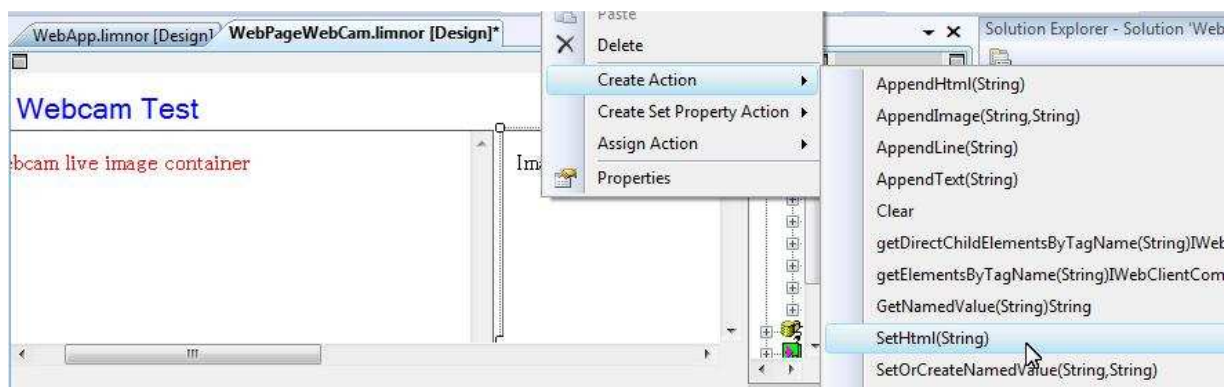
The action is created and assigned to the button:

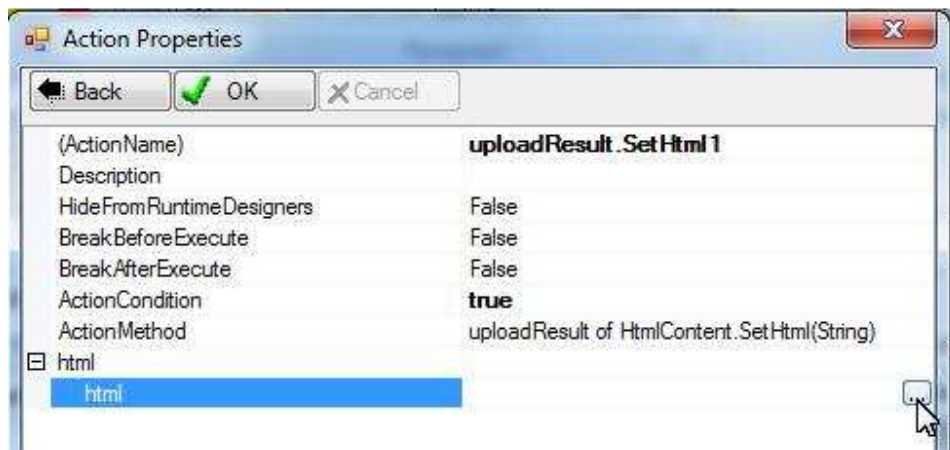


Take webcam snapshot and upload to web server

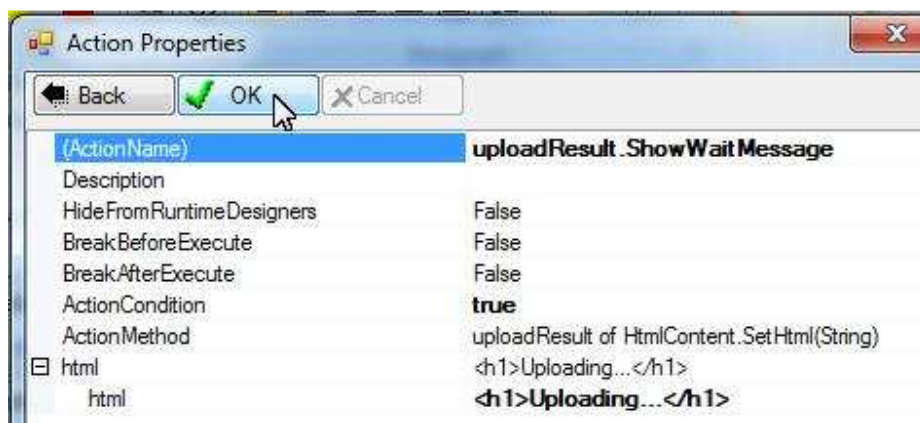
Jpegcam uses code `webcam.snap ()` to take snapshot and upload it to web server. We may execute this code on clicking "Take Snapshot" button.

Before taking snapshot, we may show waiting message on the web page:

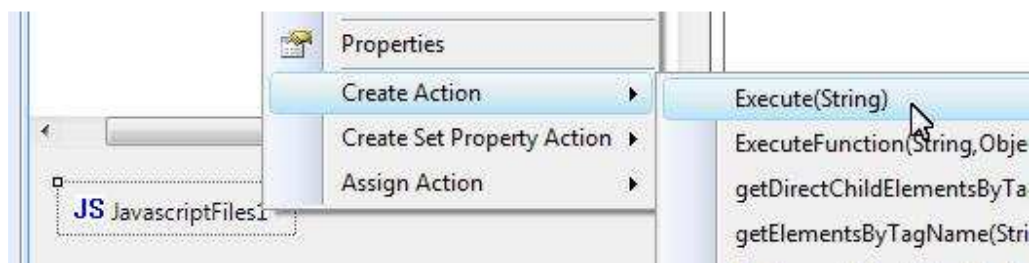


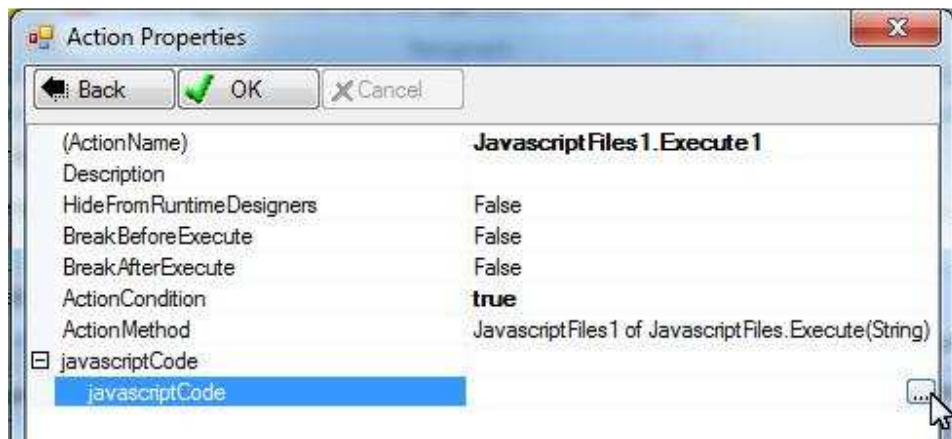


Rename the action and click OK:

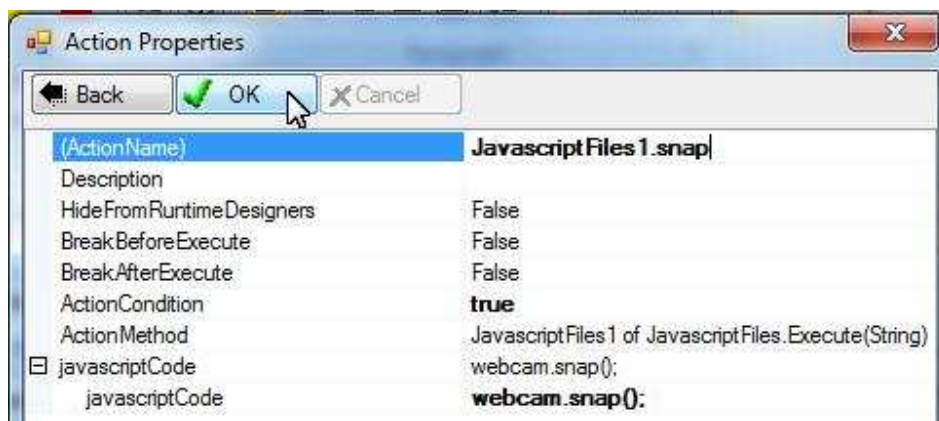


Now we may create "snap" action:

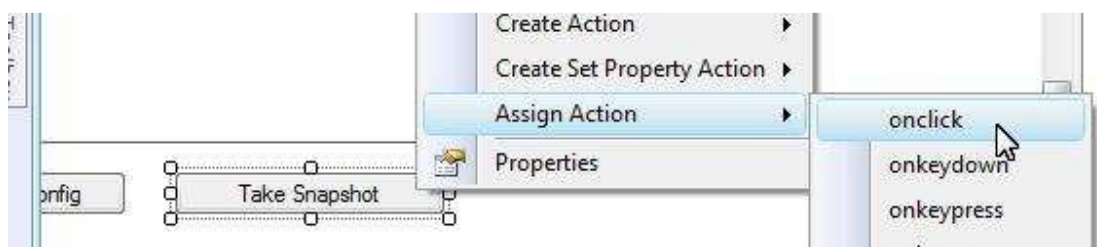


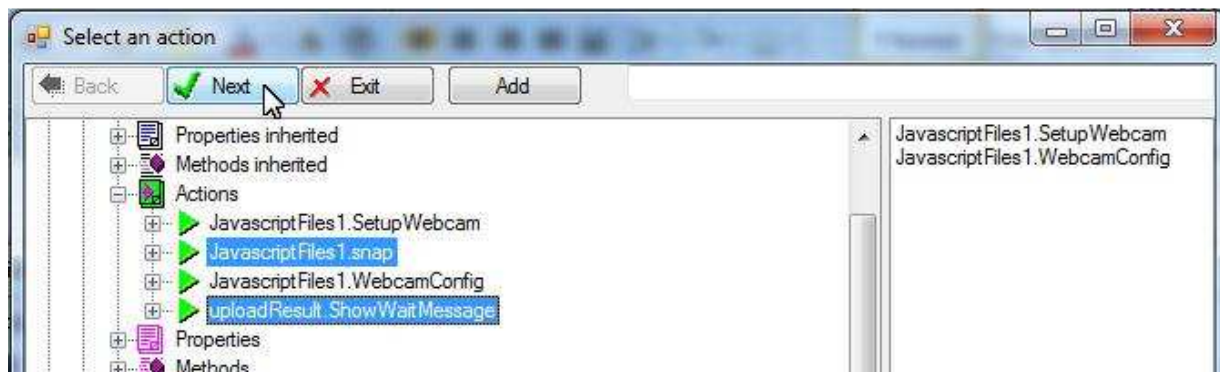


Rename the action and click OK:

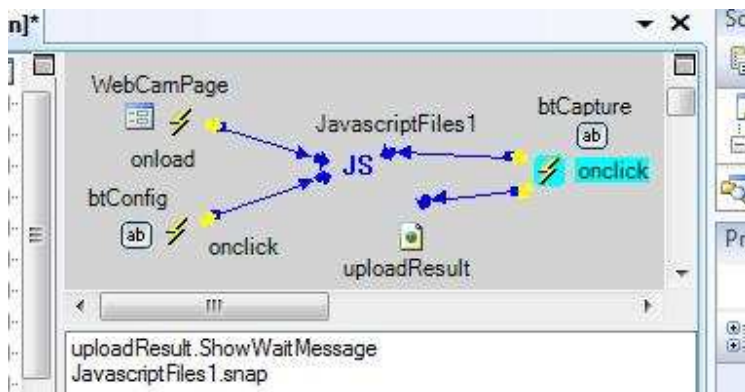
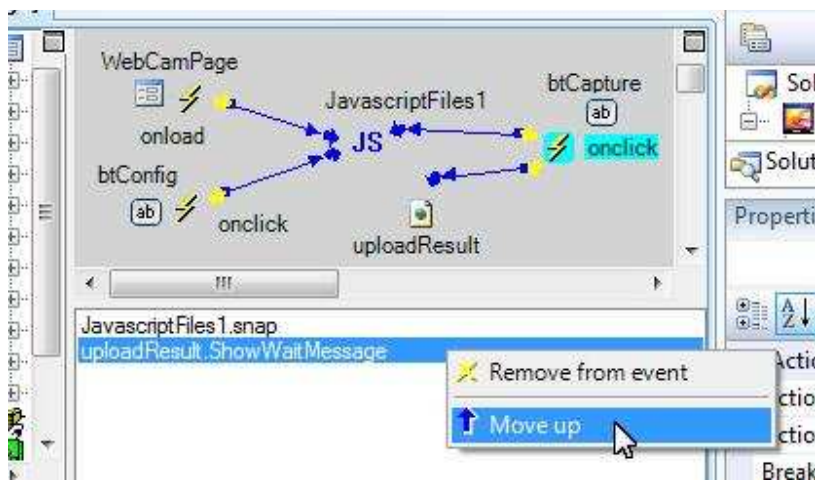


Assign the above two actions to the button:





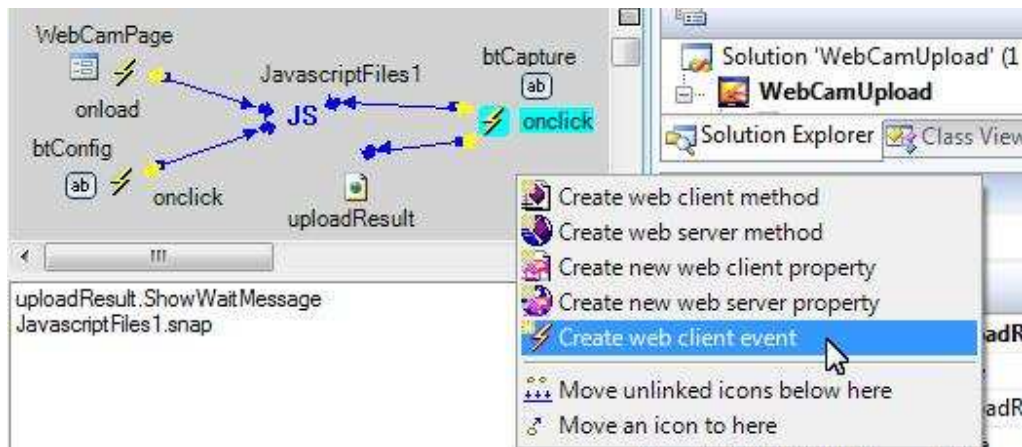
The actions are assigned to the button. Move the show message action up:



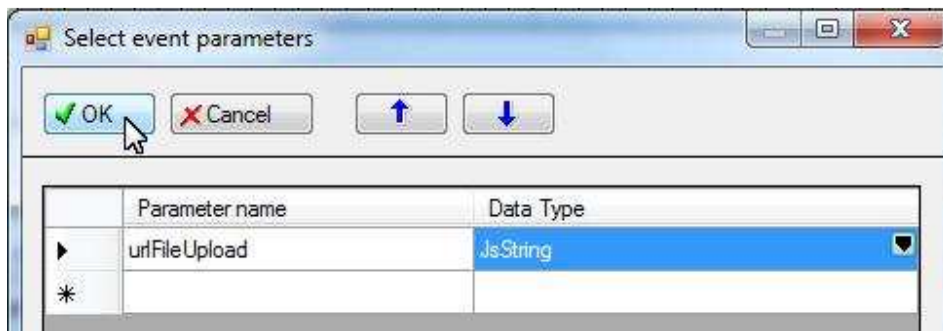
Use uploaded file

jpegcam uses a client method to handle file upload. The method takes a parameter which is a URL representing the uploaded file. We may create such a client method for it. But if we want to use server side functionality in our web application then we cannot do it directly in this method. The solution is to create a client site event.

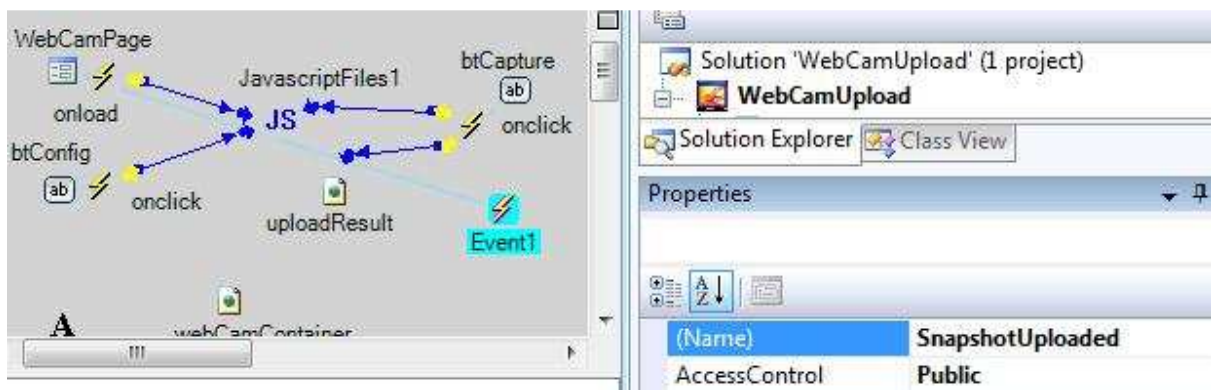
Create a client event



Create an event parameter and name it urlFileUpload to represent uploaded file:

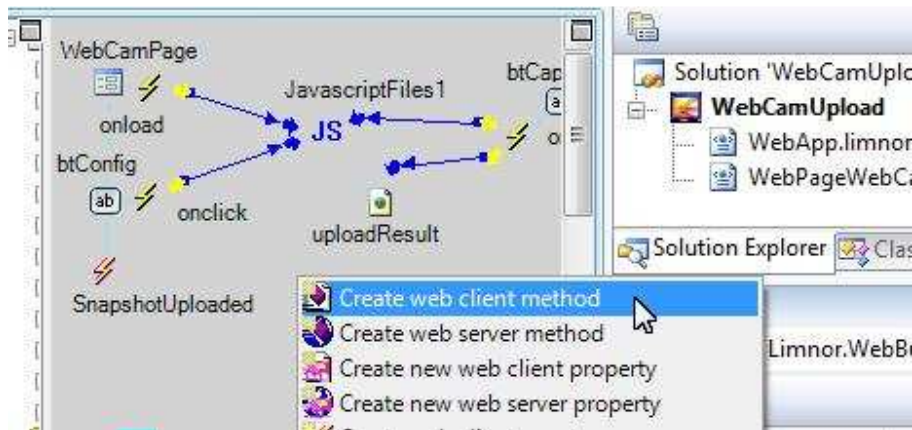


Rename the event from Event1 to SnapshotUploaded:



Create upload completion handler method

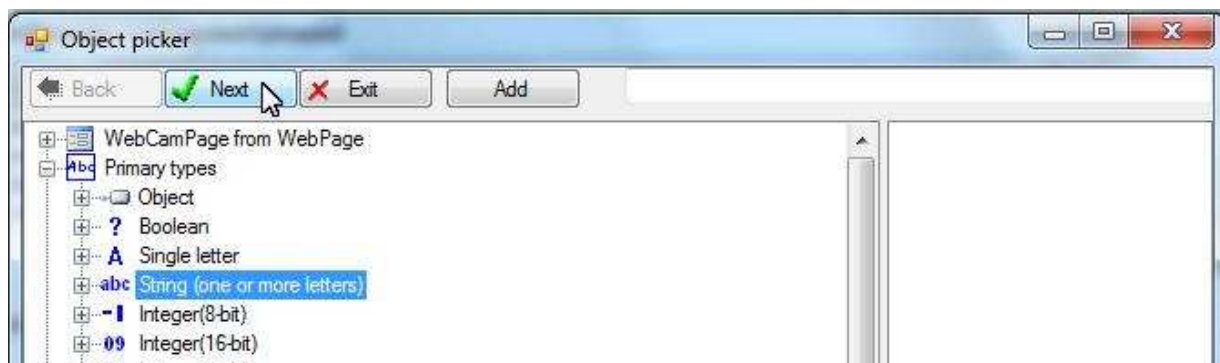
Now we may create a web client method to handle uploaded file:



Rename the method name to onSnapshotUploaded:



Add a parameter to the method, as required by the jpegcam library:



Rename the parameter to urlFileUploaded:



Handling file upload

In this sample, we execute following actions in this method:

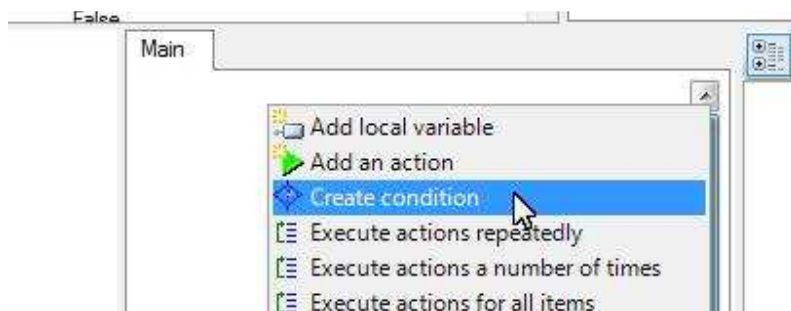
1. Show the URL of uploaded file on the web page or show error message
2. Display image using the URL of uploaded file
3. Fire event SnapshotUploaded

We may assign actions to event SnapshotUploaded; for example, insert a new database record to save the URL of uploaded file to a database.

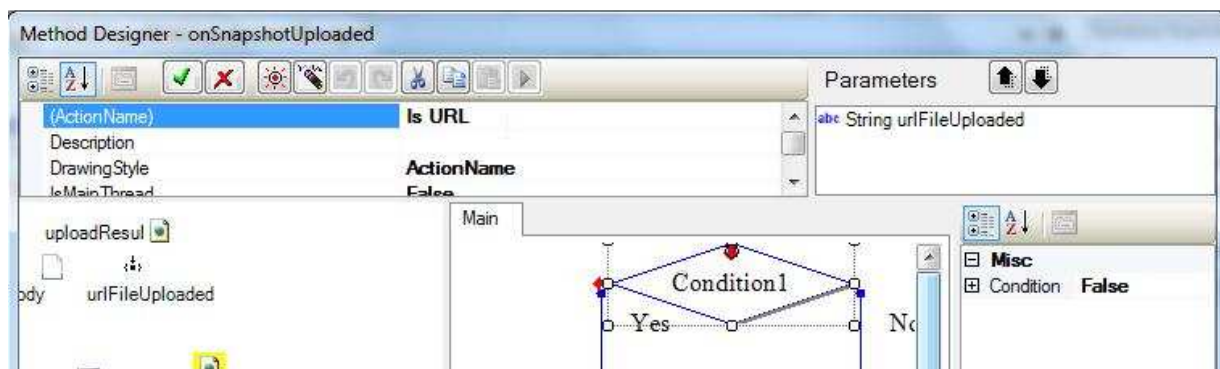
Let's create the above actions.

Check URL

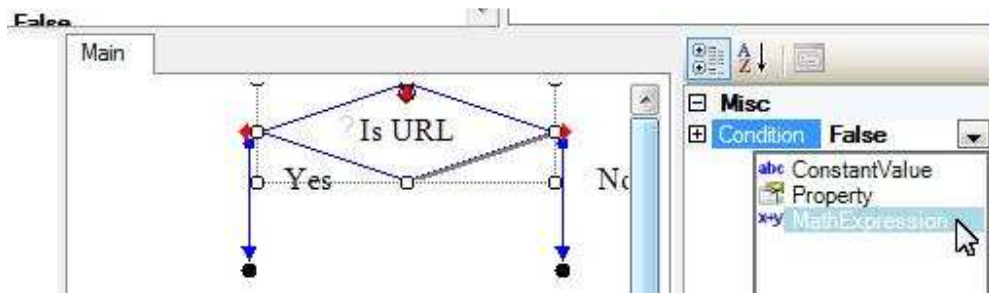
First, we need to check to see if the parameter, urlFileUploaded is really an URL. An URL should start with "http://". In test.html, it uses JavaScript expression, `match(/(http:\/\/\/\S+)/)`, to do this checking. We can use JavascriptFiles.Execute action execute this expression:



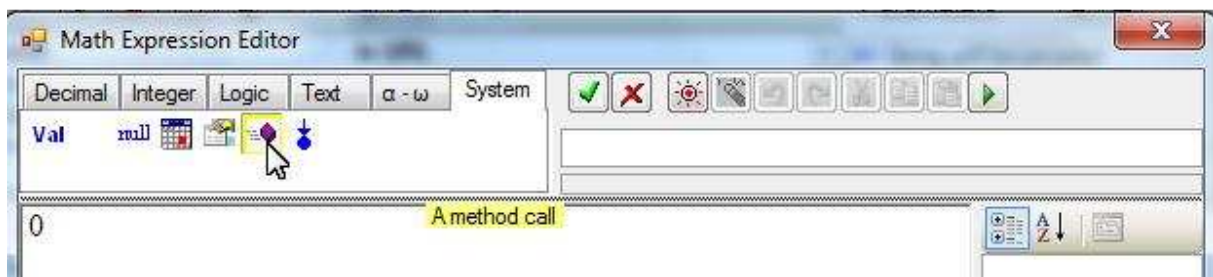
Rename the condition:



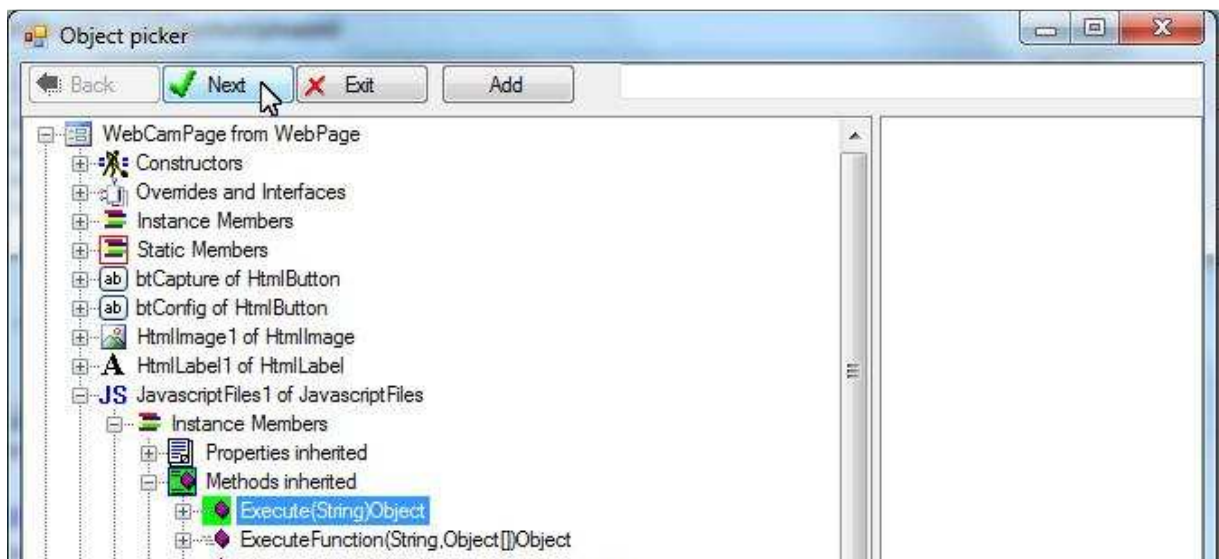
Set the condition to an expression:



Use a method in the expression:



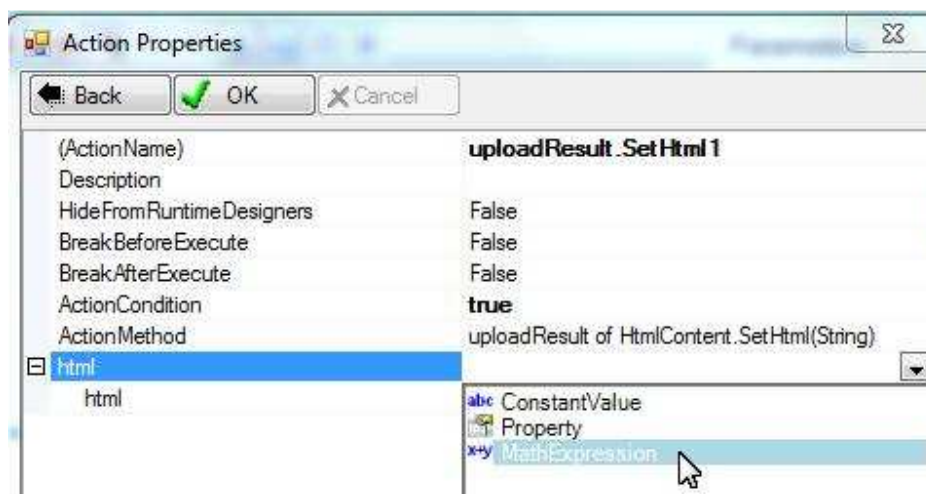
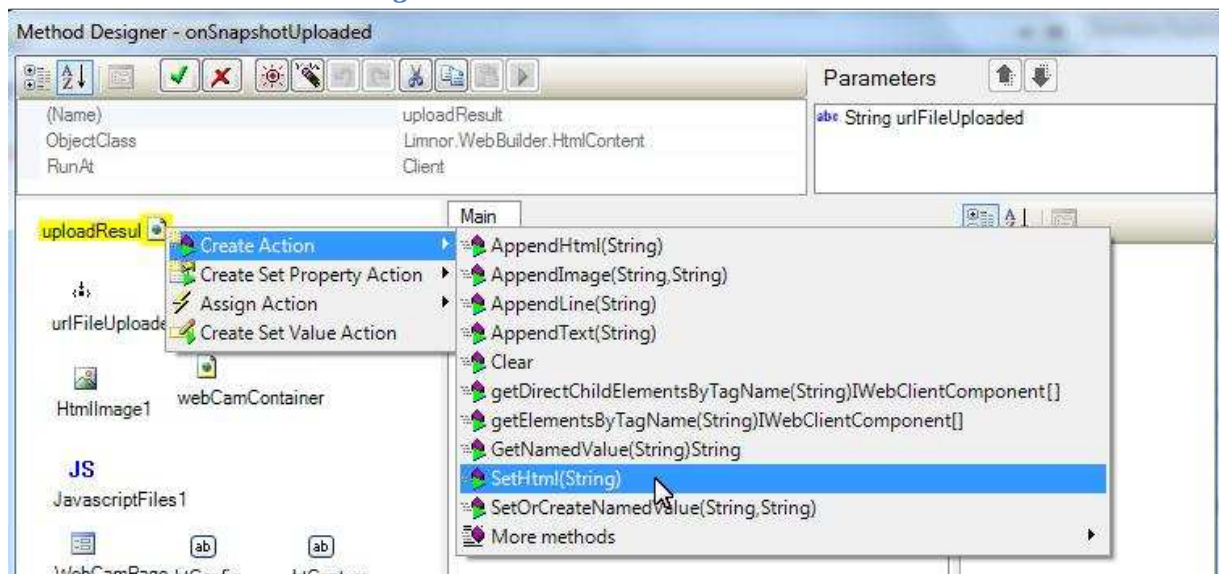
Select Execute method:

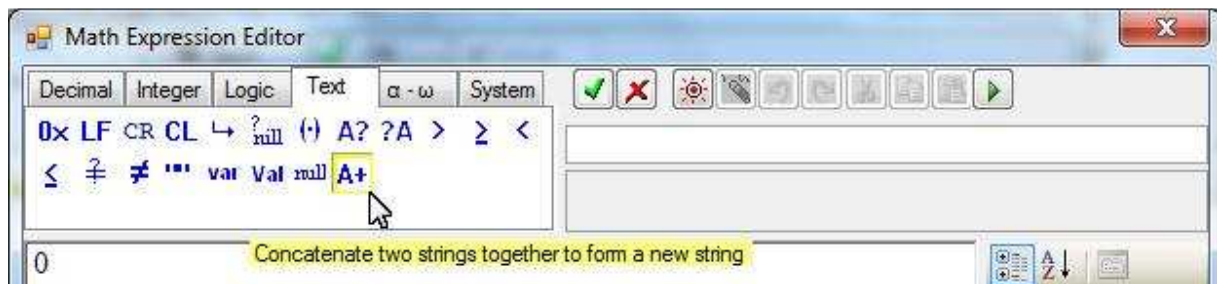


Enter `urlFileUploaded.match(/(http:\/\/\/\S+)/)` as the script to be executed:

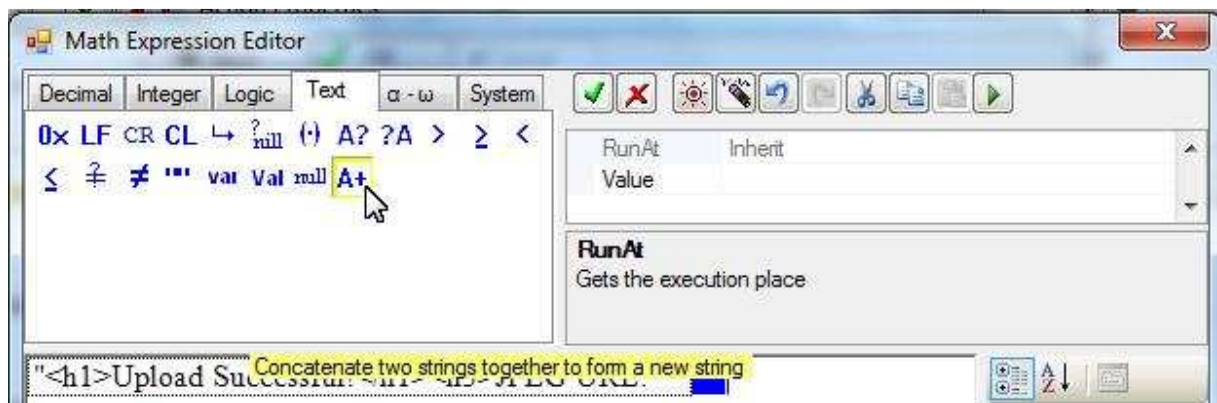


Create a show "Success" message





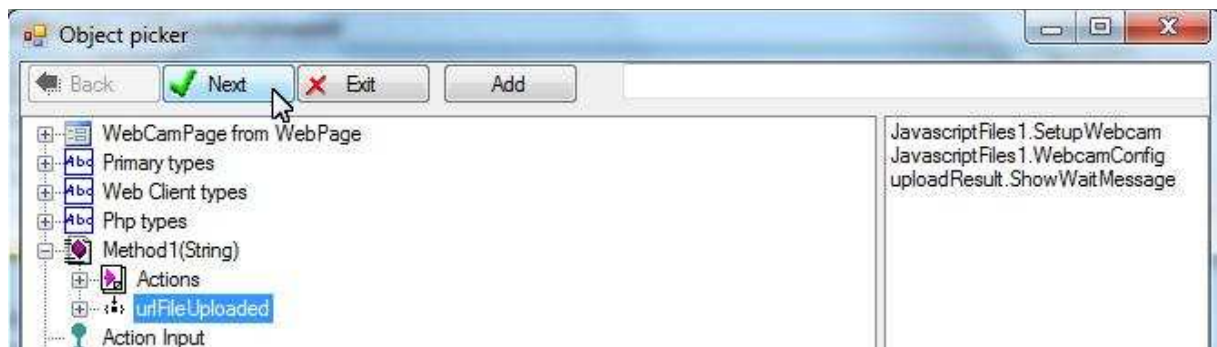
Enter some html message in the first string item .Select the second stringitme and click A+ :



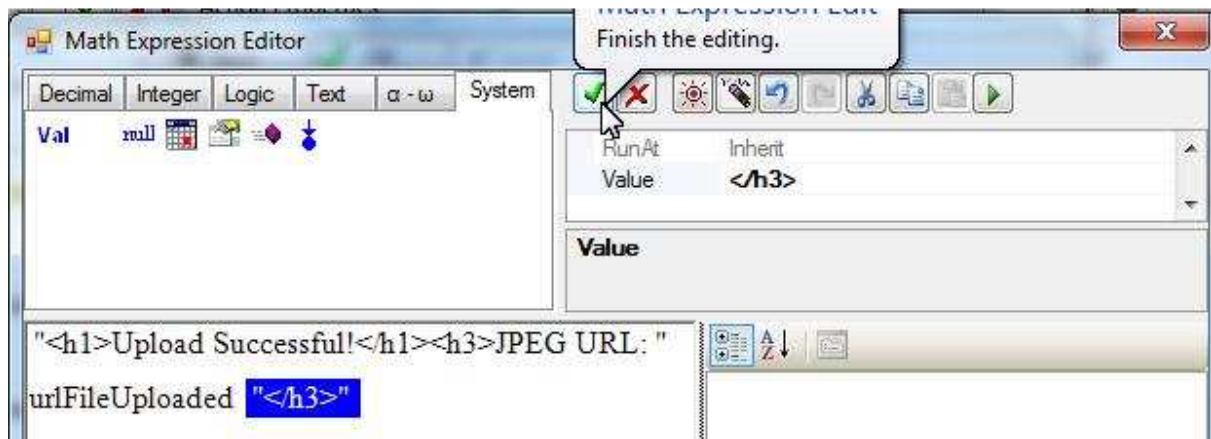
Select the second string item and click Property icon:



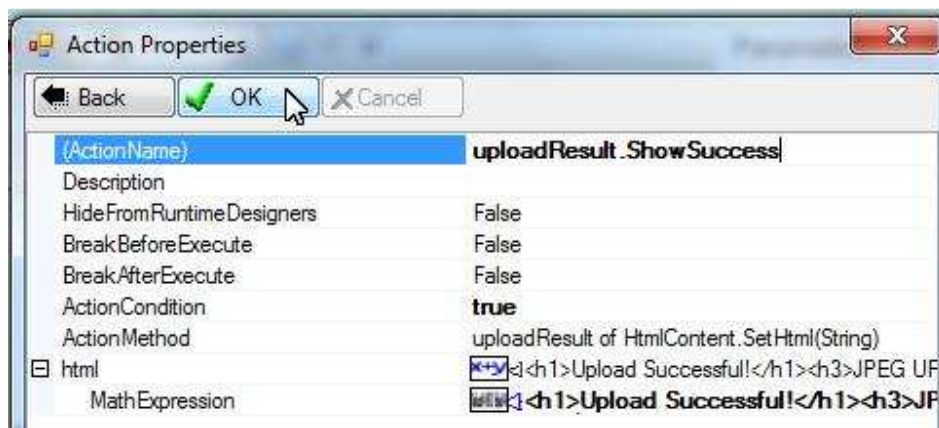
Select urlFileUploaded:



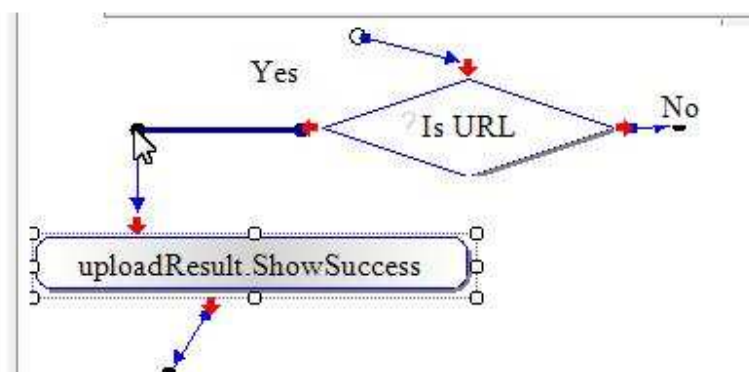
Enter html in the 3rd string item and finish the editing:



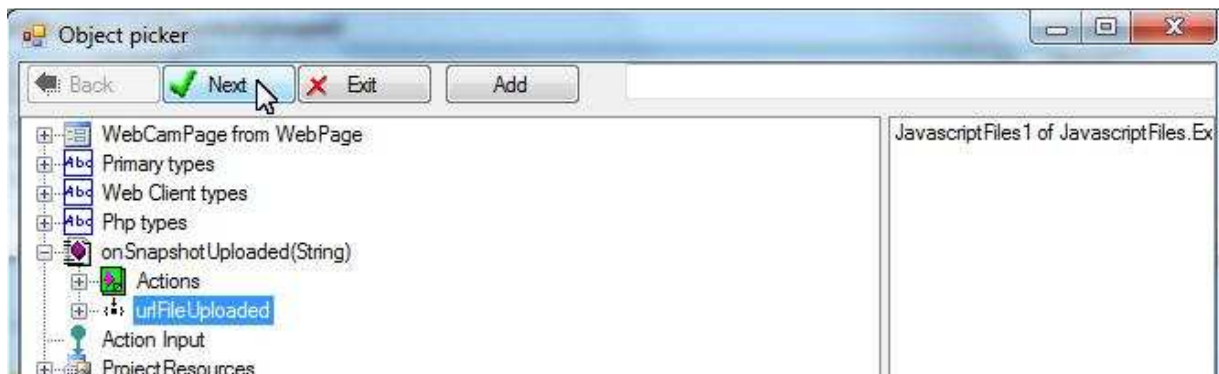
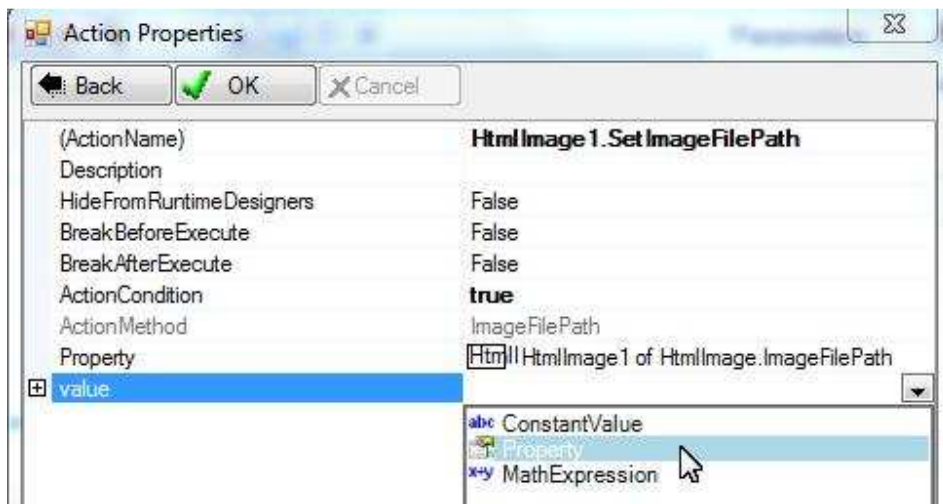
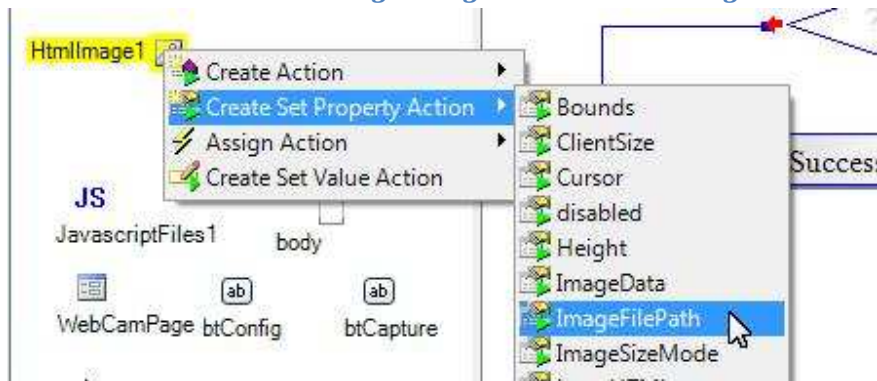
Rename the action and click OK:

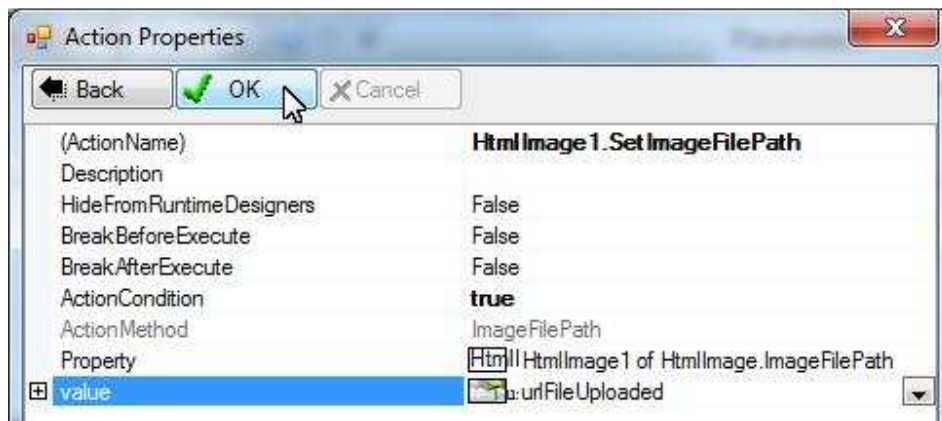


Link the action to Yes port:

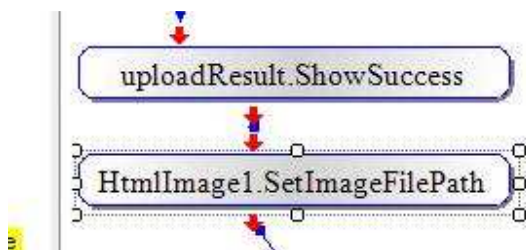


Create an action to show image using the URL as the image source

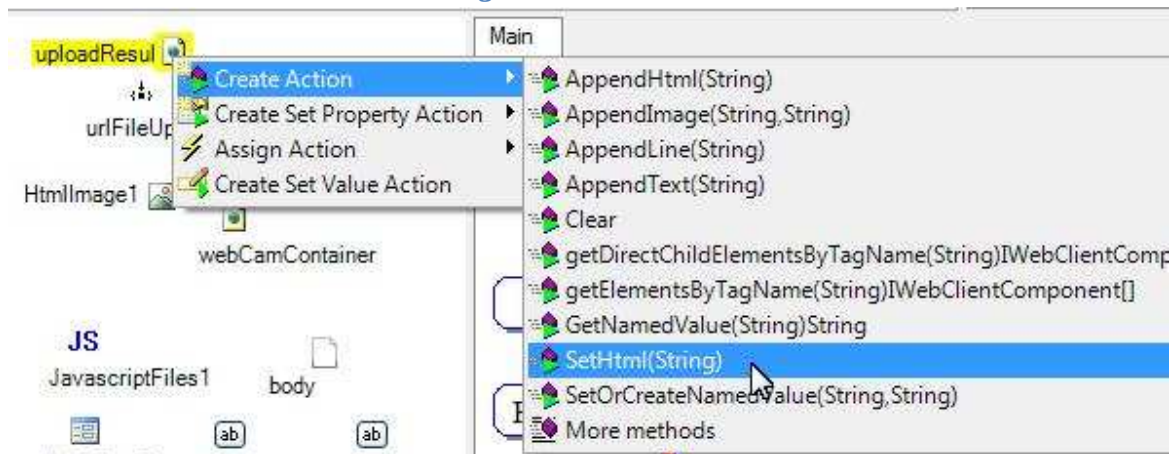


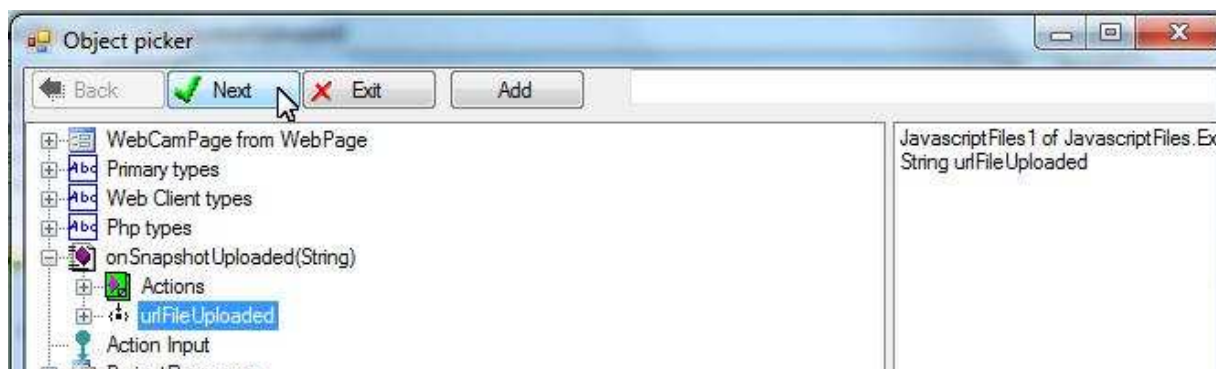
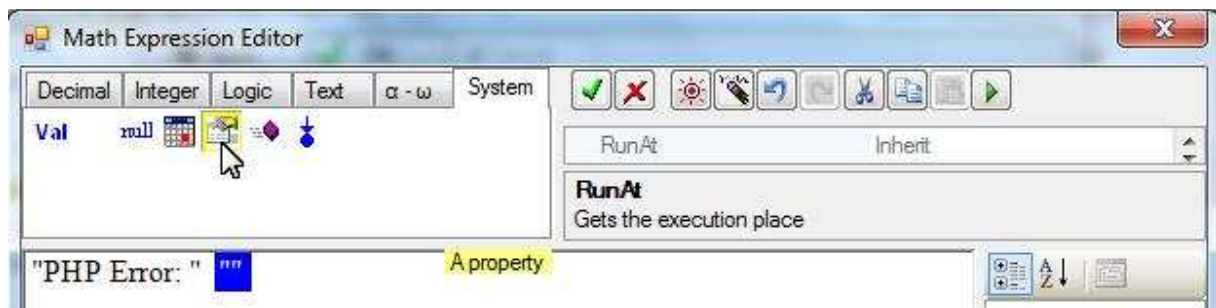
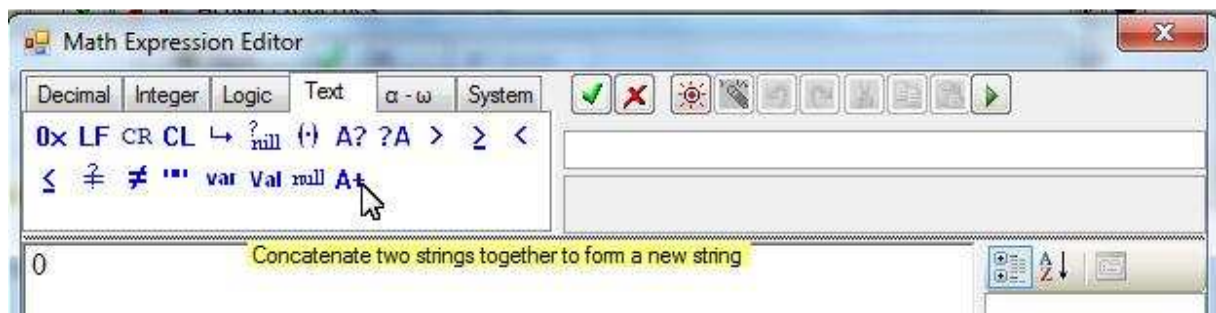
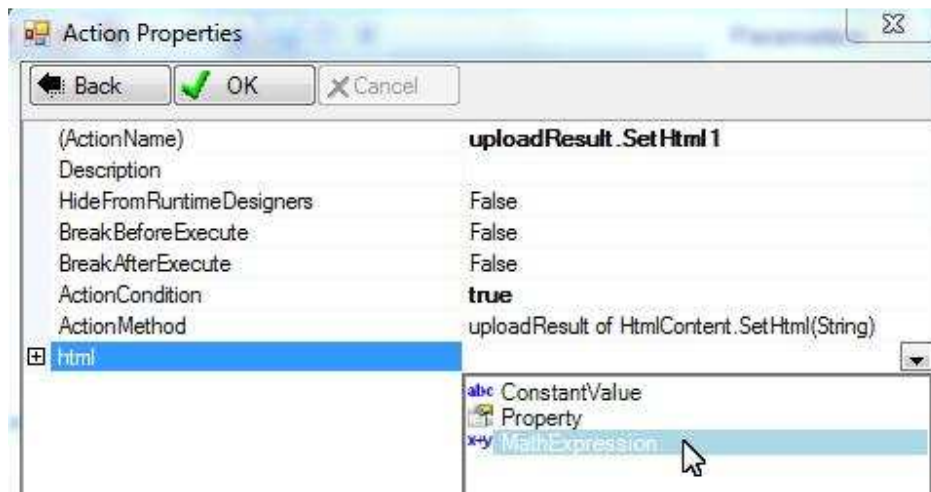


Link the action to the last action:



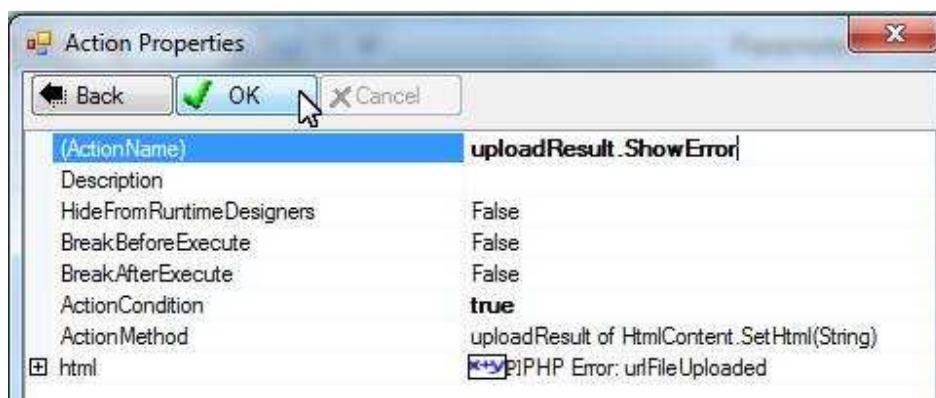
Create an action to show error message



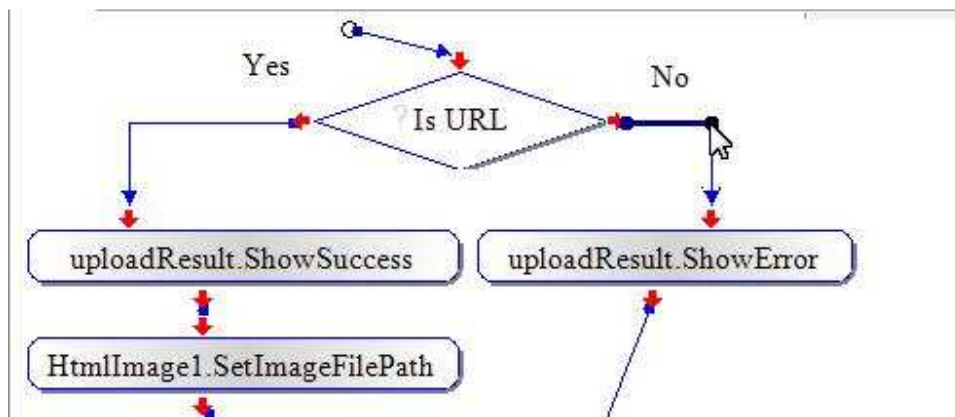




Rename the action and click OK:

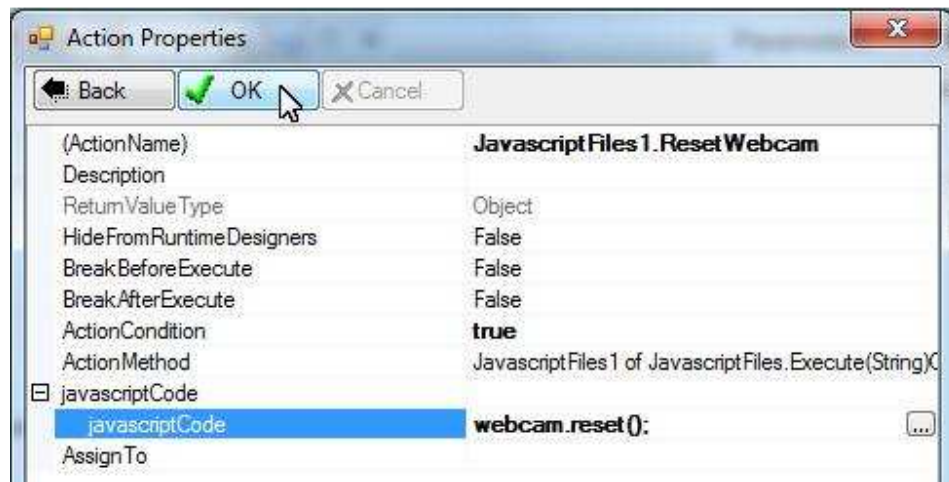
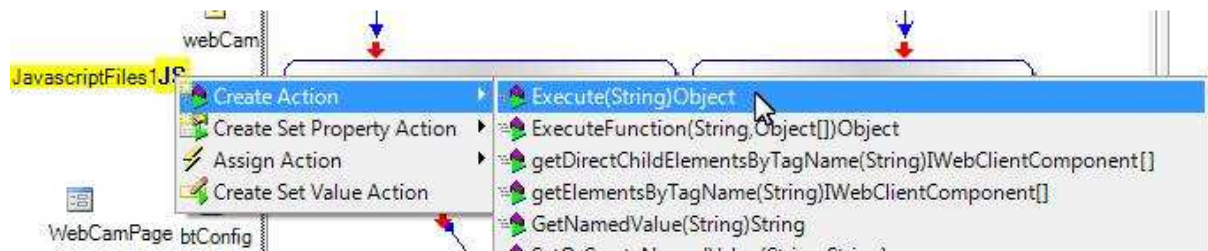


Link the action to No port:

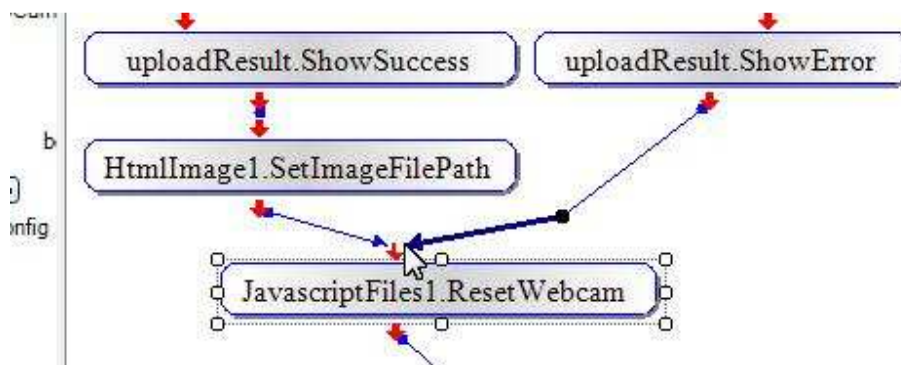


Reset webcam

According to jpegcam sample, code `webcam.reset()` should be executed. Create an action to execute it:

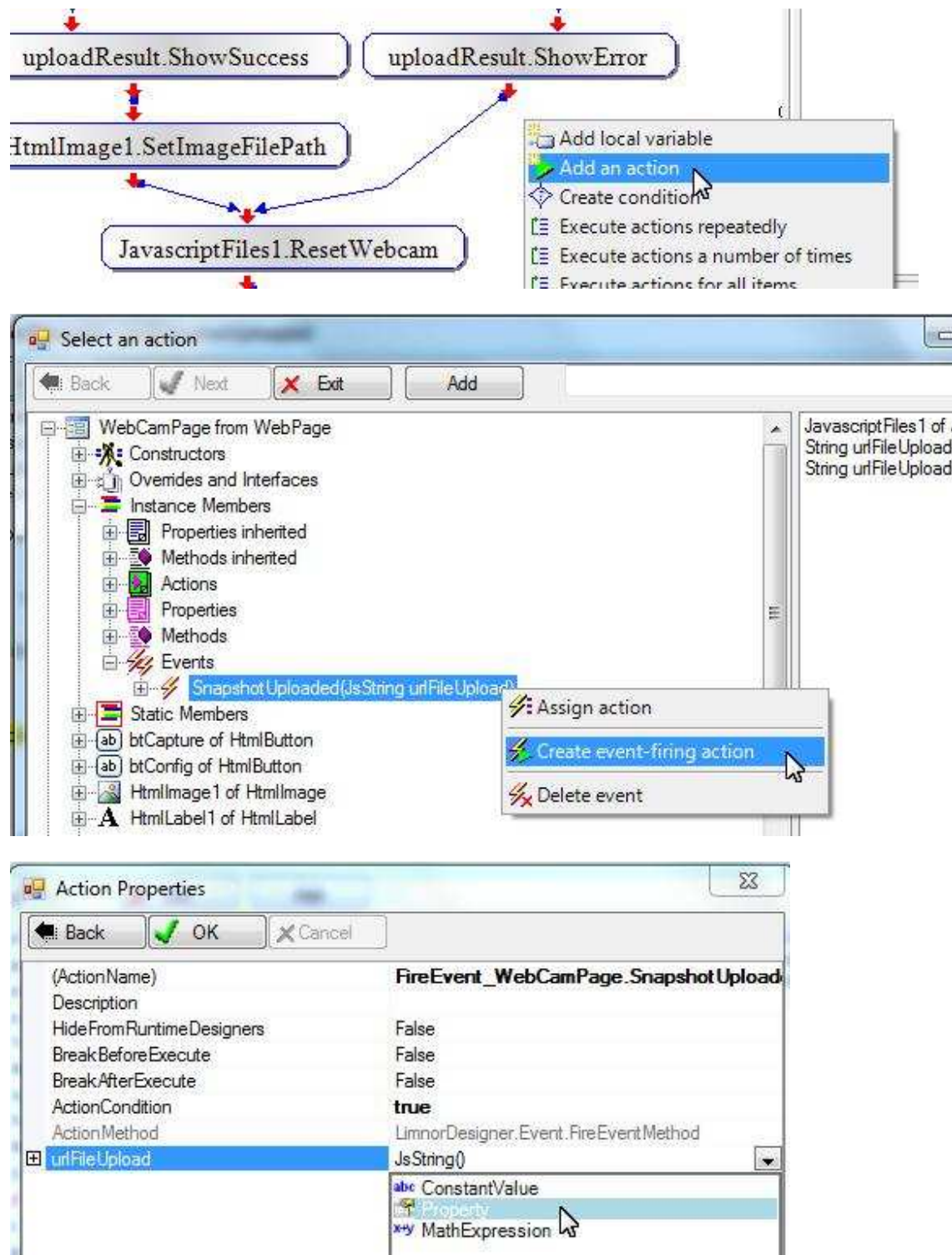


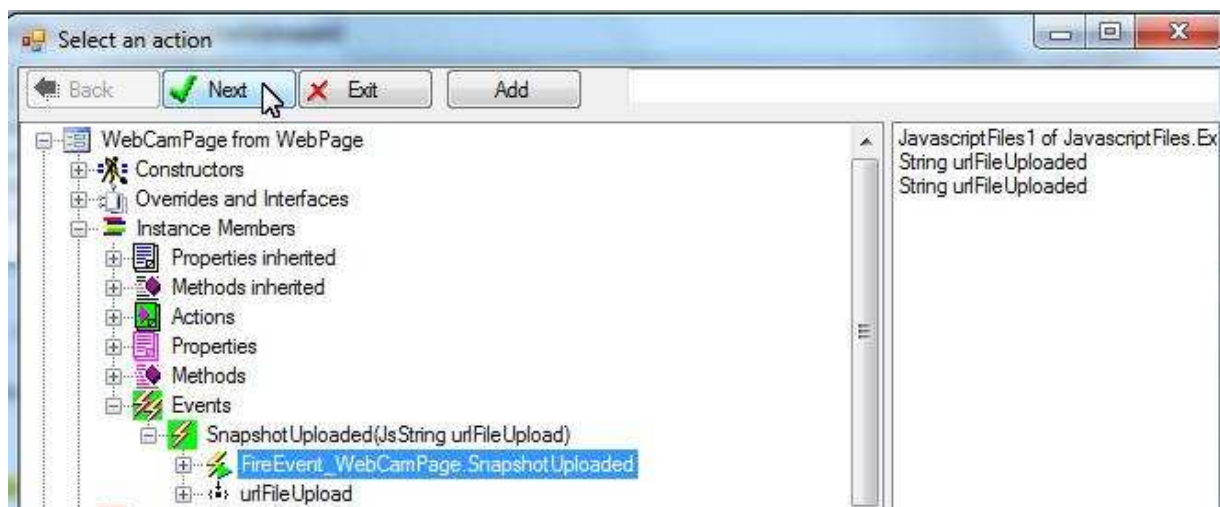
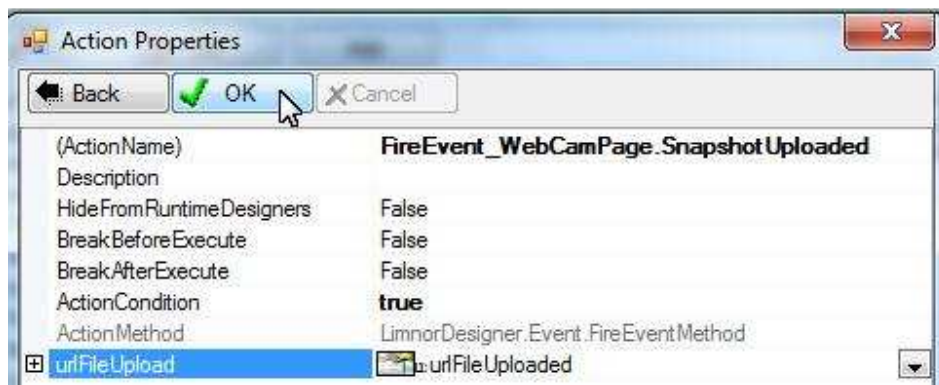
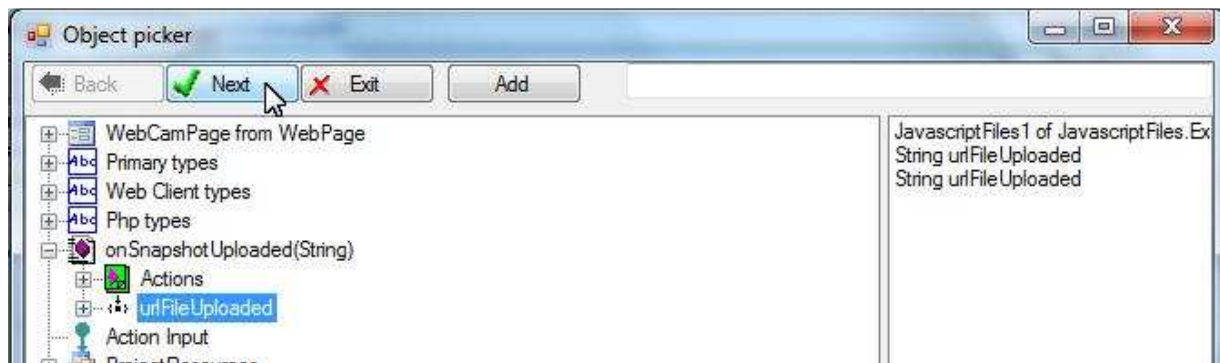
Link both action branches to this action:



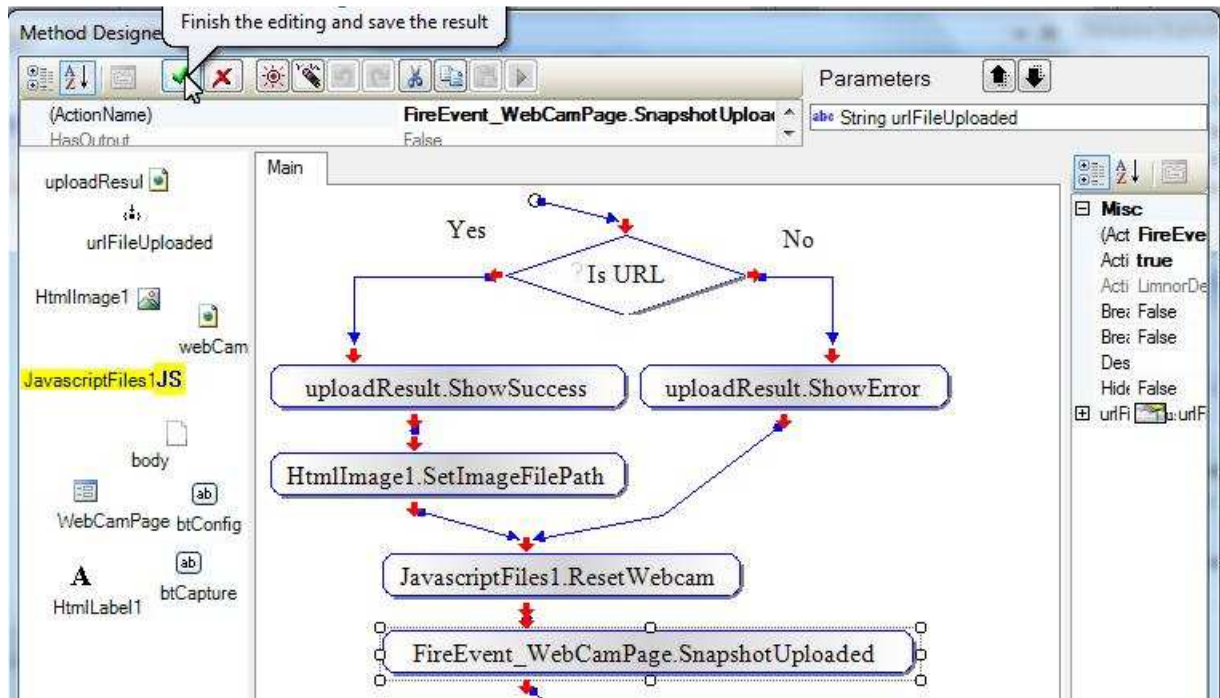
Fire event *SnapshotUploaded*

Create an action to fire event *SnapshotUploaded* so that all actions assigned to the event will be executed:





Link it to the last action:

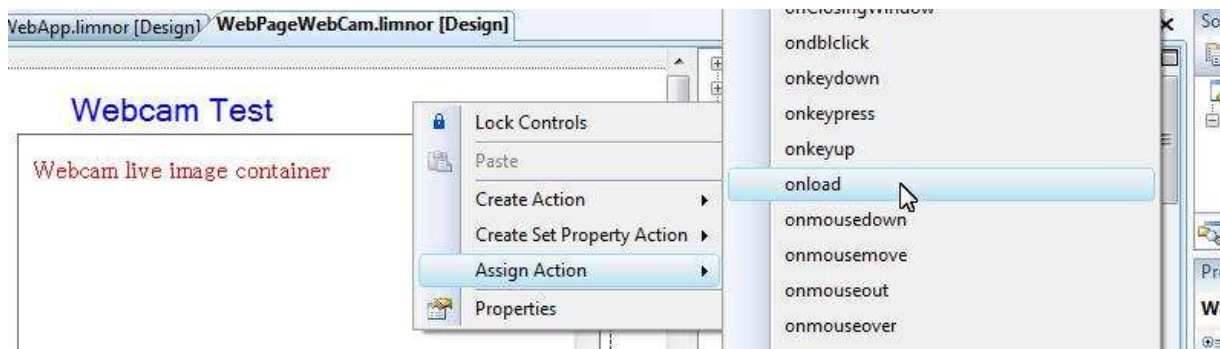


Hook Upload Handling

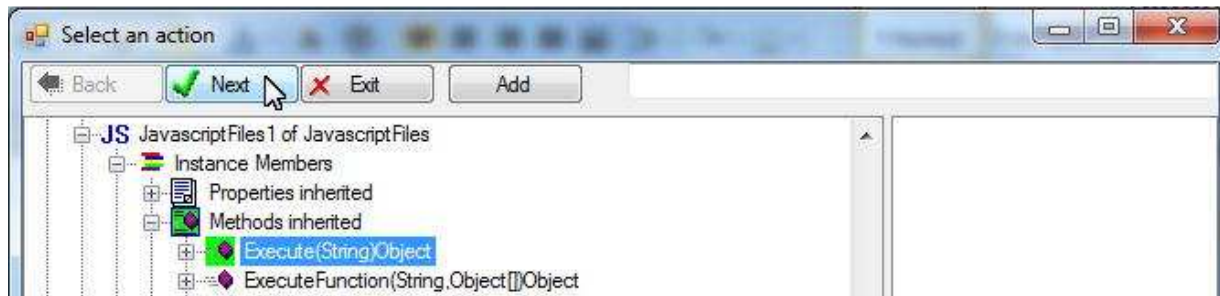
jpegcam uses such a code to hook upload handler:

```
webcam.set_hook( 'onComplete', handlerName );
```

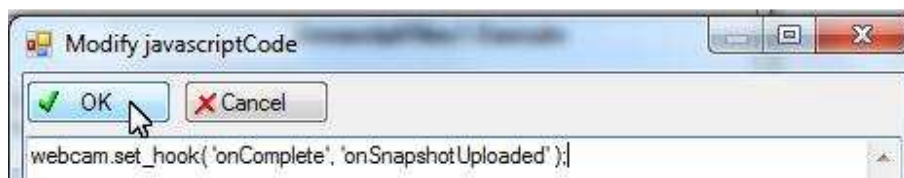
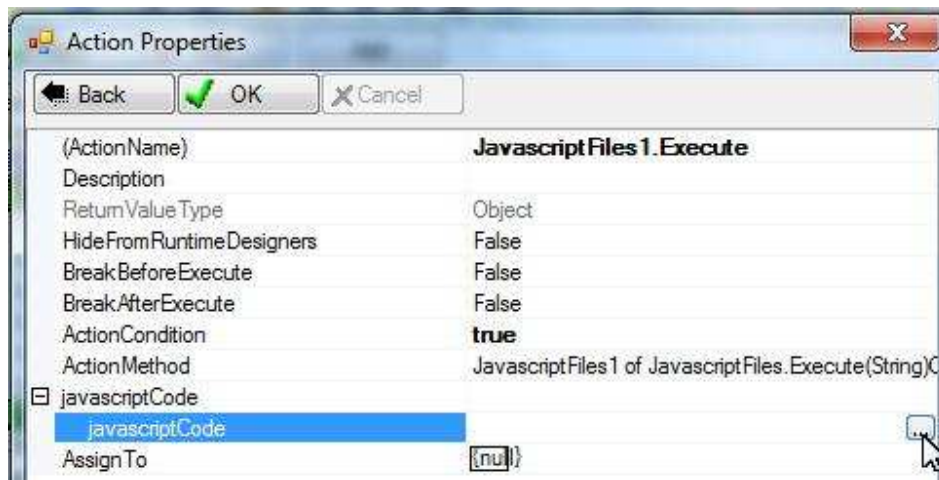
In our case the handlerName is "onSnapshotUploaded". We may execute the above code at the event of onload of the web page:



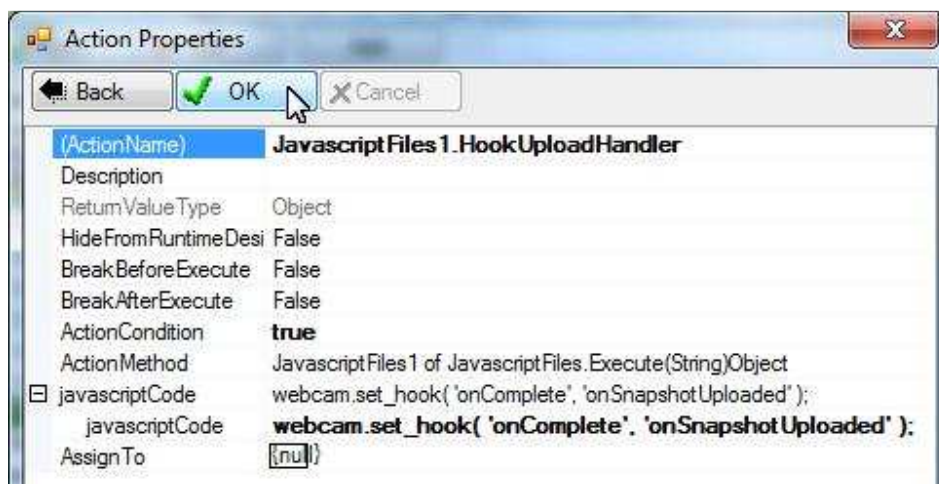
Select Execute method:



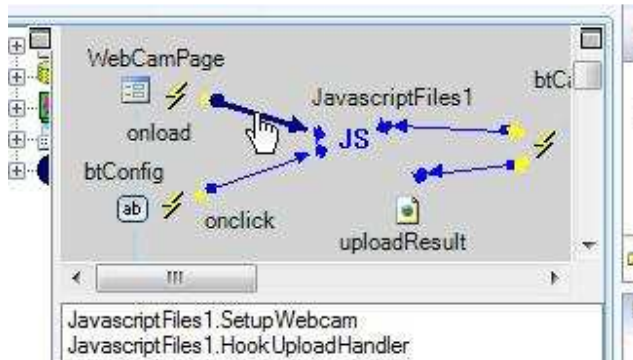
Supply the JavaScript code:



Rename the action and click OK:

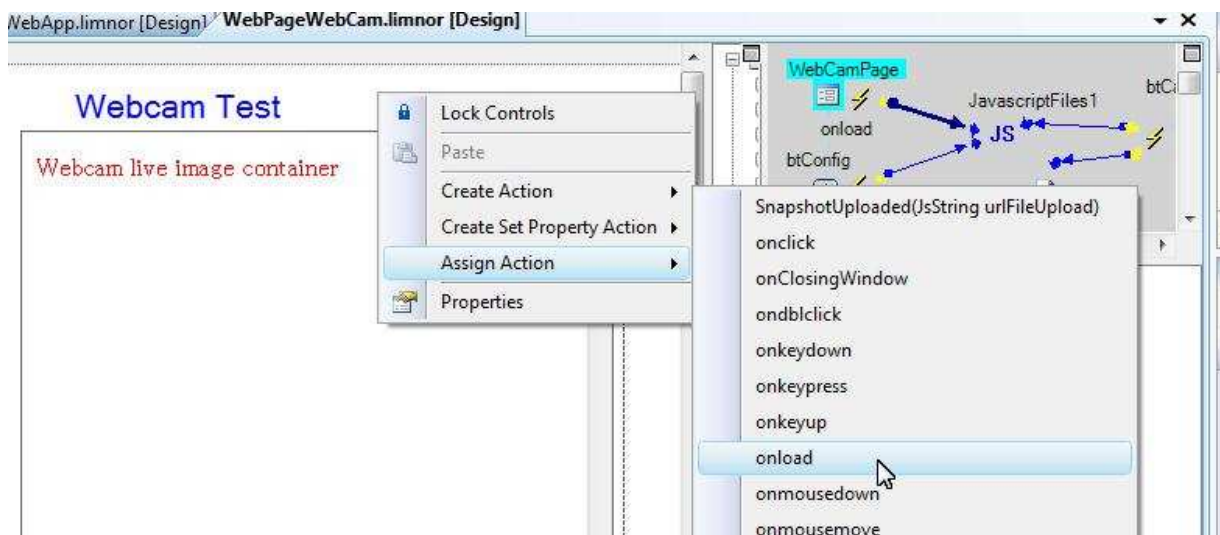


The action is created and assigned to the event onload:

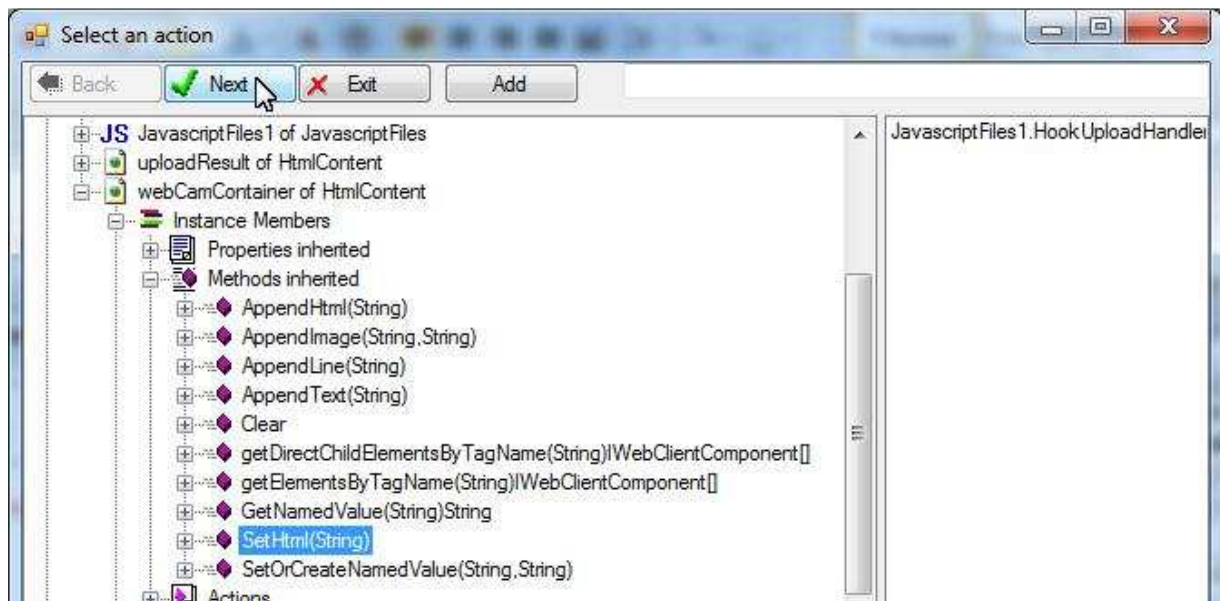


Show Live Webcam

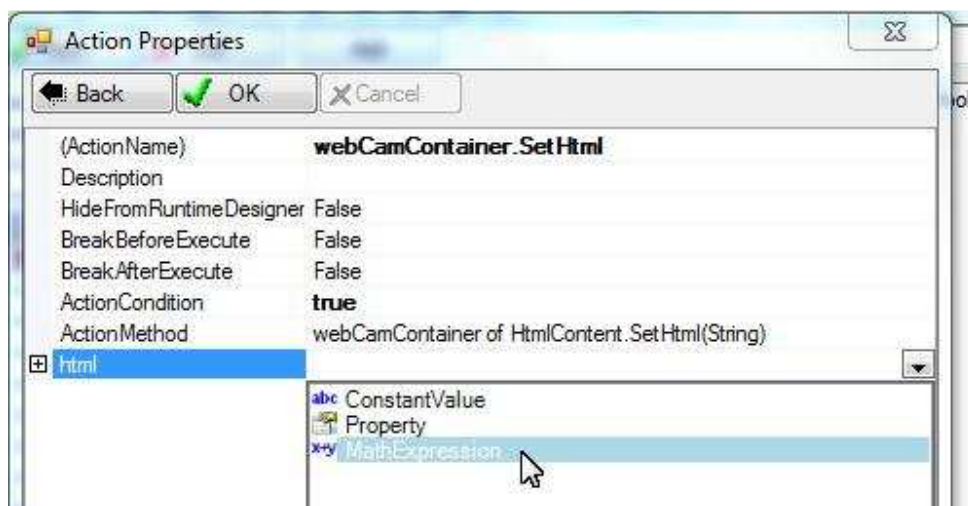
jpegcam uses code [webcam.get_html\(320, 240\)](#) to return HTML code which shows a Flash object. We may set it as the contents of our WebCamContainer component. We also do it at the event of onload of the web page:



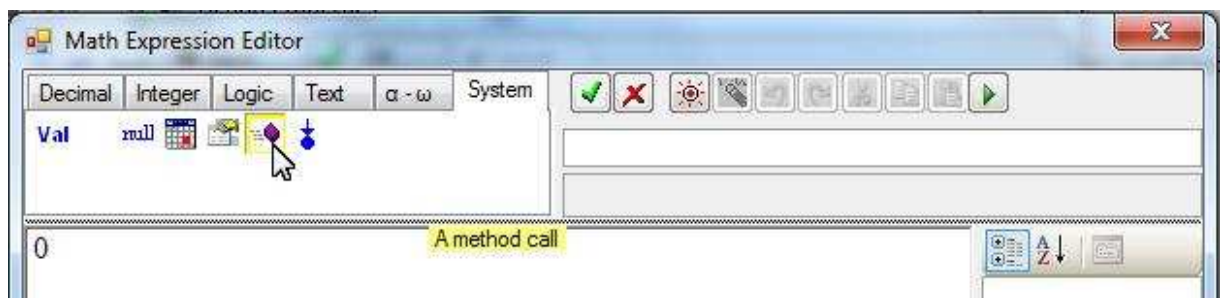
Select SetHtml method of our webcam container:



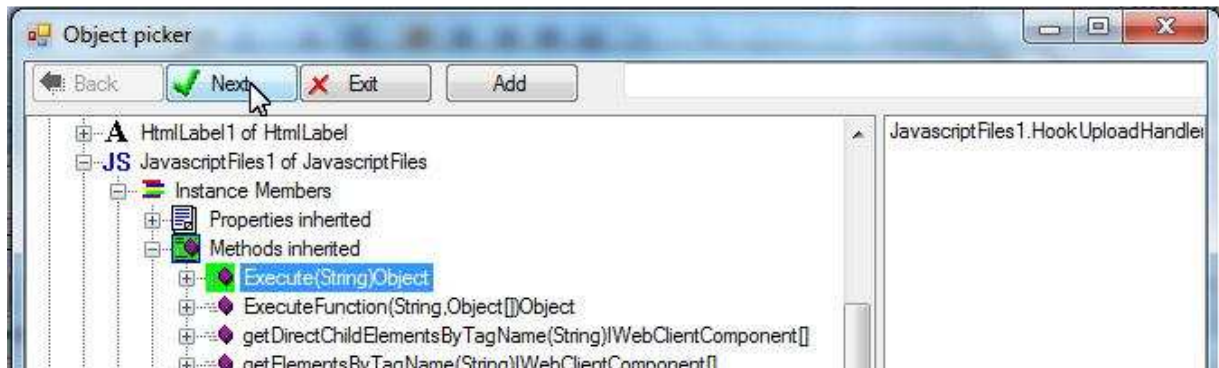
Select Math Expression to execute the JavaScript code:



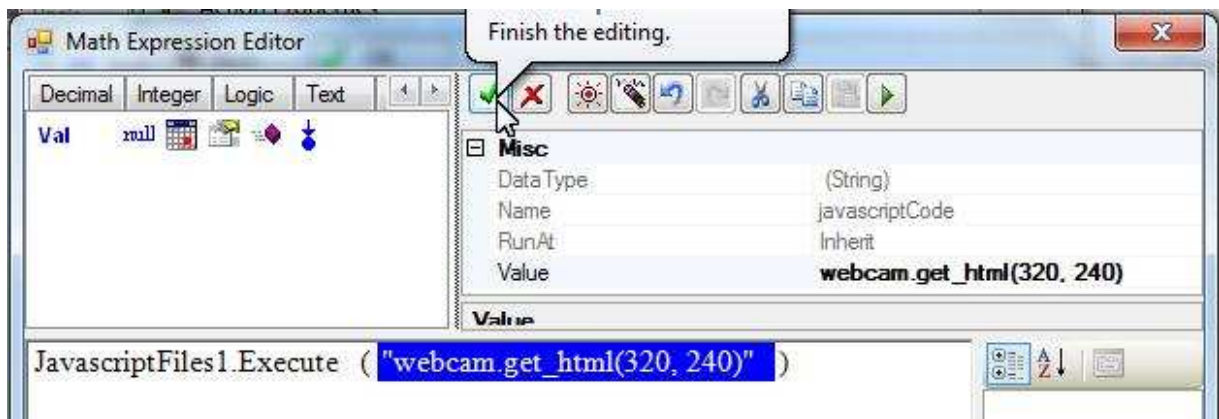
Select Method icon:



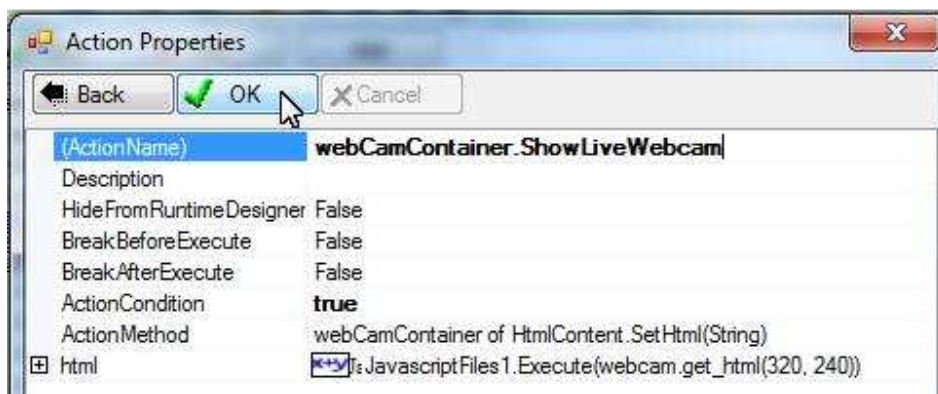
Select Execute method:



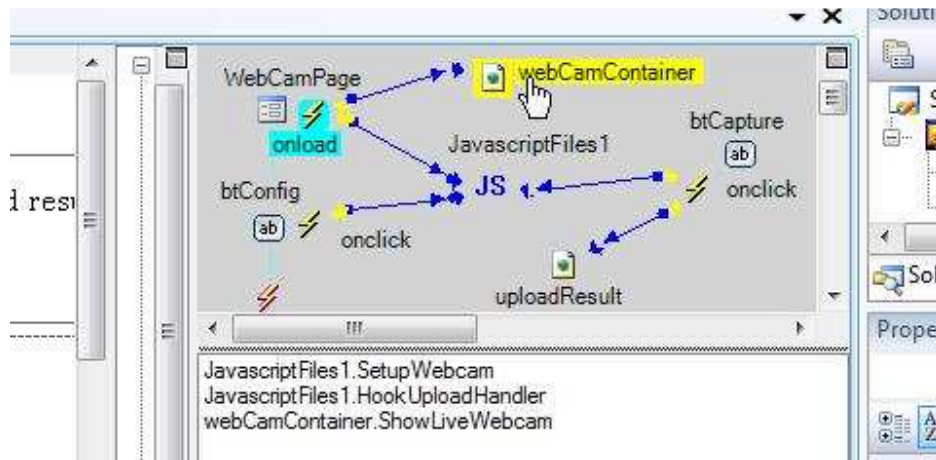
Supply the JavaScript code:



Rename the action and click OK:



The action is assigned to onload:



Test

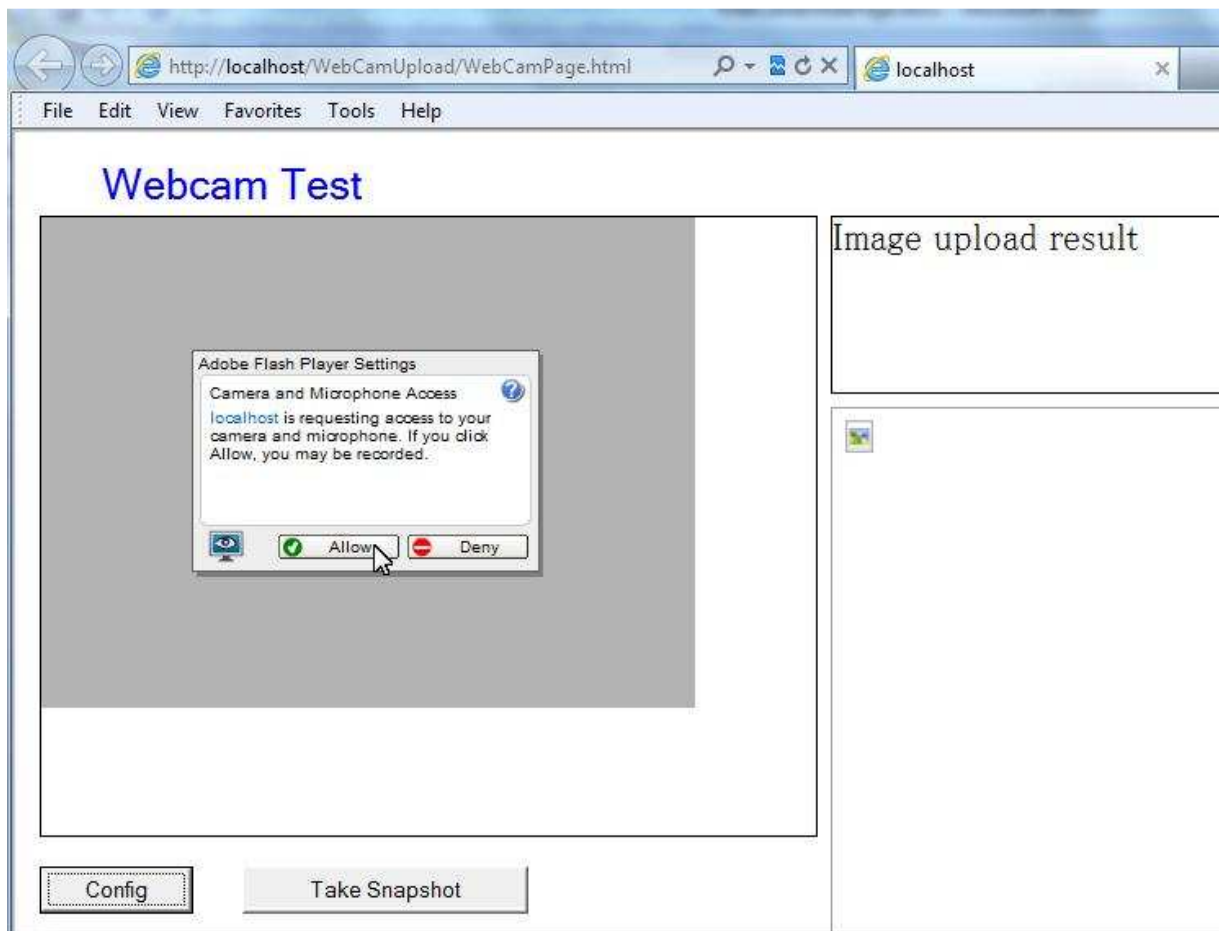
We may test the web application now.



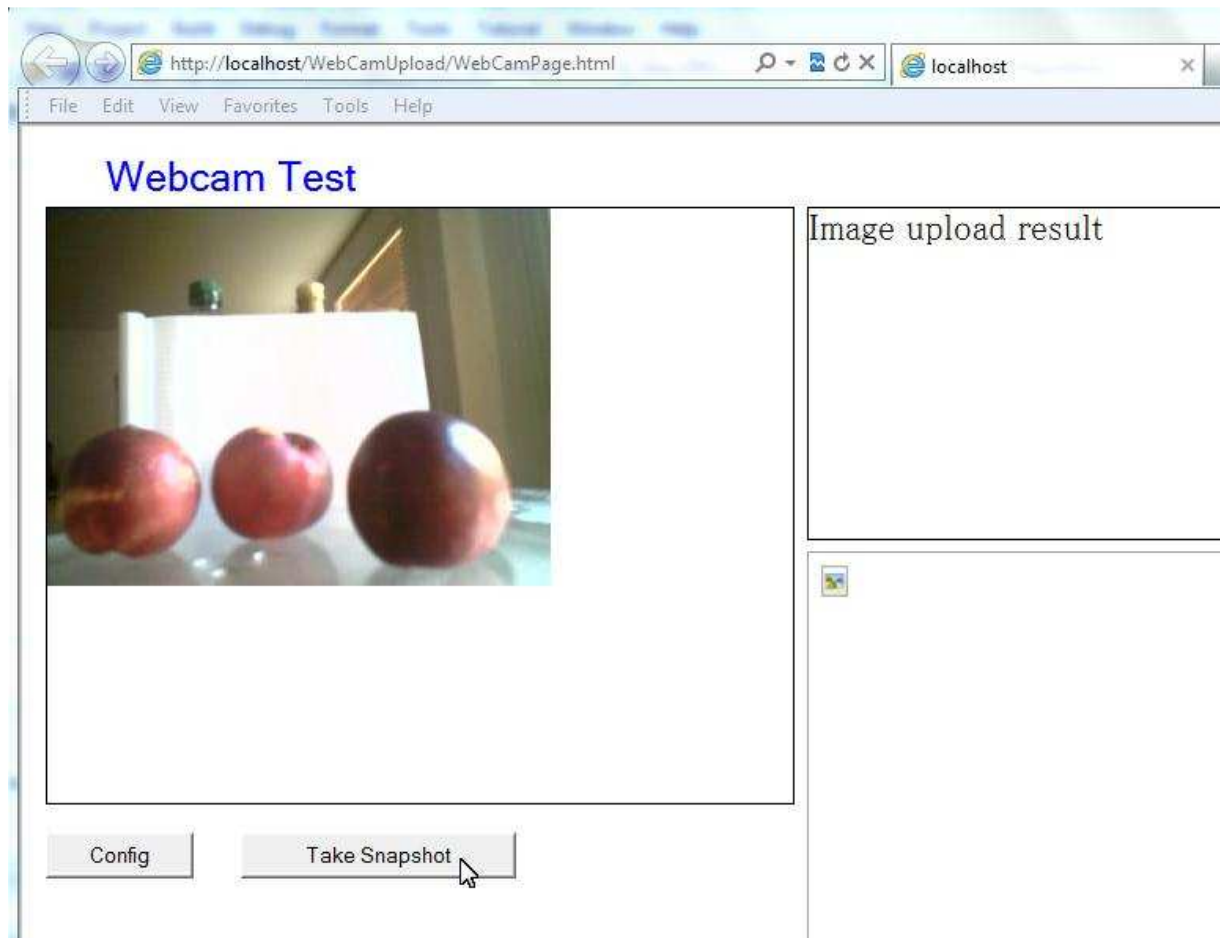
Note that a webcam should be available on the test computer. If a webcam does not exist then we will get an error:



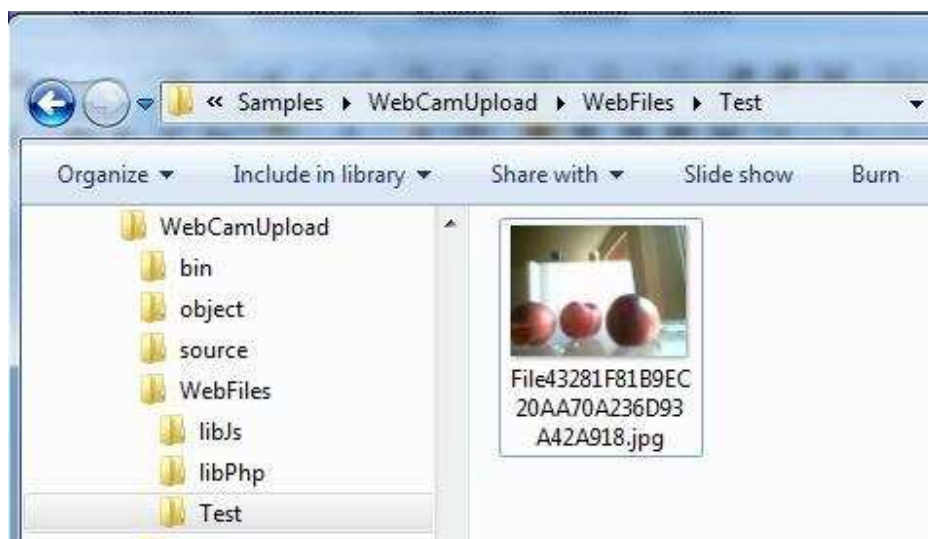
Insert a webcam and reload the web page. It asks permission to access the webcam:



Click Allow. Webcam live image appears in the web page. Click “Take Snapshot” button:



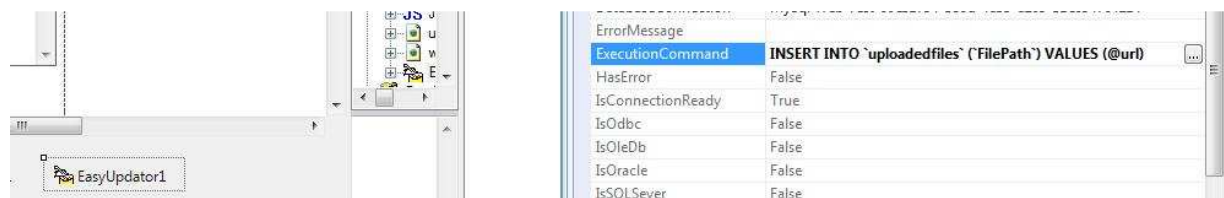
A file is created in the web server and appears in the web browser:





Save uploaded files to database

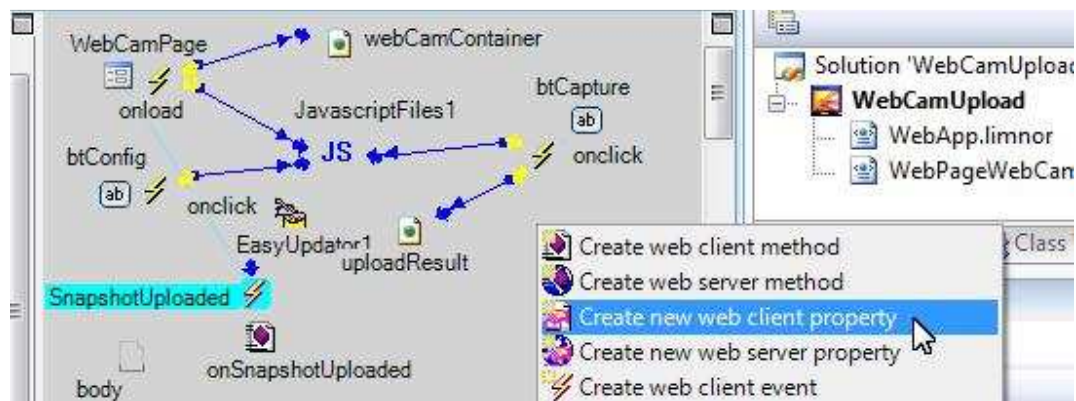
Suppose we have a table with a FilePath field to record file paths. We may use an EasyUpdater component to insert URL of uploaded file into the table.



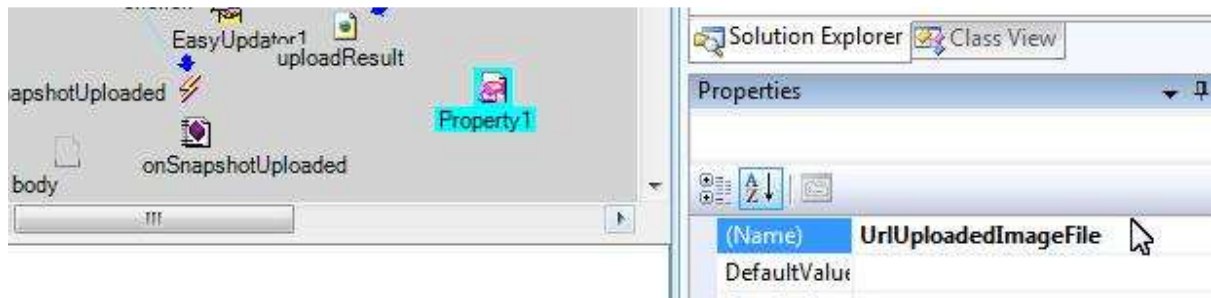
We may assign an ExecuteWithParameterValues action at the event SnapshotUploaded.

Remember Uploaded File URL

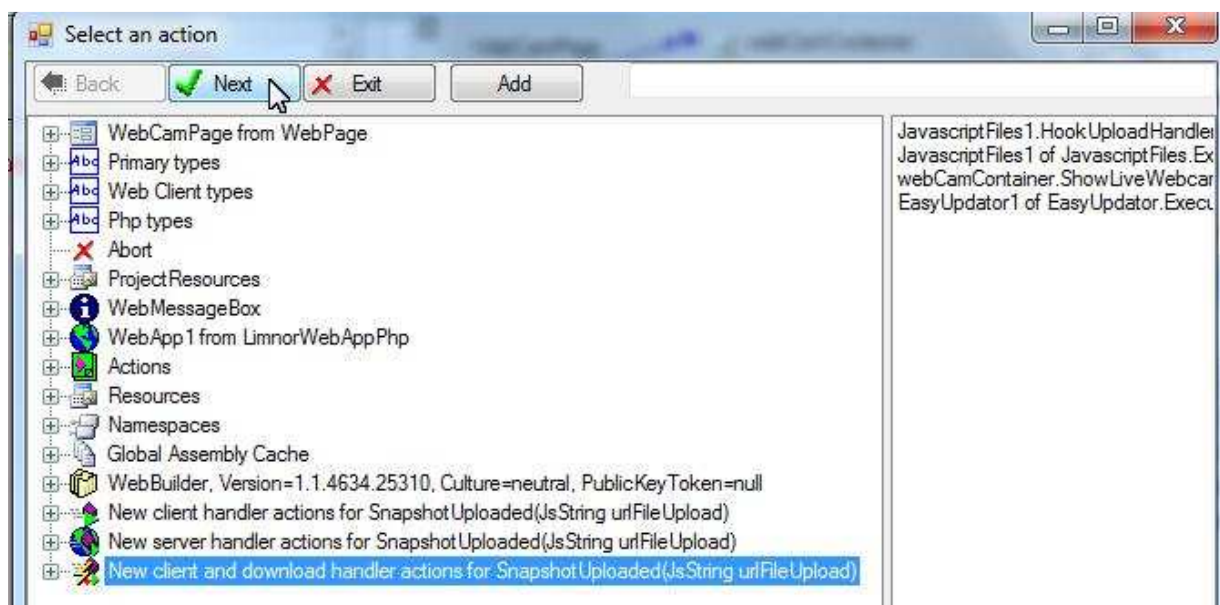
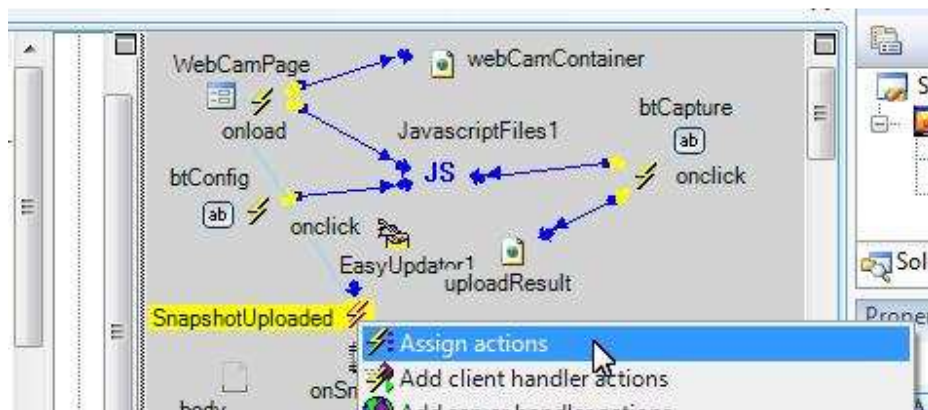
First, let's create a client property to remember the URL of uploaded file:

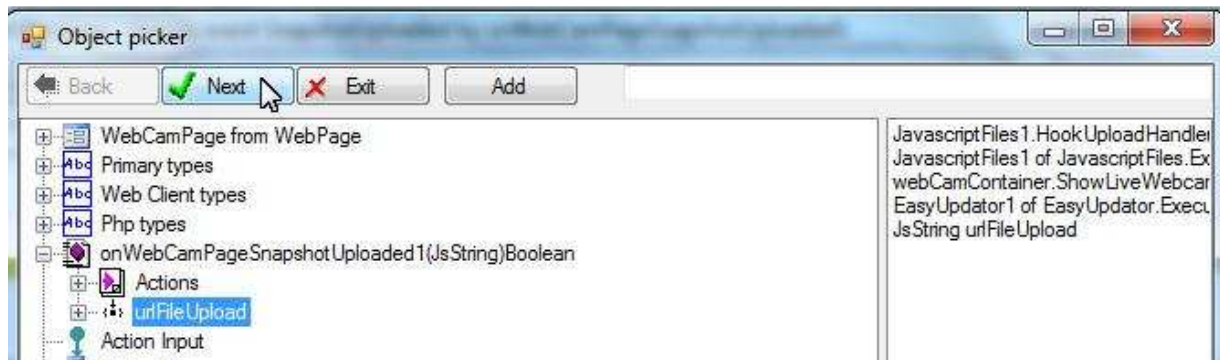
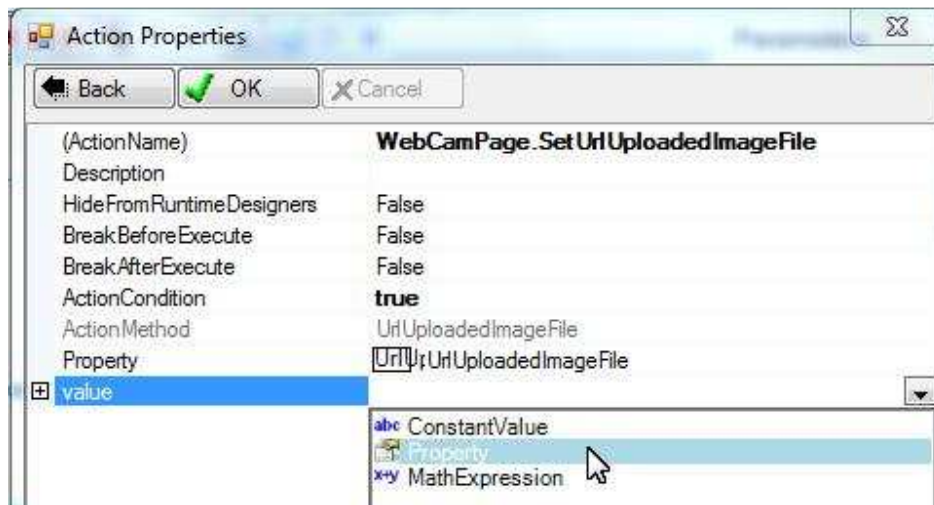
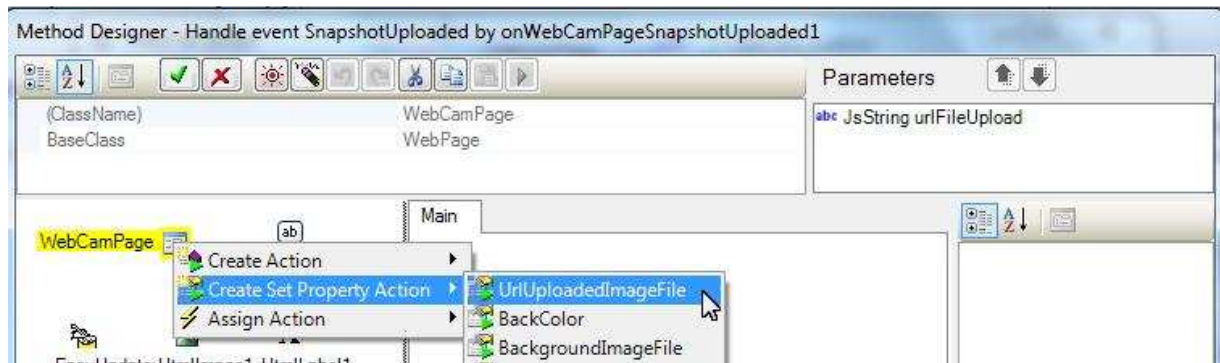


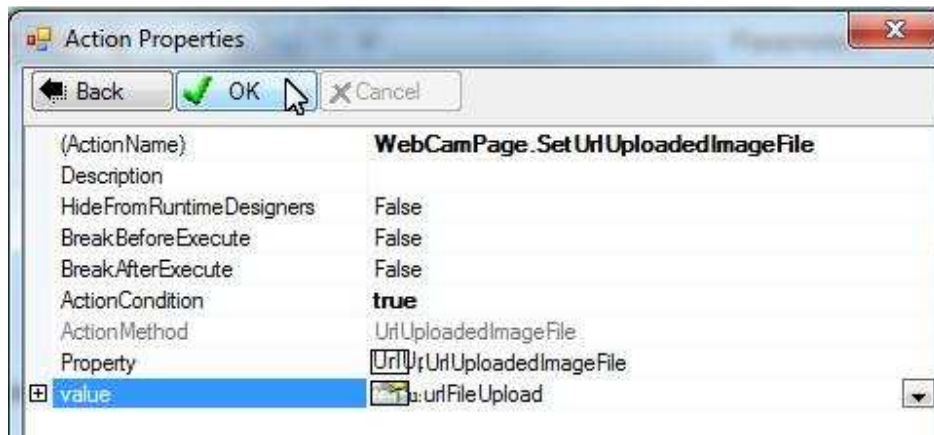
Rename it to UrlUploadedImageFile:



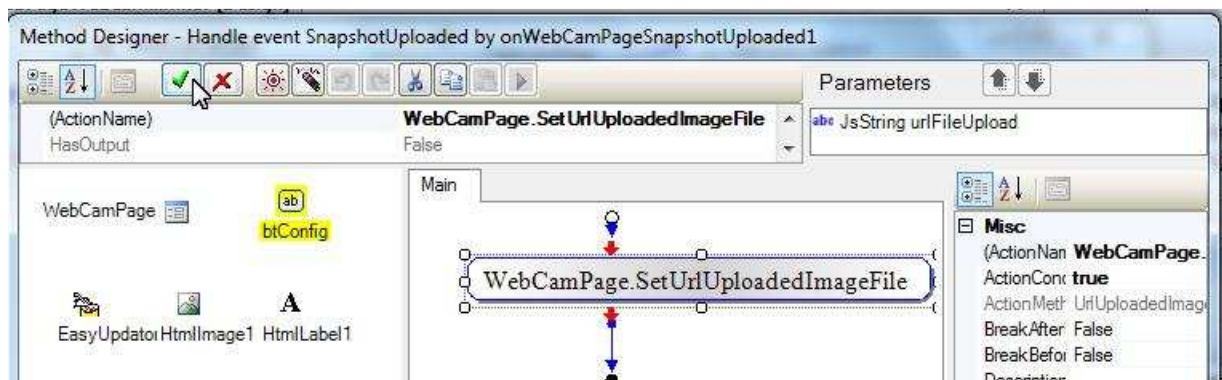
Set this property at the event of SnapshotUploaded:





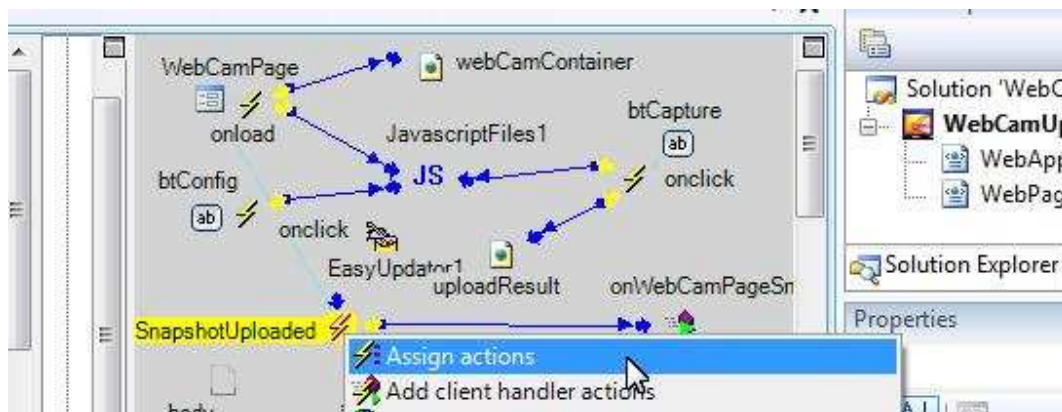


The action appears in the method. Close the editor:

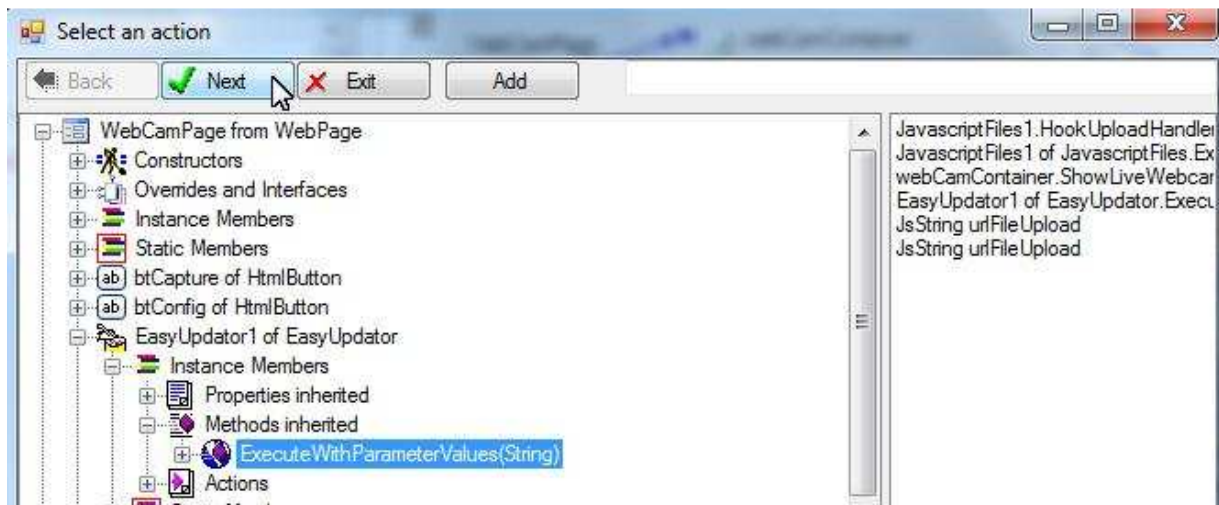


Execute Database Action

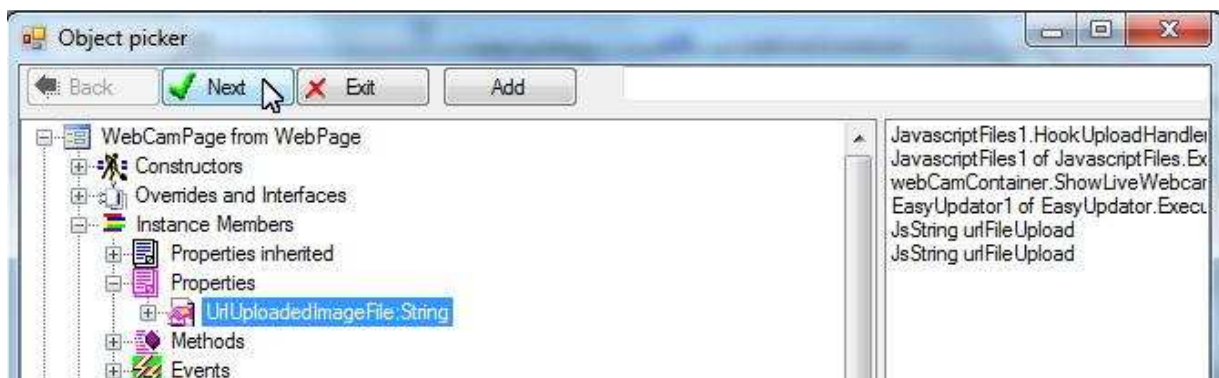
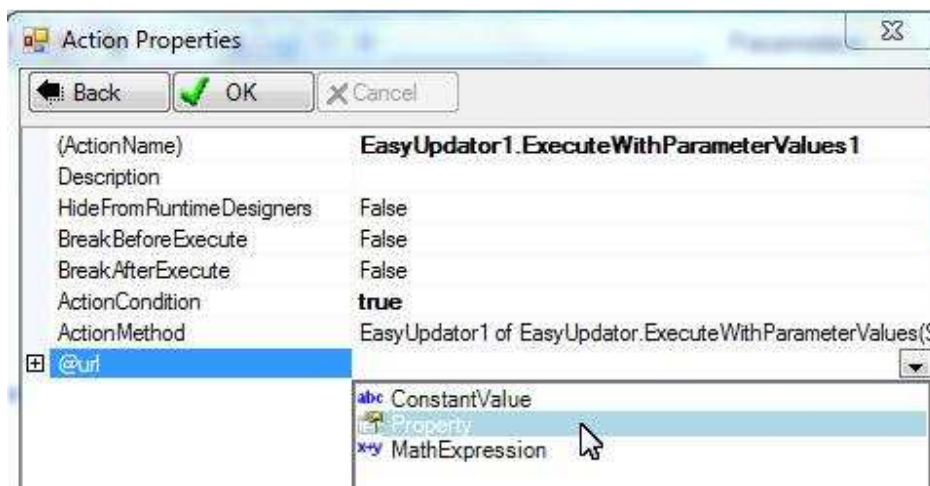
Now we may execute database updating action, also at the event of SnapshotUploaded:

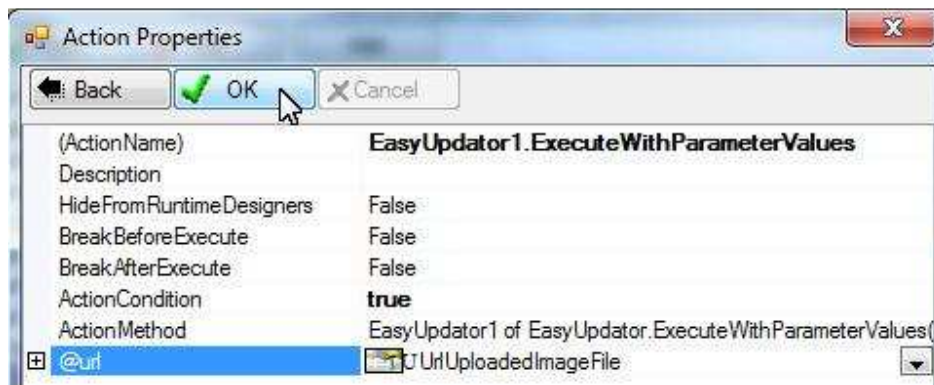


Select ExecuteWithParameterValues:

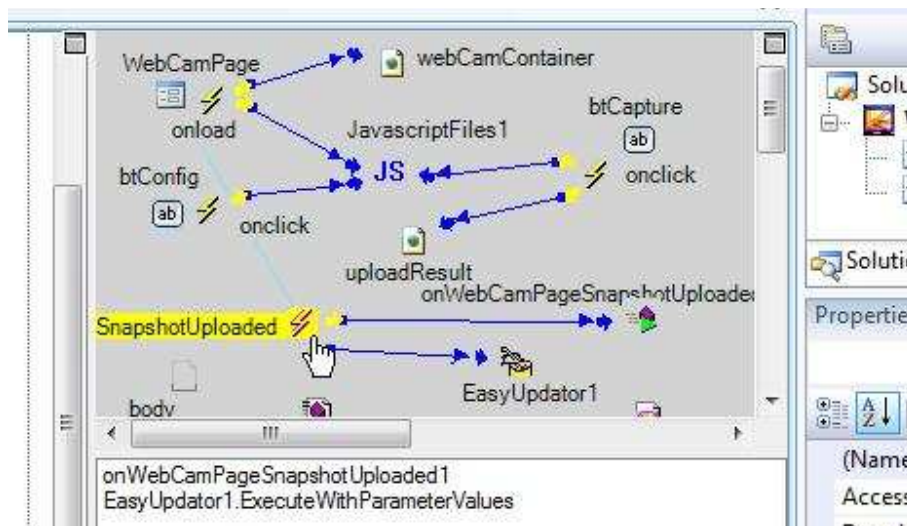


Provide the property value to @url:



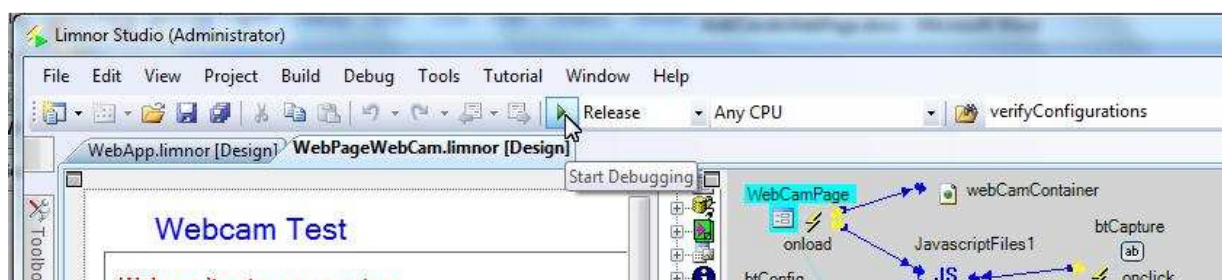


The action is created and assigned to the event:



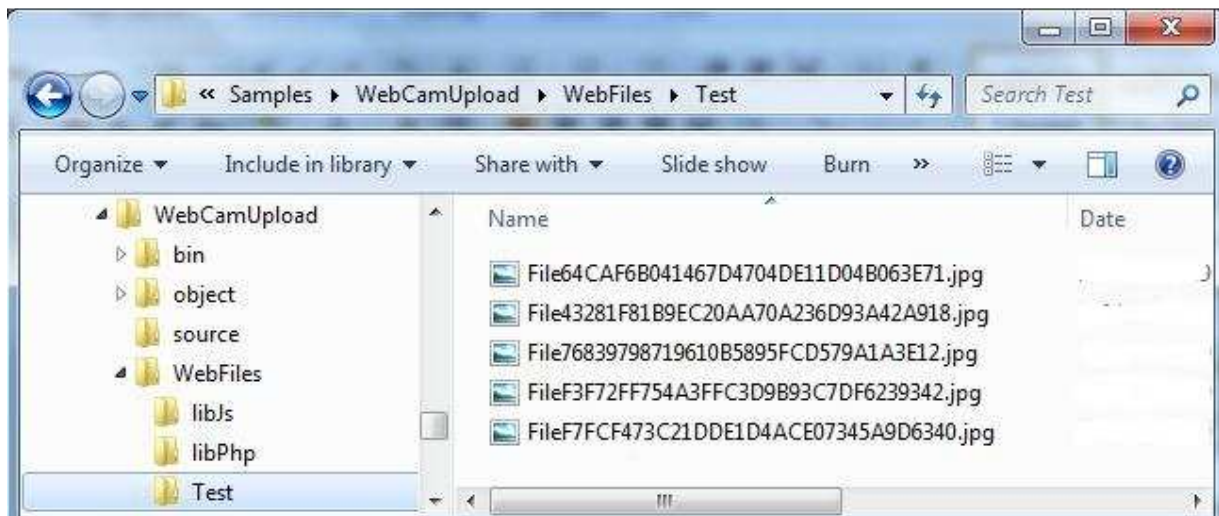
Test

Launch the web application:



The web page appears. If the webcam is connected properly then live webcam image appears in the web page. Each click of the "Take Snapshot" button will capture one snapshot and upload it to the web server.

All files uploaded are saved under Test folder:



File path for each uploaded file is also saved in the database:

