

IBM Rational Rhapsody and Visual Studio 2008

Workflow Integration

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Introduction

Models and code have been used side by side for quite some time now. The wide spread use of UML (Unified Modeling Language) and its advantages has led to the creation and use of a number of UML tools that provide code generation capabilities.

While most of the UML tools provide efficient code management mechanisms, these mechanisms are mostly centered on one aspect of an IDE (Integrated Development Environment), i.e. source code editor. IBM Rational Rhapsody also provides a rich set of features for source code management; however, most UML tools (including Rhapsody) lack or do not intend to support other important functionalities of an IDE like (compiler/interpreter, build automation tools, debugger, etc...).

Hence, an efficient integration between a UML tool and an IDE is an essential aspect of efficient application development. This whitepaper discusses one such integration between two such widely used tools in their respective domains; IBM Rational Rhapsody and Microsoft Visual Studio 2008.

The white paper intends to provide you with a comprehensive guide to successfully using the integration between IBM Rational Rhapsody and Microsoft Visual Studio 2008.

While the white paper illustrates and discusses certain features of both Rational Rhapsody and Visual Studio 2008, it does not intend to go into the specifics of Rational Rhapsody or Visual Studio 2008.

By the end you will be able to setup and use the integration and its various features that will enable you to be more efficient in the way code and model is handled together.

Overview of the Integration

From version 7.5, Rational Rhapsody provides a tighter integration with Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 simplifying and automating the integration between the two.

A Rational Rhapsody toolbar is added into Visual Studio that enables navigating to the Rational Rhapsody model directly from the code in Visual Studio.

A Visual Studio project can now be created, that is connected to the Rational Rhapsody configuration and the integration updates 'include paths' and 'define symbols' directly into the Visual Studio project.

The code in Visual Studio and Rational Rhapsody model remain synchronized with one another through dynamic model code associatively. For example, changing the name of a class within Visual Studio is recognized within the Rational Rhapsody model.

If files are added in Rational Rhapsody, then they appear in Visual Studio. Existing Visual Studio projects can be exported to Rational Rhapsody and brought into the Rational Rhapsody model through reverse engineering.

Further, with Rational Rhapsody 7.5.2, an updated toolbar in Visual Studio makes it easier to work with multiple projects and components in Visual Studio and Rational Rhapsody.

The new Synchronization button helps maintain synchronization when the model or code changes without dynamic synchronization enabled.

Additionally, it is now possible to export all projects in a Visual Studio solution to Rational Rhapsody, which creates components and packages within Rational Rhapsody synchronized with each Microsoft Visual Studio project in the solution.

The round-tripping of model and code information is improved by allowing synchronization to occur without the need to switch the active project in Visual Studio or an active configuration in Rational Rhapsody. The changes are synchronized without that added step.

Setting up the Integration

Setting up the integration is fairly simple. The integration can be installed by selecting the 'Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 Workflow Integration' Add-on during the installation of Rational Rhapsody or while performing a modify installation. Modifying the installation can be done either from the 'Control Panel' or using the 'msi' installer.

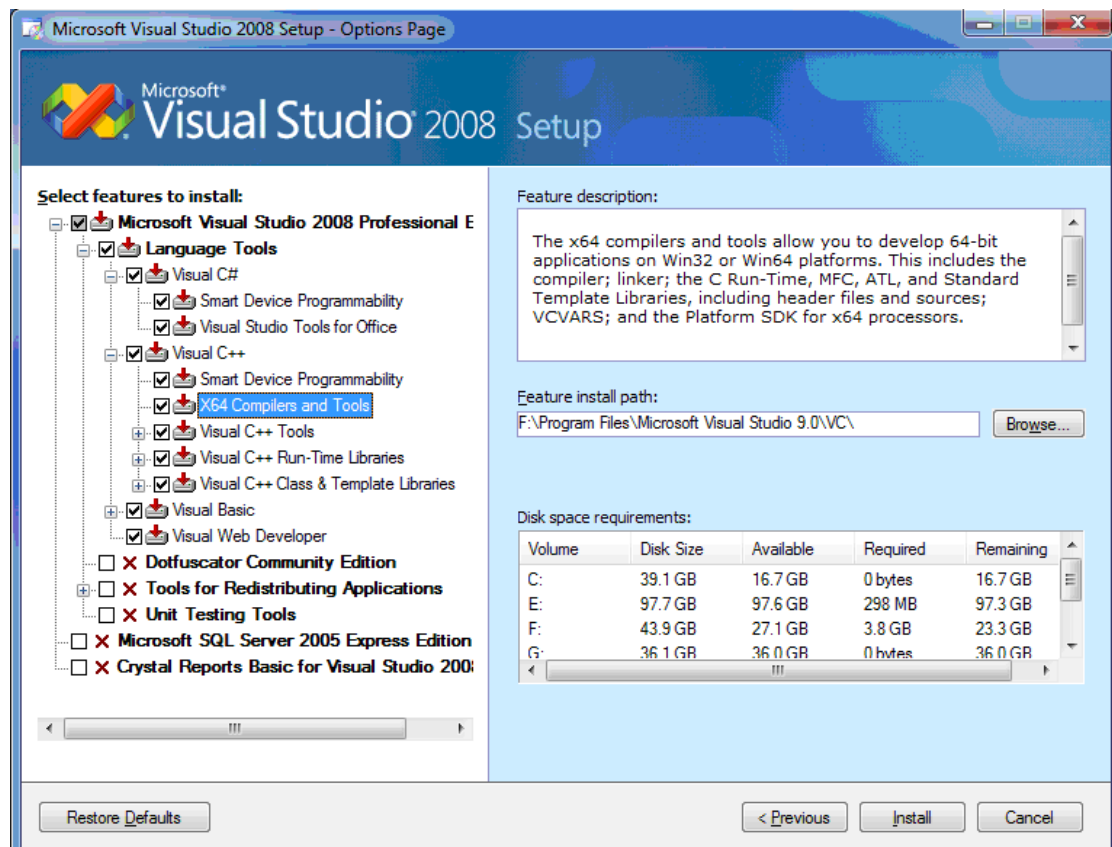
Download and Install Visual Studio 2008

90 Day Trial link:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=83C3A1EC-ED72-4A79-8961-25635DB0192B&displaylang=en>

During the installation, select the language of your choice (Rational Rhapsody 7.5.2 supports C, C++ and C#).

If 64 bit applications are to be developed, ensure the 'X64 Compiler and Tools' feature is selected.



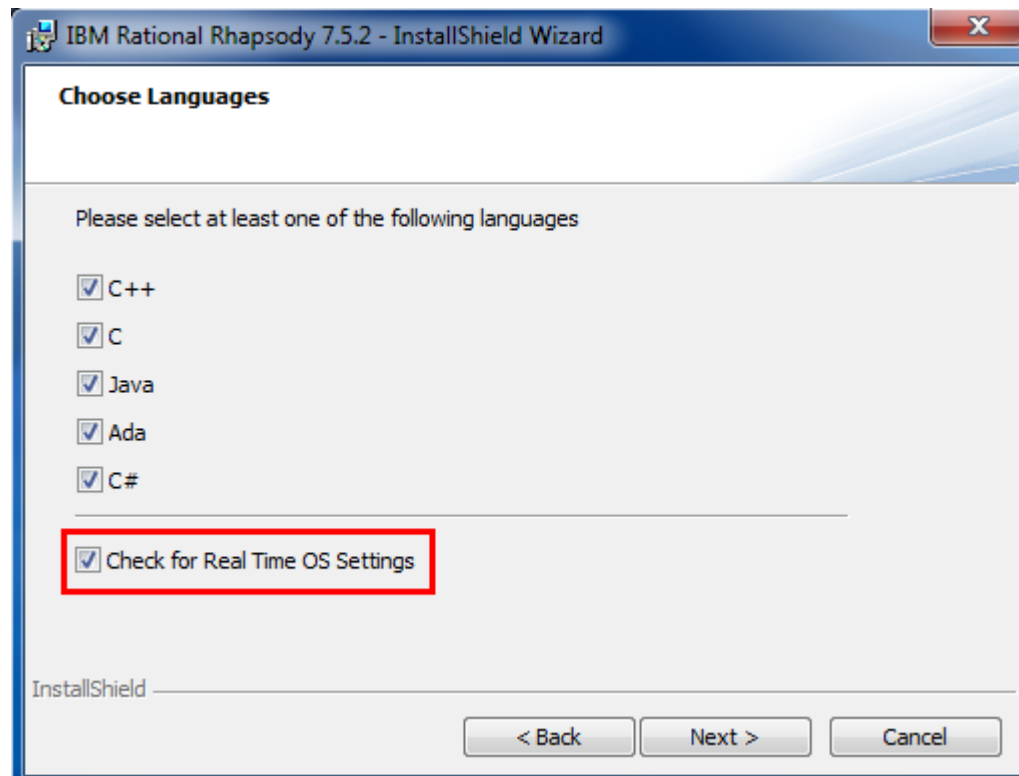
Download and install Rational Rhapsody

30 Day Trial link:

<http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/downloads/r/rhapsodydeveloper/index.html>

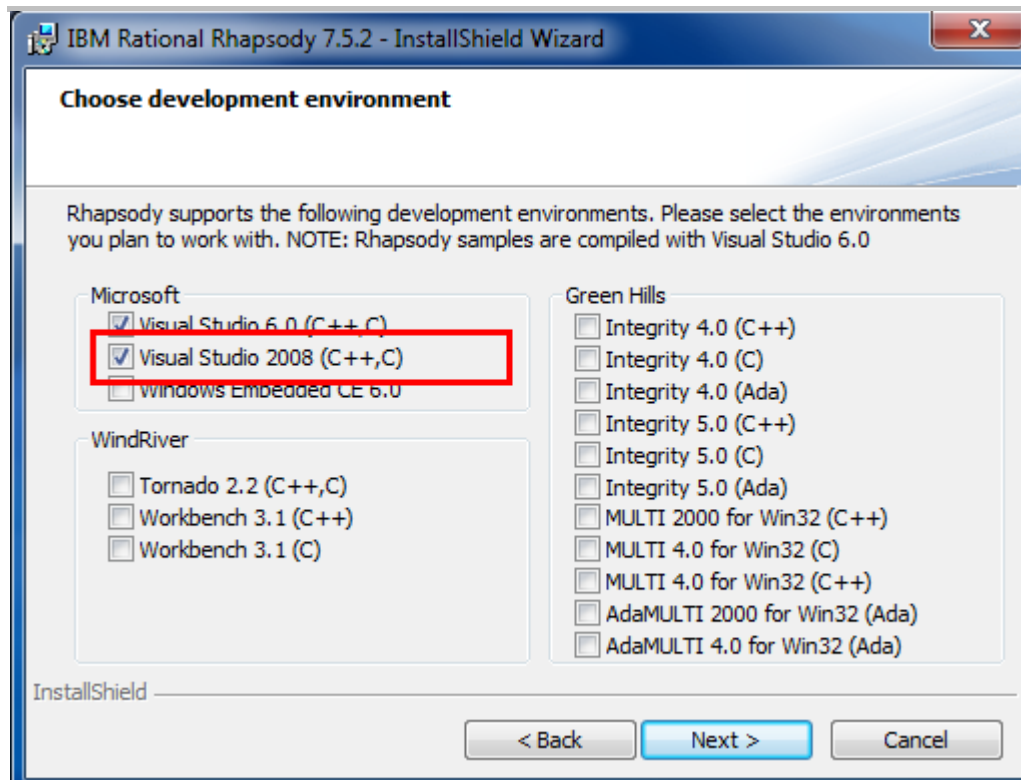
This document uses IBM Rational Rhapsody 7.5.2.

During the installation, on the 'Choose Languages' window, check the option for "Check for Real Time OS settings".

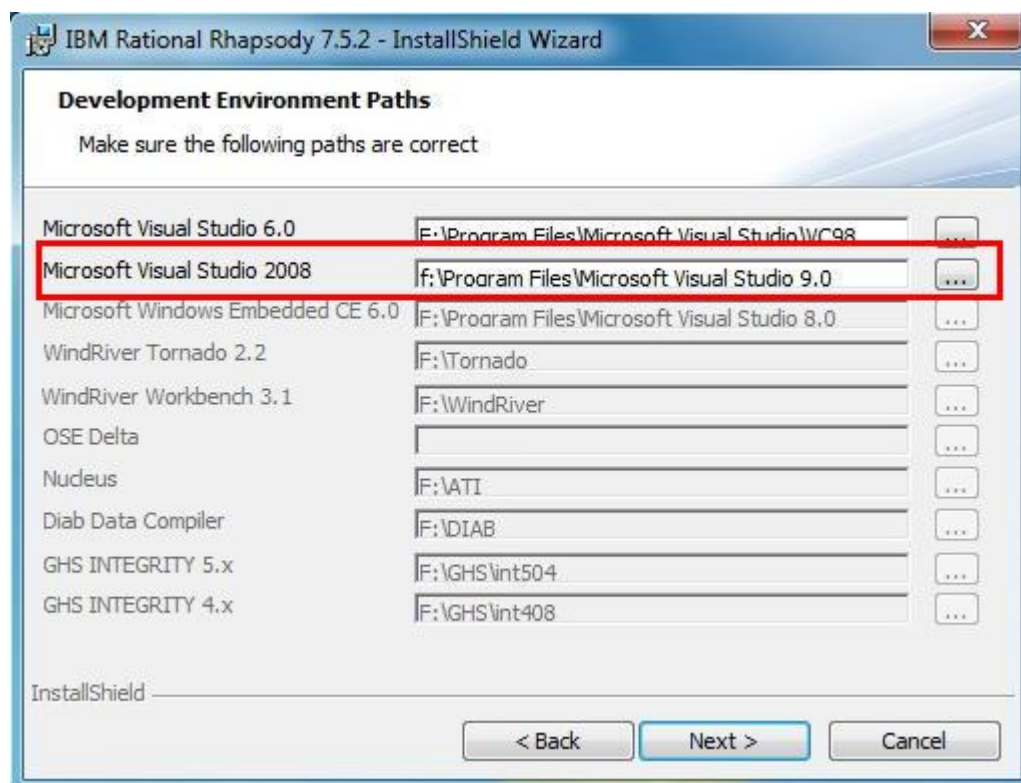


On the 'Choose development environment' window, check the option for 'Visual Studio 2008'.

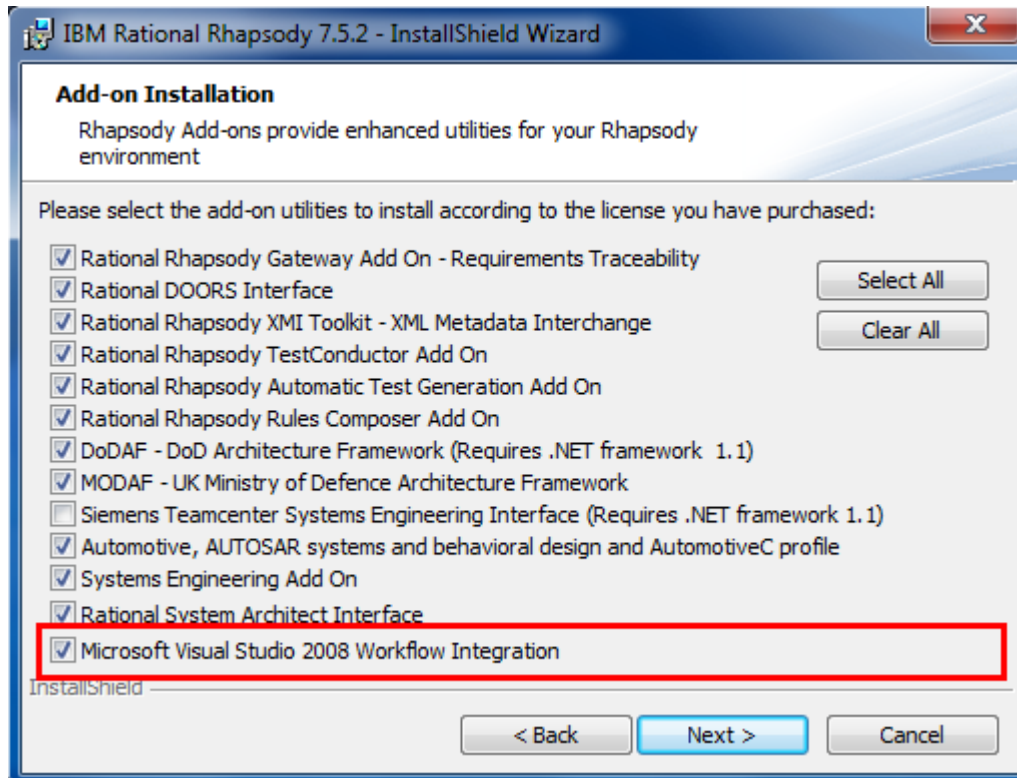
The 'Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 Workflow Integration' Add-on will not be available for selection if Visual Studio 2008 is not selected as a compiler (development environment) on the "Choose development environment" window as shown below.



Browse and select the path to the visual studio installation.



Finally at the 'Add-on Installation' window select the 'Microsoft Visual Studio Workflow Integration' Add-on.



By default this Add-on is automatically selected for installation, if the Visual Studio 2008 settings are gathered correctly.

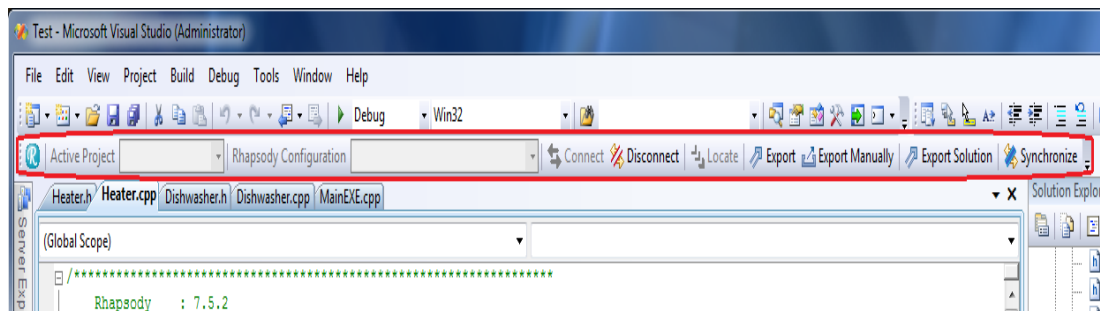
Once the installation is complete, the Rhapsody – Visual Studio workflow integration is ready to use.

Integration Features

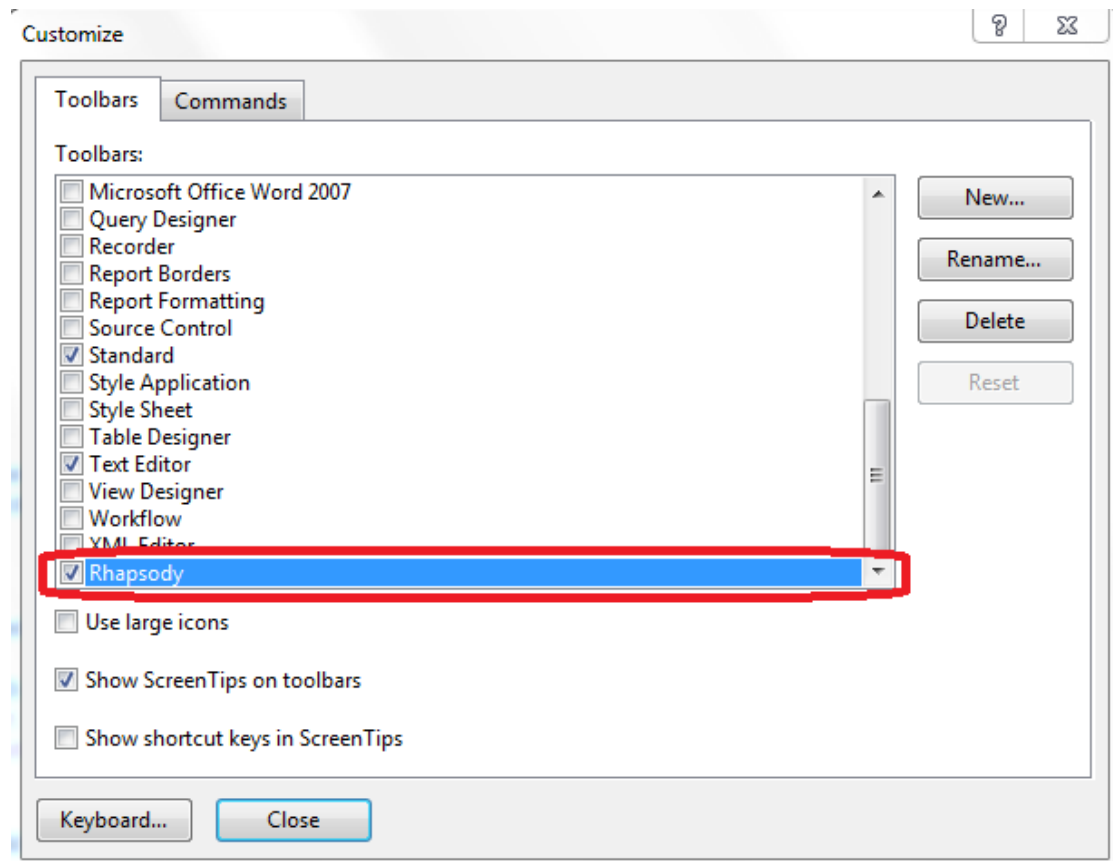
This section describes the various integration features and functionalities.

Rhapsody Toolbar

The integration creates a toolbar for Rational Rhapsody in the Visual Studio 2008 IDE.

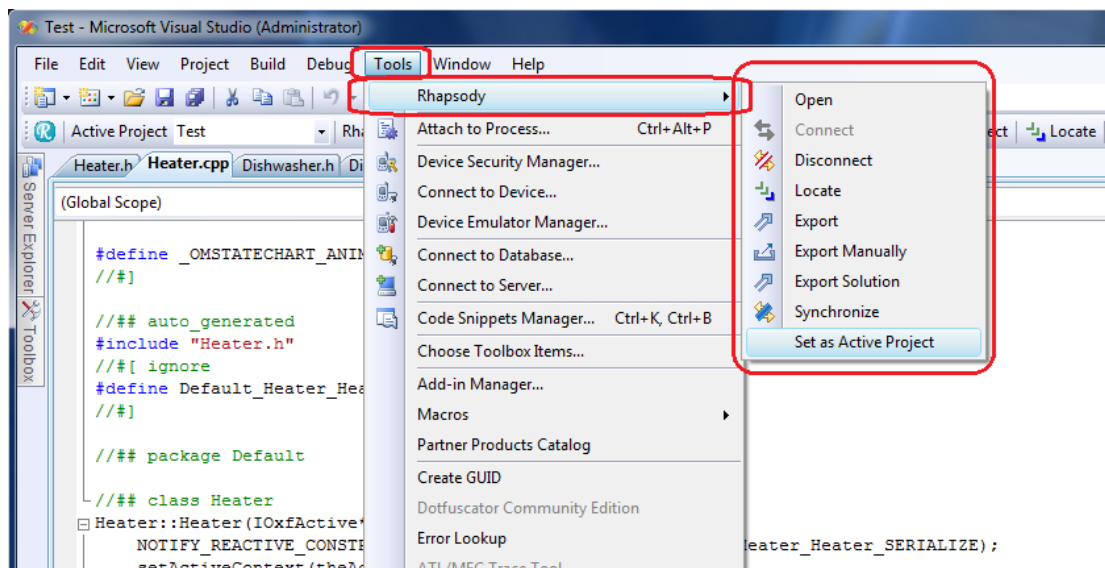


The toolbar can be removed/added by toggling the corresponding Toolbar check box in the customize window.



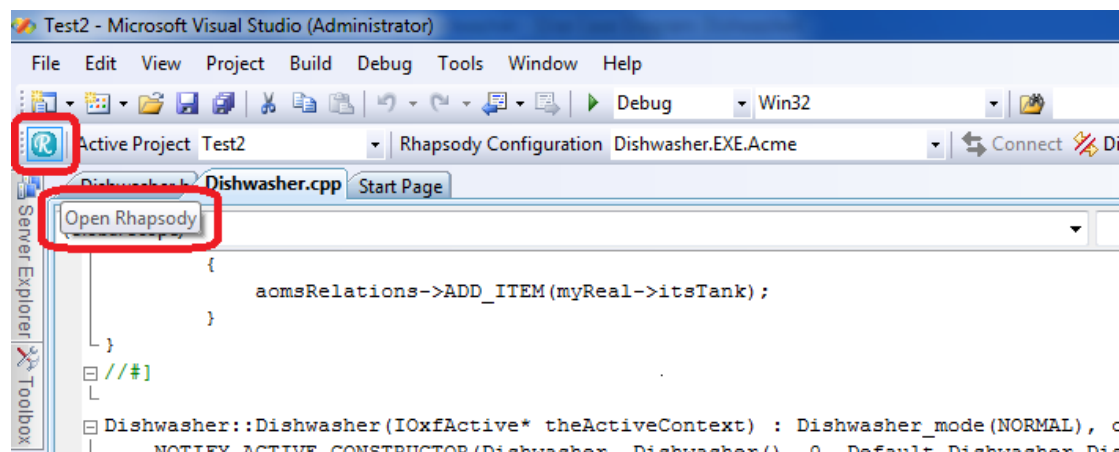
Rhapsody Menu

The integration also creates a set of Rational Rhapsody menus under 'Tools' -> 'Rhapsody' submenu in the Visual Studio 2008 IDE.



Open Rhapsody

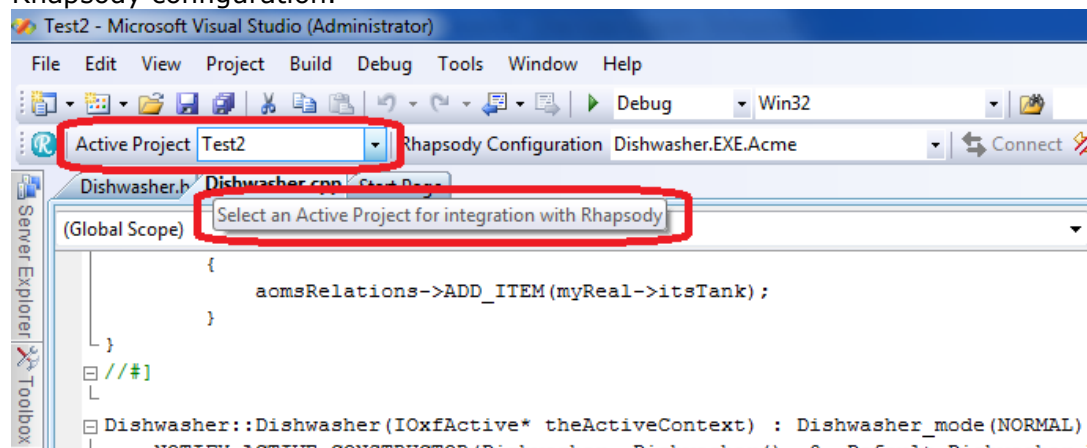
This feature starts and establishes communication with Rational Rhapsody. If Rational Rhapsody is already running, communication is established with that instance of the program.



The icon, rather the entire toolbar is disabled if no solution is currently open in Microsoft Visual Studio 2008.

Active Project

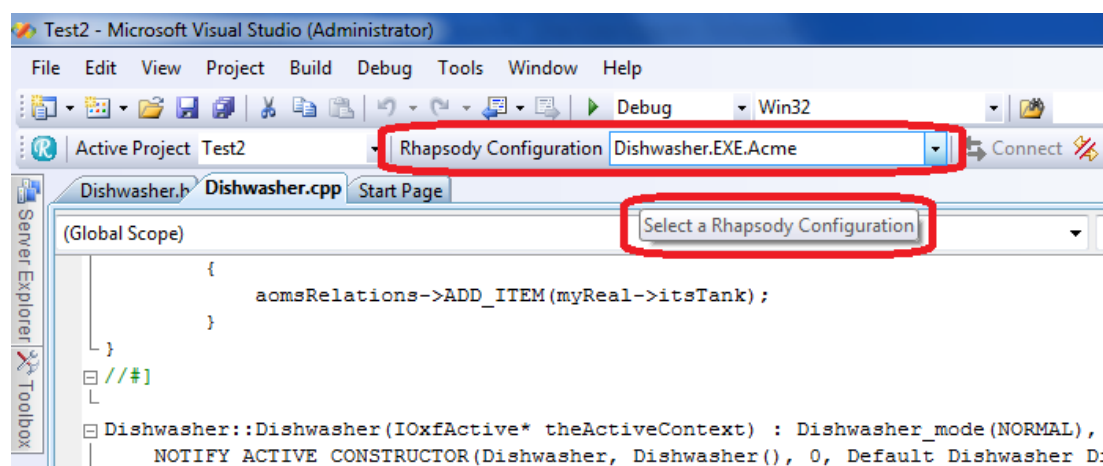
This feature allows selection of an active project for integration with Rational Rhapsody configuration.



This functionality can be used to select the project that is to be imported into Rational Rhapsody.

Rhapsody Configuration

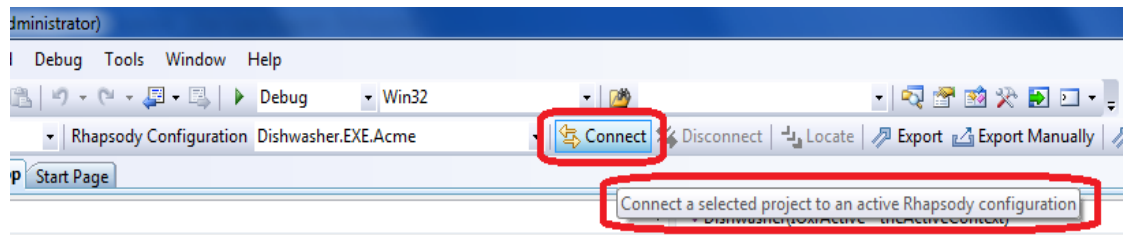
The Rhapsody Configuration list in the Rational Rhapsody toolbar can be used to select the Rational Rhapsody configuration to which the Visual Studio project would be linked.



This functionality could be used to select an existing configuration or create a new one.

Connect

This feature is used to connect a selected project to an active Rhapsody configuration.



```
lations->ADD_ITEM(myReal->itsTank);
```

```
sher(IOxfActive* theActiveContext) : Dishwasher_mode(NORMAL), cycles(0), door_opened(0), dryTime(0), m
CONSTRUCTOR(Dishwasher, Dishwasher(), 0, Default_Dishwasher_Dishwasher_SERIALIZE);
//this = null;
```

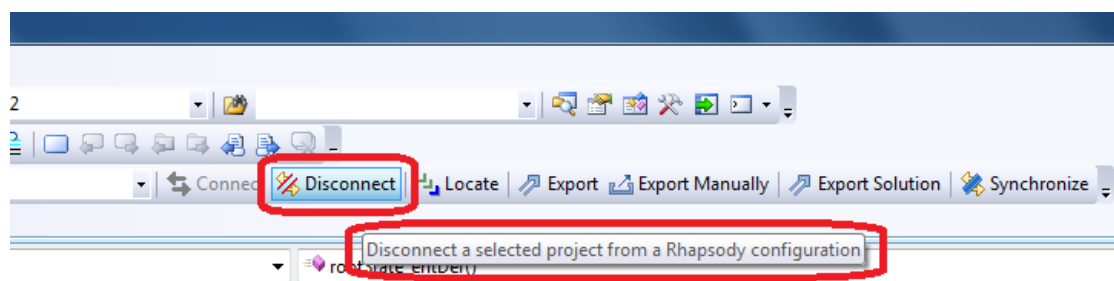
The feature would be used to generate the code directly into the Visual Studio Project directory.

If a Rational Rhapsody configuration has not been selected, an informational message is displayed, allowing users to connect to a new one.

Adding Rational Rhapsody generated files to the Visual Studio project is optional.

Disconnect

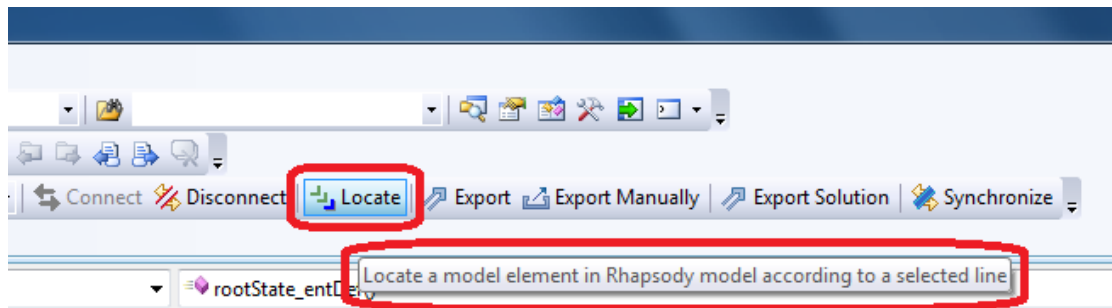
This feature is used to disconnect a selected project from an active Rhapsody configuration.



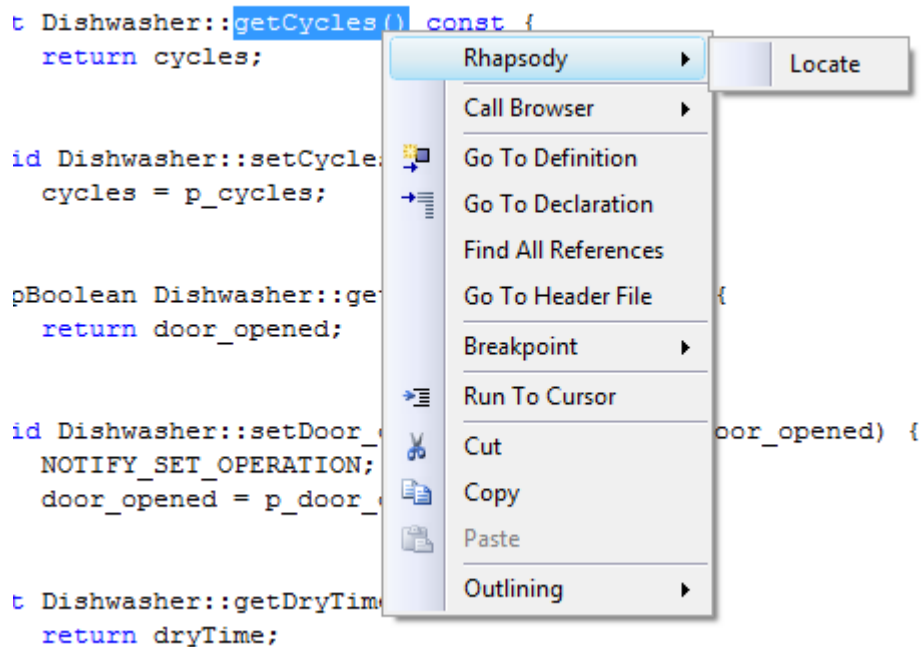
You have the choice to remove Rhapsody generated files and build settings when disconnecting a Visual Studio Project from a Rhapsody configuration.

Locate

This feature is used to locate a model element in Rhapsody model according to a selected line in the active code file.

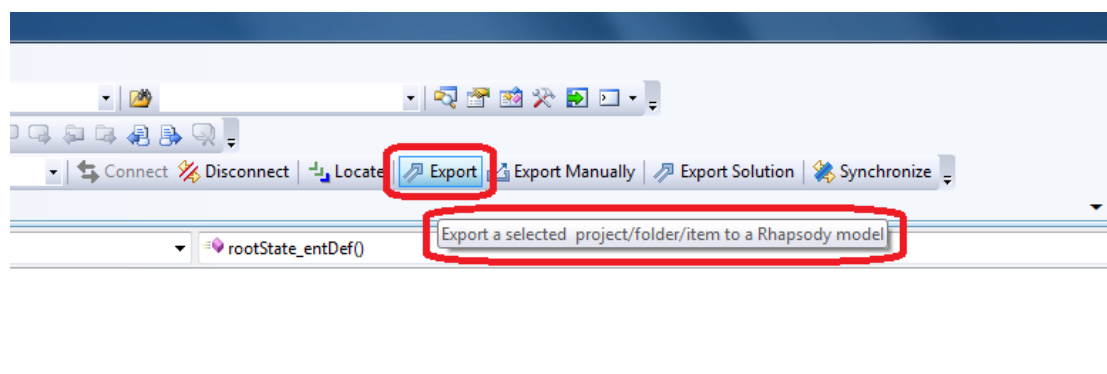


This feature can also be accessed by a right click at any place in the code file.

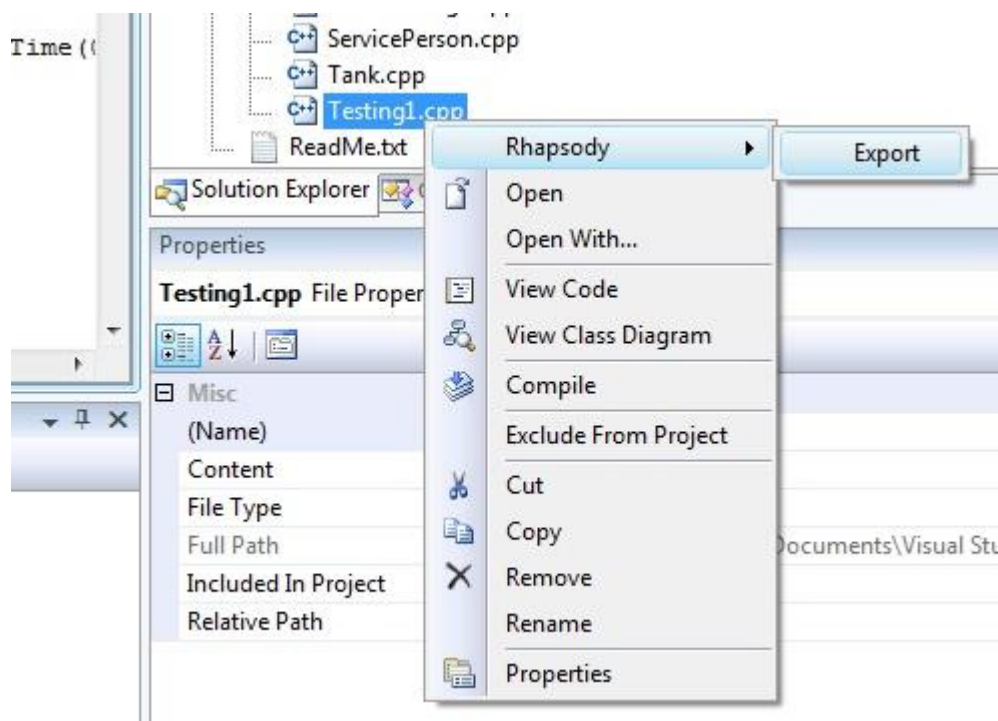


Export

This feature allows you to export a selected Visual Studio element (project / folder / item) to a Rational Rhapsody model.



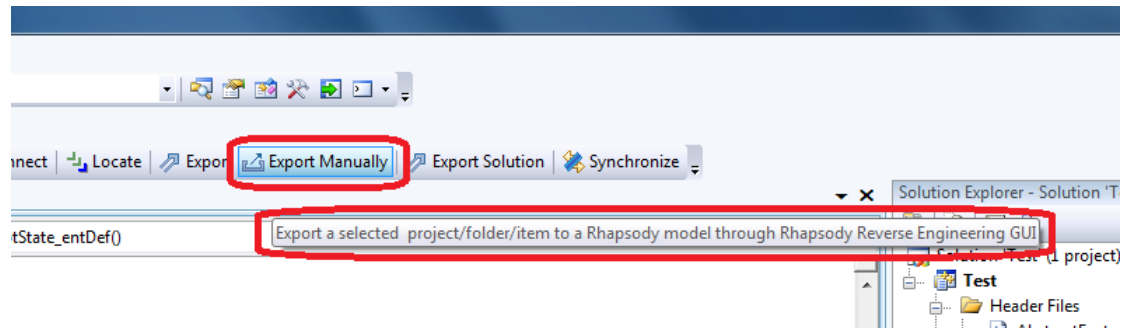
Specific code files can be exported directly to the Rational Rhapsody project by selecting the same in the Solution Explorer of the Visual Studio IDE and using the right click menu 'Rhapsody' → 'Export'.



The feature can also be invoked using the right click menu for selected Visual Studio elements.

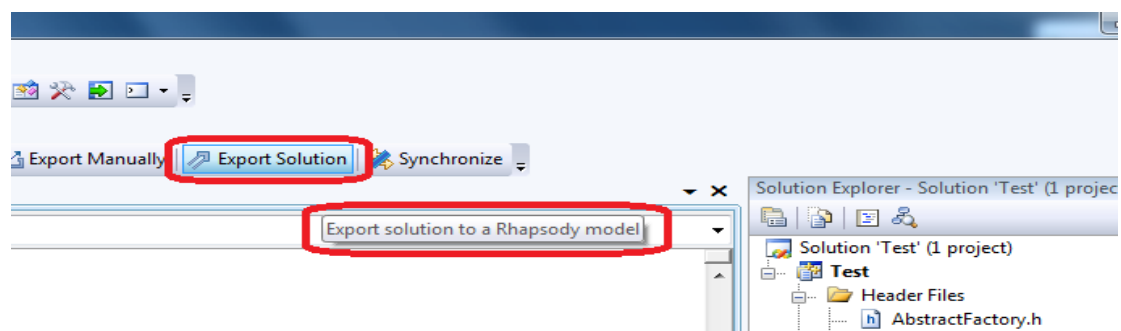
Export Manually

This feature invokes the Reverse Engineering Tool and allows you to manually administer the export process of a selected Visual Studio element (project / folder / item).



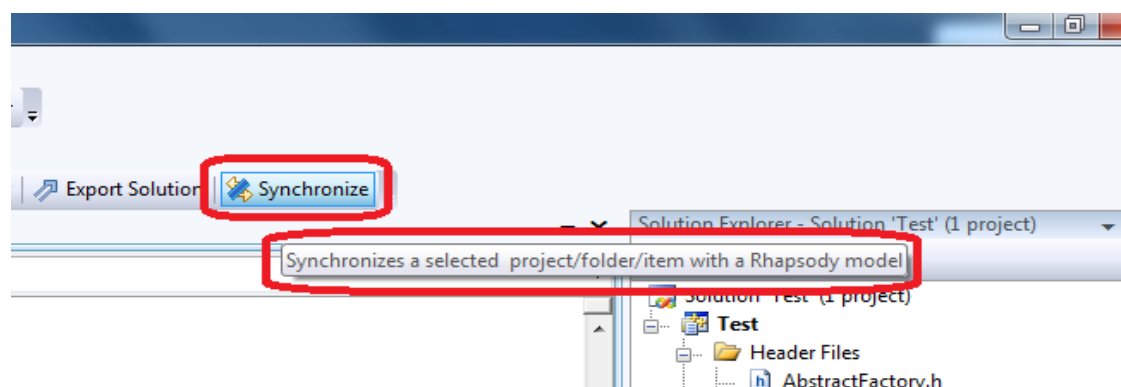
Export Solution

This feature is used to export a complete Visual Studio solution to a Rhapsody model.



Synchronize

This feature allows you to synchronize a selected Visual Studio element (project / folder / item) with a Rhapsody model.

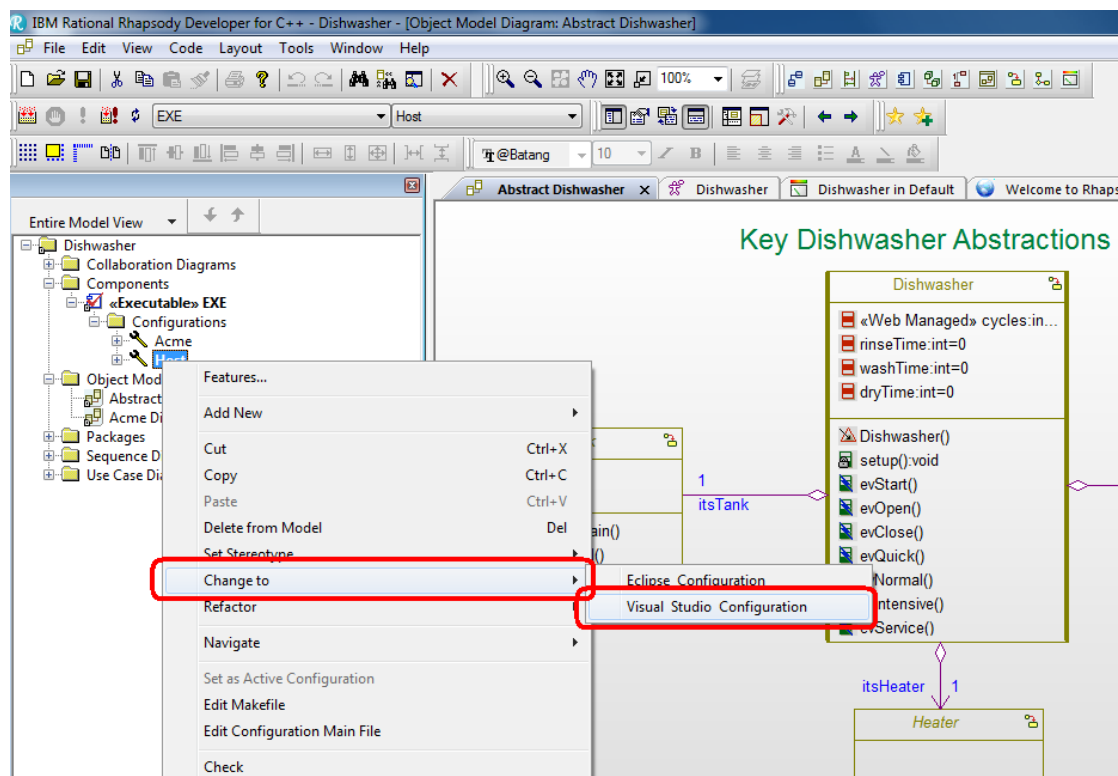


Integration Workflow

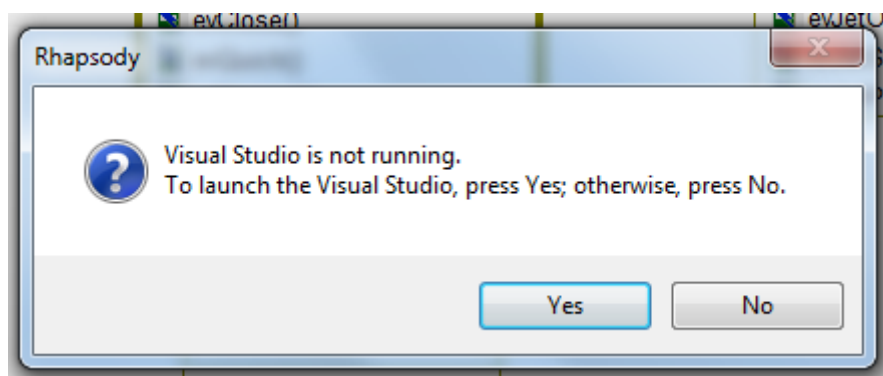
Creating Visual Studio project from Rational Rhapsody model

Procedure:

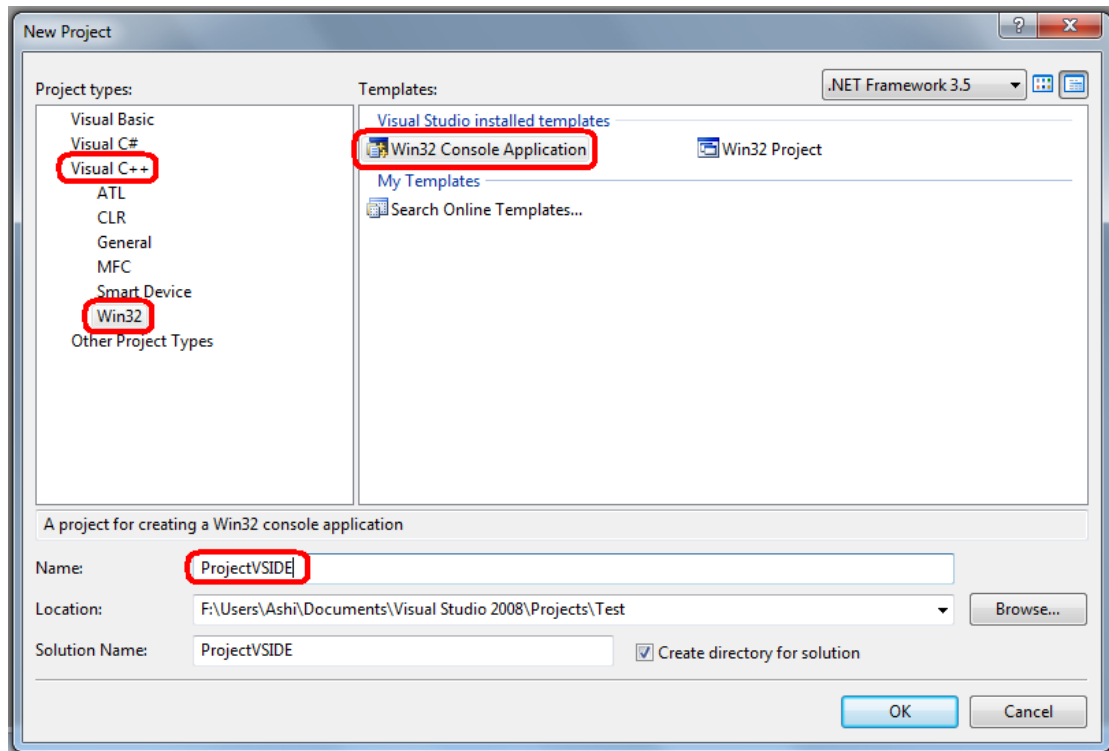
1. Open the model in Rational Rhapsody.
2. In the Rational Rhapsody browser, select an existing configuration or create one.
 - a. If a new configuration is being created, create a Visual Studio configuration.
 - b. If an existing configuration is being used, use the pop-up menu to change the configuration to a Visual Studio configuration.



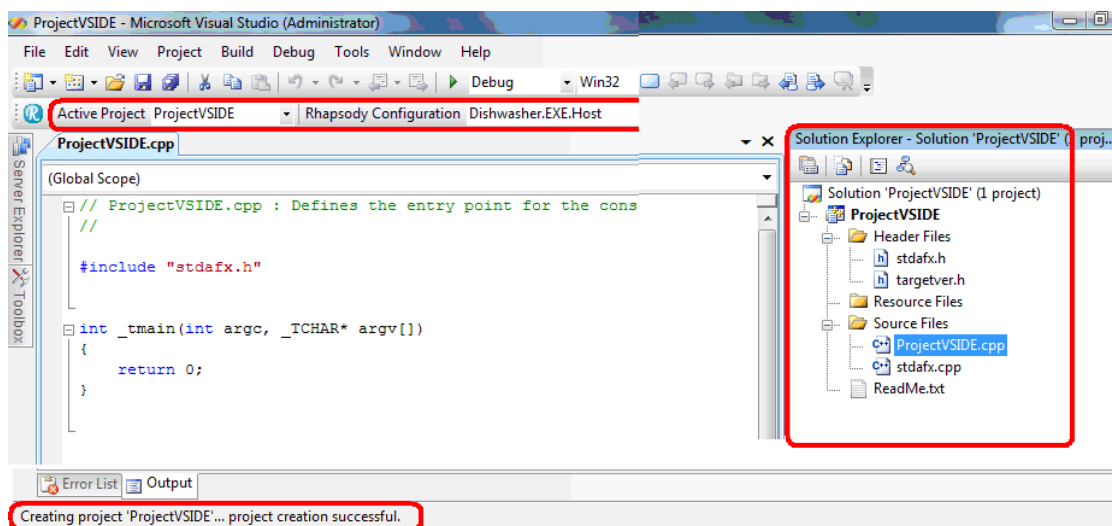
3. If Visual Studio is not open a confirmatory message is displayed.



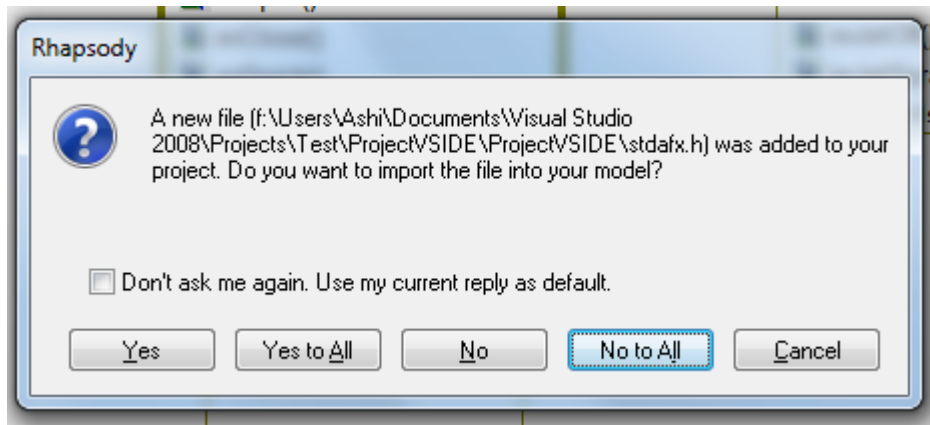
4. The focus shifts to Visual Studio and the New Project window is displayed.



5. Using the New Project window, create a Visual Studio project. After the new project is created, the project name is displayed as the Active Project in the Rational Rhapsody toolbar in Visual Studio. The Rational Rhapsody configuration selected is displayed as the Rhapsody Configuration in the toolbar. The new Visual Studio project is now linked to the Rational Rhapsody model. All changes to the model are reflected in the project code, and all changes to the project code are round-tripped into the model.

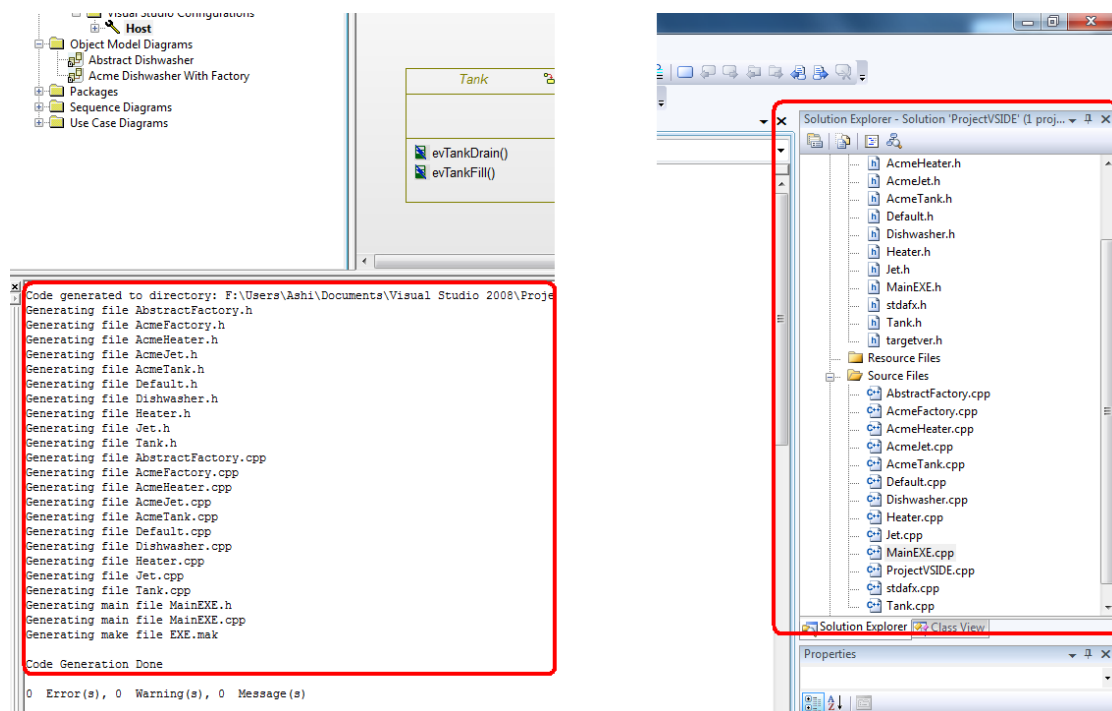


- Upon switching to the Rational Rhapsody window, Visual Studio creates a few files such as 'stdafx.cpp', 'stdafx.h' and 'targetver.h', which Rational Rhapsody wants to add to the model. Unless these files are needed, select 'No to All' at the below message.

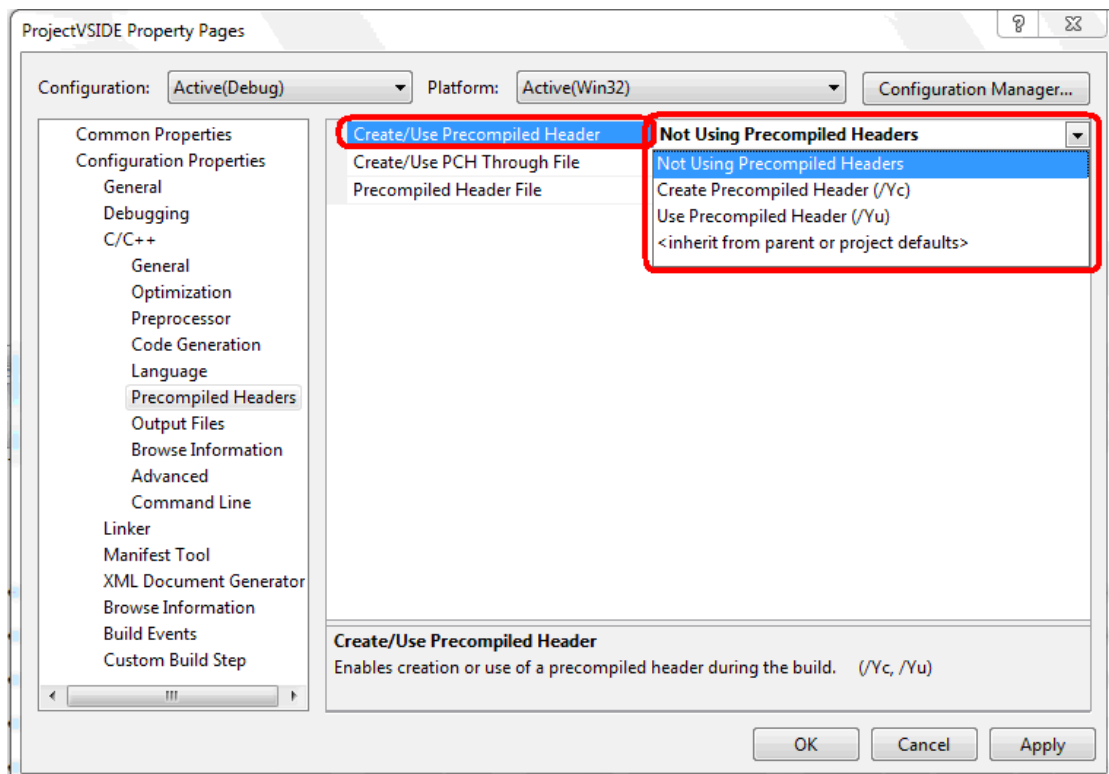


- To create the code files, select Code -> Generate in Rational Rhapsody. Once the code has been generated, they are reflected in the Visual Studio project.

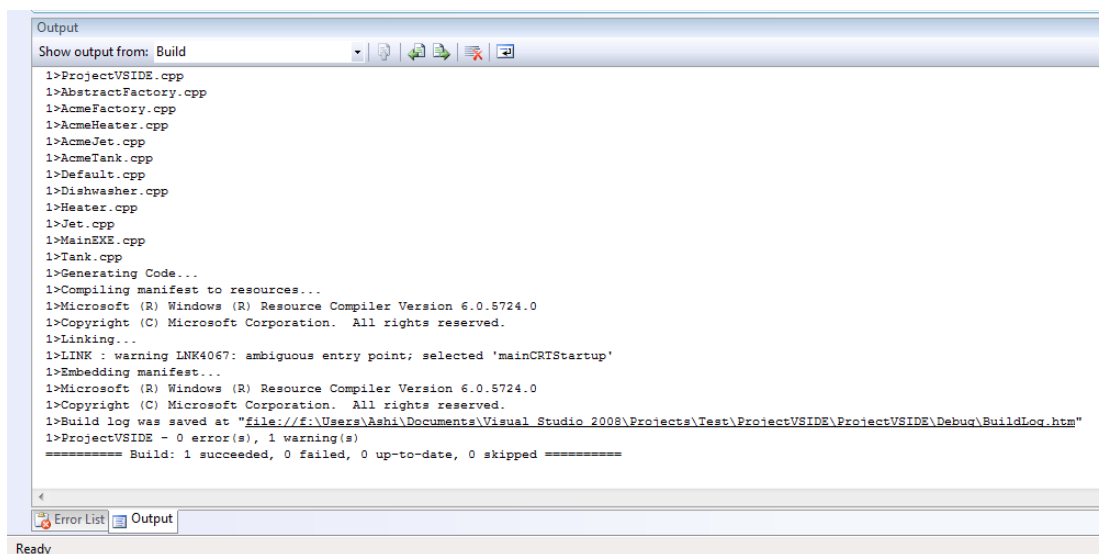
Observe the code being generated into the newly created Visual Studio project's directory and also reflected in the Visual Studio IDE.



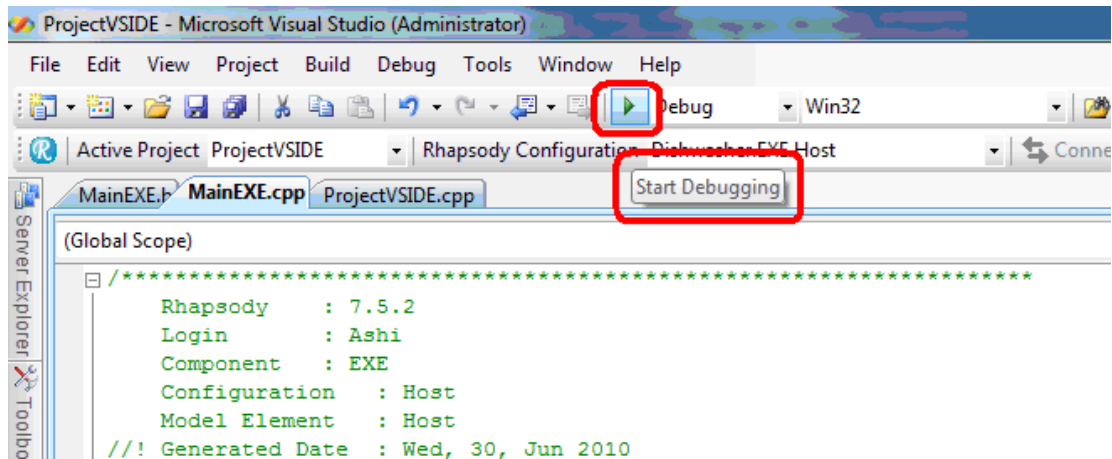
8. In the project's property pages, select 'Not Using Precompiled Headers' if precompiled headers like 'stdafx.h' are not being used.



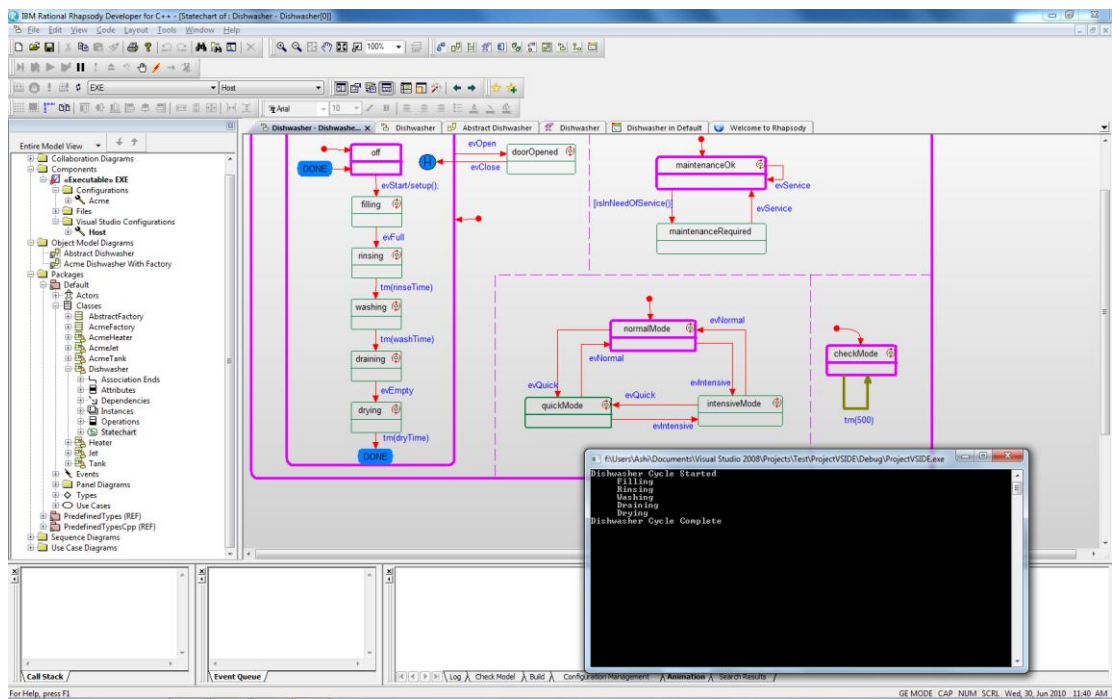
9. Click on GMR in the Rational Rhapsody IDE and observe the build being performed in the Visual Studio IDE.



10. Now in the Visual Studio IDE click on the 'Start Debug' button.



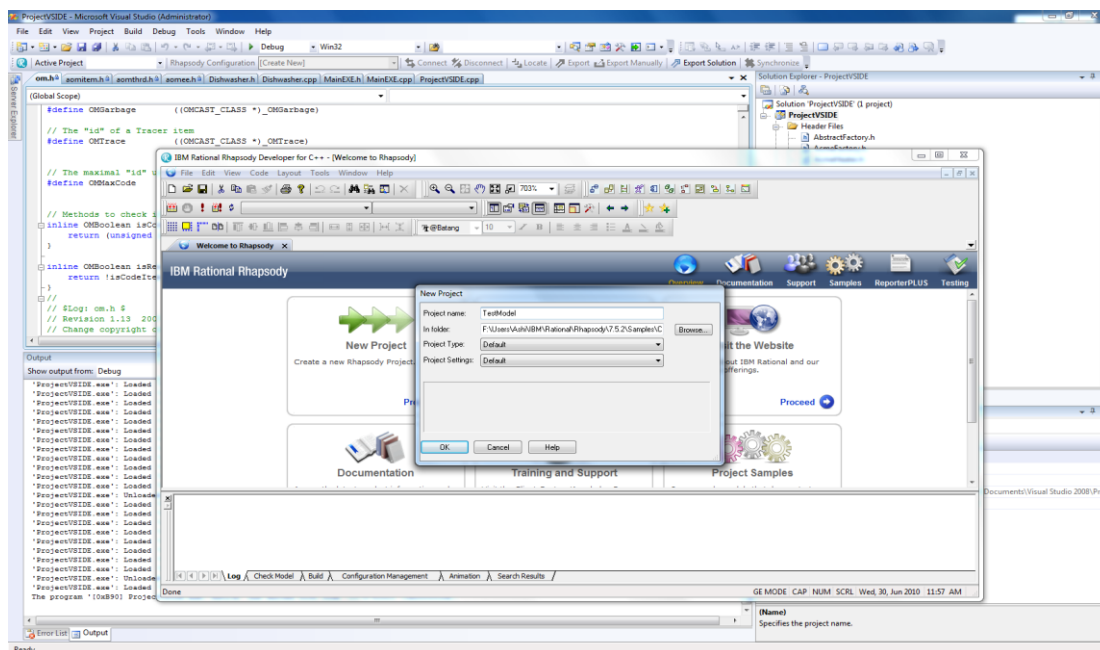
11. If needed, control the animation using the Rational Rhapsody GUI window.



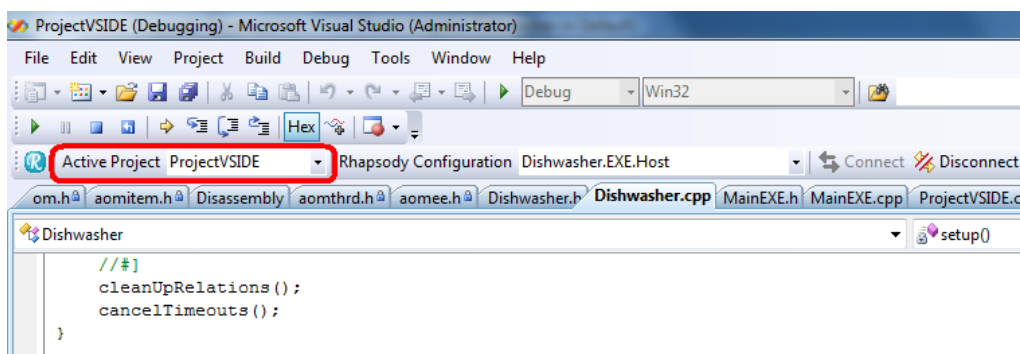
Creating Rational Rhapsody model from Visual Studio project

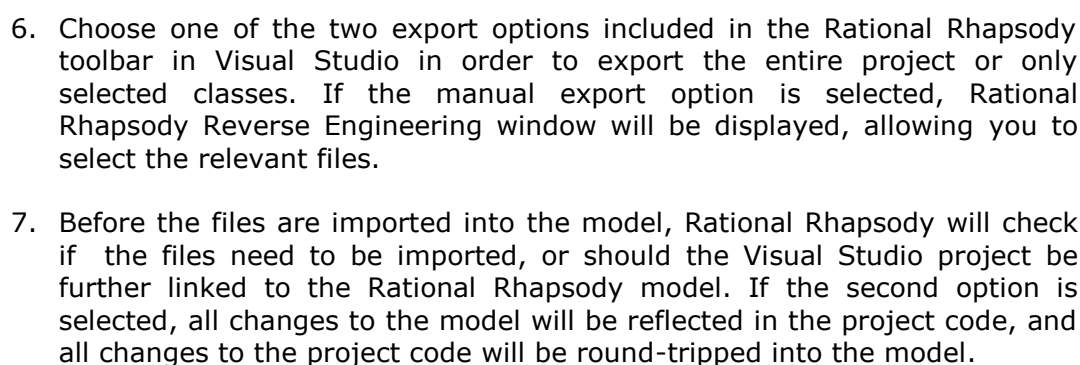
Procedure:

1. Open the solution in Visual Studio.
2. Click the Rational Rhapsody icon in the Rational Rhapsody toolbar in Visual Studio.
3. Once focus is given to Rational Rhapsody, use the menu to create a Rational Rhapsody project.



4. In Visual Studio, use the Active Project list in the Rational Rhapsody toolbar to select the project that should be imported into Rational Rhapsody.

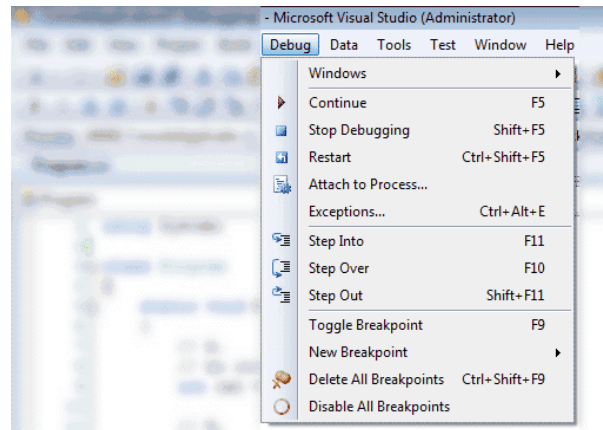




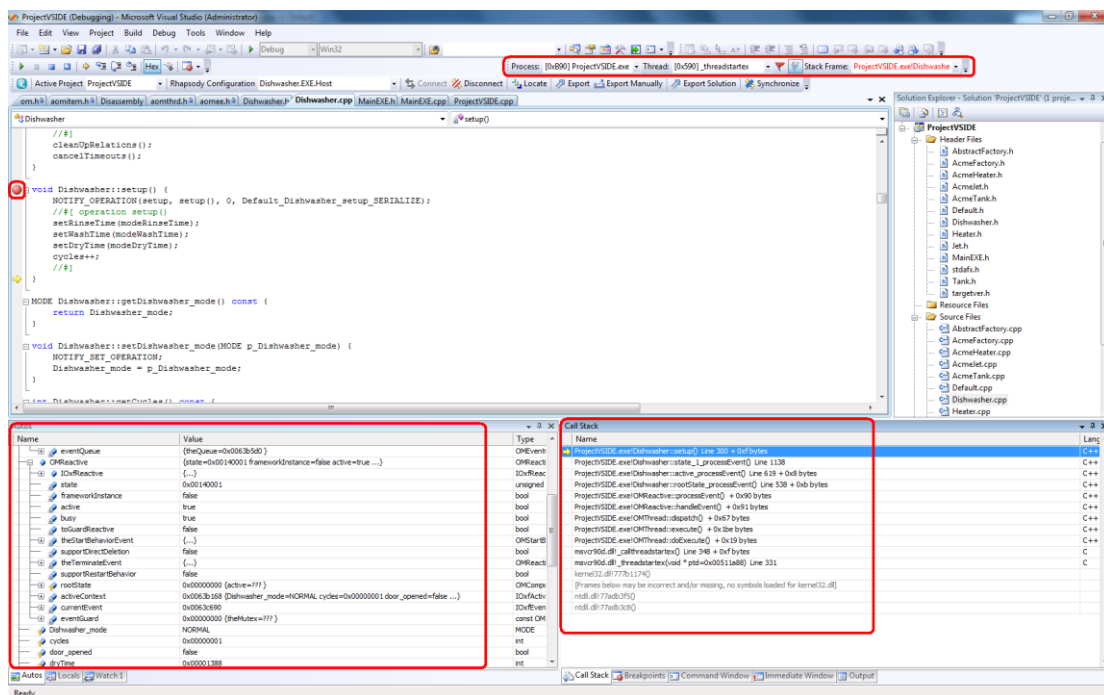
Debugging with Visual Studio

An important advantage of the integration is that you can leverage the powerful debugging capabilities of the Visual Studio IDE.

Many times there is a need to see the values of the local variables in the program as it executes. This is useful when you want to ensure that the values are correct. Here you see an example of how Visual Studio 2008 integrated development environment can be used to debug your code.



The below screenshot shows a few of the useful debug features like Process, Thread, Stack Frame, Breakpoints, Call Stack, Autos, Locals, Watch, Command Window, Intermediate Window, Output.



Conclusion

Both Rational Rhapsody and Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 Professional are independent tools and are widely used as per their strengths and capabilities in their respective domains. Despite being independent, each of them has quite a few features/functionalities that could be leveraged by the other to improve its functionality/capability. Hence, using this integration could be of great value to you especially if you have been (or are planning to) work with both the tools, taking the overall strength of both the tools to much higher levels.

Notes and Warnings

- The integration is not intended for Visual Studio 2008 Express Edition.
- The integration creates a 'Visual Studio' folder in the Rational Rhapsody installation path which contains the 'RhapsodyAddIn' Visual Studio Add-in definition file. This file is responsible for the Integration functionalities.
- The integration also creates a Rational Rhapsody plug-in in the Visual Studio 2008 IDE. You can enable/disable this plug-in in the Visual Studio IDE, however this will affect the working of the integration.
- Ideally the feature 'Open Rhapsody' is intended to work for a valid Rational Rhapsody project pre-exists for the currently open Visual Studio project.
- The 'stdafx.h' is the file for pre-compiled header support. If you do not want to add it to each generated file (as in, if there is no need for it), you will have to disable it from the Visual Studio project's properties. By default this feature is enabled for all Visual Studio projects (C++).

References

The following were used in references or as other sources of information:

- <http://msdn.microsoft.com/hi-in/vstudio/default.aspx>
- <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/rational/products/rhapsody/>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Visual_Studio
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integrated_development_environment