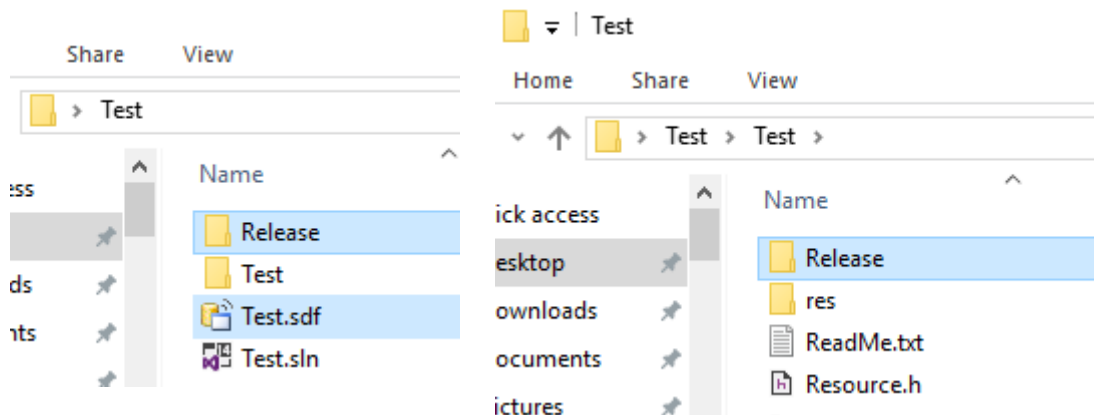# Backing Up A GUI MFC Project, Reading

## Backup

Before going any further, let's close VS and backup our work. The project file is about 200MB in size. You can simply drag and drop the whole folder from the Desktop to your flash drive. Takes a few seconds to complete.

But if you want a much smaller version, easy to attach to email or store in the cloud or *submit your work in the course for grading*, you'll want to make a compressed ZIP file. To do so:

1. Delete all **Debug**, **Release**, **ipch**, **.vs**, **x64**, **x86**, and **_MACOSX** folders (if any).
2. Delete the **.aps**, **.db, .opendb**, **.sdf**, and **.suo** files (if any).
3. Inside the remaining folder (named for the app), delete *those* **Debug** and **Release** folders (if any).
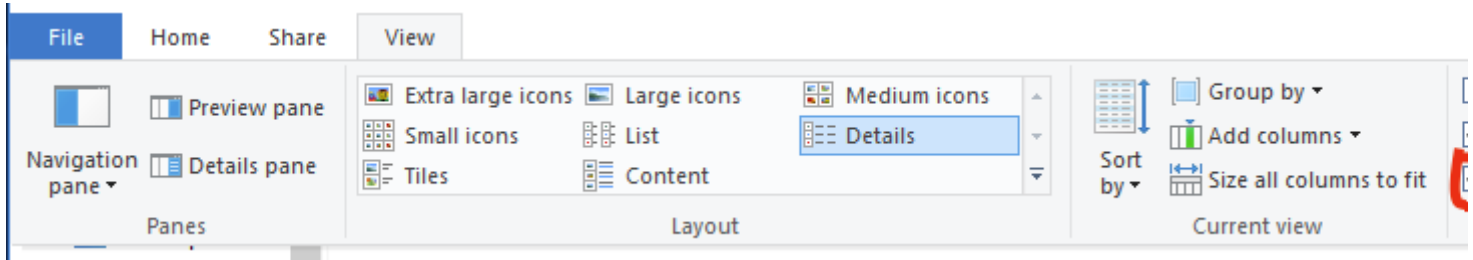4. *__Do NOT delete__* the **.sln** file or the **res** folder!



That's a more manageable file -- under 200*KB* in size -- *1000x smaller than the original folder*.

To restart the project from a ZIP backup, unzip to the Desktop, open, and double-click the **SLN** file. Let it reconstruct all those deleted files, and you're back where you left off.

## Finding And Removing Hidden Files

Some versions of Visual Studio have hidden files in their project folders, and some versions of Windows do not show hidden files by default. Here's what to do in Windows 10 -- in any File Explorer window, put a check mark next to Hidden Files:

You may have to do this in order to find and delete the **.vs** folder!

# This Will Not Work!

Do *NOT* try to run your retrieved project directly from the ZIP folder. It may *look* like a folder, but it's not the kind of folder that VS can write its files to. Copy the contents of the ZIP folder to your desktop and run it from there.