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# Extending Xamarin Studio with Addins

Xamarin

# The Addin System

- The addin is the unit of packaging for extensibility
- Addin manifest (\*.addin.xml) and/or assembly attributes declare:
  - Metadata and addin dependencies
  - Extensions and extension points
  - File list for packaging/distribution
- Extensions plug code and/or data into extension points, which may be in other addins

# DEMO

## Creating a Simple Addin

[http://monodevelop.com/Developers/Articles/Creating\\_a\\_Simple\\_Add-in](http://monodevelop.com/Developers/Articles/Creating_a_Simple_Add-in)

<https://github.com/mhutch/MonoDevelop.Samples.DateInsertter>

# Core APIs

The background features a dark blue gradient with a complex network of glowing nodes and lines. The nodes are represented by small circles in various shades of blue, green, and yellow, some of which are connected by thin, light-colored lines, creating a sense of a digital or molecular structure. The overall aesthetic is modern and technological.



# Core Addins

## MonoDevelop.Core

Core classes, services and extension points

**IKVM.Reflection/Mono.Cecil**  
*Assembly reader/writer*

**Mono.Addins**  
*Addin engine*

**ICSharpCode.NRefactory**  
*Type system*

## MonoDevelop.Ide

IDE shell, classes, services and extension points

**GTK#**  
*Old GUI toolkit*

**Mono.TextEditor**  
*Text editing and manipulation*

**XWT**  
*Cross-platform UI toolkit*

# MonoDevelop.Core Services 1

- LoggingService
  - Log error/warning/info/debug messages to the IDE log

```
LoggingService.LogError ("Failed to download {0}: {1}", url, ex);
```

- PropertyService
  - Access and store global user settings

```
bool enabled = PropertyService.Get ("MyAddin.SettingName", false);
```

# MonoDevelop.Core Services 2

- **FileService**
  - Global, batched dispatch of file events
  - More specific file events available on project model

```
FileService.NotifyFileChanged (someFile);
```

- **StringParserService**
  - Substitute values into placeholders in strings
  - Built-in contextual properties, or provide your own

```
var val = StringParserService.Parse ("Foo $(Prop)", properties);
```

# MonoDevelop.Core Services 3

- Runtime.ProcessService
  - Run managed/native processes and read output

```
var args = new ProcessArgumentBuilder ();
args.AddQuotedFormat ("Hello \"{ 0}\"!", name);
var op = Runtime.ProcessService.StartProcess (
    "echo", args.ToString(), null, outWriter, errWriter, null);
op.WaitForOutput ();
```

- Runtime.SystemAssemblyService
  - Look up frameworks, runtimes and assemblies

```
var fx = Runtime.SystemAssemblyService.GetTargetFrameworkForAssembly (
    project.TargetRuntime,
    someAssemblyPath);
```



# MonoDevelop.Core.FilePath

- Strongly typed string wrapper struct
- Makes it easy to use path manipulation functions
- Used almost everywhere we deal with file paths
- Comparisons respect OS case sensitivity
- Implicit cast to/from string

```
aPath.Combine ("foo").ToRelative (otherPath.ParentDirectory);
```

# Progress And Status

- `MonoDevelop.Core.IProgressMonitor`
  - Report progress and errors, and check for cancellation
- `MonoDevelop.Core.IAsyncOperation`
  - Returned by methods as handle to async operations
- `MonoDevelop.Core.ProgressMonitoring`
  - Base classes, simple implementations and helpers
- Planned to be replaced by `CancellationToken` and `Task<T>`
  - Will allow using C# 5 async

# Project Model

- Defined in `MonoDevelop.Core.Projects`
- Deserialized from native MSBuild format
- Solution contains `SolutionItems`
  - Projects and `SolutionFolders`
- .NET projects derived from `DotNetProject`
  - Subclass of `Project`
- Can define your own subclasses for specialized project types
  - Many virtual methods to customize behaviors
  - See e.g. `AspNetProject`

# DotNetProject

- Files

```
ProjectFile file = dnp.Files.GetFileWithVirtualPath ("Foo.cfg");  
file.BuildAction = BuildAction.None;
```

- Configurations

```
var debugSel = new SolutionConfigurationSelector ("Debug");  
var cfg = (DotNetProjectConfiguration) dnp.GetConfiguration (debugSel);  
var myProp = cfg.ExtendedProperties ["MyProperty"];
```

- Many useful properties, e.g. UserProperties, Policies, CompileTarget, FileName, BaseIntermediateOutputPath
- Many useful events, e.g. Saved, ConfigurationAdded, FileChangedInProject



# IDE APIS

The background is a dark blue gradient with a complex network of glowing nodes and lines. The nodes are small circles in various shades of blue, green, and yellow, some of which are connected by thin, light-colored lines, creating a sense of a digital or molecular structure. The overall effect is a futuristic and tech-oriented aesthetic.

# MonoDevelop.Ide Services

- **IdeApp.Workbench**
  - Root of loaded project model
- **IdeApp.ProjectOperations**
  - Build, execute, save, add files, etc.
- **IdeApp.Workspace**
  - Documents, pads, status bar, progress monitors
- **IdeApp.Preferences**
  - Strongly typed access to user preferences
- **DesktopService**
  - Abstraction over platform-specific operations

# Type System

- MonoDevelop.Ide.TypeSystem.TypeSystemService
- File parsing

```
ParsedDocument doc = TypeSystemService.ParseFile (project, filePath);  
var loc = new ICSharpCode.NRefactory.TextLocation (23, 5);  
ICSharpCode.NRefactory.TypeSystem.IUnresolvedMember member =  
    doc.GetMember (loc);
```

- Project/assembly type databases

```
var compilation = TypeSystemService.GetCompilation (project);  
var typeName = new ICSharpCode.NRefactory.TypeSystem.TopLevelTypeName (  
    "System.Core.Linq.Enumerable");  
var typeDefinition = compilation.MainAssembly.GetTypeDefinition (typeName);
```





# **Common Extension Points**



# Defining and Exposing Commands

- Definition is separate from handling

```
<Extension path = "/MonoDevelop/Ide/Commands/Tools">  
  <Command id = "MyAddin.MyAddinCommands.MyTool"  
    _label = "Do _Stuff"  
    shortcut = "Ctrl|D"  
    description = "Does stuff"/>  
</Extension>
```

- ID must be backed by an enum value
- Commands can be exposed via menu extension points

```
<Extension path = "/MonoDevelop/Ide/MainMenu/Tools">  
  <MenuItem id = "MyAddin.MyAddinCommands.MyTool" />  
</Extension>
```

# Handling Commands

- If possible, handle existing command, don't define new one
- Contextual, scans widget hierarchy for handler attributes
  - Extensible widgets direct the scan down extensions
  - Falls back to the optional defaultHandler on definition
  - If no handler found, command is disabled
- `MonoDevelop.Components.Commands`
  - `CommandHandler`
  - `CommandHandlerAttribute`
  - `CommandUpdateHandlerAttribute`

# File and Project Templates

- Simple xft/xpt manifest with metadata and list of files
- Far too many properties and file processors to list here
  - See existing examples in MD codebase

```
<Extension path = "/MonoDevelop/Ide/FileTemplates">  
  <FileTemplate id = "MyTemplate" file = "MyTemplate.xft.xml"/>  
</Extension>
```

```
<Template>  
  <TemplateConfiguration>  
    <_Name>My Template</_Name>  
    <_Category>Stuff</_Category>  
    <_Description>An awesome template.</_Description>  
  </TemplateConfiguration>  
  <TemplateFiles>  
    <File name="${Name}.cs" src="MyFile.cs" />  
  </TemplateFiles>  
</Template>
```

# Document Editors

- Interfaces and classes in `MonoDevelop.Ide.Gui`
- `IViewDisplayBinding` is primary handler for a file
  - Returns `AbstractViewContent`
- `IAttachableDisplayBinding` provides alternate view of file
  - Return `AbstractAttachableViewContent` subclass
- Content can implement `MonoDevelop.Ide.Gui.Content` interfaces to opt into additional functionality
  - `IPathedDocument`, `INavigable`, `IEditableTextBuffer`, etc
- Also `MonoDevelop.DesignerSupport` interfaces
  - `IPropertyPadProvider`, `IOutlinedDocument`



# Parsers

- Parsers parse documents into AST used by other things
  - Code folding, error underlines, outlines, completion, type database, semantic highlighting, etc.

```
class MyParser : MonoDevelop.Ide.TypeSystem.TypeSystemParser {  
    public override MonoDevelop.Ide.TypeSystem.ParsedDocument Parse (  
        bool storeAst, string fileName, TextReader content,  
        Project project = null)  
    {  
        return new MyParsedDocument (ParseContent (content));  
    }  
}
```

```
<Extension path = "/MonoDevelop/TypeSystem/Parser">  
    <Parser class = "MyAddin.MyParser" mimeType="my/mimetype" />  
</Extension>
```

# Text Editor Extensions

- `MonoDevelop.Ide.Gui.Content.TextEditorExtension`
- Horizontal extension hosted by source editor
  - Virtual methods for intercepting keystrokes
  - Can implement content interfaces
  - Can implement command handlers
- For code completion, subclass `CompletionTextEditorExtension` and override `HandleCodeCompletion`
  - Many other overrides for parameter tooltips, snippets, etc

# Generators

- When file with Custom Tool saved, generator generates child file
- `MonoDevelop.Ide.CustomTools.ISingleFileCustomTool`

```
public class FooToBarGenerator : ISingleFileCustomTool
{
    public IAsyncOperation Generate (IProgressMonitor monitor,
        ProjectFile file, SingleFileCustomToolResult result)
    {
        var p = file.FilePath.ChangeExtension (".bar");
        result.GeneratedFilePath = p;
        var src = File.ReadAllText (file.FilePath);
        File.WriteAllText (p, src.Replace ("foo", "bar"));
    }
}
```

```
<Extension path = "/MonoDevelop/Ide/CustomTools">
    <Tool name="MyGenerator" type="MyAddin.FooToBarGenerator"/>
</Extension>
```

# Project Types

- Generally subclass `DotNetProject`, `Project` or `SolutionItem`
- Implement `MonoDevelop.Projects.IProjectBinding` extension to support project creation
- If using configuration subclass, beware cloning
- Automatic property serialization via attributes
- Register type with flavor GUID and targets

```
<Extension path = "/MonoDevelop/ProjectModel/MSBuildItemTypes">
  <DotNetProjectSubtype type="MyAddin.MyProjectType"
    guid="{973CB239-B201-44F3-9AF9-6C6584645B36}"
    useXBuild="true">
    <AddImport projects=
      "$(MSBuildExtensionsPath)\MyTargets.targets" />
  </DotNetProjectSubtype>
</Extension>
```



# Code Issues

- Code Issues inspect the AST and provide suggestions, hints, warnings and errors, and optionally provide automatic fixes
- Extension point in MonoDevelop.Refactoring

```
<Extension path = "/MonoDevelop/Refactoring/CodeIssues">  
  <CodeIssue mimeType = "text/x-csharp"  
    class = "MyAddin.FindCodeThatLooksLikeJava"  
    severity = "Warning" />  
</Extension>
```

- Many exist in NRefactory, with helpers for pattern matching, flow analysis, etc.
- <http://mikemdblog.blogspot.com/2012/04/how-to-write-c-issue-provider.html>

# Context Actions

- Context Actions inspect AST and provide useful transformations
- Extension point in MonoDevelop.Refactoring

```
<Extension path = "/MonoDevelop/Refactoring/CodeActions">  
  <Action mimeType = "text/x-csharp"  
    class = "MyAddin.UnrollLoopAction"  
    _title = "Unroll loop"  
    _description = "Unrolls a for loop." />  
</Extension>
```

- Implementation very similar to Code Issues
  - Main difference is the UX
- <http://mikemdblog.blogspot.com/2012/03/how-to-write-context-action-using.html>

```

[IssueDescription("Remove redundant 'internal' modifier",
    Description="Removes 'internal' modifiers that are not required.",
    Category = IssueCategories.Redundancies,
    Severity = Severity.Hint,
    IssueMarker = IssueMarker.GrayOut)]
public class RedundantInternalIssue : ICodeIssueProvider
{
    public IEnumerable<CodeIssue> GetIssues(BaseRefactoringContext context)
    {
        return new GatherVisitor(context, this).GetIssues();
    }

    class GatherVisitor : GatherVisitorBase<RedundantInternalIssue>
    {
        public GatherVisitor (BaseRefactoringContext ctx, RedundantInternalIssue issue) : base (ctx, issue)
        {
        }

        public override void VisitTypeDeclaration(TypeDeclaration typeDeclaration)
        {
            foreach (var token_ in typeDeclaration.ModifierTokens) {
                var token = token_;
                if (token.Modifier == Modifiers.Internal) {
                    AddIssue(token, ctx.TranslateString("Remove 'internal' modifier"), script => {
                        int offset = script.GetCurrentOffset(token.StartLocation);
                        int endOffset = script.GetCurrentOffset(token.GetNextNode().StartLocation);
                        script.RemoveText(offset, endOffset - offset);
                    });
                }
            }
        }
    }
}

```

# Build Customization

- If possible, use MSBuild/xbuild targets for build/clean
  - New project types, existing MSBuild-based project types
  - Extremely powerful, can customize almost anything
  - Works with MSBuild/xbuild and Visual Studio
  - Doesn't even require an addin
  - But see [https://mhut.ch/journal/2012/08/19/state\\_msbuild\\_support\\_monodevelop](https://mhut.ch/journal/2012/08/19/state_msbuild_support_monodevelop)
- Otherwise, use MonoDevelop.Projects.ProjectServiceExtension
  - Horizontal extension
  - Can intercept/handle build, clean, execute, load, etc



# And Many, Many More

- Pads
- Key binding schemes
- Policies
- Code formatters
- Project file formats
- Preferences panels
- Options panels
- Debugger protocols
- Debugger visualizers
- Workspace layouts
- Solution pad tree nodes
- Source editor margins
- Unit test engines
- Code generators
- Code snippets
- Target frameworks
- Target runtime
- VCS backends
- Refactorings
- Execution handlers
- Syntax highlighting
- ...

# **DEMO**

## **Tour of an Addin**

`MonoDevelop.TextTemplating`

# Publishing Addins

- Simple way is to pack the addin

```
mdtool pack youraddin.dll
```

- Resulting mpack file can be installed from the Addin Manager
  - Tools menu (Windows), Xamarin Studio menu (Mac)
- Or use the addin build server
  - <http://addins.monodevelop.com>
  - Publishes to online addin repository
  - Installable from Addin Gallery

# Where Next?

- <http://monodevelop.com/Developers/Articles>
- <irc://irc.gnome.org/#monodevelop>
- [monodevelop-devel-list@lists.ximian.com](mailto:monodevelop-devel-list@lists.ximian.com)
- <https://github.com/mono/monodevelop>
- <https://github.com/icsharpcode/NRefactory>



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# Thank You



# Questions?