

Hands-On Lab

Using the Architecture Explorer in Visual Studio 2010 Ultimate to Analyze Your Code

Lab version: 1.0.0

Last updated: 4/3/2012



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Overview

* 1. The Visual Studio 2010 Ultimate Architecture Explorer provides an easy way to drill down into your code and analyze relationships between projects, types, their assemblies and references. In this lab, you'll see how you can use the Architecture Explorer to examine an existing solution and create dynamic DGML diagrams.

# System Requirements

* 1. In order to complete this lab you will need the Visual Studio 2010 virtual machine provided by Microsoft. For more information on acquiring and using this virtual machine, please see [this blog post](http://bit.ly/VS2010RTMVHD).

# Prerequisites

1. It is recommended that you complete the following labs before exploring this lab:
   * Code Discovery using Visual Studio 2010 Ultimate Architecture Tools
   * Understand Class Coupling with Visual Studio 2010 Ultimate

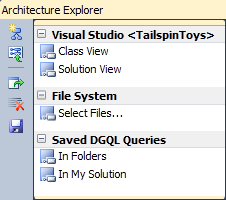
# Exercises

* 1. This Hands-On Lab comprises the following exercises:
  2. Introduction to Architecture Explorer
  3. Analyzing Project Structure using Architecture Explorer and DGML
  4. Analyzing External Assemblies using Architecture Explorer
  5. Estimated time to complete this lab: **60 minutes**.

# Next Step

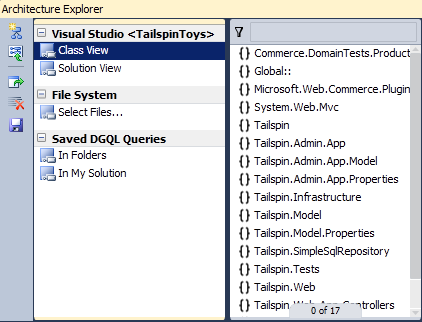
Exercise 1: Introduction to Architecture Explorer

Exercise 1: Introduction to Architecture Explorer

1. In this exercise, you will learn how to use the Architecture Explorer tool to navigate project source structure and to generate DGML diagrams that help illuminate subsets of that chosen structure.
   1. Log in as **Abu Obeida Bakhach (Dev)** if you have not already done so. The password is P2ssw0rd (capital letter P, the number two, the letter s, the letter s, the letter w, the number zero, the letter r, and the letter d). Please see “Working with the Visual Studio 2010 Virtual Machine” for instructions on how to log into the VM.
   2. Open Microsoft Visual Studio from **Start | All Programs | Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 | Microsoft Visual Studio 2010**.
   3. In Source Control Explorer (**View | Other Windows | Source Control Explorer**), navigate to **Tailspin Toys | Development | Iteration 2** and double-click on the **TailspinToys.sln** file to open the Tailspin Toys solution.
   4. Rebuild the solution (**Build | Rebuild Solution** from the main menu). This step may take a few minutes to complete.
   5. Close the **Output** window after the build has successfully completed.
   6. Load Architecture Explorer (**View | Architecture Explorer**). Architecture Explorer allows you to navigate the types and methods from code starting from either a class view or a solution view.
      1. 

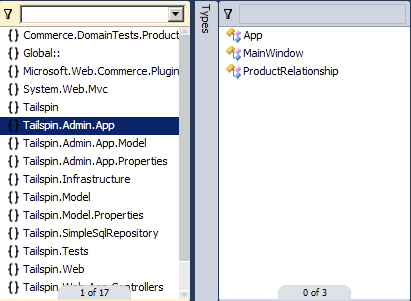
Figure

Initial view of Architecture Explorer

* 1. Select the **Class View** option from Architecture Explorer to view all of the namespaces that are part of the TailspinToys solution. From this point on, clicking on an item from the far right pane will allow you to drill down further into types and members.
     1. 

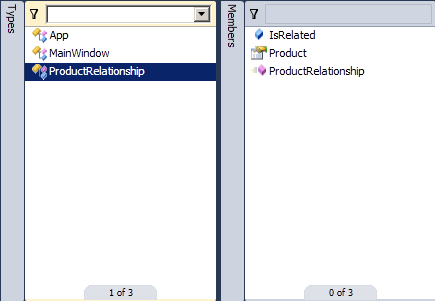
Figure

Class view showing namespaces from the TailspinToys solution

* 1. Scroll down to find the **Tailspin.Admin.App** namespace and select it to load its types.
     1. 

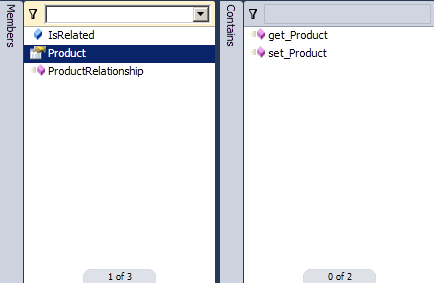
Figure

Viewing types for Tailspin.Admin.App namespace

* 1. Select the **ProductRelationship** class type to load its members.
     1. 

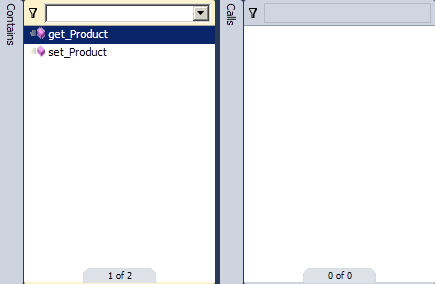
Figure

Viewing members of the ProductRelationship class

* 1. Select the **Product** property member to see that it contains two methods.
     1. 

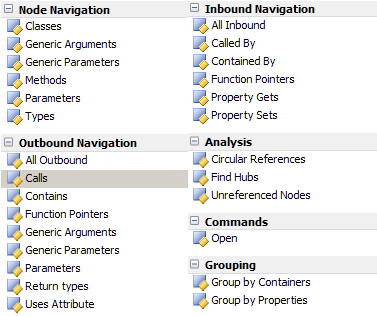
Figure

Viewing methods that implement the Product property

* + 1. **Note:** This step illustrates that Architecture Explorer is operating on compiled code using reflection. As you will see later on in this lab, you can explore compiled .NET code directly from compiled assemblies.
  1. Select the **get\_Product** method.
     1. 

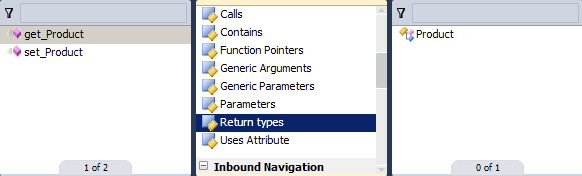
Figure

Selecting get\_Product exposing vertical Calls bar

* 1. Each level we drill down into starting with Types has a vertical bar that exposes filtering, grouping, and other commands. Select the vertical **Calls** bar to expose these options.
     1. 

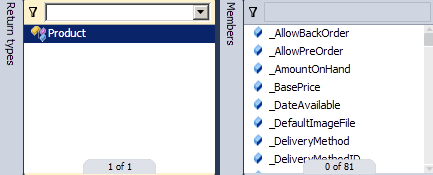
Figure

Options available when working with type and member nodes

* + 1. **Note:** The figure above is not an exact representation of what you will see. You will have to scroll through to see all of these options.
  1. Select the **Return Types** option found under Outbound Navigation in order to show the return type for get\_Product.
     1. 

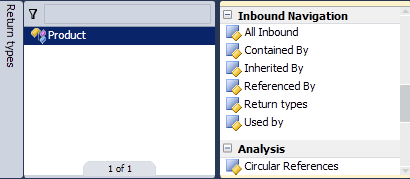
Figure

Finding return type of get\_Product

* 1. Select the **Product** return type to display its members. Note that we are now navigating the Product type, but we still have the historical steps of our navigation to look through also.
     1. 

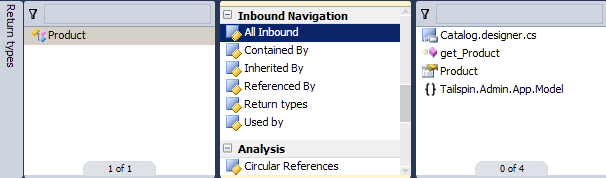
Figure

Viewing members of the Product type

* 1. Select the vertical **Members** bar immediately to the left of the Product members list and scroll down to the **Inbound Navigation** section.
     1. 

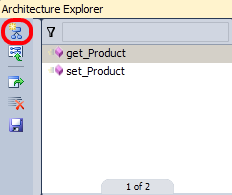
Figure

Viewing options for Product members

* 1. Select the **All Inbound** navigation option to see all calls that reference the Product type.
     1. 

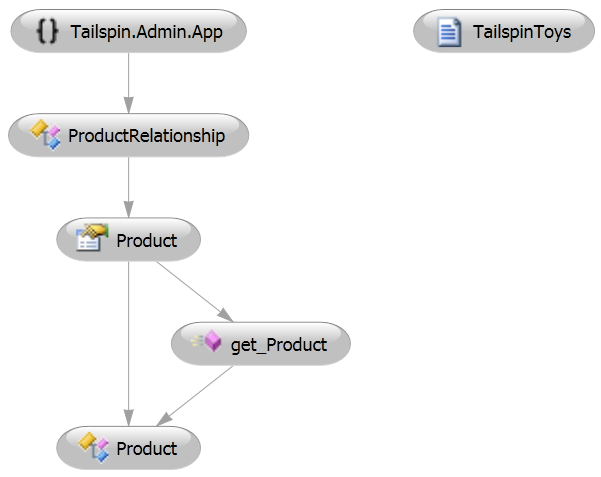
Figure

Viewing incoming references to the Product type

* 1. Although this may seem redundant from a navigation perspective, select the **Product** class type from the list of inbound references. Once again, you will see get\_Product and set\_Product listed.
  2. Select the **Create New Graph** button from the left side of Architecture Explorer. This will create a new DGML diagram showing the entire navigation path that you manually took up until this point.
     1. 

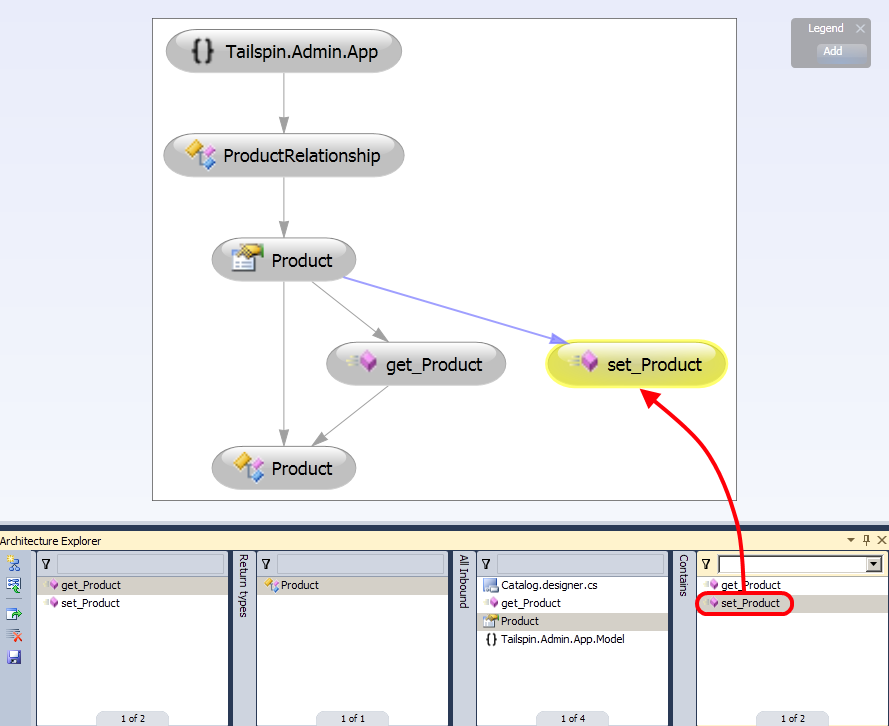
Figure

Create New Graph button location

* + 1. 

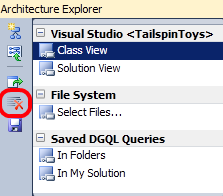
Figure

DGML representation of manual navigation performed in Architecture Explorer

* 1. Since this is a DGML diagram, we can use all of the standard tools to view it and add or remove nodes. Select the **TailspinToys** node and press the **Delete** key to remove it from the diagram.
  2. Return to Architecture Explorer and find the **set\_Product** method that is contained within the Product class. Drag and drop **set\_Product** onto the DGML diagram.
     1. 

Figure

Adding set\_Product to the DGML diagram

* + 1. **Note:** You can view the source for a type by right clicking on it and selecting View Content.
  1. Clear the selected columns in Architecture Explorer by selecting the **Clear Columns** button.
     1. 

Figure

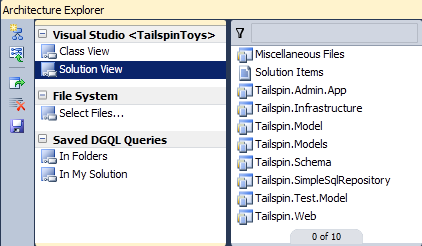
Clear Columns button location

# Next Step

Exercise 2: Analyzing Project Structure using Architecture Explorer and DGML

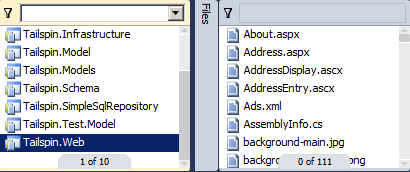
Exercise 2: Analyzing Project Structure using Architecture Explorer and DGML

In this exercise, you will learn more about the features of Architecture Explorer from the Solution View. This includes more exposure to node navigation, filtering support, and a sample scenario that demonstrates the combined power of Architecture Explorer and DGML diagrams to aid in architectural analysis.

* 1. Select the **Solution View** option from Architecture Explorer to view all projects that are part of the TailspinToys solution.
     1. 

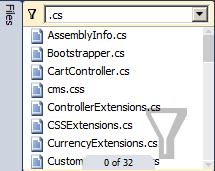
Figure

Solution view showing projects from the TailspinToys solution

* 1. Select the **Tailspin.Web** project to see a flat view of its files.
     1. 

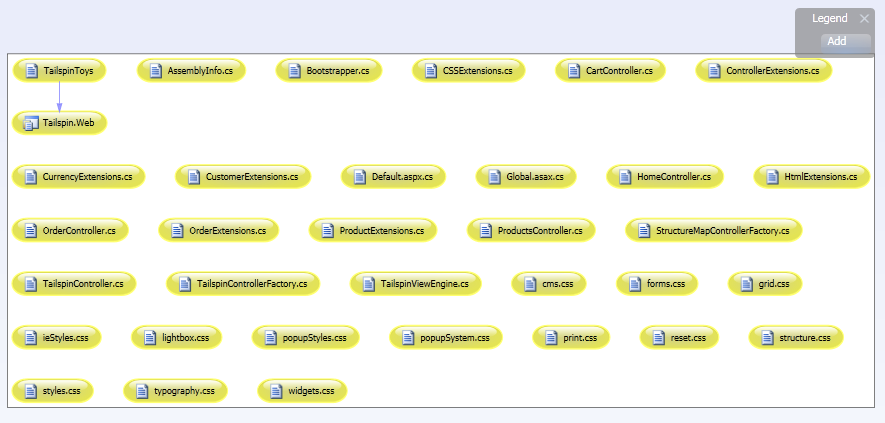
Figure

Viewing all files for the Tailspin.Web project

* 1. At the top of the source files list is a filter box. Enter “**.cs**” into the filter box and press **Enter** in order to restrict display to files that have the .cs extension.
     1. 

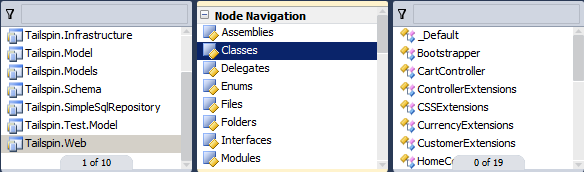
Figure

Filtering source files

* 1. Press **Ctrl + A** to select all of the .cs files and select the **Create New Graph** button.
     1. 

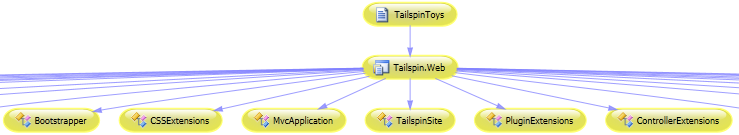
Figure

DGML diagram showing source files from Tailspin.Web project

* + 1. **Note:** If Ctrl + A does not work, make sure that the list you are trying to select currently has focus by first clicking somewhere within that list.
  1. **Close** the new graphs and return to Architecture Explorer.
  2. Select the **Tailspin.Web** project again to return to an unfiltered view of the files.
  3. Select the vertical **Files** bar and select the **Classes** navigation option to view all of the classes from the Tailspin.Web project.
     1. 

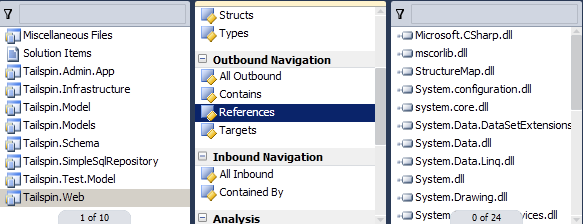
Figure

Viewing Tailspin.Web classes

* 1. Press **Ctrl + A** to select all of the classes and select the **Create New Graph** button.
     1. 

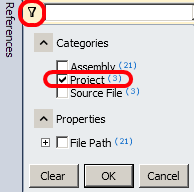
Figure

DGML diagram showing all classes from Tailspin.Web project

* 1. **Close** the new graph and return to Architecture Explorer.
  2. Clear the selected columns in Architecture Explorer by selecting the **Clear Columns** button.
  3. Select the **Solution View**, navigate to the **Tailspin.Web** project once again and select the **References** option from the vertical **Files** bar. This will show us all of the referenced assemblies used by this project.
     1. 

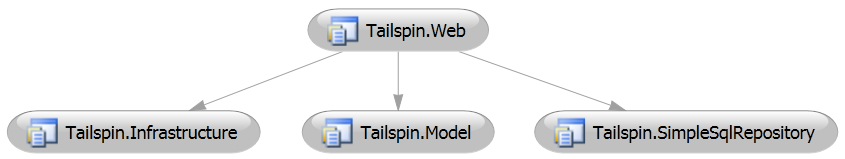
Figure

Selecting all referenced assemblies for a project

* 1. Select the **Filter** button at the top of the referenced assemblies list and select the check box for **Project**. This will filter out all references that are external to the TailspinToys solution.
     1. 

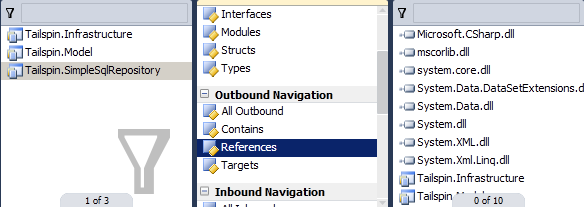
Figure

Filter button and Project option locations

* 1. Select the **OK** button to accept the filter changes.
  2. **Select all** of the filtered project references and select the **Create New Graph** button.
  3. **Delete** the **TailspinToys** node from the diagram.
     1. 

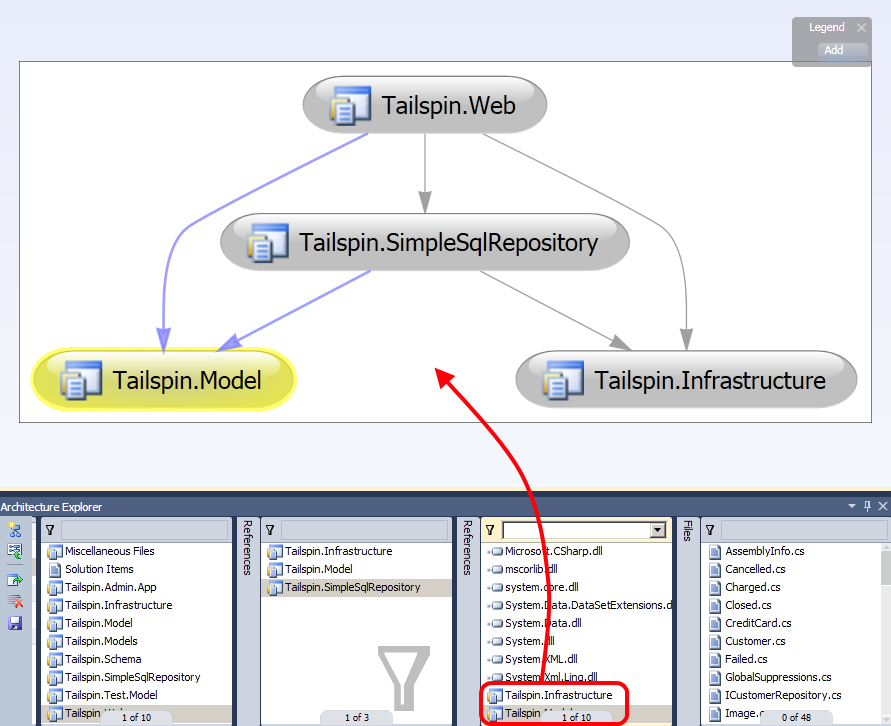
Figure

DGML diagram showing outgoing references from Tailspin.Web

* 1. Now we can explore the referential relationship between **Tailspin.SimpleSqlRepository** and the other projects in the diagram. In Architecture Explorer, select just the **Tailspin.SimpleSqlRepository** item and change the Files viewing options to **References**.
     1. 

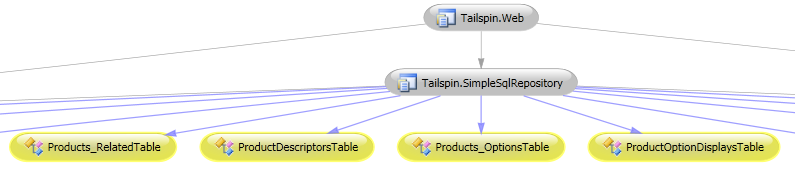
Figure

Listing references for the Tailspin.SimpleSqlRepository project

* 1. Select the **Tailspin.Infrastructure** and **Tailspin.Model** items and then **drag and drop** them onto the existing DGML diagram.
     1. 

Figure

Updated DGML diagram showing outgoing references from Tailspin.SimpleSqlRepository project

* 1. Now we can create a better view of how the Product related classes for these projects fit into this picture. Return to the Architecture Explorer and select the **three project references** from the **Tailspin.Web** project once again.
  2. Select the vertical **Files** bar and select the **Classes** option to view all classes from the selected projects.
  3. In the **Filter** box, enter “**Product**” and press **Enter** to see all classes that contain that term.
  4. **Select all** the filtered classes, then **drag and drop** them onto the existing DGML diagram.
     1. 

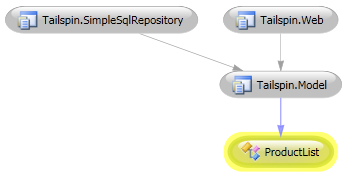
Figure

Updated DGML diagram showing how Product related classes relate to existing projects

* 1. Select the **ProductList** class from the DGML diagram and select the **Butterfly Mode** button from the Directed Graph toolbar. This removes nodes that do not directly reference ProductList.
     1. 

Figure

The Butterfly Mode button

* + 1. 

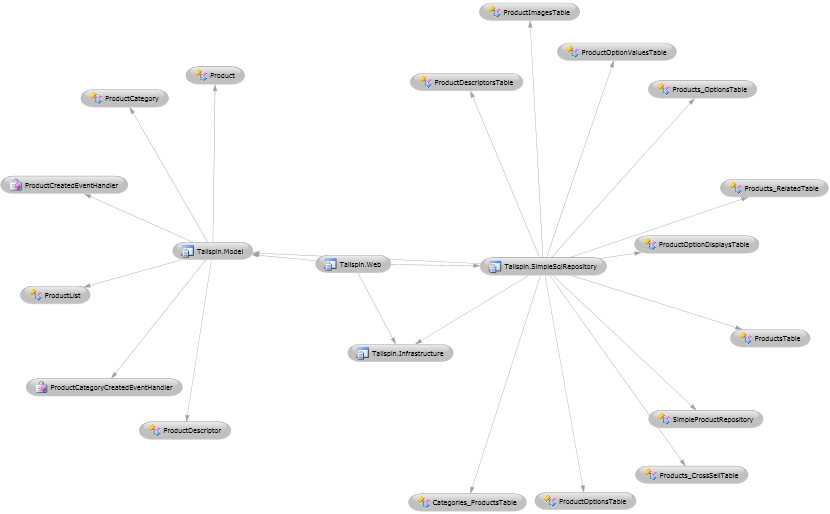
Figure

Butterfly Mode view for ProductList

* 1. Select the **Butterfly Mode** button once again to turn it off.
  2. Select the **Quick Clusters** button and zoom to fit the entire graph to the available screen space. Note that it is now easy to see that the Tailspin.SimpleSqlRepository project and its Product related classes are responsible for data access.
     1. 

Figure

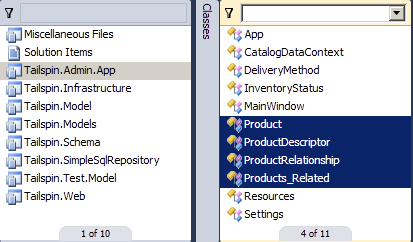
The Quick Clusters button

* + 1. 

Figure

Quick Clusters view of current dependency graph

* 1. Now we can see how the Tailspin administrator application fits into the overall architecture that we have looked at so far. Clear the selected columns in Architecture Explorer by selecting the **Clear Columns** button.
  2. Select the **Solution View** and select **Tailspin.Admin.App**.
  3. Select the vertical **Files** bar and select the **References** option. Note that there are no references to any of the Tailspin projects. There are references to System.Data.dll and System.Data.Linq.dll, so perhaps the admin application is going directly to the database.
  4. Now we will investigate the admin application further to see if there is truly cause for concern. Select the vertical bar currently displaying References and select the **Classes** option instead.
  5. **Select all** classes that start with **Product**.



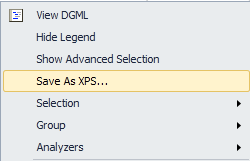
Figure

Selecting product related classes for Tailspin admin application

* 1. Select the **Create New Graph** button.
     1. 

Figure

DGML diagram showing Tailspin admin application and Product classes

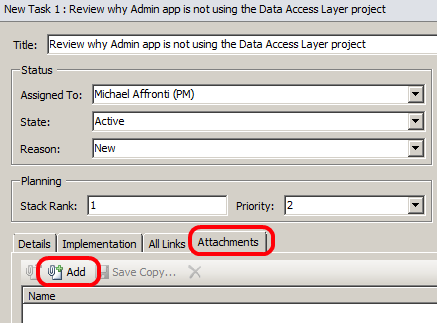
* 1. **Delete** the **TailspinToys** solution node from the diagram.
  2. Note that there are no outbound calls to the Tailspin.SimpleSqlRepository data access code. **Right-click** somewhere within the current DGML diagram and select the **Save As XPS…** option. We are going to create a work item and assign it to someone to investigate further.
     1. 

Figure

Saving DGML diagram as XPS

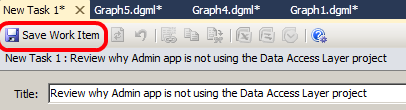
* 1. Name the XPS file “**AdminAppReview**” and select the **Save** button.
  2. In Team Explorer, **right-click** on the **Work Items** node for the TailspinToys project and select the **New Work Item | Task** option.
  3. Fill in the following fields as shown in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Work Item Field | Value |
| Title | Review why Admin app is not using the Data Access Layer project |
| Assigned To | Michael Affronti (PM) |
| Stack Rank | 1 |
| Details Description | Take a look at the attached diagram. Notice how we’re using Product data but not getting it via the Tailspin data access project. |

* 1. Select the **Attachments** tab and click the **Add** button.
     1. 

Figure

Location of Attachments tab and Add button

* 1. Select the **Browse** button and select the XPS file that you saved.
  2. In the **Comment** field, enter “**Snapshot of current Admin app.**”
  3. Select the **OK** button to add the attachment to the new work item.
  4. Select the **Save Work Item** button to finish the process of creating the new work item.
     1. 

Figure

Save Work Item button location

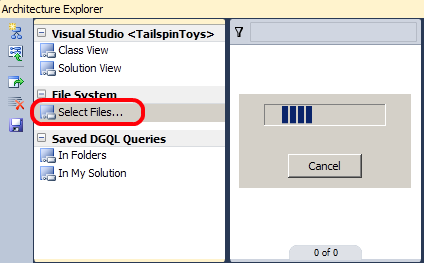
* 1. Close all open windows in Visual Studio including the new work item and existing graphs. You do not need to save the existing graphs.
  2. Clear the selected columns in Architecture Explorer by selecting the **Clear Columns** button.

# Next Step

Exercise 3: Analyzing External Assemblies Using Architecture Explorer

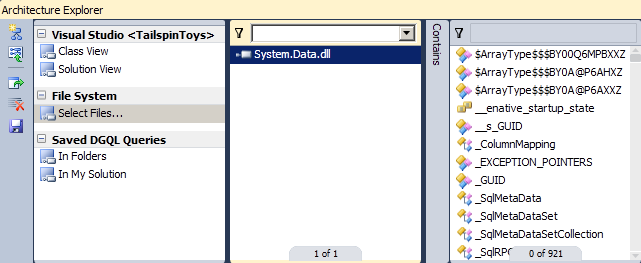
Exercise 3: Analyzing External Assemblies Using Architecture Explorer

In this exercise, you will learn how to load and navigate external .NET assemblies. This can help you gain insight into the architecture of frameworks or applications for which you do not have the original project or source files.

* 1. Select the **Select Files** option from Architecture Explorer. This allows you to load compiled .NET assemblies and analyze them as you already have done with the Class and Solution Views.
     1. 

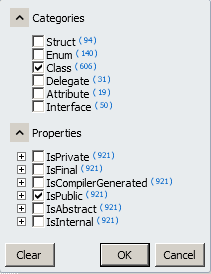
Figure

Select Files view allows you to load and navigate any .NET assembly

* 1. In the **File Name** box, enter “**c:\windows\microsoft.net\framework\v4.0.30319**” and press the **Enter** key.
     1. **Note:** If the v4.0.30319 directory is not available, select the most recent one available.
  2. In the **File Name** box, enter “**System.Data.dll**” and select the **Open** button to continue.
  3. Select the **System.Data.dll** file to view its types.
     1. 

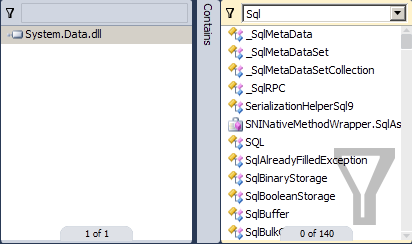
Figure

iewing System.Data.dll types

* 1. Select the **Filter** button at the top of the types list and select the check box for **Class** and the check box for **IsPublic**.
     1. 

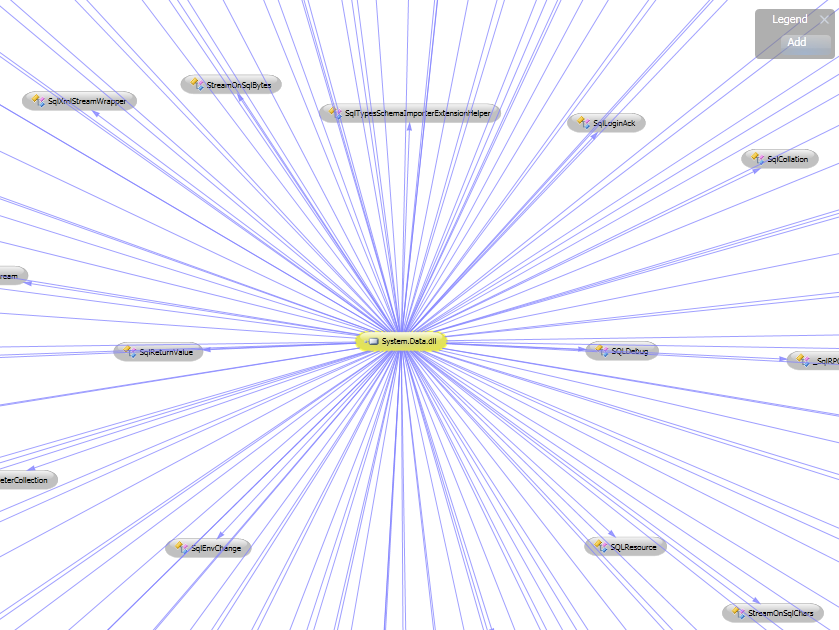
Figure

Creating a filter for public classes

* 1. Press the **OK** button to see the list of public classes in the System.Data.dll assembly.
  2. Enter “**Sql**” into the filter box at the top of the current type list and press Enter so that we can view types that contain that text.
     1. 

Figure

Filtering with custom text

* 1. **Select all** of the listed types and press the **Create New Graph** button.
     1. 

Figure

DGML diagram showing System.Data.dll and its classes

To give feedback please write to [VSKitFdbk@Microsoft.com](mailto:VSKitFdbk@Microsoft.com)

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