

**The results are in!** See what nearly 90,000 developers picked as their most loved, dreaded, and desired coding languages and more in the 2019 Developer Survey.

## How do I remedy the “The breakpoint will not currently be hit. No symbols have been loaded for this document.” warning?

[Ask Question](#)

C# desktop application on express edition. Worked then didn't work 5 seconds later.

1311

I tried the following.



307

- Ensure debug configuration, debug flag, and full debug info are set on all assemblies.
- Delete all bin and obj folders and all DLLs related to the project from my entire machine.
- Recreate projects causing the problem from scratch.
- Reboot.

I have two WinForms projects in the solution. One of them loads the debug info, one doesn't. They both refer to the assembly I'm trying to get debug info on in exactly the same way in the project file. Any ideas?

I want to add in here, mostly for myself when I come back to review this question, that symbols are not loaded until the assembly is loaded, and the assembly is not loaded until it is needed. If the breakpoint is in a library that is only used in one function in your main assembly, the symbols will not be loaded (and it will show the

breakpoint as not being hit) until that function is called.

[c#](#)[.net](#)[visual-studio](#)[debugging](#)[breakpoints](#)

edited Sep 26 '17 at 19:55

community wiki

5 revs, 3 users 100%

[Instance Hunter](#)

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94 When debugging, goto to the Debug, Windows, Modules view. This will show info about loaded modules and symbol status. You can right click a module and try to load the symbols from another location. – [Polyfun](#) Jan 28 '10 at 16:19

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12 Express edition does not have Modules view. – [Instance Hunter](#) Jan 28 '10 at 16:25

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11 Good point about assemblies not loaded until needed. The debugger will show that the breakpoint won't be hit, but the display will change/your breakpoint WILL be hit once the assembly is loaded. A cheesy workaround this UI issue would be to make a call to the assembly at program start to force the assembly to be loaded. – [Tim Coker](#) Oct 17 '11 at 13:16

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1 I had same issue and I noticed that for this build configuration I didn't have `<DebugSymbols>true</DebugSymbols>` under it in VS2015 I manually added it and it worked fine. – [kuskmen](#) Nov 21 '16 at 8:07

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2 Removing the .suo file might have solved this ugly problem at my project – [Roland](#) Jun 1 '17 at 21:02

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## 90 Answers

1

2

3

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Start debugging as soon as you've arrived at a breakpoint or used

941



Start debugging, as soon as you've arrived at a breakpoint or used  
 Debug > Break All, use Debug > Windows > Modules. You'll see a list  
 of all the assemblies that are loaded into the process. Locate the  
 one you want to get debug info for. Right-click it and select Symbol  
 Load Information. You'll get a dialog that lists all the directories  
 where it looked for the .pdb file for the assembly. Verify that list  
 against the actual .pdb location. Make sure it doesn't find an old  
 one.

In normal projects, the assembly and its .pdb file should always  
 have been copied by the IDE into the same folder as your .exe. The  
 bin\Debug folder of your project. Make sure you remove one from  
 the GAC if you've been playing with it.

edited Jun 1 '17 at 23:40

community wiki

6 revs, 5 users 45%

Hans Passant

4 Effectively, that was the issue on my case. We had a postcompile that  
 made it to not be considered 'User Code' ... now, I have to see what's up  
 with that, but I do confirmed that without the postcompile modifications,  
 the symbols are loaded. @Hans thank you, saved me some good  
 minutes! *sends a virtual beer* – [eglasius](#) May 12 '11 at 18:58

18 The question is about express edition, to which this answer does not  
 apply, unfortunately. Actually none of the answers work for me, I also  
 tried removing the Debug folder and rebuilding. – [Nicolas Raoul](#) Sep 21  
 '12 at 8:56

3 Microsoft Visual Studio Express 2013 for Web does not have Debug  
 Windows Modules option. How to use fix this in this case ? – [Andrus](#)

Mar 5 '14 at 18:14

2 As a hint, turn on your exceptions so it breaks where you want it to (if you  
 are unable to put a break-point in the beginning of the process)... You  
 then follow Han's recommended process of Debug > Windows >  
 Modules. Look for the project you were trying to step into and look at the

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c# - How do I remedy the "The breakpoint will not currently be hit. No symbols have been loaded for this document." warning? - Stack Overflow  
 PATH. If it says "C:\windows\assembly" then its pointing to a GAC dll and NOT the project... - [Andy Danger Gagne](#) Mar 10 '14 at 14:59

- 2 i had my solution's active solution configuration set to Release , changing it back to Debug solve my problem. This answer helped me "remember" what to look for - [gilad](#) Jul 12 '15 at 10:45



After trying a bunch of these, the thing that ultimately worked for me was this:

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In `Debug > Options > General` , **uncheck** `Enable Edit and Continue` .



answered [23 hours ago](#)

community wiki  
[melicent](#)



The Following steps forked for me:

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1. Go to the "bin" folder of your project.
2. Delete the "Debug" folder.
3. Build your project again.
4. The Debug folder will get re-created.

Now you can start debugging again.

answered [Apr 4 at 7:04](#)

community wiki  
[Karthik](#)



I think the source of this error is, the debug symbols have a hard time surfacing to the solution after building for release.

0



I tried all the other answers -- generally, regenerating .pdb symbols or checking their location, cleaning and rebuilding project, ensuring active configuration is not Release etc.

What eventually worked for me is right-clicking on the project in solution explorer > Debug > Start new instance.

answered [Mar 3 at 3:14](#)

community wiki  
[I Want Answers](#)



Try to do this. It worked for me.

-1



Debug=>Options=>General => Remove the check mark for "Enable Just My Code"

answered [Feb 21 at 10:31](#)

community wiki  
[Yojana Ambavkar](#)



In my case, none of these solutions worked. I had to go to

1



Tools -> Import and Export Settings -> Reset all settings.

and then debugging started working without any issues.

answered [Dec 27 '18 at 21:04](#)

community wiki  
[nPcomp](#)



I also had the same issue what I rebuild the whole solution (including refereced projects) in x86( or x64)

5



Even though I set all of my projects to x86 from Configuration Manager (Build->ConfigManager) some of my projects were not set to x86.

So Just to make sure right click on the project and follow

project -> properties -> Debug Tab, verify Configuration and Platform.

edited [Dec 4 '18 at 11:20](#)

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[2 revs, 2 users 77%](#)  
[user781700](#)



This took me a while tried other options above and for some strange reason debugging stopped working.

6



Tool -> Options -> Debugging -> General -> (untick) "Require source files to exactly match the original version" option

[edited Dec 4 '18 at 11:19](#)

community wiki  
[2 revs, 2 users 80%](#)  
[tfa](#)



0



### When debugging an assembly by starting an external application there are some extra considerations:

- The external app may load its own copies of assemblies (DLLs) from a manifest file. (e.g., file `appname.exe.manifest` ) If so, you need to disable this possibly by manually altering the manifest.
- The external app may just try to load from DLLs in its own folder, even without a manifest. You will have to remove / rename these.

With these steps taken care of, the version of the assembly running in the debugger should be correctly loaded and can be debugged normally.

[answered Nov 15 '18 at 13:12](#)

community wiki  
[DavelnCaz](#)



1



When trying to debug an Excel AddIn in VS 2013, after I had tried all Debug settings by disabling DotNet Framework Source Stepping and disabling Symbol Loading, **what finally worked for me was changing the Configuration Setting to Release rather than Debug**, since the compiler seemed to step over the code and the

c# - How do I remedy the "The breakpoint will not currently be hit. No symbols have been loaded for this document." warning? - Stack Overflow  
breakpoints were eventually hit.

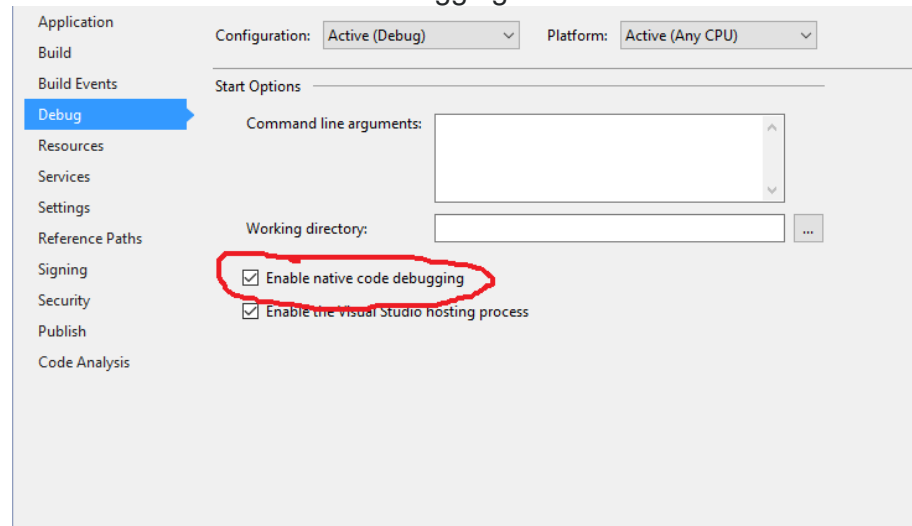
edited Nov 13 '18 at 21:00

community wiki  
2 revs, 2 users 67%  
Kamran Hyder

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If you have both C# and native code(C/C++), make sure that native debugging is enabled for the project:

1. Right-click your Startup Project in Solution Explorer
2. Select Properties
3. Select "Debug" tab
4. Make sure Native Code debugging is enabled



answered Nov 12 '18 at 8:58

community wiki  
M Pajnov



0

In my case this started happening **after a Windows Update**, turns out the windows update turned off Internet Information Services which was making it appear that my API was unable to hit the breakpoint that I had set, but what was actually happening was that IIS was failing to start and therefore my application code wasn't actually running.

Double check that Internet Information Services is enabled in the Windows Features menu.

Instructions for IIS:

- control panel
- Programs
- open or close windows features
- tick internet information services
- restart visual studio

If using IIS Express:

Open 'Add/Remove Programs' from the old control panel and run a repair on IIS Express Or you might go Control Panel ->> Programs ->> Programs and Features ->> Turn Windows features on or off ->> Internet Information Services and check the parent Internet Information Services folder.

I got this answer here: [Specified argument was out of the range of valid values. Parameter name: site](#)

edited Sep 1 '18 at 19:16

community wiki

2 revs

[21 votes](#)  
[Josh Siegl](#)



There are many answers with many different solutions to fix this issue.

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Another solution is to make sure that your code is reachable. For example:

Any code that is added after a Return in a function. Adding a GOTO that effectively skips your code that has the break point.

I'm not saying these are normal but they are also causes.

answered [Aug 30 '18 at 18:42](#)

community wiki  
[Nathan](#)



I had similar issue and I did the following:  
Debug=>Options=>General => Remove the check mark for "Enable Just My Code" This worked for me..

4



answered [Aug 22 '18 at 11:53](#)

community wiki  
[Muhammed Krasniqi](#)



In my case i am trying to debug in relase mode. Once i change it to debug mode. Its working

1

17

answered [May 21 '18 at 5:18](#)community wiki  
[Adithya Sai](#)

0

No meu caso dei um F11 na chamada do método, forçando entrar no método onde o BP com problema estava, sendo assim, o break point foi recuperado.



In my case I gave an F11 in the method call, forcing to enter the method where the problem BP was, so the break point was recovered.

answered [May 3 '18 at 21:03](#)community wiki  
[Melqui Franco](#)

1

In my case, I was debugging a WPF extension using Visual Studio's Experimental Instance. After starting debugging and then pausing the debugger, I opened the `Debug > Windows > Modules` window. From there, I could see the directory where Visual Studio was trying to load symbols `C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\VisualStudio\15.0_76a9e536Exp\Extensions\<companyName>`. **After stopping debugging, I deleted the target folder using Windows Explorer and restarted the debugger. Visual Studio was then able to hit the breakpoint.**

answered [Apr 29 '18 at 1:59](#)

community wiki  
[Paul Schroeder](#)



Cross posting this fix from [Hans K](#) that I found on the similar thread  
[>> HERE <<](#):

142



Right click on solution --> Properties

Look under Common Properties --> Startup Project

Select multiple startup projects

select Start action on the projects you need to debug.

edited Feb 6 '18 at 6:57

community wiki  
3 revs, 2 users 90%  
[jp2code](#)

- 7 This also handles situations where you are trying to debug a WEB project that is a .NET remoting endpoint running on the VS development server and showing "no symbols loaded". – [D-Sect](#) Apr 22 '13 at 18:51
- 1 This fixed it for me. I think previously somebody had tried to attach the debugging to the local IIS server instead of the debug version of IIS that visual studio uses. – [Dowlers](#) Jun 20 '13 at 23:22
- 1 If you have removed the .suo file you can lose the solution settings selected here and will have to set them again – [Redeemed1](#) Feb 15 '17 at 11:01

Just something simple to try. You may have tried it already. Right



255

Just something simple to try - you may have tried it already. Right click the Solution in solution explorer, click **"clean solution"**, this **deletes all the compiled and temporary files associated with a solution.**

Do a rebuild of the solution and try to debug again.

I've also had troubles with breakpoints multiple projects in a solution - some compiled as x86, some as x64.

edited Feb 6 '18 at 6:57

community wiki  
4 revs, 4 users 83%  
Patrick

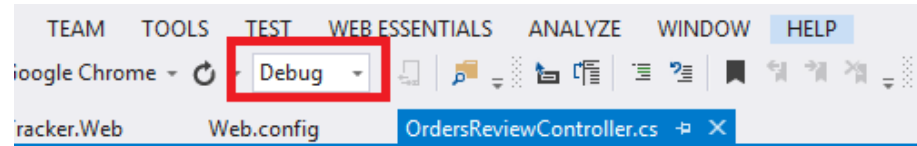
- 
- 5 How did you fix the breakpoints with multiple projects in a solution - some compiled as x86, some as x64? – [Richard Li](#) Feb 9 '15 at 22:24
- 
- 3 If you are running IISExpress (or the Azure emulator), the files in C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319\Temporary ASP.NET Files\root may not get updated if your AssemblyVersion is 1.0.0.0. Make sure there it is something like 1.0.\* so that a new version is generated each time you build your web project. Clean Solution does not clear out the temporary internet files folder. – [Michael Lang](#) Feb 27 '16 at 22:44
- 
- 1 This does the same thing as doing a Rebuild All. – [Jonathan Wood](#) Nov 25 '16 at 17:22
- 
- 2 @jonathan Wood - I'd mostly agree with that. But in rare circumstances, Rebuild All can produce slightly different results - I know I've seen strange differences at times. Have a look here for some interesting discussion: [stackoverflow.com/questions/1247457/...](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1247457/...) – [Patrick](#) Dec 4 '16 at 4:57
- 



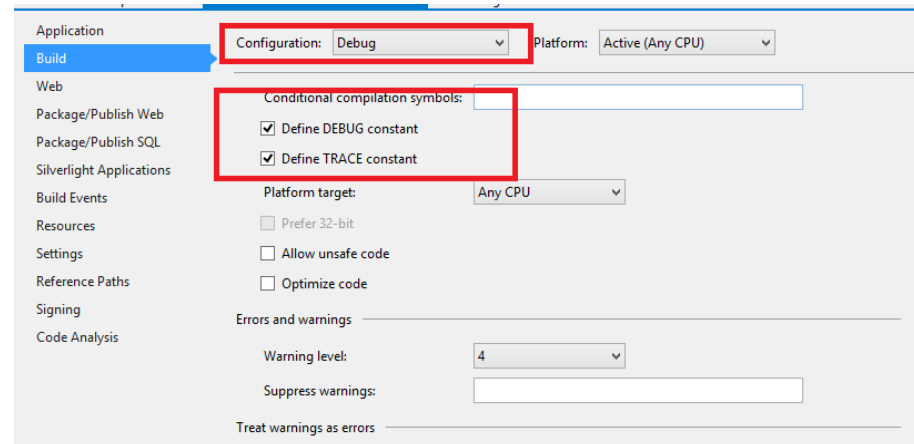
The selected answer led me to fix my problem. But I need to do a few things more:

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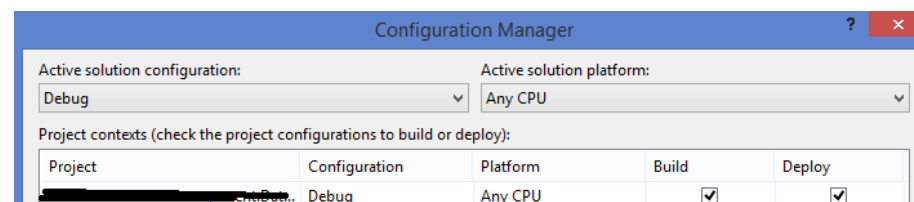
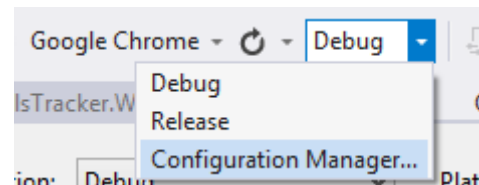
Even with "Debug" selected in the dropdown:

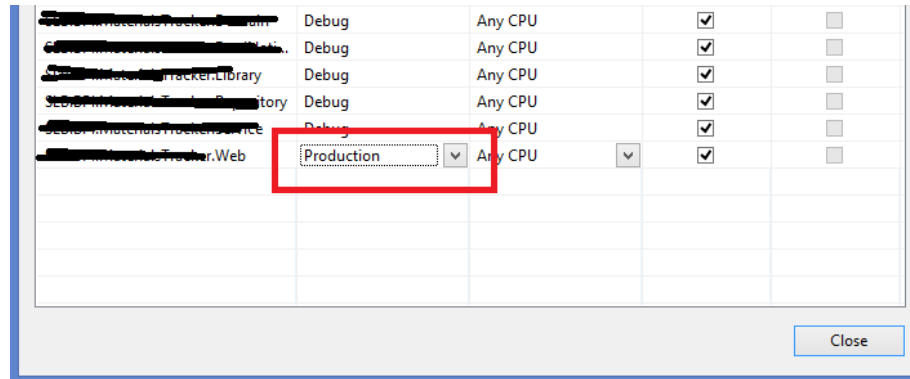


And in the project Properties > Build:

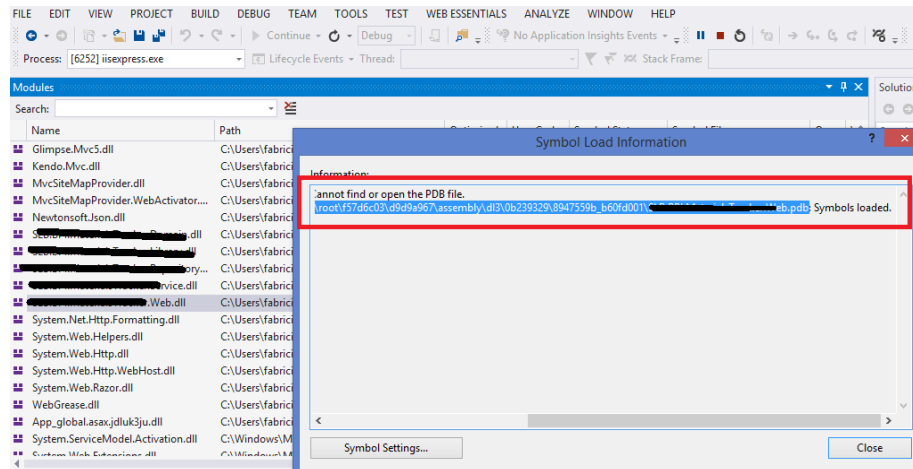


The Visual Studio was not loading symbols to a specific project. So in that dropdown I select "Configuration Manager" and saw that the settings to my web project was incorrect:





Then I set that to "Debug" and it started to generate the .pdb file.  
**BUT** I need to manually copy the PDB and DLL and put in the folder that VS was looking (here is where the selected answer helped me):



edited Jan 30 '18 at 15:18

community wiki  
3 revs  
fabriciorissetto

1 I was running in release mode Thanks!! - [Dinak Telangre](#) Jan 30 '18 at

I was running in release mode. Thanks !! — [Dipak Khatiwada](#) Jan 16 '18 at 13:42



Right click on Project -> Properties -> Go to *Build* Tab -> Uncheck *Optimize Code*. Do It for any project in your solution

2

[edited Jan 16 '18 at 8:34](#)



community wiki

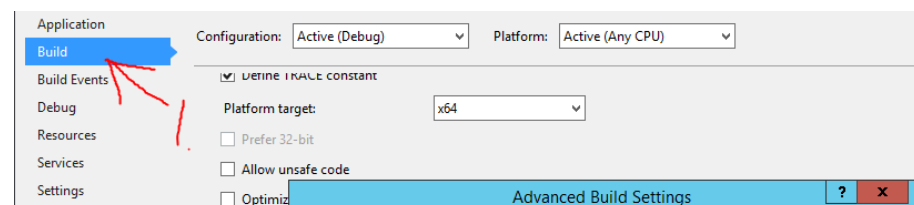
[2 revs, 2 users 50%](#)

[Jamal Kaksouri](#)

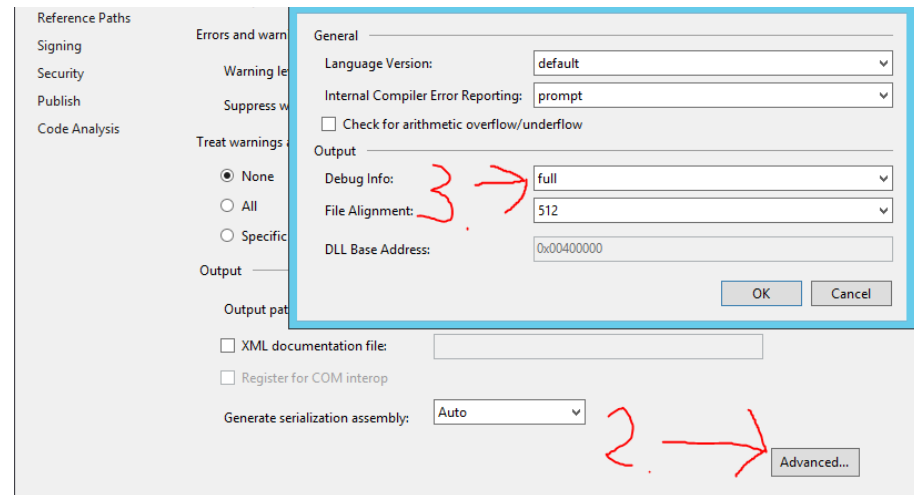


36

Check if your .pdb file is missing in your bin/Debug folder. If it is then go to "Properties" of your project, selected "Build" and then "Advanced" at the bottom. Choose "full" under "Debug info" in the new window that appeared. This was my issue and solved it for me.







edited Jan 4 '18 at 13:34

community wiki  
4 revs, 2 users 90%  
Arne H. Bitubekk

- 3 Why you answer hasn't been set as the correct answer? – [Emixam23](#) Jan 3 '18 at 21:08
- 2 Awesome answer and the screenshot was helpful. – [Rich](#) Feb 9 '18 at 19:33
- 1 solved my issue in a .net core project – [Jota.Toledo](#) Jun 19 '18 at 7:59
- 1 Thanks, this fixed it for me after I made new Web.config transforms and deleted the default configs (like Web.Debug.config) that VS 2017 provides. – [Ken Palmer](#) Jul 13 '18 at 18:12
- 1 Tried lots of other options (wasted almost 2 hours) This "full" option fix my issue. Thanks! – [SoftSan](#) Oct 3 '18 at 12:42

Sometimes, even though it gives you this error, the breakpoint still

34

gets hit, so just ignore the error. This happens fairly often in the

Views of an MVC web app .

edited Nov 30 '17 at 16:23

community wiki

2 revs

Serj Sagan

6 This should actually be upvoted somewhere to the top. I spent lots of time doing all the answers above, but the breakpoint would actually be hit. Just check:) Also, that was a WPF desktop app. – [Bartosz](#) Jan 15 '16 at 16:19

4 aspx seems to be compiled on demand, thus debugging info is available only after the aspx page is needed – [aeroson](#) Jul 21 '16 at 12:17



4

I know I'm years late, but I thought I'd done something wrong and followed the above steps then I realised I'd set the solution configuration to 'Release' by mistake :)



answered Nov 15 '17 at 10:58

community wiki

[Neil Walker](#)

1 Can I upvote 10K times? The worst of it all is that I think I've searched for this on google like 10 times now, and everytime is the same stupid

mistake. Perhaps Microsoft could hint it to the user? – [tfrascaroli](#) Dec 1 '17 at 14:26

A comment to get this problem has appeared on Visual Studio

0

A new way to get this problem has appeared as of Visual Studio 2017 15.3.1 through 15.3.5. If you are using [EditorConfig](#), the `charset=utf8` option causes these symptoms. The VS team has reproduced this and [says they are working on it](#).

So one fix is to comment out your `charset=utf8` line in the `.editorconfig` file.

Status is now "Fixed - pending release" as of October 9, 2017.

(Thanks to John Hatton, ["The breakpoint will not currently be hit. The source code is different from the original version." What does this mean?](#))

answered Oct 18 '17 at 18:25

community wiki  
[JohnT](#)

1

In my case, it was because my publishing profile (Publish to local IIS site) was somehow set to Release Configuration, despite the fact that the global build configuration was set to Debug. Modified the publishing profile to Debug configuration solved the issue for me.

answered Oct 12 '17 at 13:33

community wiki  
[george.himself](#)

0

For my Xamarin application, it finally started debugging after I completely wiped the Source Control folder, did "Get Latest", and rebuilt the solution.



answered [Sep 18 '17 at 20:04](#)

community wiki  
[My Stack Overfloweth](#)



Try running visual studio as an administrator within windows.

21

edited [Sep 11 '17 at 9:12](#)



community wiki  
4 revs, 2 users 80%  
[Andy](#)

1 I ended up needed to run msvsmon as Admin on the remote machine. –  
[Bill Hoag](#) Jun 9 '17 at 13:26



It is also worth to mention that in some situations the problem occurs, because the project you want to debug is an external service. In that case you have to attach debugger to the running process.

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answered [Jul 24 '17 at 10:58](#)

community wiki  
[DiSaSteR](#)

I was getting this and was stumped (using Visual Studio 2013 Premium).

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Normally our apps at work reference .dlls in a particular common/app directory, like this: C:\OurCompanyApps\xxxxxx.dll. This was happening in a solution that has a bunch of WinForm and .dll projects in it. The .dll projects compile to C:\OurCompanyApps\ and the WinForm projects reference the compiled .dll files in that location.

The problem: **I found that the app in question was referencing the .dll project in the Source Control bin\Debug location instead of the compiled .dll file in C:\OurCompanyApps.**

Solution: **I deleted the reference and re-added it from the C:\OurCompanyApps\ location. Then I could step-through the breakpoints I had added in the .dll code.**

Hope this helps someone.

answered [Jul 11 '17 at 14:10](#)

community wiki  
[clamum](#)

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[next](#)

protected by [Community ♦](#) [Jul 21 '12 at 9:38](#)

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