

Visual Studio: Is there a way to collapse all items of Solution Explorer?



134



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I know that I can use Arrow Keys to collapse items of solution explorer one by one, but I would like to know if there is a way to collapse all items with only one operation. I want to know it because, today I have a solution with 6 projects that have at least **two hundred files** and if I try to collapse them one-by-one I will have a hard time.

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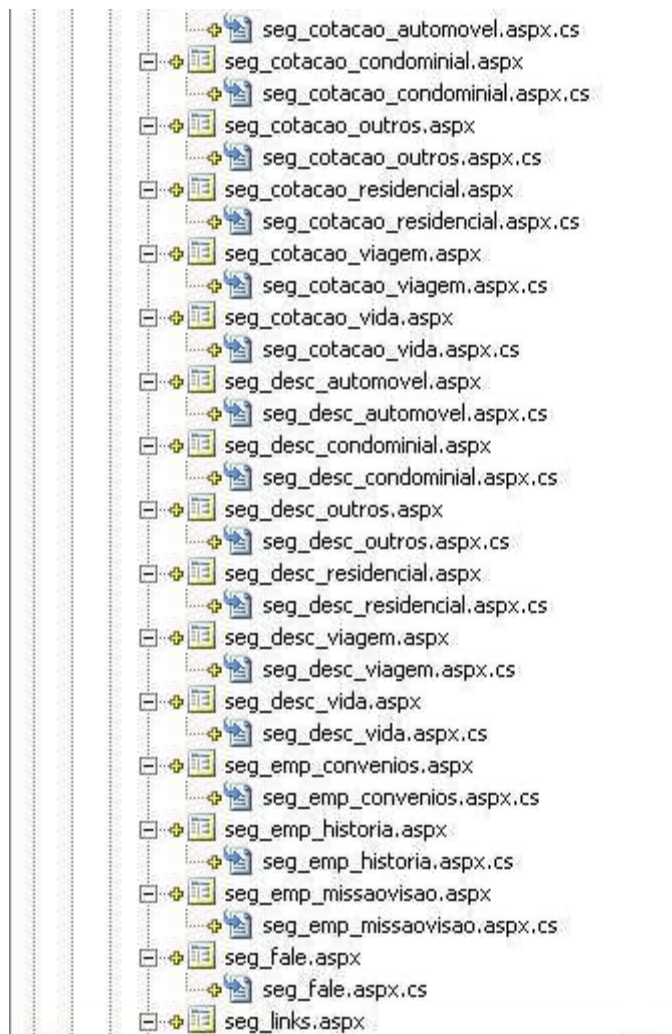
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[.net](#)[visual-studio-2008](#)

edited Jun 20 '15 at 18:17



Spooky

2 588 7 21 36

asked Aug 31 '09 at 14:28



Cleiton

9 214 11 38 55

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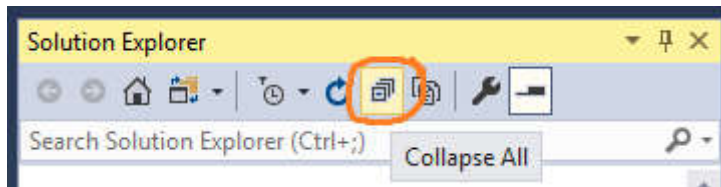
@epiragoo Only items that are collapsed key on the keyboard. Now as you expand any in the absence of a keyboard key pass. [Marco Lackovic](#)
Apr 26 '16 at 7:31

@Marco Lackovic (late reply) My best bet is to search "expandall" in Tool>Option>Environment>Keyboard and set a hotkey. (didn't test) – [javaLover](#)
Mar 25 '17 at 3:29

12 Answers

▲ It appears to be built in by default in Visual Studio 2013 onwards.

159



edited May 22 '18 at 19:52

answered Jul 1 '14 at 16:04



[Sebastian Patten](#)
4,587 3 26 38

13 Is there a hot key shortcut for this? – [RayLoveless](#) Jan 6 '16 at 18:43

7 @RayLoveless no but you can set one in Tools -> Options -> Environment -> Keyboard – [Adam Short](#) Feb 29 '16 at 10:33

4 @AdamShort I found it convenient to assign action "Collapse All" to "Num /" key, it makes a good match for the "Num *" (Expand All) – [Varvara Kalinina](#)
May 24 '17 at 9:06

@VarvaraKalinina How did you do that? `SolutionExplorer.CollapseAll` will only accept CTRL+something, trying to just use `` does nothing for me – [Noctis](#) May 22 '18 at 6:29

▲ If you have ReSharper installed, you can right click on the solution in the solution explorer, and select "Collapse All".

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1 Request clarification or suggest improvement. Using resharper - what is the command / shortcut? – [Mars Robertson](#) Jul 23 '13 at 15:13

@MichalStefanow - I have updated based on your suggestion – [Pete](#) Jul 24 '13 at 7:54

You can use [PowerCommands for Visual Studio 2008](#)

21

Right click on the project\solution on the solution explorer and choose Collapse Project:



edited Feb 8 '17 at 14:14



Community ♦

1 1

answered Aug 31 '09 at 14:36



[HuBeZa](#)

3,616 27 50

1 love powercommands, except the "undo close" window that won't die. – [Muad'Dib](#) Aug 31 '09 at 14:48

I tried to use it, but after it was installed on my machine, my vs2008 stopped to work. LOL – [Cleiton](#) Aug 31 '09 at 14:53

@Chris: I never tried it (I actually use the undo close window), but under Tools\Options\PowerCommands\Commands you can disable any feature you want. – [HuBeZa](#) Aug 31 '09 at 14:56

PowerCommands tends to break the WPF designer, unfortunately. – [Ryan Lundy](#) Sep 11 '09 at 18:17

1 Power Commands doesn't collapse solution folders either and instead expands them randomly – [Mario](#) Jan 7 '13 at 22:52

Just use the **number pad's** Plus and Minus keys at the top-level node, to expand and collapse respectively (Note: also expands the whole list.)

14

For the toolbox, you need to use and instead for expand/collapse. Go figure.

edited Apr 18 '18 at 15:39



[Mwiza](#)

answered Nov 18 '09 at 15:06



[AI](#)

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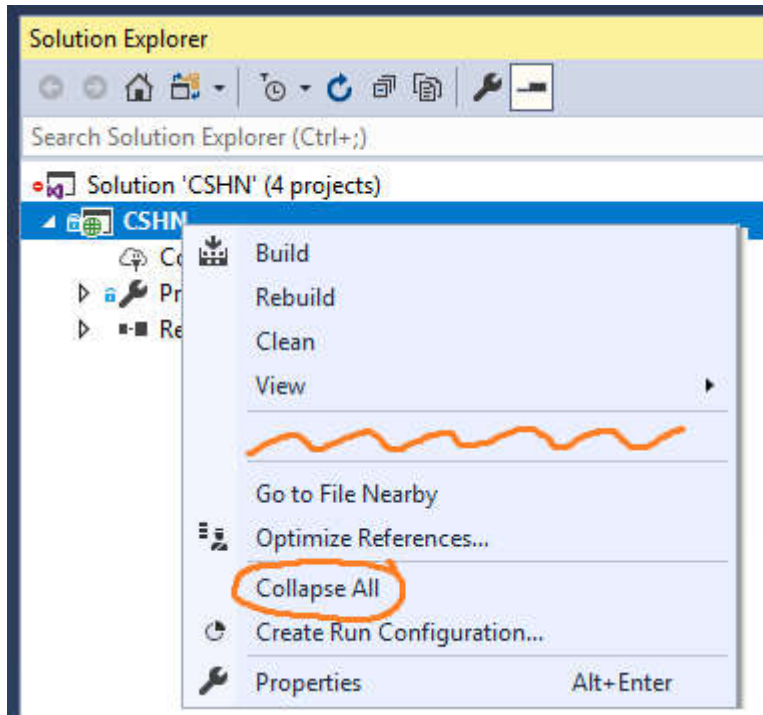
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2 Num pad * expands all childrens (VS 2013) – [Sel Jun 10 '15 at 6:49](#)

As you can see in the screenshot below, there is an option called Collapse All and a shortcut key next to it.

8



Now this shortcut key will not work for you ! Unless you set it up using `Tools > Options > Keyboard` .

The command name is `ReSharper_CollapseInSolutionExplorer` .

Search using this command name and assign a shortcut key of your choice.

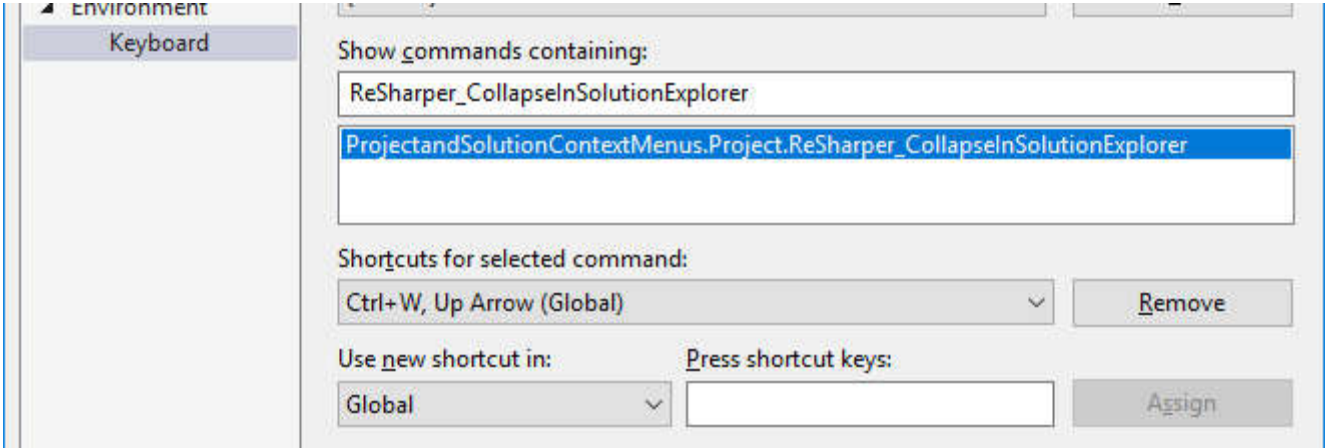
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and you now have a shortcut key ready to use to collapse all items in your solution explorer.

I know I am a little late to this discussion, but this surely gonna help some one or other.

edited Apr 17 '18 at 15:24



KyleMit

60.4k 38 261 423

answered Oct 29 '12 at 9:21



Yasser

30.3k 38 168 251

5 It should be mentioned that this is not default VS functionality (pre 2012), but, in this instance, the additional context menu item and shortcut is provided by ReSharper. – kodjeff1 Jul 30 '13 at 18:36

In VS2015 with ReSharper 2016.1 this is now just CollapseInSolutionExplorer . – absynce Jun 2 '16 at 16:19

There's a macro at <http://geekswithblogs.net/scottkuhl/archive/2007/04/09/111195.aspx> for Visual Studio 2005.

answered Aug 31 '09 at 14:32



TLiebe

7,490 1 18 27

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The VisualStudio extension [CodeMaid](#) provides collapsing.

4

[Download](#) from VisualStudioGallery.



The current version only supports VS2010 or higher, but you can install older versions side-by-side.

answered Jul 11 '12 at 7:15



Em1

668 14 36



Visual Studio 2012 is out on 8/15/2012, so I suggest upgrading to that to get a fast "Collapse All" toolbar button previously available only in the Productivity Power Tools' Solution Navigator, which was sometimes too slow to be usable.

2



answered Aug 6 '12 at 15:29



Patrick Szalapski

3,330 4 41 79



take a look on this

<http://visualstudiogallery.msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/7272073b-32d4-4a84-93f7-77d09fb16f01>

1



answered Nov 4 '10 at 15:12



DMSQLO

21 1



Use the Visual Studio extension that fits your version of Visual Studio. In my case (I use Visual Studio 2012) I use the extension [Productivity Power Tools](#), but, unfortunately this exist only for VS 2010 and latter... For VS 2008 there is a similar extension: [Power Commands](#).

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answered Sep 16 '13 at 12:13

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Go to Tools => Extensions in Visual Studio and Install the specified add-ins to have the desired fonctionnality. – Serge Sep 17 '13 at 16:12

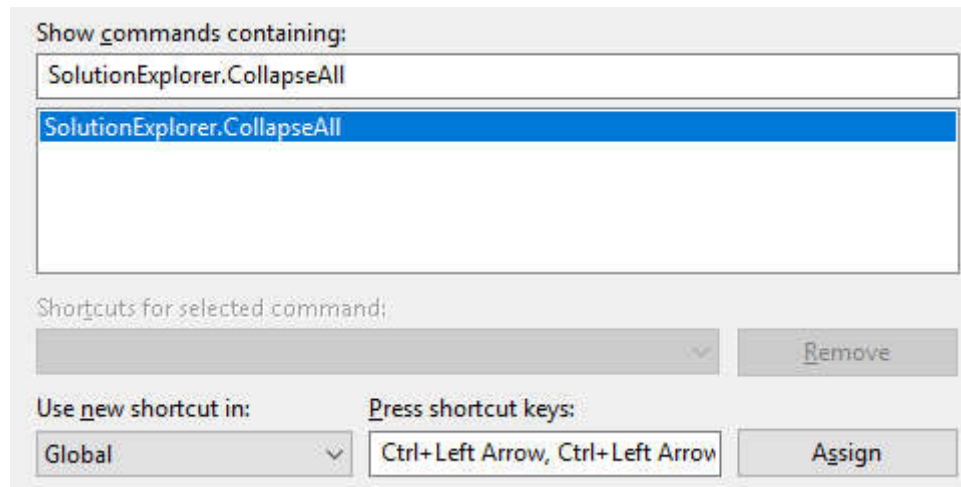
Using Visual Studio 2017 and above

use shortcut

- Open **Tools > Options** or press Alt + T + O
- Under **Environment** tab > **Keyboard** (Also, you can create a shortcut for **Tools.CustomizeKeyboard** to open it directly)

To Collapse All

- Search for "**SolutionExplorer.CollapseAll**"
- Add a new shortcut for example Ctrl + Left Arrow , Ctrl + Left Arrow



To Expand All

- Search for "**SolutionExplorer.Folder.CollapseAll**"
- Add a new shortcut for example Ctrl + Right Arrow , Ctrl + Right Arrow

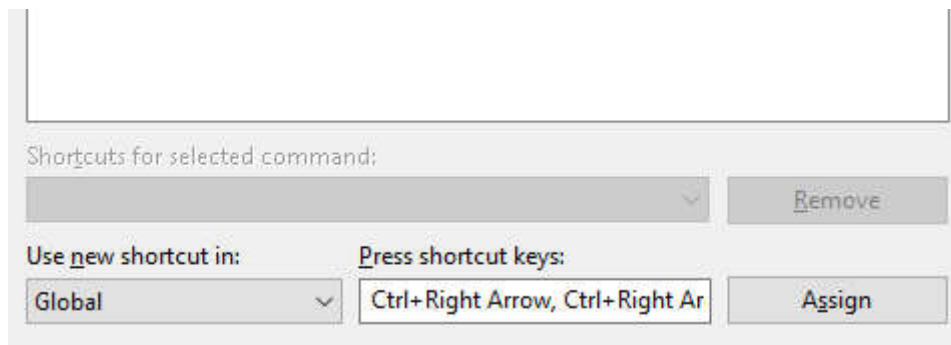
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- **Assign > OK**

answered Jun 8 at 6:41



[Anas Alweish](#)

1,044 1 12 27

Delete the *.suo and *.csproj.user files, and reopen the solution/projects.



-2



answered Aug 31 '09 at 14:46



[Cecil Has a Name](#)

4,284 1 25 30

4 I know it works, but if i do i will lost all my preferences. — [Cleiton](#) Aug 31 '09 at 15:09

What preferences? The projects will still compile the same. — [Cecil Has a Name](#) Aug 31 '09 at 15:11

2 It will compile, but you will loose currently opened tabs, startup projects (painful if you have multiple), as well as other per-user settings. — [Dav](#) Nov 22 '12 at 8:55

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