Remove unused namespaces across a whole project or solution at once

▲

53

▼

I know you can do it file by file.

Is there any way to do this in one step for all files in a project?

★

5

c#   namespaces

edited Feb 28 '18 at 6:36	asked Nov 12 '08 at 10:02
Mark Bell	leora
21.8k 20 97 128	**43.7k** 300 772 1278

10 Answers

▲

17

▼

✓

Do you mean using statements? First, note that they generally do no harm other that take space. Tools like ReSharper offer automated tricks to do this, however: there was a link in the VS feed a little while ago; it boils down to:

- go to Tools -> Macros -> Macros IDE...
- in the Project Explorer, Add -> Add Module... (put in a name - I've used OrganiseUsings)
- paste over with the code below
- File -> Save MyMacros, exit

Now if you right-click on the toolbar and Customize... - you should be able to find MyMacros.OrganiseUsings.RemoveAndSortAll - drag this somewhere handy (maybe the Tools menu; you might also want to change the name after placing it).

You can now use this option to run the Remove and Sort command for an entire solution. A big time-saver.

==== code ====

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Sign up with email   G Sign up with Google   Sign up with Facebook   ✕

```vb
Imports System.Diagnostics

Public Module OrganiseUsings

    Public Sub RemoveAndSortAll()
        On Error Resume Next
        Dim sol As Solution = DTE.Solution

        For i As Integer = 1 To sol.Projects.Count
            Dim proj As Project = sol.Projects.Item(i)
            For j As Integer = 1 To proj.ProjectItems.Count
                RemoveAndSortSome(proj.ProjectItems.Item(j))
            Next
        Next
    End Sub

    Private Sub RemoveAndSortSome(ByVal projectItem As ProjectItem)
        On Error Resume Next
        If projectItem.Kind = Constants.vsProjectItemKindPhysicalFile Then
            If projectItem.Name.LastIndexOf(".cs") = projectItem.Name.Length - 3 Then
                Dim window As Window = projectItem.Open(Constants.vsViewKindCode)

                window.Activate()

                projectItem.Document.DTE.ExecuteCommand("Edit.RemoveAndSort")

                window.Close(vsSaveChanges.vsSaveChangesYes)
            End If
        End If

        For i As Integer = 1 To projectItem.ProjectItems.Count
            RemoveAndSortSome(projectItem.ProjectItems.Item(i))
        Next
    End Sub

End Module
```

edited Nov 12 '08 at 10:12

answered Nov 12 '08 at 10:06

Marc Gravell ♦

811k   205   2203

2599

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

| Sign up with email | G Sign up with Google | Sign up with Facebook | ✕ |

The other answers which refer to the Productivity Power Tools extensions don't go into any detail of how to actually do this, so here are some instructions for Visual Studio 2013, 2015 and 2017:

70

First, open the **Tools > Extensions and Updates...** dialog in Visual Studio, select **Online** in the left-hand bar and then search the Visual Studio Gallery for **"Productivity Power Tools"**. Install the extension and restart VS.

Alternatively, you can manually download and install the extensions for your version of Visual Studio:

[Productivity Power Tools 2013](#)
[Productivity Power Tools 2015](#)
[Productivity Power Tools 2017](#)

For VS2017, you can also download the Power Commands extension separately from the others in the Power Tools pack:

[Power Commands for Visual Studio (VS2017)](#)

Be aware that at the time of writing, the VS2017 version doesn't work with .Net Core projects/solutions.

Once you have the extension installed, just right-click the solution in Solution Explorer, then select **Power Commands > Remove and Sort Usings**.

This can take a while, particularly on large solutions; it also doesn't keep modified files open (hence no undo), so **make sure you commit everything in your VCS of choice** *before* **running it**, so that you can revert the changes it makes if something goes wrong!

Update: Format All Files

Recently I've been using the [Format All Files](#) extension, which allows you to execute **Format Document**, **Remove and Sort Usings** and one other custom command of your choice (all optionally, set in the VS preferences).

It seems to work very well, but again, no undo, so **make sure you commit everything in your VCS of choice** *before* **running it**.

edited Dec 14 '17 at 8:15   answered Feb 25 '16 at 6:18

Mark Bell
21.8k   20   97   128

▲

29

▼

There is no need for any plugins in VS 2017. Click the bulb icon near any using statement and click `Solution` next to `Fix all occurrences in` part.

edited Jun 14 '18 at 17:28   answered May 31 '18 at 21:05

Mark Bell   sotn
21.8k 20 97 128   **1,932** 17 21

> This worked for me as I was looking to remove a specific using statement across the entire solution. – Daniel Williams Dec 6 '18 at 13:44

> 3 This is a better solution that the accepted answer as its native to the IDE. Confirmed working in VS 2019 – Mr.B Feb 1 at 16:33

> 2 OMG I am so blind. Have been using the bulb for forever and just now noticed that the actions can be applied to the whole Project/Solution. – LeonidasFett May 9 at 13:08

▲

8

▼

For Visual Studio 2010 you can download the "Remove and Sort Using"extension from the Visual Studio Gallery.

http://visualstudiogallery.msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/cb559aa8-d976-4cc2-9754-5a712f985d16

Works Well for me

answered Apr 21 '11 at 13:58

vmachacek
336 7 18

> 1 It also works on VS2013. Nevertheless, at least in VS2013, it activates on saving the document, then, it is NOT a way to do this in one step for all files in a project – dsnunez Oct 26 '15 at 19:08

> Make sure your Source code tree is expanded when you run this. To run this right click on the specific project / solution and select the option "Remove and Sort Unused Extensions" from the Solution Explorer. Following this each file is openend only for a brief moment before it is cleaned and then closed automatically. – Ganesh Kamath - 'Code Frenzy' Feb 9 '17 at 13:57

> I believe the link is now marketplace.visualstudio.com/... – Hoppe Mar 29 at 20:47

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

| Sign up with email | G Sign up with Google | Sign up with Facebook | ✕ |

4

answered Nov 12 '08 at 10:11

Mesh
4,753   4   27   46

Productivity Power tools is what you need. https://visualstudiogallery.msdn.microsoft.com/dbcb8670-889e-4a54-a226-a48a15e4cace

3

Once you have that installed, you can find the "**Remove and Sort Usings on Save" from the "Tools –> Options –> Productivity Power Tools –> PowerCommands –> Generals**". After you check that option, restart VS. Now save and you see the magic.

For VS 2015, take a look at this

edited Feb 25 '16 at 6:08

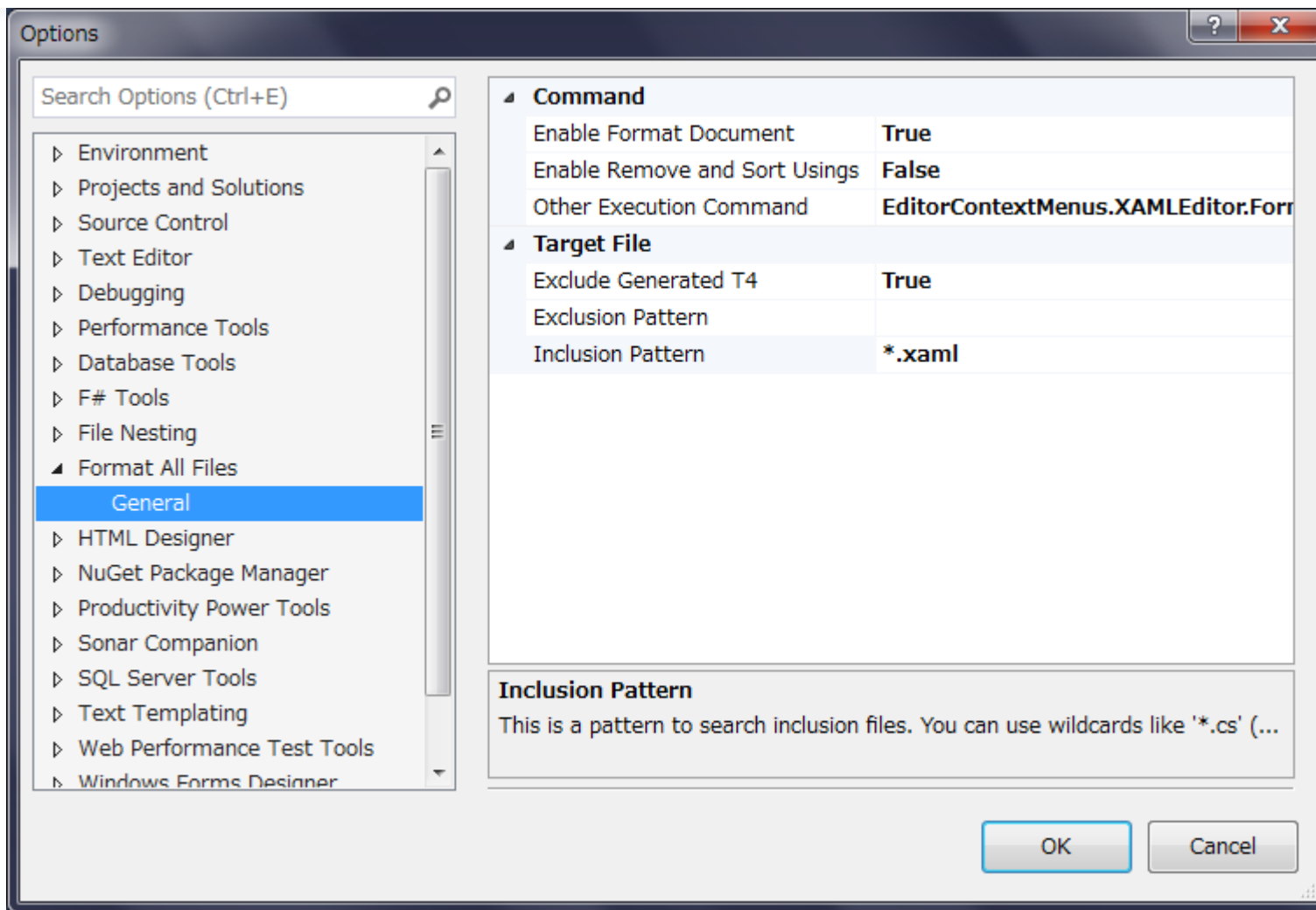answered Aug 16 '15 at 8:09

VivekDev
2,424   2   37   77

---

for a more recent version, including 2017, try the "Format All Files" extension. it has been working really well for me.

3

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Sign up with email   G Sign up with Google   Sign up with Facebook   ✕

Options

Search Options (Ctrl+E)

▷ Environment
▷ Projects and Solutions
▷ Source Control
▷ Text Editor
▷ Debugging
▷ Performance Tools
▷ Database Tools
▷ F# Tools
▷ File Nesting
◢ Format All Files
    General
▷ HTML Designer
▷ NuGet Package Manager
▷ Productivity Power Tools
▷ Sonar Companion
▷ SQL Server Tools
▷ Text Templating
▷ Web Performance Test Tools
▷ Windows Forms Designer

◢ **Command**
Enable Format Document	**True**
Enable Remove and Sort Usings	**False**
Other Execution Command	**EditorContextMenus.XAMLEditor.Forr**

◢ **Target File**
Exclude Generated T4	**True**
Exclusion Pattern	
Inclusion Pattern	***.xaml**

Inclusion Pattern
This is a pattern to search inclusion files. You can use wildcards like '*.cs' (...

OK   Cancel

answered Apr 27 '17 at 16:56

dave thieben
4,855   1   22   32

```vb
        If projectItem.Name.LastIndexOf(".cs") = projectItem.Name.Length - 3 Then
            Dim window As Window = projectItem.Open(Constants.vsViewKindCode)

            window.Activate()

            projectItem.Document.DTE.ExecuteCommand("Edit.RemoveAndSort")

            window.Close(vsSaveChanges.vsSaveChangesYes)

        ElseIf projectItem.Name.LastIndexOf(".vb") = projectItem.Name.Length - 3 Then
            Dim window As Window = projectItem.Open(Constants.vsViewKindCode)

            window.Activate()

    projectItem.Document.DTE.ExecuteCommand("EditorContextMenus.CodeWindow.OrganizeImports.Rem

            window.Close(vsSaveChanges.vsSaveChangesYes)
        End If
    End I
```

answered May 10 '12 at 9:25

mghaoui
456   1   6   14

Thanks for the link to the power tools... I didn't know they existed for 2010, and I've been sort of missing them since upgrading from 2008. – corlettk Jun 16 '12 at 2:04

0

I am using Visual Studio 2015 and found a tool named BatchFormat: https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=vs-publisher-147549.BatchFormat
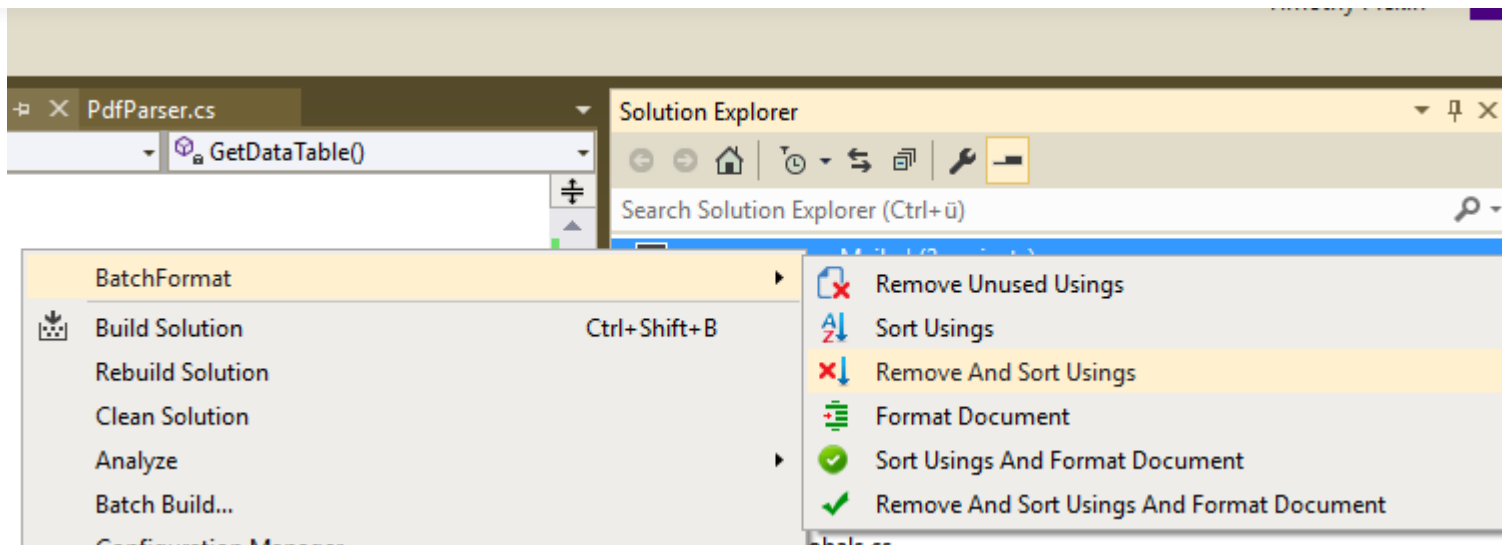
This did the job perfectly.

Install the tool, then right click on your solution in the solution explorer, then at the top of the menu you see batch format:

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Sign up with email   G Sign up with Google   Sign up with Facebook   ✕

Whatever you select is applied to every file in your solution, as you can see in the screenshot, there are other options, you can also format every document.
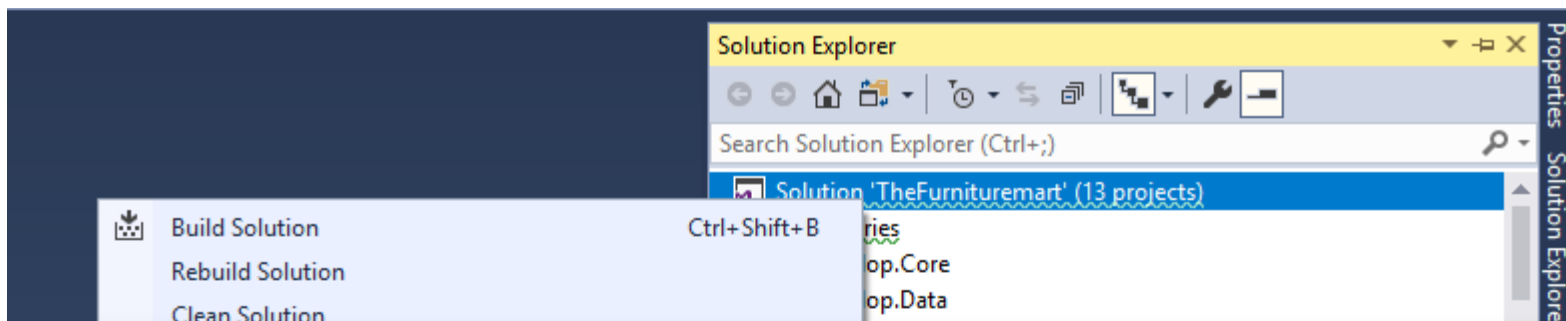
answered Feb 9 '17 at 14:37

Tim Pickin
204   2   13

visual studio 2017 having inbuild feature to remove unnecessary name space from whole project.

0

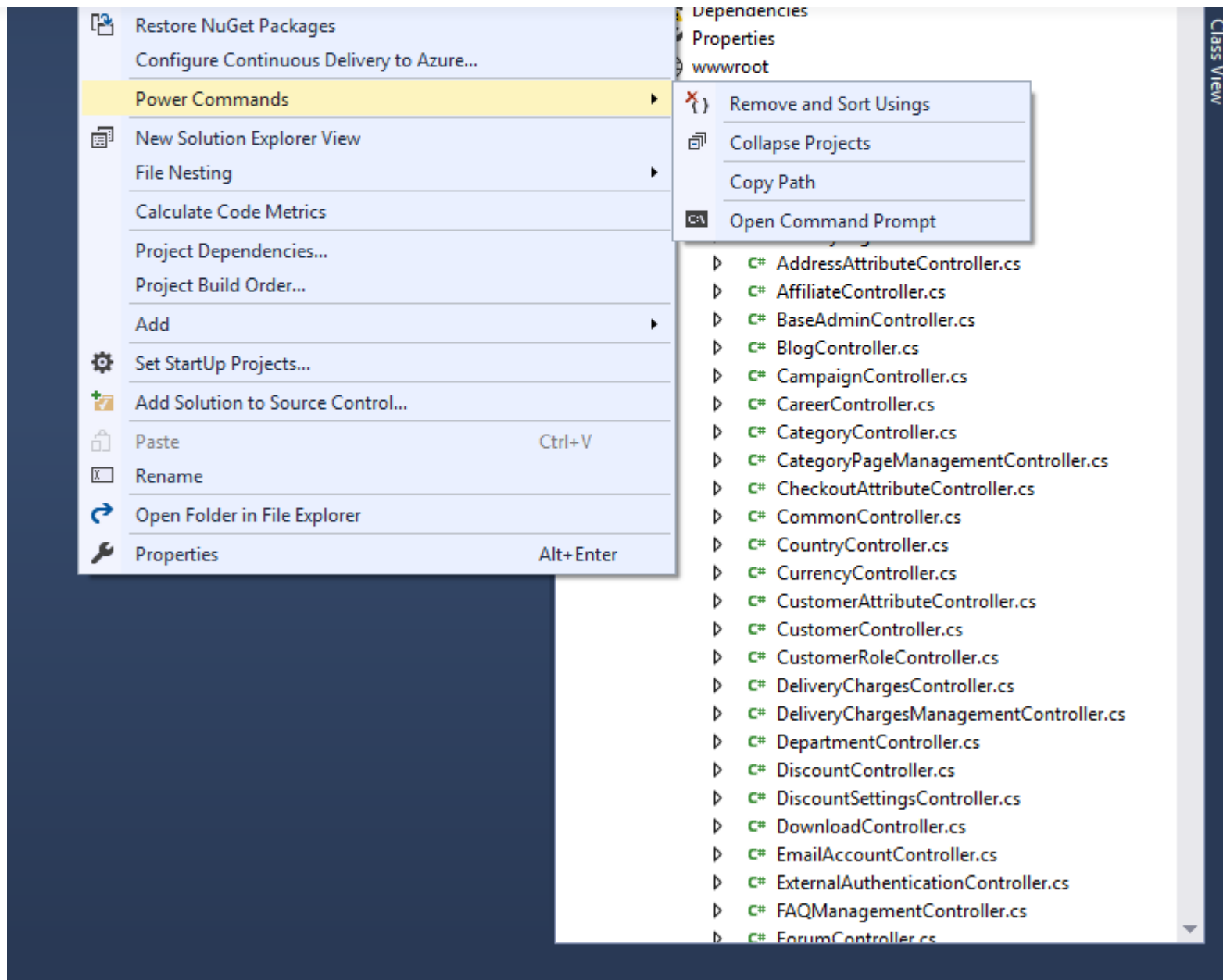**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Sign up with email   G Sign up with Google   Sign up with Facebook   ✕

Dependencies

Properties

wwwroot

	Restore NuGet Packages	
	Configure Continuous Delivery to Azure...	
	Power Commands	▶
	New Solution Explorer View	
	File Nesting	▶
	Calculate Code Metrics	
	Project Dependencies...	
	Project Build Order...	
	Add	▶
	Set StartUp Projects...	
	Add Solution to Source Control...	
	Paste	Ctrl+V
	Rename	
	Open Folder in File Explorer	
	Properties	Alt+Enter

Remove and Sort Usings

Collapse Projects

Copy Path

Open Command Prompt

▷ C# AddressAttributeController.cs
▷ C# AffiliateController.cs
▷ C# BaseAdminController.cs
▷ C# BlogController.cs
▷ C# CampaignController.cs
▷ C# CareerController.cs
▷ C# CategoryController.cs
▷ C# CategoryPageManagementController.cs
▷ C# CheckoutAttributeController.cs
▷ C# CommonController.cs
▷ C# CountryController.cs
▷ C# CurrencyController.cs
▷ C# CustomerAttributeController.cs
▷ C# CustomerController.cs
▷ C# CustomerRoleController.cs
▷ C# DeliveryChargesController.cs
▷ C# DeliveryChargesManagementController.cs
▷ C# DepartmentController.cs
▷ C# DiscountController.cs
▷ C# DiscountSettingsController.cs
▷ C# DownloadController.cs
▷ C# EmailAccountController.cs
▷ C# ExternalAuthenticationController.cs
▷ C# FAQManagementController.cs
▷ C# ForumController.cs

Class View

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Sign up with email | G Sign up with Google | Sign up with Facebook ✕