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## .NET Tips and Tricks

by Peter Vogel

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# Visual Studio in Full-Screen Mode

Even after you maximize Visual Studio's window you don't yet have the maximum space for working with code and the Visual Studio's visual designers. To get the maximum bit of screen real estate available, you can put your Visual Studio edit window in full-screen mode by selecting View | Full screen (or just pressing Shift+Alt+Enter). Full screen mode gets rid of the toolbars and all of your tool windows (Solution Explorer, the Toolbox, etc.); you get to keep the menu bar and the tabs for your open files (though the tabs' appearance is altered to take up less room).

When you need to get out of full-screen mode, all you have to do is click the Full Screen choice that gets added to the menu bar when you enter full screen mode.

You can still display any of the tool windows you want by selecting them from the View menu. You might also want to try memorizing the hot keys that bring up those windows, but those hot key aren't particularly obvious. It helps that the hot keys for the tool windows all begin with Control+Alt. But, unfortunately, Control+Alt+S *doesn't* bring up Solution Explorer as you might expect. Instead, Control+Alt+S brings up Server Explorer. To get to the Solution Explorer window, you need to use Control+Alt+L (and, no, I have no idea why). Getting to the toolbox is the equally unobvious Control+Alt+X. If there's a shortcut for Test Explorer, I haven't found it yet.

It's not my fault.

But if you're going to bang in a lot of code, it's hard to beat having all that screen real estate. If the hotkeys for the tool windows were more obvious, I'd like it even better.



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**thomas** • 2 years ago

help! i'm locked in full screen mode. shift-alt-enter doesn't toggle. argl...

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**Darren Phillips** ➔ **thomas** • 2 years ago • edited

you might be in zen mode.. try esc esc or F11

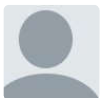
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**thomas** ➔ Darren Phillips • 2 years ago

Thanks, F11 has set me free.

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**Mark McDowell** • 4 years ago

You can exit out of full screen mode (at least in VS2013) with Shift+Alt+Enter - it works as a toggle.

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**Richard Gardiner** • 4 years ago

You can change the hotkeys using Tools-->Customize then clicking the Keyboard button. The command to change is View.SolutionExplorer.

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**PeterHunterVogel** ➔ Richard Gardiner • 4 years ago

I've done that in the past...but since (as an independent contractor) I spend a lot of time working on other people's computers, it doesn't do me much good and I had to give up the practice. I also kept worrying that I'd overwrite some other keyboard combination that, eventually, I would be sorry about.

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**real name** • 4 years ago

isn't there any setting for standard title bar with standard position of minimize, maximize and close buttons?

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**PeterHunterVogel** ➔ real name • 4 years ago

If you're asking if the three standard buttons (minimize, maximize/restore, close) are still there in the upper right hand corner of the title bar...nope, they're gone. The quick launch text box takes their place. That sort of makes sense to me: maximize/minimize wouldn't make in "Full Screen" mode, after all: You're already maximized and if you "restore"d you won't be in full screen mode--so you have to exit full screen mode to use restore. Close would be nice but you have have File ! Exit. It's only minimize that I miss.

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**real name** ➔ PeterHunterVogel • 4 years ago


i miss standard bar and buttons even without full screen, why some wants one program with different positions of buttons?

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