Visual Studio - Shortcut to Navigate to Solution Explorer

Ask Question

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Is there a keyboard shortcut in Visual Studio (aside from `CTRL` + `TAB` and selection) that would take me from inside a document directly into the solution explorer? I don't want to customize any shortcuts or change any default behavior.

★

26

visual-studio-2010   keyboard-shortcuts

edited Aug 4 '15 at 7:28

mavis
2,007   1   16   28

asked Jun 4 '11 at 18:52

stepanian
6,889   8   35   55

See: www.visualstudioshortcuts.com/2012/ (Though 2010 version is not available, it is still very useful). – Zbigniew Wiadro Feb 16 '17 at 14:09 ✎

Possible duplicate of Visual Studio: Shortcut to scroll solution explorer to current file – MemeDeveloper Mar 6 at 13:51

@MemeDeveloper - this question was posted earlier, so the other one is a duplicate if anything – stepanian Mar 6 at

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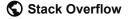
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@stepanian also I answered on this question not that - as I saw the date was earlier. Thanks – MemeDeveloper Mar 7 at 5:04
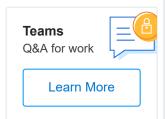
12 Answers

CTRL + ALT + L

220

should shift focus to the Solution Explorer.

For visual studio 2012 use:

CTRL + [+ S this selects your current document in the solution explorer.

edited Feb 2 '13 at 20:45

answered Jun 4 '11 at 18:54

keyboardP
62.1k   11   130   187

1   Thanks! And I assume ctrl + alt + l and then select the file with an arrow to come back? – stepanian Jun 4 '11 at 18:57

8   Yup, press Enter to select the file, or Escape to just jump back to the document window without selecting the file :) – keyboardP Jun 4 '11 at 18:58 ✏

It also seems like ctrl + tab brings you back to the initial document with it selected (saving you the enter key press). Every second counts! – stepanian Jun 4 '11 at 19:01

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1 In VS 2015, you can select "View" from the toolbar menu to see all the direct shortcuts for shifting focus to different windows. The same tricks (Escape, Enter) work for all of these. – Sitric Dec 28 '15 at 18:52

When using VS 2012 with the **Visual C# 2005 keyboard mapping scheme**:

44

`CTRL` + `W` , `S`

I find this easier to memorize: All shortcuts beginning with `CTRL` + `W` are for opening or navigating to **W** indows:

- `CTRL` + `W` , `S` : **S** olution Explorer
- `CTRL` + `W` , `E` : **E** rror list
- `CTRL` + `W` , `R` : **R** esourceview
- `CTRL` + `W` , `A` : Command window (**A** ction ...)
- `CTRL` + `W` , `T` : **T** askview
- `CTRL` + `W` , `Q` : Find Symbol Results
- `CTRL` + `W` , `X` : Toolbo **x**
- `CTRL` + `W` , `C` : **C** lassview
- `CTRL` + `W` , `P` : **P** roperties
- `CTRL` + `W` , `B` : **B** ookmarks
- ...

edited Jan 26 '15 at 20:31

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> 1   Really helpful shortcuts for Visual Studio – imdadhusen Jun 19 '13 at 6:51

> Thank you for precising the keyboard mapping scheme ! I've been looking for using the shortcut Ctrl+W+S for the solution explorer since i installed a new VS2012 ! – hemma731 May 14 '14 at 10:07

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22

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In Visual Studio 2012 you can now use `CTRL` + `;` as this is the default keyboard shortcut for the solution explorer search box.

answered Oct 25 '12 at 11:46

Baldy
2,955   2   28   56

> 4   `Ctr+'` opens team explorer. `Ctrl + ,` opens "file selector".. Pretty handy shortcuts. – arviman Nov 13 '14 at 12:33

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12

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On my windows 7 machine : `Ctrl` + `ALT` + `L` locks the computer.

For me : `Shift` + `ALT` + `L` works. (This could also be a resharper configuration)

edited Jul 26 '13 at 6:19

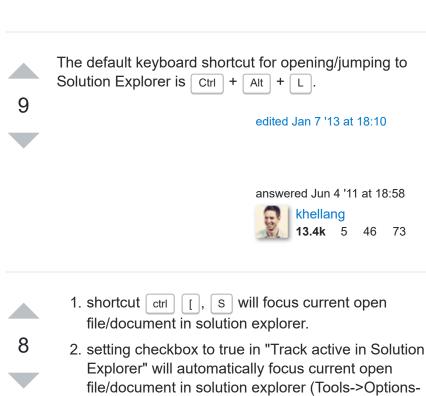**Rohit Vipin Mathews**
8,083   10   43   94

answered Apr 18 '12 at 7:38

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9

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The default keyboard shortcut for opening/jumping to Solution Explorer is `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `L` .

edited Jan 7 '13 at 18:10

answered Jun 4 '11 at 18:58

khellang
13.4k   5   46   73

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8

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1. shortcut `ctrl` `[` , `S` will focus current open file/document in solution explorer.

2. setting checkbox to true in "Track active in Solution Explorer" will automatically focus current open file/document in solution explorer (Tools->Options->Projects and solutions->General->"Track Active Item in Solution Explorer"=true

edited Nov 9 '16 at 2:26

Stephen Leppik
4,520   8   24   36

answered Jan 5 '13 at 20:07

Mirvel
88   2   9

This is a life saver! – eddyP23 Apr 12 at 11:48

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answered Mar 8 '15 at 14:29

Nigrimmist
3,320   22   27

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I had this problem on a new machine build with VS 2013 and R# 8.2.

Keyboard option

`Resharper.Resharper_LocateInSolutionExplorer` was correctly set to `Shift+Alt+L`, but it seemed to be only opening a parent folder and not selecting the actual file. As recommended in another post I enabled `"Track active in Solution Explorer"` in the VS Options.

This didn't fix the problem and wasn't what I want because in very large solutions I don't want the solution explorer jumping around to the current file in use. I disabled the Track feature and restarted VS, the `LocateInSolutionExplorer` feature then started working correctly. Some sort of shortcut precedence issue?

answered Jul 21 '16 at 23:03

Aaron
474   8   16

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`ctrl` + `[` + `S` .

This shortcut will highlight the currently opened document in solution explorer.

edited Nov 9 '16 at 0:50

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For **AZERTY** keyboards like mine, the default shortcut is

Ctrl +) , Ctrl + S

2

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answered Oct 16 '13 at 8:27

Charles HETIER
1,274   13   22

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Visual Studio

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2015 and **2017** (by **default**) [VS 2017 Shortcuts](#)

Ctrl + [, S

Runs *Keyboard Shortcut*

```
SolutionExplorer.SyncWithActiveDocument
```

ReSharper

In Visual Studio **2015** and **2017** (by **default**) [Resharper Docs](#)

Shift + Alt + L

Which runs *Resharper's Keyboard Shortcut*

```
Resharper.Resharper.LocateInSolutionOrAssemblyExplorer
```

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- Highlight document
- Scroll / expand nodes (as required to show that document)

Difference

Resharper's version also **works with decompiled code**. Locating decompiled symbols in the *Assembly Explorer* window.

To customise / it doesn't work :

1. Tools > Options > Environment > Keyboard
2. Search shortcut name (e.g. SolutionExplorer.SyncWithActiveDocument)
3. Assign (in Global) to Keyboard shortcuts as you like

answered Mar 6 at 14:11

MemeDeveloper
4,857   2   28   45

We just upgraded from VS2013 to VS2017, and I had to go looking for how to auto-select the active tab in the Solution Explorer. I often have to look for a document by finding a text-string from a screen, and love to have it select the document so I can see where it is.

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Tracking the active document has been default behavior for a long time. VS2017 brought over ALL my other preferences, but not this one. Glad I found this thread.

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