

How to actually search all files in Visual Studio

54 I am using Visual Studio Express 2013 for Web. Say for instance I have a static public method named FooBar() in class Utils. Let's also say that I use this method in a lot of .aspx files. Let's say I change the method signature of FooBar() to FooBar(string), and subsequently I'd like to find all the instances of Utils.FooBar so I can update them.

Now let's say I go to the Solution Explorer search box, select "Search within file contents", and type "Utils". Despite the fact that I make Utils.* method calls everywhere, the only thing that shows up is the Utils.cs file. If I keep typing "Utils.FooBar", nothing shows up.

5 Right now, I am launching a cygwin window and using grep since normal windows search is pretty useless too. But it seems like there there must be an actual way of searching within all files in Visual Studio. Am I missing something?

[visual-studio](#)[visual-studio-2012](#)[full-text-search](#)

edited Sep 4 '16 at 2:18



[abatishchev](#)

71.4k 70 269 399

asked Aug 14 '14 at 14:26



[Mike Godin](#)

1,607 1 16 26

4 Answers

68 I think you are talking about `ctrl` + `shift` + `F`, by default it should be on "look in: entire solution" and there you go.

edited May 17 '16 at 18:15



[Jeff Puckett](#)

16.3k 8 62 114

answered May 17 '16 at 17:21



[n4feng](#)

766 1 6 13

It would be nice if this came with a insta-preview window like CTRL + , (go to all) – [Andrew](#) Mar 21 at 1:37



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- 
1. selecting "Find All" from the "--> Find Next / <-- Find Previous" selector
 2. selecting "Current Project" or "Entire Solution" from the selector that normally says just "Current Document".
- 

answered Aug 22 '14 at 1:25

[Mike Godin](#)


1,607 1 16 26

-
- 3 the issue is that sometimes i dont have the option "Entire Solution" but i dont know why yet. The `ctrl + shift + f` approach works. – [Muflix](#) Mar 13 '17 at 12:33
-

 Press `Ctrl` + `,`

17

Then you will see a docked window under name of "Go to all"

 This a picture of the "Go to all" in my IDE

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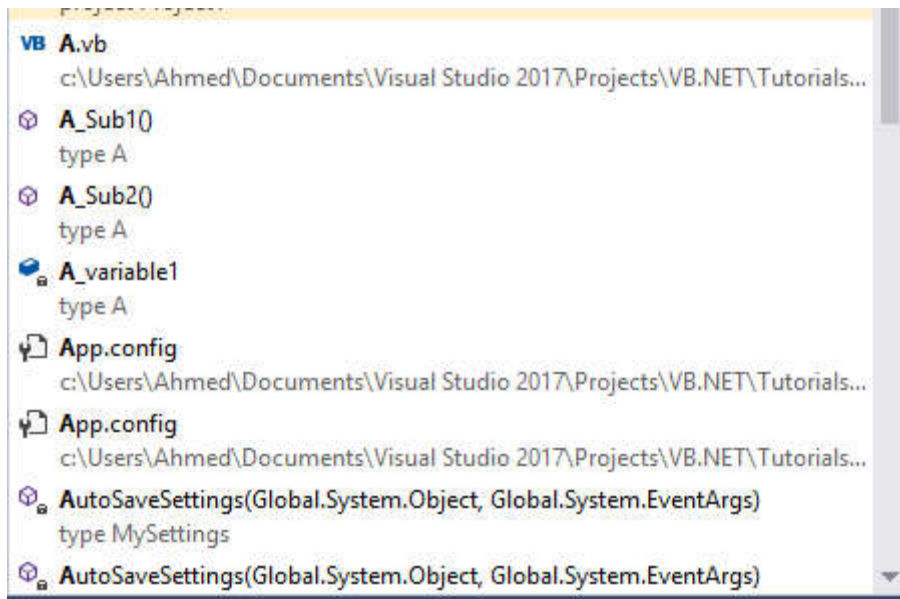
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edited Sep 11 '17 at 1:15



Stephen Rauch

32.2k 15 42 66

answered Sep 11 '17 at 0:50



Ahmed Ibrahim

189 2 6

1 But it cannot find text (I'm not talking about symbols) within project/solution. At least in VS 2017 (v15.6.5) – [AndreyWD](#) Apr 16 '18 at 11:41

The go to all with search within file contents would be ideal. – [Andrew](#) Mar 21 at 1:38

One can access the "**Find in Files**" window via the drop-down menu selection and search all files in the **Entire Solution**: Edit > Find and Replace > Find in Files

3

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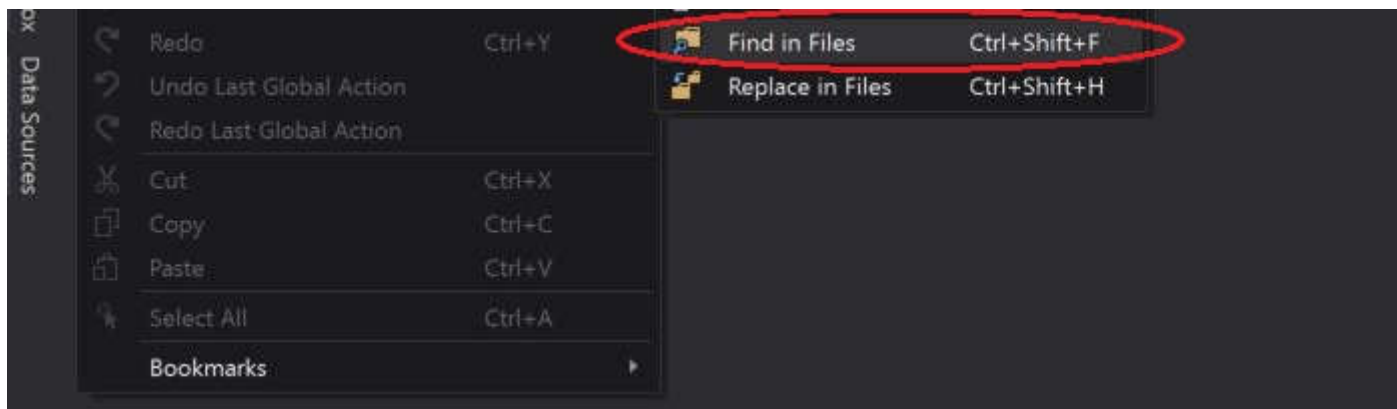
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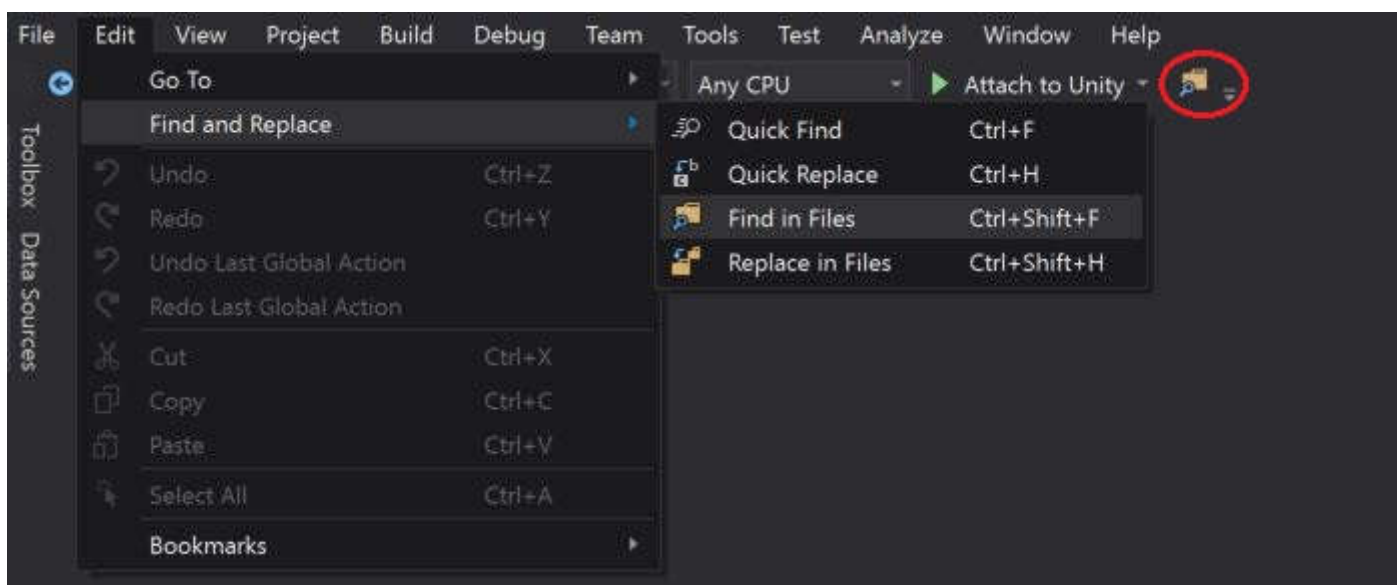


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Other, alternative is to open the "**Find in Files**" window via the "**Standard Toolbars**" button as highlighted in the below screen-short:



answered Nov 12 '18 at 13:06



Nash

56 1 6

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