

# Visual Studio trick to quickly find any file in solution

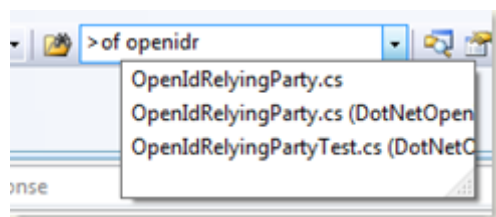


Andrew

August 2nd, 2008

You know that Find text box in the toolbar of Visual Studio? Those of us who are keyboard inclined probably never use it because Ctrl+F is quicker than moving your hand to the mouse. But there is a hidden gem of a feature inside it that really makes me feel like a power user that I wanted to share.

That find box doubles as a Command Window prompt if you just start with a '>' sign. The feature in this that I use the most is this:



First jump up to that box using the keystroke Ctrl+/. Now type ">of " and follow with the start of a filename. As fast as you can type, Visual Studio searches your entire solution for a file or path that starts with the characters you type and you can quickly select that file (with the keyboard using the arrow keys if you wish)

Help us improve!

What do you think of this blog post?

Submit

and open it. If you’re working in a solution with several projects or folders, this can be a significant time saver.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Command Window, you can think of it like an Immediate Window that you use with the debugger, except that instead of controlling the debuggee, you’re controlling Visual Studio. It’s like the VS macro editor, except that everything you type takes immediate effect. To have this conveniently a Ctrl+/, > keystroke away, especially when " (short for Open File) is such a convenient acronym to search across your entire solution is awesome.

Help us improve!

What do you think of this blog post?

Submit



[Andrew Arnott](#)  
Principal Software Engineer, Visual Studio Platform

Follow Andrew

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) Tagged [andarno](#), [Visual Studio](#)

[Log in to comment](#)

Log In

No Comments.



Relevant Links

[About Premier Support for Developers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Case Studies](#)

[Join our Team](#)

Content issues or broken links?  
Please leave a comment or send us a note!

Top bloggers

[Premier Developer Blog Roll](#)



[Premier Developer](#)



[Andrew Arnott](#)  
Principal Software Engineer

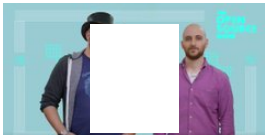
Twitter Feed

Tweets by [@VisualStudio](#)



Visual Studio  
[@VisualStudi](#)

Join [@jbaruch](#) and [@arschles](#) to learn how to navigate the sea of conferences, evaluate sessions, speakers, and more: [msft.social/2p1Jfl](#) [#OpenSourceShow](#)



[Embed](#) [View on Twitter](#)

Help us improve!

What do you think of this blog post?

Submit

Stay informed



What's new

- NEW Surface Pro 6
- NEW Surface Laptop 2
- NEW Surface Go
- Xbox One X
- Xbox One S

Store & Support

- Account profile
- Download Center
- Sales & support
- Returns
- Order tracking

Education

- Microsoft in education
- Office for students
- Office 365 for schools
- Deals for students & parents

Enterprise

- Microsoft Azure
- Microsoft Industry
- Data platform
- Find a solution provider
- Microsoft partner resources

Developer

- Microsoft Visual Studio
- Windows Dev Center
- Developer Network
- TechNet
- Microsoft developer program

Company

- Careers
- About Microsoft
- Company news
- Privacy at Microsoft
- Investors

VR & mixed reality	Store locations	Microsoft Azure in education	Microsoft AppSource	Channel 9	Diversity and inclusion
Windows 10 apps	Support		Health	Office Dev Center	Accessibility
Office apps	Buy online, pick up in store		Financial services	Microsoft Garage	Security

×

## Help us improve!

What do you think of this blog post?

Submit