VS 2012: Scroll Solution Explorer to current file

Asked 6 years, 11 months ago   Active 4 months ago   Viewed 108k times

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VS2010 had the feature that viewing a file would automatically cause Solution Explorer to scroll to that file.

With VS2012, viewing different files from within the IDE no longer scrolls and select the file in Solution Explorer automatically.

Is it possible to get this feature back? Is there a setting somewhere? If so, how/where?

| file | visual-studio-2012 | solution-explorer |

edited Jan 8 '15 at 3:47   asked Oct 1 '12 at 23:47

Andrew T.   Sarah Weinberger
4,438   6   31   51   **7,202**   14   64   102

1   See also stackoverflow.com/questions/3436222/… – dyesdyes Feb 25 '14 at 16:23

1   use "Find in Solution Explorer" extension (visualstudiogallery.msdn.microsoft.com/…) which Adds the "Find in Solution Explorer" menu command to the context menu of open document tabs. – S.Serpooshan Apr 9 '14 at 5:44

If you have ReSharper, I posted a context menu solution here – Shay Aug 27 '15 at 0:50

8 Answers

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Yes, you can find that under

Tools - > Options - > Projects and Solutions - > Track Active Item in Solution Explorer

It's off by default (as you've noticed), but once it's on, Solution Explorer will expand folders and highlight the current document as you

edited Jan 30 '18 at 11:15   answered Oct 2 '12 at 0:08

Ajay2707   **Chris Bowen - MSFT**
4,580   4   23   45   **8,069**   1   13   13

25   Although I checked it, It doesn't work in most cases. I think it is buggy in VS 2012. When the solution explorer is "Auto Hide" mode (or unpinned) , it looses the active file position and moves the top! It is really disgusting :(– Mahmoud Moravej Nov 17 '12 at 5:49

7   Upvoted! This is on by default in 2010 and I HATE it! Luckily, you can turn it off using the method above in 2010. Thanks! – jedd.ahyoung Jan 10 '13 at 22:30

2   @MahmoudMoravej, there is a bug reported regarding that matter connect.microsoft.com/VisualStudio/feedback/details/777003/… – Trident D'Gao Jan 20 '13 at 13:39

2   Welcome to Visual Studio land where the bugs are reported and then never fixed! Seriously, I'm seeing this bug today and it was reported 2 years ago. – jcollum Mar 12 '15 at 15:23

5   If Visual Studio was perfect then who would buy Resharper? – vezenkov Jul 27 '15 at 14:22

If you need one-off sync with the solution pane, then there is new command "Sync with Active Document" (default shortcut: `Ctrl`+`[`, `S`). Explained here: Visual Studio 2012 New Features: Solution Explorer

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answered Jan 8 '13 at 21:24

Alex Blekhman
2,985   2   14   16

1   This also works in Visual Studio 2013. Even the Express editions. – Duncan Awerbuck Sep 19 '14 at 7:57

1   This should be available as an option in the context menu as well! – Vishal Shah Oct 8 '15 at 11:09

3   I learned from another answer in this thread that there is also an icon along the top of the solution explorer which will "sync with active document." Not sure if this was introduced in 2012 or 2013, but it works in 2013. – arichards Nov 11 '15 at 22:42

1   In VS2012(not tested in 2013, 2015) one can use either the "Track Active ..." option or the shortcut/icon. Both are not possible. You will get message Keyboard combination is bound to command (SolutionExplorer.SyncWithActiveDocument) which is not currently available. – IvanH Dec 11 '15 at 15:13

2   I use VS2015 + ReSharper on Win10 and this is the only way that works now. If you're willing to use a different shortcut, look for "SolutionExplorer.SyncWithActiveDocument" on Keyboard options. – ScottRhee Oct 17 '16 at 5:45 ✎

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If you have ReSharper installed clicking `Shift` + `Alt` + `L` will move focus to the current file in Solution Explorer.

Active Item Tracking will also need to be enabled as described in the accepted answer

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Tools->Options->Projects and Solutions->Track Active Item in Solution Explorer

edited Jan 30 '18 at 11:18	answered Jun 10 '13 at 11:43
Ajay2707	Rob Willis
4,580 4 23 45	**3,659** 1 21 17

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19   @Joe : Sarah did not mention whether she is using ReSharper or not so I would disagree – Eduard Dumitru Nov 1 '13 at 18:39

1   this should be the correct answer. much more pratical and generic. – Ricardo Parro Apr 22 '14 at 20:23 ✎

9   It isn't the correct answer if you aren't using resharper. – Don Rolling May 27 '14 at 15:50

10   @RicardoParro: how can it be *more* generic when it depends on an expensive third party add-on? – Nick Cox Jan 30 '15 at 10:15

1   The question was about Visual Studio. People who use Resharper basically live in a whole different world, so this answer doesn't answer the question. – Dominic Cronin Jun 21 '16 at 8:25

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There are many ways to do this:

Go to current File once:

- **Visual Studio 2013**

  VS 13 has it's own shortcut to do this: `Ctrl` + `\` , `S` (Press `Ctrl` + `\` , Release both keys, Press the `S` key)

  You can edit this default shortcut, if you are searching for `SolutionExplorer.SyncWithActiveDocument` in your `Keyboard Settings` (Tools->Options->Enviornment->Keyboard)

  In addition there is also a new icon in the Solution Explorer, more about this here.
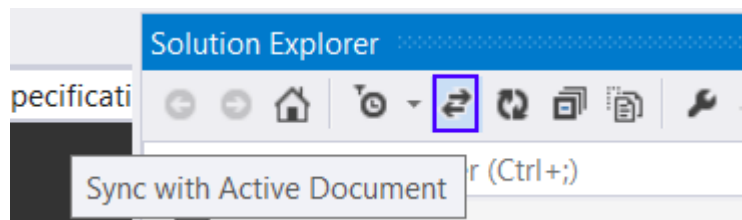
- **Visual Studio 2012**

  If you use VS 2012, there is a great plugin to add this [new functionality](#) from VS2013 to VS2012: . The default shortcut is `strg` + `alt` + `ü`. I think this one is the best, as navigating to the solution explorer is mapped to `strg` + `ü`.

- **Resharper**

  If you use **Resharper** try `Shift` + `Alt` + `L`

  This is a nice mapping as you can use `Strg` + `Alt` + `L` *for navigating to the solution explorer*

Track current file all the time:

- **Visual Studio >= 2012**:

  If you like to track your current file in the solution explorer all the time, you can use the solution from the accepted answer (Tools->Options->Projects and Solutions->Track Active Item in Solution Explorer), but I think this can get very annoying in large projects.

edited May 23 '17 at 12:26	answered May 28 '15 at 21:12
Community ♦ **1** 1	David Leitner **2,577** 11 24

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3   For the non-Germans reading this answer, replace `Strg` with `Ctrl` & `ü` with `;` for the VS2012 solution. – [Kyle Kanos](#) Sep 17 '15 at 21:53
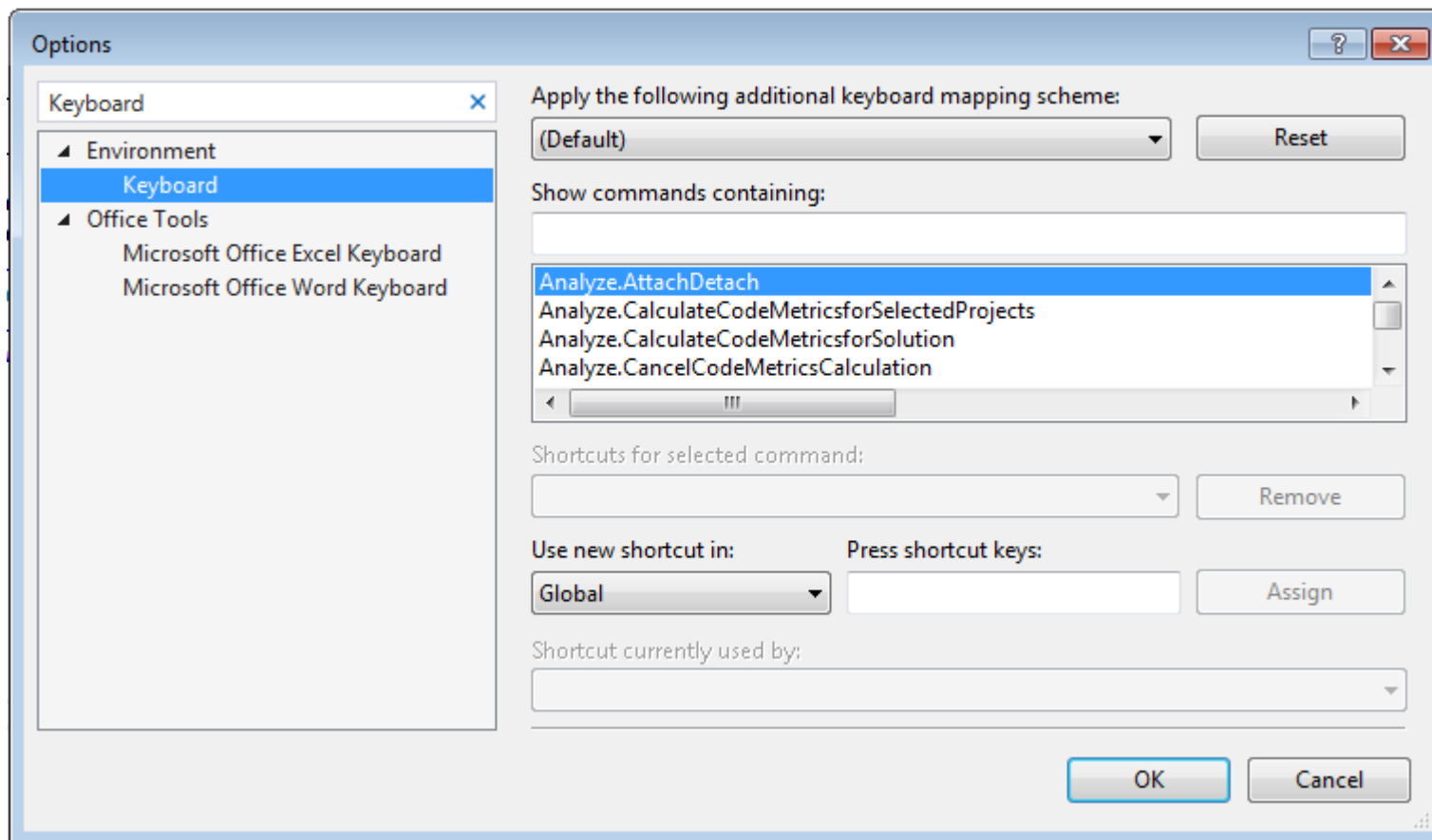
I find this answer the best, (except using steuern instead of control and the other non-english keyboard shortcuts) – [Mohammed Noureldin](#) May 16 '17 at 11:44

On Visual Studio 2017 use: `Ctrl + `, S` :) – [Igor](#) Apr 9 at 13:45 ✏

▲   If you don't have ReSharper installed and still want to use the shortcut `Shift + Alt + L` to move focus to the current file in Solution

Options

Keyboard										✕

▲ Environment
    Keyboard
▲ Office Tools
    Microsoft Office Excel Keyboard
    Microsoft Office Word Keyboard

Apply the following additional keyboard mapping scheme:

(Default)											Reset

Show commands containing:

Analyze.AttachDetach
Analyze.CalculateCodeMetricsforSelectedProjects
Analyze.CalculateCodeMetricsforSolution
Analyze.CancelCodeMetricsCalculation

Shortcuts for selected command:

Remove

Use new shortcut in:						Press shortcut keys:

Global										Assign

Shortcut currently used by:

OK							Cancel

2. In the Show commands containing box type "solutionexplorer" and then in the list below look for the SyncWithActiveDocument
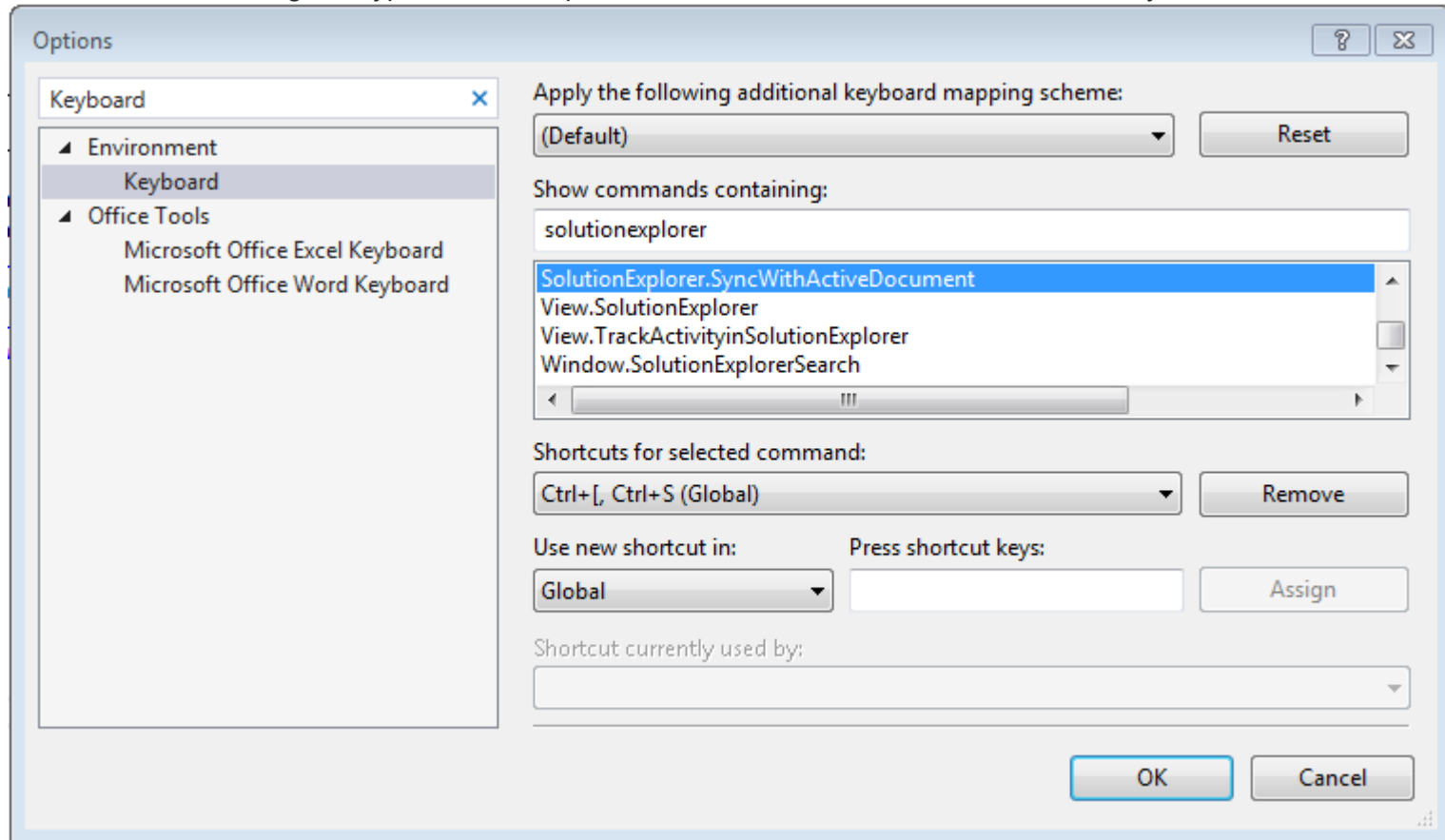
command:

3. Click in textbox under "Press short keys" label and press: `Shift + Alt + L` and click the Assign button and you are done:
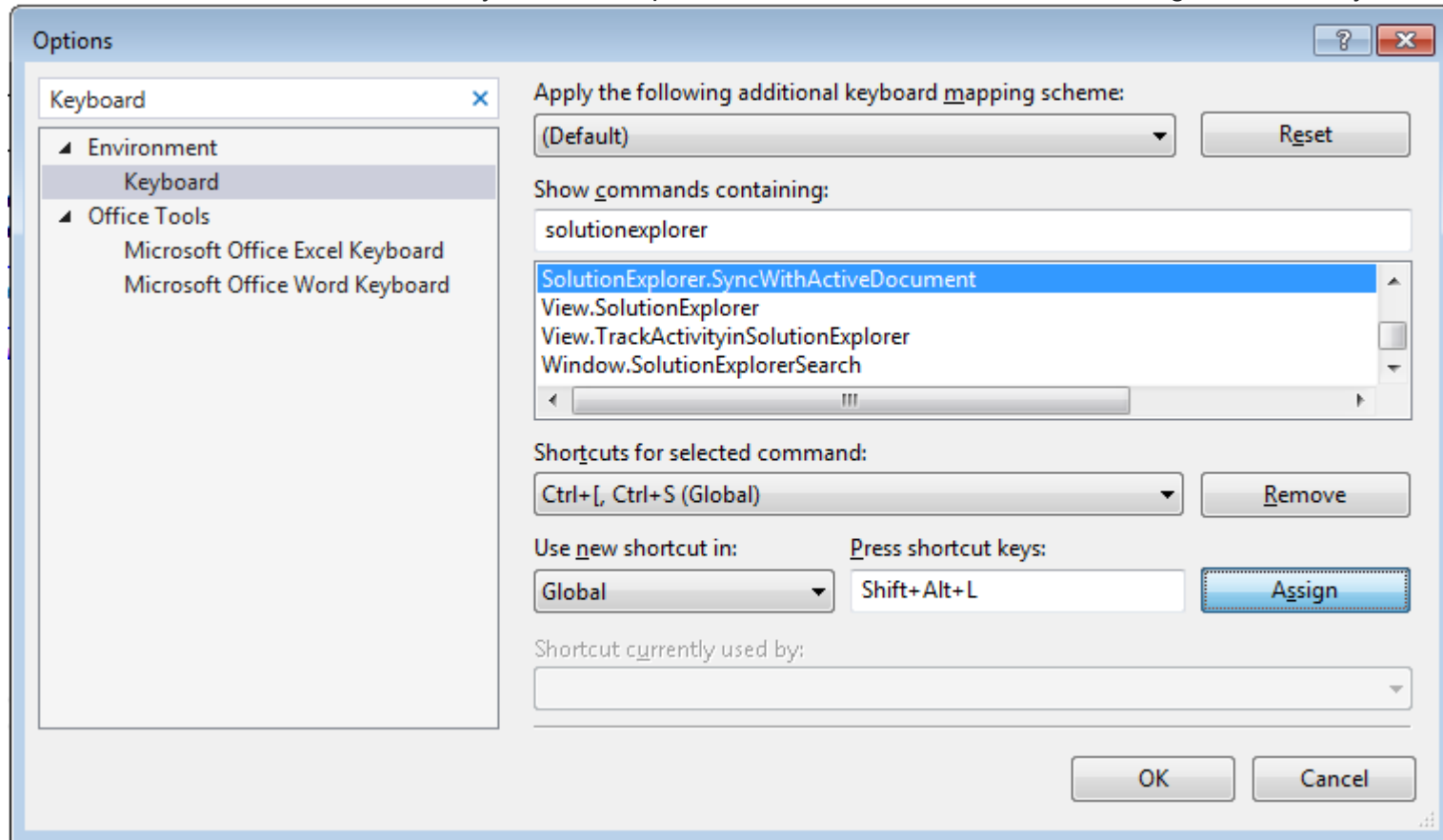
To verify open any file in Visual Studio and press the shortcut keys `Shift + Alt + L` and you'll see the file in the solution explorer. Enjoy!
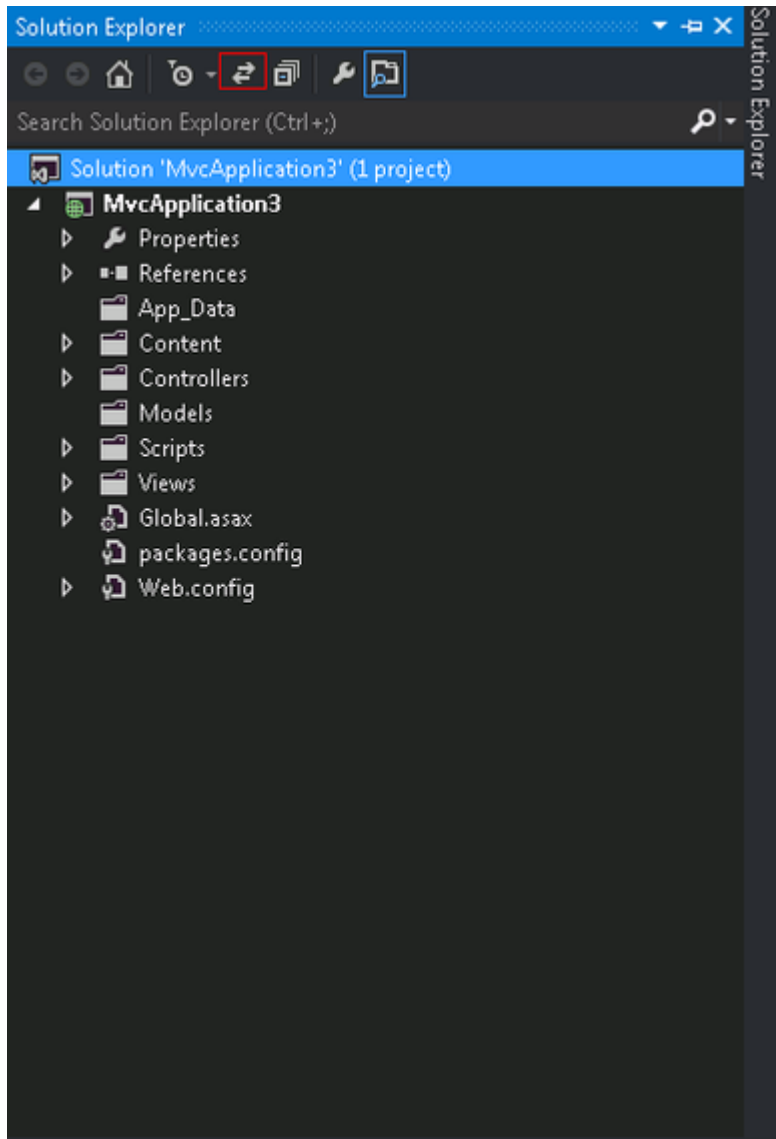
answered Aug 20 '15 at 10:57

Baig
811   1   17   37

NB: for VS2012 under the Visual C++ 6 scheme, `Shift + Alt + L` is used for Edit.LineCut (cf. here). – Kyle Kanos Sep 17 '15 at 21:58

@KyleKanos, good catch. – Baig Sep 21 '15 at 8:04

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1. You can click on `Active sync` icon on Solution Explorer.

2. By selecting Active sync checkbox in Tools (***Tools > Options > Projects and Solutions > General***). In that check the Track Active Item in Solution Explorer Checkbox. When you select a file in the main window, it will automatically navigate to active file in the Explorer.
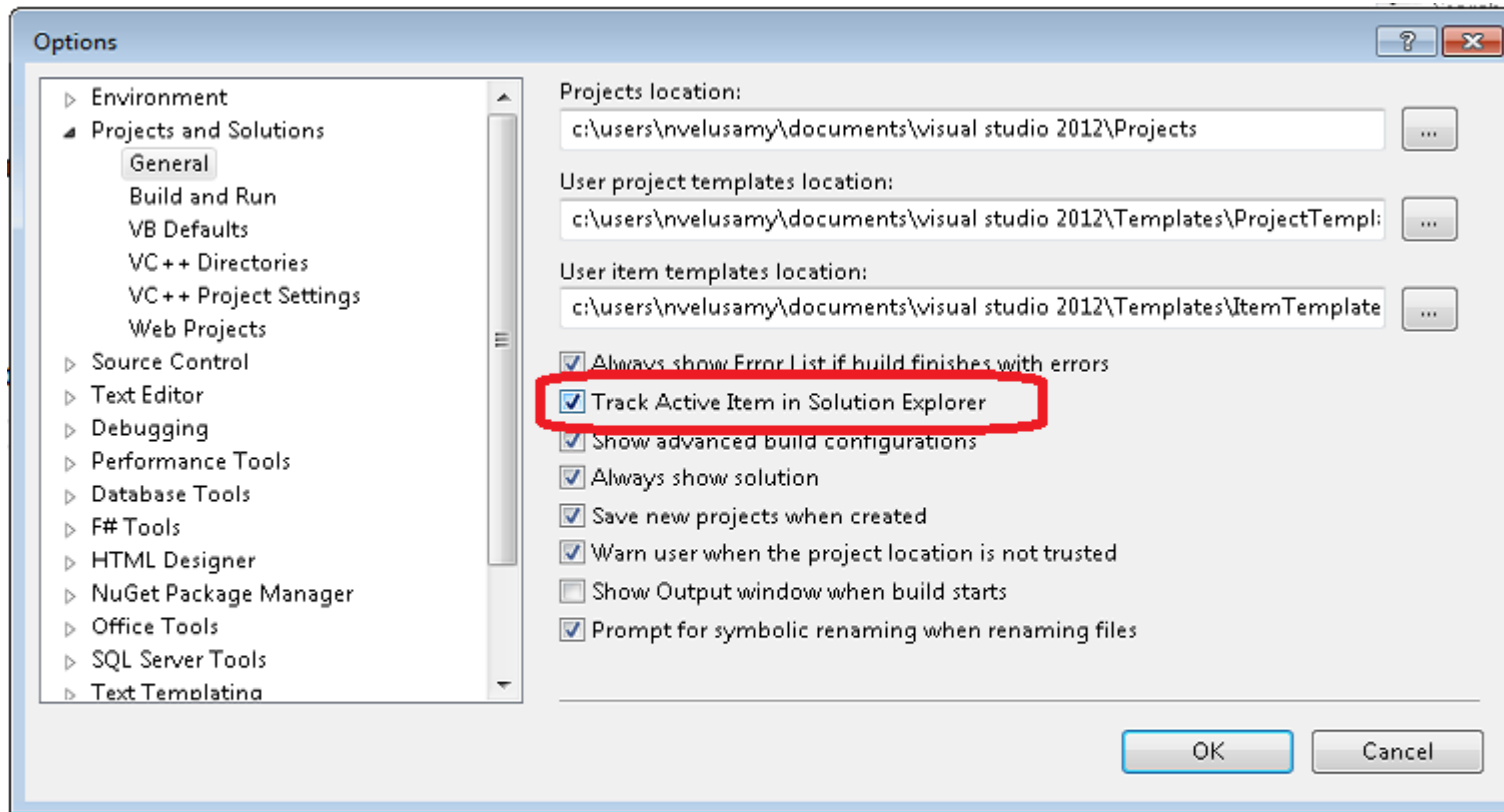
3. By using the Shortcut key (`Ctrl` + `[` + `s`), you can able to navigate to active Item.

Note: Either 1 or 2 only works in a mean time.. So You have to use either 1st or 2nd.
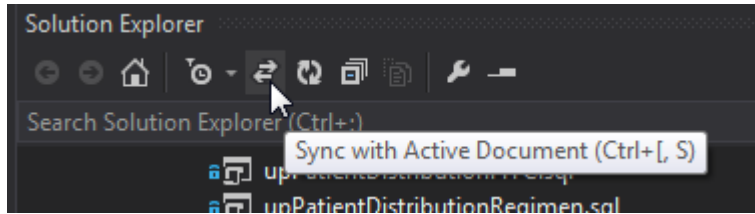
edited Aug 26 '17 at 17:34

answered Nov 15 '16 at 14:30

Nandhakumar MV

314　2　12

I've found the `Sync with Active Document` button in the solution explorer to be the the most effective (this may be a vs2013 feature!)
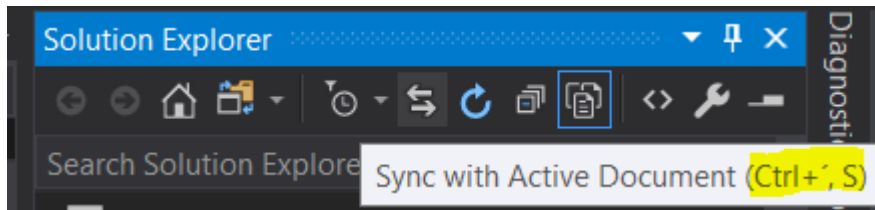
answered Jun 3 '15 at 6:20

Trubs
1,648   14   21

1   Previously it was working but now *Sync with Active Document* is not working for me. I disabled and enable it using `Tools -> Options -> Projects and Solutions -> "Track Active Item in Solution Explorer"` — Waqar Apr 15 '16 at 7:03 ✎

On **Visual Studio 2017**, the shortcut is: [Ctrl] + [´], [S].

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edited Apr 16 at 14:52

answered Apr 9 at 13:57

Igor
971   2   13   38