How to search for file names in Visual Studio?

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In **Eclipse** you can search for a file in the project by pressing CTRL - SHIFT - R .

Is there a way to do this in **Visual Studio**?

visual-studio   search   keyboard-shortcuts

edited May 28 '18 at 10:43

Guy Avraham
1,638   2   22   33

asked Oct 2 '09 at 11:26

Edward Tanguay
80.6k   271   646   981

5   possible duplicate of <u>Is there a way to quickly find files in Visual Studio 2010?</u> – Jason Jul 5 '11 at 17:46

ps, i know this question was asked earlier, but the better, more correct answer is in the linked file. – Jason Jul 5 '11 at 17:47

1   No offense, but this feels horrible after CTRL+p of sublime text. – dud3 May 30 '17 at 17:11

4   Can you please pick a different answer? The accepted answer does not answer the question. – thecoolmacdude Jun 16 '17 at 17:59

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@dud3 You could just rebind to a different key / keyset in preferences –
Antfish Aug 24 '17 at 12:06

18 Answers

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376

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✓

Just for anyone else landing on this page from Google or elsewhere,
this answer is probably the best answer out of all of them.

To summarize, simply hit:

CTRL + ,

And then start typing the file name.

edited May 23 '17 at 12:03

Community ♦
1   1

answered Sep 10 '13 at 21:09

Hanna
5,954   8   43   78

4   I probably waste 30 minutes every day just looking for the correct file in
the Solution Explorer. This is my new favorite shortcut! – Rick Love Dec
15 '15 at 20:21

7   This shows method names as well though, bit annoying. – marsh Jul 11
'16 at 15:08

1   Unfortunately that doesn't limit the search to filenames, it also includes
symbols – Xavier Poinas Oct 17 '16 at 15:57

4   Not sure if this accurately answers the question, this thing searches for
symbols as wells (methods etc) which is very annoying in a large project.

Furthermore, the same thing could be achieved by `Ctrl+;` which is
shortcut for search in solution explorer. – nawfal Nov 18 '16 at 14:33 ✎

6　　@marsh In VS 2017.3 (and possibly earlier) Ctrl-, behaves like a command window somewhat. If you give it the 'f' command and provide a file name, it will search only files: e.g. "f someFile.cpp". There's also a button that prepends the "f" if you prefer clicking. – Kaganar Aug 16 '17 at 1:51

With Visual Studio 2017 Community edition **on mac**, the shortcut is:

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- Cmd+Shift+D: Find by file name
- Cmd+Shift+T: Find by type name

To see these commands, navigate to the top menu: Search > Go To

answered Mar 15 at 16:40

Kes115
697　1　9　27

CTRL + P this searches for the file name your direct answer.

0

answered Feb 19 at 20:41

Juke
111　2　10

Easily hit CTRL+SHIFT+T . This will look in the files' names.
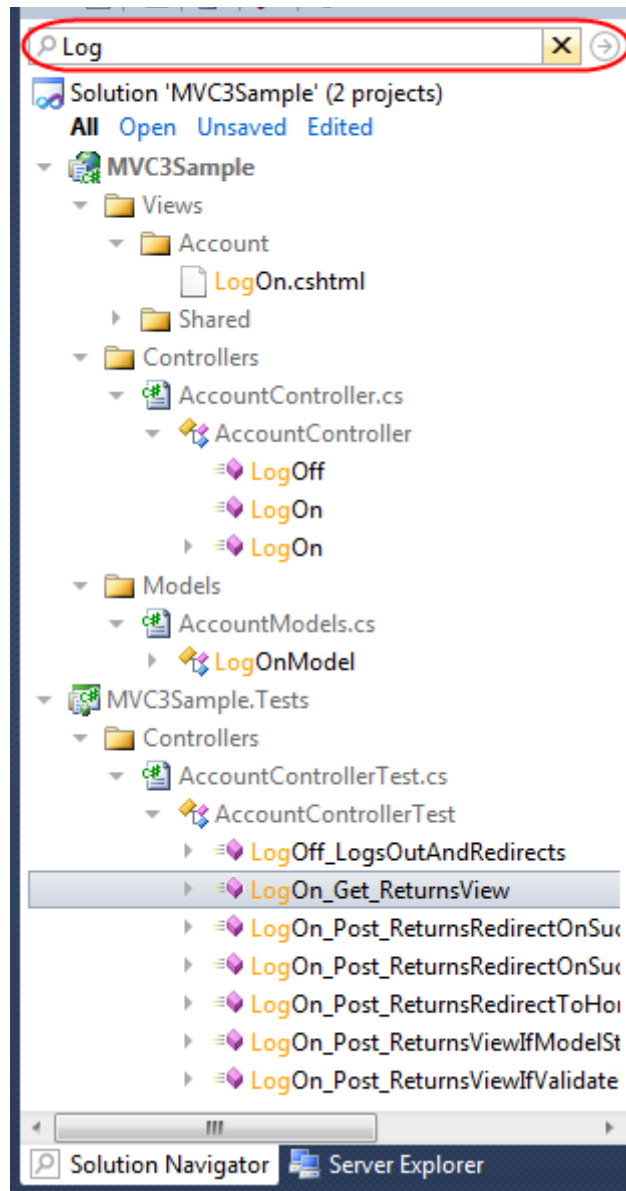
0

answered Feb 8 at 5:40

Bedair
16　3

The best option now is to install Microsoft Visual Studio add on called Productivity Power Tools (VS 2010 version, VS 2013 version).

52 With this comes "Solution Navigator" (alternative to Solution
Explorer, with a lot of benefits).

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BTW, this feature is built-in into Visual Studio 2012.

edited Mar 29 '18 at 9:17

Legends
7,965   4   42   79

answered Mar 21 '12 at 23:02

friend
1,468   2   18   28

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2   That is showing Function names not file names? – marsh Jul 11 '16 at 15:09

Built in to 2017! – Phillip May 15 '18 at 15:17

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In Visual Studio 2017 you can search directly for files with `Ctrl` + `1`, `Ctrl` + `F` (Keyboard command: Edit.GoToFile).

Alternatively, you can use `Ctrl` + `t` or `Ctrl` + `,` (the Edit.GoToAll command) and start your search with `f`.

answered Mar 18 '18 at 9:38

Kyle
77   1   6

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With `Visual Studio 2017`, It now comes with a much better version, named `"Go To All"` and is bound to the keyboard shortcut `CTRL + T` as well as `CTRL +,` and includes inline filtering and **"fuzzy search"**

`CTRL` + `T`

`CTRL` + `,`

edited Dec 21 '17 at 2:36

answered Nov 28 '17 at 12:10

Sajeetharan
126k   31   184   244

1   YES, finally they added a built-in way to filter *only* by filenames! Type `f` ,
     space, then the filename. Example: `CTRL+T` then `f MyClass` , then ↓ on
     your keyboard until you get to the matching file. This method is superior to
     the solution explorer search (which wastes space by showing both
     filenames and class names) in that it is strictly filenames only. –
     Nate Cook May 25 '18 at 17:10 ✏

1   You can even add a custom keyboard shortcut in Tools -> Options ->
     Keyboard -> Edit.GoToFile which adds the `f` for you. – Nate Cook May
     25 '18 at 17:24

     The default for `Edit.GoToFile` is Ctrl+1, Ctrl+F. There are more with
     Ctrl+1, Ctrl+<key>. F=Files, M=Members, R=Recent Files, T=Types –
     bugybunny Nov 1 '18 at 12:30

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click Ctrl+Shift+F and find what you want in files

edited Apr 28 '17 at 10:09

Mark Amery
64.7k 31 258 304

answered Oct 2 '09 at 11:32

Davit Siradeghyan
2,247 4 19 28

2   thanks, had used that for searching text in files but not file names –
     Edward Tanguay Oct 2 '09 at 11:37

83   Why is it the accepted answer if it doesn't actually do what you asked? ;-)
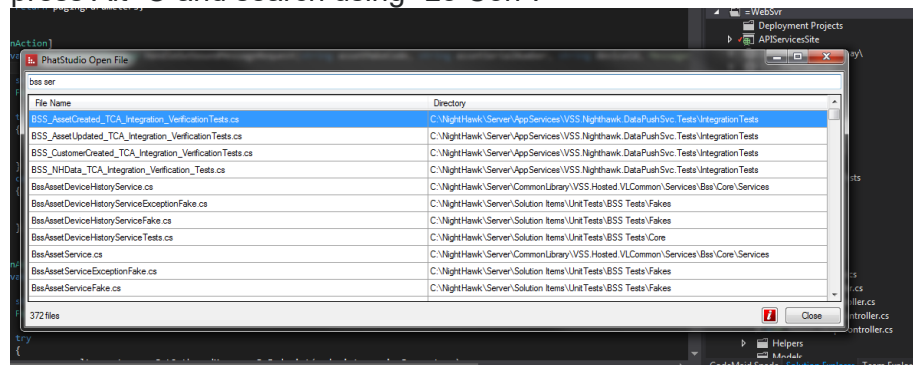   – Joachim Sauer Oct 2 '09 at 11:43

1   Actually the Visual Studio way is better than resharper's CTRL-ALT-T
     since I can search for "Editor" anywhere in the filename, with resharper
     you have to know how the name starts. – Edward Tanguay Oct 2 '09 at
     13:57

4   Ctrl+Shift+F doesn't find file names in VS2010. – Mario Aug 24 '10 at
     22:22

34   I believe what you're looking for is ctrl-, (control plus comma). – ruffin Dec 7 '12 at 18:45 ✎

2

I know this is an old question, but I'd recommend Phatstudio if you're using upto VS 2012. Works pretty fast, and supports multi-word search by using "space". So to search for LoginController you could press Alt+O and search using "Lo Con".

. You could also use Resharper (paid) and CodeMaid(free) to do this.

edited Feb 7 '17 at 9:19

answered Jan 28 '14 at 4:37

arviman
3,594   28   38

1

You can easily call for a window called "Navigate To" with combination **ctrl + ,**

Or, go to **Tools** and then click **Navigate To**

answered Oct 28 '15 at 10:06

Eduardo A
241   2   3

On visual studio 2012 it is ->EDIT ->Navigate To or ctrl+, – edW Jan 10 at 15:43

Visual Assist: link.

2

Install, load solution, press `Shift` + `Alt` + `O` , search for files in solution by substring. Try also `Shift` + `Alt` + `S` , for the equivalent for symbols. This addin has a bunch of completion popup and syntax colouring stuff in it that aren't to all tastes, but the code browsing features are done well and seem uncontroversial.

Judging by comments on the forums, compatibility with Resharper is something they pay attention to.

For free, try also Nifty Solution: link.

I haven't used this myself, but I use the author's Nifty Perforce plugin, and that is pretty tidy.

edited Jul 30 '15 at 7:21

jezrael
355k 26 319 395

answered Oct 3 '09 at 0:48
please delete me

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nifty solution is excellent. Its simple and it works. It also adds "toggle between header/source" which I like. – javs Jun 20 '11 at 15:03

In VS2013 you can click in the solution explorer for this functionality.

28   The shortcut is:

58　　The shortcut is:

ctrl + ;

http://i60.tinypic.com/10z7aee.jpg

answered May 9 '14 at 4:35

John
1,200　15　28

This also works in VS 2015. – thecoolmacdude Jun 20 '17 at 19:45

0　In Visual Studio 2008 (and probably later), the free DevExpress CodeRush Xpress add-in supplies Ctrl + Alt + F , Quick File Navigation, which searches on an exact substring in the file name or on capital letters.

(Unrelated to this answer, but note the rather more useful, Quick Navigation, Ctrl + Shift + Q , which I would have liked to have known about before now :-))

answered Feb 11 '14 at 4:53

Mark Hurd
8,747　10　56　88

2　Open command window(View -> Other windows -> command window - Ctrl + W, A) type >of followed by the file name. It would start showing up the list as you type.

answered Jan 15 '14 at 12:02

user2645830
143　1　3　19

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Is too simple by using the Windows Explorer search inside the project folder. Done.

answered Mar 19 '12 at 19:11

Carloss

35   1

Add an index and that's a killer solution! – Martin Capodici Dec 20 '12 at 23:53

This option wouldn't work for ftp sites loaded in visual studio. In vs2013 Ctrl + semi colon allows you to search the solution explorer quickly by filename without leaving the window. – John May 9 '14 at 4:20
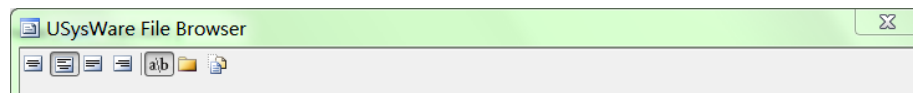

I am using VS 2010 and I wanted to open all the code behind files of my User Controls (i.e `.ascx.cs` files). Really your solution is straight forward and useful – sohaiby Jul 25 '15 at 8:33
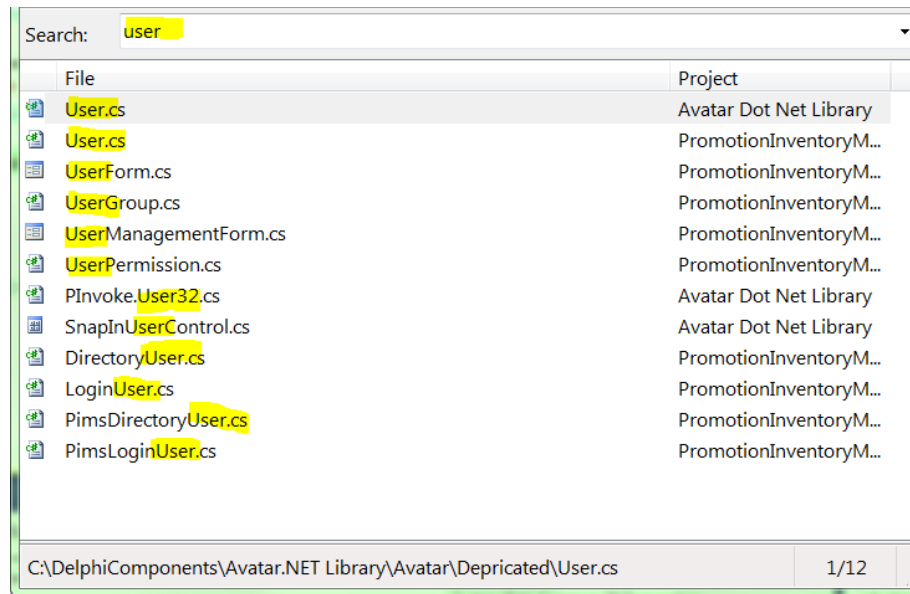
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2   b/c I love bouncing between Windows Explorer and Vs.NEt , yeah right. – RyBolt Nov 1 '16 at 13:11

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I use usysware DPack: http://www.usysware.com/dpack/

Then I just press ALT-U start typing the filename and choose the correct file. DPack also has other nice features.

USysWare File Browser   ☒

(highlights added for screenshot)

Note: Will not work in Express editons of Visual Studio, since they don't allow plugins.

edited Nov 7 '11 at 19:33

Ian Boyd
122k   192   695   1016

answered Oct 2 '09 at 11:41

Erwin
584   4   11

interesting, does it conflict with resharper do you know? – Edward Tanguay   Oct 2 '09 at 11:53

3   Works for me, but resharper got file search ctrl-shift-t – Erwin   Oct 2 '09 at 12:02

i already use DPack (Delphi Pack) for their brief bookmarks. i didn't realize they also had unit search. Sad that Delphi's 10 year old IDE is more

developer friendly than Visual Studio. People don't *realize* what they're

developer friendly than Visual Studio. People don't *realize* what they're
missing; how sloppy VS is. – Ian Boyd Nov 7 '11 at 18:59 ✎

Since you mention ReSharper in a comment:

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You can do this in ReSharper by using the "Goto File..." option (Ctrl-
Shift-N or ReSharper -> Go To -> File...) in my key mappings.

answered Oct 2 '09 at 12:04

adrianbanks
67k   18   147   185

6   +1 Ctrl-Shift-T in my Resharper install – Andomar Aug 8 '11 at 15:41 ✎

1   @Andomar: Yes, it depends on whether you have the Visual Studio or
IDEA shortcuts configured. – adrianbanks Aug 8 '11 at 16:21

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In the search dropdown on the standard toolbar, you can use the
"open file" macro, >of, to find files. Click in said dropdown (or hit Ctrl-
D) then start typing (minus the quotes) ">of CoreEdit.cs", and you'll
get a dynamic list that narrows as you type.

answered Oct 2 '09 at 12:03

kirkus
911   5   7