

Show control hierarchy in the WinForms designer

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One of our clients has an old WinForms application that contains forms with a lot of controls on them. Some of those controls have a deep hierarchy and that makes it to hard to select them in the designer.

I need to understand this hierarchy to make modifications to the application to correct some bugs. Is there a way to see this hierarchy clearly? For example, is there something available that is similar to what can be seen in an .aspx source file when you have a breadcrumb of where you are in the HTML hierarchy (HTML > Body > div > etc.)? Or something more visual maybe?

c#

winforms

visual-studio-2008

.net-2.0

designer

edited Jul 20 '16 at 20:37

[DavidRR](#)**9,540** 11 62 133

asked Jun 9 '10 at 9:18



Cédric V

747 1 15 24

3 Answers



You need to use the Document Outline

157



View > **Other Windows** >

Or via hotkey



Ctrl + **ALT** + **T**

edited Jul 25 '16 at 17:18



mschr

7,547 3 15 32

answered Jun 9 '10 at 9:20



codingbadger

33.3k 11 80 97

- 1 Who knew? This also answers the question: I need to make my existing form a page of a tab control, that is, I want to surround the existing form with a new tab control container. How do I do that? You create the tab control on your form then maneuver the up/down/left/right arrows in the Document Outline window until you've got the arrangement you want. – [davidbak](#) Mar 21 '16 at 17:36

- 1 Exactly what I am looking for! Thanks! – [Legends](#) Jun 20 '18 at 23:06



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Click on **View > Other Windows > Document Outline** in Visual Studio.

That should show the control hierarchy.

answered Jun 9 '10 at 9:21



[anonymous](#)

2,876 19 29



2

Visual Style Builder for UI Customization - Download this tool and use it...

Another tool is present which is "Control Spy Tool for Easier Development"

You will find the solution easily..

answered Jun 9 '10 at 9:24

John