

QUICK START

PRQA-FRAMEWORK 2.0.1

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Contents

| 1 | Introduction | 1 |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 2 | PRQA Framework Graphical User Interface - Quick Start 2.1 PRQA Framework Graphical User Interface | 3 3 3 4 4 |
| 3 | Getting to Work - Analyzing the Example Projects | 5 |
| 4 | Creating Your Own Projects - C&C++ 4.1 Use Case - Analyze a simple code project built using an executable script on a Linux PC | 15 16 18 21 27 32 |
| 5 | Creating Your Own Projects - Java and C# 5.1 Use Case - Analyze a Java or C# Project | 36 |
| 6 | Conclusion | 37 |





List of Figures

| 3.1 | Analyzing the Example Projects | 5 |
|------|---|----|
| 3.2 | Source Files | 6 |
| 3.3 | Source File Contents | |
| 3.4 | Analyzing a Single File | 8 |
| 3.5 | Analyzing a Single File Results | |
| 3.6 | Message / Code Line Association | Ć |
| 3.7 | Compliance Module Rule Violation | ç |
| 3.8 | Message Help Details | |
| 3.9 | Analysis of specified files | 10 |
| 3.10 | User Determined File Selection | 11 |
| 3.11 | File Detailed Analysis | 11 |
| 3.12 | Current State of Analysis | 12 |
| 3.13 | Out of Date Analysis | 12 |
| 3.14 | Message Levels | |
| 3.15 | Unique Diagnostic Counts | |
| 3.16 | File-Based Analysis of Project Progress Window | |
| 4.1 | Analyze a Simple Code Project | |
| 4.2 | Create a New PRQA Framework Project | |
| 4.3 | New PRQA Framework Project Window | |
| 4.4 | New PRQA Framework Project Properties Window | |
| 4.5 | Synchronize QA·F project with source | |
| 4.6 | Build Script Name and Location | |
| 4.7 | Build Process Progress Window | |
| 4.8 | Built Source File Selection | |
| 4.9 | Built Source File Selection Details | |
| 4.10 | Project Built Using an Executable Script | |
| 4.11 | Create a New Project Properties | |
| 4.12 | File-Based Analysis of Build Process | |
| 4.13 | File-Based Analysis of Build Process Batch File | |
| 4.14 | Build Process Analysis | |
| 4.15 | Build Source File Selection Details | |
| 4.16 | Analyze a Microsoft Visual Studio Project Without Using the Plug-in | 27 |
| 4.17 | Create a New PRQA Framework Project | 28 |
| 4.18 | New PRQA Framework Project Properties Window | 29 |
| 4.19 | Synchronizing the new QAF project with the source code | 29 |
| 4.20 | Synchronization options | 30 |
| 4.21 | Build Process Analysis | 30 |
| 4.22 | Build Source File Selection | 31 |
| 4.23 | User selects New Project | 32 |
| 4.24 | The "Add File To Project" menu option | 33 |



| | The "Selecting a Single File To Add" menu option | |
|------|--|----|
| 4.26 | Selected File Appears in Project Files Explorer | 34 |
| 4.27 | The "Add Multiple Files To Project" menu option | 34 |
| 4.28 | The user selects a directory and enters a wildcard filter in the "File Pattern | |
| | To Add" field | 35 |
| 4.29 | Many files have been added simultaneously to the project | 35 |
| 5.1 | User selects New Project | 36 |
| | The "Add File To Project" menu option | |
| | A java file has been added to the project | |

List of Tables





1 Introduction

This document assumes that the PRQA Framework software has been successfully installed on the target machine and licensing has been correctly set up. The PRQA Framework software will request license server details the first time it starts; incorrect settings will not stop the PRQA Framework software running, but analysis of code will fail with clear indication that a license check has failed. License server details can be set in the "Admin → License Server" menu; for help setting up a license server, please contact PRQA.

Important note for users of Microsoft Visual Studio and Eclipse based IDEs; PRQA offers a plug-in for these IDEs and that plug-in should be used in preference to the PRQA Framework software. The plug-in can be installed using the Visual Studio Plug-in Package in the

QA-Framework-x.y.z\ide_plugins\qa_visual_studio

directory, in the PRQA Framework software installation directory ¹. Instructions on installing the Visual Studio plug-in is below for those users, but this documentation describes the PRQA Framework GUI; NOT the Visual Studios plug-in.

This guide focuses on the GUI aspect of the PRQA Framework software. In following this guide, the user will be guided through a simple analysis of a software project, and then introduced to using the GUI to apply the PRQA Framework software to their own software projects.

Throughout this document, text that is a typed command, filename or a directory structure is presented in a monospace font; for example,

prqaproject.xml.

The PRQA Framework software exists principally to present the user with a convenient means to trigger analysis of chosen source code files, and to examine the analysis results. The PRQA Framework program runs separately and independently to the code under examination, using existing build environment information to inform itself about the user's code.

It is intended that the user take the results from PRQA Framework and, in their existing code development environment, make changes based upon those results. Whilst PRQA Framework does have a basic text file editing capability, PRQA Framework is not intended to be used as a direct development tool to work on the code project files.

It is possible to operate the PRQA Framework in automated circumstances, such as applying analysis routinely to sets of code on a build server; such operation is beyond the scope of this guide.

¹Where x.y.z is the version number of the QA·Framework software.





The PRQA Framework software is designed to fit around an existing code project, reading the existing code build configuration information to gather the information; that is, source files, include paths, environment setting and other such detail. As such, PRQA Framework cannot be simply "pointed at" a single source file and asked to examine it, although of course it is perfectly possible to have a project containing a single file (one of the sample projects, inspect_c, is just such a project).

The PRQA Framework software stores information about a project by adding two files (*prqaproject.xml* and *prqaproject.xml.stamp*) and a directory (*prqa*) to the project directory. These should not be altered by the user.



2 PRQA Framework Graphical User Interface - Quick Start

2.1 PRQA Framework Graphical User Interface

The PRQA Framework Graphical User Interface can be started on Windows through the start menu, and on all systems by running the

qagui

2.2 Visual Studio Plug-in

Whilst this guide discusses the GUI aspect of the PRQA Framework software, for convenience instructions on installing the Visual Studio plug-in are presented here also. The Plug-ins are delivered as part of the PRQA Framework package in the form of an installer.

2.2.1 Visual Studio 2008 Installation

- Close all instances of Visual Studio 2008 IDE.
- Click on .msi file. Follow the steps from the setup wizard.
- The product will install by default to the C:\PRQA folder.

2.2.2 Visual Studio 2010 Installation

- Close all instances of Visual Studio 2010 IDE.
- Click on .vsix file. Follow the steps from the setup wizard.
- The product will install by default to the AppData\Local\Microsoft\VisualStudio\10.0\Extensions folder.

2.2.3 Visual Studio 2012 Installation

- Close all instances of Visual Studio 2012 IDE.
- Click on .vsix file. Follow the steps from the setup wizard.
- The product will install by default to the AppData\Local\Microsoft\VisualStudio\11.0\Extensions folder.





2.2.4 Visual Studio 2013 Installation

- Close all instances of Visual Studio 2013 IDE.
- Click on .vsix file. Follow the steps from the setup wizard.
- The product will install by default to the AppData\Local\Microsoft\VisualStudio\12.0\Extensions folder.

2.2.5 After the Installation

- Open a solution with Visual Studios projects.
- A PRQA Framework menu will be visible and a QA·Visual Studios toolbar will appear also.
- To create a prqa project, click on "Create/Sync Project" option from main menu or toolbar.

2.3 Eclipse Plug-in

Please see Installation Notes for QA-Eclipse document.





3 Getting to Work - Analyzing the Example Projects

The PRQA Framework software comes with a number of sample projects; beginning by analyzing these sample projects will give the user an intuitive introduction to the PRQA Framework software.

Upon starting the software, the user is presented with the following screen (there will be minor cosmetic differences between the Windows, Linux and Solaris versions, but layout and functionality are identical).



Figure 3.1: Analyzing the Example Projects

The provided example PRQA Framework projects are listed in the right-hand panel; if compliance modules, for example, a MISRA compliance module, have been installed, their sample projects will also be listed. After the first use of the PRQA Framework GUI, this list will not be updated with the sample projects, but will instead fill from the top with the user's recent projects.

A project can be selected by double-clicking on it in the "Recent Projects" panel, or by right-clicking and using the presented context menu. The display will change; the left-hand panel File browser tab will populate. Note that the default layout presents the File browser, Message Levels and Rule Groups dockable windows in a tabbed arrangement; this is because the most common workflow involves identifying which files to see the diagnostics of, and then using the Message Levels or Rule Groups tabs to see broad results. The



windows are dockable and can be moved or detached entirely in the conventional mousedragging manner.

The user can use the File browser dockable window this to browse the project directories and see the files contained within the project:

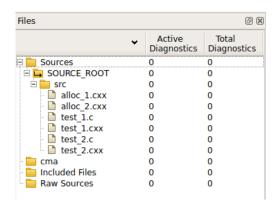


Figure 3.2: Source Files

A file is selected by left-clicking the file with the mouse. Multiple files can be selected in the standard way, by holding down the CTRL key on the keyboard whilst left-clicking each file, or by holding the SHIFT key to select a range of files between two points. Also, selecting or deselecting a directory will select or deselect all files within that directory and any sub-directories. The effect of selecting a file is to have that file's analysis results presented in the "Analysis Results/Diagnostics" window at the bottom of the window; selecting more than one file will present the results from all selected files. At this stage in this example, there are no analysis results, as no analysis has been run.

When a single file has been selected, it will also be opened in the central area with any diagnostics marked. Note that if a file is open in the central area, and the user then deselects that file, its diagnostics will vanish as they are no longer part of the user's chosen set of diagnostics for viewing.

Files are best opened by right-clicking and selecting "Open" (a file can also be opened by double-clicking, but this functionality is deprecated and should not be relied on for future versions; the first click of the double-click action will select that file, which may be an unintended consequence, so the user is advised to use right-click and "Open"); the file will open in the central area:





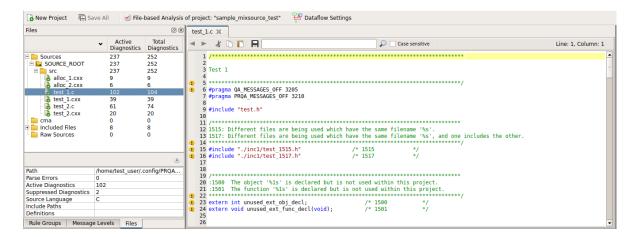


Figure 3.3: Source File Contents

A file can also be opened for viewing by double-clicking on a relevant diagnostic, see figure 3.5.

The contents of the file can be edited and saved; note that, as stated previously, the PRQA Framework software is not intended to be a code development environment and the user should not use it as such.

The source files can be analyzed individually, or in a group. There are two kinds of analysis available; "file based" and "cma". "File based" analysis operates at the translation unit level and checks for issues such as correct language use, dataflow and layout. "Cma" analysis operates across translation unit boundaries and checks for issues such as duplicate definitions, incompatible declarations and unused variables. Note that cma analysis is a superset of file based analysis, and requires file based analysis to have been conducted already.

This example conducts file based analysis; cma analysis can be conducted through the menus in a similar fashion to file-based analysis.

To analyze a single file, the user can select it in the Files browser window using right-click, and then selecting "Analyze":



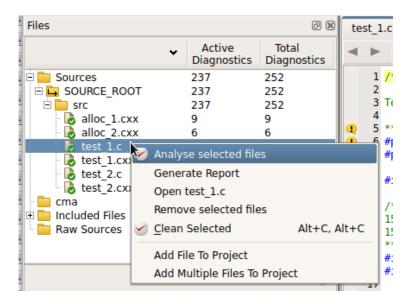


Figure 3.4: Analyzing a Single File

A progress window will open, informing the user of the current state of the analysis. Upon completion of the single file analysis, a progress window will be displayed as shown:

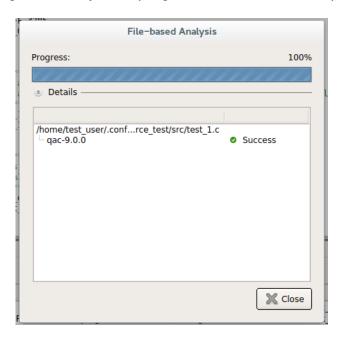


Figure 3.5: Analyzing a Single File Results

Note that the "Analysis Results/Diagnostics" frame at the bottom of the screen will now be populated now populated, as the file with results is selected, and that the code displayed in the central frame will now have analysis results indicators at its left. The results of



analysis for this file can now be explored. The results can be sorted by clicking column headings in the standard way. Double-clicking an individual result (in any column other than the "ID" or "Rule" column) will cause the code window to display the affected line of code, highlighted; the relevant file shall be opened if necessary.

This is shown in the following diagram; a message regarding a function has been doubleclicked, and that line of code has been highlighted in yellow:

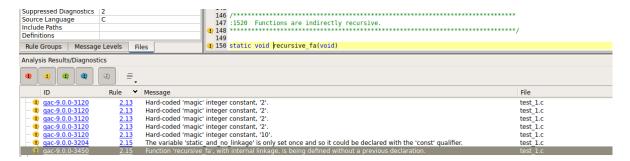


Figure 3.6: Message / Code Line Association

If the user is using a compliance module, the "Rule" column will directly identify which of that compliance modules rules are being violated; for example, this image shows a diagnostic from a MISRA compliance module in which Rule-3.1 of the "MISRA C:2012" rules is being violated:



Figure 3.7: Compliance Module Rule Violation

Clicking the blue highlighted "ID" column will open the PRQA Framework help in a separate window, at the relevant information, as shown:



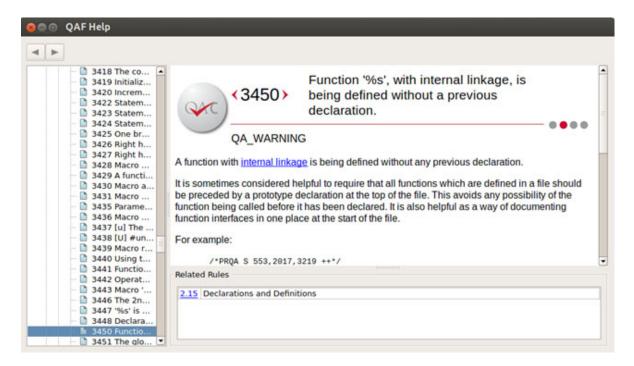


Figure 3.8: Message Help Details

Clicking other blue highlighted "ID" or "Rule" links in the results will cause the help window to update; alternatively, depressing the SHIFT key whilst clicking will create a new help window, allowing the user to see multiple help files at the same time.

Individual files can also be selected for analysis through the menu bar, following "Analyze \rightarrow File-Based Analysis \rightarrow File-based Analysis of files to be specified", as shown:

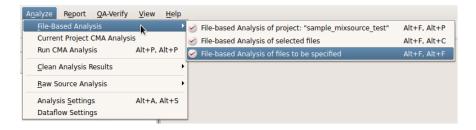


Figure 3.9: Analysis of specified files

This allows the user to select any combination of files for analysis using a standard, intuitive tree-view:





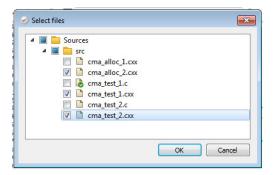


Figure 3.10: User Determined File Selection

Having chosen the files for analysis, they will be immediately analyzed as before. Now that multiple files have been analyzed, the user must select which file's results to view.

The PRQA Framework software will display the results of whichever files are currently selected in the "Files" tab at left. It is not necessary to open the file to view its results, although having a file open in the editor window whilst its results are being shown will provide icons to the left of lines containing diagnostics (open a file in an editor using the right mouse button on the file, and select from the menu). Each open file will be arranged in the central frame using a standard tabbed view:

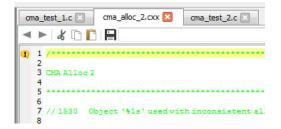


Figure 3.11: File Detailed Analysis

Each file can be brought to the fore by clicking its tab.

As files are analyzed, the file browser window at left will indicate the current state of analysis for any given file:





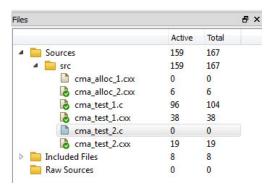


Figure 3.12: Current State of Analysis

The "green tick" icon indicates that the analysis completed successfully and is available for viewing. Editing a file and/or saving it, will be recognized by the PRQA Framework software. A visual warning will be presented in the form of a "blue clock" icon, which indicates that analysis results for the file are out-of-date (this will also be done by changing the project's properties significantly, such that a new analysis needs to be conducted under the new settings). In the following diagram, the file *cma_alloc_2.cxx* has been edited and saved, and now is marked as out-of-date:

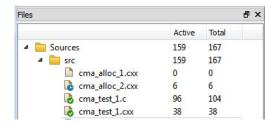


Figure 3.13: Out of Date Analysis

The left hand panel contains two other tabs, alongside the "Files" tab. "Message Levels", which provides the user with a tree-view and count, sorted by the message level, of the various different analysis results for the currently selected files, and "Rule Groups", which provides the same information sorted by rule group.



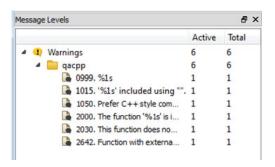


Figure 3.14: Message Levels

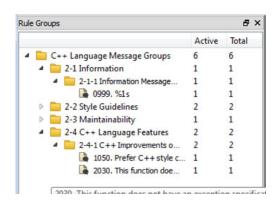


Figure 3.15: Unique Diagnostic Counts

Each level of the Rule Groups tab sums all its child levels, but only counts unique diagnostic messages; this means that if a single message violates, for example, rules 2-4 and 2-2, the summation level above those two rules will count the offending message only once. The Rule Groups tab is intended to show users which diagnostics violate which rules, but ultimately counts unique diagnostics only; the number of rules violated may be greater than the number of diagnostics if a diagnostic violates more than one rule.

Right-clicking on a message or rule gives the user the option to select a single message or all messages for a given rule group or warning level. This will then be applied to the diagnostics shown in the diagnostics window. By this means, a user could choose, for example, to show all instances of a single message for the entire project, or all messages from a single rule group for a given subset of files.

The user can also choose to simply analyze all files in the project at once, through the "Analyze \rightarrow File-Based Analysis \rightarrow File-based Analysis of Project <Project Name>". This will trigger an analysis of every file in the project that is not up-to-date. The progress window indicates which files specifically have been analyzed:





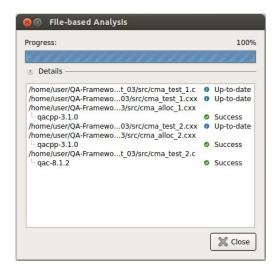


Figure 3.16: File-Based Analysis of Project Progress Window

Results are available in the same way as previously discussed.





4 Creating Your Own Projects - C&C++

As alluded to previously, the PRQA Framework software is designed to fit around an existing code project, reading the existing code build configuration information to gather the information it needs; that is, source files, include paths, environment setting and other such detail.

The PRQA Framework software gathers the information it needs by executing a build of the user's code project. The PRQA Framework software requires a single build command, that can be run from anywhere on the system, that will build the user's code project. This functionality exists only for C&C++ projects. Java and C# projects must have their files indicated manually by the user; see section 5.

This is best explained through simple examples. Examples are presented for Linux and Windows. Much of the discussion is applicable to both, so even if the user intends to work solely on one system, it will be informative to read all the examples.

4.1 Use Case - Analyze a simple code project built using an executable script on a Linux PC

A user has simple code project, consisting of a few source code files, arranged in a directory structure as shown, on a standard developer Linux installation with the GCC compiler suite and associated standard development tools.

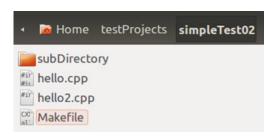


Figure 4.1: Analyze a Simple Code Project

The user currently builds this code project by running the command *make* on the command line, where the *Makefile* contents are as shown:

```
CXX = g++
all:
    $(CXX) -o outputFile hello.cpp hello2.cpp
    ./subDirectory/code.cpp
clean:
```



This simple situation is easily turned into a PRQA Framework project. When a user wishes to apply the PRQA Framework software to a code project, the procedure is conducted in two steps; creating a new PRQA Framework project, and then informing the PRQA Framework software of the files to be analyzed (this is done by building the code project as the PRQA Framework software observes). This means that creating a PRQA Framework project presents the user with an *empty* project, which must then be populated with the relevant files.

4.1.1 Creating a New PRQA Framework Project

Select "New Project":



Figure 4.2: Create a New PRQA Framework Project

Select the directory containing the code project of interest, and also the appropriate compiler from the list:



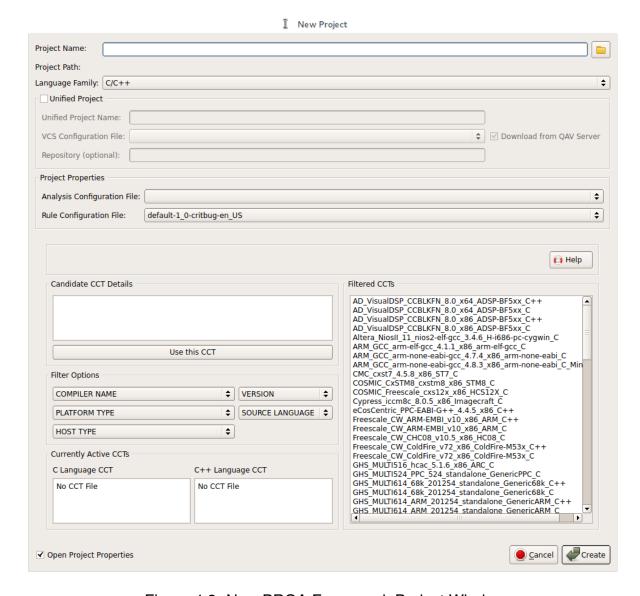


Figure 4.3: New PRQA Framework Project Window

Selecting "Create" will cause the Project Properties window to open:





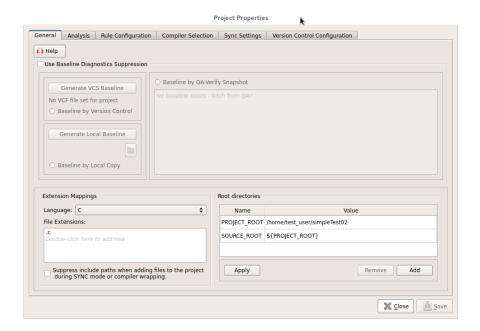


Figure 4.4: New PRQA Framework Project Properties Window

For this simple example, this is all that is needed. Other options can be safely ignored at this stage and the Project properties window can be closed without making any changes.

The project should now be open; the "File" window will show zero files. This has created a new PRQA Framework project; the next step is to populate the PRQA Framework project with files for analysis.

4.1.2 Informing the PRQA Framework Software of the Files to be Analyzed - C&C++ Projects

The PRQA Framework software is intended to infer the source code contents of a code project by observing a build process. This functionality can be accessed via the "Project \rightarrow Synchronize" menu.



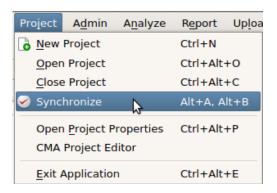


Figure 4.5: Synchronize QA·F project with source

This image below shows how one would enter the build script name and location into the PRQA Framework software:

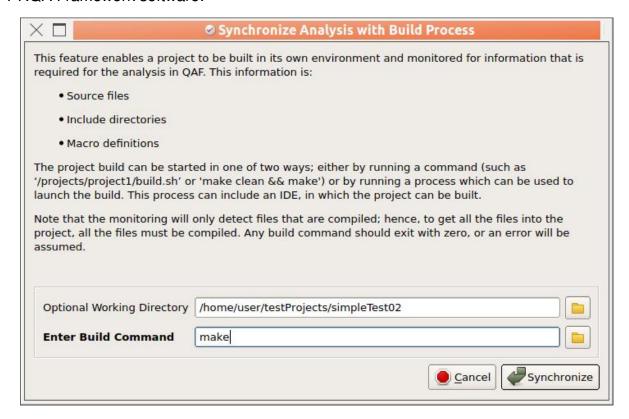


Figure 4.6: Build Script Name and Location

Pressing "Synchronize" will cause the PRQA Framework software to execute the script and monitor the subsequent build process, identifying the source code files of interest.

Note that because the PRQA Framework software informs itself by watching the build process, if the build process does not build something (for example, because the code project



has been recently built and nothing needs to be recompiled), the PRQA Framework software will gather no information. Accordingly, it is recommended to clean the build first, or (as inferred in the image above) to have the scripted build process conducts such a cleaning operation).

The progress window shows files being identified and analyzed as the build process is observed.

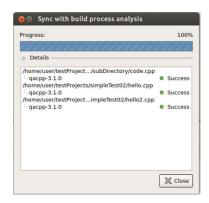


Figure 4.7: Build Process Progress Window

The identified files are available for examination and selection as before:

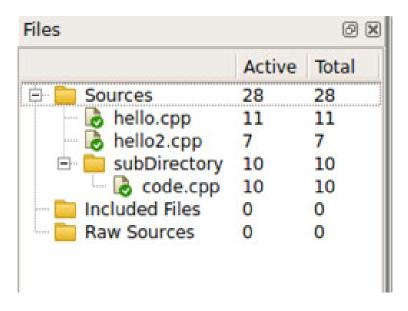


Figure 4.8: Built Source File Selection





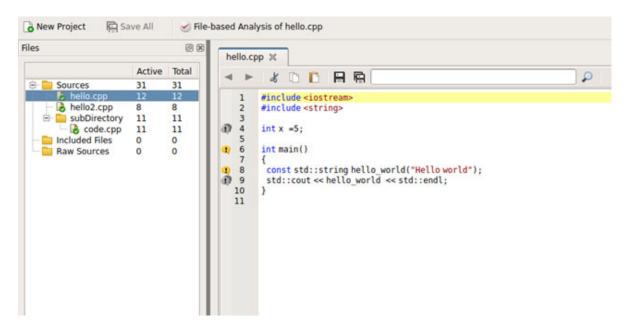


Figure 4.9: Built Source File Selection Details

Larger, more complex code projects can be analyzed by the PRQA Framework software in the same way.

4.2 Use Case - Analyze a Code Project Built Using an Executable Script on Windows

The typical windows software development environment is an IDE; most common are Microsoft's Visual Studio or Eclipse-based IDEs. Plug-ins are available for these IDEs and a user should use them rather than the PRQA Framework GUI.

This example assumes that a user is not using one of these IDEs but instead is using a build method analogous to the previous example; the user has chosen to use the command-line based development system provided by the Cygwin tools.

The user has a simple code project with a structure shown as in the image:





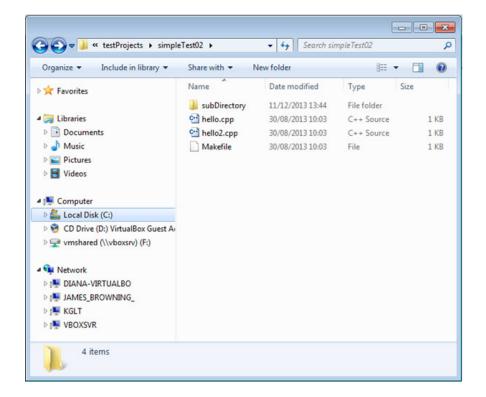


Figure 4.10: Project Built Using an Executable Script

Using their command-line build tools, the user currently builds this project through typing the command:

```
g++ -o outputFile hello.cpp hello2.cpp ./subDirectory/code.cpp
```

The g++ (i.e. the GCC C++) compiler is part of the installed Cygwin tools the user has chosen to work with in this example.

Alternatively, the user could have a simple *Makefile*, which they run through the command *make*.

The code project will not need to be altered in any way; the PRQA Framework software can analyze it without any changes as long as the user can provide a single command to be run that will work from any directory, as in the previous Linux example.

In Windows systems, it is common to use a *.bat (windows batch) file for simple scripting; a single executable script that will run the code build is needed by the QA GUI; in this



example, the user has created a file build.bat, which they can execute to conduct the build.

make -C C:\Users\Public\testProjects\simpleTest02

Given this existing code project, the user now wishes to analyze the code using the PRQA Framework GUI. Upon starting the PRQA Framework GUI, the user is presented with the standard start page. The user must now create a new project; this can be done using the "New Project" button towards the top-left of the PRQA Framework GUI, just as in the previous example.

The user is now presented with a dialog box; the user specifies the "Project Name". The project name is simply the name of the directory containing the code project; in this example,

simpleTest02

The user must also specify the compiler being used; a large number of options are presented and it is important the user select correctly. In this case, the user would chose the appropriate Cygwin compiler. This is all that is needed for this simple project; the user presses "Create" and is presented with the "Project Properties" dialog:



Page 23



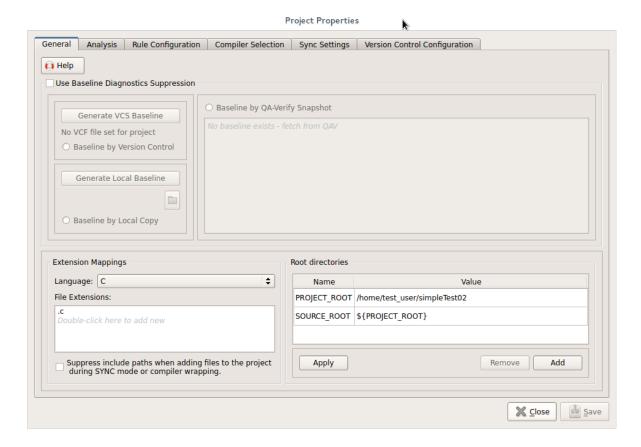


Figure 4.11: Create a New Project Properties

This simple case requires no change from the defaults; the user simply closes this dialog.

The PRQA Framework software will now monitor a build process to gather the information it needs to identify the source files and other configuration information it requires. The user must identify to the PRQA Framework GUI the single script to run to conduct the software build; as discussed previously, the user has created a Windows batch file to do this. The user selects "Project \rightarrow Synchronize":

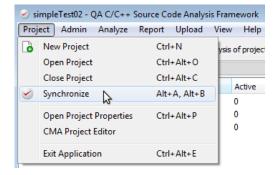


Figure 4.12: File-Based Analysis of Build Process



and is presented with the opportunity to identify the batch file:

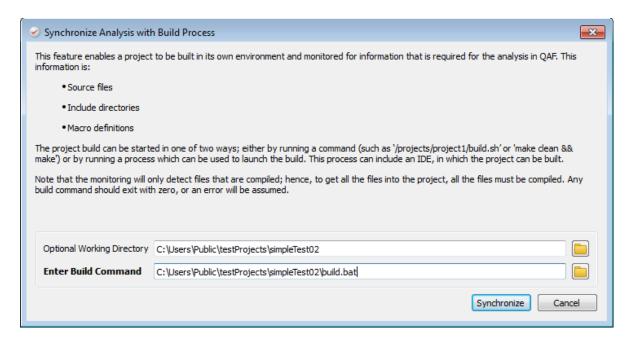


Figure 4.13: File-Based Analysis of Build Process Batch File

Alternatively, the user might choose to discard the batch file and simply enter the complete command within that batch file, if the command is very simple; for example, as in this simple example case,

make -C C:\Users\Public\testProjects\simpleTest02

When the user presses "Synchronize", the build begins with the PRQA Framework software monitoring it. The user will watch the progression, until the screen appears as follows; note that the number of diagnostics listed in the left window has changed, and that the feedback indicates successful identification and scan of the code project files.



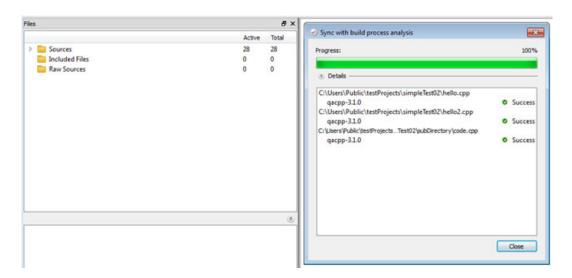


Figure 4.14: Build Process Analysis

The results are available for examination as described previously (in the exploration of the sample project):

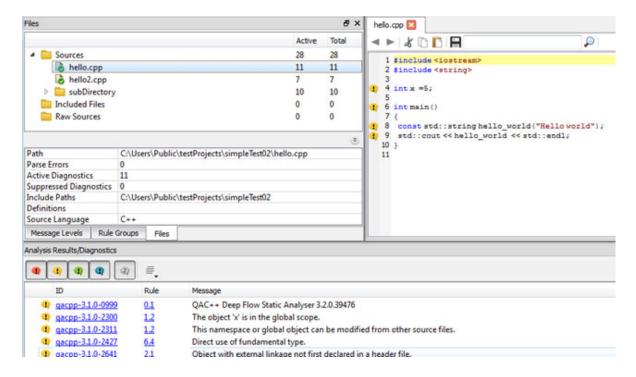


Figure 4.15: Build Source File Selection Details

Page 26





4.3 Use Case - Analyze a Microsoft Visual Studio Project Without Using the Plug-in

It is intended that users of Microsoft's Visual Studio use the plug-in module to analyze their code. However, should a user choose not to use the plug-in, the PRQA Framework GUI can still be used to analyze their code.

In this example, the user has a directory layout and source code files identical to the previous example, but they have built this code into a Microsoft Visual Studio project, named

simpleWinProject

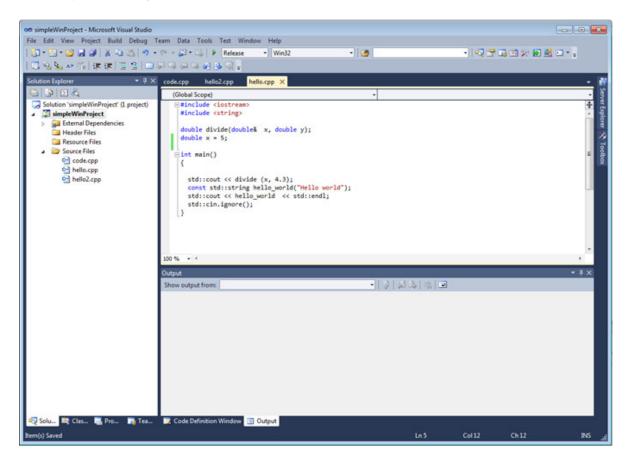


Figure 4.16: Analyze a Microsoft Visual Studio Project Without Using the Plug-in

The user currently builds their project using the Microsoft Visual Studio GUI, but wishes to have their code analyzed, without using the available Microsoft Visual Studio plug-in. The steps are almost identical to the previous example.

After starting the PRQA Framework GUI, the user must now create a new PRQA Frame-



work Project, using the "New Project" button:

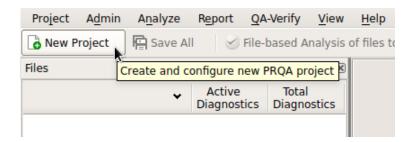


Figure 4.17: Create a New PRQA Framework Project

The user is now presented with a dialog box; the user specifies the Project Name. The project name is simply the name of the directory containing the code project; in this example,

simpleWinProject

The user also chooses the appropriate compiler, which in this case is the Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 compiler. The user is now presented with project options; in this simple case, the default values are suitable and the user need do no more than close this window:



Page 28



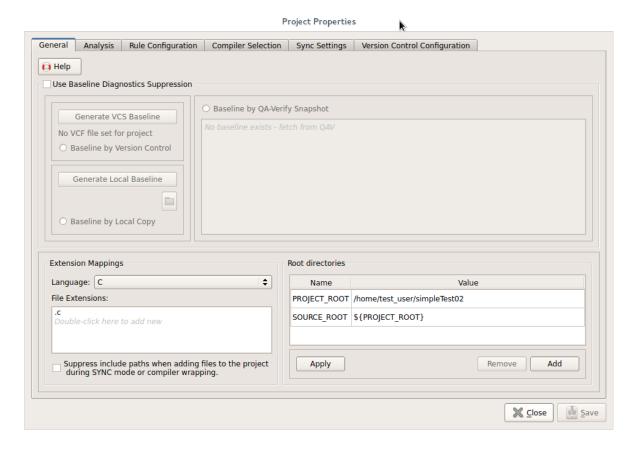


Figure 4.18: New PRQA Framework Project Properties Window

Now, the QAF software must observe a build to infer the correct source files for analysis, as in previous examples. To do so, it must be given a command to run on the command line that will drive a build. In Microsoft's Visual Studio, the build process can be driven using the devenv.exe program. The user selects "Project \rightarrow Synchronize":

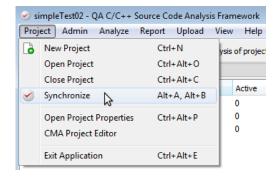


Figure 4.19: Synchronizing the new QAF project with the source code

and is presented with opportunity to enter the build command, which in this case is the



lengthy single line:

"C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio 10.0\
Common7\IDE\devenv.com" /Build Release "C:\Users\User\
My Documents\Visual Studio 2010\Projects\simpleWinProject\
simpleWinProject.sln"

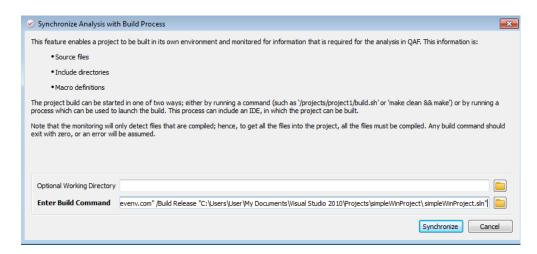


Figure 4.20: Synchronization options

Upon selecting "Synchronize", the build is triggered and observed, with detected files being displayed in the progress window:

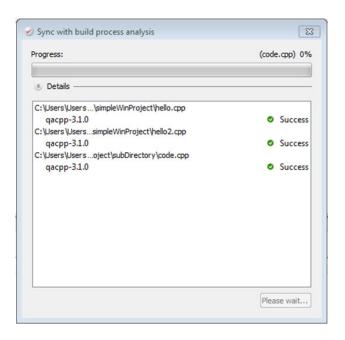


Figure 4.21: Build Process Analysis



and the files are available for examination in the file browser at left:

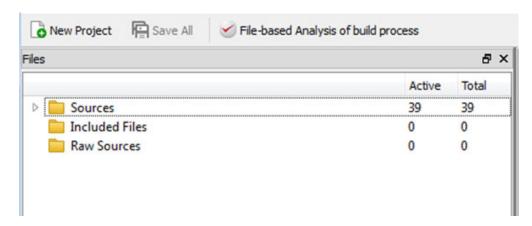


Figure 4.22: Build Source File Selection





4.4 Use Case - Create a PRQAF Project Manually By Selecting Files

The preferred means of creating a PRQAF project is by the synchronization method as demonstrated in other use cases. However, there are two common situations in which a user might choose to manually identify files to be added to a PRQAF project. One of the key advantages of using the synchronization method will be lost in such cases; information about the specifics of the build (for example, compiler settings) will not automatically be part of the PRQAF project, and the user may have to manually add those details as well.

The first such situation occurs when a user simply cannot build their code project using the synchronization method. For example, perhaps the code is only built on a remote server on which the user cannot run PRQAF.

The second such situation involves minor changes to an existing PRQAF, such as adding a new source file, and the user does not wish to go through a complete rebuild of their code project. In such cases, it is possible to manually add files to a PRQAF project.

Firstly, the user must create a new PRQAF project, using the "New Project" button:

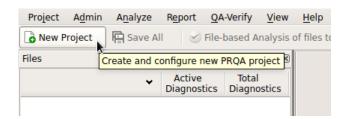


Figure 4.23: User selects New Project

As in the other use cases, the user now selects the directory in which the PRQAF project is to reside, which would typically be a top-level source directory. An appropriate compiler is selected from the list, and the project is then created. The user is now presented with an empty project. Ideally, the next step would be to add files via the synchronization method as in other use cases. However, in this case, the user right-clicks on the project file explorer window and then selects the presented "Add File To Project" menu option:

Page 32



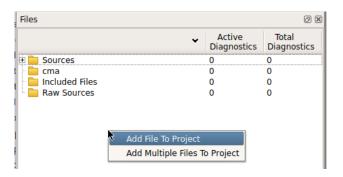


Figure 4.24: The "Add File To Project" menu option

Selecting this menu option will present the user with a typical file selection dialog:

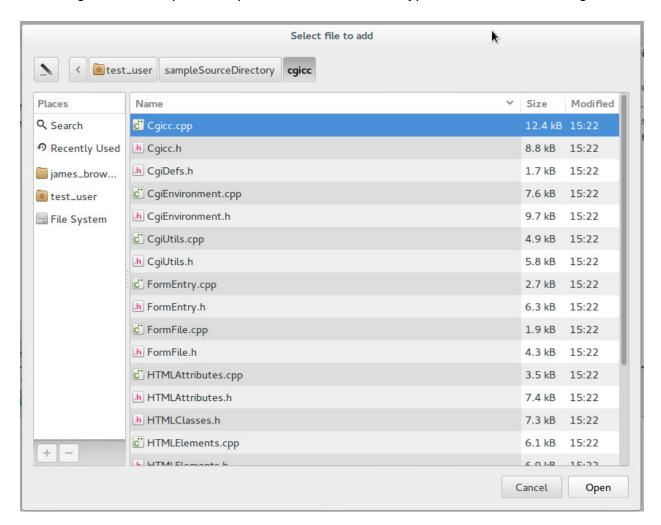


Figure 4.25: The "Selecting a Single File To Add" menu option





In this use case, the user adds a single file;

Cgicc.cpp

Following selection, the file appears in the project files explorer window:

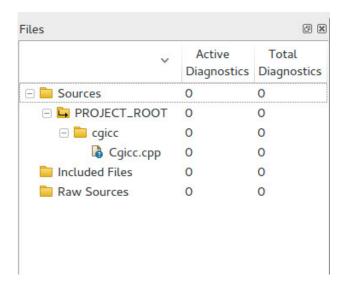


Figure 4.26: Selected File Appears in Project Files Explorer

The project (containing just this single file) can then be analyzed as usual. Alternatively, the user can select multiple files to add simultaneously:

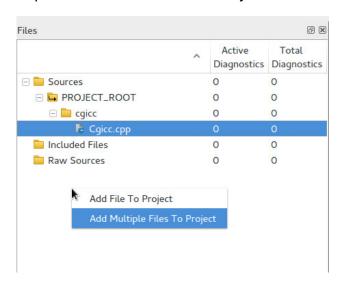


Figure 4.27: The "Add Multiple Files To Project" menu option

This will present a directory browser, with which the user browses to a directory and enters a wildcard filter to identify by extension files to add:



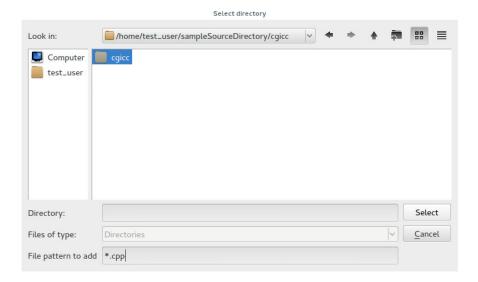


Figure 4.28: The user selects a directory and enters a wildcard filter in the "File Pattern To Add" field

In this case, the directory contains a number of files matching the chosen pattern, and they are added to the project and appear in the project files explorer window:

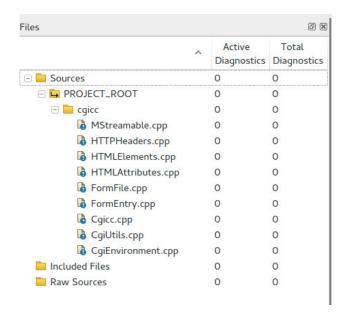


Figure 4.29: Many files have been added simultaneously to the project





5 Creating Your Own Projects - Java and C#

Java and C# projects cannot make use of the automatic project synchronisation method, and the user must create an empty PRQAF project and then indicate manually which source files are to be added.

5.1 Use Case - Analyze a Java or C# Project

Firstly, the user must create a new PRQAF project, using the "New Project" button:

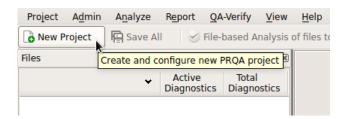


Figure 5.1: User selects New Project

When presented with the project creation dialog, the user must select a number of Java or C# language specific options. In particular, the following fields have specific values that the user should be sure to select:

- Language Family
- Analysis Configuration File
- CCT

Upon creation, the user is presented with an empty project. To add specific Java source files, the user right-clicks on the project file explorer window and then selects the presented "Add File To Project" menu option:





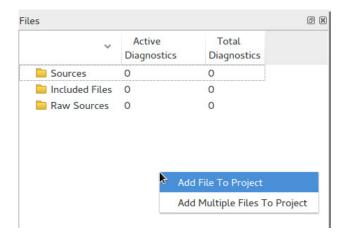


Figure 5.2: The "Add File To Project" menu option

The user will then browse to identify the file to add, and select it. Following this, the selected file is added to the project and displayed in the Project Explorer:

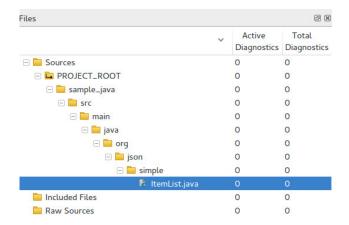


Figure 5.3: A java file has been added to the project

At this point, the user can analyse files as normal.

6 Conclusion

The user has been led through a set of simple analysis and test projects; this should enable a newcomer to the software to begin analyzing their own code projects. There are many more advanced options and capabilities available to the user; these are discussed in the full documentation.





For assistance and help, visit the PRQA website and contact support through the website.

Page 38

