
[< Back](#)

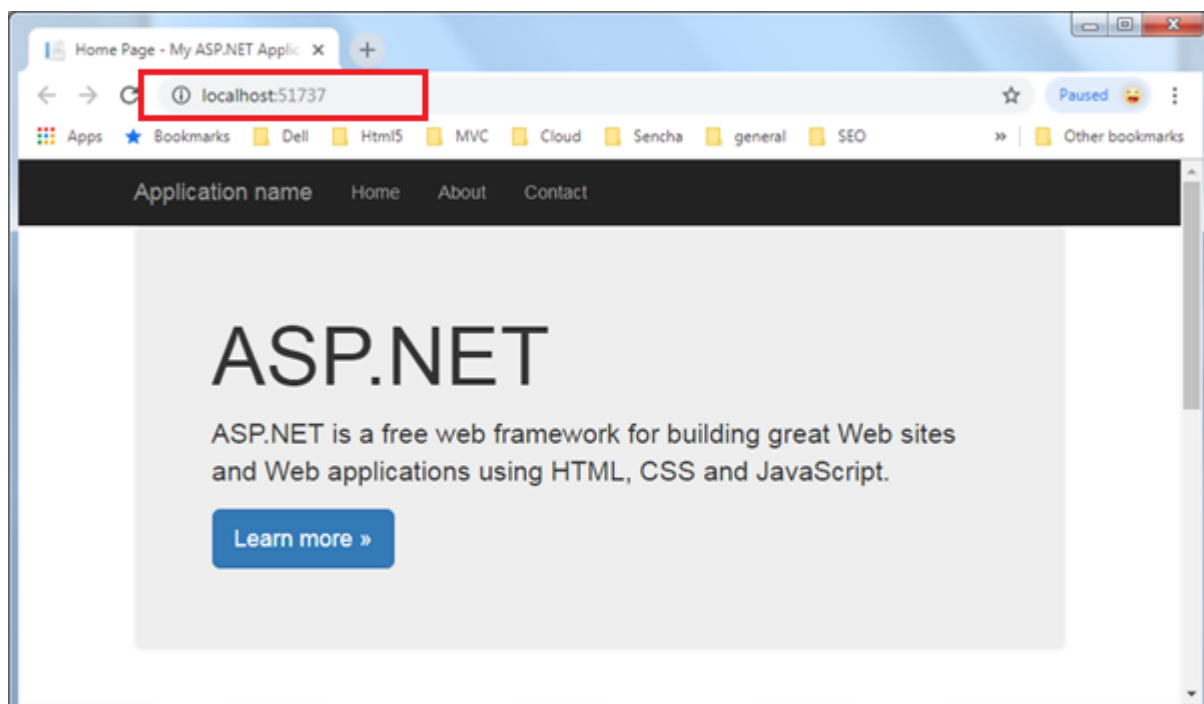
Set Custom Domain Name for localhost Website in IIS

[IIS](#) | By TutorialsTeacher | 06 Jun 2019

Here you will learn how to set a custom domain name to a website running at a localhost. In this way, instead of running and debugging the website using the localhost url (such as `http://localhost:`), it can be run using a dummy domain name e.g., `www.mywebsite.com`.

Setting up a custom domain name instead of a localhost will help you when testing of many things, such as redirecting a non-www to a www website or vice-versa, or redirecting from http to https before publishing a website to the production/hosting environment.

We have already created an ASP.NET MVC application in Visual Studio 2017 which runs with the url `http://localhost:51737` (you may have a different port number), as shown below.



Now, we want to use our dummy domain name *http://www.mywebsite.com* instead of *http://localhost:51737*.

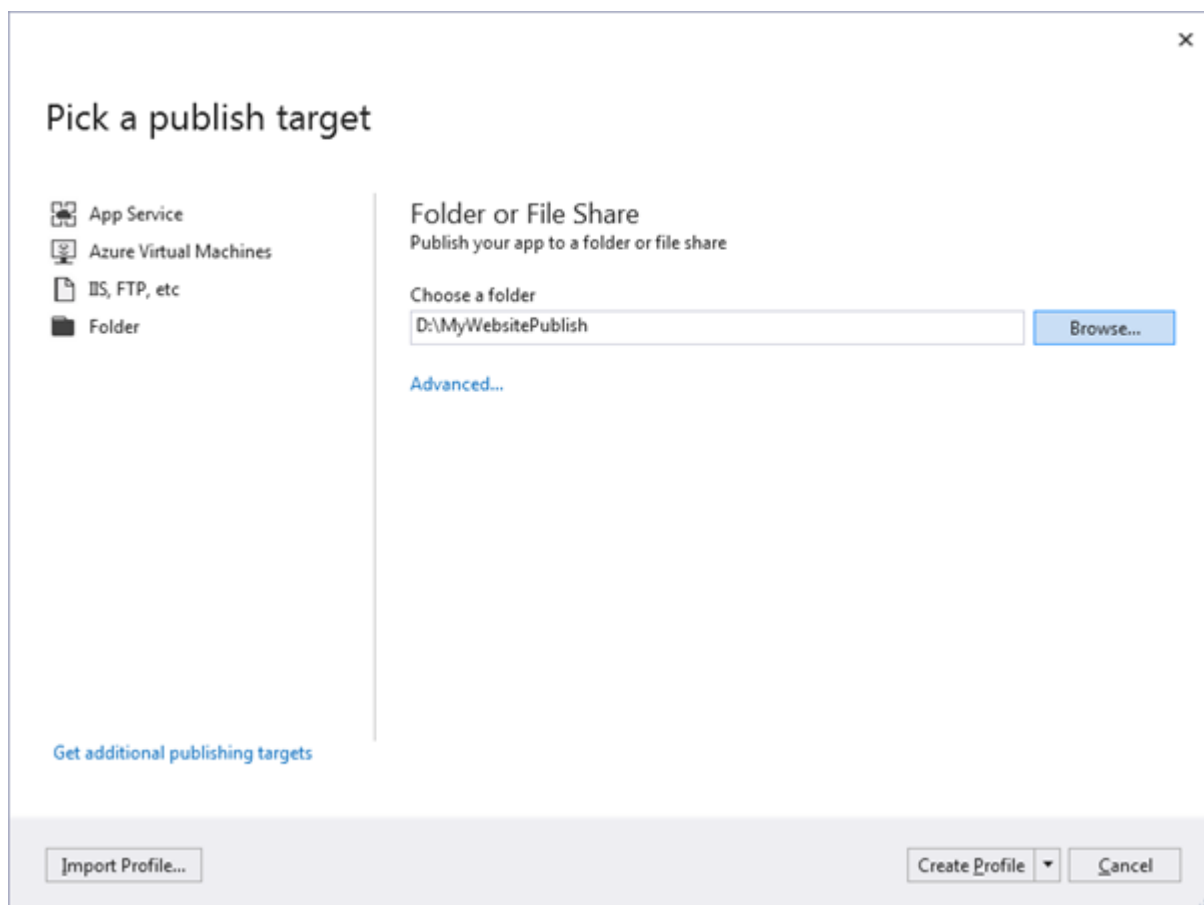
We will take the following steps:

1. Publish the website in the local folder
2. Create a new website in the local IIS
3. Change the hosts file

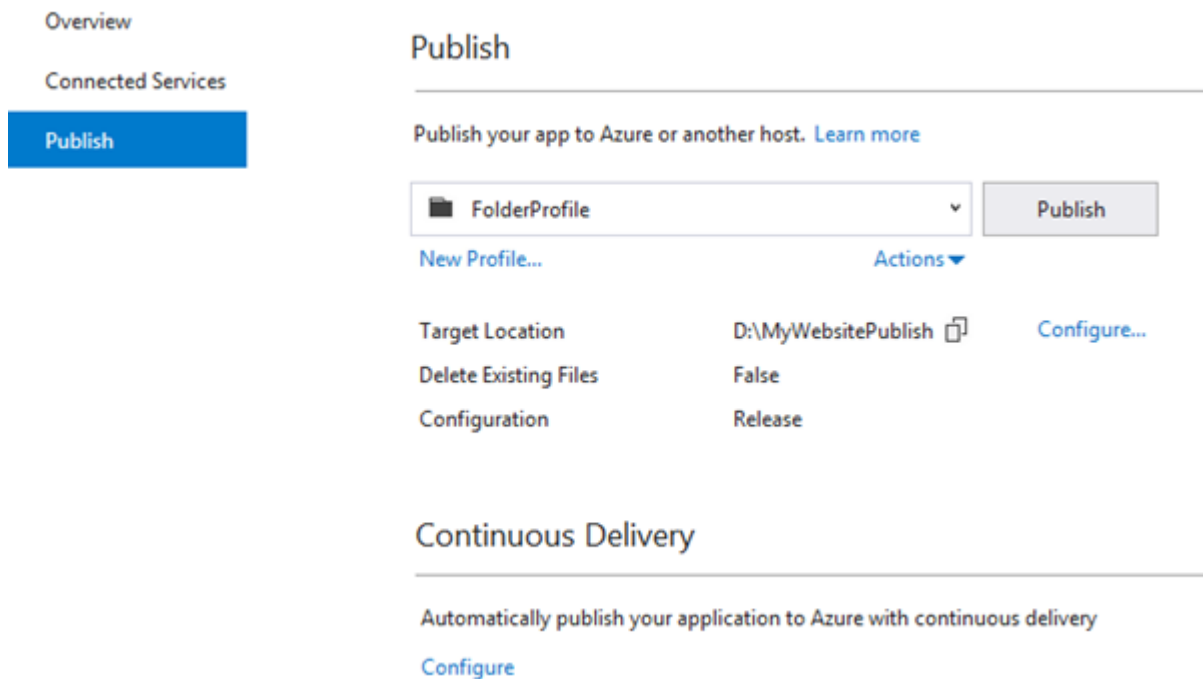
Publish a Website in the Local Folder

Right click on the project name in the solution explorer of Visual Studio (2015/2017) and click **Publish** to publish your website to the local file system.

You may need to create a new publishing profile for the file system publish target by clicking on the **New Profile..** link. Select an appropriate folder and click the **Create Profile** button, as shown below.



This will add a FolderProfile as shown below. Now, click on the **Publish** button to publish your website to the selected folder.



After successfully publishing a website, open the local IIS manager (enter inetmgr in the Run window).

In the IIS manager, right click on **Sites**, click **Add Web Site..** and enter the site name, physical path and hostname as *www.mywebsite.com*, as shown below.

Add Web Site

Site name: mywebsite Application pool: mywebsite Select...

Content Directory

Physical path: D:\MyWebsitePublish ...

Pass-through authentication

Connect as... Test Settings...

Binding

Type: http IP address: All Unassigned Port: 80

Host name: www.mywebsite.com
Example: www.contoso.com or marketing.contoso.com

☒ Start Web site immediately

OK Cancel

Add Website in IIS

This will create a website on the local IIS server.

Now, we want to use *http://www.mywebsite.com* instead of the localhost url. For this, we have to open the *hosts* file located in the *C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc* in Windows Vista, 7 and 8. The hosts file for Unix, Linux, and Mac OS X is located in */etc/hosts*. Open hosts file as an administrator.

Add "127.0.0.1 www.mywebsite.com" at the end of the file, as shown below. This will tell IIS to search for the local website when www.mywebsite.com url is entered.

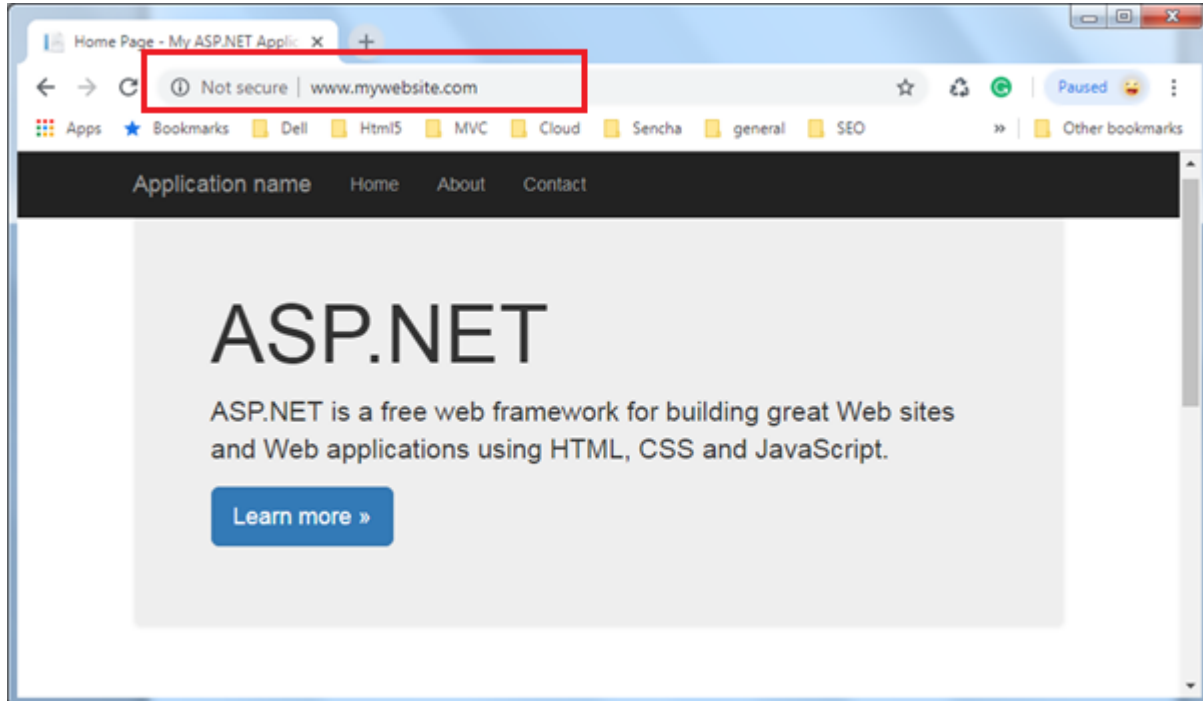
```
# Copyright (c) 1993-2009 Microsoft Corp.
#
# This is a sample HOSTS file used by Microsoft TCP/IP for Windows.
#
# This file contains the mappings of IP addresses to host names. Each
# entry should be kept on an individual line. The IP address should
# be placed in the first column followed by the corresponding host name.
# The IP address and the host name should be separated by at least one
# space.
#
# Additionally, comments (such as these) may be inserted on individual
# lines or following the machine name denoted by a '#' symbol.
#
# For example:
#
#       102.54.94.97       rhino.acme.com           # source server
#       38.25.63.10       x.acme.com               # x client host

# localhost name resolution is handled within DNS itself.
#   127.0.0.1       localhost
#   ::1             localhost

127.0.0.1       www.mywebsite.com
```

hosts file

Now, we can enter *www.mywebsite.com* in the browser which will display our local website as shown below.



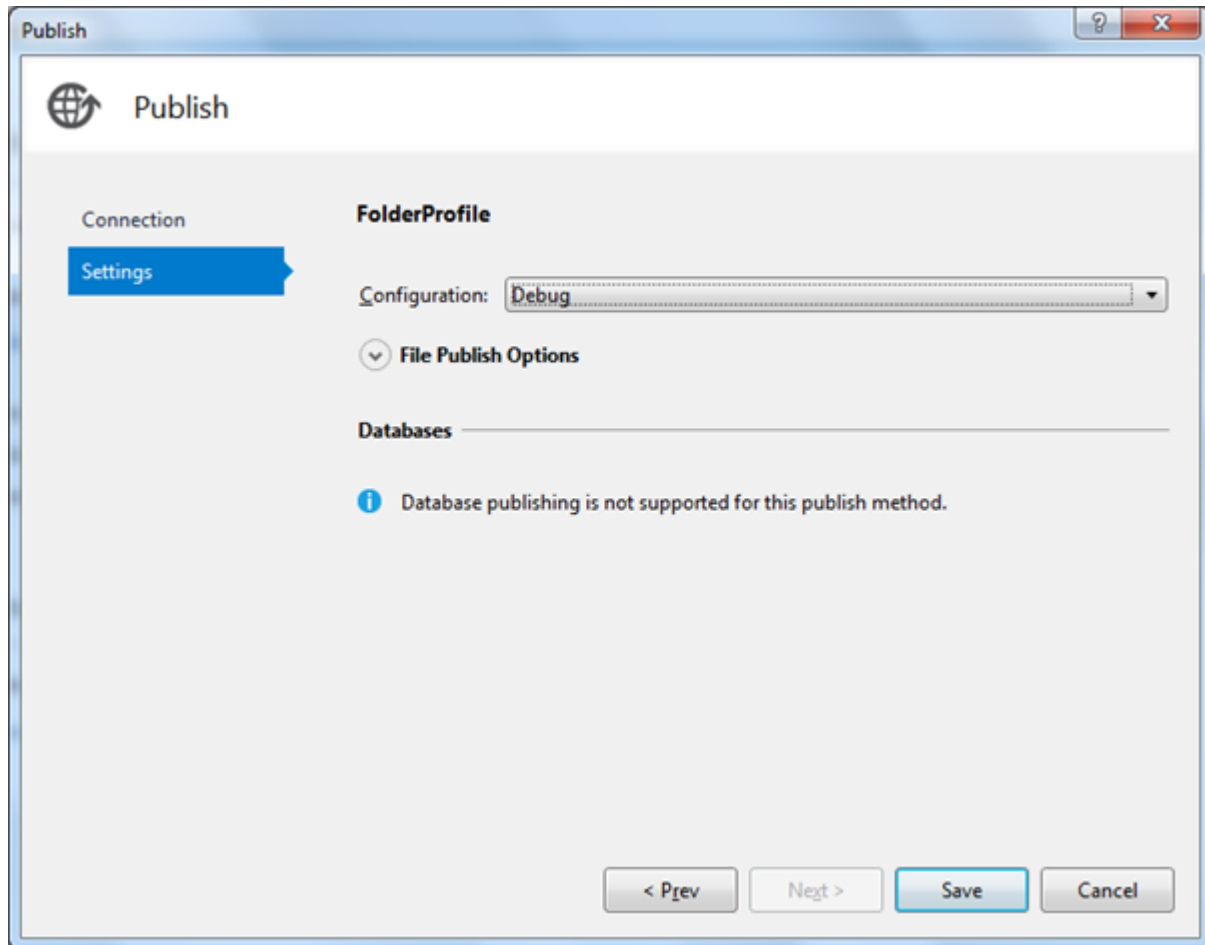
Localhost Website with Custom Domain

Learn how to [create and install the SSL certificate for the localhost website.](#)

Debug localhost Website with Custom Domain in Visual Studio

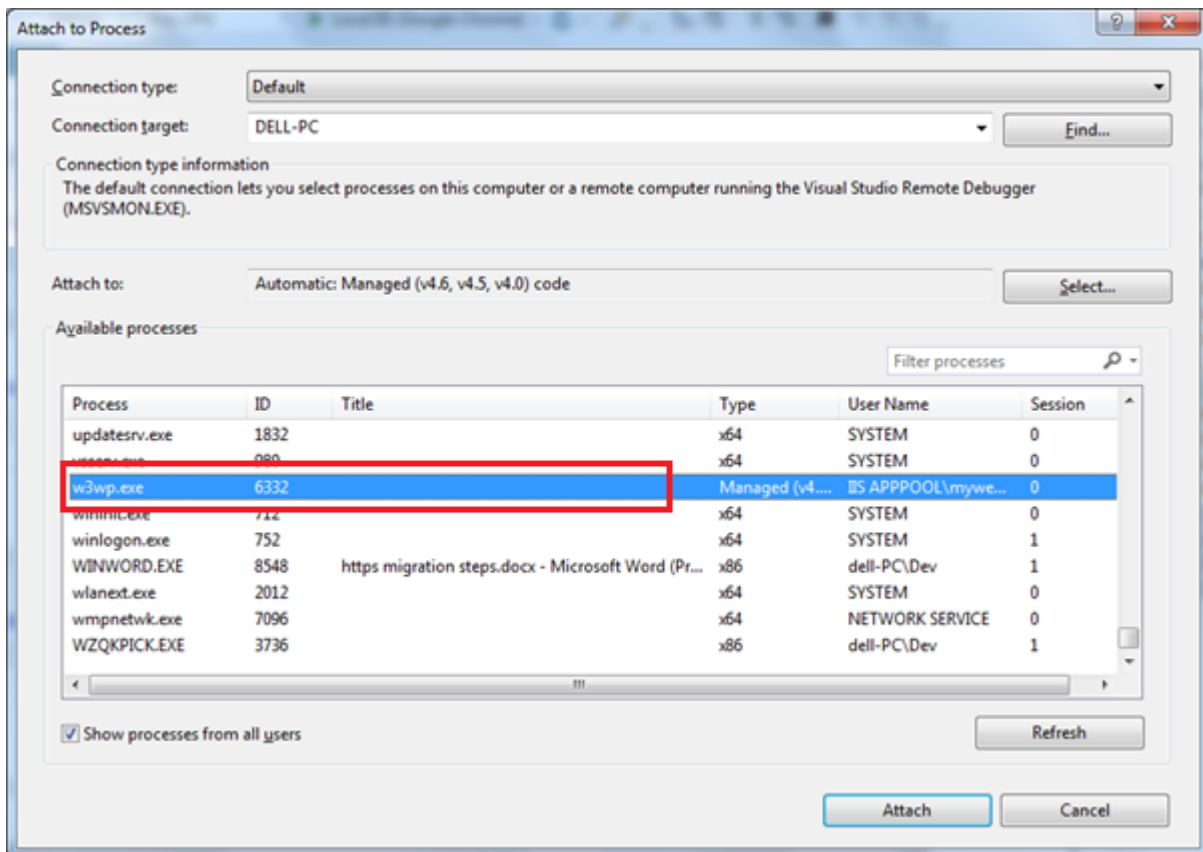
Now, let's see, how to debug a localhost website with the custom domain?

To debug your ASP.NET application in Visual Studio, we must publish it in the debug mode. For this, change your publishing profile and set the debug configuration, as shown below.



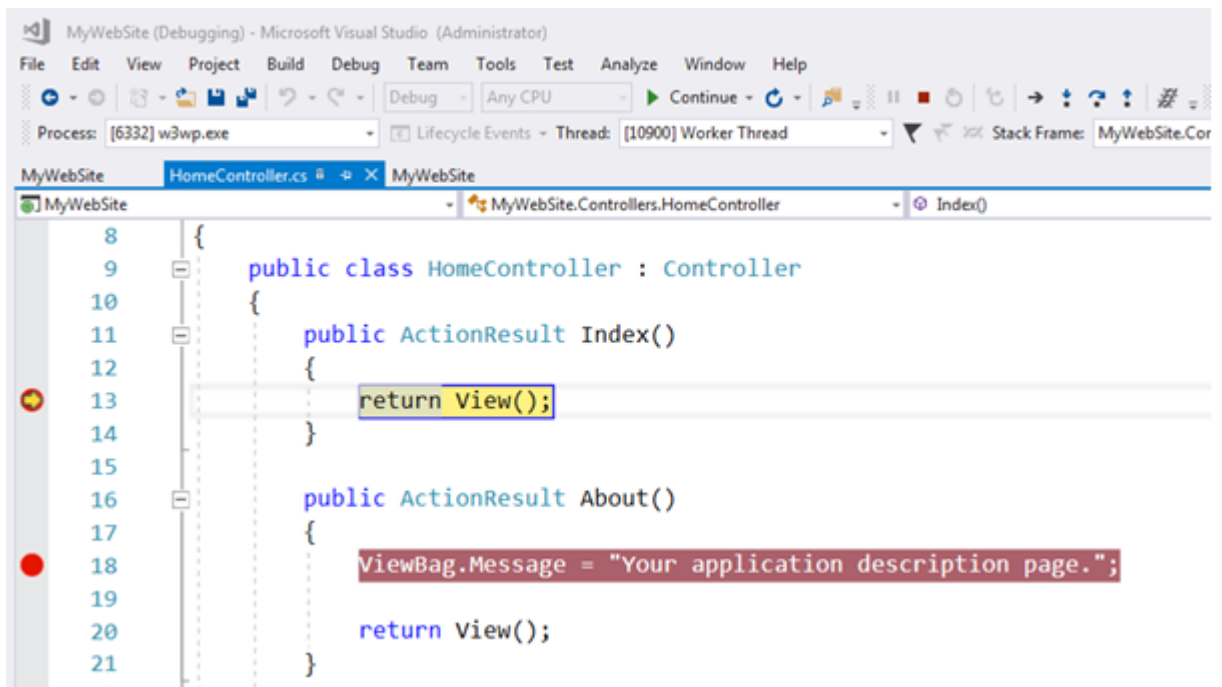
After publishing the website in debug mode, access your website e.g., *www.mywebsite.com* or *https://www.mywebsite.com*.

Now, to debug in Visual Studio, go to Debug -> Attach to Process.. menu. Select the w3wp.exe process from the popup, as shown below (if not listed, then check the 'Select processes from all users' checkbox).



Click on the Attach button to attach the process.

Now, you will be able to put a break point and start debugging, as shown below.



This is how you can set custom domain name for the localhost website and also debug it.



TutorialsTeacher
Author

tutorialsteacher.com is a free self-learning technology web site for beginners and professionals.



Share



Tweet



Share



Whatsapp

TUTORIALSTEACHER.COM

TutorialsTeacher.com is optimized for learning web technologies step by step. Examples might be simplified to improve reading and basic understanding. While using this site, you agree to have read and accepted our terms of use and privacy policy.

✉ feedback@tutorialsteacher.com

TUTORIALS

- › ASP.NET Core
- › ASP.NET MVC
- › IoC
- › Web API
- › C#
- › LINQ
- › Entity Framework
- ›
AngularJS 1

- › [Node.js](#)
- › [D3.js](#)
- › [JavaScript](#)
- › [jQuery](#)
- › [Sass](#)
- › [Https](#)

E-MAIL LIST

Subscribe to TutorialsTeacher email list and get latest updates, tips & tricks on C#, .Net, JavaScript, jQuery, AngularJS, Node.js to your inbox.

Email address

GO

We respect your privacy.

[HOME](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [TERMS OF USE](#) [ADVERTISE WITH US](#)

© 2019 TutorialsTeacher.com. All Rights Reserved.