

Remote debugging with Visual Studio 2008 SP1

Install Visual Studio 2008 Service Pack 1 Remote Debugger

(<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyID=440ec902-3260-4cdc-b11a-6a9070a2aaab&displaylang=en>) on the remote computer. If Visual Studio 2008 SP1 Professional or Team System (note that remote debugging is not possible with Express or Standard editions) is already installed on it, it should be already available. Be sure to use corresponding versions of the remote debugger (on the remote computer) and Visual Studio (on the development computer).

Create (if it does not already exist) a **user account on the remote computer that has the same username and password** as an existing one on the development computer. Be sure that it is a member of the **Administrators** group. To do this, right-click on My Computer and click on Manage. The Computer Management Window will appear. Right-click on New User... in Computer Management (Local)\System Tools\Local Users and Groups. Type a username and password, uncheck User must change password at next logon, check Password never expires, click on Create and then Close. Then, double-click on this new user in the list of users, select the Member of tab and add Administrators to the list of groups.

On the remote computer, launch **Visual Studio 2008 Remote Debugger Configuration Wizard** (in Start Menu\Programs\Microsoft Visual Studio 2008\Visual Studio Tools), uncheck Run the "Visual Studio Remote Debugger" service and choose **Allow any computer to connect to the remote debugger**. Be sure to check also your antivirus and firewall settings so that they do not block the remote debugger, as well as network communication between the remote and development computers.

Run Visual Studio 2008 Remote Debugger as the user created before by right-clicking on Visual Studio 2008 Remote Debugger (in Start Menu\Programs\Microsoft Visual Studio 2008\Visual Studio Tools) and selecting Run as... to be able to select the right user (you might need to press the SHIFT key while right-clicking).

On the development computer, open the **Visual Studio project** to debug and in its **Properties**, go in **Debugging** and select **Remote Windows Debugger** as the Debugger to launch, put something similar to C:\Share\\$(ProjectName).exe in **Remote Command**, C:\Share in **Working Directory**, the server name indicated on the Visual Studio 2008 Remote Debugger Monitor launched on the remote computer in **Remote Server Name**, assuming that C:\Share is a folder on the remote computer where you will copy the program to debug.

Build your program on the development computer and **copy the resulting .exe and .pdb files** (as well as any other files needed by your program at runtime) in the C:\Share **folder on the remote computer**. You can set C:\Share as a shared folder on the remote computer and connect it to the development computer as a network drive. You might also automate the copy by using a Post-Build Event in your Visual Studio Project (e.g. Command Line = copy /B /Y /Z "\$(OutDir)\\$(ProjectName).exe" X:\ && copy /B /Y /Z "\$(TargetDir)\\$(TargetName).pdb" X:\, assuming that X is the letter of the network drive)...

Click on **Debug\Start debugging** as usual in Visual Studio and the program should start on the remote computer.