

.NET Component Installation Guide

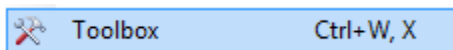
Installing Binary Component

To install a .NET Component that was delivered as a compiled assembly—with the file extension *.dll—it is easiest to use by integrating the component with Visual Studio.

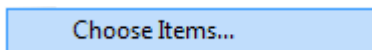
Adding to Visual Studio Toolbox

The follow set of instructions works for any version of Visual Studio:

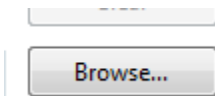
1. Load any version of Visual Studio. There is no need to load a specific project.
2. Open the Toolbox Panel (View > Toolbox)



3. Right-Click the Toolbox Panel and select “Choose Items...”



4. Select the Browse button on the lower-right part of the dialog box that appears



5. Locate and select the .NET component.


Warning: Visual Studio will always search for the component in that location. It is recommended that you put the .NET component in a place where it will not change location in the future.

Once you have completed the steps, you will be able to add the .NET component from the Toolbox panel to any of your projects like any other control.

If the component came with a documentation file (*.xml) then is it recommended that you keep the documentation file in the same location as the binary file. This will let Intellisense correctly load the documentation.

Adding to Non-Toolbox Components

To install a .NET component that only provides programming functionality (as opposed to a user interface functionality), follow these steps on any given project:

1. Open the Solution Explorer (View > Solution Explorer)
 Solution Explorer Ctrl+W, S
2. Right-Click on the “References” node
3. Select “Add Reference...”
4. On the dialog that appears, select the “Browse” Tab
5. Locate the folder that has the compiled .NET component (*.dll)
6. Select the component and click OK

You will now be able to use the component within the project.


Using the Source Code

If the .NET component was included with its source code, you can directly add the component to existing projects without the need of using external assemblies.

It is highly recommended that you include a *copy* of the source code project folder as opposed to the original.

To do so, simply copy the component’s project folder (found inside the “Source Code” folder) to your Solution folder.

Once you are ready, you can load the project in Visual Studio. To integrate the component source code:

1. Open the Solution Explorer (View > Solution Explorer)
 Solution Explorer Ctrl+W, S
2. Select the topmost node—titled “Solution ‘[Project Name]’ ...”
3. Right-Click and select “Add > Existing Project...”
4. Find the .csproj file inside the folder copied (corresponding to the component project).
5. **Build the Solution.**

The .NET component will now be directly integrated with the rest of the projects within the Solution. The component will be found near the top of the Toolbox panel.

Warning: This is not the same Toolbox control that was added in the previous method. The Solution-integrated version of the component will have a gear icon.