

RE: Breakpoint on a web service

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- *From:* hongyes@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx ("Hongye Sun [MSFT]")
 - *Date:* Fri, 05 Sep 2008 09:50:12 GMT
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Hello Oriane,

Thanks for your post. My name is Hongye Sun [MSFT]. It is my pleasure to work on this issue for you.

From your description of the symptom, I understand that It is very easy to

confuse people when they are developing multiple websites, including web service, at the first time. So I will explain the cause and the solution from scratch to help you to understand.

=== CAUSE ===

First let us clarify how the website works. Website including web service, they cannot be working individually. Every website of ASP.NET must be hosted in a web server process. A web server process in windows is a typical windows process. For example, IIS is a web server, which will run a windows server process (named w3wp.exe in win2k03) to host websites.

Next, how can we debug the code of a website? A windows process is the basic unit that we could attach debugger to. So if we want to debug on website, we should first attach the debugger to the web server process.

Now let us take a look of how the web server hosts website in Visual Studio. In VS 2008, it supports two types of web server. One is IIS and the other is built-in ASP.NET Development Server. When one or multiple websites are run in IIS, they will be all hosted in IIS service process as we mentioned before. If one or multiple websites are run in built-in ASP.NET Development Server in Visual Studio, Visual Studio will create built-in web server process for each website.

We can check what type of web server that we are using by opening website properties, select "Start Options" in the menu and view "Server" section on the right side. If we are using default web server, that means built-in web server. Or we are using custom server, that means external web server like IIS. By default, it is using built-in web server. For more information about web server in Visual Studio, please visit:

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/58wxa9w5.aspx>.

RE: Breakpoint on a web service

For your scenario, I suppose that your website and web service are all hosted by built-in web server. So when you run them, there will be two built-in web server processes started by Visual Studio. If you want to debug two projects, the debugger should attach to both of the web server processes. However, Visual Studio does not know about that. It just automatically attaches to startup website's web server process when clicking start debugging, while the web server of web service is not attached. That's why you cannot debug web service code.

=== SOLUTION ===

Before starting debugging, please make sure that in Web.config files in both website and web service project, the compilation debug is set to true. After clicking "Start Debugging" button. Please do actions as below:

1. Click top menu item "Debug". In its expanding menu, select "Attach to Process". (or press shortcut key ALT+SHIFT+P)
2. The "Attach to Process" dialog is shown up and there will be two processes named "WebDev.WebServer.EXE".
3. Select one that you can attach to. Since the other is already attached, you will see it gray out and cannot attach to it.
4. Click Attach button.

You can view the attached processes by opening from menu:

Debug->Windows->Processes, when VS.net is in a debug mode.

For how to attach debugger to a process, please visit:

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/3s68z0b3.aspx>.

After that, you should be able to debug web service code.

Please try the solution above and let me know if it works for you. I am looking forward to your reply. Have a great day!

Regards,

Hongye Sun (hongyes@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, remove 'online.')

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RE: Breakpoint on a web service

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From: "Oriane" <oriane@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
Subject: Breakpoint on a web service
Date: Thu, 4 Sep 2008 18:21:52 +0200
Newsgroups:
microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet,microsoft.public.vstudio.general

Hi,

I have a .Net Visual Studio solution with one asp.net Web application, which uses a Asp.Net Web service. Both are compiled in debug mode, and both are using the Studio development web server for debugging. I have also add the Web reference to the web service with the "Add Web service in the solution" choice, that is the Web app starts the Web service with the Studio development web server.

So I thought I could set breakpoints on the web service C# code. But as soon as I start the main web app, the breakpoints are turning yellow with a exclamation mark and they don't stop anything.

Did I miss something ?

Best regards

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