

Re: attach to process not started in debug mode?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework/2007-07/msg00313.html>

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- *From:* Les Caudle <[DotNetWannabe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:DotNetWannabe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 12 Jul 2007 08:09:27 -0500
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Jeffrey – I do not have the source to the 3rd party tool used in my .NET app.

Without source to this, and without loading all my source code scattered in different directories on drive letters that don't exist on the production server, what are the steps to try to debug my code if it hangs calling a method of the 3rd party tool?

Is there a way to attach to a process in VS Express, without having the source code, just an exe and dll's?

Thanks, Les Caudle

On Thu, 12 Jul 2007 02:37:26 GMT, [jetan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jetan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) ("Jeffrey Tan[MSFT]") wrote:

Hi Les,

Thank you for the feedback.

This depends on your requirement. There are 2 types of debugging: source code level and binary level(without source code). So, do you have the source code for the 3rd party product?

If you have source code for it, you also have to obtain the private symbol file from the 3rd party vendor. The debugger has no knowledge to determine if a set of source files are associated with which assembly, so it must first load the private symbol file for the symbol. The private symbol file internally contains the source code path in it. So, you should set the symbol path to the private symbol file in Tools ->Options ->Debugging ->Symbols. Note: this debugging has nothing to do with debug or release mode. As I stated in the original post, the debug mode only does few/no optimize with the generated assembly. It has nothing to do with debugging.

It is always good to have source code for debugging. However, since the assembly is a 3rd party product, you may not have source code for it. That is the reason of using binary level debugging.(Another example is debugging Net Framework BCL, whose source code is also not available) Even you do

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not have source code, you may just perform binary level debugging with it, since the .Net assembly metadata can self-describe its code/data. So you can still get the full stack trace of this hang. The stack method will be displayed in call stack window by querying the metadata.

I am not sure if my explanation has resolved your confusion. If I have misunderstood your key concern, please feel free to tell me and explain your concern in details. Thanks.

Best regards,  
Jeffrey Tan  
Microsoft Online Community Support

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