

Re: Please explain why the GAC cannot be referenced

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework/2008-07/msg00213.html>

- *From:* "Phil Wilson" <phil.wilson@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 17 Jul 2008 18:04:30 -0700
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A point I'll make here is that the GAC is really intended as a deployment choice, not a repository for assemblies that you want to reference at development time. So development tools generally don't refer to assemblies in the GAC, they refer to SDK-installed assemblies.

For shared assemblies belonging to a company (non-Microsoft) the development versions of assemblies are typically not the one deployed in production. apps (usually because people are developing using later versions). In addition, many shared assemblies are installed as part of a much larger product install that developers typically don't want on the dev machine. I wouldn't want to install my company's products on my dev box just so I could reference assemblies from them that happen to be installed to the GAC.

—
Phil Wilson
Definitive Guide to Windows Installer
<http://www.apress.com/book/view/1590592972>

"MR E" <MRE@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:88EDD31D-BD72-4F6E-AF36-6265E42CB3AA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thanks for your help. I finally realized how it works just before reading your response. I knew you could reference the GAC, but what I couldn't get was why the DLL didn't show up in the Add Reference box after adding it to the GAC and why in the world I still needed the physical outside of the GAC to reference. It seems to me anything in the GAC should show up in the Add Reference and no need for the physical file itself.

I added the folder to my Windows Registry Assembly list to get it to show up. I also had our network team set it up so that all of our custom assemblies are in one shared location accessible to all the programmers and to the apps themselves. I know a lot of developers frown on using the GAC but when u got dozens apps across multiple servers, using the GAC is still easier

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then keeping up with individual copies in the bin folders.

"Mythran" wrote: