

RE: Huge project – long build time

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Hi Cody

We too are having terrible speed problems with VS.NET.

Our solution contains 10 VB.NET projects, but they're quite big: the solution as a whole contains 500K lines of code.

Response time in the VB IDE has long been a problem for us. You can type a line, press return and it's 30 seconds to a minute before the IDE responds. And this is on a high-end machine with 2GB RAM! I understand that this is because the VB compiler recompiles behind the scenes every time you leave a line, and this behaviour is too tightly bound into the VB IDE to be removed.

It really does make VB.NET unsuitable for enterprise application development. C# doesn't seem to have the same problem, but unfortunately VB.NET is a corporate standard here, so we're stuck with it.

But a slow response time isn't our biggest problem: compile speed is.

Until the middle of last week, build times were reasonable and the compiler seemed to be able to do dependency checking ok. Then, one by one, each developer on the team started seeing build times lengthen dramatically. It now takes 20 minutes to rebuild the system.

Also, all concept of dependency checking seems to have been lost. You can change one line in one project, press the Start Debugging button, and VS rebuilds the entire solution.

When you build, it takes ages even to start. Then as it does each project, it says "Building satellite assemblies" and then just waits. I have no idea what satellite assemblies it might be building.

The best we can do at the moment is do a Get Latest Version in the morning to get everything out of SourceSafe, then each of us spends 20 minutes doing a full rebuild. Then we use Configuration Manager to switch the building of all the projects off except the one each of us is working on.

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When any of us is ready to test, they build only the project with their changes, then use Configuration Manager to switch all projects off before doing Start Debugging.

Even then, there's a long pause before text appears in the Output window to say that nothing needed building!

Having searched the 'net I found a suggestion that unplugging your network cable might help. Tried it but no luck, and in any case we can't debug like that as we need access to our database server.

As a workround, messing with Configuration Manager isn't ideal, and given that the projects are a mixture of ASP.NET, web services, business layer and