

Re: Trying to debug a VB6 Interop object called by a C# ASP.NET app.

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Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VisualStudio/microsoft.public.vsnnet.debugging/2005-04/msg00087.html>

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> I've got a ASP.NET app written with C# that calls a VB6 object using Interop
> and I've got the VB6 object running in the VB 6 IDE and the .NET app in the
> .NET IDE and when I step through the .NET page and execute the line that
> calls that Interop object I expect the VB 6 IDE to hit the break point and so
> allow me to debug in VB 6 but it does not. I've attached the VB 6 process in
> the .NET IDE but no luck.

>

> So, has anyone out there had experience debugging a "legacy" object that is
> being called by a .NET app?

>

I haven't tried to do it with a .NET client, but had to debug VB code used by a native client. Hopefully it should be possible to do the same when a .NET client is used.

Assuming that your VB object is out-of-process (EXE), a relatively simple way is to attach VS.NET debugger to its process, open VB source files and set breakpoints there. VS.NET debugger should be attached in Native mode ("Native" should be selected in "Attach To Process" dialog). I also recommend to check "RPC debugging" in Tools | Options | Debugging | Native.

VB component should be built into native code, with debug information and without optimizations. You can find more information in these KB articles:
[http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;\[LN\];166275](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;[LN];166275)
[http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;\[LN\];200034](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;[LN];200034)
(the articles are for VC6 debugger, but should apply to VS.NET debugger too)

Also, debug information generated by VB compiler is not complete (there is no type information for classes). A workaround is to copy the interesting members into local variables, or send them to debug output. Local variables can be seen in Locals window (usually there are also various internal locals used by VB, but your ones should also be there).

(The steps for an in-process VB DLL should be the same, but the debugger should be started / attached to the process in mixed mode (Native and CLR))

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Another way is to debug the VB component from VB IDE (though I have never worked with ASP.NET and it was long time ago when I worked with VB6, so I can be wrong of course).

Then you have to ensure that when you start the VB component in the IDE, it starts with the proper command line options (typically /embedding), and that it starts in the proper context (usually Interactive) so that ASP.NET process will connect to it rather than launch another one in its user context. This can be done using AppID/RunAs Registry settings of your component (or using Component Services / DCOMCnfg in GUI).

Regards,
Oleg
[VC++ MVP]

• **References:**

- ◆ **[Trying to debug a VB6 Interop object called by a C# ASP.NET app.](#)**
 ◇ From: Steve Moreno

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