

Telling MSBuild (or Visual Studio) to copy files without including their full path

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VisualStudio/microsoft.public.vstudio.general/2007-05/msg00107.html>

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 - *Date:* 29 May 2007 05:00:24 -0700
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Hello,

I have a solution with multiple project files in a single directory. These projects all share a lot of source code files, so I don't want them to end up in different directories. There is one solution combining all the projects.

In one of the projects, I want to copy an input file which is stacked two directories deep to the resulting output directory (which is the same for every one of the projects).

The problem is that Visual Studio includes the full path when it copies this file.

So for example, the file baz.xml which originally came from foo/bar/baz.xml, is copied to bin/Debug/foo/bar/baz.xml, while my executable is expecting it to be at the bin/Debug.

Is there any way to change this behaviour in Visual Studio itself or perhaps with MSBuild?

The project is multi-platform, it should also work on Linux with the Mono .NET runtime. Besides that, it should work on Windows and on the Windows Mobile platform. The Mono guys are working on an MSBuild implementation, so if possible, I would prefer this to be done within the .csproj file.

One of the things I tried was the copy task, which works on a desktop but fails when the solution has to be deployed to a mobile device.

I already posted this on the MSDN MSBuild forum, but didn't receive an answer there:

<http://forums.microsoft.com/msdn/showpost.aspx?postid=1632996>

Thanks in advance!

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— Jo

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