INFO: Visual Studio 2022 and Newer Now Native 64 Bit

Table of Contents

- Background
- Issues Due to 32 bit VS2019 and Earlier
  - Form Designer
  - License Compiler
- Issues in 64 bit VS2022 and Newer
  - Form Designer
  - License Compiler
- Original Article
- Last Update

Background

Up until VS2022, Visual Studio itself was always a 32-bit (x86) application. It could be used to compile x86 and x64 solutions (as well as AnyCPU though we don't support AnyCPU in DotImage so we'll leave the discussion to x86/x64), but natively, it was 32 bit and this led to some issues

Back to Top

Issues Due to 32 bit VS2019 and Earlier

Form Designer

In 32 bit versions of Visual Studio, when building windows forms or WPF apps etc where the Form Designer is in use. The designer itself was running 32 bit only no matter what platform target (x86, AnyCPU, x64) you might target. This led to a situation where if you were targeting x64 with Atalasoft x64 DLLs, you'd find that the Visual Studio Form designer would refuse to load your form and gave a warning about possibly breaking things if you continued.

License Compiler

In 32 bit versions of Visual Studio, the License Compiler (lc.exe) that would execute when

embedding licenses (parsing the licenses.licx file, it would see it had work to do and invoke lc.exe) and although it "knew" to run the MSBuild in 64 bit context, for some reason, it did not automatically select the 64 bit version of LC.exe for license compiling

The fix was to use a workaround of manually specifying the correct tool path

INFO: Workaround for a License Compiler Exception When Targeting x64 in .NET Framework 4.0 and up

Back to Top

Issues in 64 bit VS2022 and Newer

Now that Visual Studio is 64 bit natively, these issues are reversed

Back to Top

Form Designer

The fix is to target x64 by changing your application Platform Target to x64 and referencing our x64 DLLs.

Back to Top

License Compiler

Similar to above, the 64 bit version of Visual Studio runs in 64 bit so when it encounters a licenses.licx file while building it works to embed the license by calling the lc.exe process. And for Vs2022 and newer it will use the 64 bit version

We do not have a current KB on how to switch the tool down to x86 for this... In theory you'd follow the basic process outlined above but find the path for the 32 bit (x86) version of lc.exe

However, our suggestion is: if you are dedicated to targeting x86, consider using Visual

Studio 2019 or older - it's much easier

Back to Top

Original Article

- INFO: Visual Studio 2022 and Newer Now Native 64 Bit

Last Update

2025-10-17 - TD - (Minor Formatting)

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