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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This purpose of this application example is to show you an example of how Microsoft Visual Studio creates a ".NET Control".

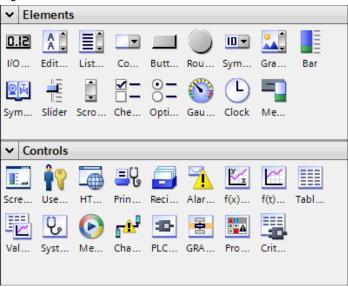
We will also show you how to install the .NET Control

- in the WinCC Professional Engineering Station.
- in the WinCC Professional Runtime Station.

WinCC Professional Controls and Elements

The standard "Controls and Elements" for WinCC Professional are depicted in the following figure.

Fig. 1-1



WinCC Professional allows you to create customer-specific controls and install and use them on other WinCC Runtime Professional stations.

.Net Control to be created

The following figure depicts the .NET Control to be created, where the individual configuration steps are shown.

The Control consists of

- A title
- A button
- An I/O field

Fig. 1-2



1.2 Functional description

The following functions can be executed using the finished .NET Control.

- A system function that has been freely selected from "WinCC Professional" can be executed using the "Start" button.
- The I/O field can be assigned any variable from "WinCC Professional".

Required knowledge

The application example requires the following basic knowledge:

- Making projects with WinCC Professional Basics are taught in the WinCC Professional SITRAIN course. See Entry ID 109758618.
- Microsoft Visual Studio
- C# Programming
- Microsoft .NET Framework and .NET Managed Code Assemblies

1.3 Components used

The application example was created with the following hardware and software components:

Table 1-1

Component	Quantity	Article number	Note
WinCC Professional V15	1	6AV2103-0AA05-0AA7	Or later version
WinCC Runtime Professional V15	1	6AV2103-0DA05-0AA5	Or later version
Microsoft Visual Studio 2015	1	Refer to the Internet	Or later version
Microsoft Windows SDK Tools	1	Refer to the Internet	Free Microsoft download.

This application example consists of the following components:

Table 1-2

Component	File name	Note
Example project/files	109759944_Prepare.NETControls_CODE	V1.0
Documentation	109759944_Prepare.NETControls_DOC.docx	V1.0

2 Engineering

2.1 Configuration and implementation of .NET controls

In this chapter, there is an example of how to create .NET Controls in Visual Studio.

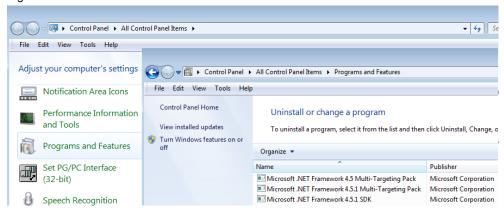
Note

If you don't have much experience of the subject and are not familiar with the software tool "gacutil.exe" for example, then you should first read chapter 3 "Useful information".

.NET Version

Before you start to configure the .NET Control, check the .NET version that is installed already. The version used must be the same on all computers and must match the version with which the .NET Control was created. Open the control panel from the PC and from there open the category "Programs and Functions" to determine which .NET version is installed.

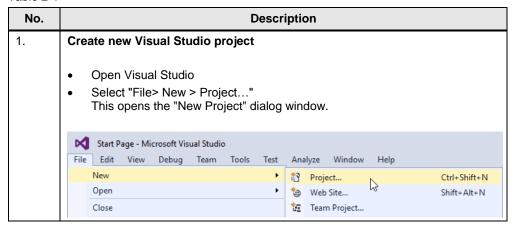
Fig. 2-1

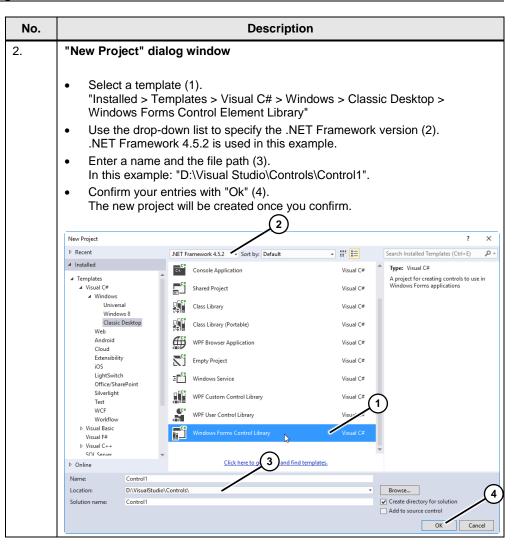


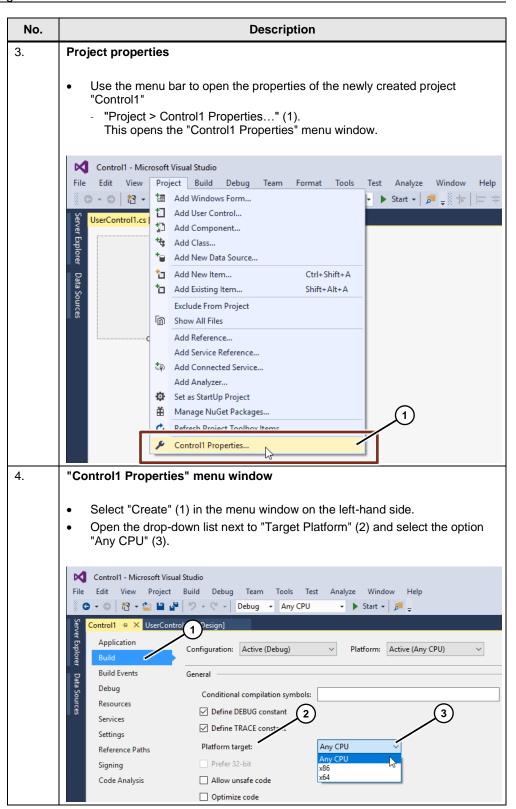
Create .NET Control

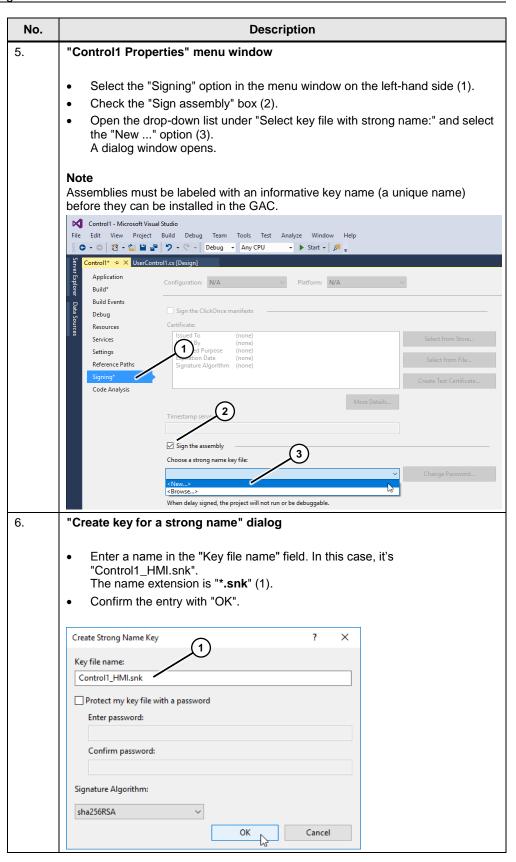
The following table shows you how to create the .NET Control.

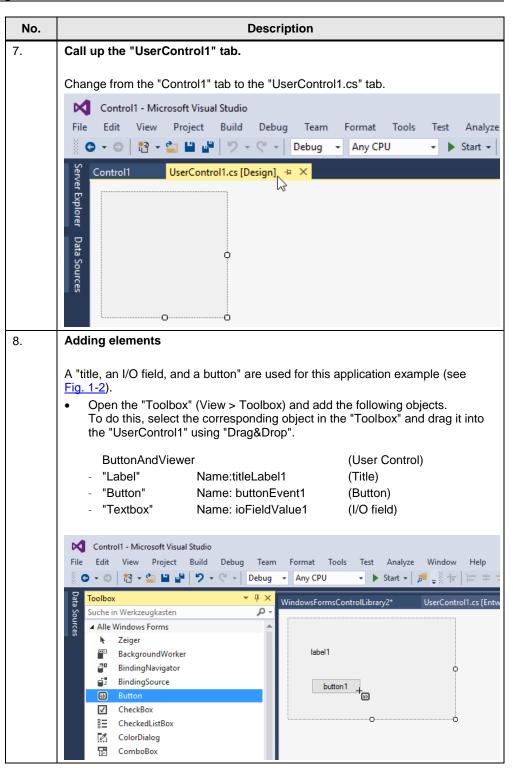
Table 2-1



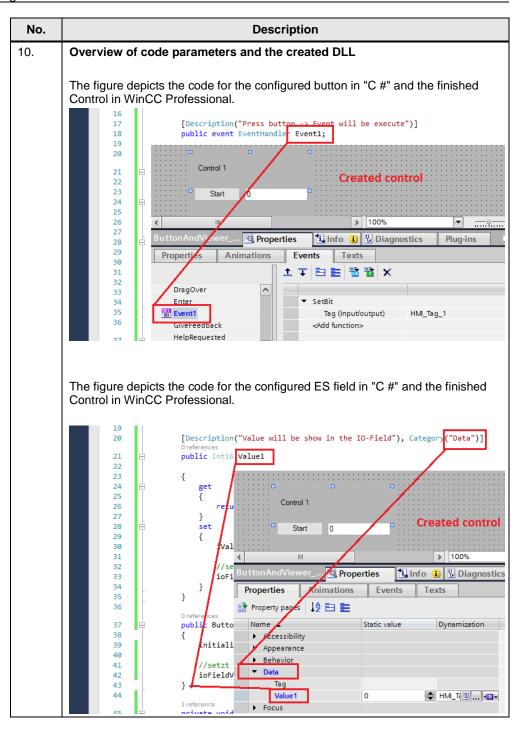


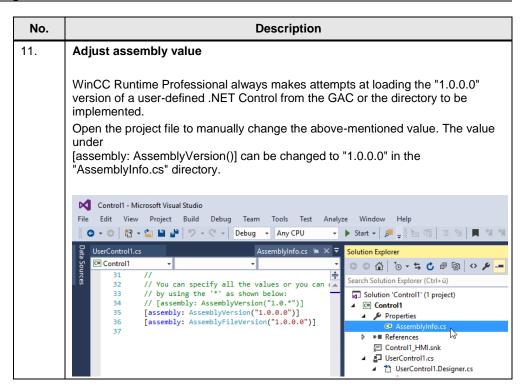


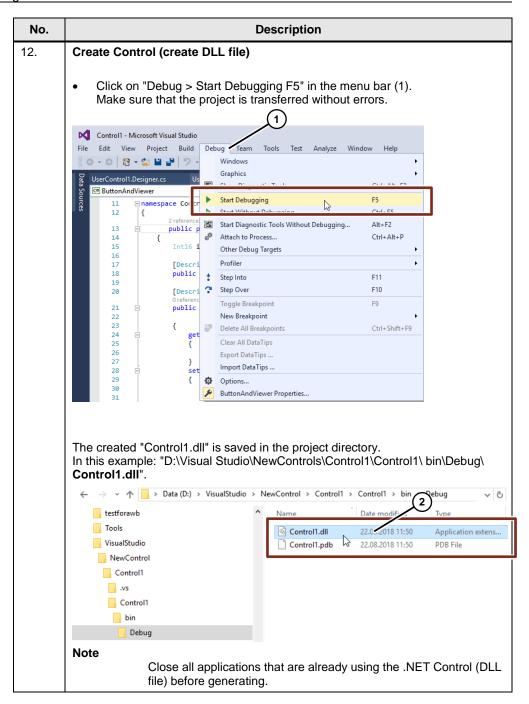




No. Description 9. Configuration of controls (properties and events) Open the code of the control (View > Code) This opens a predetermined program code that must be extended according to the required task. Object Browser C# Control1 ▼ Control1.ButtonAndViewer → Value1 ‡ □ namespace Control1 11 12 ButtonAndViewer public partial class 14 15 16 17 Int16 iValue1 = 0; //Cashing the value / Wert Zwischenspeichern [Description("Press button")] public event EventHandler Event1; 18 19 [Description("Value will be show in the IO-Field"), Category("Data")] 20 21 public Int16 Value1 22 23 24 25 26 27 return iValue1; 28 29 30 31 iValue1 = value; 32 //Set IO-Field to current value / Setzt EA - Feld auf aktuellen Wer 33 34 ioFieldValue1.Text = iValue1.ToString(); 35 36 37 public ButtonAndViewer() 38 InitializeComponent(); 40 41 42 43 private void button1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e) 44 45 if (this != null) 46 this.Event1(this, e); 47 48 49 50 51 **Notes** Area highlighted in black The name of the control should be unique (in this case, it's "ButtonAndViewer"). The name "UserControl1" is not preferable, for example. The name can be changed under the "UserControl.cs" tab. Area highlighted in red You have to add a "Description" to the variable to detect the "Event1" variable parameter in the WinCC TIA Portal project. You have to add a "Category" to the variable to detect the "Value1" variable parameter in the WinCC TIA Portal project. In this example, it's the "Data" category. Area highlighted in green To read or set a variable value externally in the TIA Portal, the variable must be declared as "public" and provided with "getter" and "setter" methods.







2.2 Install .NET Control on multiple PCs

Check the dependencies

If the created .NET Control is to be installed on multiple PCs, the DLL name used by the .NET Control must also exist on these PCs.

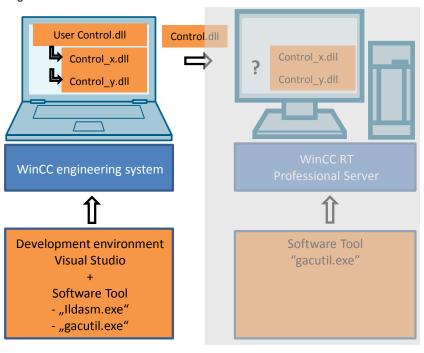
In the first step, the DLL used by the created .NET Control is read on the projecting PC.

2.2.1 Read DLL name on the projecting PC

This example uses the "ILDASM.exe" tool to read the DLL used. The "ILDASM.exe" tool can be found under the "Windows SDKs" Windows folder, for example.

(C:\Program Files (x86) > Microsoft SDKs > Windows > v"SDK Version" > bin > NETFX 4.6 Tools > ildasm.exe).

Fig. 2-2



Note

If there is no folder named "Windows SDKs" on the PC, install the "Windows (your version) SDK" option on the PC.

The software can be downloaded from the Microsoft Support sites.

Use the "ILDASM.exe" tool

Table 2-2

No.		Description		
1.	Preparation			
	If you want to check the requirements for the .NET Control created on a PC, then you have to save the created .NET Control in a folder on the PC to be checked.			
2.	Open the "ILDASM.exe" tool			
	 Double-click on the "ILDASM.exe" file to open it. C:\Programme (x86) > Microsoft SDKs > Windows > v(SDK Version) > bin > NETFX (Version) Tools > ildasm.exe". This opens the "IL DASM" dialog window. 			sion) > bin >
	Note			
	Make sure that the "ildasm.exe"	used is from the "A	application" type.	
	Ca Computer Local Disk (C:) Prog	sam Files (496) A Misseseft SDVs	Mindows 1 (914 1 him	NETEV 4 5 1 Tools
		ram Files (x80) VIIICTOSOTT SUKS	▶ Windows ▶ V8.1A ▶ bin	NETFX 4.5.1 TOOLS
	File Edit View Tools Help			
	Organize ▼			
	Microsoft SDKs Windows	Name ■ CorFlags.exe	Date modified 06.08.2013 19:36	Type Application
	V7.0A	disco.exe	06.08.2013 19:36	Application
	₩ v8.1A	FUSLOGVW.exe	06.08.2013 19:36	Application
	₩ bin	gacutil.exe	06.08.2013 19:36	Application
	NETFX 4.5.1 Tools	// ildasm.exe	06.08.2013 19:36	Application
	Microsoft SQL Server	Ic.exe	06.08.2013 19:36	Application
	Microsoft SQL Server Compact Edition	mage.exe	06.08.2013 19:36	Application
3.	 Run ILDASM.exe Click on "File > Open" in the Navigate to the .NET Control Double-click on "M A N I F E This opens the window with 	ol. In this case, it's ' S T" to start the e		
	File View Help Open Ctrl+0 Dump Dump TreeVi Exit Di\10_Projekte\VisualStu File View Help □ D:\10_Projekte\VisualStu	dio\Control2\ntrol1\Control tu:-\Controls\Control1\Control		

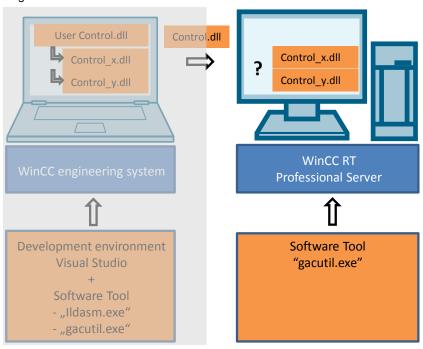
No.	Description			
4.	Evaluation			
	Check the entries under "external". (1)			
	In this example, the DLL			
	mscorlib			
	System.Windows.Forms			
	• System			
	System.Drawing form the control NET Control Control			
	from the created .NET Control "Control1" is used. The specified DLL must exist on all PCs where the created .NET Control			
	"Control1" should be installed.			
	Note Depending on the scope of the created "DLL", there may be additional entries in the list.			
	✓ MANIFEST — □ X			
	Find Find Next			
	77 HELAUGEA VELSION. V4.0.00			
	.assembly extern mscorlib / .publickeytoken = (B7 7A 5C 56 19 34 E0 89) .ver 4:0:0:0 } .assembly extern System.Windows.Forms			
	publickeytoken = (B7 7A 5C 56 19 34 E0 89) _ver 4:0:0:0			
	.assembly extern System { .publickeytoken = (B7 7A 5C 56 19 34 E0 89)			
	.ver 4:0:0:0 } .assembly extern System.Drawing			
	{ .publickeytoken = (80 3F 5F 7F 11 D5 0A 3A) .ver 4:0:0:0			
	assembly Control1			
	.custom instance void [mscorlib]System.Runtime.Co .custom instance void [mscorlib]System.Runtime.Co			
	×			

2.2.2 Check existing DLL names on PCs

In the previous chapter, the DLL names used by the .NET Control were read using the "ILDASM.exe" tool.

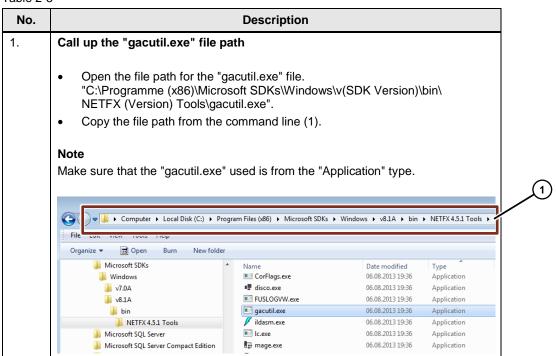
In this chapter, how to specifically search for DLL names on PCs is explained. The "gacutil.exe" tool is used for this purpose.

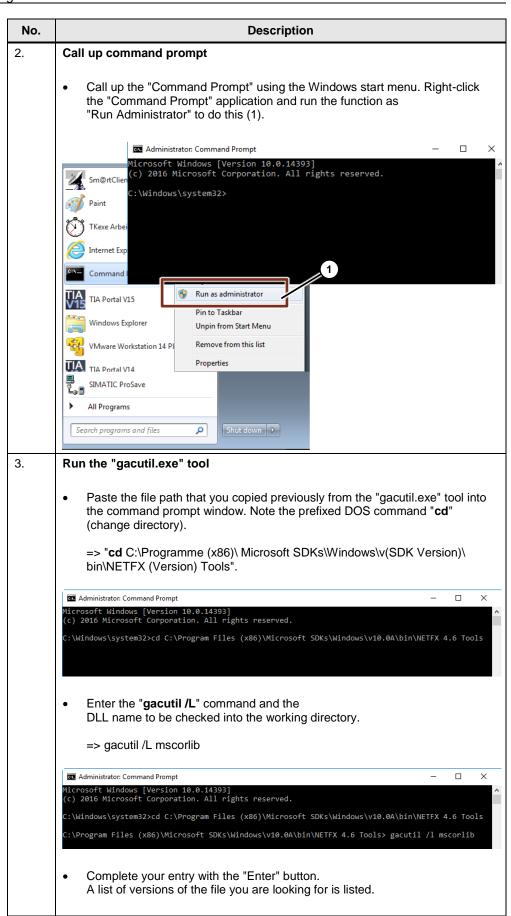
Fig. 2-3

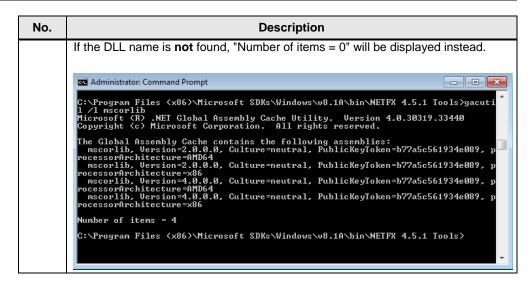


Use the "gacutil.exe" tool

Table 2-3







2.3 Installing the .NET Control on the target computers

There are several options for installing the .NET Control on the projecting PC or on an external PC.

Installing the .NET Control in the Assembly Cash with the "gacutil.exe" tool.
 This variant installation will be described in further detail below. We recommend you to use this variant.

Table 2-4

Advantage	Disadvantage
Faster access using the WinCC (TIA Portal).	Complicated installation process.
Uses the .Net Framework Standard Assembly Management.	32-bit (x86) Control are not available for WinCC RT Professional.
The control is available for all applications.	

Manual installation.

This variant installation will be described in further detail below.

Table 2-5

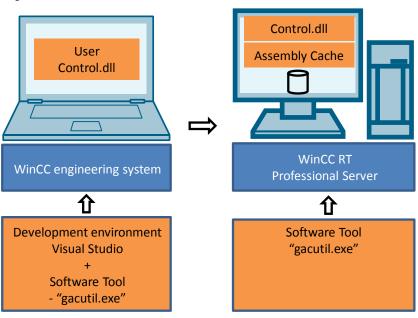
Advantage	Disadvantage
Simple installation process.	Control is only available for applications in this installation directory (WinCC RT Professional).
Works for 32-bit (x86) and "any CPU" targeted controls	Does not use the .Net Framework Standard Assembly Management.

 Installation with the "Installer Tool" (Microsoft application – not part of Visual Studio and not described in this application example).

2.3.1 Write .NET Control in the global "Assembly Cache"

The "gacutil.exe" tool writes the .NET Control in the global "Assembly cache" (GAC). The global "Assembly cache" (GAC) makes .NET Control available to all applications.

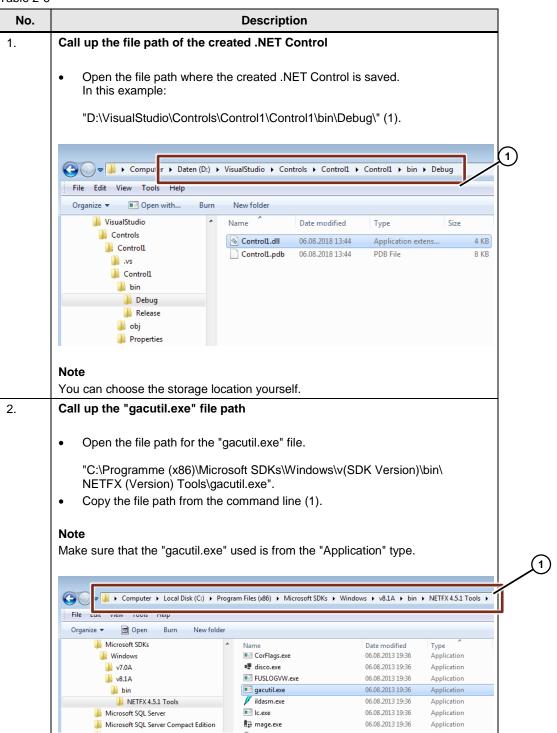
Fig. 2-4

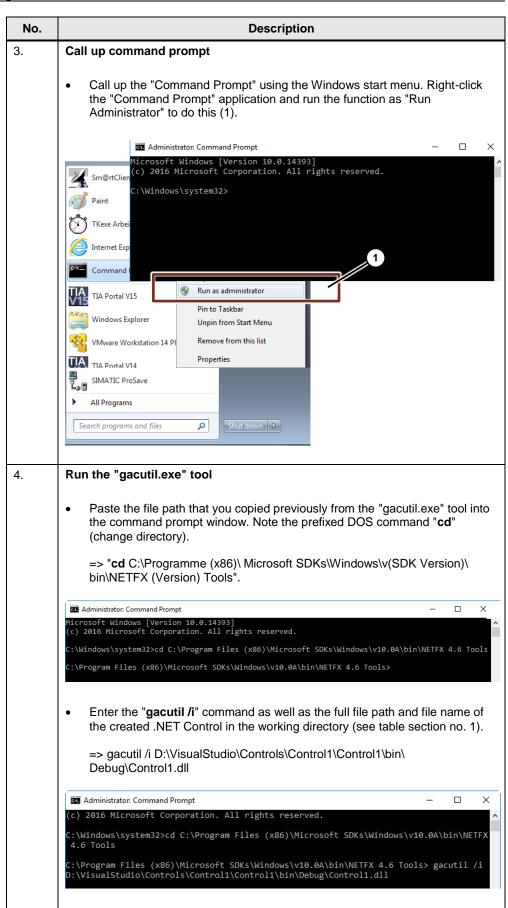


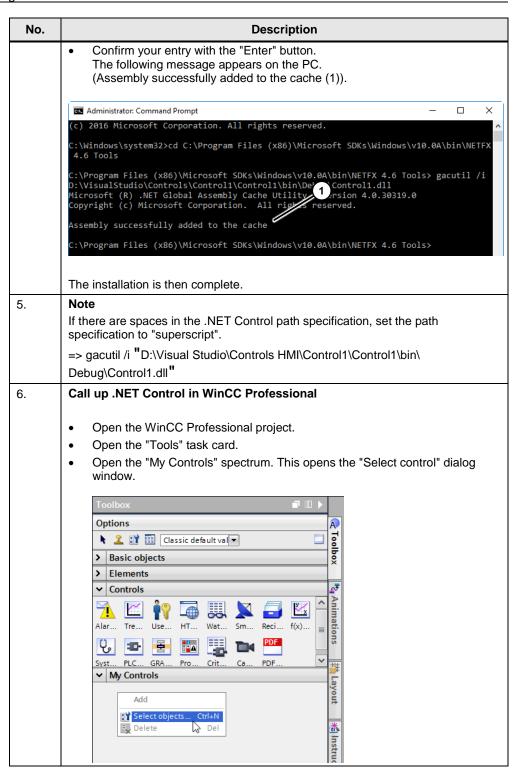
Notes

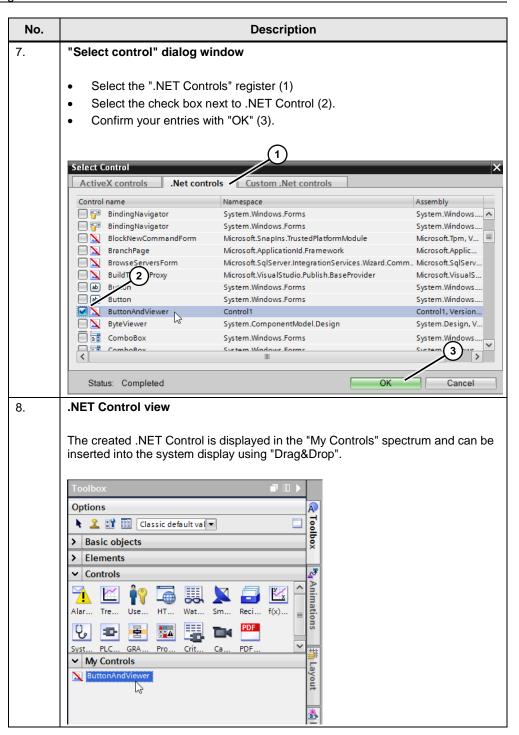
- 32-bit (x86) Controls are not available for WinCC RT Professional.
- The procedure assumes that you have an up-to-date version of Windows SDK Tools installed on your target computer.
- GAC = An area managed by Windows for storing all .NET Framework assemblies (DLL).
- All user-defined Controls with the version number "1.0.0.0" are found by WinCC RT Professional in this area.

Table 2-6



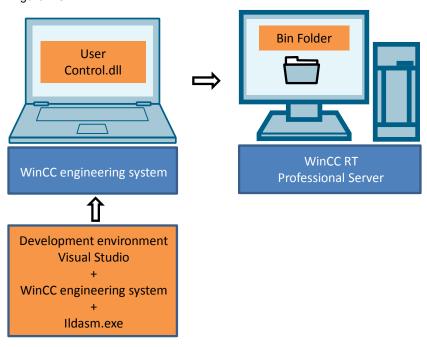






2.3.2 .NET Control manual installation

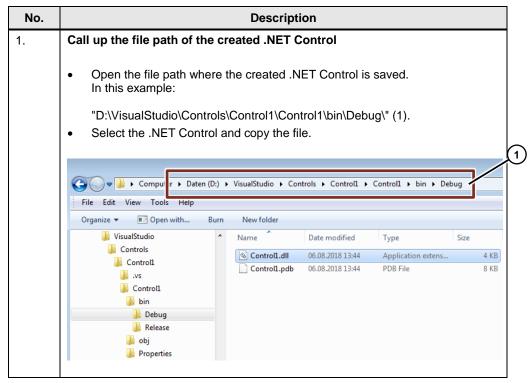
Figure 2-5

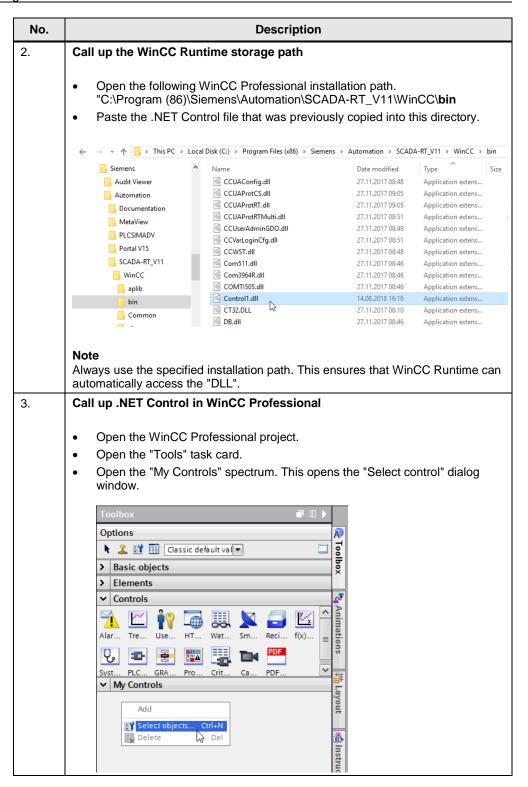


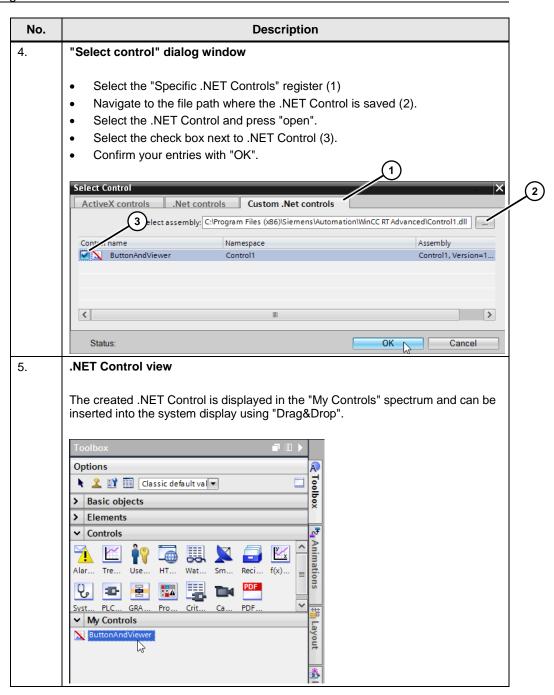
Incorporate .NET Control in WinCC Professional Runtime

Manually copy the "User Control.dll" into the installation path of WinCC RT Professional

Table 2-7







2.3.3 "Installer Generation Add-in" for Visual Studio

You can create an installation file for your .NET Control (MSI file) using the "Installer Generation Add-in" for Visual Studio. The file may contain further installation files for installing necessary controls, objects, and libraries on the target computer, for example.

The procedure is **not** described in more detail in this application example. You can have a look at the online examples from Microsoft for more information on this.

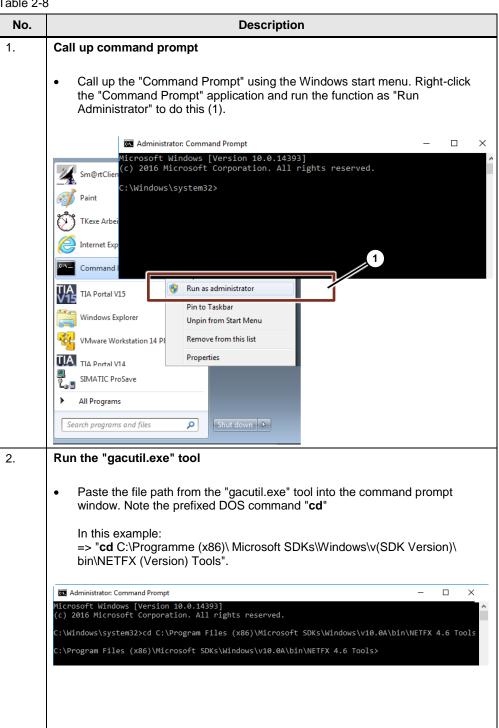
Uninstalling the .NET Control from a PC 2.4

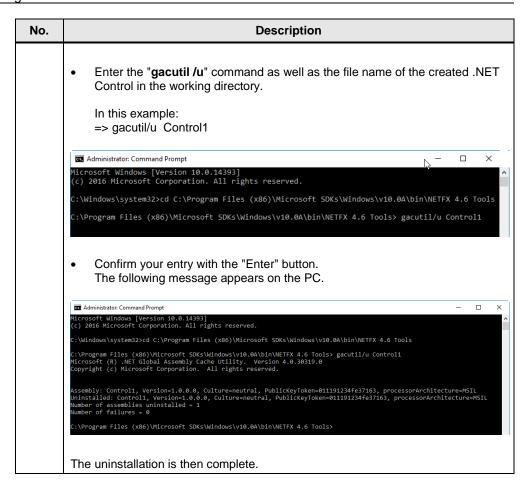
Note

Before removing the Control, close all applications that are using this Control.

2.4.1 Uninstalling the .NET Control from Assembly Cache

Table 2-8





2.4.2 Uninstalling the .NET Control from WinCC RT Professional

Call up the file path where the .NET Control is stored. Have a look at Chapter <u>2.3.2</u> ".NET Control manual installation" for more details.

Based on the example, the .NET Control is in the directory "C:\Program (86)\Siemens\Automation\SCADA-RT_V11\WinCC\bin".

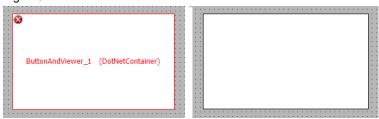
Note

If you delete the .NET Control, the WinCC Professional project no longer has access to the file.

Fault description

If you use a .NET Control in a project and uninstall this Control from the installation path, then the Control can no longer be displayed. The following message/view is displayed.

Fig. 2-6



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2.5 Error handling

- When you copy the .NET Control in the Windows "Command Prompt window", the specified .NET file is not found.
 - Check the spelling (is it with or without the ".dll" file extension?).
 - Are there spaces in the file path (put the file path into "inverted commas")?
- The .NET Control is not listed under "My Controls".
 - Check the spelling in the "Select Control" window (- Name Control // -Name space).
 - Check for possible error messages in the Windows "Command Prompt window".
- Visual Studio does not recognize changes when testing the .NET Control.
 - If you have already transferred the created .NET Control to the "Assembly Cache", you have to uninstall the .NET Control from the Assembly Cache first. Have a look at Chapter 2.4.1 "Uninstalling the .NET Control from Assembly Cache" for more details.

3 Useful information

3.1 Microsoft SDK

Microsoft (Version) SDK (Software Development Tool) is a free tool that you can download from the Microsoft support sites.

The tool contains, among other things, the two software tools

- "ILDASM.exe"
 - This example uses the "ILDASM.exe" (intermediate language disassembler) tool to read the DLL used.
- "gacutil.exe"
 - If you are searching for a DLL name on a PC, then use the "gacutil.exe" tool
 - If you would like to write or delete the created .NET Control in the Assembly Cache, use the "gactuil.exe" tool.
 - If you manually install the .Net Control, then check that all assemblies are also present on the target computers using the .NET Control beforehand.
 You can use the Microsoft Windows SDK Utility gacutil.exe to check this.

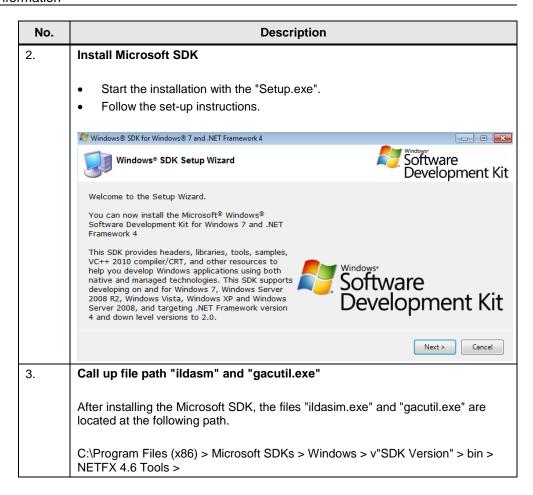
Note

"Gacutil" is automatically installed by Visual Studio, Windows SDK and other systems.

Installing Windows SDK

Table 3-1

No.	Description		
1.	Download Microsoft SDK		
	 Call up the Microsoft Download Center site. Enter "Microsoft SDK" as the search term. Download the "Offline file" or alternatively you can use the "Online download". 		
	Surface Pro Ultra-light and versatile SHOP NOW >		
	Microsoft Windows SDK for Windows 7 and .NET Framework 4 (ISO)		
	Important! Selecting a language below will dynamically change the complete page content to that language.		
	Language: English Download		



3.2 Visual Studio

Visual Studio is a development environment that enables the creation, debugging, and deployment of software for Windows, Microsoft Office, and more.

The .NET Control for the WinCC (TIA Portal) is created in this example.

The creation environment is "C#" (C Sharp).

3.3 Assemblies / Global Assembly Cache (GAC)

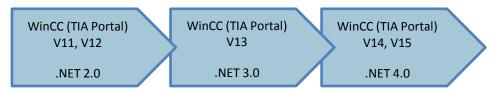
- Assemblies/Assembly
 An application or DLL created with the .NET Framework that requires the .NET Framework at runtime.
 - => Files with the extension "*.exe" or "*.dll"
- Global Assembly Cache
 The Global Assembly Cache (GAC) is a system-wide directory for assemblies.
 The directory is located in the file system under " C:\Windows\assembly ".

3.4 .Net Framework Version

The ".NET Framework Control" used must be compatible with the TIA Engineering Version used.

Example: A WinCC (TIA Portal) V13 project cannot use a Control that was created with .NET 4.0.

Fig. 3-1



3.5 Write .NET Control in the global "Assembly Cache"

The "gacutil.exe" tool writes the created .NET Control in the global Assembly Cache (GAC). The global "Assembly Cache" (GAC) makes .NET Control available to all applications.

If your Control uses the WinCC ODK API, it must be created as a 32-bit Control.

However, 32-bit Controls cannot be found under the ".Net Controls" tab if added to WinCC ES Professional. In this case, they must be added with the "Custom .Net Controls" tab. Furthermore, they must be installed in the application runtime directory, which is normally found under C:\Program Files (x86)\Siemens\Automation\SCADA-RT_V11\WinCC\bin, instead of the Global Assembly Cache.

If you also wish to use your Control on WebNavigator Clients, we recommend that you develop the Control for "Any CPU" target platform and install it in the GAC. This is the standard way to get around .Net Assemblies in Windows so that they are also compatible with the Controls in a non-WinCC environment.

Controls developed for "Any CPU" targets and installed in the GAC will appear in the ".Net Controls" tab if they have been installed on WinCC ES Professional.

4 Appendix

4.1 Service and support

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4.2 Links and literature

Table 4-1

No.	Торіс	
\1\	Siemens Industry Online Support https://support.industry.siemens.com	
\2\	Link to the article page of the application example https://support.industry.siemens.com/cs/ww/en/view/109759944	
/3/	SITRAIN course "Basics of WinCC Professional". https://support.industry.siemens.com/cs/ww/en/view/109758618	
\4\	SITRAIN: You can find out more about the training and courses as well as the locations and dates at: https://www.siemens.com/sitrain	

4.3 Change documentation

Table 4-2

Version	Date	Change
V1.0	10/2018	First version