

NDC Oslo C++ Community Meetup



Clang Power Tools for Visual Studio C++ Developers

June 12, 2018



Victor Ciura

Technical Lead, Advanced Installer

www.advancedinstaller.com

Abstract

“A 15 year old code base under active development, 3 million lines of C++ code, a few brave nerds and two powerful tools...”, or “How we managed to clang-tidy our whole code base, while maintaining our monthly release cycle”. Did I mention that we’re a Windows-only dev team using Visual C++ ? That’s right, we’re going to continue using both Visual Studio (2017) and build Clang tools on the side, to modernize and improve our code quality.

It’s been a treacherous journey bringing **clang-tidy** to Visual Studio C++ developers and I want to share with you some of the most exciting experiences my team and I had along the way and a few things we’ve learned that you may take with you on your next “travels”. A few months back, we decided to hop on the clang-tidy train and set out to modernize our aging code base and find hidden bugs along the way with clang-tidy static analyzer. The hard part was getting all our code to compile with clang, using the correct project settings (extracted from Visual Studio). After that, clang-tidy was a breeze to use and we immediately integrated it in our workflow.

Along this journey we developed some tools to help us bridge the two worlds (Visual Studio and Clang/LLVM) - PowerShell scripts for CI/automation and a Visual Studio extension for developer workflow. We call them: “**Clang Power Tools**”.

After successful usage within our team, we decided to open-source the project and make **Clang Power Tools** available for FREE in the Visual Studio Marketplace.

This talk will share some of the things we learned while developing these tools and using them at scale on our projects and within the codebases of our community users.

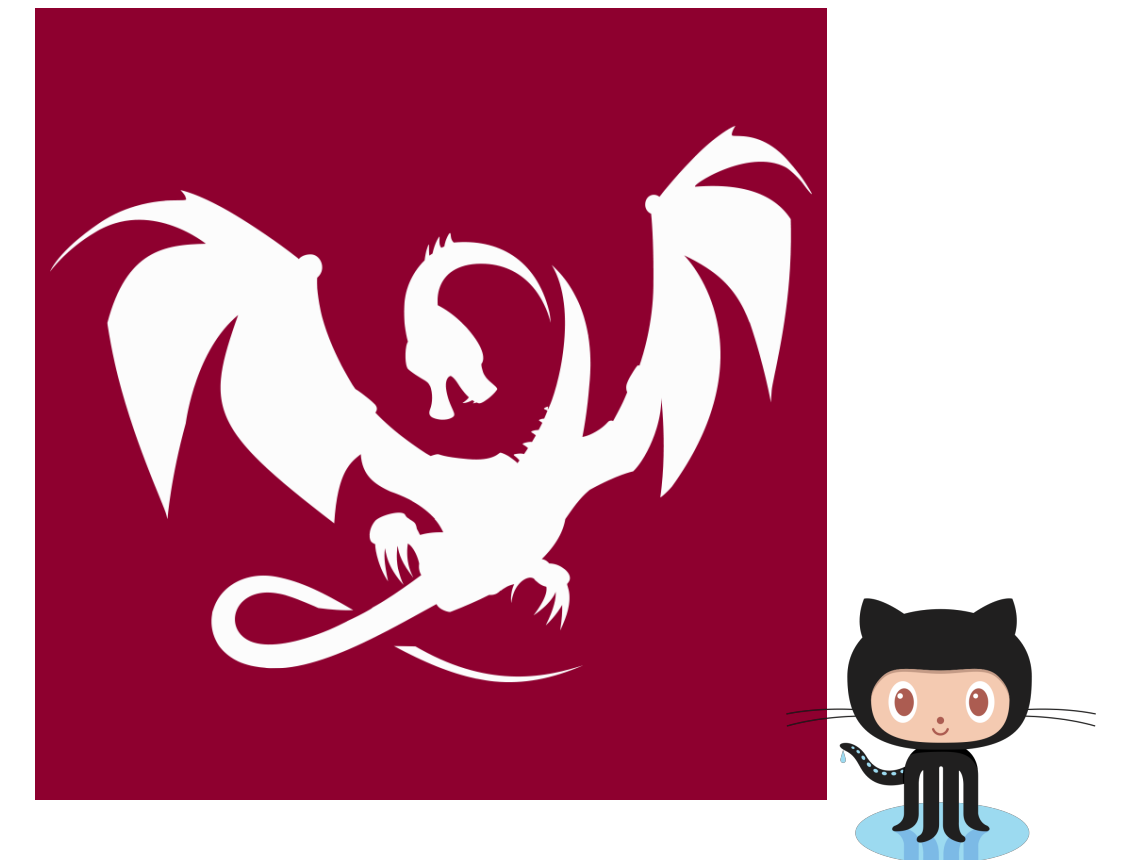
Our experience of adopting Clang tools like clang-tidy and clang-format in a long time Windows-only dev environment (Visual Studio) had a huge positive impact on my team and improved our code quality. We were able to modernize large parts of our code base (through automatic transformations) and find lots of latent subtle bugs with clang-tidy static analyzer.

We want to share this positive experience with the C++ community. We would also like to welcome open-source contributions to the project, in helping maintain this free Visual Studio extension “**Clang Power Tools**”, for other developers to use in their daily workflow.

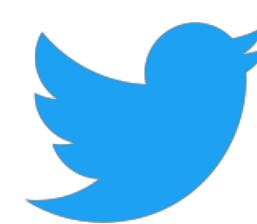
Who Am I?



Advanced Installer



Clang Power Tools



@ciura_victor

Why Am I Here ?

Why Am I Here ?

“A 15 year old code base under active development, 3 million lines of C++ code, a few brave nerds, two powerful tools and one hot summer...”

or

“How we managed to **clang-tidy** our whole code base, while maintaining our monthly release cycle”

Context:



www.advancedinstaller.com

Advanced Installer

- Powerful Windows Installer authoring tool (**IDE**)
- Helps developers and IT Pros create MSI, App-V, AppX, MSIX packages
- **15** year old code base, under active development (since 2003)
- ~**3** million lines of C++ code
- ~**140** Visual Studio projects (EXEs, DLLs, LIBs)
- Microsoft **Visual Studio 2017**
- **Monthly** release cycle (~3 week sprints)
- **Windows-only** deployment
- Strong Windows **SDK** dependencies: our code has a fairly wide Windows API surface area (because of the application domain)

This talk is NOT about



VS



- We're a **Windows**-only dev team using Visual C++
- We're going to continue using **both** **Visual Studio** (2017) and **Clang** tools on the side, to modernize/refactor and improve our code quality

Goals

- It all started with **clang-format**
- Building on the success of **clang-format** adoption within the team, we gained courage to experiment with **clang-tidy**
- New problem: getting all our code to fully **compile** with Clang, using the correct project settings (synced with Visual Studio) and Windows SDK dependencies
- We found several compatibility issues between MSVC compiler (VS2017) and Clang (4.0)
- Note that we were already using MSVC **/W4** and **/WX** on all our projects 🦵 🧐

Goals

- Welcome to the land of **non-standard C++** language extensions and striving for C++ ISO conformance in our code
- We started **fixing** all non-conformant code... (some automation required, batteries not included)
- Perform large scale **refactorings** on our code with clang-tidy:
`modernize-*`, `readability-*`
- Run **static analysis** on our code base to find subtle latent bugs



Fixes, fixes, fixes...



Just a few examples:

Error: delete called on non-final 'AppPathVar' that has virtual functions but non-virtual destructor [-Werror, **-Wdelete-non-virtual-dtor**]

Error: 'MsiComboBoxTable::PreRowChange' hides overloaded virtual function [-Werror, **-Woverloaded-virtual**]

```
void PreRowChange(const IMsiRow & aRow, BitField aModifiedContext);
```

Error: variable 'it' is incremented both in the loop header and in the loop body [-Werror, **-Wfor-loop-analysis**]



Fixes, fixes, fixes...



Just a few examples:

```
Error: FilePath.cpp:36:17: error: moving a temporary object prevents copy elision  
[-Werror, -Wpessimizing-move]  
    : GenericPath(move(UnboxHugePath(aPath)))
```

```
Error: moving a local object in a return statement prevents copy elision  
[-Werror, -Wpessimizing-move]  
    return move(replacedConnString);
```



Fixes, fixes, fixes...



Just a few examples:

```
Error: field 'mCommandContainer' will be initialized after field 'mRepackBuildType'  
[-Werror, -Wreorder]
```

```
Error: PipeServer.cpp:42:39: error: missing field 'InternalHigh' initializer  
[-Werror, -Wmissing-field-initializers]
```



Fixes, fixes, fixes...

StringProcessing.cpp:504:9: error: no viable **conversion** from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'Facet'

```
    Facet facet = DEFAULT_LOCALE;
      ^          ~~~~~
```

StringProcessing.cpp:344:7: note: candidate constructor (the implicit copy constructor) not viable: no known conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'const Facet &' for 1st argument

```
class Facet
  ^
```

StringProcessing.cpp:349:3: note: candidate constructor not viable: no known conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'const std::wstring &' for 1st argument

```
    Facet(const wstring & facet)
  ^
```



Frequent offender: Two user-defined conversions needed



Fixes, fixes, fixes...

```
Error: destructor called on non-final 'InternalMessageGenerator' that has virtual functions but non-virtual destructor [-Werror, -Wdelete-non-virtual-dtor]
```

```
    _Getptr()->~_Ty();  
    ^
```

```
MessageCenter.cpp:49:29: note: in instantiation of function template specialization 'std::make_shared<InternalMessageGenerator>' requested here
```

```
    mInternalMsgGenerator = make_shared<InternalMessageGenerator>(...);  
    ^
```

```
C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual
```

```
Studio\2017\Professional\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.14.26428\include\memory:1783:15: note:
```

```
qualify call to silence this warning
```

```
    _Getptr()->~_Ty();
```



Frequent offender

LLVM 6.0



Fixes, fixes, fixes...

Error: delete called on 'NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr' that is **abstract** but has non-virtual destructor [-Werror, **-Wdelete-non-virtual-dtor**]

```
    delete _Ptr;  
    ^
```

C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio\2017\Professional\VC\Tools\MSVC\14.14.26428\include\memory:2267:4: note: in instantiation of member function

```
'std::default_delete<NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr>::operator()' requested here  
    this->get_deleter() (get());  
    ^
```

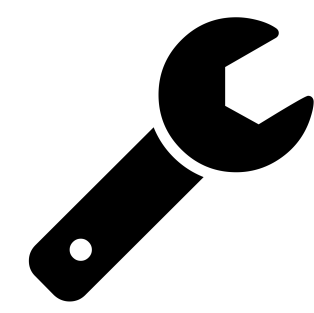
NetFirewallMgrFactory.cpp:21:44: note: in instantiation of member function

```
'std::unique_ptr<NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr,  
std::default_delete<NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr> >::~~unique_ptr' requested here  
    unique_ptr<NetFirewall::INetFirewallMgr> fwMgr;
```



Frequent offender

LLVM 6.0



Fixes, fixes, fixes...

```
FormattedLexer.cpp(2982): error [-Werror, -Wenum-compare-switch]:
```

```
comparison of two values with different enumeration types in switch statement  
'FormattedLexer::CharType' and 'FormattedLexer::CharSubType'
```

```
case REGULAR:
```

```
    ^~~~~~
```



Frequent offender

LLVM 6.0

Timeline

- January 2017
 - started playing with Clang for Windows (LLVM 3.9.1)
 - first commits, started fixing the Clang errors/warnings
(Note: we were already on **MSVC /W4 /WX**)
- February
 - created a clang++ compilation **.bat** file (crude automation attempt)
- March
 - upgraded the clang++ batch file to a **PowerShell** script (**clang-build.ps1**)
 - our PS script also gains the ability to run clang-tidy checks
 - first experiments with **clang-tidy** on our source code (just some core libraries)

Timeline

- April
 - 🎉 able to compile our **whole** codebase with Clang 3.9.1 (*some default warnings disabled*)
 - ~ **3 months** since we started
 - created a **Jenkins** job for Clang build (every SCM change is compiled with Clang)
- May
 - great improvements to our PowerShell script:
(PCH, parallel compilation, project filters, SDK versions, etc)
- June
 - more experiments with **clang-tidy** on our source code (better coverage)
 - upgraded from VS2015 to **VS2017** (we also needed to update our Clang PS script)

Timeline

- July
 - started work on a custom clang-based refactoring tool (`libTooling`)
 - fixed new Clang 4 issues and upgraded to **4.0.1**
 - started to tackle Clang `-Wall` warnings in our code
- August
 - made extensive code transformations with our custom `libTooling` helpers
 - 🎉 our whole codebase compiles with Clang `-Wall`
 - started work on our “**Clang Power Tools**” extension for Visual Studio
 - first refactorings with `clang-tidy`:
`modernize-use-nullptr, modernize-loop-convert`
- September
 - multiple code transformations with `clang-tidy`:
`modernize-*, readability-*, misc-*, ...`

Timeline

- September 2017
 - started to fix **-Wextra** warnings (*in progress...*)
 - upgraded to LLVM **5.0** (fixed new warnings) [**-Wunused-lambda-capture**]
 - **open-sourced** our “**Clang Power Tools**” project
 - published our “Clang Power Tools” extension to **Visual Studio Marketplace**
 - introduced the project to the C++ community at **CppCon 2017**



...



... **tons of improvements** based on community feedback & GitHub contributions

<http://www.clangpowertools.com/CHANGELOG>

...

- April-May 2018
 - upgraded to LLVM **6.0** (fixed new batch of warnings)

and here we are 😊



clang-tidy

Large scale refactorings we performed:

- `modernize-use-nullptr`
- `modernize-loop-convert`
- `modernize-use-override`
- `readability-redundant-string-cstr`
- `modernize-use-emplace`
- `modernize-use-auto`
- `modernize-make-shared` & `modernize-make-unique`
- `modernize-use-equals-default` & `modernize-use-equals-delete`



clang-tidy

Large scale refactorings we performed:

- `modernize-use-default-member-init`
- `readability-redundant-member-init`
- `modernize-pass-by-value`
- `modernize-return-braced-init-list`
- `modernize-use-using`
- `cppcoreguidelines-pro-type-member-init`
- `readability-redundant-string-init` & `misc-string-constructor`
- `misc-suspicious-string-compare` & `misc-string-compare`
- `misc-inefficient-algorithm`
- `cppcoreguidelines-*`



clang-tidy



Issues we found:

[readability-redundant-string-cstr]

```
// mChRequest is a 1KB buffer, we don't want to send it whole.  
// So copy it as a C string, until we reach a null char.  
ret += mChRequest.c_str();
```



clang-tidy



Issues we found:

```
[modernize-make-shared, modernize-make-unique]
```

```
- requestData.reset(new BYTE[reqLength]);  
+ requestData = std::make_unique<BYTE>();
```



clang-tidy



Issues we found:

`[modernize-use-auto]`

=> error: **unused typedef** 'BrowseIterator' [-Werror,-Wunused-local-typedef]

```
typedef vector<BrowseSQLServerInfo>::iterator BrowseIterator;
```



clang-tidy



Issues we found:

`[modernize-loop-convert]`

`=> unused values (orphan) [-Werror,-Wunused-value]`

```
vector<ModuleInfo>::iterator first = Modules_.begin();  
vector<ModuleInfo>::iterator last  = Modules_.end();
```

or:

```
size_t count = Data_.size();  
  
for (auto & module : Modules_)  
{  
    ...  
}
```



clang-tidy



Issues we found:

[modernize-use-using] => errors & *incomplete*

```
- typedef int (WINAPI * InitExtractionFcn) (ExtractInfo *);  
+ using InitExtractionFcn =  
    int (*) (ExtractInfo *) __attribute__((stdcall)) (ExtractInfo *);
```

```
=> using InitExtractionFcn = int (WINAPI *) (ExtractInfo *);
```



clang-tidy



Issues we found:

[modernize-use-using] => errors & *incomplete*

```
template<typename KeyType>
class Row
{
    - typedef KeyType KeyT;      <= substitutes concrete key type (template argument)
    + using KeyT = basic_string<wchar_t, char_traits<wchar_t>, allocator<wchar_t> >;
    ...
    KeyType mID;
};
```

// purpose of type alias being to access that template type from a derived class:

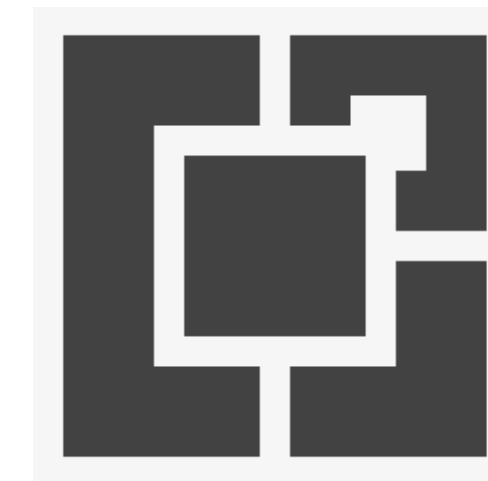
```
typename Row::KeyT
```

Concrete type used in code: **Row**<**wstring**>

How Did We Achieve All That ?



TOOLS



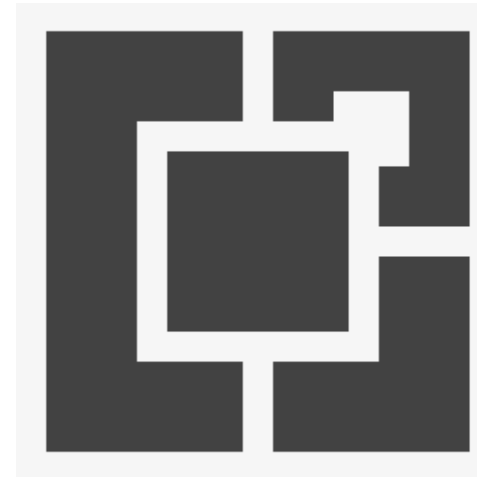
 **Power Team** 

PowerShell scripts



Gabriel Diaconița

**Clang Power Tools
VS Extension**



**Ionuț Enache
Alexandru Dragomir**

LibTooling



Mihai Udrea

**Fixing Clang
errors/warnings in our code**



Myself & many others...

We started simple...



compile.bat

```
SET INCLUDE="..\..\;C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio
14.0\VC\include;C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio
14.0\VC\atlmfc\include;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows
Kits\10\Include\10.0.10240.0\ucrt;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows
Kits\8.1\Include\um;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\8.1\Include\shared;"

setlocal EnableDelayedExpansion

For /R . %%G IN (*.cpp) do (
clang++ "%%G" -std=c++14 -fsyntax-only -Werror -Wmicrosoft
-Wno-invalid-token-paste -Wno-unused-variable -Wno-unused-value -fms-extensions
-fdelayed-template-parsing -fms-compatibility -D_ATL_NO_HOSTING
-DUNICODE -D_UNICODE -DWIN32 -D_DEBUG -DDEBUG

IF !errorlevel! NEQ 0 goto exit
)
```

We started simple...



```
SET INCLUDE="..\..;C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio
14.0\VC\include;C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio
14.0\VC\atlmfc\include;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows
Kits\10\Include\10.0.10240.0\ucrt;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows
Kits\8.1\Include\um;C:\Program Files (x86)\Windows Kits\8.1\Include\shared;"


clang-tidy %1 -checks=-*,modernize-* -fix -- -std=c++14 -Werror
-Wno-invalid-token-paste -Wmicrosoft -fms-extensions -fdelayed-template-parsing
-fms-compatibility -D_ATL_NO_HOSTING -DUNICODE -D_UNICODE
-DWIN32 -D_DEBUG -DDEBUG

clang-format -style=file -i %1
```

But soon came...



Clang PowerShell Script

- way more complicated (over 3,000 lines)
- very configurable (many parameters)
- supports both clang compile and tidy workflows
- works directly on Visual Studio **.vcxproj** files (or MSBuild projects)
 -  **no** roundtrip transformation through Clang JSON compilation database)
- supports parallel compilation
- constructs Clang PCH from VS project <stdafx.h>
- automatically extracts all necessary settings from VS projects:
 -  preprocessor definitions, platform toolset, SDK version, include directories, PCH, etc.

`clang-build.ps1`



Using The PowerShell Script

-dir	Source directory to process for VS project files
-proj	List of projects to compile
-proj-ignore	List of projects to ignore
-file	What cpp(s) to compile from the found projects
-file-ignore	List of files to ignore
-parallel	Run clang++ in parallel mode, on all logical CPU cores
-continue	Continue project compilation even when errors occur
-clang-flags	Flags passed to clang++ driver
-tidy	Run specified clang-tidy checks
-tidy-fix	Run specified clang-tidy checks with auto-fix
...	

clang-build.ps1



Using The PowerShell Script



You can run `clang-build.ps1` directly, by specifying all required parameters
(low-level control over details)

or



You can use a bootstrapper PS script (eg. `sample-clang-build.ps1`),
that pre-loads some of the constant configurations specific for your team/project.

```
sample-clang-build.ps1 ==> { clang-build.ps1, ... }
```




Using The PowerShell Script

```
PS> .\sample-clang-build.ps1 -parallel
```

➔ Runs clang **compile** on all projects in current directory

```
PS> .\sample-clang-build.ps1 -parallel -proj-ignore foo,bar
```

➔ Runs clang **compile** on all projects in current directory, except 'foo' and 'bar'

```
PS> .\sample-clang-build.ps1 -proj foo,bar -file-ignore meow -tidy-fix "-*,modernize-*"
```

➔ Runs **clang-tidy**, using all *modernize* checks, on all CPPs not containing 'meow' in their name, from the projects 'foo' and 'bar'.

Bootstrapper PS script



sample-clang-build.ps1

```
param( [alias("proj")] [Parameter(Mandatory=$false)] [string[]] $aVcxprojToCompile
, [alias("proj-ignore")] [Parameter(Mandatory=$false)] [string[]] $aVcxprojToIgnore
, [alias("file")] [Parameter(Mandatory=$false)] [string] $aCppToCompile
, [alias("file-ignore")] [Parameter(Mandatory=$false)] [string] $aCppToIgnore
, [alias("parallel")] [Parameter(Mandatory=$false)] [switch] $aUseParallelCompile
, [alias("tidy")] [Parameter(Mandatory=$false)] [string] $aTidyFlags
, [alias("tidy-fix")] [Parameter(Mandatory=$false)] [string] $aTidyFixFlags
)
```

Set-Variable -name kClangCompileFlags

```
-Option Constant `
-value @( "-Werror"
, "-Wall"
, "-fms-compatibility-version=19.10"
, "-Wmicrosoft"
, "-Wno-invalid-token-paste"
, "-Wno-unknown-pragmas"
, "-Wno-unused-value"
)
```



Using The PowerShell Script



Jenkins CI Configuration



Jenkins CI Configuration

Install PowerShell plugin (available from Jenkins gallery)



[Manage Plugins](#)

Add, remove, disable or enable plugins that can extend the functionality of Jenkins.

The screenshot shows the Jenkins web interface. At the top left is the Jenkins logo and name. To the right is a search bar. Below the logo, the breadcrumb 'Jenkins > Plugin Manager' is visible. On the left side, there are two navigation links: 'Back to Dashboard' with a green arrow icon and 'Manage Jenkins' with a gear icon. On the right side, there are four tabs: 'Updates', 'Available' (which is selected), 'Installed', and 'Advanced'. Below the tabs is a table with a header row containing 'Install ↓' and 'Name'. The table content is partially obscured by a grey bar.

<https://wiki.jenkins.io/display/JENKINS/PowerShell+Plugin>



Jenkins CI Configuration

Install PowerShell plugin

Jenkins	▶	Plugin Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>Plain Credentials Plugin</u> <u>1.4</u> Allows use of plain strings and files as credentials.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>PowerShell plugin</u> <u>1.3</u> This plugin allows Jenkins to invoke <u>Windows PowerShell</u> as build scripts.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>SCM API Plugin</u> <u>2.2.2</u> This plugin provides a new enhanced API for interacting with SCM systems.

<https://wiki.jenkins.io/display/JENKINS/PowerShell+Plugin>



Jenkins CI Configuration

- Create a **new job** just for clang builds

or

- Attach a **new build step** on an existing job

Build

Add build step ▾

- Advanced Installer
- Build a Visual Studio project or solution using MSBuild
- Execute Windows batch command
- Execute shell
- Execute shell script on remote host using ssh
- Inject environment variables
- Invoke Ant
- Invoke top-level Maven targets
- Set build status to "pending" on GitHub commit
- Windows PowerShell**
- [ArtifactDeployer] - Deploy the artifacts from build workspace to remote locations



Jenkins CI Configuration



Reference PowerShell script from the job working directory.

Both the bootstrapper PS script (eg. `ai-clang-build.ps1`) and the main PS script (`clang-build.ps1`) should be in the same directory.

Build

Windows PowerShell

Command `.\scripts\ai-clang-build.ps1 -parallel -proj-ignore LZMA.vcxproj`

See [the list of available environment variables](#)

Add build step ▾



Jenkins CI Configuration



If you configured Clang build as a new Jenkins job, a good workflow is to track and build any SCM changes:

Build Triggers

- Trigger builds remotely (e.g., from scripts)
- Build after other projects are built
- Build periodically
- GitHub hook trigger for GITScm polling
- Poll SCM

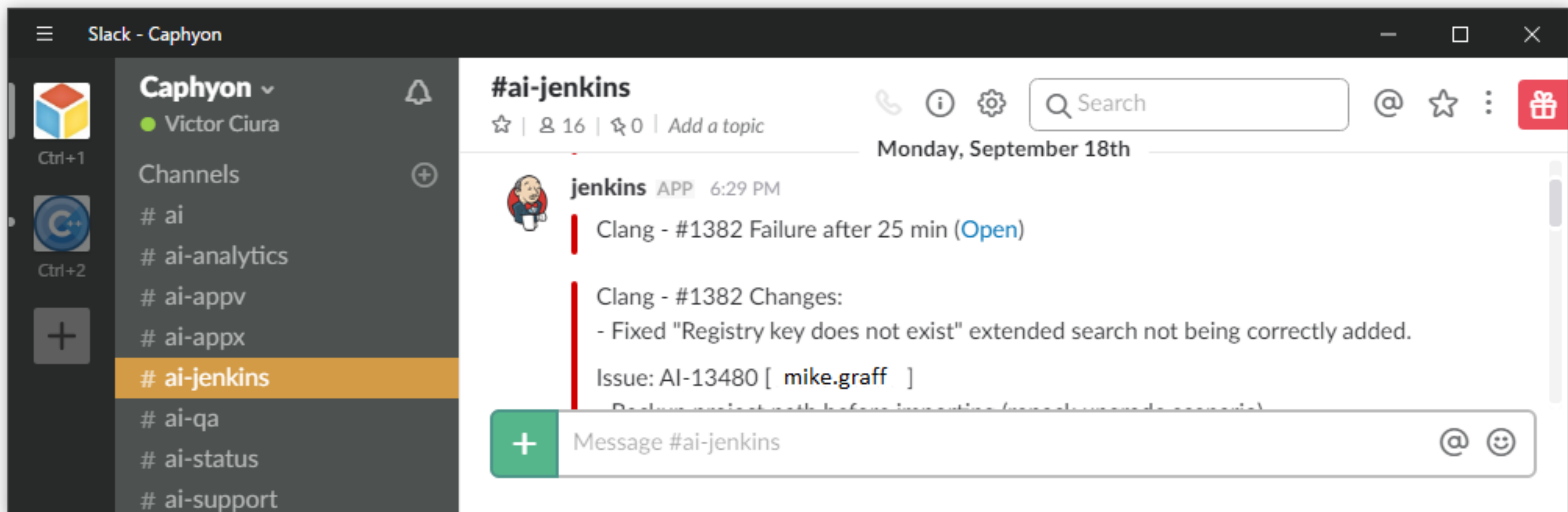




Jenkins CI Workflow



When Clang build is broken...



Slack bot alert ➔ #ai-jenkins



Jenkins CI Workflow

The screenshot shows an Outlook window titled 'Jenkins'. The left sidebar shows folders for 'victor', 'Inbox', and 'Local Folders'. The main pane displays a list of emails from Jenkins. The selected email is titled '[AIROBOT] Build Still Failing Clang - Revision: 81423' and is dated 9/19/2017 6:54 PM. The email body contains the following information:

BUILD FAILURE

Build URL: <http://airobot/job/Clang/1385/>
Project: Clang
Date of build: Tue, 19 Sep 2017 18:05:05 +0300
Build duration: 49 min

CHANGES

Revision 81423 by [redacted] (Added support for using formatted references for Service failure operations.
Issue: AI-11790)

edit advinst\msicomp\appxcfg\AppXNtServiceSync.cpp
edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\IMsiServConfigFailActionsTable.h
edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\MsiServConfigFailActionsRow.cpp
edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\MsiServConfigFailActionsRow.h
edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\MsiServConfigFailActionsTable.cpp
edit advinst\msicomp\servconfigfailactions\MsiServConfigFailActionsTable.h
edit advinst\msicomp\servinst\MsiServInstView.cpp
edit advinst\msicomp\servinst\ServConfigFailActionsView.cpp

1 attachment: build.log 431 KB

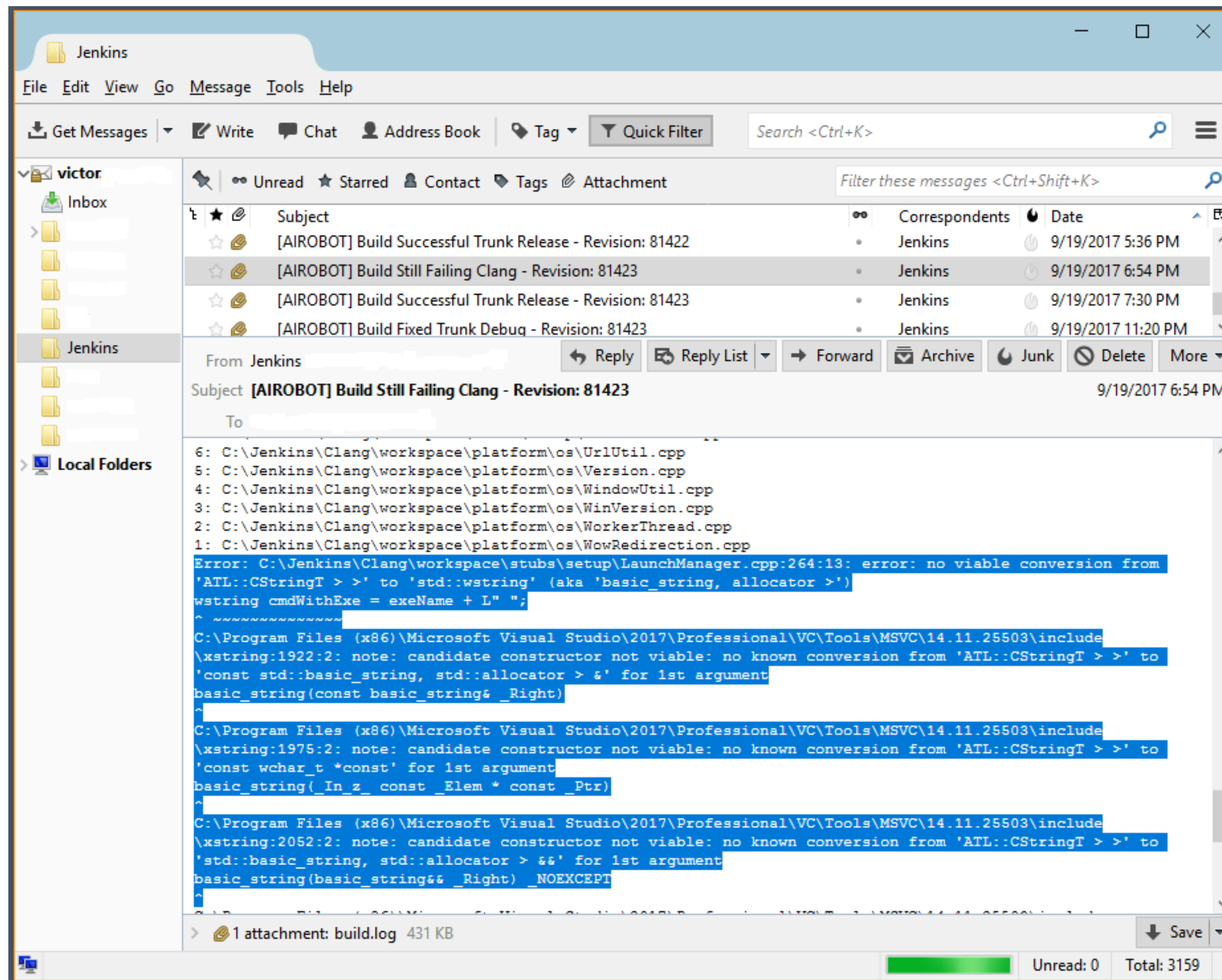


When Clang build is broken...

Team devs email alert ➡



Jenkins CI Workflow



When Clang build is broken...

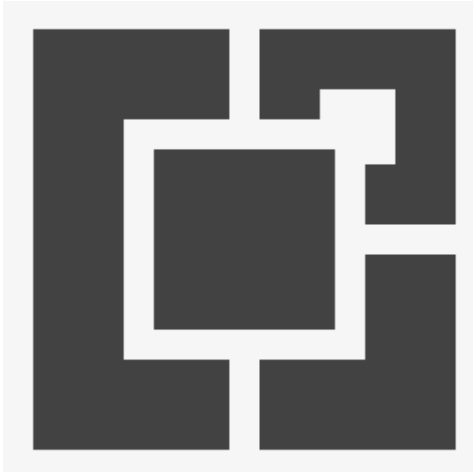
Team devs email alert ➡

What About Developer Workflow?



+



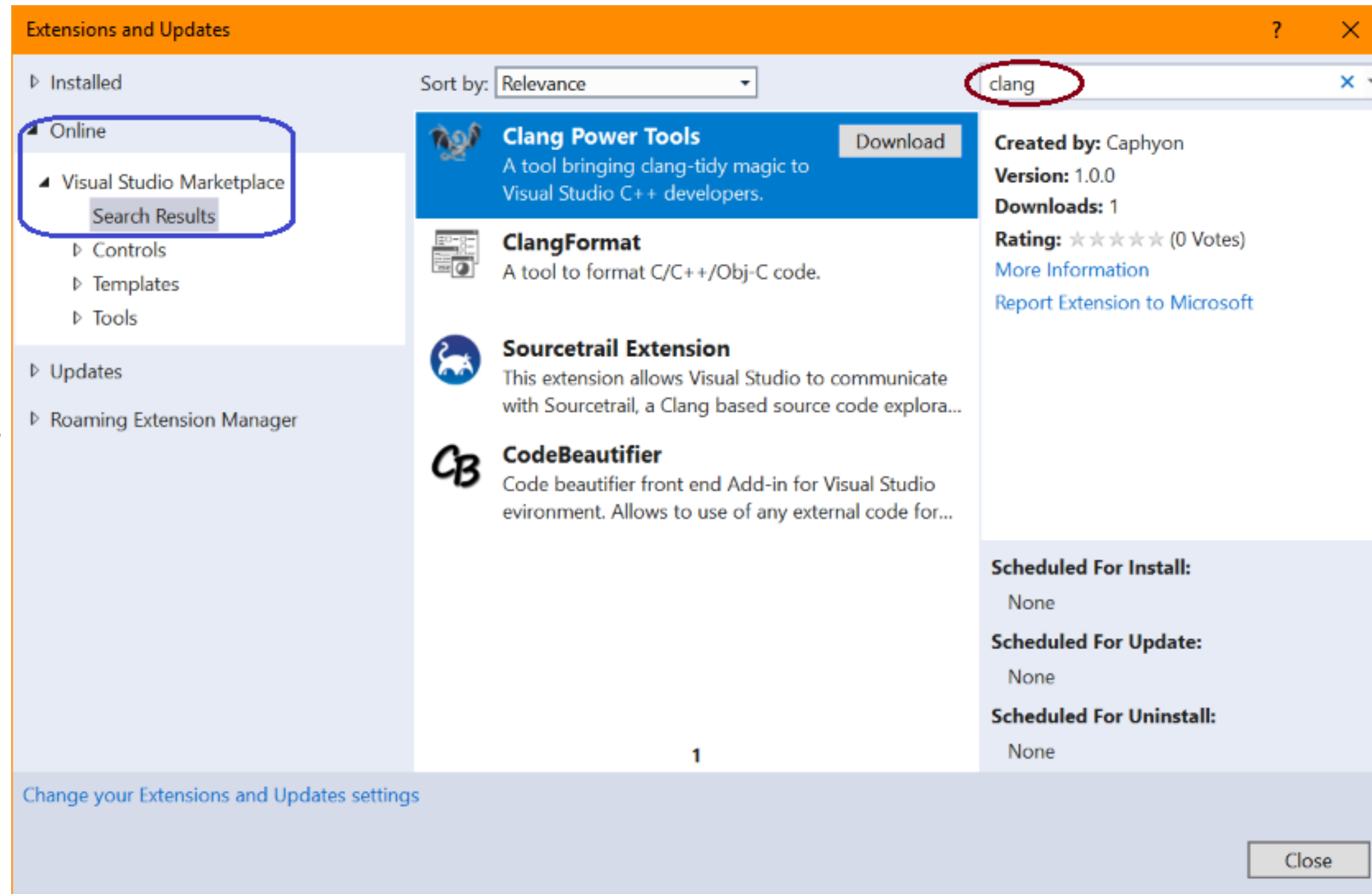


Install The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

[Tools]

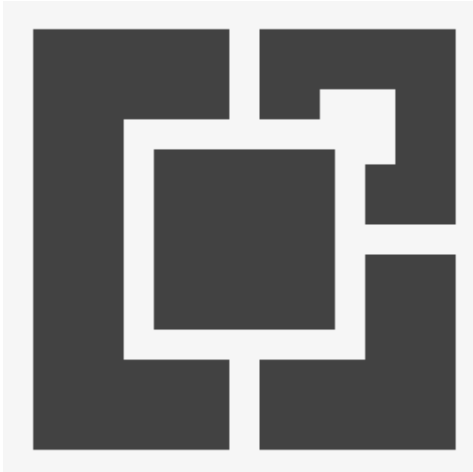


Extensions and updates

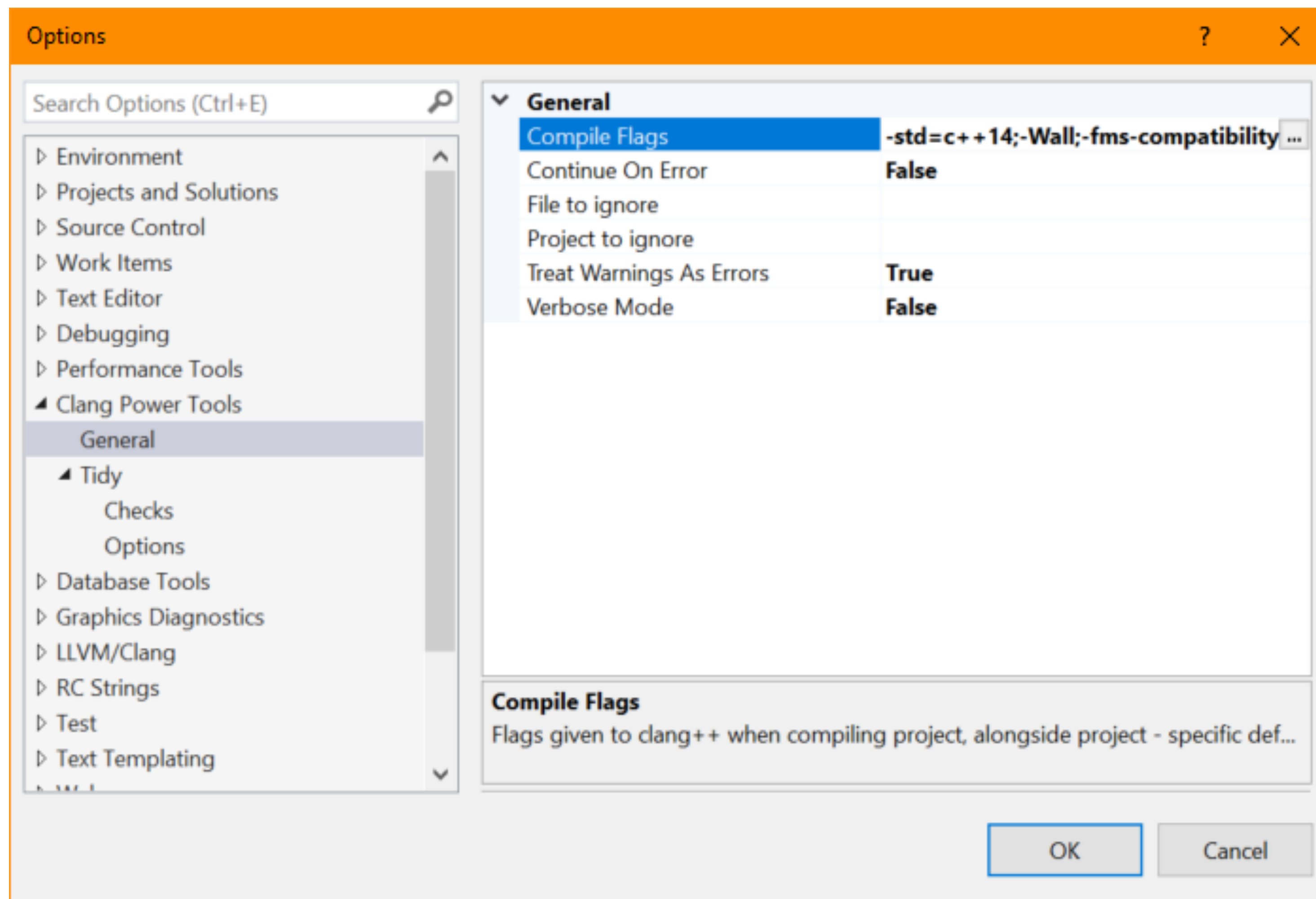
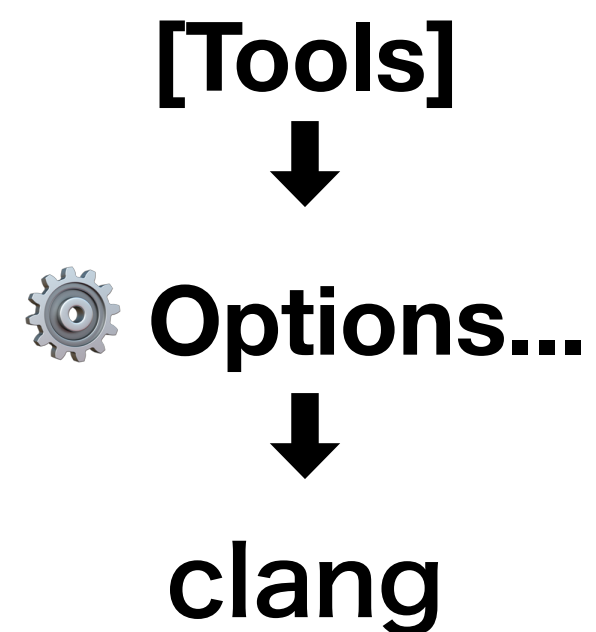


Requires "LLVM for Windows" (pre-built binary) to be installed.

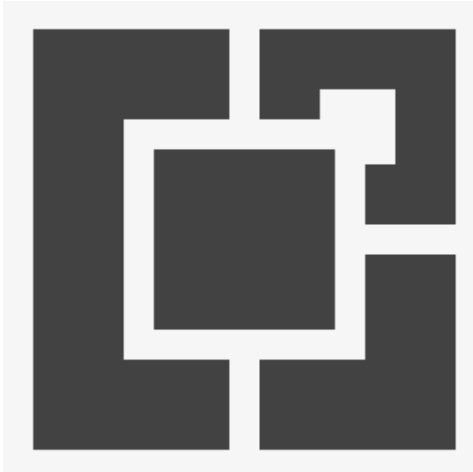
<http://releases.lvm.org/6.0.0/LLVM-6.0.0-win64.exe>



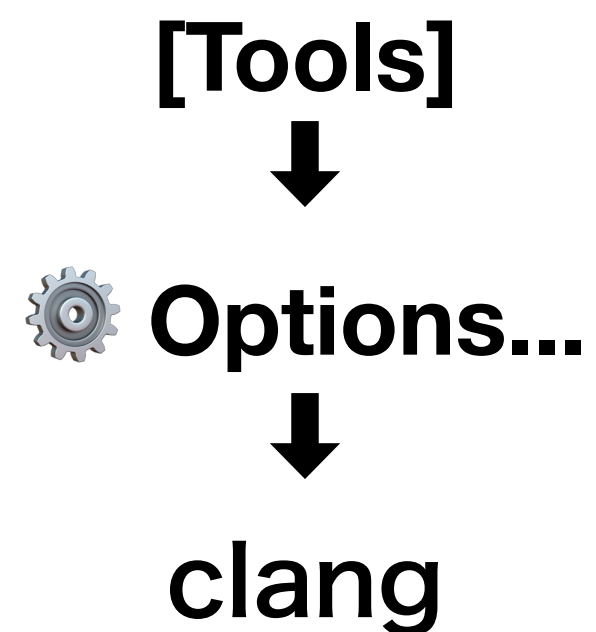
Configure The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension



← Compilation settings



Configure The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension



Options

clang

- Clang Power Tools
 - General
 - Tidy
- LLVM/Clang
 - ClangFormat

String Collection Editor

Enter the strings in the collection (one per line):

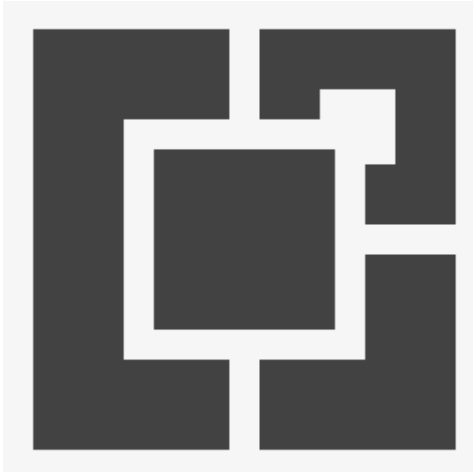
- std=c++14
- Wall
- fms-compatibility-version=19.10
- fms-compatibility
- Wmicrosoft
- Wno-invalid-token-paste
- Wno-unknown-pragmas
- Wno-unused-variable
- Wno-unused-value

Compile Flags: -std=c++14;-Wall;-fms-compatibility-ve

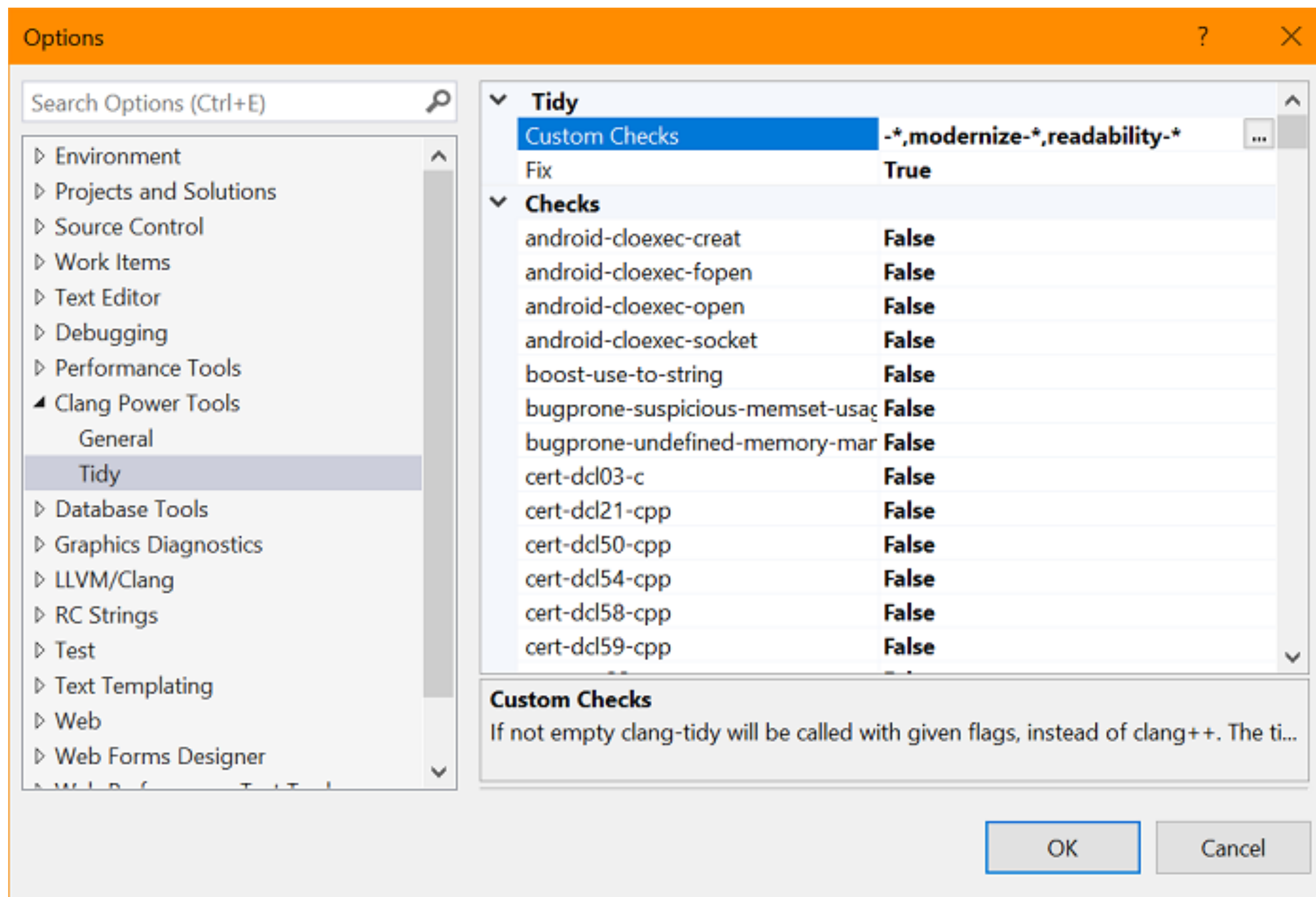
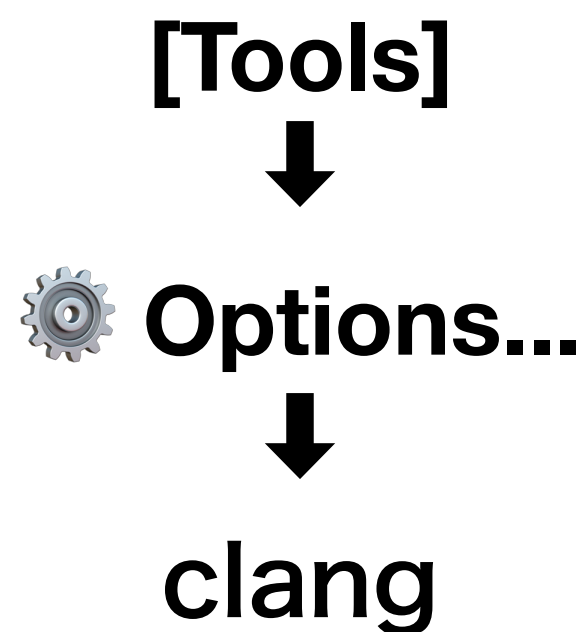
Continue On Error: False

OK Cancel

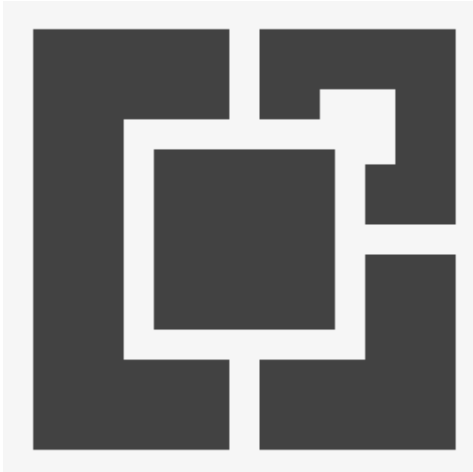
← clang++ flags



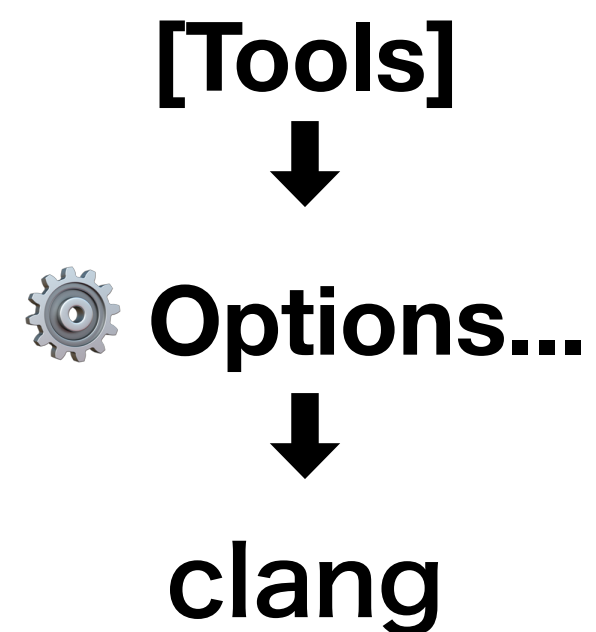
Configure The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension



← clang-tidy settings



Configure The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension



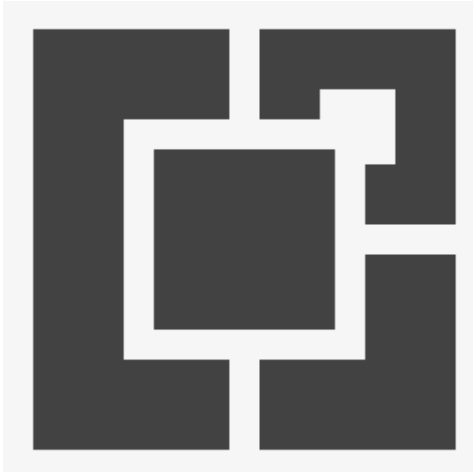
Check Name	Status
modernize-replace-auto-ptr	False
modernize-replace-random-shuffle	False
modernize-return-braced-init-list	False
modernize-shrink-to-fit	False
modernize-unary-static-assert	False
modernize-use-auto	True
modernize-use-bool-literals	False
modernize-use-default-member-init	False
modernize-use-emplace	False
modernize-use-equals-default	False
modernize-use-equals-delete	False

modernize-use-auto
This check is responsible for using the auto type specifier for variable declarations to improve code readability and maintainability. For example: The auto type specifier will only be introduced in situations where the variable type matches the type of the initializer expression. In other words auto should deduce the same type that was originally spelled in the source. However, not every situation should be transformed: In this example using auto for builtins doesn't improve readability. In other situations it makes the code less self-documenting impairing readability and maintainability. As a result, auto is used only introduced in specific situations described below.

OK Cancel

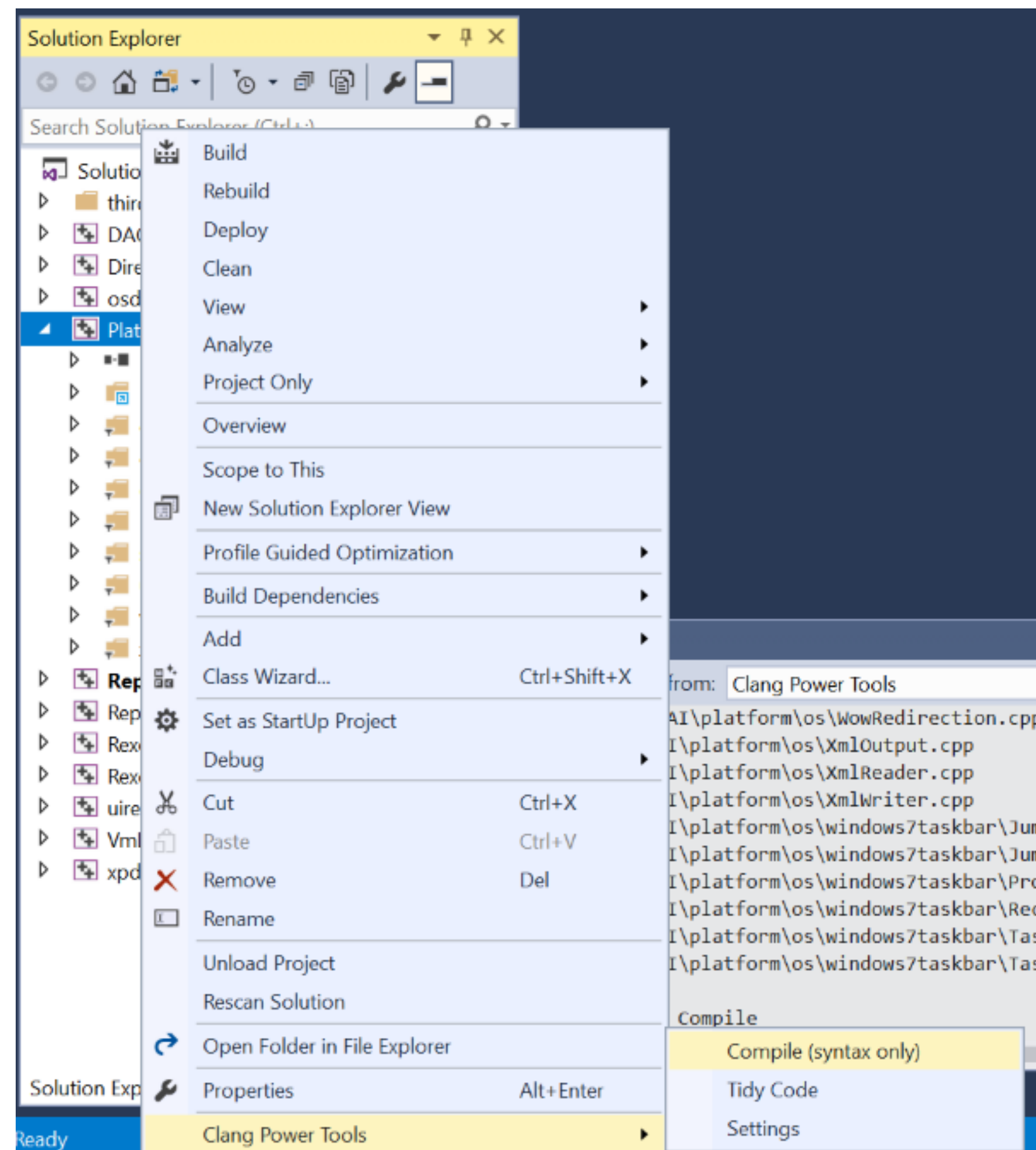
← clang-tidy checks

← inline documentation

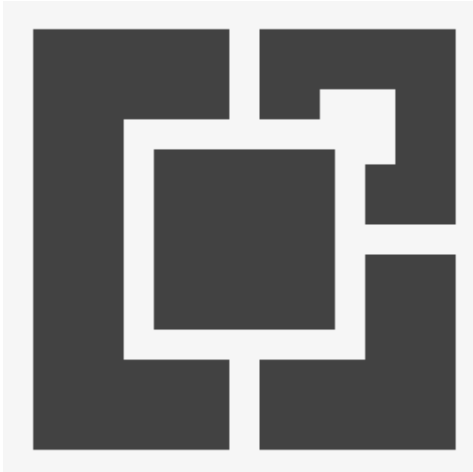


Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

Run Clang Power Tools on
a whole project or solution

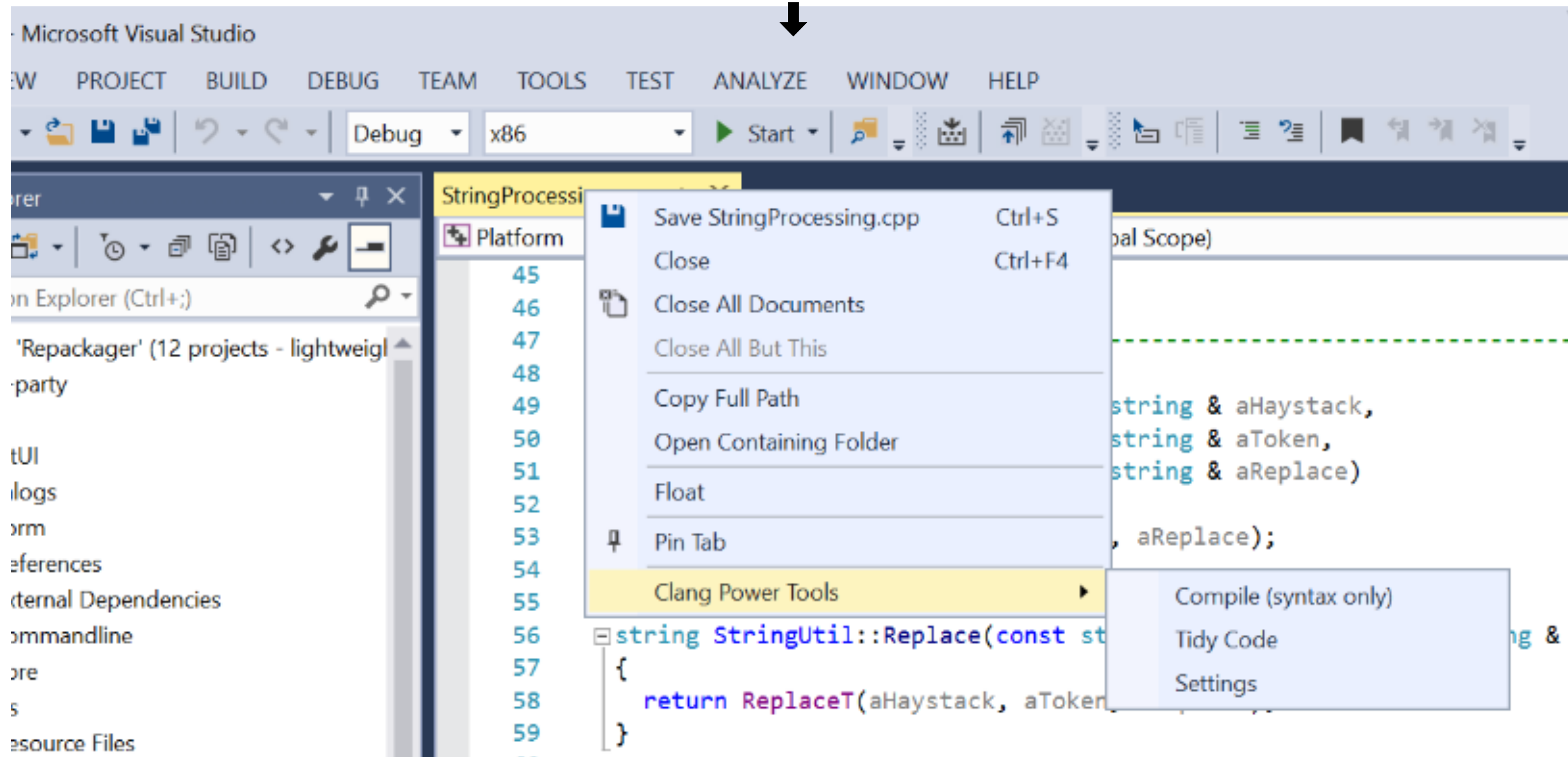


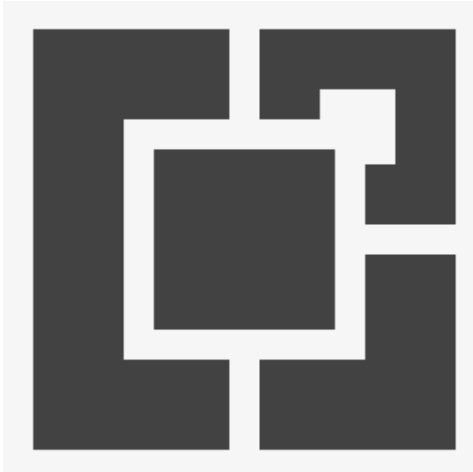
← Compile or Tidy code



Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

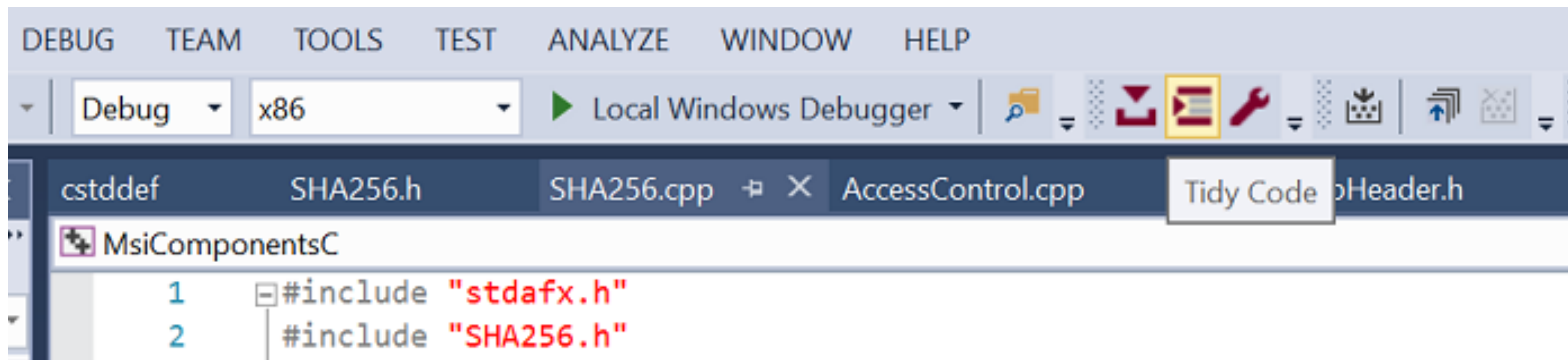
Run Clang Power Tools on an open source file

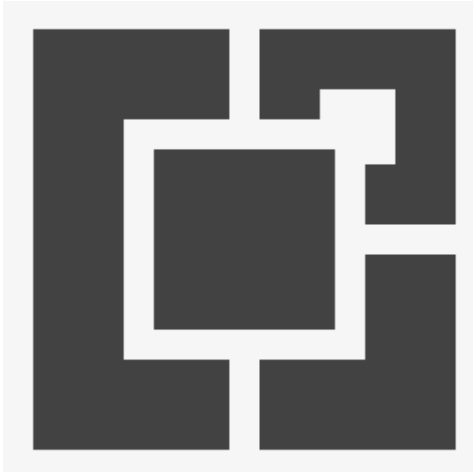




Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

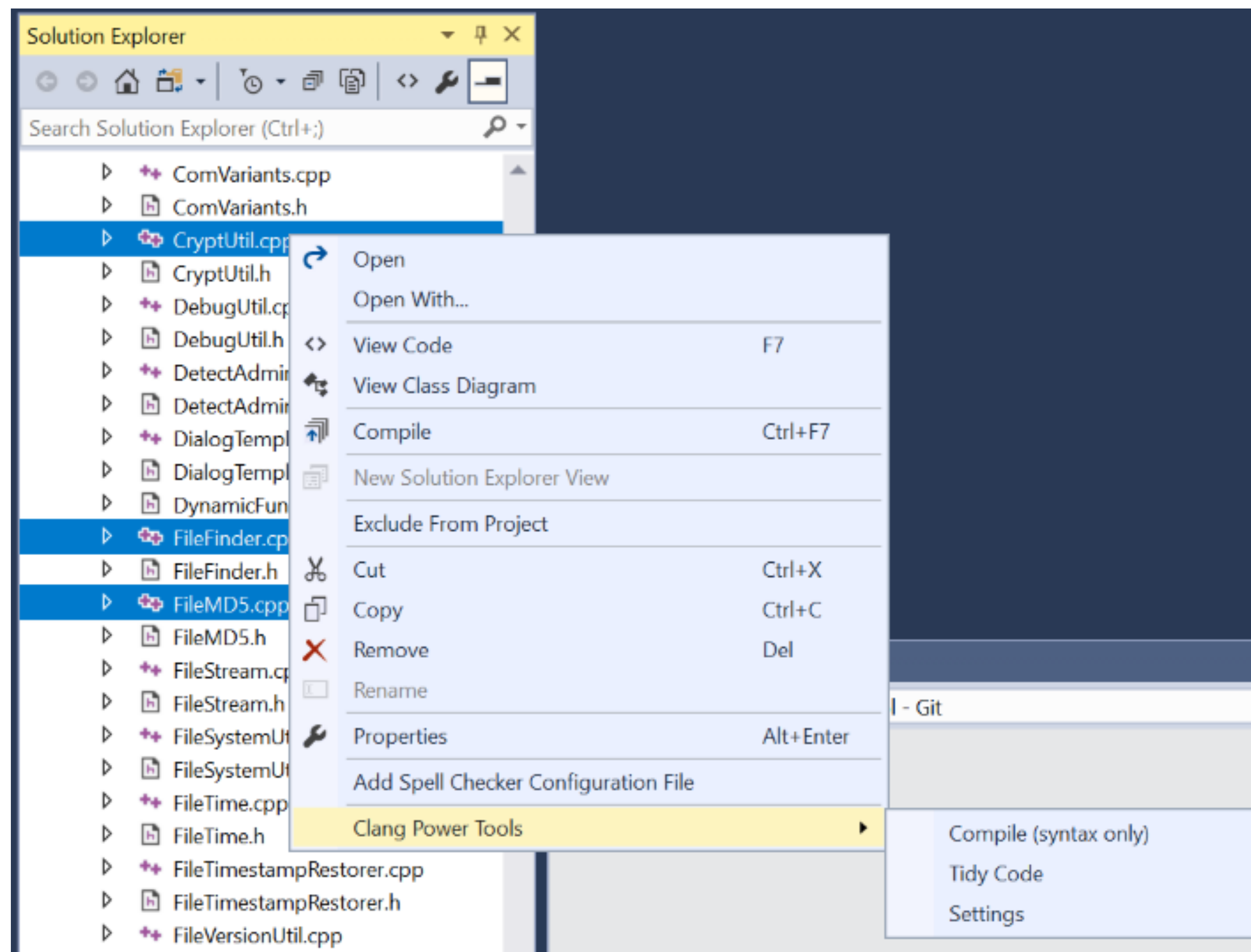
Handy Toolbar



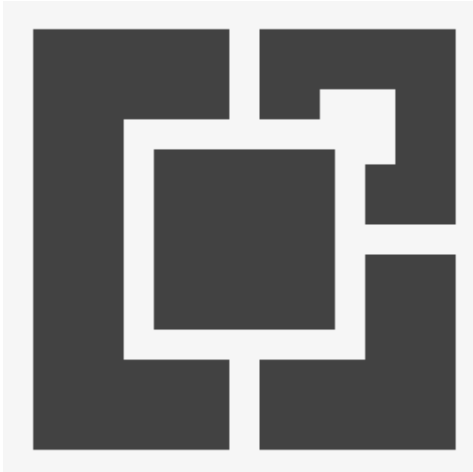


Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

Run Clang Power Tools
on selected files →



← Compile or Tidy code



Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

```
StringProcessing.cpp x StringEncoding.cpp
Platform StringUtil IsRTL(const wstring & aString)
498 {
499     size_t textLength = aString.length();
500
501     CAutoVectorPtr<WORD> charsType;
502     charsType.Allocate(textLength);
503
504     Facet facet = DEFAULT_LOCALE;
505
506     // get type of each character from string
507     BOOL ret = ::GetStringTypeW(CT_CTYPE2, aString.c_str(), (int)textLength, charsType);
508     if (!ret)
509         return false;
510
511     for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)
512     {
513         // at least one char is RTL so we consider entire string as RTL
514         if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
```

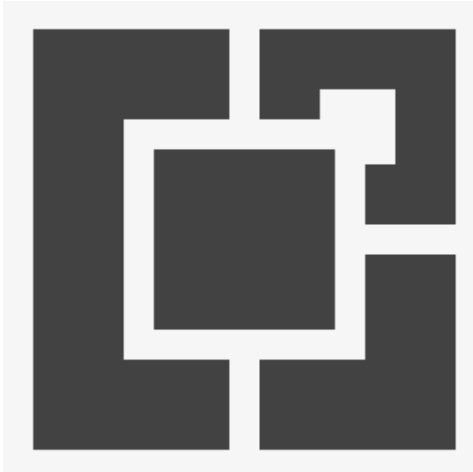
Output

Show output from: Clang Power Tools

```
1: C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp
Error: C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:504:9: error: no viable conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'Facet'
    Facet facet = DEFAULT_LOCALE;
      ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp
:344:7: note: candidate constructor (the implicit copy constructor) not viable: no known conversion from 'const wchar_t [6]' to 'const class Facet
class Facet
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:344:7: note: candidate constructor (the implicit move constructor) not viable: no
class Facet
```

← Clang compile error





Using The "Clang Power Tools" Visual Studio Extension

```
StringProcessing.cpp  X
Platform  StringUtil  IsRTL(const wstring & aString)
491 // get type of each character from string
492 BOOL ret = ::GetStringTypeW(CT_CTYPE2, aString.c_str(), (int)textLength, charsType);
493
494 if (!ret)
495     return false;
496
497 for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)
498 {
499     // at least one char is RTL so we consider entire string as RTL
500     if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
501         return true;
```

Output

Show output from: Clang Power Tools

```
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:500:9: warning: Array access results in a null pointer dereference [clang-analyzer-core.NullDereference]
    if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
        ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:494:7: note: Assuming 'ret' is not equal to 0
    if (!ret)
        ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:494:3: note: Taking false branch
    if (!ret)
        ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:497:22: note: Assuming 'i' is < 'textLength'
    for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)
                          ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:497:3: note: Loop condition is true. Entering loop body
    for (size_t i = 0; i < textLength; i++)
        ^
C:\JobAI\platform\util\strings\StringProcessing.cpp:500:9: note: Array access results in a null pointer dereference
    if (charsType[i] == C2_RIGHTTOLEFT)
        ^
Suppressed
```

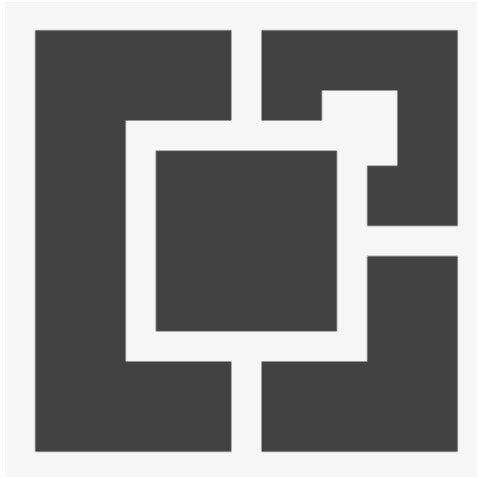
Error List Output Find Symbol Results

← clang-tidy : analyzer report



Eg.
[clang-analyzer-core.NullDereference]

Where Can I Get It ?



(Free)

Extension for Visual Studio 2015/2017

www.clangpowertools.com

Clang Power Tools

marketplace.visualstudio.com



PowerShell scripts: `sample-clang-build.ps1 => { clang-build.ps1, ... }`

<https://github.com/Caphyon/clang-power-tools>



Get Involved

<https://github.com/Caphyon/clang-power-tools>

- submit issues/bugs
- give us feedback
- make pull requests
- suggest new features and improvements



www.clangpowertools.com



Get Involved

Caphyon / clang-power-tools

Unwatch 17

Unstar 118

Fork 22

Code

Issues 25

Pull requests 2

Projects 0

Wiki

Insights

Settings

Filters

is:issue is:open

Labels

Milestones

New issue

25 Open 147 Closed

Author

Labels

Projects

Milestones

Assignee

Sort



<https://github.com/Caphyon/clang-power-tools>

Beyond clang-tidy



LibTooling

- we wrote custom tools for our needs (project specific)
- fixed hundreds of member initializer lists with wrong order [-Wreorder]
- removed unused class private fields (references, pointers) [-Wunused-private-field]
- refactored some heavily used class constructors (changed mechanism for acquiring dependencies - interface refs)
- even more on the way...



Roadmap


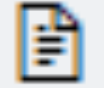

- **-Wextra** (a few remaining issues in our code)
- improve **Clang Power Tools** Visual Studio extension
- run more clang-tidy checks (fix more issues with **clang-analyzer-***)
- re-run previous checks (for new code)
- use **libTooling** for more custom code transformations (project-specific)





8 months and counting...

Visual Studio | Marketplace

Visual Studio > Tools > Clang Power Tools

 **Clang Power Tools** |  Reports |  Manage

Caphyon |  54,923 installs |  (13)

A tool bringing clang-tidy magic to Visual Studio C++ developers.

[Download](#)

Thank you to all early users for great feedback and bug reports !





8 months and counting...

Caphyon > Clang Power Tools

last 90 days ↶ Export ...

Acquisition Rating & Reviews Q & A

Total Acquisition

22,260 | **54,923**
Last 90 Days | Till Date



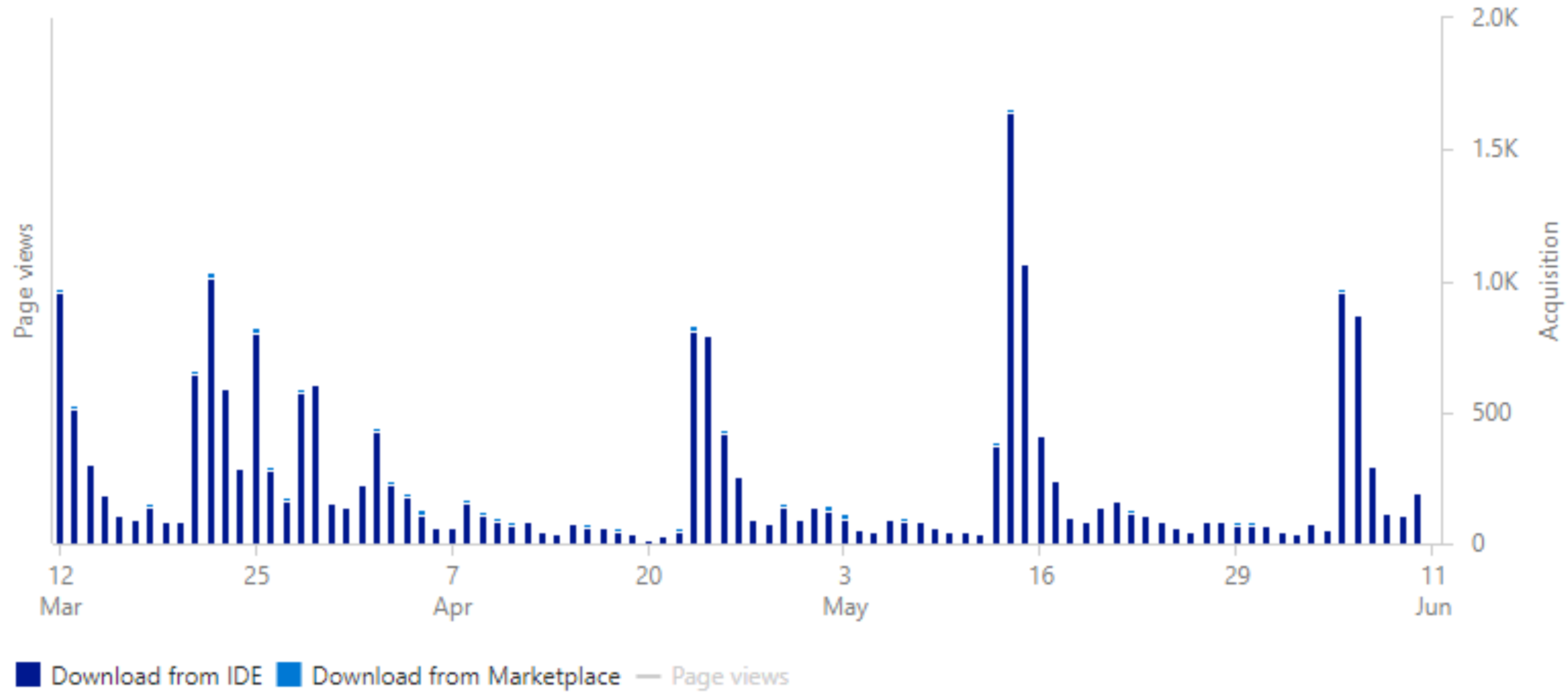
22,260 | **21.4K**
Download from IDE
906
Download from Marketplace

Conversion Funnel



100% (6.1K)
Page views
14.9% (906)
Download from Marketplace

Acquisition Trend





8 months and counting...

- 55,000 installs 🎉
- 30+ releases
- 147 reported issues fixed
- 22 Git forks
- 100+ stars/followers (GitHub)
- 50+ external PRs

Not bad for a "hobby" project 🧐

**A big Thank You to Gabriel & Ionuț,
for all the great work they put into this project
and to all our community contributors**





www.clangpowertools.com



facebook.com/ClangPowerTools



[@ClangPowerTools](https://twitter.com/ClangPowerTools)

C++ Slack is your friend



<https://cpplang.slack.com>

CppLang Slack auto-invite:

<https://cpplang.now.sh/>



Cpplang

cpplang.slack.com



CppCast

```
auto CppCast = pod_cast<C++>("http://cppcast.com");
```



Rob Irving

@robwirving

Jason Turner

@lefticus

<http://cpp.chat>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsefcSZGxO9ITBqFbsV3sJg/>

<https://overcast.fm/itunes1378325120/cpp-chat>



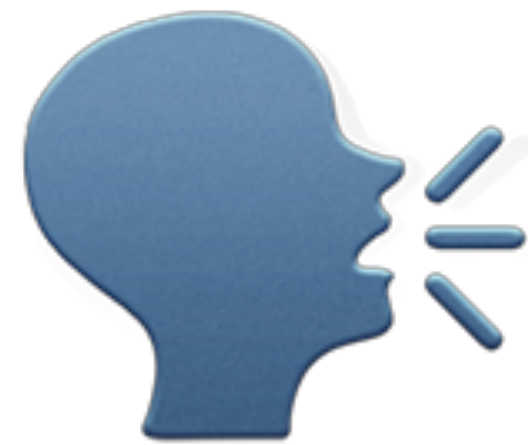
Jon Kalb

@_JonKalb

Phil Nash

@phil_nash

Questions



@ciura_victor