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bharry's WebLog

Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Time for a little bit of a teaser post...

We've been working on the next Power Tools release for Team Foundation Server 2008 for a while now. I think I mentioned before that we really wanted to make this next release a "major" Power Tools release and I'm happy to report that I think we have accomplished it. I think you are going to be incredibly happy with work we've got coming out. We are just wrapping up development this week. It will then take a few weeks of verification and "shipping" process. I'm hoping to get the update out in late October as the "Team Foundation Server Power Tools - October '08 Release". One bit of expectation setting I want to do is that because this release contains such a substantial surface area of functionality, I kind of think of it as a "beta" or "pre-release" of the capabilities. What I mean is that it really isn't done. It's far enough along to be very useful but there's plenty of more things to do. What I have in mind is basically having the Decemberish Power Tools release essentially be "Part 2" of this work. Between now and then we will finish up some things we already know we need to do and will be looking hard for feedback from you for things you want.

Enough with the preamble and on to the meat...

There are 3 major new components to the October Power Tools release and the usual incremental improvements.

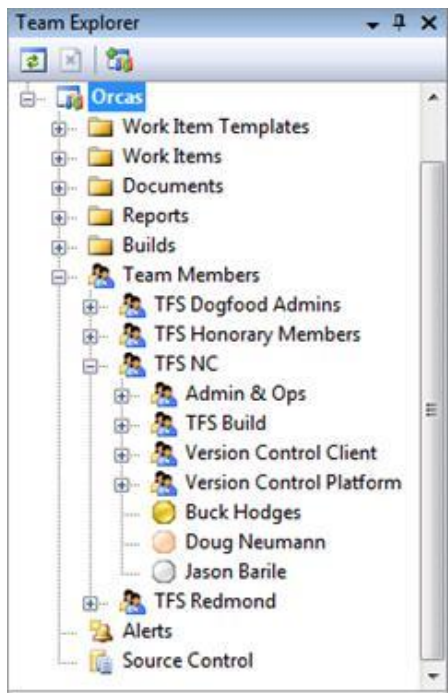
- | **Team Members** - We've added a new node to the Team Explorer called "Team Members". It appears under each Team Project and is used to identify who are the people who work on the project. It serves as a "pivot point" for information about and operations on people and teams.
- | **Windows Shell Extension** - We've built a Windows shell extension that allows you to do the core version control operations directly inside the Windows Explorer without using the Team Explorer.
- | **PowerShell Support** - We've started working on a PowerShell pipeline and commandlets for TFS. Our initial set support basic version control operations but over time we plan to add work item tracking, administration, build and more.

Note: This post is not intended to be a "how-to" post. I will post separate posts on each feature that go into more detail on how to make all of this work.

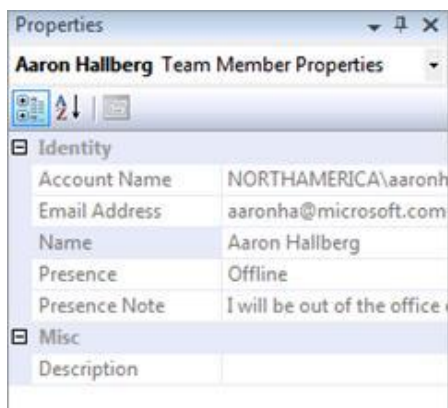
Team Members

The Team Members node in Team Explorer allows you to identify the people who are participants in a project and organize them into sub teams if necessary. It relies on the TFS group management system and its integration with Windows/Active Directory. It enables performing a variety of TFS operations where "people" are input to those operations. Also it takes advantage of the team organizational structure to organize information that is particularly relevant to specific teams.

Once you have defined what TFS group represents your team, you will see new information in the Team Explorer. You can see here the new "Team Members" entry and a breakdown of the TFS Team into subteams. You will also notice that there is a presence indicator next to each person in the Team Explorer. That's due to the fact that we have built fairly substantial IM/Collaboration integration.

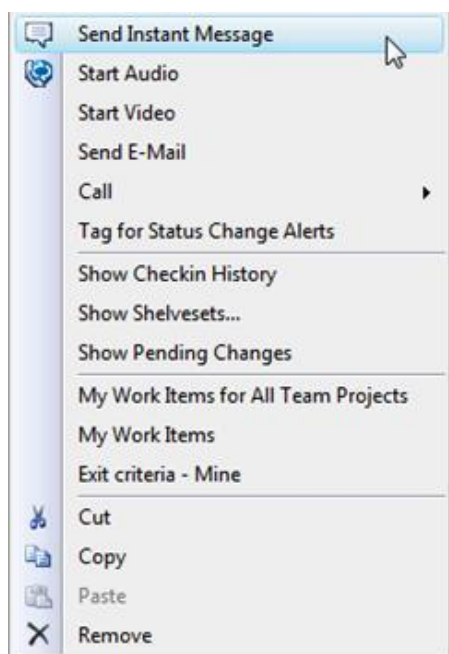


When you select a user or a group additional information is displayed about them in the VS Properties window.



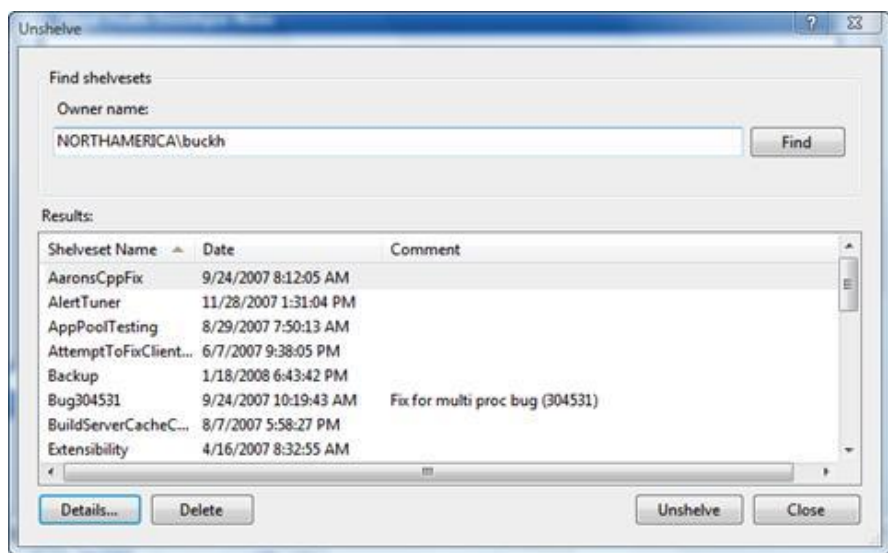
Things you can do with People

When you right click on a user, you start to see the kinds of things you can now do with this new Team Members Power Tool.



The top section is all of your communication functions. You can start and IM conversation with one or more people, do computer to computer audio, video, send and email or call on the telephone (assuming you computer is configured for it). If you IM provider supports it (In this case, Office Communicator does), you can tag people for notification when their presence status changes.

The next section enables you to version control operations using people as a pivot. My favorite scenario is that I want to do a code review for someone so I right click on them, choose Show Shelvesets... and easily see their shelvesets available for review...



I also like that I can easily see what someone is currently working on by selecting "Show Pending Changes"

Name	User	Workspace	Change	Folder
Microsoft.TeamFou...	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/Workflow
ActivitiesResources...	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/Workflow/Activities
GetActivity.csproj	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/UnitTests/Activities/GetActivity
GlobalSuppressions...	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/Workflow
MSTestActivity.cs	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/Workflow/Activities
TfsBuildActivity.cs	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/Workflow/Activities
BaseMSBuildActivit...	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/Workflow/Activities
MSBuildActivity.cs	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/Workflow/Activities
GetImpactedTestsT...	NORTHAMERICA\...	Lab26VSTS [A...	edit	\$/Orcas/Lab26VSTS/edev/aftershock/BuildIntegration/Tasks
TfsBuild.proj	NORTHAMERICA\...	AARONHA-L...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/BranchDefinitions/tbarch1/Nightly
Microsoft.TeamFou...	NORTHAMERICA\...	Lab26VSTS [A...	edit	\$/Orcas/Lab26VSTS/edev/aftershock/BuildIntegration
GetImpactedTestsA...	NORTHAMERICA\...	Lab26VSTS [A...	edit	\$/Orcas/Lab26VSTS/edev/aftershock/BuildIntegration/Activities
Microsoft.TeamFou...	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/targets
TfsBuild.Proj	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/targets
Resources.resx	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/suitesrc/TFS/TeamBuild/TeamBuildTestsLibrary
DefaultBuildProcess...	NORTHAMERICA\...	TBArch1 [AA...	edit	\$/Orcas/feature/tbarch1/vset/SCM/BigBuild/common

And see what they've recently checked in with "Show Checkin History"

Chang...	User	Date	Comment
526511	charry	8/12/2008 3:50:06 PM	Added registry fall-thru Fixed another turish I problem in the DB Scripts
521457	charry	8/7/2008 10:59:39 AM	Ported all SP1 features and bug fixes to the feature branch. Fixed a turkish I problem in the security table
500410	charry	7/19/2008 1:58:03 PM	Added the NotificationQueue cleanup job extension
497342	charry	7/16/2008 3:33:55 PM	Added the new SQL Notification Service (TeamFoundationSqlNotificationService) This allows you to
490491	charry	7/10/2008 8:21:54 AM	Single Database work complete. All object names have been resolved to unique names. All database v
480903	charry	6/30/2008 2:06:50 PM	Removed the FrameworkRequestContext Added GetService() to the TeamFoundationRequestConte

The following section is a configurable list of work item queries. Each query has in it somewhere, an "@me" query parameter. When you right click on a user and choose a work item query, @me is replaced with the user's name and the work item query is executed. So, for example if I wanted to show all of Craig's work items, I'd get... Of course, since the queries are configurable, you can make them anything you like.

ID	Rank	Iteration Path	Work Item Type	State	Title
132825		Orcas	Task	Closed	Update Activity Logging to take into ac
139629		Orcas\Orcas	Task	Closed	Merge streaming server changes from
172562		Orcas\Rosario	Task	Closed	Dev: No Build errors
172566		Orcas\Rosario	Task	Closed	Specs written for the first phase of ETM
172575		Orcas\Rosario	Task	Closed	ETM Development work
198448		Orcas\Rosario\I7	Task	Closed	ETM: Investigated and determined bac
202696		Orcas\Rosario\I7	Task	Closed	ETM: Get warehouse up and working v

Task 132825 : TF20012: Field 'DevDiv Group' cannot be empty.

Title: Update Activity Logging to take into account the streaming time. Discipline: Development

Classification

Area: Orcas ID: 125194

Iteration: Orcas

Status

Assigned to: Craig Harry State: Closed

Rank: Reason: Completed

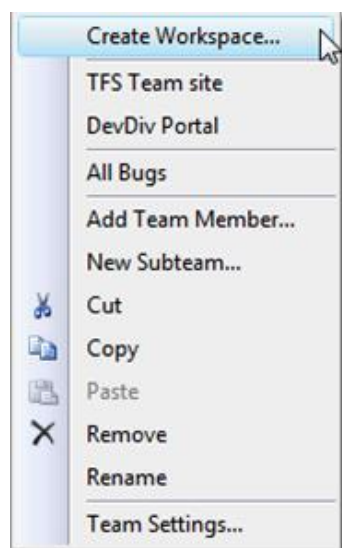
Description: Move the activity Logging to the common infrastructure and update the points that we take Start and End time to include all execution.

The final section is for organizing your sub teams. You can cut/copy/paste/delete people in groups. You can, of course also do this the traditional way with the Team Project Settings ->

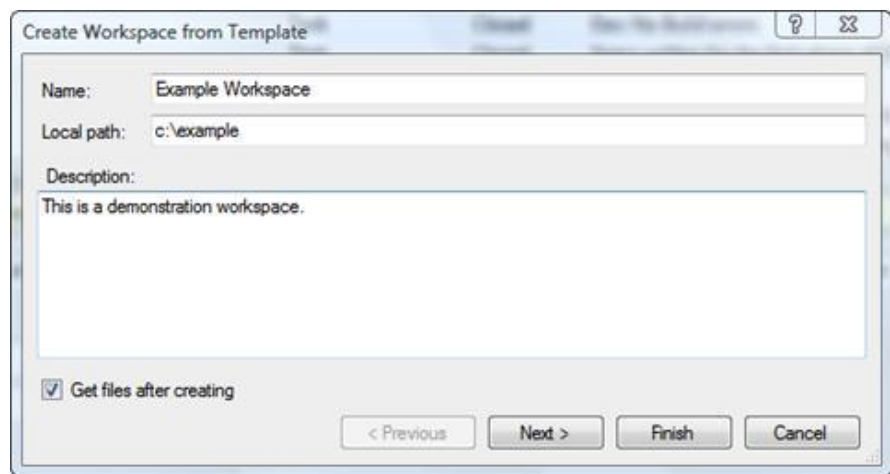
Group Membership dialog but this provides a more convenient way to do it. The Team Members node also supports drag & drop to rearrange your sub teams.

Things you can do with Teams

When you right click on a team, you get a slightly different menu...

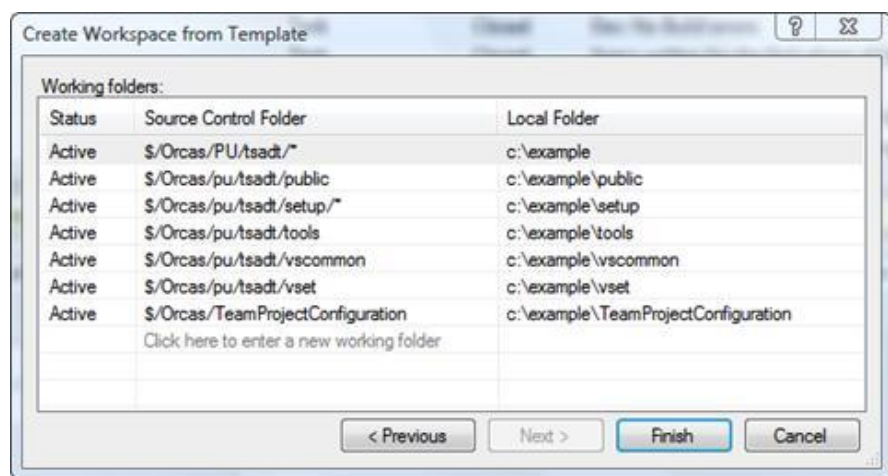


The first section is actions people want to perform on the team. The only one we support right now is "Create Workspace". Create Workspace is there to solve the following problem. Someone new joins your team and wants to start working on the source code. They need to get it all on their machine but they are not sure what all source they need or how it needs to be laid out. As part of a team definition, you can define a workspace template for your team. Creating a workspace will use that template to create a workspace and give an experience like this...



This first tab in the wizard allows you to specify a name for the workspace and a "root" path on your hard drive where you want to put the source code. You can also type a description for your workspace and request that all the source code be automatically retrieved when you click "Finish" (or not).

You can hit "Next" to preview what the created workspace will look like.



You can also parameterize your workspace template with a branch so that you can use the same workspace template for multiple branches and the workspace creation dialog will include another entry field for the branch to create the workspace for.

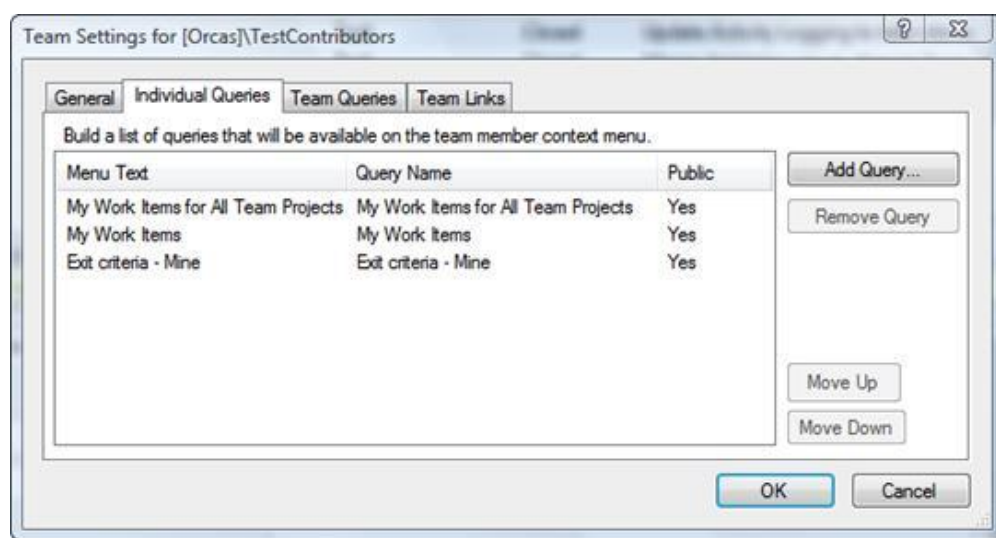
The next section on the Team right click menu is a configurable list of urls that are important to your team. They could be links to specs, wikis, or anything else that is important to you.

Following the urls is a section of work item queries much like the work item queries on the "people" menu. The primary difference is that these are *not* parameterized with an @me macro. They are just whatever queries are relevant for your team and no parameter substitution is performed when they are selected.

Next is the section that allows you to arrange your sub teams (much like on the "people" menu, but there's more you can do with subteams).

Finally comes the "settings" section. In the menu I included here you see the Team Settings... option which allows you to define team options that are shared by the whole team. If you right click on the "Team Members" node, you will also see a "Personal Settings..." menu option. It allows you to configure options that are specific to your use of the Team Members functionality for a given Team Project.

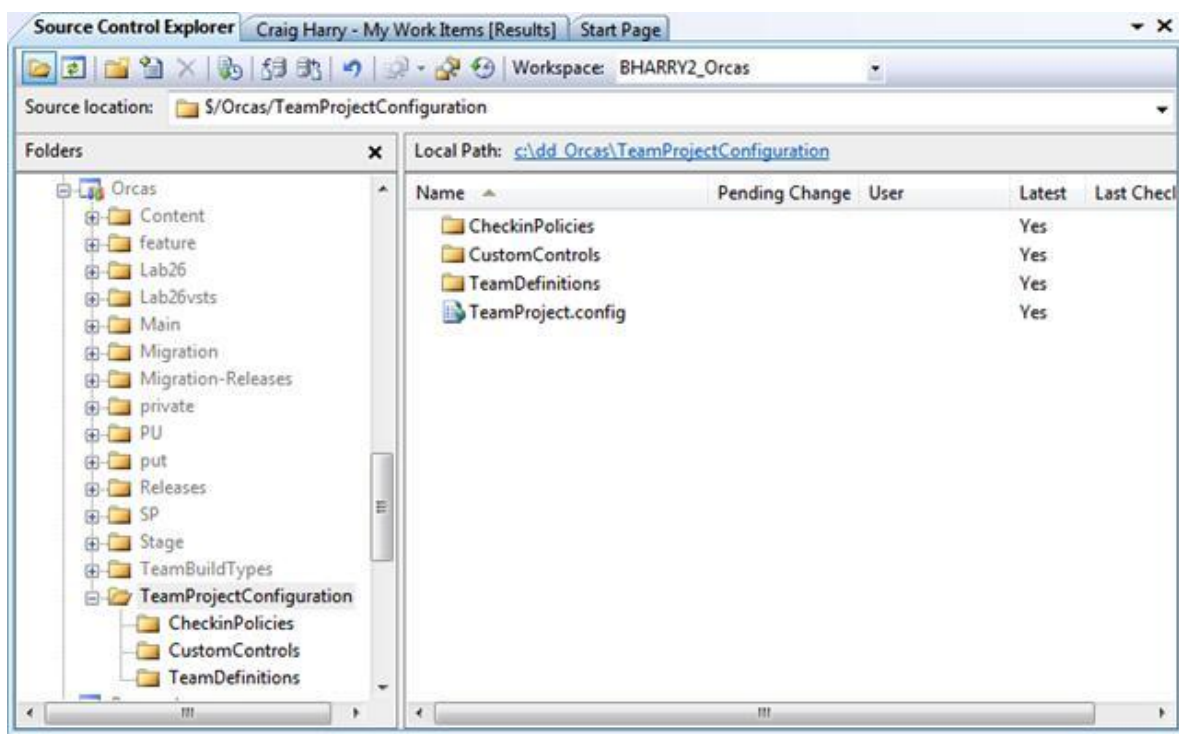
I won't post every screen in the settings dialogs because it would be a ton. I'll just give you a little flavor. For instance, here's the tab that enables you to configure the list of work item queries for the individuals on the team.



Custom components

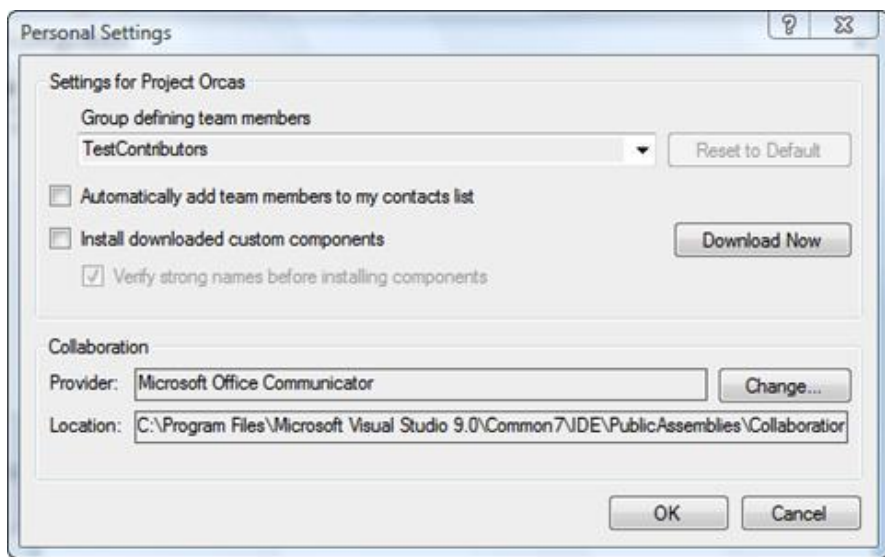
The last thing on the Team Member Power Tool capability that I want to talk about is how custom components are installed on TFS clients. TFS is a VERY customizable system. Part of our customization story is custom components that can be installed on your clients and will work together with the server to give a desired experience. The two most common examples of this are Checkin Policies and Work Item Custom Controls. Since the day we introduced those features, customers have asked for a way to distribute custom components like these to clients rather than having to manually install them. Well, I'm happy to say that this new release of the Power Tools does just that!

Due to the fact that downloading custom components and running them on clients can be dangerous, there's a fair amount of care taken and some configuration necessary to enable it. Custom components for a Team Project are checked in to a new "special" folder called `$/<TeamProject>/TeamProjectConfiguration`. Let me show you a few screen shots and that will help walk you through how this works.



Checkin Policies should be checked into the CheckinPolicies folder and Work Item Custom Controls should be checked into CustomControls. The TeamDefinitions folder is where information gathered by the "Team Settings..." dialog is placed. You will want to restrict access to these folders appropriately so that people can't silently distribute random code onto other people's machines.

Whenever a Team Members node in the Team Explorer is loaded or refreshed, the contents of these folders are downloaded onto each client. The Personal Settings dialog controls what happens then. By default (if you never change your personal settings), that's it and the custom controls and checkin policies will not actually be installed for use. Here's what the Personal Settings dialog looks like.



The first setting controls what group to use as "your team" for the selected Team Project.

The second controls whether or not team members are automatically added to you IM contacts list so that you get presence change updates as they come and go.

The next few have to do with the custom components we are talking about. What you see is the default settings with "Install downloaded custom components" disabled. If you check it, the custom components will be installed whenever they are downloaded (See the docs in the Power Tools release for details around what "installation" means). When you enable installation, the "Verify strong names before installing components" checkbox is enabled. By default it will only install components that are signed with one of an approved list of strong name keys (Again, see the docs for details of how to configure this). What I imagine (and hope) most people will do is distribute a list of approved keys to their clients, enable installation and sign all of their custom components with their keys.

The final setting in this dialog is how you configure your collaboration provider. It's a good segue into the last thing I want to talk about on the Team Members Power Tool.

Collaboration Providers

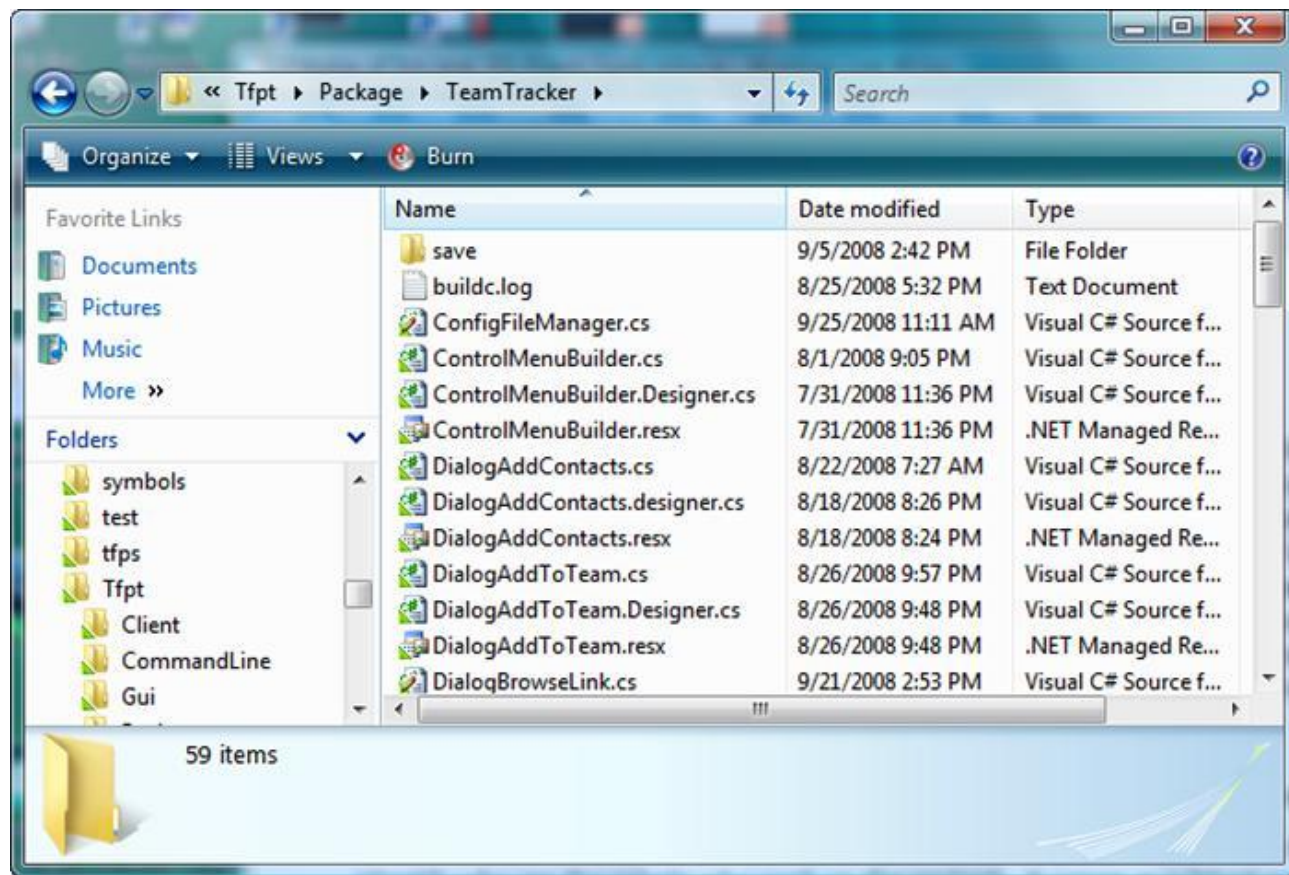
Because there are numerous Instant Messaging systems out there and we can't possibly build integration with all of them, we have built an extensible system that allows you to build integration into whatever IM system you use. There is small set of public interfaces that you must implement and then you can fully integrate your IM system into Visual Studio Team System. I'm hoping we'll see some CodePlex projects go up quickly to create these plug-ins. We're happy to provide all of the information we can. "Out of the box" we install providers for Windows Live Messenger and Microsoft Office Communicator.

I don't expect the screenshots to stay completely accurate for very long. We've still got lots of ideas for improvements but I think what we have now is pretty terrific and we're looking forward to your feedback.

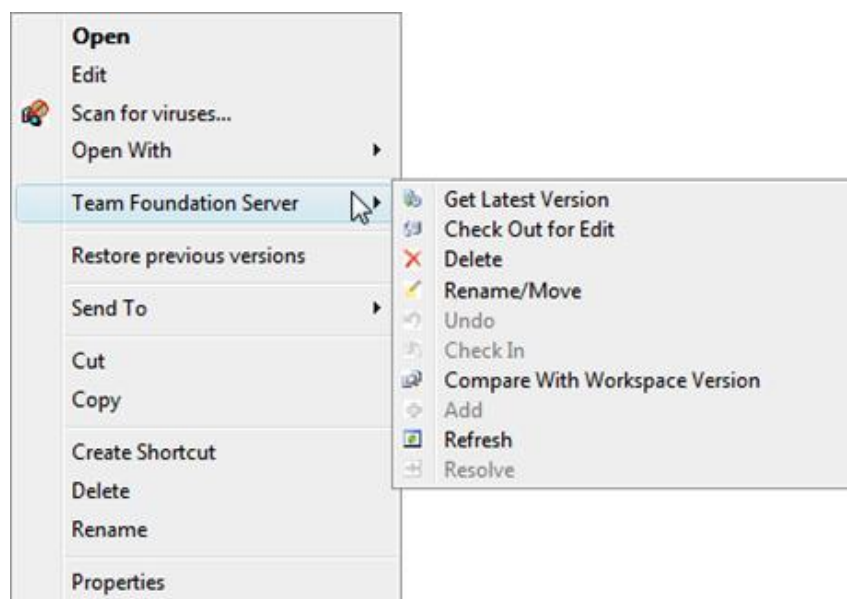
Windows Shell Extension

We've built a Windows Shell Extension that allows you to do version control operations directly from the Windows shell. No need to run VS/Team Explorer to do basic stuff any more. It will even show up in the open/save common file dialogs of your favorite applications - giving you instant application integration.

Windows Explorer will display glyphs that indicate the status of files and includes a right click menu for version control operations. It's been a fairly common customer request since we shipped TFS 2005 and I'm happy to be providing it. Here's what a folder looks like on my machine.

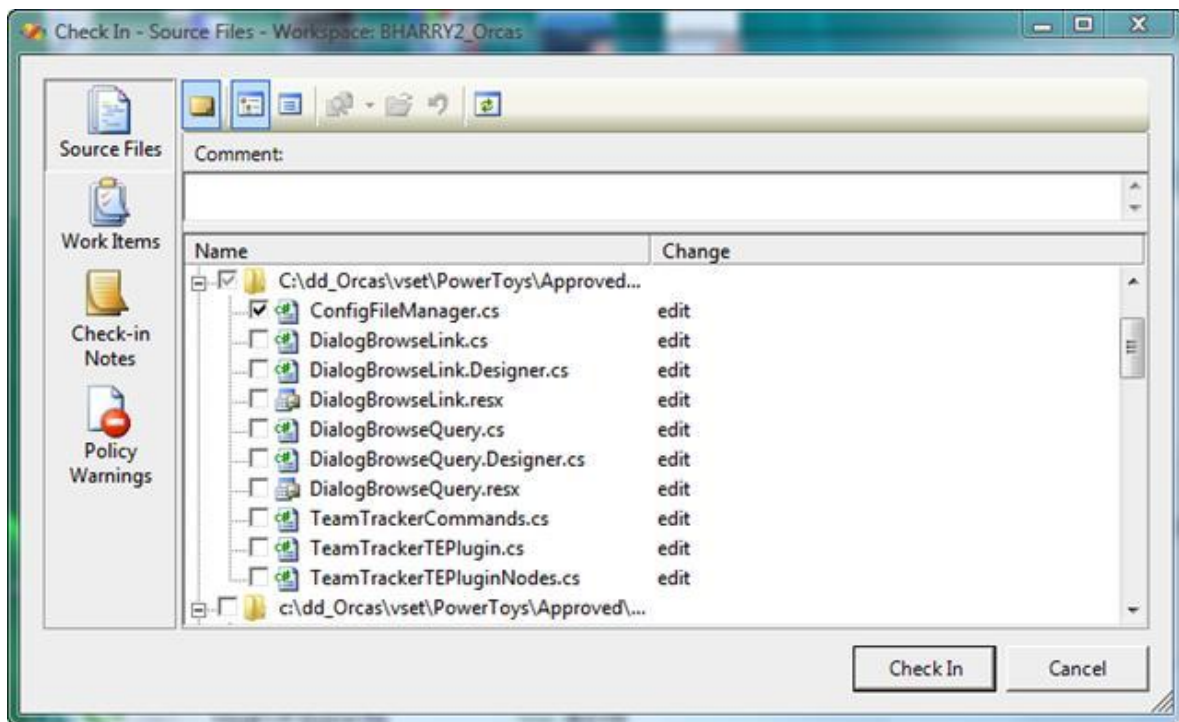


The little green triangle in the lower left corner indicates that a file is under version control (note buildc.log doesn't have one). The little pencil on the lower left (as in ConfigFileManager.cs) indicates the file has a pending change. The context menu looks like this.

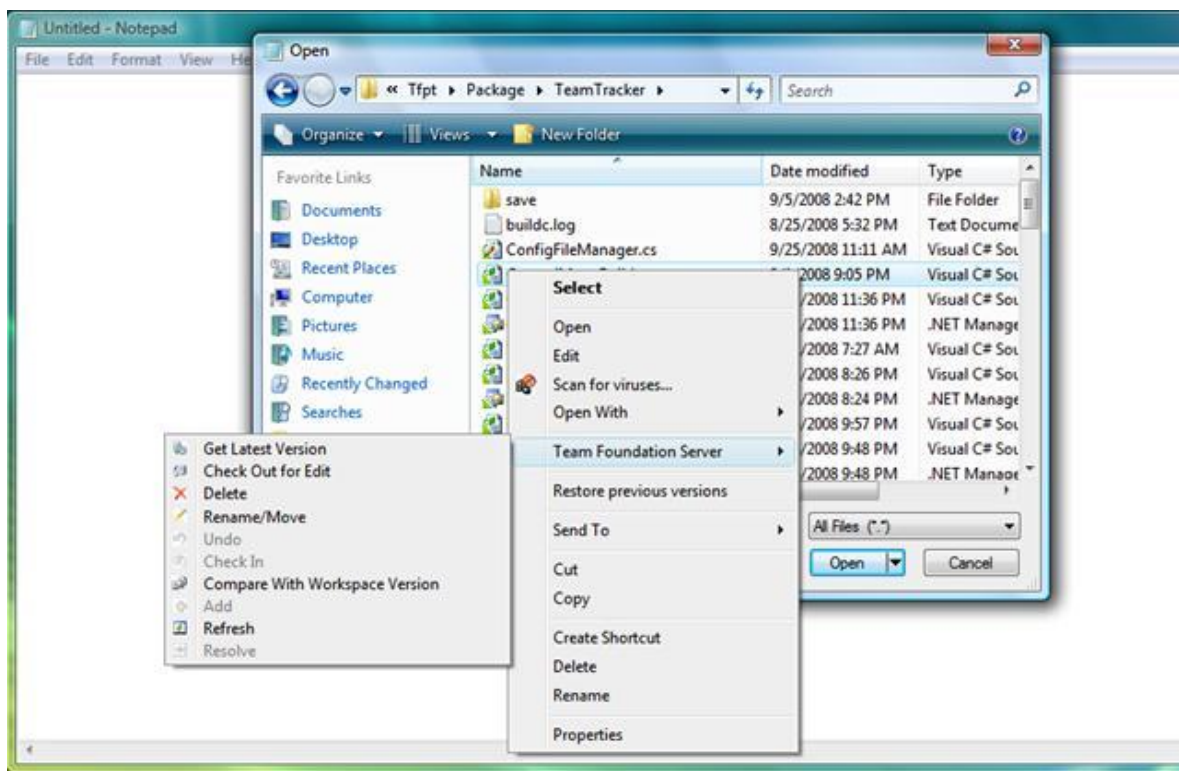


and contains the most common version control operations that you will use. More sophisticated operations (like branching and merging) will still require the use of Team Explorer. Based on feedback you give us, we'll build in additional popular operations over time. Selecting these operations brings up the dialogs you are used to seeing with TFS (when appropriate). For

example, for Check In, you'd see:



Here's a screen shot of what it looks like inside the open file dialog in notepad. It would look similarly in Microsoft Word or any other application that uses the common file dialogs.



Hopefully this will make TFS accessible to and more convenient for even more people.

PowerShell Support

We've started down the path of creating a PowerShell interface for TFS. PowerShell is an awesome (and relatively new) scripting technology that integrates amazingly well with the .NET Framework. Many products are adopting PowerShell as their primary administrative scripting interface. Microsoft Exchange is a great example of a product with extensive PowerShell support. But in addition all of the capabilities that products expose, you also have the full power

of the .NET Framework in your hands. Perhaps the most powerful thing about PowerShell though is the conventions they've developed around input and output of commandlets that enables you to easily combine them in surprising ways and do things you wouldn't have imagined possible.

We've just barely scratched the surface with our initial TFS PowerShell implementation but we are hoping that it sparks interest and some of you in the community will engage with us to help us evolve it into a great way to script TFS. For now we have implemented a hand full of version control commands and a pipeline and glue to enable scripting. If you type "help *-tfs*" you will get the following list of TFS PowerShell commands.

```
Get-TfsPendingChange
Add-TfsPendingChange
Remove-TfsPendingChange
New-TfsShelveset
Remove-TfsShelveset
Get-TfsShelveset
Restore-TfsShelveset
Get-TfsWorkspace
Update-TfsWorkspace
Get-TfsChangeset
Set-TfsChangeset
New-TfsChangeset
Get-TfsServer
Get-TfsChildItem
Get-TfsItemHistory
Get-TfsItemProperty
Select-TfsItem
```

Here are some examples of some cool scripting things you can do with Powershell and TFS:

Delete shelvesets older than 90 days

```
Get-TfsShelveset | where { $_.CreationDate -le [DateTime]::Now.AddDays(-90) } |
Remove-TfsShelveset
```

Get a list of all files that changed between two versions

```
Get-TfsItemHistory $/orcas -r -includeitems -version 575800~576111 | select-tfsitem
| %{$_.path}
```

```
Get-TfsItemHistory $/orcas -r -includeitems -version LBeta1~LBeta2 | select-tfsitem
| %{$_.path}
```

Show a list of files in a given shelveset that I have local changes pended against.

```
Get-TfsPendingChange -shelveset TfptReview | Get-TfsPendingChange
```

Show a list of files that are locked in a source tree.

```
Get-TfsPendingChange $/orcas -r -user * | where { $_.IsLock }
```

Destroy all files that are already deleted in a directory tree.

```
Get-TfsChildItem $/path/to/dir -r -deleted | where { $_.deletionid -ne 0 } | Remove-
TfsItem -force
```

And finally, for a really cool one to demonstrate how far you can go... A script that will send an email to everyone with shelfe sets more than a year old (note you need to replace all occurrences of you and yourcompany.com with the right values :)).

```

$smtp = new-object Net.Mail.SmtpClient("smtphost.yourcompany.com")

$smtp.UseDefaultCredentials = $true

$oldSS = get-tfsshelveset -owner * | where {$_.creationdate -le
[DateTime]::Now.AddMonths(-12)}

foreach ($owner in $oldSS | select ownername -unique)
{
    $body = $oldSS | where { $_.ownername -eq $owner.ownername } | ft name,
creationdate | out-string;

    $alias = $owner.ownername.remove(0, $owner.ownername.indexof('\') + 1) +
"@yourcompany.com";

    $smtp.send("you@yourcompany.com", $alias, "Notice: you have shelvesets older
than a year", $body)
}

```

Hopefully this is enough to get you interested in looking into this more.

Other Stuff

In addition to the "big" features I've just covered and the standard plethora of bug fixes that we always include in every Power Tools release, there are other smaller features worth calling out.

tfpt unshelve /undo - People often use shelvesets to do code reviews. Sometimes they want to unshelve them to be able to review them carefully. The problem they run into is how to remove all traces of them from their workspace when they are done. You can use tf undo but there are issues. How do you remember which changes were from the shelveset and which were already in your workspace? How do you get rid of pending adds (because tf undo doesn't delete the local file when you undo and add for fear it might be deleting something you want to keep). **tfpt unshelve /undo** to the rescue! You provide it a shelveset name and it will find all pending changes in your workspace that match the changes in the shelveset and undo them (including deleting the local files for pending adds).

TFS Best Practices Analyzer improvements - With every release we improve the level of diagnostics the BPA tool can perform. In this release we've added support for diagnosing SSL configuration issues and for diagnosing more problems that lead to Team Project Creation Wizard failures.

Conclusion

Sorry about the length of this post, but I warned you it was going to be a big release :). This is one of the best Power Tools releases we've had so far. I hope you are as excited about it as I am. As I said in the beginning, none of the major features here are as complete as we'd like them to be. We're imagining that our next Power Tools release focuses on the same areas and we are looking for your feedback on where we should take them. Please let us know what you think we should do.

We are only a few short weeks from "releasing" these awesome new capabilities. I'll let you know as soon as the download is available. I look forward to your feedback.

Brian

Published Wednesday, October 01, 2008 7:29 PM by [bharry](#) ★★★★★

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Comments

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Wednesday, October 01, 2008 9:54 PM by Sajee

Totally awesome. People are going to love this!

THANK YOU!

The Next TFS Power Tools

Wednesday, October 01, 2008 10:13 PM by [Developers, Developers, Developers!](#)

For a preview of the next TFS Power Tools release, please read this blog .

Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Wednesday, October 01, 2008 10:23 PM by [The Liquidator](#)

One month after after our NZ Team system users group talk on Visual Studio Team system power Tools, over

ブログ投稿紹介 | Next TFS Power Tools の内容が明らかに!

Wednesday, October 01, 2008 10:25 PM by [長沢智治のライフサイクルブログ](#)

こんにちは。テクニカルフェローの Brian Harry のブログに、次の TFS Power Tools のリリース予定次期とその内容が Preview of the next TFS Power Tools

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 1:42 AM by Klaus Even Enevoldsen

Wow, this is great, i like the shell extensions! Don't tell my boss about the "Show Checkin History" :-)

Брайон Херри рассказывает о следующей версии TFS Power Tools

Thursday, October 02, 2008 2:32 AM by [Denis Pasechnik](#)

Упор делается на 3 компанеты October Power Tools Team Members - We've added a new node to the Team Explorer

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 3:04 AM by [int19h](#)

Will you call that shell integration component TortoiseTFS? ;)

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 3:08 AM by Martin

That sounds great. Can't wait to get my hands on it :-)

BTW, will the Powershell support allow tab completion on version control paths, e.g. like `get-tfspendingchanges "$/foo/ [tab]`

and Powershell completes the path like in the file system?

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 3:52 AM by [Mihai Cotu](#)

Very nice and useful feature! Every time you impress me with this new feature and I ask myself how I could live without them until now :) ... also, they are so simple (IM) and also exist "in the wild" (Windows Explorer shell) for long time.

Preview Of The Next TFS Power Tools Release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 4:32 AM by [Maor David](#)

For a preview of the next TFS Power Tools release, please read Brian Harry's blog . The next version

Urmatorul release de TFS Power Tools

Thursday, October 02, 2008 4:41 AM by [Stay hungry ... stay foolish ... stay funny :\)](#)

Undeva in aprilie, la MVP Summit, am aflat ca se lucreaza foarte puternic la urmatoarea versiune de Power

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 5:01 AM by [hinshelm](#)

Fantastic! I was thinking of building that in myself when I had time :) How about allowing IM with someone who has a file checked out. potencialy requesting that a file be checked in :)

Las TFS Power Tools de octubre (un preview)

Thursday, October 02, 2008 5:06 AM by [Luis Fraile](#)

Vaya vaya, me levanto prontito por la mañana (menuda semanita de madrugar que llevo), y veo en las feeds

Nuovi Power Tools per Team Foundation Server

Thursday, October 02, 2008 5:38 AM by [Aldo .NET Weblog](#)

Nuovi Power Tools per Team Foundation Server

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 6:53 AM by [bharry](#)

Martin, No, we don't support TFS auto complete (although I would kill for that feature). We'll look into whether or not it is even possible to do. This feature alone though would be enough to make me stop using the standard Windows shell and just use the PowerShell from now on :)

hinshelm, I agree adding more IM hooks everywhere we have people in the UI is something we'd like to do. We can, perhaps make some minor inroads now but deep integration will have to wait for a full product release because we'll need to change some of the shipping bits.

Brian

Nuovi Power Tools per Team Foundation Server

Thursday, October 02, 2008 8:41 AM by [{ The Smoking Code }](#)

Nuovi Power Tools per Team Foundation Server

Why I Love the Team System Team

Thursday, October 02, 2008 8:52 AM by [Joel From Canada](#)

I really enjoy being a Microsoft Regional Director and an MVP for Team System, however, I don't think

TeamMessenger Preview in the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 9:34 AM by [Shai Raiten](#)

Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release For the full article please read Brian Harry's blog . This

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 10:30 AM by [ramonduraes](#)

Interesting! More communication in the project!!!

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 10:45 AM by [joshua](#)

This is awesome... great work!!!

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 10:55 AM by [ramonduraes](#)

I'm already with a client awaiting this functionality 'Windows Shell Extension' because he has a legacy system that does not support the VSS:) Very good!

Preview of next TFS Power Tools Release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 11:13 AM by [Jason Barile - Microsoft in Raleigh, NC](#)

Chances are you've already heard about this, but if you don't read Brian Harry's blog regularly, this

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 11:23 AM by [Bryan Hinton](#)

Brian - great stuff coming out - I can't wait to show our development teams. They will love the Windows Shell Extensions for sure, but I love the People features that really starts to showcase the many different things you can do with TFS as well as highlighting the collaboration concept that has been one of the key value propositions of TFS from the start.

WOW! New TFS Power Tool release coming

Thursday, October 02, 2008 12:08 PM by [Ed Glas's blog on VSTS load testing](#)

The TFS Power Tool release on the tarmac is awesome! Check out Brian's blog post for a preview. Brian

WOW! The new TFS Power Tools are Coming and they are AWESOME...

Thursday, October 02, 2008 1:00 PM by [Ravings of a Developer TS](#)

Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release This is a major release that has been under development for

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 1:01 PM by James Luei

This is what we are looking for in the past!!! Great Job for the TFS Power Tools team. And Really hope the team can deep through to Automated Deployment features on coming new release.

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 1:32 PM by [Eric Lee](#)

Great stuff! I love the team and IM features!

Eric.

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 2:49 PM by MarcT

Wow, you guys are making sticking with 2005 more and more painful all the time! I really wish I had time to play with the powershell stuff.

bharry's WebLog : Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 3:00 PM by [Dave's Team System Blog](#)

If you're subscribed to my blog, I think you should subscribe to Brian's--it's one of the most prolific

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 3:39 PM by Pablo

This release looks very promising Brian. Regarding the concept of "teams", will it be allowed to assign work items to teams defined in the team hierarchy?

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, October 02, 2008 4:15 PM by [bharry](#)

No, at least not automatically. You could edit your work item type definitions to add the teams to the pick list. I'll have to think about how we could make this easier. Thanks,

Brian

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Friday, October 03, 2008 12:19 AM by [daveyaki](#)

Know anything about the Build Notification tool broken after VS2008 SP1? All good in this release?

<https://connect.microsoft.com/VisualStudio/feedback/ViewFeedback.aspx?FeedbackID=357244>

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Friday, October 03, 2008 2:02 AM by Richard

Any chance you'll be fixing the bug with the build notification tool that results from applying SP1?

CI is _almost_ pointless without it.

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Friday, October 03, 2008 7:21 AM by [bharry](#)

Dave, Richard, yes, the build notification tool has been fixed and the October release will work with both Team Explorer 2008 and Team Explorer 2008 SP1.

Brian

VSTS Links - 10/03/2008

Friday, October 03, 2008 9:18 AM by [Team System News](#)

Brian Harry on Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release Martin Woodward on Radio TFS on Check-in...

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Friday, October 03, 2008 11:29 AM by [Keith Hill](#)

Thank you! Thank you! The PowerShell support is a very welcome addition. I can't wait to get my hands on this drop. One minor quibble on names - I think *-TfsPendingChange should be *-TfsStatus to be consistent with the rest of your tools (Team Explorer and tf.exe).

The Windows Explorer shell integration will be very nice to have. I know a lot of folks where I work are going to be very happy with this feature.

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Friday, October 03, 2008 11:35 AM by [Scott Weinstein](#)

Love the Windows Shell Extension! May I suggest that there is at least the option to have automatic checkouts on file writes.

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Friday, October 03, 2008 11:37 AM by [Scott Weinstein](#)

Love the Windows Shell Extension!

May I suggest that there is at least the option to have automatic checkouts on file writes. The closer TFS can be to TortiseSVN in frictionless version control, the better.

The October Power Tools Release

Friday, October 03, 2008 2:44 PM by [But it works on my PC!](#)

I posted about the problems of using Blend with source control , specifically TFS. Well the next version

The October Power Tools Release

Friday, October 03, 2008 3:09 PM by [Richard Fennell](#)

I posted about the problems of using Blend with source control , specifically TFS. Well the next version

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Friday, October 03, 2008 5:52 PM by Nathan Berg

Any chance you could add a Get_TfsPermission to the PowerShell snapin? It is not easy to find anomalies with permissions in source today, I think this would help a lot. Example, I'd like to find all nodes recursively that have any permissions beyond what they've inherited.

Regardless, this looks like a great upgrade!

Ways to access Team Foundation Server

Saturday, October 04, 2008 2:16 PM by [Visual Studio Team System \(VSTS\) Blog - by Neno Loje](#)

Pick your favorite tool for your task/job: From Visual Studio : Visual Studio 2008: Visual Studio Team

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Saturday, October 04, 2008 7:38 PM by [Keith Hill](#)

+10 for Nate's suggestion to add a Get-TfsPermission cmdlet. As we lock down perms on various branches, devs wind up getting added directly to a source control dir to checkin a bug fix. Over time this gets out of control and there isn't a feasible way to query this info in the GUI that I'm aware of.

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Sunday, October 05, 2008 12:59 AM by Gabo

Great stuff!, looking forward for the release.

Gabo

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Sunday, October 05, 2008 6:06 PM by [daveyaki](#)

Brian,

Many thanks for the reply. Look forward to this!

Dave

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Monday, October 06, 2008 6:30 AM by [Krishnamurthy](#)

Brian,

Great stuff! Very good enhancements (Team Members, IM, Compare with Workspace version)

Thanks

-Krishnamurthy Dixit

Visual Studio Team System - Sharepoint

Monday, October 06, 2008 8:18 AM by [Khurram Aziz](#)

I have been using Visual Studio Team System for a while now , and its really a cool set of tools to use.

Recent VSTS News

Thursday, October 09, 2008 9:25 AM by [Sajee's WebLog](#)

Lots happening in the VSTS World: VSTS Development Edition and VSTS Database Edition have been merged.

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Monday, October 20, 2008 3:36 PM by [Leo Vildosola](#)

These are all great features. Can't wait for the release!

Can you tell us if the Team Project Configuration supports, or will support, Custom Code Analysis Rules?

Next Power Tools Version

Saturday, October 25, 2008 5:24 AM by [SRLTeam](#)

This is going to be an amazing release... Check out the team collaboration features in the new power

Update on the October TFS Power Tools release.

Saturday, October 25, 2008 12:30 PM by [bharry's WebLog](#)

A few weeks ago, I blogged about our upcoming Power Tools release and the really cool new features that

[TFS2008] TFS October PowerTools, pues para Noviembre

Saturday, October 25, 2008 5:02 PM by [El Bruno](#)

Buenas, si como yo estás esperando el final de Octubre para cobrar la nómina y probar las nuevas

[TFS2008] TFS October PowerTools, pues para Noviembre
Saturday, October 25, 2008 5:02 PM by [El Bruno](#)

Buenas, si como yo estás esperando el final de Octubre para cobrar la nómina y probar las nuevas

[TFS2008] TFS October PowerTools, pues para Noviembre
Saturday, October 25, 2008 5:03 PM by [El Bruno](#)

Buenas, si como yo estás esperando el final de Octubre para cobrar la nómina y probar las nuevas

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release
Sunday, October 26, 2008 12:18 AM by [Aaron Powell](#)

Will it fix the bug in the TFS Build Notification app which stopped it working with VS 2008 SP1?

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release
Sunday, October 26, 2008 12:18 AM by [Aaron Powell](#)

Will it fix the bug in the TFS Build Notification app which stopped it working with VS 2008 SP1?

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release
Monday, October 27, 2008 9:59 PM by [buckh](#)

Aaron, yes that bug is fixed in this next release.

Buck

TFS imminent releases - watch the space
Wednesday, October 29, 2008 11:49 AM by [Willy-Peter Schaub's Cave of Chamomile Simplicity](#)

The two products that are on the verge of making an appearance are: TFS Power Tools October 2008 release

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release
Wednesday, October 29, 2008 6:21 PM by [GertGregers](#)

Looks very good Brian, especially the PowerShell addin.

When do you plan to include Remove-TfsItem, it didn't seem to make it in this release.

Gert

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release
Thursday, October 30, 2008 12:38 PM by [bharry](#)

We don't have a concrete plan for what we will add next. We are taking feedback on what people want. We will do another release in 3-6 months and will include the most popular additions.

Brian

Oct '08 TFS Power Tools are Available!
Saturday, November 08, 2008 8:02 AM by [bharry's WebLog](#)

Yes, I know it's November now :(We had originally planned to release them about two weeks ago but an

New TFS Power Tools – October 2008 Release
Saturday, November 08, 2008 9:58 AM by [Steve Lange](#)

Now that's what I call a power tool! Building on all the other great features previously released,

October 08 TFS Power Tools Available!
Saturday, November 08, 2008 10:02 AM by [Shai Raiten](#)

October 08 TFS Power Tools Available! You can read about all the cool new stuff in this release [here](#)

!!! Tfs beschikbaar in Windows Explorer !!!
Monday, November 10, 2008 2:26 AM by [Mark analyseert](#)

Oktober was nieuwe release beloofd van de TFS (team foundation) power tools. Ik had deze post al een

Oct '08 TFS Power Tools are Available!

Monday, November 10, 2008 12:14 PM by [ZaydKara](#)

The latest version of the TFS Power Tools is available for download here . You can read about all the

Oct '08 TFS Power Tools are available!

Monday, November 10, 2008 12:43 PM by [Daniel Sack](#)

Oct '08 TFS Power Tools are available!

So Many Cool Announcements, Where to Start?

Monday, November 10, 2008 1:44 PM by [Ravings of a Developer TS](#)

Visual Studio 2010 and the .NET Framework 4.0 week on Channel 9 The week of November 10th is Visual Studio

Velká novinky v TFS Power Tools

Tuesday, November 11, 2008 4:32 AM by [BonzBlog Michaela Juřka](#)

Poslední edice TFS Power Tools byla vydána 7. listopadu, ale nese zevnějšek; October 2008

Version d'octobre des PowerTools de Team Foundation Server 2008 disponible en téléchargement

Tuesday, November 11, 2008 3:47 PM by [Visual Studio Team System](#)

La version d'octobre des PowerTools pour Team Foundation Server 2008 est disponible en téléchargement

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, November 13, 2008 4:25 AM by [jean](#)

I'm hoping that Microsoft don't expose too many features by default so that TFS becomes unusable and people start to fall back on other simpler more lightweight bug tracking tools.

The VS2008 version of TFS is a little clunky, and the process of logging or updating an SBI is more cumbersome than in Eclipse.

Remember "Less is more!" Keep the default lightweight for us developers, we don't to spend our time wrestling with our bug tracking tool when we should be coding.

Thanks :)

Skype Collaboration Provider for TFS

Thursday, November 13, 2008 11:09 AM by [Visual Studio Team System \(VSTS\) Blog - by Neno Loje](#)

The Team Foundation Server Power Tools (October 2008) introduced a new "Team Members" node

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, November 13, 2008 11:12 AM by [Steven Borg](#)

This power tool release is the most useful, most powerful release yet. It is a MUST have.

Thanks, Microsoft for all the hard work. You guys are the reason TFS is the most powerful, most useful version control system out there.

Extending the new TFS Team Members Power Tool

Friday, November 14, 2008 10:04 AM by [bharry's WebLog](#)

The October release of the Team Foundation Power Tools includes a new feature called "Team Members" that

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Monday, November 24, 2008 8:46 PM by [Caleb Dougherty](#)

A really useful feature that could be added to the Explorer integration is extra TF columns that

It does not work for me.

When I re-start VS, error shows again. Personal settings now can be opened, but instead of showing <None>, again appears Windows Live Messenger. It seems that the configuration file , even that is changed , is re-generated again.

Also, I have Xp and if I set "Run as" administrator for the messenger application, it does not work for me.

It seems that this collaboration feature has not been tested enough and can not even be uninstalled or deactivated !

I hope this gets solved soon. If not, I will uninstalled the whole Power tool.

Best,

Hope anyone solves this ,

Best,

Carlos.

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, March 05, 2009 7:39 AM by Rohit

Hi,

I am not sure if this is a common issue, but the Process Template Editor tends to slow down after few uses. Some times it takes a good 1 minute to load the properties for a workflow state. I have to restart VS 2008 in order to get this working.

This never happened in the July 08 edition. I went back to July 08 edition for a few weeks and it worked like a charm. Once i came back to the new version, i am facing the same issue.

Any ideas?

Thanks

Rohit

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Thursday, March 05, 2009 8:22 AM by bharry

I wasn't aware of it. We'll look into it. Thank you.

Brian

Team Foundation Server Power Tools – Windows Shell Extension

Saturday, March 21, 2009 8:50 AM by Khurram Aziz

With Windows Shell Extension (Oct 2008) in Team Foundation Server Power Tools , you can interact with

re: Preview of the next TFS Power Tools release

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 3:08 AM by Rohit

Hi,

Wanted to know if a new version of Power tools is under development? I find this version a little buggy.

Also found this suggestion. Would be great if we can have this feature.

<https://connect.microsoft.com/VisualStudio/feedback/ViewFeedback.aspx?FeedbackID=263119>

Lastly, is there some documentation on creating workitems in VSTS 2010? as i am looking at converting my 2008 work items to 2010 as a POC (i am really thrilled with the new LinksControl :))

Thanks,

Rohit

Tfs beschikbaar in Windows Explorer

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 3:40 PM by [Mark analyseert](#)

Oktober was nieuwe release beloofd van de TFS (team foundation) power tools. Binnen deze release zit

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