Visual Studio Action

ⓘ The Visual Studio action in Continua is a wrapper around the devenv.com command line. If you're having trouble using the Visual Studio action, please refer to the Command Line Reference.

The Visual Studio action lets you set various options for the IDE, build projects, debug projects, and deploy projects.

Visual Studio

Name

A friendly name for this action (will be displayed in the actions workflow area).

Enabled

Determines if this action will be run within the relevant stage.

Solution File

The path and file name of your Visual Studio Solution (.sln) file.

Configuration

Which Configuration of the solution to build. eg. "Release|AnyCPU" or "Debug|x86".

Action

The action type. Select one of the following:

- **Build** - Builds a solution or project using a specified solution configuration file. [/build]
- **Clean** - Cleans all intermediary files and output directories. [/clean]
- **Deploy** - Deploys a solution after a build or rebuild. Applies to managed code projects only. [/deploy]
- **Rebuild** - Cleans and then builds the specified solution configuration. [/rebuild]

Using

The Using drop down is populated with any property collector whose namespace matches the pattern defined by the Visual Studio .NET action. The pattern for this action is `^VisualStudio\..*`

If you create a property collector for this action, make sure you select the **Path Finder PlugIn** type and give it a name that will match the pattern above in blue. Example names listed here, search the table's Plugin column for "**Visual Studio**".

For more in-depth explanations on property collectors see Property Collectors.

Alternatively, you can select the **Custom** option from the Using drop down list and specify a path in the resulting input field that will be displayed. Please read Why it's a good idea to use a property collector before using this option.

Options

Safe Mode

Tick to use SafeMode command line option. [/safemode]

Timeout (in seconds)

How long to wait for the action to finish running before timing out. Leaving this blank (or zero) will default to 86400 seconds (24 hours).

Treat failure as warning

Tick to continue build on failure marking the action with a warning status.

Ignore warnings

If this is ticked, any warnings logged will not mark the action with a warning status.

Environment

Environment Variables

Multiple environment variables can be defined - one per line. These are set before the command line is run.

Log environment variables

If this is ticked, environment variable values are written to the build log.

Generate system environment variables

Tick this checkbox to set up a list of new environment variables prefixed with 'ContinuaCI.' for all current system expression objects and variables.

Mask sensitive variable values in system environment variables

This checkbox is visible only if the '**Generate system environment variables**' checkbox is ticked.

If this is ticked, the values of any variables marked as sensitive will be masked with **** when setting system environment variables. Clear this to expose the values.