

This walkthrough will show you how to create a field (a.k.a site column) feature with SPVisualDev.

Prerequisites

Follow the system requirements found on the home page of SPVisualDev on codeplex.

<http://www.codeplex.com/SPVisualDev>

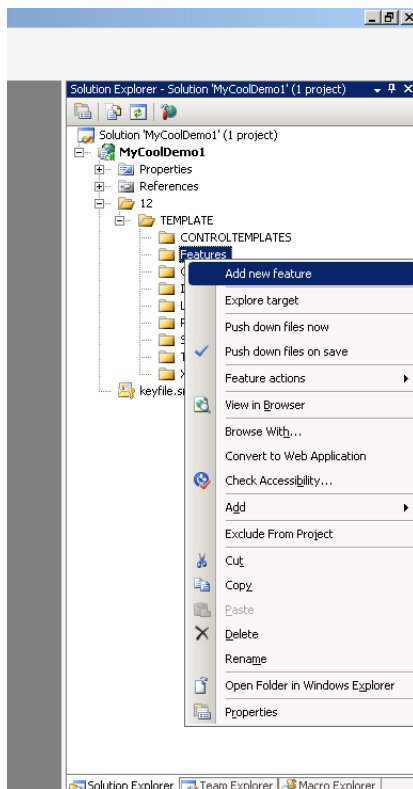
Follow the installation instructions also found at the same place.

Read the “Creating your first project” how-to first before going through this.

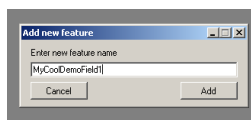
First step

Create a new SharePoint artifact project as described in the “1.Creating your first project” how-to. You can continue on the same project as well if you haven’t deleted it yet.

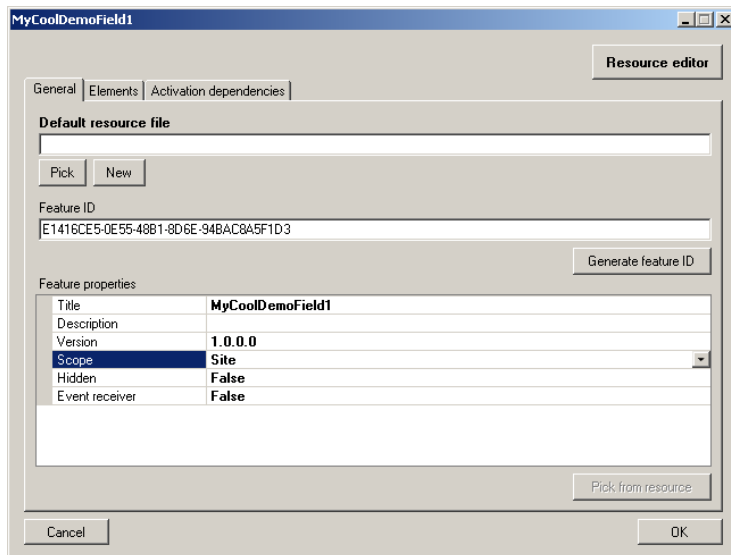
Right-click the Features node inside the 12 folder in solution explorer and choose “Add new feature”.



Give the new feature a name like “MyCoolDemoField1”. Click OK.



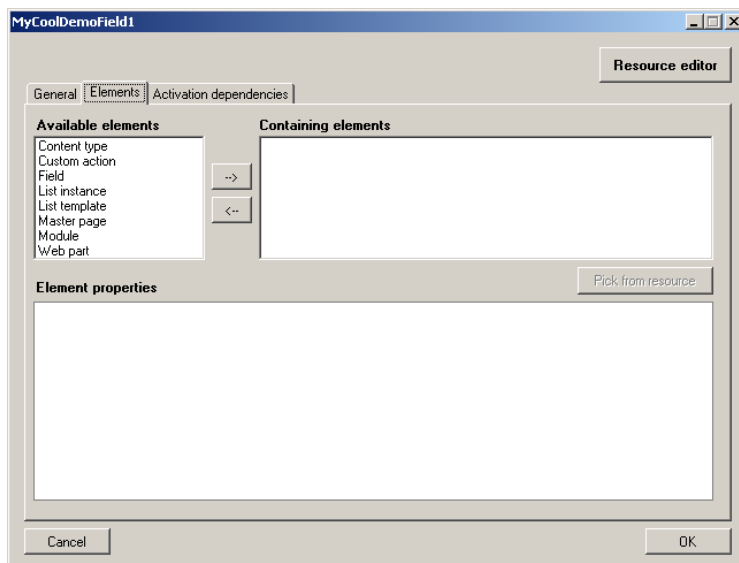
The feature settings dialog will appear shortly after.



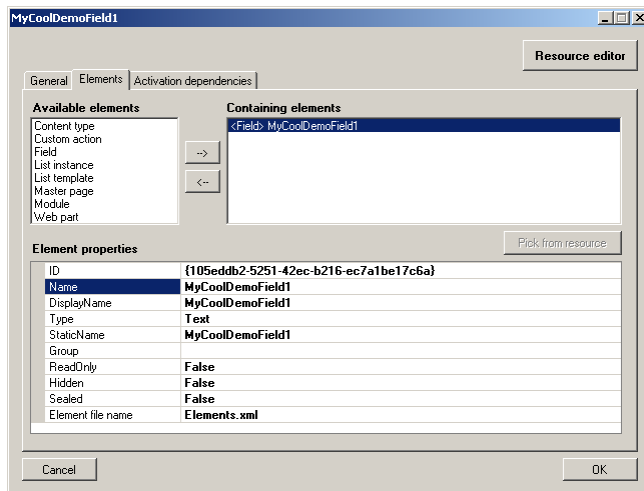
A feature ID is generated automatically.

In the scope drop-down box, choose “Site” scope because we will be creating a custom field a.k.a. site column in SharePoint. This element is only allowed in site scope.

Click on the ‘Elements’ tab.

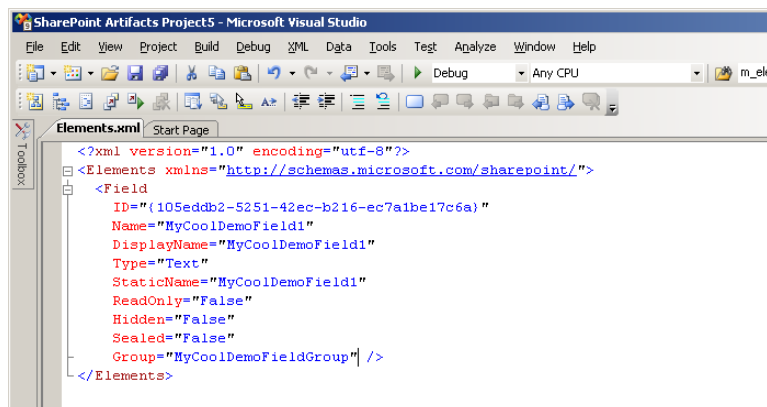


Add a field element by double clicking it from the “Available elements” list box. It should show up in the containing elements list box. All editable element properties will also be shown under element properties.



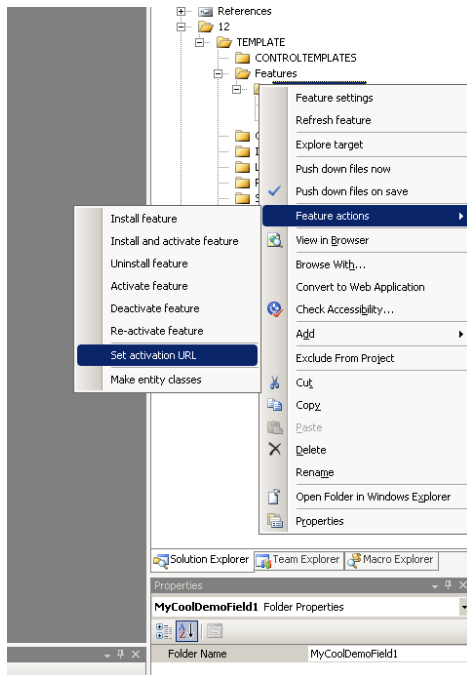
Enter the field title as well as the internal name which must be unique in the site collection where it is going to be deployed. Standard SharePoint rules for a valid field definition apply here.

When finished, click OK and an Elements.xml file together with a Feature.xml file will be created inside the new feature folder named “MyCoolDemoField1”. The Elements.xml has been generated based on the input from the feature settings dialog. In this example it contains only a field element declaration.

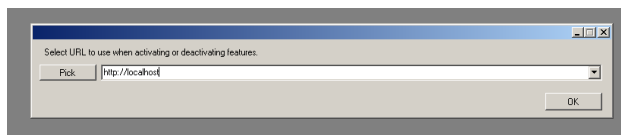


Save and close the Elements.xml

Navigate to the feature folder named “MyCoolDemoField1” in solution explorer and right click the node. Bring the Feature actions menu up and click on “Set activation URL”.

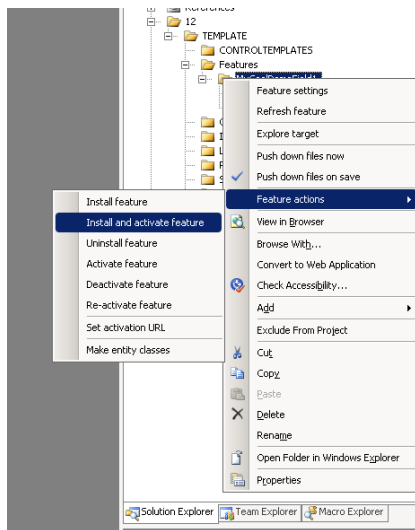


Select an URL where you want your features to be activated on. If no URL is selected <http://localhost> is used.



NOTE! The next step requires that you already created a local SharePoint farm with at least one site collection to install and activate the feature.

Navigate to the feature folder named “MyCoolDemoField1” in solution explorer and right click the folder. Bring the Feature actions menu up and click on “Install and activate”.



The feature will now be installed in the farm and activated on the URL you selected. You can see in the output window that STSADM is running. If any errors occurred they will be displayed here.

Fire up a web browser and go to the site where you activated the feature. Go to Site settings and choose site columns. In the list you should see the custom field named “MyCoolDemoField” under the group you entered earlier.

