

XAML Hot Reload for Xamarin.Forms

Private Preview

Information and Setup Instructions

Overview

Thank you for being an early tester of XAML Hot Reload for Xamarin.Forms! Your feedback will help us prepare XAML Hot Reload for public preview and shape the future of hot reloading with Xamarin!

This is a *private* preview – **do not share this document** without permission from the Xamarin Hot Reload Team (hotreload-team@microsoft.com).

These are still early preview builds of XAML Hot Reload for Xamarin.Forms. We can't promise they won't break from time to time, but we want to hear all of your feedback – good and bad! – so we can iterate and make the tool great for our public launch.

XAML Hot Reload for Xamarin.Forms: At a Glance

- Reloads your Xamarin.Forms XAML on save
- Works while debugging iOS or Android on emulators, simulators, or devices with Visual Studio or Visual Studio for Mac
- Runs your real app – navigate and interact while seeing your real data, custom controls, animations, third-party controls, and more!
- Tells you if your edit is valid via IntelliSense squiggles, and shows you that your reload was successful in the output window

Requirements

- Visual Studio 2019 (16.1+) or Visual Studio 2019 for Mac **Preview** (8.2+)
- Xamarin.Forms 4.1 stable

Setup

XAML Hot Reload for Xamarin.Forms is being distributed in this private preview as a separate extension so you can try it out before it makes it into a Visual Studio build! When it ships publicly, we will let you know – you will have to uninstall the extension to use the official tool, because it will then be built-in to Visual Studio.

Visual Studio 2019 for Windows

1. Upgrade to the **latest stable Visual Studio** (minimum: Version 16.1)
2. Install the **Xamarin Hot Reload extension** into Visual Studio:
 - a. Go to Extensions -> Manage Extensions, then select "Change your settings for extensions" in the bottom left of the dialog

- b. Add an Additional Extension Gallery, named "Xamarin Hot Reload", with the feed URL <https://xamci.azurewebsites.net/feed/xamarin/babyshark/release-preview>
 - c. Go back to Extensions -> Manage Extensions, then select Online -> Xamarin Hot Reload -> Download
 3. For any project that you want to use Hot Reload with, **upgrade Xamarin.Forms to 4.1**
 - a. If you don't have the proper version of Xamarin.Forms, your app will not launch with XAML Hot Reload – please disable the extension to debug without upgrading Xamarin.Forms.

NOTE: To **update the extension**, you will have to return to Extensions -> Manage Extensions -> Change Settings for Extensions -> Online -> Xamarin Hot Reload and download the latest version – you can't update it automatically or through the update dialog

NOTE: To **turn XAML Hot Reload off**, go to Tools -> Options -> Xamarin -> Hot Reload

Visual Studio 2019 for Mac

1. Install the latest Visual Studio for Mac – **Preview channel** build
 - a. Check that the new XAML editor is enabled (Visual Studio -> Preferences -> Text Editor -> Behavior -> XAML)
2. Install the Hot Reload extension from its extension repository
 - a. Go to Visual Studio -> Extensions -> Gallery, select the Repository drop-down, and select "Manage Repositories"
 - b. Add the URL:
<https://xamci.azurewebsites.net/mpack/hotreload/release-preview/main.mrep>
 - c. Select that repository in the dropdown, find the Xamarin.HotReload extension, and click "install". An IDE restart may be required
4. For any project that you want to use Hot Reload with, **upgrade Xamarin.Forms to 4.1**
 - a. If you don't have the proper version of Xamarin.Forms, your app will not launch with Hot Reload – please disable the extension to debug without upgrading

NOTE: To **update the extension**, go to Visual Studio -> Extensions -> Updates, select IDE extensions -> hotreload Add-in Repository, and click "Update"

NOTE: To **turn XAML Hot Reload off**, go to Visual Studio -> Preferences -> Projects -> Xamarin Hot Reload

Using XAML Hot Reload for Xamarin.Forms

After upgrading to the proper version of Xamarin.Forms and installing the extension, simply build your app and start debugging on an Android or iOS emulator, simulator, or device. When you save a XAML file, it will refresh the view that you are navigated to. You can also change global styles or custom controls in separate files, and, if they are referenced in the currently viewed page, it will refresh with those changes.

Feel free to use XAML Hot Reload in your talks, live streams, blogs, and more – however, you **may not share the extension**.

Reporting Problems and Providing Feedback

We need your feedback to get XAML Hot Reload for Xamarin.Forms ready for public preview!

Please use **Help -> Send Feedback -> Report a Problem** in Visual Studio (Mac: **Help -> Report a Problem**) to report any issues you have with XAML Hot Reload for Xamarin.Forms. Make sure to attach any relevant logs, a screenshot/copy paste of your Output Window in Visual Studio, and a thorough description so we can investigate the issue.

Please use the **Help -> Send Feedback -> Suggest a Feature** in Visual Studio (Mac: **Help -> Send Feedback**) to suggest features for the team to review. Check to see if your feature request already exists first and make sure to upvote it – if it's highly upvoted, we know it's a feature a lot of people want!

Limitations

- **C# code cannot be reloaded.** This includes creating event handlers with XAML quick actions, wiring events while the app is running, adding new custom controls, pages, or classes, and renaming XAML files
- Adding or removing files at runtime is not supported
- Managing NuGet packages while the app is running is not supported
- You may experience issues reloading custom controls built with Xamarin.Forms 4.0 or earlier
- Set the linker to "Link None" for the best experience. The "Link SDK only" setting should work most of the time, but it may fail in certain cases
- Any references created by assigning an x:Name'd control to another field or property will not be updated on reload
- To use Hot Reload on a physical iPhone, you will have to [enable the iOS interpreter](#)

Known Issues

The following issues are currently being fixed, and we will update you when they are fixed

- Updating the "structure" of your Shell application and reloading will lose CurrentItem (ie, your tab that you're on in the running app gets removed)
- Changes to CSS, images, and other non-XAML resources are not reloaded

Thank you for trying out this great new tool for Xamarin.Forms developers. We're looking forward to hearing your feedback!