



What's New in RFID Anywhere 3.5

This document contains release notes for the RFID Anywhere 3.5 release.

Overview

This RFID Anywhere 3.5 release is a maintenance release that introduces some new functionality and addresses some issues identified since the last release (3.1). All RFID Anywhere 3.5 components have been built using version 2.0 of the Microsoft .NET Framework. The RFID Anywhere Visual Studio Extension now supports Visual Studio 2005 and 2008, with updates to the usage of the business module wizard, and including a new wizard for custom DPP development.

New installations of RFID Anywhere should use this 3.5 release. If you have an existing installation, you should upgrade to this release to get access to the updated functionality and software fixes. All existing multiprotocol-related connectors, such as RFID reader connectors, must be upgraded to the latest versions. Existing custom business modules, simulation files and DPPs may need to be recompiled as well.

Prerequisites for RFID Anywhere include version 2.0 of the Microsoft .NET Framework, Microsoft Installer 3.1, Microsoft's Web Services Extensions (WSE) 2.0 SP3, MSMQ, and IIS. The RFID Anywhere Visual Studio Extension also requires Microsoft's Guidance Automation Extensions.

Summary of the installation process

The RFID Anywhere 3.5 release is distributed as a complete installation program for new users, and separate MSI files which must be deployed to an existing RFID Anywhere installation using the Provisioning page of the RFID Anywhere Administrator Console. Double-clicking these MSI files will not correctly install the updates.

When upgrading from a previous version, install the core MSI package first, which updates the core RFID Anywhere functionality, using the Deploy Immediately section of the Provisioning page before installing the other MSI files and any required connectors.

See the RFID Anywhere Getting Started Guide or Tech Tips for detailed instructions on installing RFID Anywhere 3.5 on a clean machine, and for instructions on updating an existing installation using RFID Anywhere's provisioning capabilities.

What's new in this release

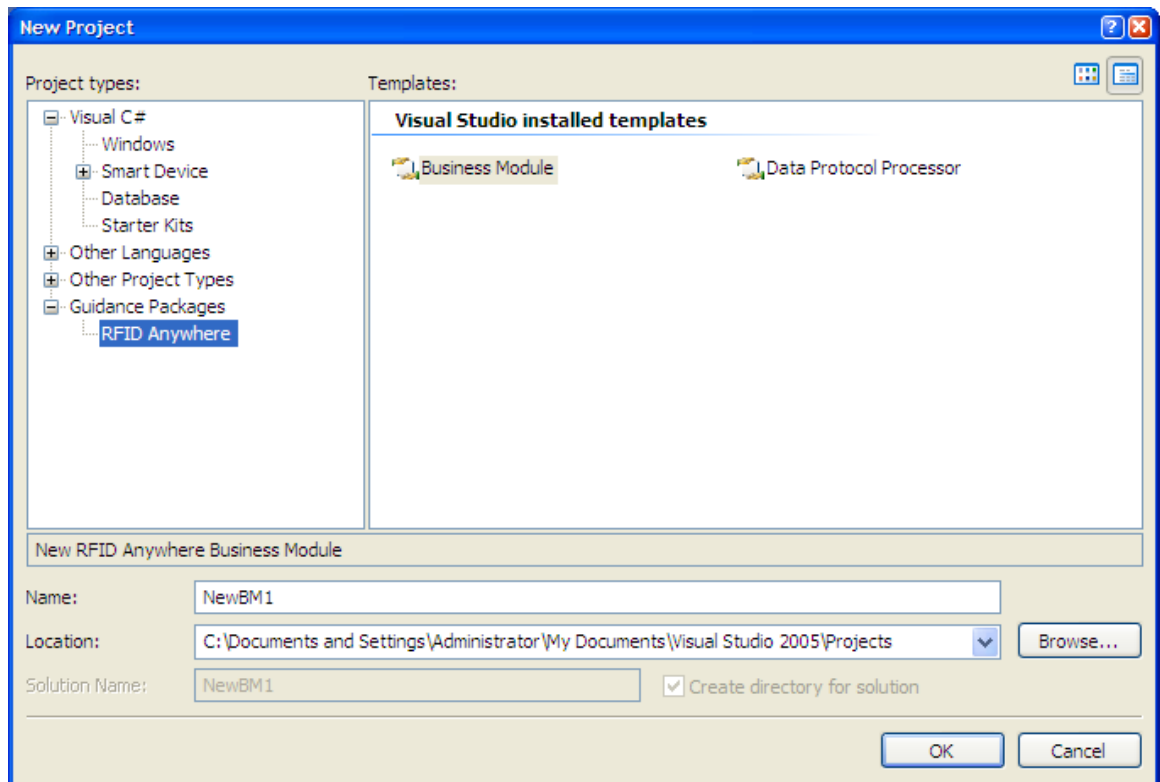
Core updates

Core components of RFID Anywhere have been recompiled to support .NET 2.0. This enables support for the latest versions of Visual Studio, and allows .NET 2.0 libraries to be used in custom business module creation, enterprise integration, and connector development.

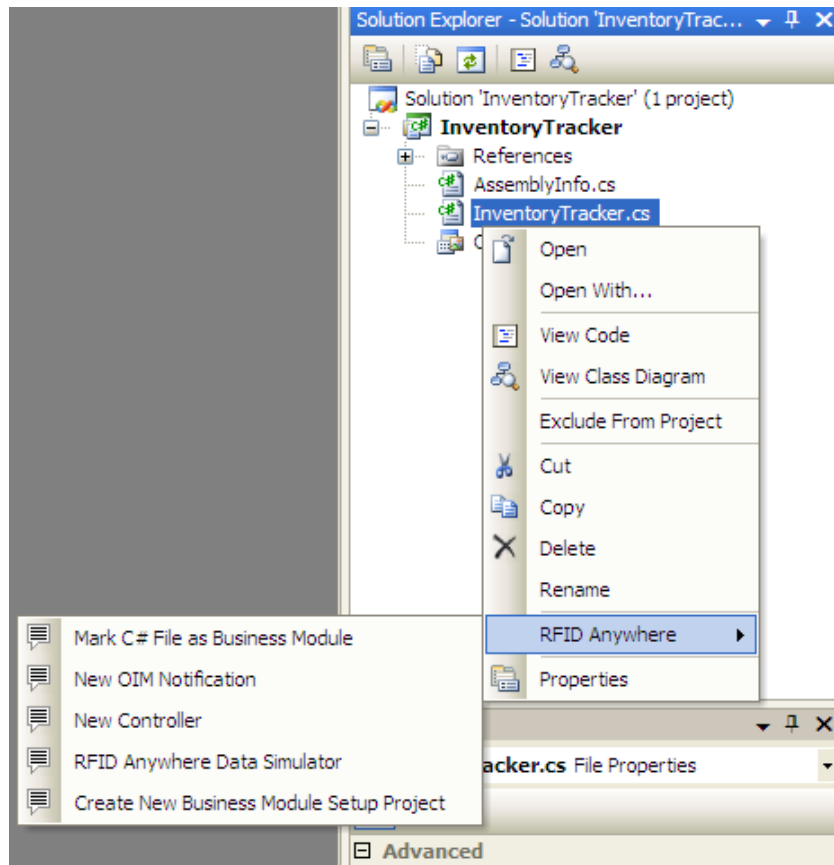
Visual Studio Extension updates

Visual Studio Extension supports Visual Studio 2005 and Visual Studio 2008 for development of custom business modules and Data Protocol Processors in C#. Installation and usage of the Visual Studio Extension requires Microsoft Guidance Automation Extensions (GAX), which can be downloaded from the Microsoft web site.

New business modules and DPPs are created using Guidance Packages. To create a new business module or DPP project in Visual Studio, click New > Project. Expand Guidance Packages and select RFID Anywhere. In the 'Visual Studio installed templates' window, select either Business Module or Data Protocol Processor. Fill out the required fields to create the empty project to begin.



RFID Anywhere menu commands for business module development and setup package creation are now accessed by right-clicking the main business module file in the Solution Explorer window.



Business module projects created in Visual Studio 2003 will need to be opened in Visual Studio 2005 or 2008, and must be put through Visual Studio's conversion wizard. After that, users must enable the RFID Anywhere Guidance Automation Package for the project, then register your main business module .cs file as a C# Business Module from the menu.

Mobile Support updates

Mobile device connectors now expose a property called Data Events Enabled. When set to TRUE, RFID tag reads and barcode scans are automatically sent to the RFID Anywhere server when the RnAgent or a custom application is running. When set to FALSE, these events are not sent to the server, and only custom Application Message events are sent. This allows developers to control the amount of data sent between the device and the server, and is especially important for devices connected to low bandwidth or pay per use networks.

Known issues

Creating web references for standalone applications

When building a Visual Studio application to communicate with RFID Anywhere over web services, you must create the Web References in a Visual Studio .NET 2003 project and copy the generated .cs files to your application project. Visual Studio 2005 and 2008 do not natively support integration with WSE 2.0 SP3 for Web Reference creation or WSE 2.0 enablement.

Internet Explorer is recommended browser

Internet Explorer is the recommended browser for accessing the RFID Anywhere Administrator Console.

