

Developing Microsoft DirectShow Applications with FlyCapture

Technical Application Note TAN2007003

Revised May 15, 2015

1.1 Subject

Technical Application Note (TAN2007003): Developing Microsoft DirectShow applications with FlyCapture

1.2 Applicable Product(s)

This TAN applies to all Point Grey products that are supported by the Point Grey FlyCapture driver, which supports Microsoft DirectShow.

1.3 Application Note Description

The purpose of this Technical Application Note is to show developers how to set up their build environment in order to effectively use the FlyCapture library for developing DirectShow-based applications. This TAN will explain how to prepare the build environment so that sample image capture applications included in the SDK, such as AMCap and PlayCap, can be built successfully. Once this is completed, the environment will be ready for use with custom applications.

The main steps are:

1. Install the Point Grey FlyCapture SDK
2. Install the Microsoft DirectX SDK
3. Install the Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Platform SDK
4. Build the DirectShow base classes
5. Use the DirectShow base classes

1.4 Installing the FlyCapture SDK

The latest version of the FlyCapture SDK can be found on the [Point Grey downloads page](#). Run FlyCapture2_x86.exe or FlyCapture2_x64.exe and follow the installation wizard instructions to install the library.

The DirectShow components for FlyCapture2 consist of two DirectShow filters:

- PGRDirectShowDecoder.ax
- PGRDirectShowSource.ax

These components can be registered by entering the following command at a command prompt:

```
regsvr32 PGRDirectShowDecoder.ax PGRDirectShowSource.ax
```

In addition, the FlyCapture2 DLLs must be present on the system in a location that can be found during registration. This can be achieved by placing the required DLLs in the same directory as the .ax filter files.

1.5 Installing the DirectX® SDK

The DirectX SDK contains a header file (`ddraw.h`) that is required to build the DirectShow Base Classes. Obtain the latest version of the SDK from either a current MSDN subscription (if available) or by downloading it from [Microsoft](#).

The DirectX installer extracts the files to a temporary location before performing the installation. Installing with the default options is sufficient.

1.6 Installing the Platform SDK

Obtain the source code for the DirectShow SDK by installing the Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Platform SDK from a current MSDN subscription (if available) or by downloading it from [Microsoft](#).

Run the Setup.exe program and follow the instructions in the installer. Make sure that the Microsoft DirectShow SDK is selected for install.

1.7 Building the DirectShow Base Classes

1.7.1 Downloading the Visual Studio Project Files

When the DirectShow SDK is moved from the DirectX SDK to the Platform SDK, the Visual Studio project files for building the Base Classes or any of the sample applications are removed. Download the v0.2 project files from <http://tmhare.mvps.org/downloads.htm>, which contain the proper project files for the R2 version of the Platform SDK.

Extract the project files into the installation directory of the Platform SDK. For example, if the default installation directory is used, then they should be extracted to `C:\Program Files\Microsoft Platform SDK for Windows Server 2003 R2\Samples\Multimedia\DirectShow`.

1.7.2 Adding DirectX and Platform SDK paths to Visual Studio 2005



*The steps outlined in the following section require **Microsoft Visual Studio 2005**. Support for **Visual Studio 6.0** was removed in the October 2004 edition of the DirectX SDK. It may be possible to use the free [Visual Studio Express Edition](#) from Microsoft; however, this has not been tested by Point Grey.*

In order for Visual Studio 2005 to find the correct header files, the path to both SDKs must be entered into the IDE. Follow these steps to set the path:

1. Click on the *Tools* entry on the menu bar and select *Options*.
2. Select *Projects and Solutions > VC++ directories* from the tree list menu.
3. Ensure that the *Platform* currently active is `Win32`.
4. Change the *Show Directories for:* combo box so that *Include Files* is shown.
5. Enter the following entries (see *Figure 1*):
 - a. `C:\Program Files\Microsoft DirectX SDK (December 2006)\Include`
 - b. `C:\Program Files\Microsoft Platform SDK for Windows Server 2003 R2\Include`
6. Change the *Show Directories for:* combo box so that *Library files* is shown.
7. Enter the following entries (see *Figure 2*):
 - a. `C:\Program Files\Microsoft DirectX SDK (December 2006)\Lib\x86`
 - b. `C:\Program Files\Microsoft Platform SDK for Windows Server 2003 R2\Lib`

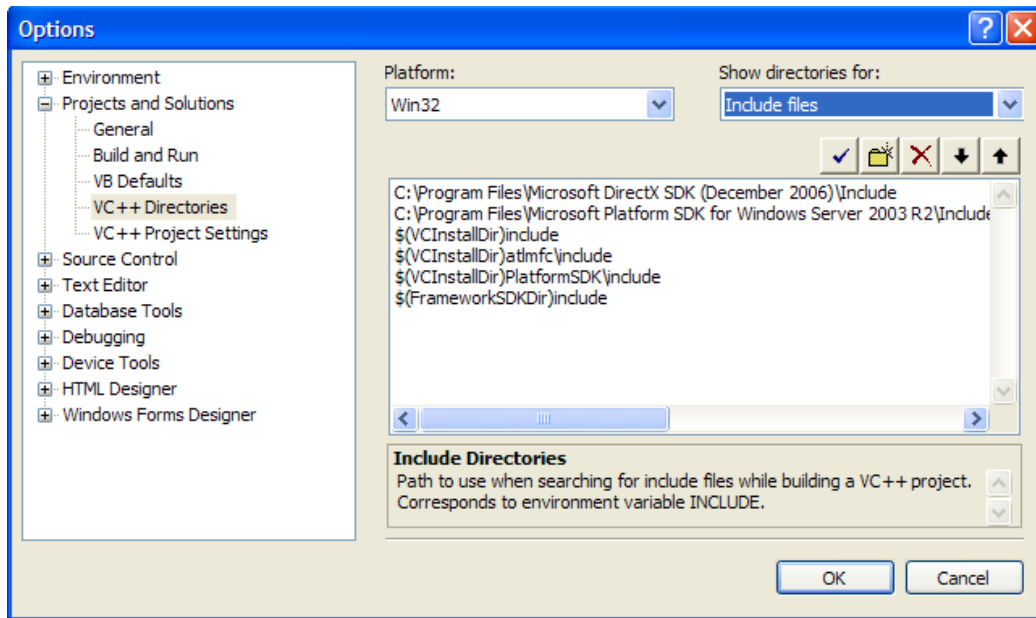


Figure 1: Visual Studio "Include files" directories for DirectX

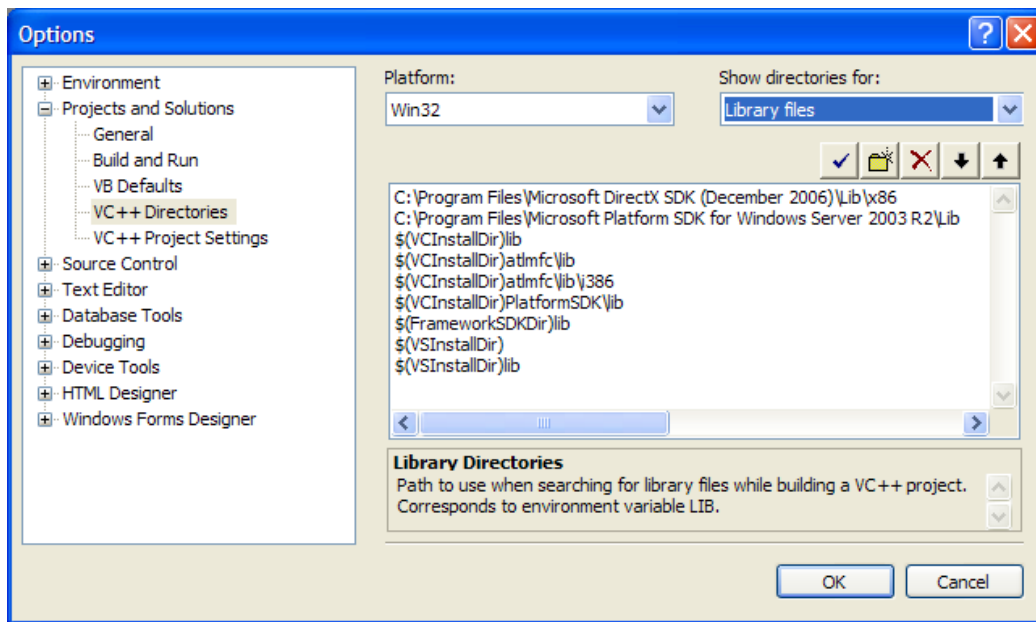


Figure 2: Visual Studio "Library files" directories for DirectX

1.7.3 Building the Base Classes

Load the solution file `baseclasses.sln`, which should be located in `C:\Program Files\Microsoft Platform SDK for Windows Server 2003 R2\Samples\Multimedia\DirectShow\BaseClasses`. If the IDE used to load the solution is Visual Studio 2005, a prompt should appear asking if it should proceed with converting the solution. Answer Yes to convert the solution.

The project builds two versions of the library: the retail (`strmbase.lib`) and debug (`strmbasd.lib`) versions. Unicode versions are also available if localization is required.

1.8 Using the DirectShow Base Classes

1.8.1 Setting Environment Variables

In order to build the sample DirectShow applications, the `$BASECLASSES` environment variable must be set.

Follow these steps to set the variable:

1. Navigate to the *System Properties* page by right clicking on *My Computer* and then selecting *Properties*.
2. Click on the *Advanced* tab, and click the *Environment Variables* button.
3. Click the *New* button under *System Variables*.
4. In the dialog box that appears, enter `BASECLASSES` as the variable name, and the path to the Base Classes as the value. This should typically be `C:\Program Files\Microsoft Platform SDK for Windows Server 2003 R2\Samples\Multimedia\DirectShow\BaseClasses\`.
5. Click *Ok* to save the variable.
6. Reboot the PC so that the environment variable can be loaded.

1.8.2 Configuring Project Settings

Load a solution file containing a sample application. The PlayCap sample capture application will be used for this example.

1. Open the PlayCap solution file, located in `C:\Program Files\Microsoft Platform SDK for Windows Server 2003 R2\Samples\Multimedia\DirectShow\Capture\PlayCap`.
2. Right click the PlayCap project and select Properties to enter the property pages for the project.
3. Under *Linker ->General ->Additional Library Dependencies*, ensure that the following entry is present:

`"$(BASECLASSES)"\Release; (or "$(BASECLASSES)"\Debug; for debug builds)`
4. Under *Linker -> Input -> Additional Dependencies*, ensure that the following entries are present:

```
StrmBase.lib (or StrmBasd.lib, depending on the build type)
quartz.lib
odbc32.lib
odbccp32.lib
```

With these settings in place, the sample application should build successfully.

1.8.3 Building Custom DirectShow Applications

When building custom DirectShow applications, the following header files should be included:

- Streams.h
- Dshow.h

Some DirectShow interfaces may require additional header files; these will be listed in the interface reference.

The following libraries should be included:

- strmbase.lib (or strmbasd.lib)
- quartz.lib

1.9 Additional Downloads and Support

Point Grey endeavors to provide the highest level of technical support possible to our customers. Most support resources can be accessed through the [Support](#) section of our website.

Creating a Customer Login Account

The first step in accessing our technical support resources is to obtain a Customer Login Account. This requires a valid name and email address. To apply for a Customer Login Account go to the [Downloads](#) page.

Knowledge Base

Our [Knowledge Base](#) contains answers to some of the most common support questions. It is constantly updated, expanded, and refined to ensure that our customers have access to the latest information.

Product Downloads

Customers with a Customer Login Account can access the latest software and firmware for their cameras from our [Downloads](#) page. We encourage our customers to keep their software and firmware up-to-date by downloading and installing the latest versions.

Contacting Technical Support

Before contacting Technical Support, have you:

1. Read the product documentation and user manual?
2. Searched the Knowledge Base?
3. Downloaded and installed the latest version of software and/or firmware?

If you have done all the above and still can't find an answer to your question, contact our [Technical Support](#) team.