

Generating debugging information

Generating a *.pdb* file allows you to debug the resulting assembly in an IDE.



To generate debugging information, in the Project Settings window, go to **Generate Debugging Information** or click the icon in the toolbar.

Select **I want to generate the debugging information**.

The colored bars under the toolbar icon and to the left of the feature options are always green, whether or not this option is selected.

You can obfuscate the file paths to your source code which are recorded in the *.pdb* file by selecting **I want to obfuscate the documents' URLs in the .pdb file**.

Note: You cannot use this option if you need to debug the assembly in an IDE (because the IDE will not be able to locate your source code).

More about debugging and the *.pdb* file

- If you rely on the error reporting feature to debug your application, you do not need to generate the *.pdb* file.
- If you still want to use the stack trace to debug your assembly, it is recommended that you generate the *.pdb* file.
- If you obfuscate the documents' URLs (source file names and paths), no critical information is stored in the *.pdb* file. This allows you to distribute the *.pdb* file with your application, which adds the source line number in the stack trace.
- If you want to be able to use breakpoints in a debugger to debug your assembly, it is recommended that you do not obfuscate the documents' URLs.

SmartAssembly also lets you generate a new *.pdb* file for the protected assembly.