

Use AutoHotKey in Applications

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Introduction

Register COM DLL

AutoHotKey (<http://www.autohotkey.com/>) has several versions of DLL builds for other programming languages to use it. AutoHotKey.DLL is a COM DLL. To use it, you need to register it first.

Suppose we use 32bit Unicode version of AutoHotKey.DLL, and suppose we copy the DLL to folder C:\autoHotKey\x86w. The command to register the DLL is as following.

```
Regsvr32 C:\autoHotKey\x86w\AutoHotKey.DLL
```

We found that in some computers with strong anti-virus settings, the above command reports success but actually it does nothing. To help make the process easier, we exported the related registry values in a registry file, ahk32w.reg. You can download it from <http://www.limnor.com/studio/UseAutoHotKey.zip>

Before double-clicking the file to apply the settings, use the NotePad to open ahk32w.reg and modify the file paths in the file:

```
Windows Registry Editor Version 5.00
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Wow6432Node\CLSID\{C00BCC8C-5A04-4392-870F-20AAE1B926B2}]
@="AutoHotkey Script"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Wow6432Node\CLSID\{C00BCC8C-5A04-4392-870F-20AAE1B926B2}\InProcServer32]
@="C:\autoHotKey\Win32w\autohotkey.dll"
"ThreadingModel"="Both"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Wow6432Node\CLSID\{C00BCC8C-5A04-4392-870F-20AAE1B926B2}\ProgID]
```

```

@="AutoHotkey.Script.1"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Wow6432Node\CLSID\{C00BCC8C-5A04-4392-870F-20AAE1B926B2}\TypeLib]
@="{A9863C65-8CD4-4069-893D-3B5A3DDFAE88}"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Wow6432Node\CLSID\{C00BCC8C-5A04-4392-870F-20AAE1B926B2}\VersionIndependentProgID]
@="AutoHotkey.Script"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\TypeLib\{A9863C65-8CD4-4069-893D-3B5A3DDFAE88}]
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\TypeLib\{A9863C65-8CD4-4069-893D-3B5A3DDFAE88}\1.0]
@="AutoHotkey"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\TypeLib\{A9863C65-8CD4-4069-893D-3B5A3DDFAE88}\1.0\0]
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\TypeLib\{A9863C65-8CD4-4069-893D-3B5A3DDFAE88}\1.0\0\win32]
@="C:\autoHotKey\Win32w\autohotkey.dll"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\TypeLib\{A9863C65-8CD4-4069-893D-3B5A3DDFAE88}\1.0\FLAGS]
@="0"
[HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\TypeLib\{A9863C65-8CD4-4069-893D-3B5A3DDFAE88}\1.0\HELPDIR]
@="C:\autoHotKey\Win32w\"

```

Use Limnor Studio 5 (32-bit)

To make it easier to use it, we created a .Net Framework wrapper DLL for it. It includes following files:

```

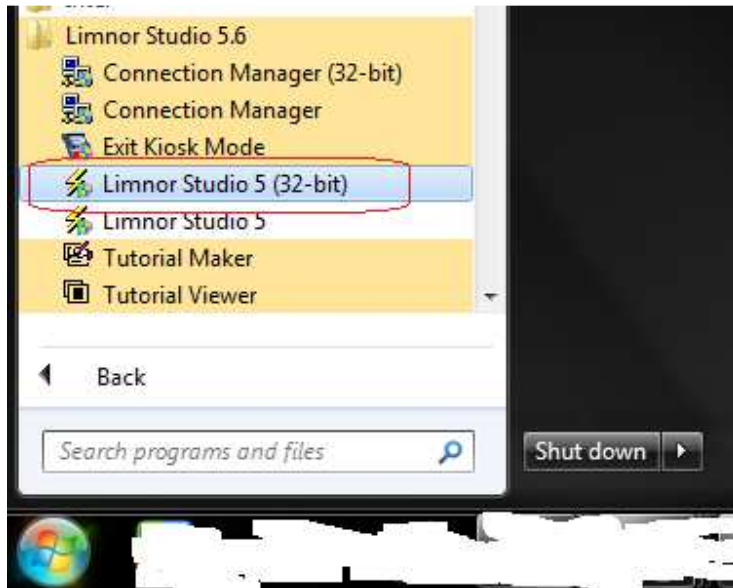
AutoHotKey32W.dll
AutoHotKey32W.pdb
Interop.AutoHotkey.dll

```

You can download the files from <http://www.limnor.com/studio/UseAutoHotKey.zip>

The wrapper is using .Net Framework 4.0. So, you need to use Limnor Studio 5.6. Do not use Limnor Studio VS.

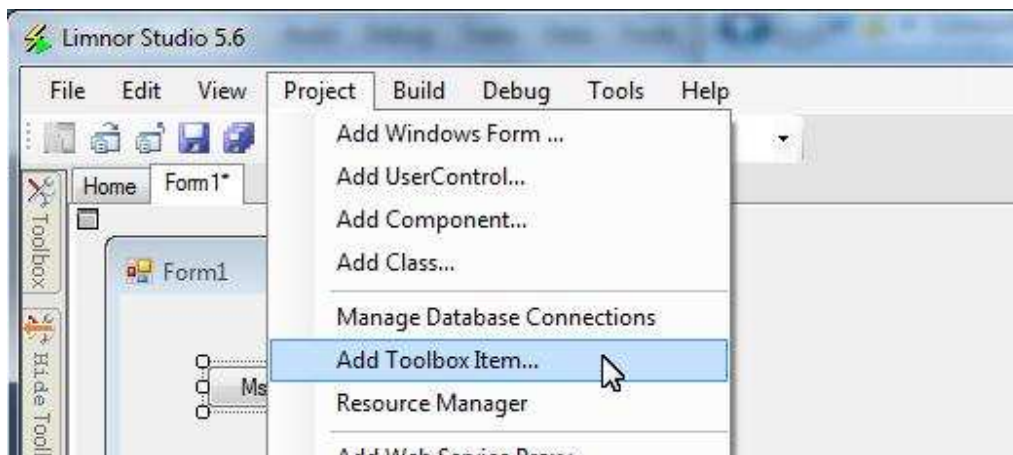
The wrapper is for 32-bit AutoHotKey and it must target 32-bit OS. Therefore, AutoHotKey32W.dll is targeting 32-bit OS. Thus Limnor Studio 5.6 (32-bit) must be use:



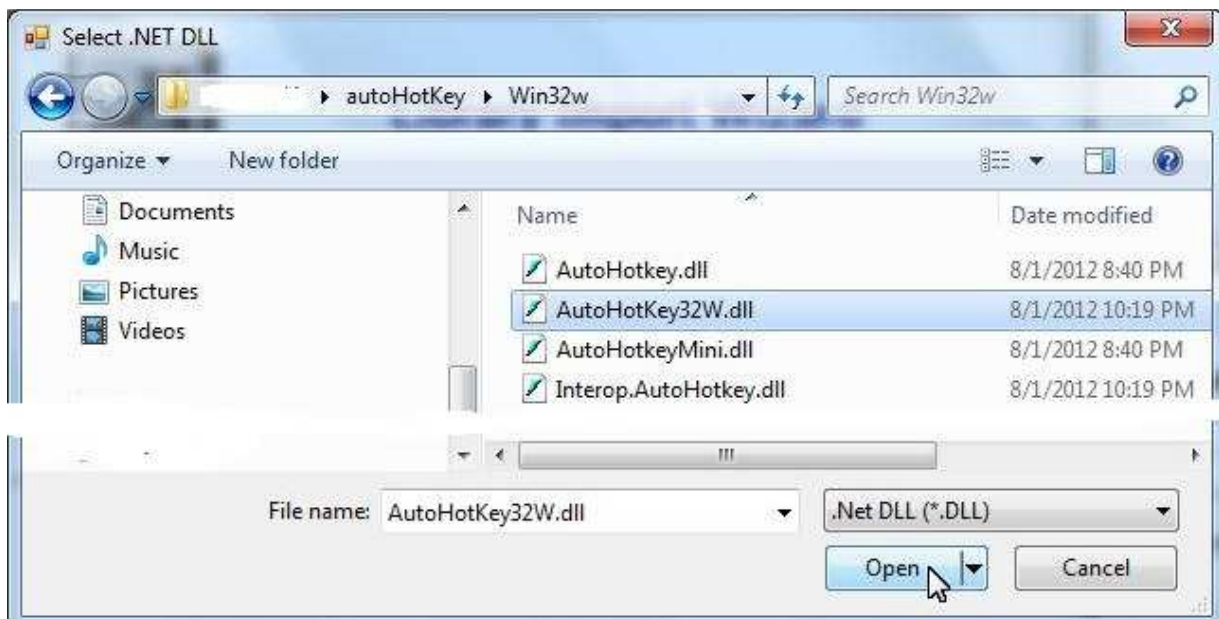
Do not launch "Limnor Studio 5". Launch "Limnor Studio 5 (32-bit)".

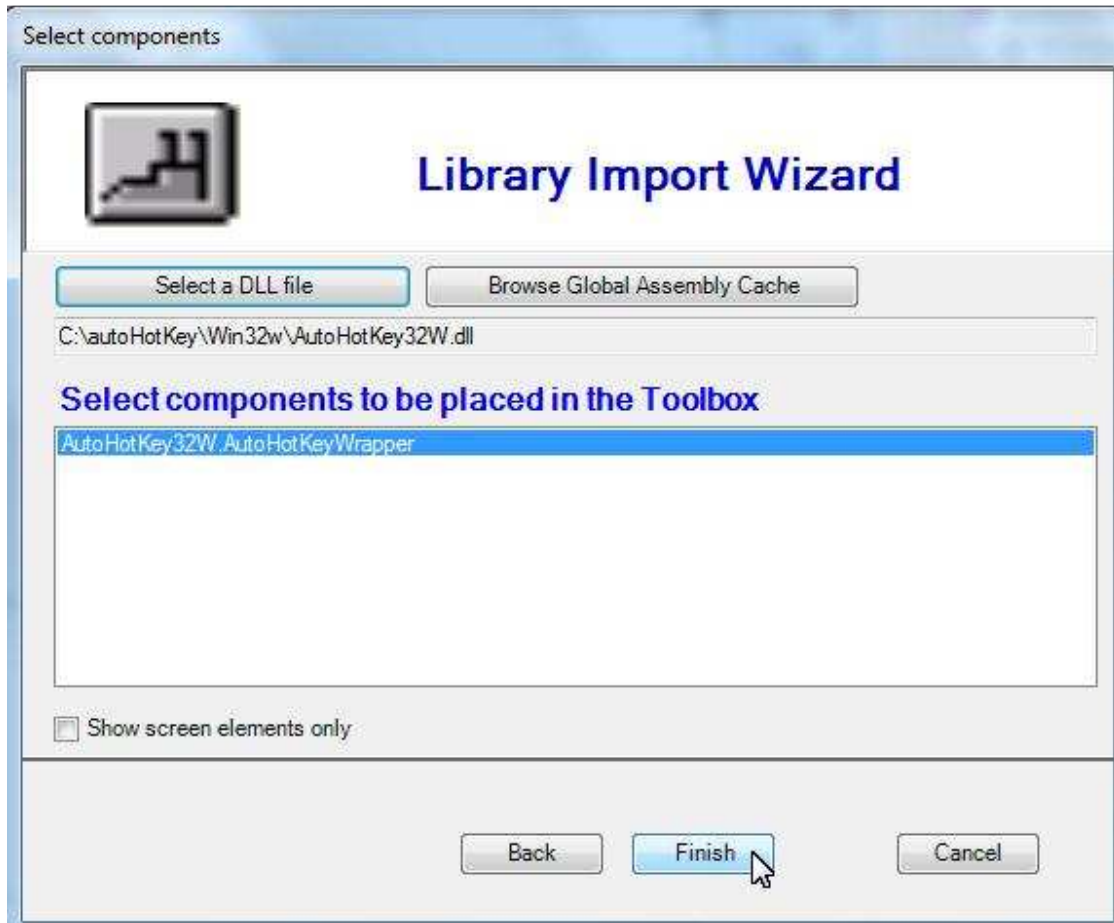
Add AutoHotKey wrapper to the Toolbox

To use the AutoHotKey wrapper, we need to add it to the Toolbox:



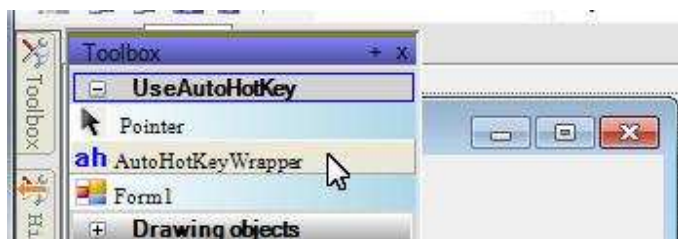




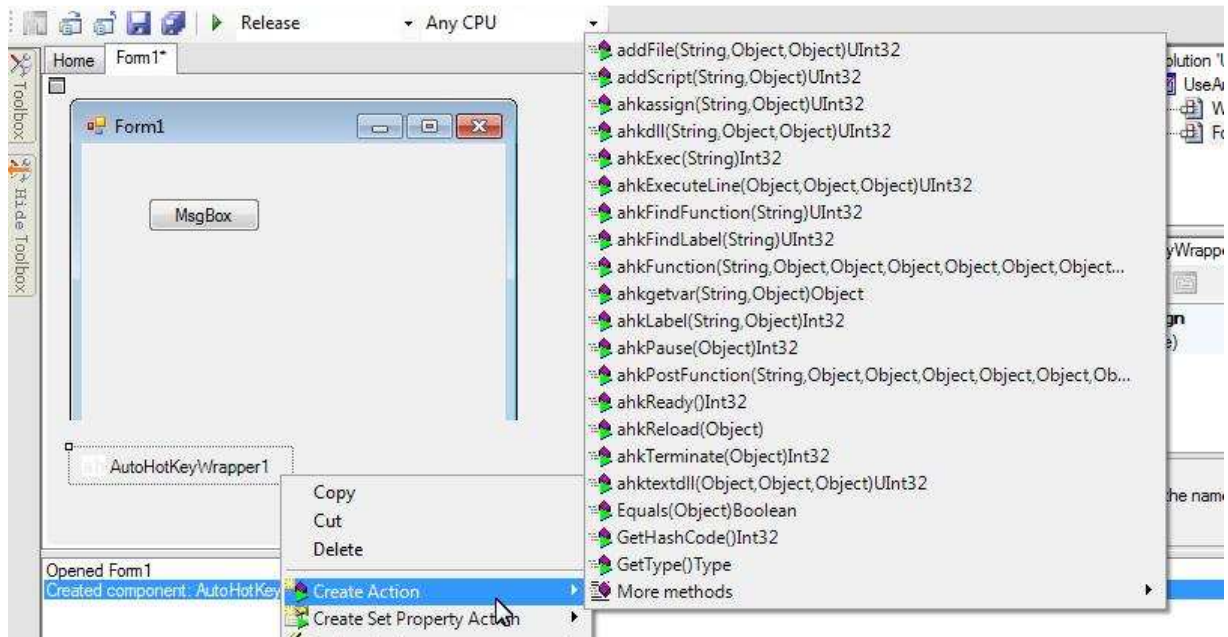


Use AutoHotKey Wrapper

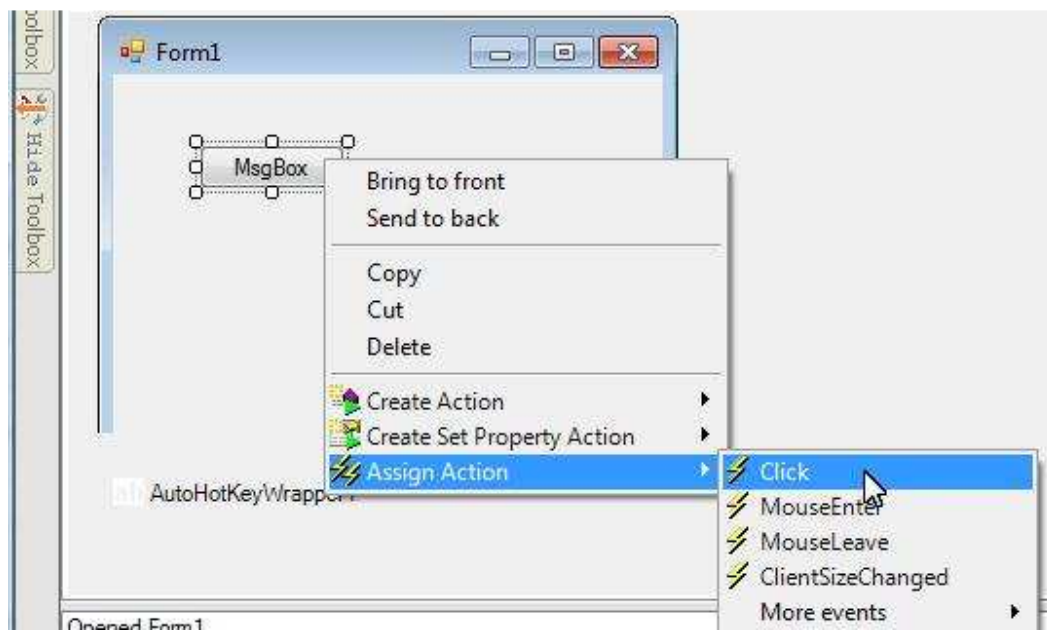
The AutoHotKey Wrapper appears in the Toolbox. Drop it to the form:

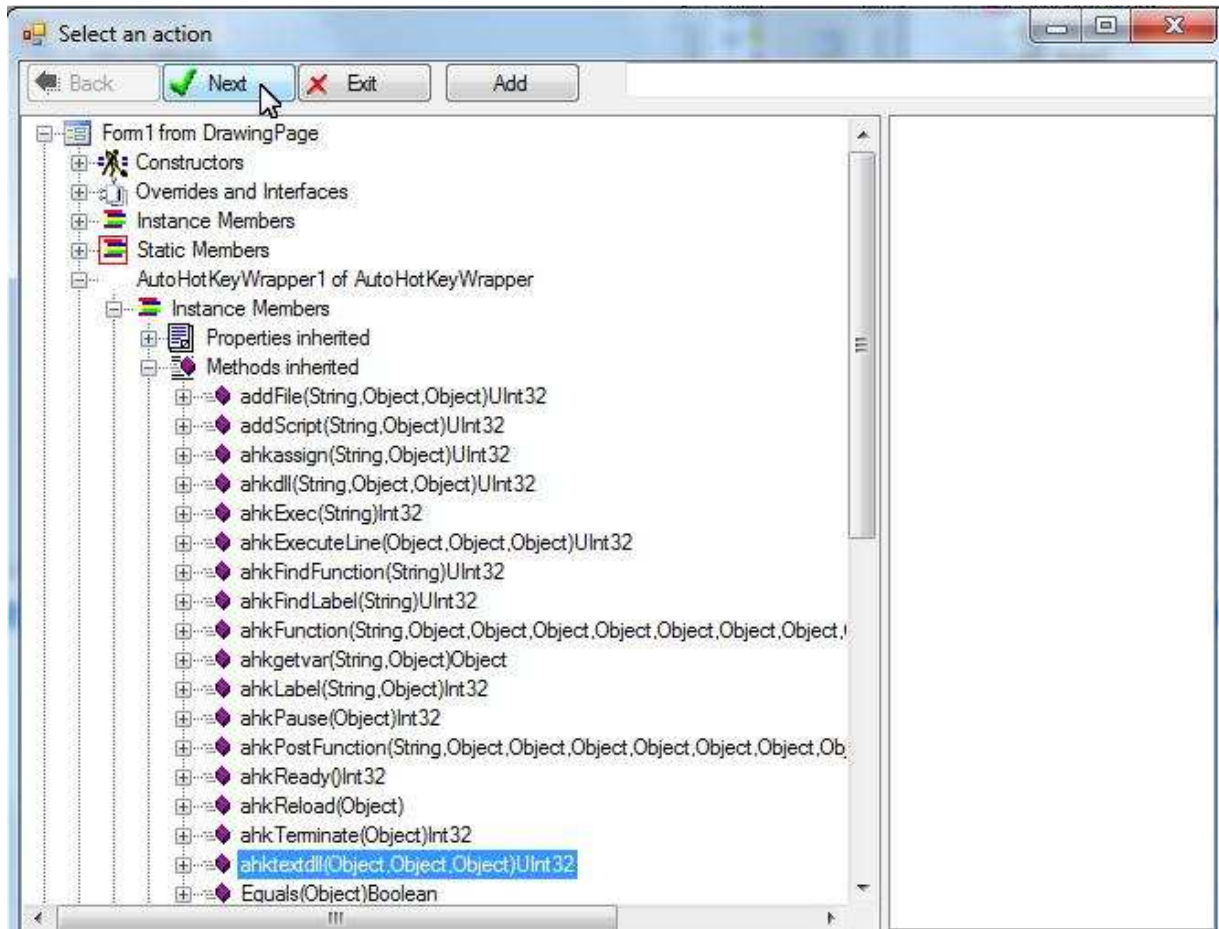


Once an instance of AutoHotKey Wrapper is created, we may create actions with it:

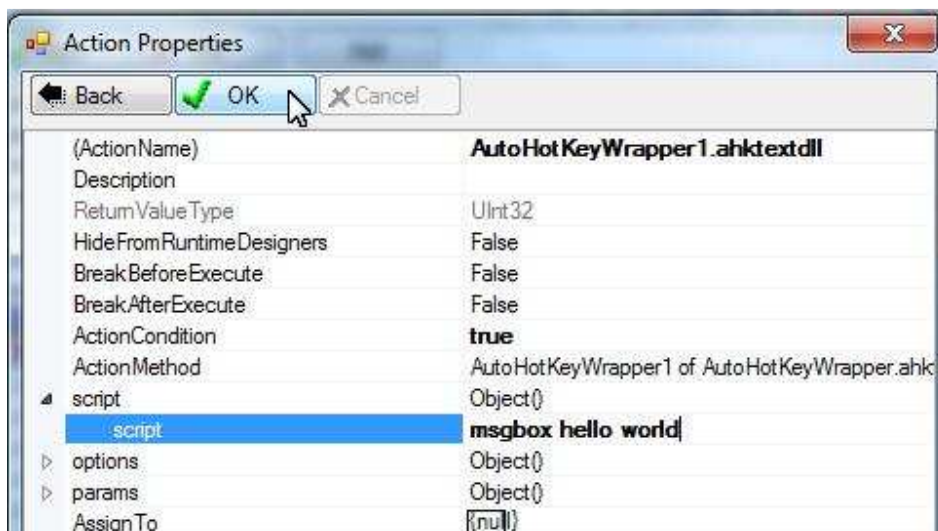


Let's execute ahktextdll method by clicking a button:

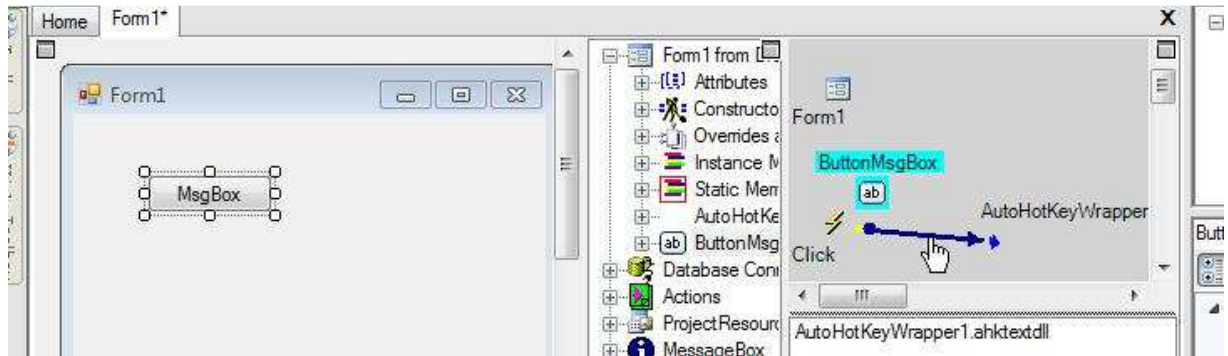




Execute AutoHotKey script "msgbox hello world":

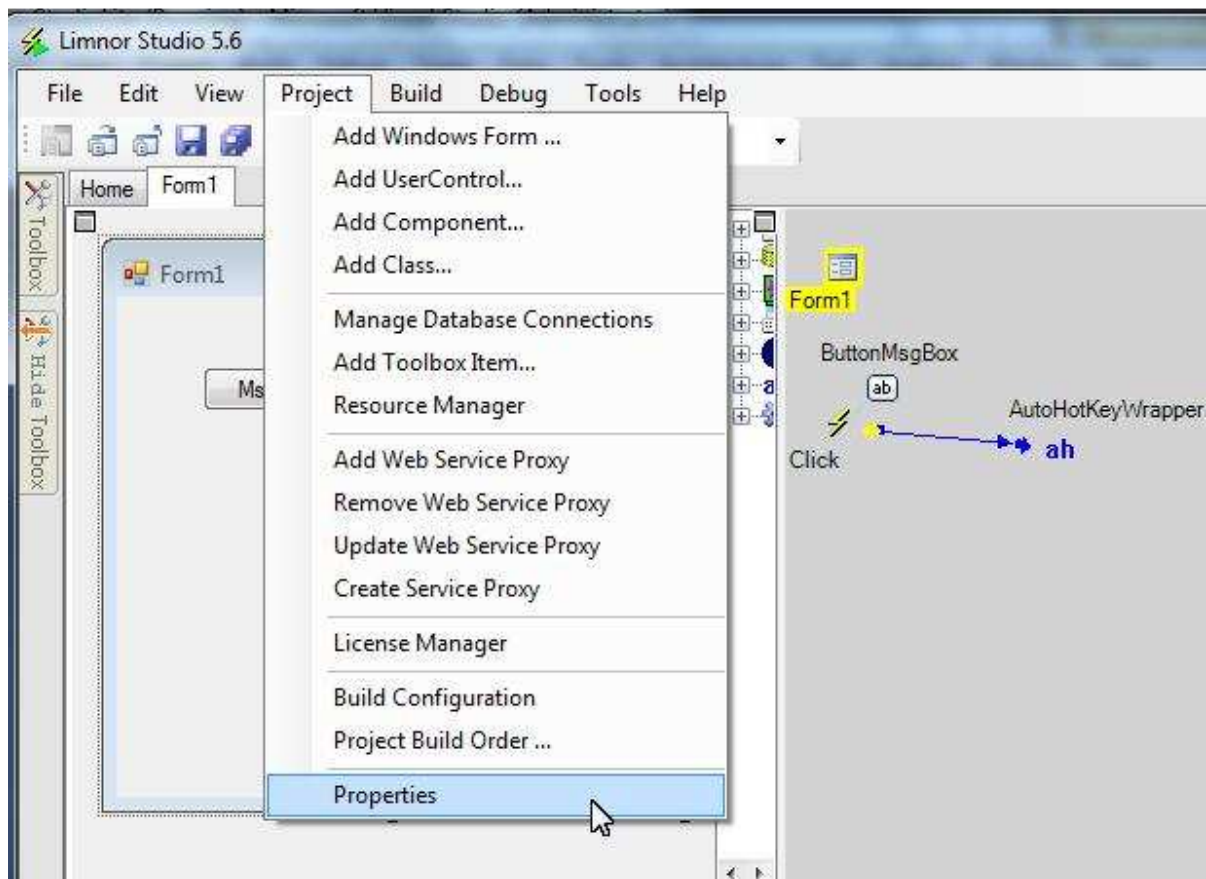


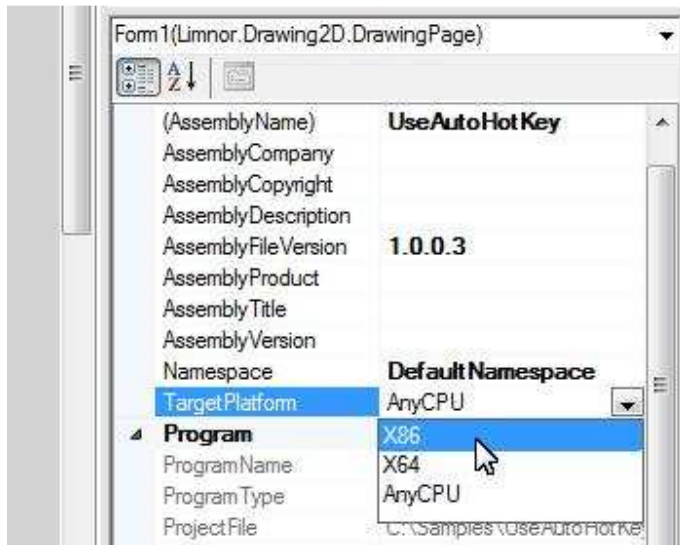
The action is created and assigned to the button:



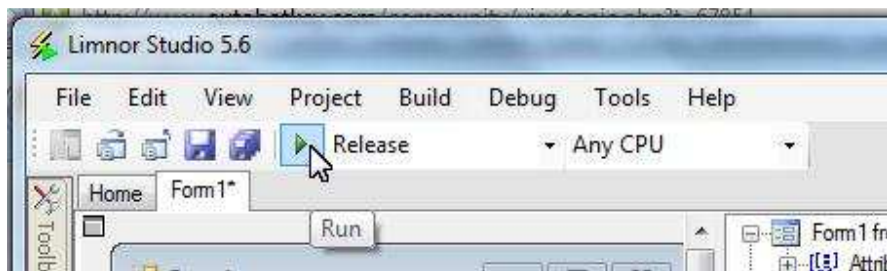
Target Platform

Because we are using the 32-bit AutoHotKey, we must compile our project to target x86:

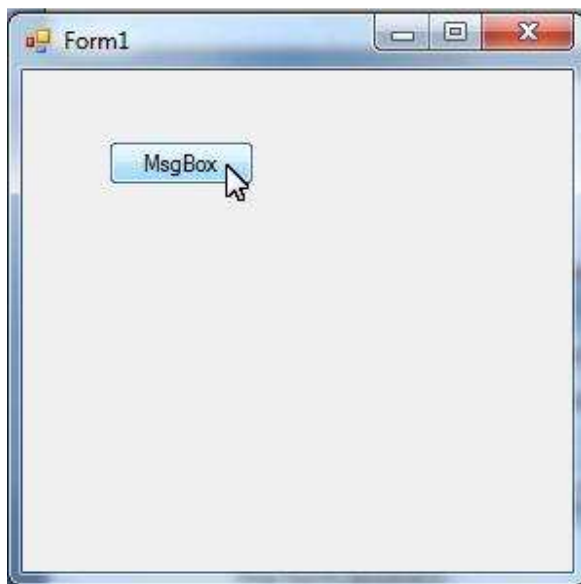




Compile and run the application:



The form appears. Click the button:



A message box appears as the result of executing AutoHotKey:

