

Read Text File with Encoding

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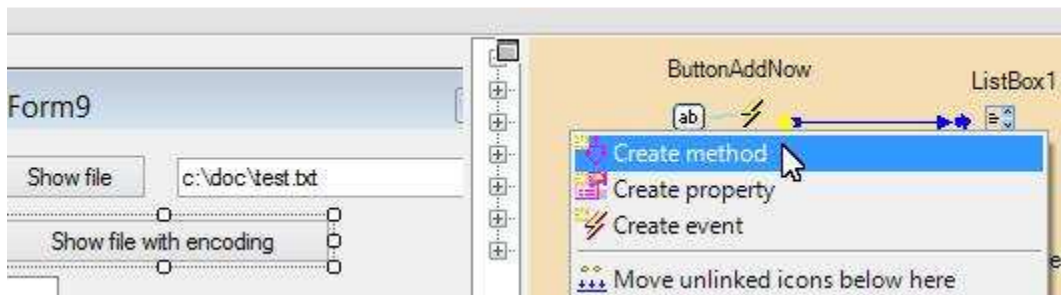
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Introduction

In <http://www.limnor.com/support/AccessObjectHirachy.pdf>, it shows how to read a text file and add each line of the text file to a list box as one list item. In that sample, it does not handle the encoding of the text file. If the text file is in a specific encoding then we need to read the text in correct encoding. This document shows how to do it.

Create method

Still using the sample project of <http://www.limnor.com/support/AccessObjectHirachy.pdf>, but add a new method to read the text file with specific encoding.

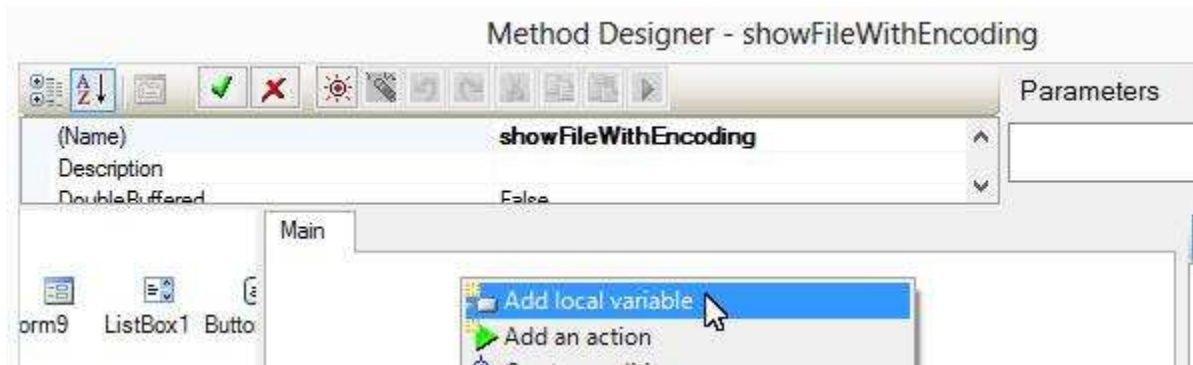


Rename the new method to “showFileWithEncoding”

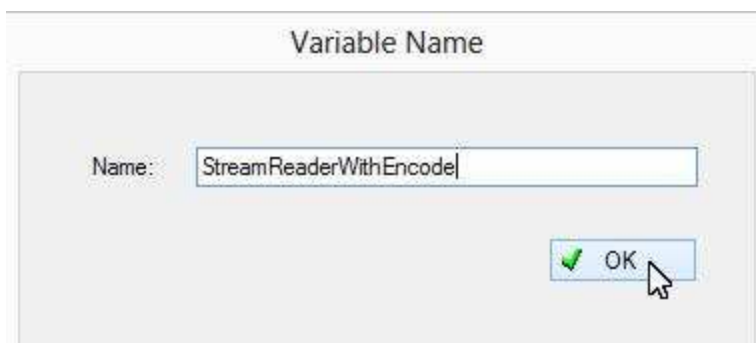


Create StreamReader with encoding

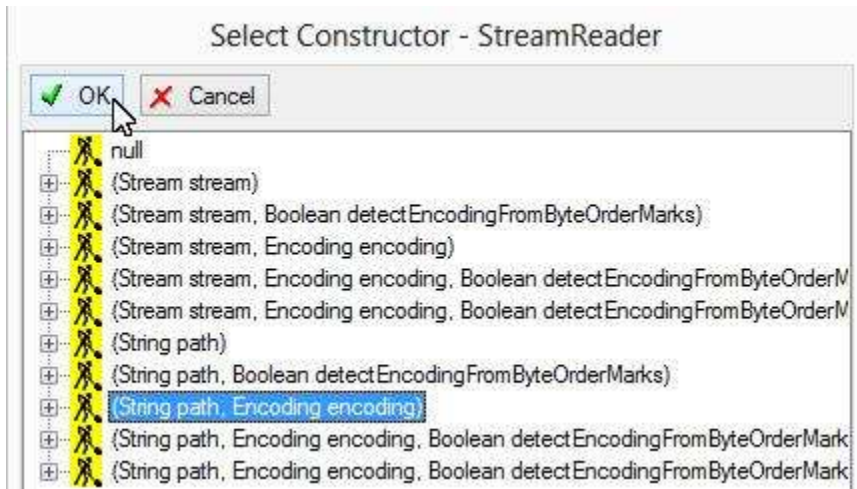
As in <http://www.limnor.com/support/AccessObjectHirachy.pdf>, we create a StreamReader variable to read the text file.



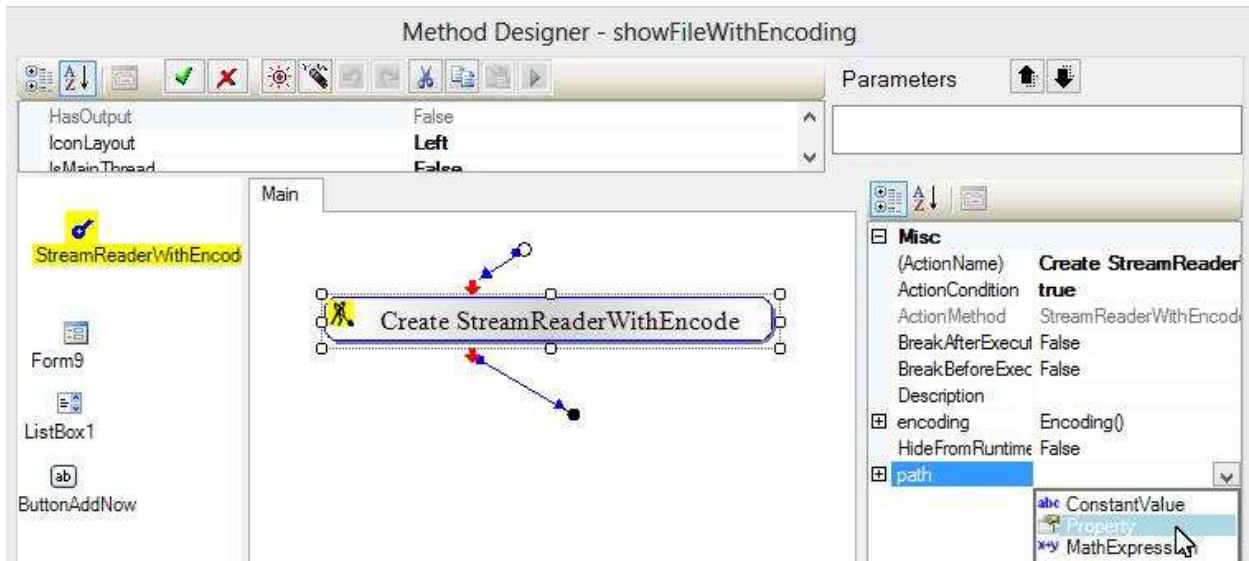
Select StreamReader under System.IO namespace:

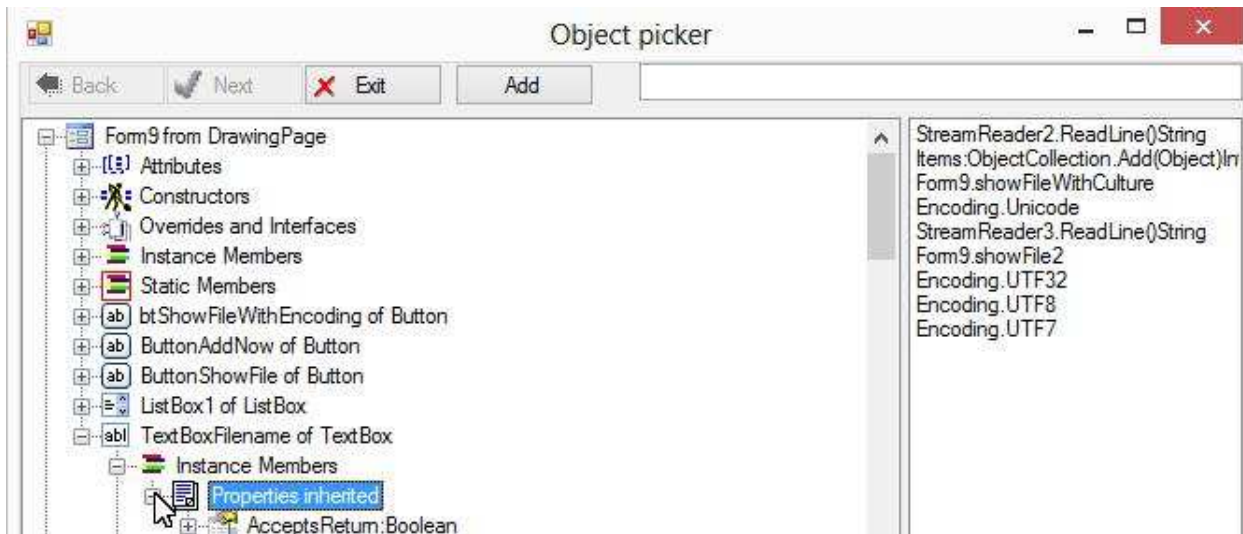


We select a constructor which allows specifying encoding:

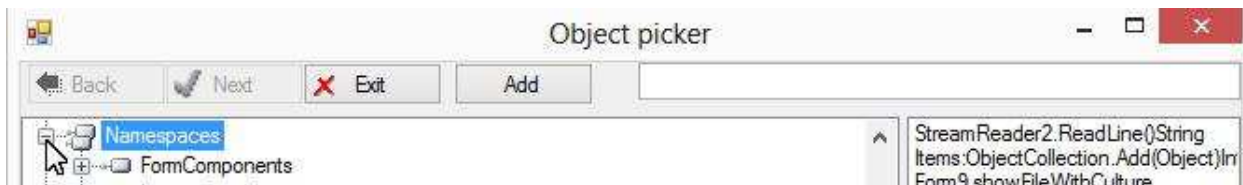
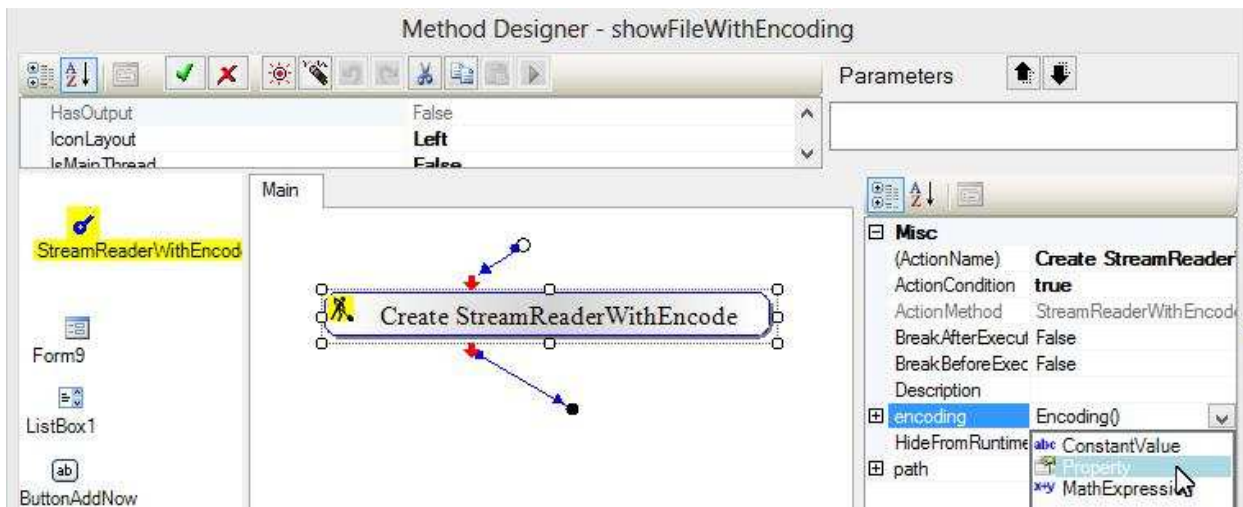


A new variable, StreamReaderWithEncode, appears in the Variable Pane. A new action for constructing the variable appears in the Action Pane. We may specify the text file path and the encoding for the action:





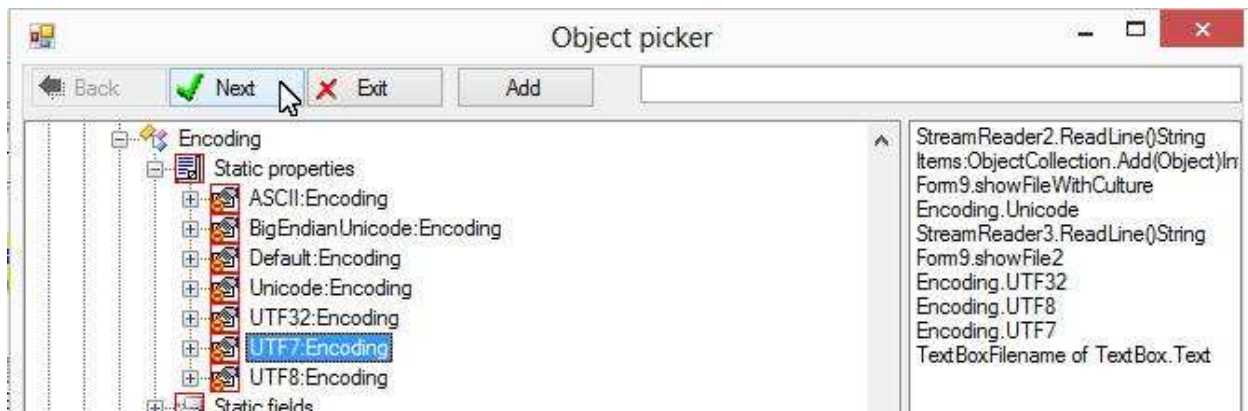
To specify file encoding, select “Property” to select an encoding pre-built in the .Net Framework:



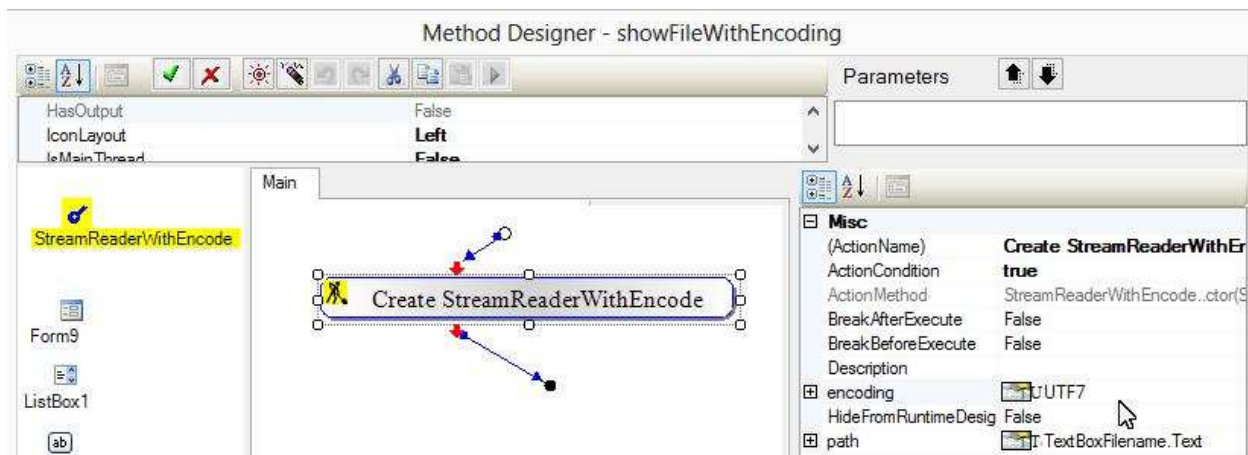
We can find pre-built encodings in the System.Text namespace:



If you do not know the encoding of a text file then you may try each encoding one by one to see which one works.

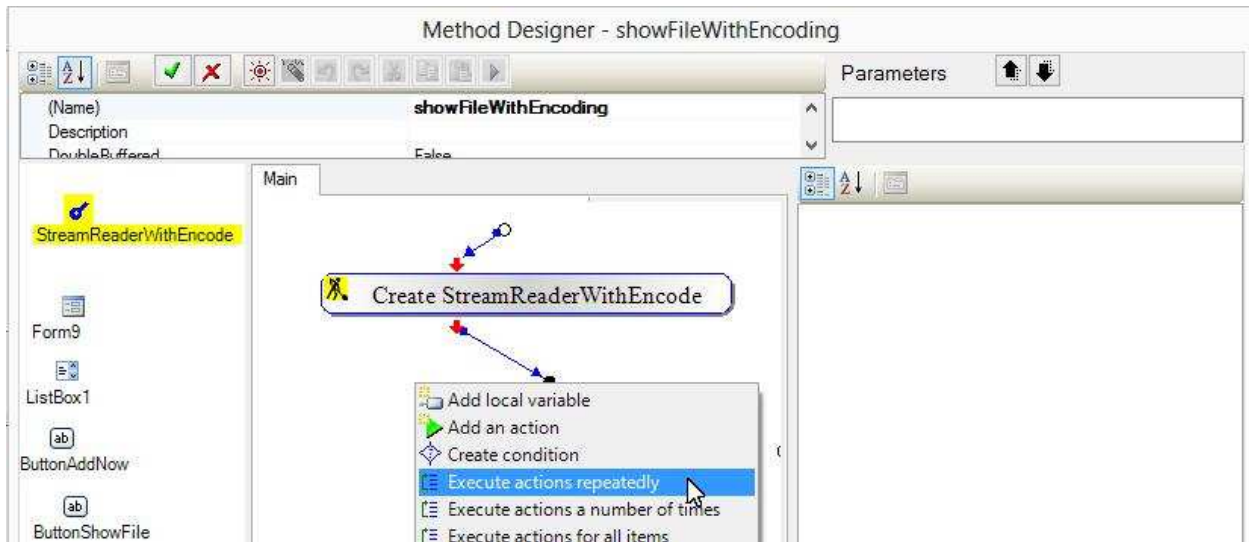


Thus we finish creating a StreamReader variable which takes encoding into account.

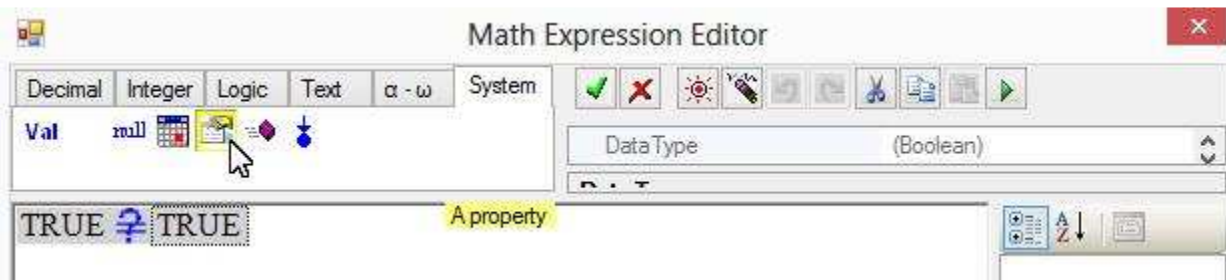
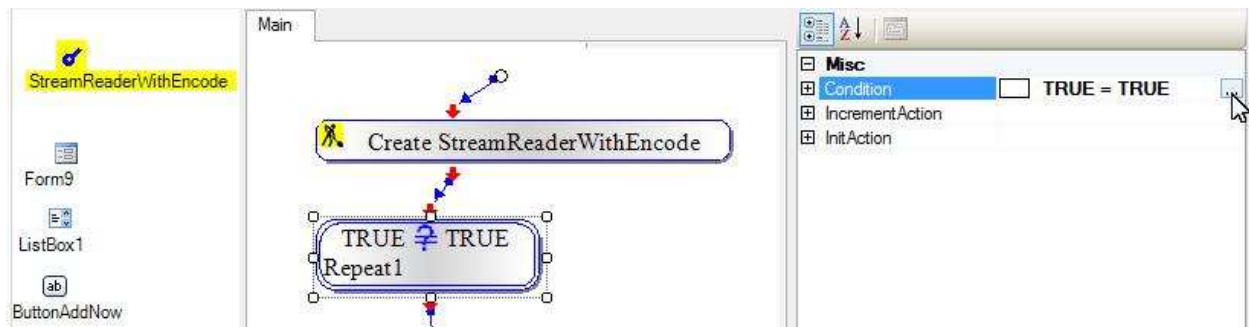


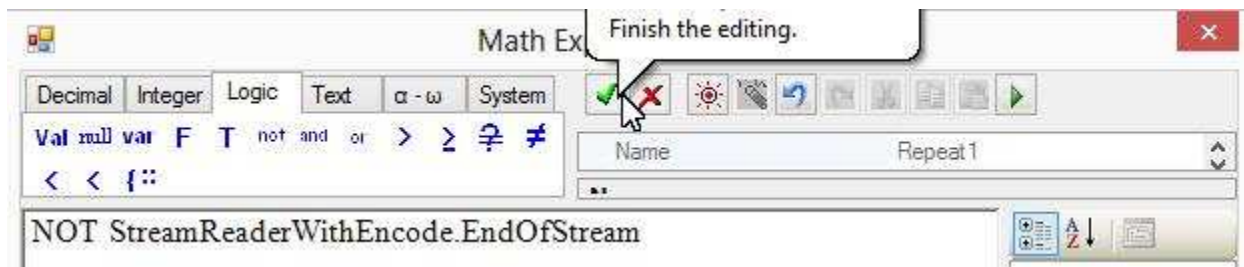
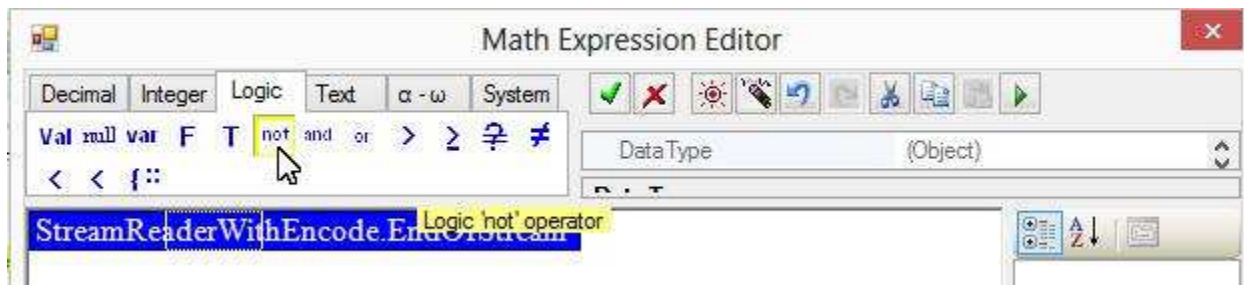
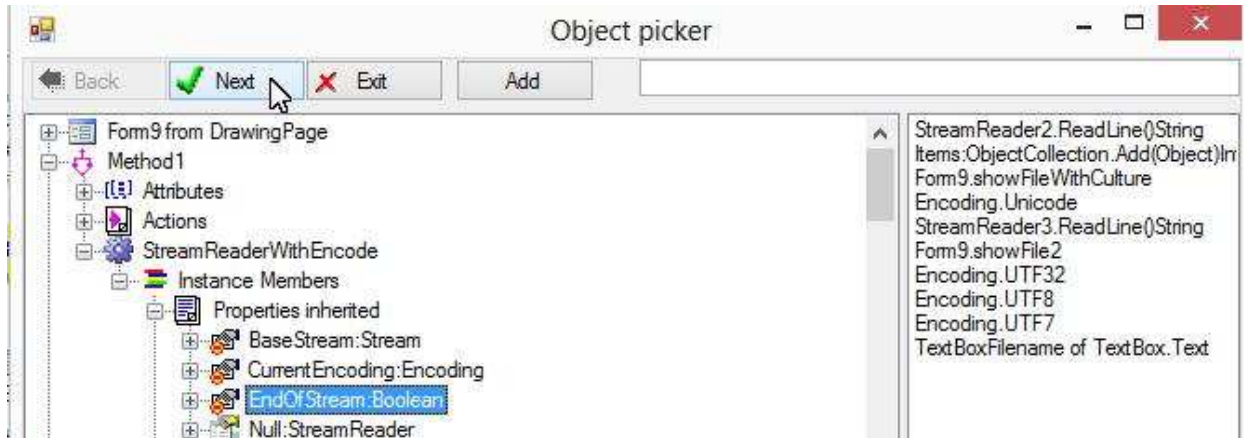
Create loop action

We now create a loop action to read each line from the text file, one line at a time:

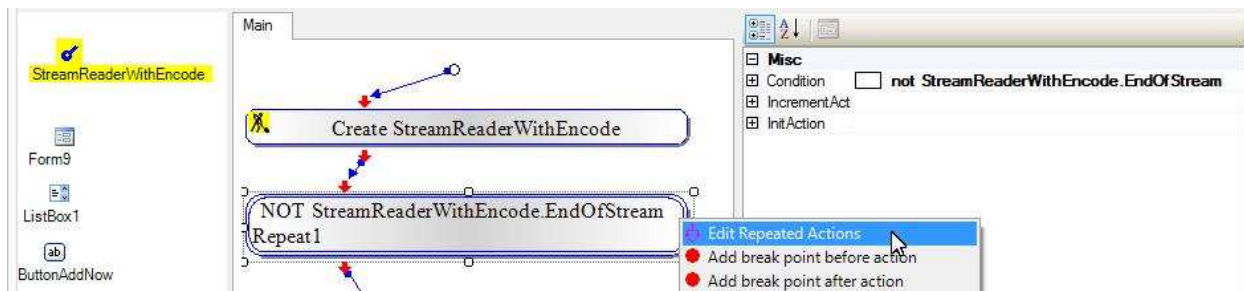


Link it to the last action. Set its Condition to that the stream reader is not at the end of the file:

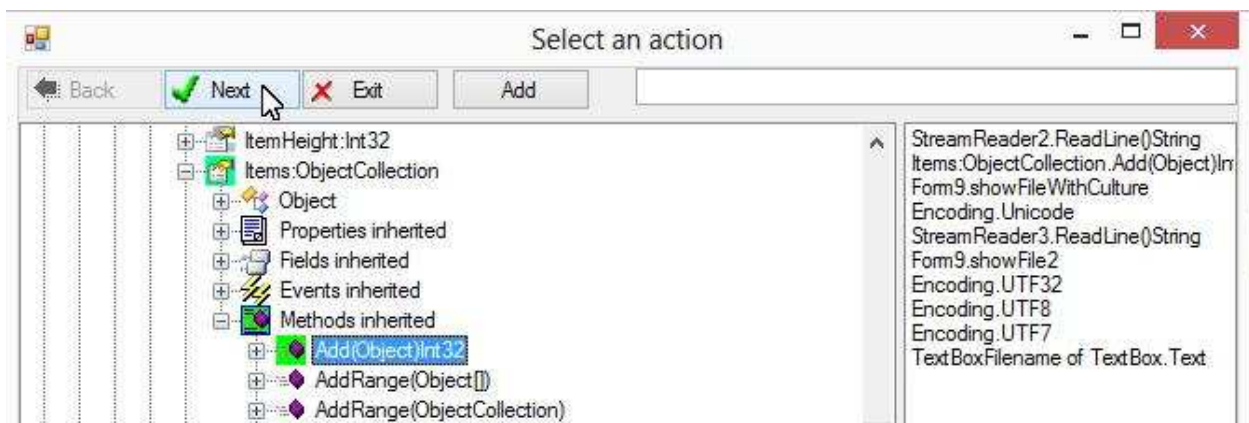
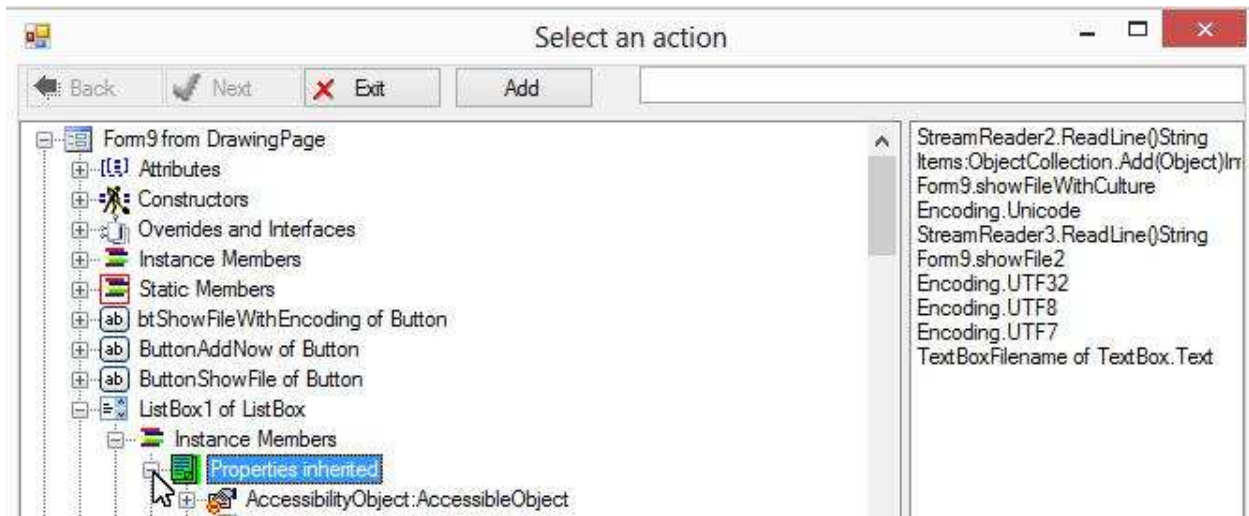
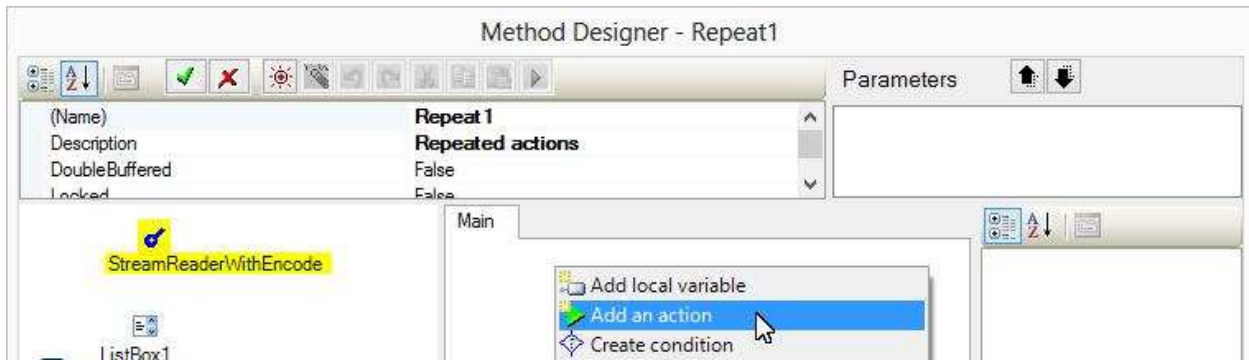




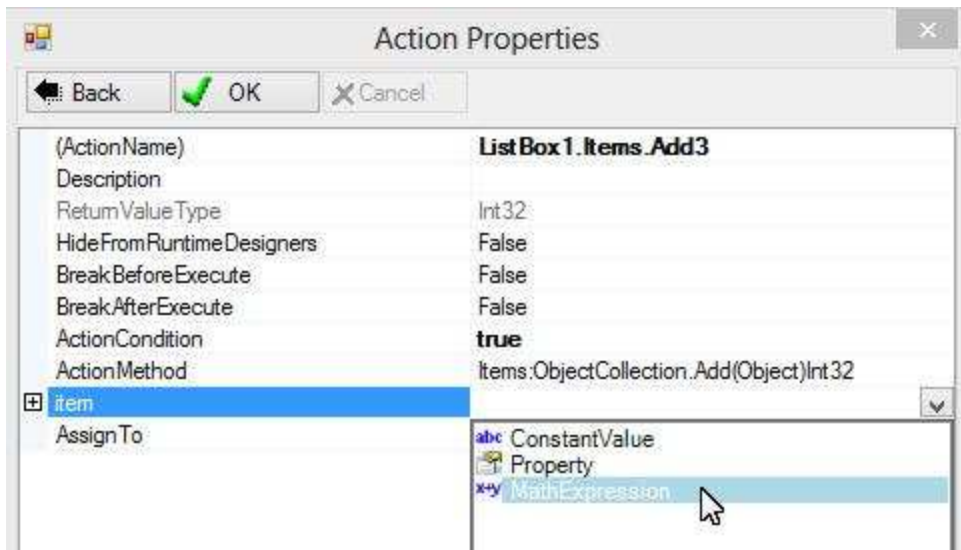
To specify actions to be repeatedly executed, right-click the loop action, choose “Edit Repeated Actions”:



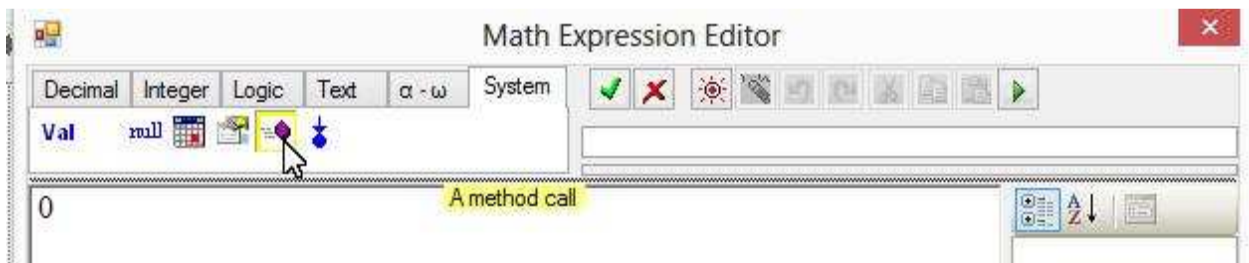
A new method editor appears. We want to add an action to add a list item using one line of text read from the text file. To add a list item, we need to use the Add method of the Items property of the list box. Right-click the Action Pane; choose “Add an action”:



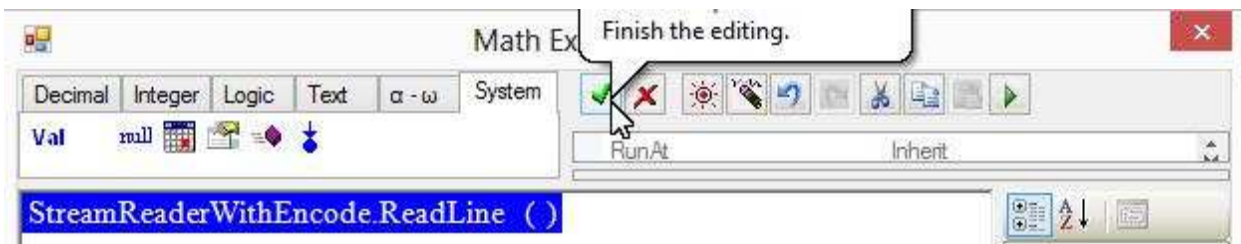
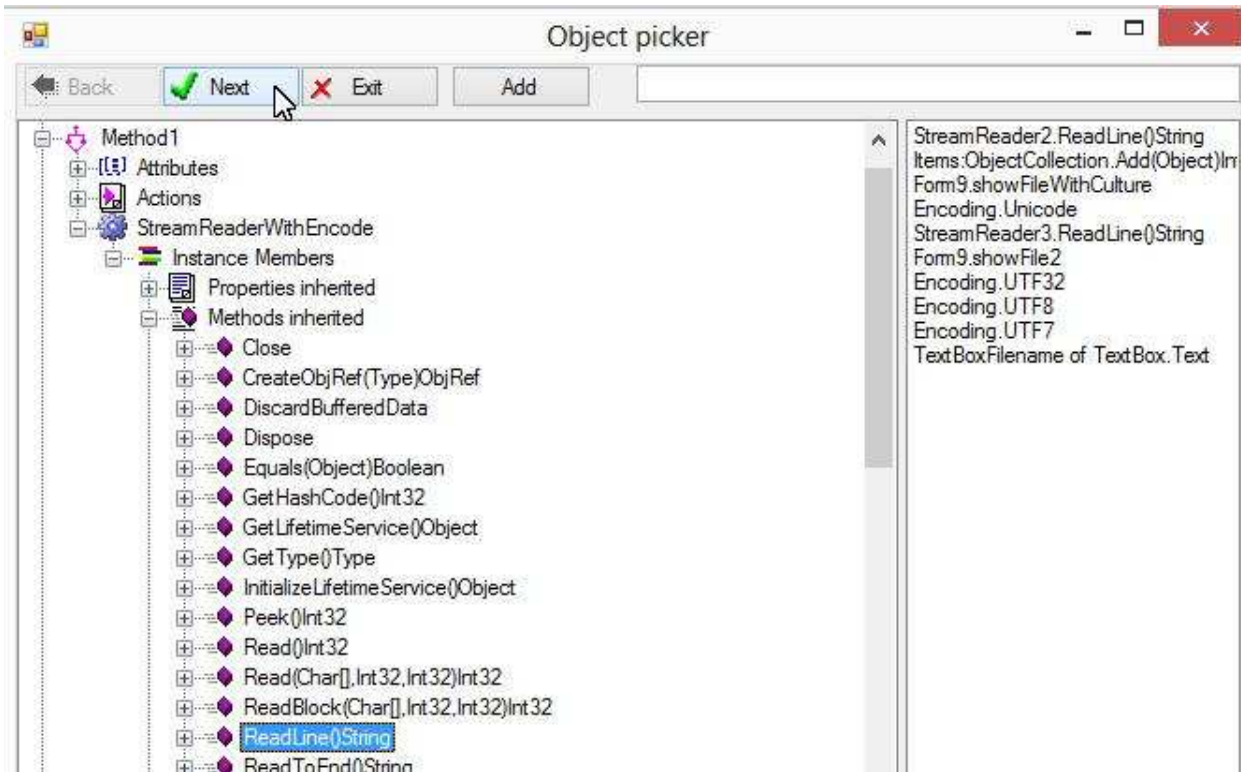
The “item” parameter of the Add action is the item to be added to the list box. Choose “Math Expression” so that we may execute a ReadLine method to read a line of text from the text file, as the list item:



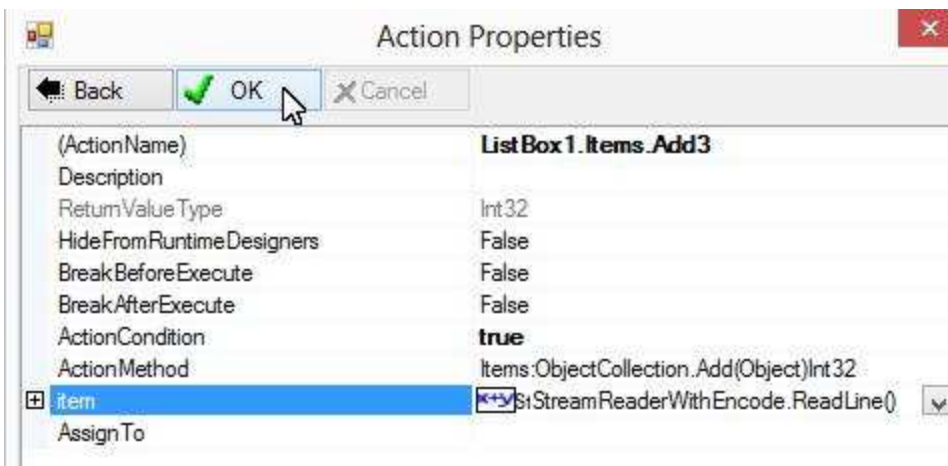
Click the method icon for executing a method:



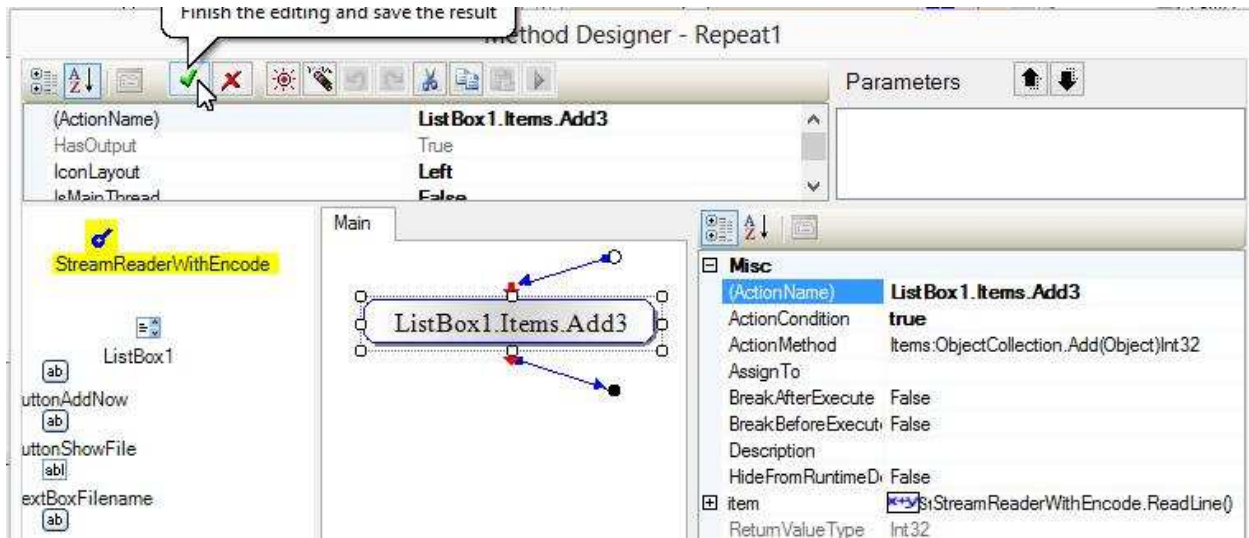
Choose the ReadLine method of the stream reader variable:



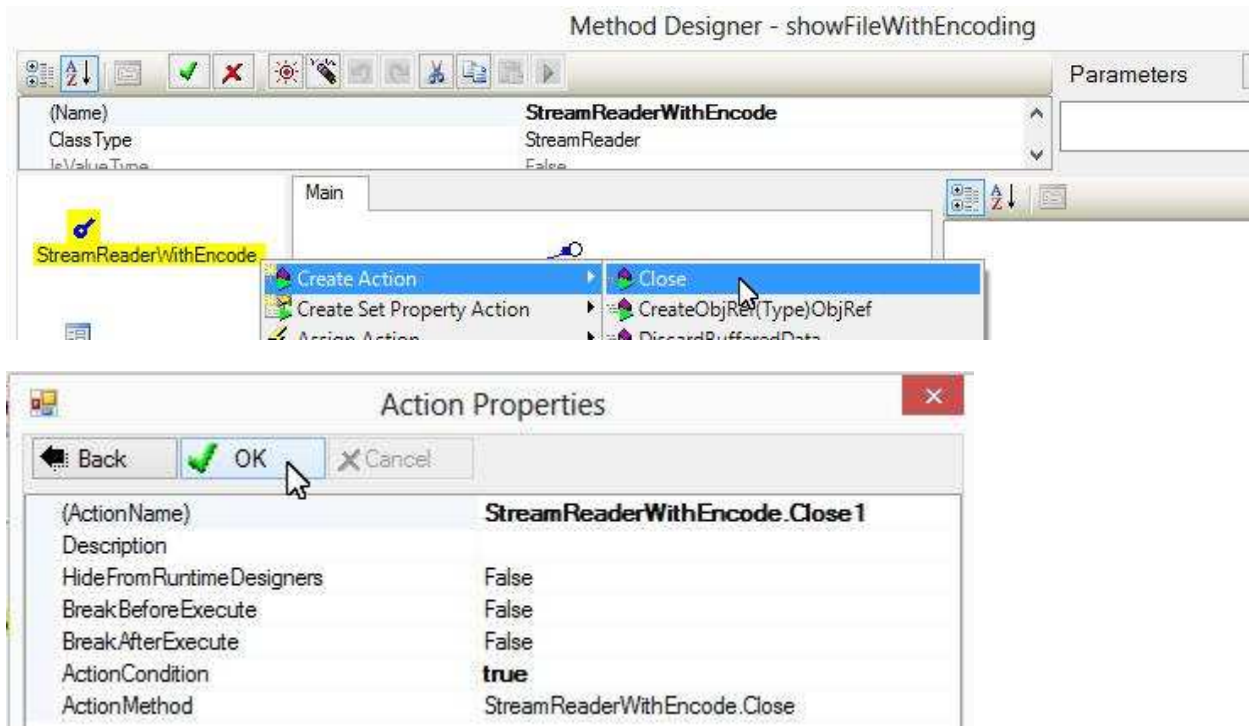
Click OK:



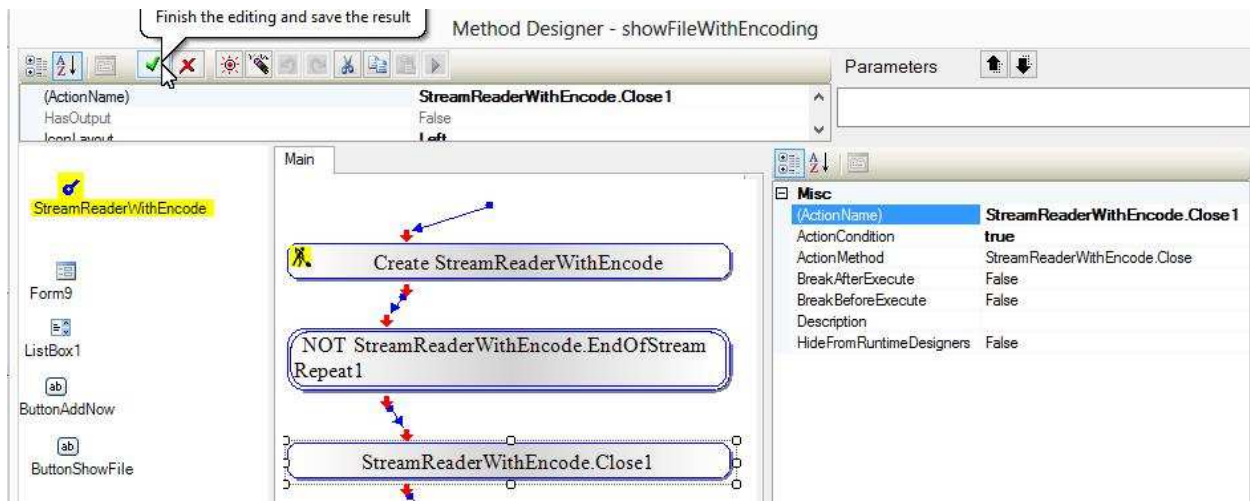
That is the only action we need to execute repeatedly:



Add an action to close the stream reader:

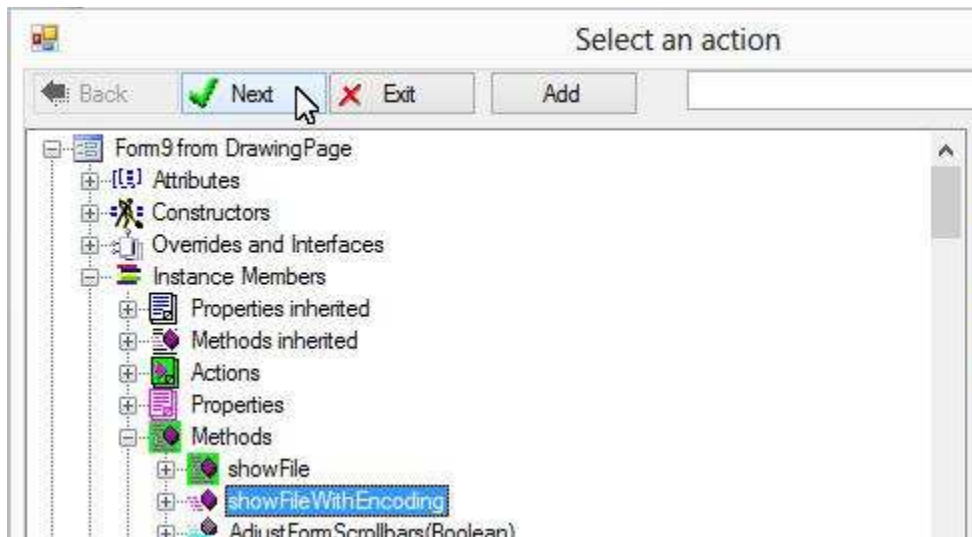
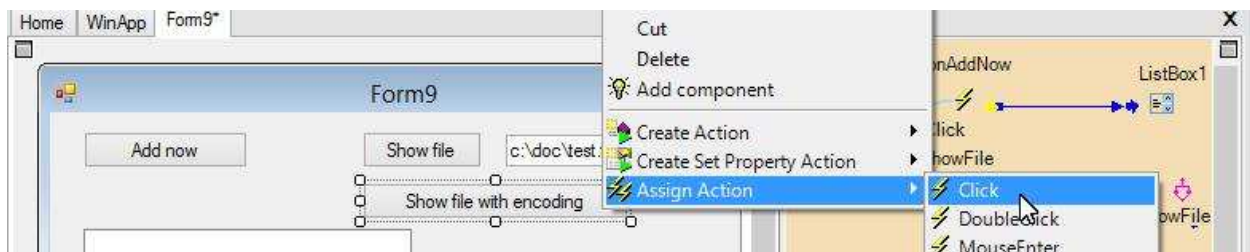


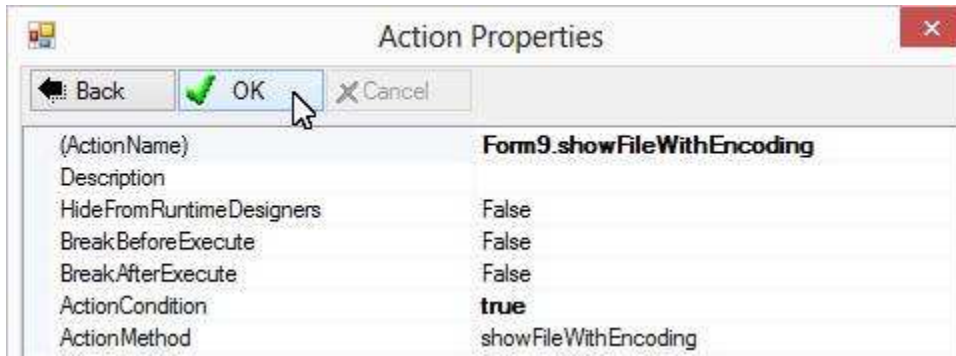
Link it to the last action. That is it for this method:



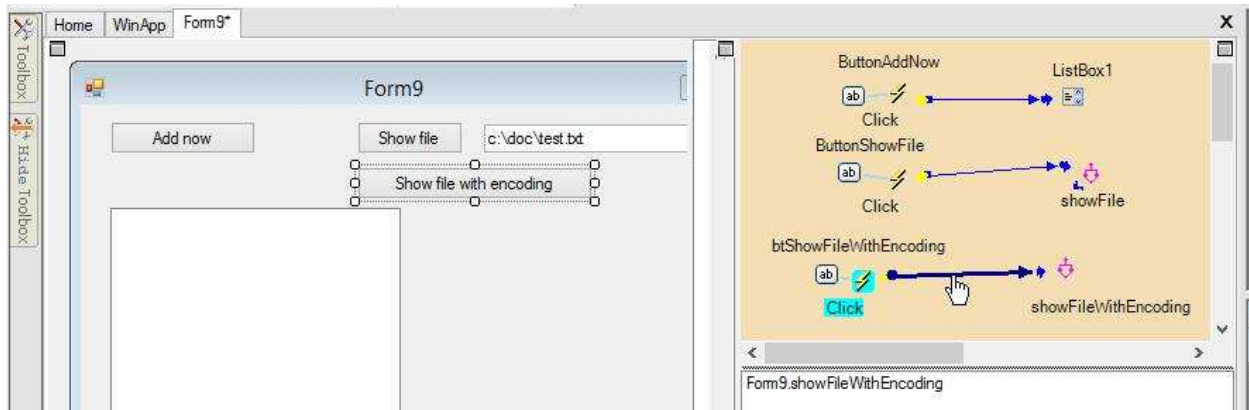
Execute method

We use a button to execute the method we just created:

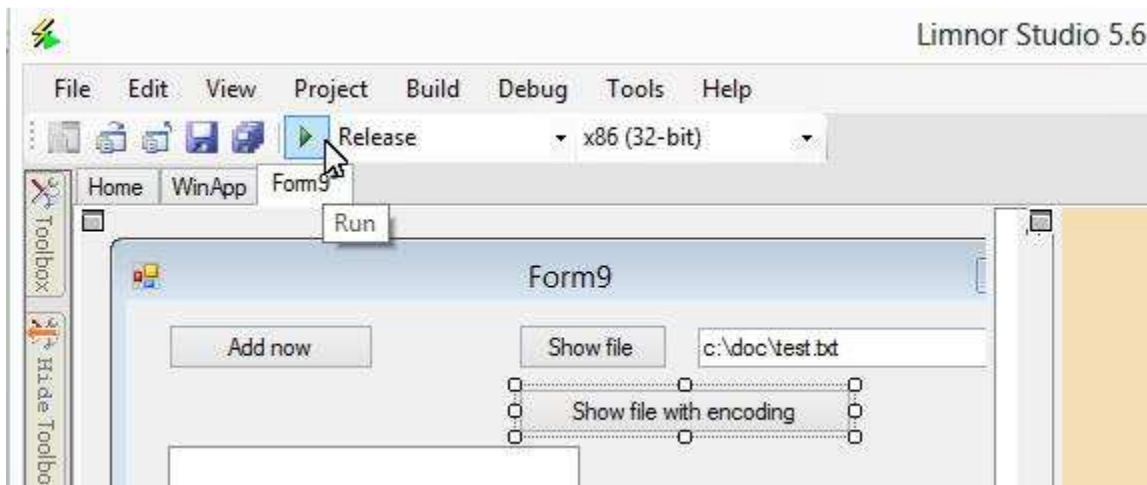




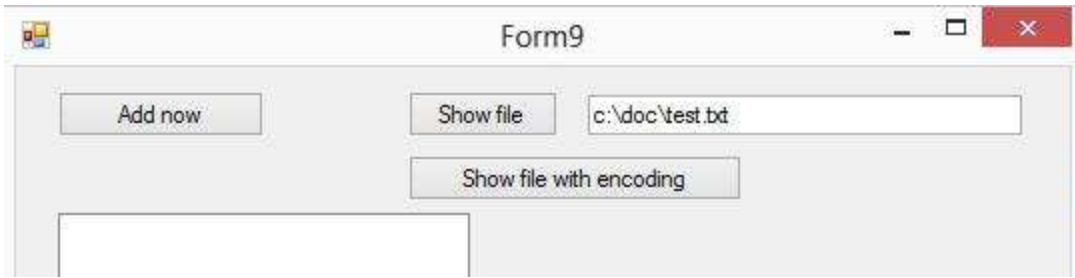
The action is created and assigned to the button:



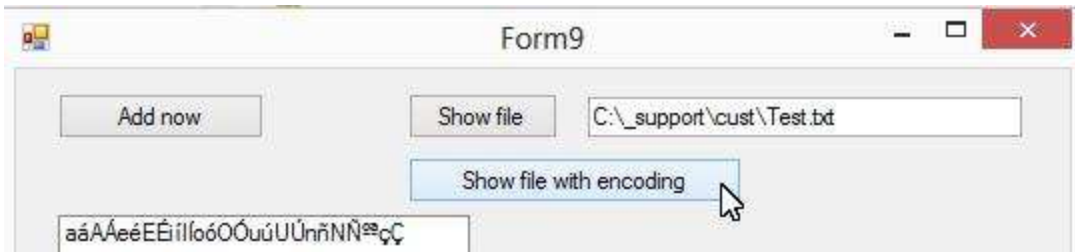
We may test it now:



The form appears.



Give a text file path and click the button:



We can see that the contents of the text file appear in the list box. If we do not give the correct encoding when constructing the stream reader variable then the contents appearing in the list box will be incorrect. If you do not see correct contents then you may edit the construct action and change its encoding parameter.

Feedback

Please send your feedback to support@limnor.com. Thanks!