Visual Studio Team System Chat
April 27, 2007 / 4:00 PM

Join members of the Visual Studio Team System product group to discuss features available in Visual Studio Team Foundation Server, Team Editions for Architects, Developers, Database Pros, and Testers. In addition, discuss what's new in the latest Community Technology Preview (CTP).

Answers from the Experts

DavidKean_MS (Moderator): We will be starting the Team System chat in 15 minutes.
DavidKean_MS (Moderator): Welcome to the Visual Studio Team System chat! We hope you all have lots of questions because we're ready to answer! Each member will now post a blurb about him or her. Please submit your questions using the "Post Question to Expert" option.
duncand_ms (Expert):
A: Hi. I'm Duncan Davenport and I'm a Program Manager and SQL SME with Team Data.
DavidKean_MS (Moderator): Hello, my name is David Kean and I am moderating this chat, I'm also a developer on the Code Analysis team which own Managed (FxCop) and Native C++ (PREfast) Analysis.
GreggB_MS (Expert): Hello, I'm Gregg Boer, Program Manager for Team Foundation Server / Work Item Tracking - Client
DanK_MS (Expert): Hi - I'm Dan Kershaw, a program manager on TFS Work Item Tracking - Server
Yohasna_MS (Expert): Welcome everyone, I am Youhana an SDET in the Version Control Client.
Naysawn_MS (Expert): Hello Everyone, I am Naysawn Naderi, a Program Manager on the Team Test Team. I tend to focus on developer oriented testing.
StevenPo - MSFT (Expert): I'm Steven Powell, UE Writer for Team Data.
JeffBe_MS (Expert): Hi - I'm Jeff Beehler, Chief of Staff for Team System.
JeffBe_MS (Expert): Anyone download Orcas beta1 yet?
JeffBe_MS (Expert):
Q: [1] How "feature complete" is Beta1?
A: For the Team System features, almost everything we expect to deliver in Orcas is in Beta1. However, you'll notice that TeamData is not included in Beta1...you'll see that in Beta2. We have a few 'smaller' design changes that you'll see in Beta2 which should be feature complete across the entire product.
JeffBe_MS (Expert): What new feature in Orcas are you folks to most interested in?
JeffBe_MS (Expert): Funny thing about the CI support in Orcas...it was initially scheduled for Rosario and the team did such a great job, we decided fairly late in the game to add it to Orcas. It's very cool!

Naysawn_MS (Expert):
Q: [4] Question for Duncand: are there any plans for SQL code coverage? and if yes, is it in the near future?
A: It will not be in the RTM of Orcas, but it is something that we are looking at for Rosario.
Mario_MS (Expert):
Q: [5] there are commercially available plugins for distributing builds over multiple systems. is this something that might be included out of the box?
A: Deployment of builds won't be a feature is Orcas but we are looking at that space for the future
duncand_ms (Expert):
Q: [4] Question for Duncand: are there any plans for SQL code coverage? and if yes, is it in the near future?
A: Yup, there's plans. We're looking very closely at an initial Powertoy release, and then something more integrated... down the road...
Mario_MS (Expert):
Q: [8] Will we see a SC OpsMgr Management Pack for TFS?
A: There are several efforts in TFS to centralize and make adminsitration a lot better. Orcas is a small release for the TFS Admins team but Rosario is where we are thinking of making those investments
Mario_MS (Expert):
Q: [9] Is a date-based build retention policy going to make it in Orcas? Keeping the last 7 builds for example is handy, but keeping the last 7 days would be helpful too
A: Thats an interesting idea ... I will pass the feedback to the team.

JeffBe_MS (Expert):
Q: [6] Is there a reason we still can't install on a domain controller? (For a presenter this would be handy)
A: This was on our plans for Orcas for a long time but we just couldn't get it done in time. You'll see that Brian mentions it on his TFS roadmap blog article:
http://blogs.msdn.com/bharry/archive/2007/04/05/update-on-team-foundation-server-roadmap.aspx. In it he says that the only solution he knows of is to run a virtual server on the domain controller and run TFS in that.
duncand_ms (Expert):
Q: [7] Any plans that can be hinted at about supporting Oracle (or at least OleDB/ODBC) databases?
A: This is an area of high importance to us, and we're heavily committed to making this possible. You won't see anything in an Orcas timeframe, but down the road... The idea is more that we expect to make our basic infrastructure extensible so that we can support a provider based model, allowing third parties (like an Oracle) to develop on top of us. It's important to note that SQL Server is our prime focus, and we won't do any "lowest common denominator" stuff that in any cripples our support for SQL
Mario_MS (Expert):
Q: [11] There was some chatter about "offline" abilities for TFS at some point, will anything like that make it into Rosario?
A: We actually did a DCR in Orcas (you can see it in Beta2) where we improved that scenario a lot. it will be interesting to get feedback from customers if they think that is enough or should we go the extra step. Offline is still in the plans for a future release and during rosario planning we will defenitely discuss it
JeffBe_MS (Expert):
Q: [12] Re. [6] Thanks Jeff. That's what I'm still doing
A: I wish I had a better answer for you. TFS Setup has been an area of tremendous investment for us during Orcas. There were just enough other things that we had to get to first though.
DavidKean_MS (Moderator):
Q: [2] David: Question for you, in addition to FxCop do you think a tool similar to StyleCop will be available in the future? Although API level code analysis is great there are certain rules we'd like to enforce on non-public code constructs.
A: As you well know, FxCop/Code Analysis currently runs over an assembly and not actually the source code. To change this would be a significant change. However, in saying that, this is one of many features we may consider doing in a future release, however, its likely to be more a long term feature, rather than short term. For the next couple of versions at least, you will still see binary analysis.
Naysawn_MS (Expert):
Q: [7] Any plans that can be hinted at about supporting Oracle (or at least OleDB/ODBC) databases?
A: It is something that Team Data is investigating for a future release (not Orcas).
Mario_MS (Expert):
A: thanks
Mario_MS (Expert):
Q: [17] Thanks Mario. Be sure that I'll be banging away at that...
A: thanks
DanK_MS (Expert):
Q: We don't have any plans to provide any extra process templates apart from MSF Agile and CMMI
Is this something other folks would like to see OOTB?
DavidKean_MS (Moderator):
Q: [3] JeffBe: I'm very interested in the code metrics, are these integrated into build reports though? We'd like to be able to track code metrics over time.
A: This is something that we've received a lot requests for. Unfortunately, for Orcas we won't be integrating this into TeamBuild or any sort of reports. However, this is definately something that we want to do in a future release.
duncand_ms (Expert):
Q: [13] Thanks Duncan. Anything you can talk about regarding an open interface for third-party database vendors to build on if they want to be supported by VSTS?
A: Not that I can openly discuss yet. But let's just say that approach is very attractive - in the sense that there needs to be places where third parties can "plug-in" functionality that is specific to their platform. And that there's a lot of that sort of demand, and we try to listen...
DavidKean_MS (Moderator):

Q: I'll ask the audience. What would be your preference on something that we should focus on in Code Metrics? 1) TeamBuild integration 2) Extensibility (the ability to add your own metrics) 3) Policy Enforcement of Metrics (being able to prevent check-ins of code that doesn't pass a certain threshold of maintainability. 4) More extensive metrics

DanK_MS (Expert): Thanks folks. I'll pass your comments on to the MSF team.

GreggB_MS (Expert):

Q: [18] @DanK: RUP seems to be something I hear much about for templates.

A: Are you looking for RUP out of the box? Or would partner provided options meet your needs?

DanK_MS (Expert):

Q: [16] Are there any plans to provide any extra process templates OOTB with Orcas? Eg. Scrum

A: No plans for this at present in Orcas

GreggB_MS (Expert):

Q: When you talk about penetration metrics for TFS, are you refering to the number of TFS deployments that use the MSF Agile or CMMI templates?

JeffBe_MS (Expert):

Q: [14] In the Rosario roadmap there is discussion of application lifecycle management, is the plan that this will cover "customer support", e.g. providing customer access to work items, SLA's, release management, etc.?

A: We haven't discussed this specifically. However, with the recently released Migration and Synchronization Toolkit (http://blogs.msdn.com/jeffbe/archive/2007/04/21/migrating-to-tfs.aspx), you should be able to begin reflecting work items to your customers if you have an already in place customer tracking system. Can you tell me more about what you'd like to see here?

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):

Q: [10] Any added Code Analysis rules for C# 3.0 language extensions?

A: Unfortunately no. Similar to the introduction of the .NET 1.0, its still not very clear on the gotchas and mistakes that people make when writing Linq. With regards to the other features, such as Extension methods, Automatic Properties, etc what would you like to see?

mariorod_MS (Expert):

Q: [22] Has any progress been made on the deployment and management of check-in policies in Orcas?

A: Unfortunately No ... that works is allocated for future releases ... anything in particular you wanted to see?

mariorod_MS (Expert):

Q: [15] Are Team Project level backups being considered for a future release? Can you think of any workarounds at the moment, possibly using the Migration Toolkit?

A: Yes this is a hot topic for us and defenitely being looked at closely ... there is a tool byt the VSTS rangers (MCS) shallow copy that might help

Naysawn_MS (Expert):

Q: [19] We have a large number of NUnit tests that we're migrating to MSTest, are there any solutions for making this easier? Currently there are a number of steps involved, creating a new Team Test projects, moving the classes over, removing NUnit namespaces, etc

A: Jim Newkirk (one of the original Nunit authors) has written an Nunit to VSTS converter which is available at http://www.gotdotnet.com/workspaces/workspace.aspx?id=91936c5e-461f-4027-bdba-8a46f52fefdb. I think that you will find that it's use makes transitioning easier.

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):

Q: [21] @David: Extensibility, enforcement, more extensive metrics (in that order)

A: Thanks Peter. You want to plug in your own metrics? Do you think we're missing some?

mariorod_MS (Expert):

Q: [27] Mario - I had a problem that caused loss of source code on a client site because of a coding bug in a custom check-in policy. The caused ended up being related to two team projects have references to old version of the check-in policy.

A: understood ... policy versioning. Thats interesting ... I'll make sure to add for later

GreggB_MS (Expert):

Q: [23] @DanK: I consult, so I deal with clients that use varying processes (plus my custom process :-). So, an out-of-the-box RUP template would be really helpful for pushing TFS to my clients.

A: Answering for my Dan ... Thanks

JeffBe_MS (Expert):
Q: [24] Are there any ways to script the creation of a Team Project? Or planned.
A: We have a custom solution in house (think webservice calls) for this and are thinking about ways to make it available externally. Would that be useful to you? Can you describe the scenarios where you'd use this?
GreggB_MS (Expert):
Q: [20] Can anyone talk about any penetration metrics for TFS? Would extra templates for TFS even be something that would be used at this point? The impression in that TFS really has no penetration...
A: I don't have the data here, but we are seeing good growth of TFS users.
GreggB_MS (Expert):
Q: [25] @GreggB: just market pentration of TFS in general. Many people I talk to seem to have the impresison it's not really out there yet.
A: See my answer to the previous question. Thanks!

JeffBe_MS (Expert):
Q: [28] JeffBe: One thing i'd like to see is being able to provide work item only access to third-parties (i.e. a cut-down Team Plain) and being able to define what fields they can see, change, etc. and for CALs to access this functionality to be cheaper
A: An interesting scenario. Would you want them to be able to check in on the status of their issue (like connect.microsoft.com) or would it be more one way (like email)?
mariorod_MS (Expert):
Q: [30] Mario: Having the client pull-down check-in policies from the server rather than them having to be pushed out would be fantastic.
A: yep agreed ... we are researching the alternatives for policy distribution ... maybe click once or a similar model
DavidKean_MS (Moderator):
Q: [29] @David: I think the greatest potential of TFS/CodeAnalysis is in customization. Given it's something that makes it to the assembly level, for shops to be able to define their custom rules and enforce them at check-in would be a huge plus.
A: Peter we hear ya loud and clear. This is definately something that we want to focus on in the future. The question is, do you focus on making rules more customizable or do you focus on allow teams to write their own rules? What does everyone think?
mariorod_MS (Expert):
Q: [34] Any progress on simplifying TFS installation (s)?
A: In Orcas we have worked to simplify it but we did not made leaps. Anything in particular you want to see simplified?
JeffBe_MS (Expert):
Q: [32] @Jeff - Reasons for scripting team project creation: 1) Automating the tasks of kicking off/setting up a project. 2) When every employee joins our company we give them a Team Project 'personal workspace', 3) Hosted TFS
A: So #3 sounds familiar. I'm surprised with #2 - why would you have a team project per person...isn't that defeating the purpose? And with #1, what makes Team Project creation frequent enough to warrant automating these steps?
mariorod_MS (Expert):
Q: [36] (from the last chat) You can now use SQL Named Instances - Hoorah! Thankyou!

A: You are welcome ... we are also happy 😊
DanK_MS (Expert):
Q: [33] What support for 64bit will we see in Orcas + future releases?
A: TFS supports 64 bit on the data tier, but not the application tier. This is not going to change in Orcas. This is however something that we are considering for Rosario.
mariorod_MS (Expert):
Q: [38] Something to transition from MSTest to NUnit would be helpful :-)

A: You meant the other way 😊
JeffBe_MS (Expert):

Q: [35] JeffBe: We would want them to be able to see the work item but certain information would be restricted to not being visible or to being read-only... And also for the customer to be able to add history entries etc.

A: So, your scenario it sounds a lot like a stripped down version of TeamPlain to me with certain permission restrictions. I'll pass the word along to the team.

Naysawn_MS (Expert):

Q: [33] What support for 64bit will we see in Orcas + future releases?

A: I can only answer for support for 64bit tests. There will not be any new support for 64 bit execution of tests in Orcas. We are examining if we will be able to rectify the issue in Rosario.

GreggB_MS (Expert):

Q: [37] JeffBe: Althought it wouldn't be suitable for us I do know companies that would love for team system to be able to poll a mailbox and create work items for each email received (similar to how FogBugz does).

A: THis is a great idea and one we are looking into for a future release. WHat are companies wishing to do with this. FOr example, what kind of things are they creating from email? Bugs? Tasks? Requirements?

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):

Q: [26] @David: I guess I'm out of luck on var (doesn't make it into the assembly, per se). I know many people watching C# 3. demos are really put off by wholesale abilities of their developers to use features like extension methods.

A: It's pretty likely that you won't see any rules from us, 'stating' don't use Extension methods. 😊 However, this wouldn't be too hard to write a simply rule to do this. We are thinking about releasing rule samples when Orcas releases, perhaps, I'll make sure this gets chucked in.

mariorod_MS (Expert):

Q: [39] Besides the ones on James Manning's blog, what other PowerShell toys are you working on?

A: We are currently trying to shot down Orcas so there is little development other than what James does. Right now I don't think we are doing anything until we ship. But james loves that stuff so hopefully he can keep it going after hours

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):

Q: [31] @David: to specifically answer your question "...missing some". Not really, other than possibly new C# 3.0 stuff. Most of the rules would be very specific to either an in-house class library or the way one shop mandates coding/design.

A: As you know, a lot of the C# 3.0/VB 9 improvements are simply syntactic sugar over IL. So it actually makes it hard to write rules that target them. What I actually meant though, do you think we're missing some metrics?

mariorod_MS (Expert):

Q: [42] @Mario: no, MSTest to NUnit... I've dealt with a few shops that went down the MSTest road only to feel they got pushed into buy many Team licenses for nothing. I know this is addressed in Orcas; but they're still a little ticked...

A: gotcha ... I dont know of any plans but I am not the expert in that area

Naysawn_MS (Expert):

Q: [42] @Mario: no, MSTest to NUnit... I've dealt with a few shops that went down the MSTest road only to feel they got pushed into buy many Team licenses for nothing. I know this is addressed in Orcas; but they're still a little ticked...

A: We are moving unit testing to the Pro Sku in Orcas. Hopefully this will help with licensing issues.

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):

Q: [40] @David: RE: customizable/rule-creation. I think rule creation would tend to be more accepted. Most of the shops I deal with accept most of the out-of-the-box rules and I can't think of many that could be improved by customization (bar metrics...).

A: What about naming/casing guidelines? Do you see many shops wanting to customize these or are they happy following the Design Guidelines?

JeffBe_MS (Expert):

Q: [41] When's the release date for Orcas and Have you decided on a name for Orcas? Will it be Visual Studio 2007 ? (hey, it was worth a try) 😊

A: We have not announced a release date or a name for Orcas. We do expect to issue our feature complete beta release "mid year" (whatever that means).

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):
Q: [44] @David: would be great for ext. meth. rules. Extension methods open up a whole can of worms that isn't directly addressed by anything in C# 3.0
A: Yep I agree. I can see how they would be misused. Although I think that they are handy for adding helper overloads to interfaces.

mariorod_MS (Expert):
Q: [43] A while back there was talk about guidance on publishing TFS behind ISA. I think it was a Ranger thing. Is there any updates on how to publish TFS (v1 or Orcas) behind ISA for offsite users. (No VPN)
A: I believe that it is still a ranger project ... unfortunately i dont know too much about it to give you a better update

JeffBe_MS (Expert):
Q: [45] Another issue around licensing (and I may have this wrong) is that I believe you need to buy a Team Suite license for each build server if you want to do code analysis and web testing as part of your build? Is this true? It makes build servers VERY expensi
A: I can't remember for sure. I believe that we license Team Suite by the user not the machine. If this is true, then the person kicking off the build needs to have a Team Suite license and they can install it on the build machine. Since I'm not sure, if you need the official answer, please send me mail @microsoft.com.

mariorod_MS (Expert):
Q: [50] Besides the addition of the migration toolkit - Will there be any changes to the existing converter tools for Orcas/Rosario?
A: Other than bug fixes there are no additions in Orcas to the VSS converter or the ClearQuest Converter

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):
Q: [47] @David: metrics. Complexity is a bit subjective--that's something that would be best suited to customization. I'd be a big proponent of something that measures degree of Law of Demeter violations...
A: Yes we've heard that. This is one of the reasons we really want to wait to see what customization customers really want. ie Do they simply want to tweak the numbers that make up the magic 'Maintainability Index', or do they want to completely replace the metric altogether.

mariorod_MS (Expert):
Q: [53] Will View History have the ability to follow branches? When you have several versions it is difficult to view the full history of a file.
A: Unfortunately it wont happen in Orcas but our plan is to do it a future release. There is a channel 9 video by yours trully on Visualizing Change. Take a look at that and hopefully it will be exiting.

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):
Q: [46] @David: We do having naming standards that are a subset of the Design Guideline, i.e. we've made some rules more restrictive so we would want to customise these.
A: Good to know. Will bring this to the product team.

JeffBe_MS (Expert):
Q: [55] Licensing: woulding floating licensing cover that? As long has you have enough floating licenses to cover the number of TFS sessions in use?
A: we don't provide floating licenses of VSTS or TFS.

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):
Q: [54] @David: ext. meth. can indeed be helpful; but they don't really follow the rules of namespacing so they can lead to some real problems if they're "accepted" too much. But, I'm getting a bit off topic...
A: Yep, perhaps we should continue this on the forums? 😇

mariorod_MS (Expert):
Q: [52] When running VSSConverter.exe - are the "file version" numbers preserved/migrated anywhere?
A: I dont remember but I think the date plus some of the version is included as some time of metadata within a text file or something. Don't quote me on that. Post that question is our forums if possible.

DavidKean_MS (Moderator):
Q: [48] The Static Analysis results are published to the data warehouse, will we ever see them in the build reports? Or is there a way to customise the build reports to include them?

A: Grant, I'm not an expert on our integration with Team Build, but I'll certainly pass this request onto them.

GreggB_MS (Expert):

Q: [49] (from the last chat) I agree that you should consider Project Portfolio Server integration

A: Thanks. This is being considered for Rosario. We see it as definitely a part of our plan.

mariorod_MS (Expert):

Q: [56] It would be great if the VSSConverter dated the changesets correctly rather than putting the original date in the comment.

A: Currently this cannot be done because in tfs a changeset represents a point in time and we dont allow you to create a changeset that is from 3 years ago. We will keep looking for a solution ... but is a hard one

Naysawn_MS (Expert):

Q: [51] Is deployment being considered for any future releases? For example, deploying the latest version of a web app onto a test server every time it builds.

A: We current support deployment of tests to various machines in the Test Sku. I'm not aware what Team Build's plans are for deployment for the future.

mariorod_MS (Expert):

Q: [57] Is dependency replication for Team Build being considered for any future releases?

A: can you elaborate on it ... what type of replication?

DavidKean_MS (Moderator): Great chat! Thanks everyone for joining us.

Guest Chat

Connecting to chat service...

RHundhausen connected.

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Chat Topic: Open Peer-to-Peer Technical Chat in Progress

Chat Topic: Visual Studio Team System

Grant Holliday: Hi All - Thankyou for making another chat at an APAC friendly time 😊

DavidKean_MS (Moderator): Grant: No problems!

wbarthol: Morning everyone

Peter Ritchie: I've downloaded it.

Peter Ritchie: Time to install and play with it yet: no :-(

wbarthol: It's on my to do list for this weekend.

AnthonyBorton: Yes

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: How "feature complete" is Beta1?

wbarthol: morning Anthony (William here)

AnthonyBorton: Hi William. Much better time for us eh? 😊

wbarthol: Indeed it is... I was shuddering at the thought of getting up at 3am

wbarthol asked the experts: David: Question for you, in addition to FxCop do you think a tool similar to StyleCop will be available in the future? Although API level code analysis is great there are certain rules we'd like to enforce on non-public code constructs.

AnthonyBorton: Jeff - I'm a big fan of the improvements in the build. CI & scheduling is a great step forward

wbarthol asked the experts: JeffBe: I'm very interested in the code metrics, are these integrated into build reports though? We'd like to be able to track code metrics over time.

Moe asked the experts: Question for Duncand: are there any plans for SQL code coverage? and if yes, is it in the near future?

audioSE asked the experts: there are commercially available plugins for distributing builds over multiple systems. is this something that might be included out of the box?

AnthonyBorton asked the experts: Is there a reason we still can't install on a domain controller? (For a presenter this would be handy)

wbarthol: All of the Team Build improvements are things we'll use, it's a shame that the build retention policies don't seem to allow you to base them on the build quality. We flag builds as being "released" etc. and wouldn't want these cleaned up

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: Any plans that can be hinted at about supporting Oracle (or at least OleDB/ODBC) databases?

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: Will we see a SC OpsMgr Management Pack for TFS?

AnthonyBorton asked the experts: Is a date-based build retention policy going to make it in Orcas? Keeping the last 7 builds for example is handy, but keeping the last 7 days would be helpful too

audioSE: thanks mario!

Peter Ritchie: Any added Code Analysis rules for C# 3.0 language extensions?

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Peter Ritchie asked the experts: There was some chatter about "offline" abilities for TFS at some point, will anything like that make it into Rosario?

AnthonyBorton asked the experts: Re. [6] Thanks Jeff. That's what I'm still doing

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: Thanks Duncan. Anything you can talk about regarding an open interface for third-party database vendors to build on if they want to be supported by VSTS?

wbarthol asked the experts: In the Rosario roadmap there is discussion of application lifecycle management, is the plan that this will cover "customer support", e.g. providing customer access to work items, SLA's, release management, etc.?

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: Are Team Project level backups being considered for a future release? Can you think of any workarounds at the moment, possibly using the Migration Toolkit?

AnthonyBorton asked the experts: Are there any plans to provide any extra process templates OOTB with Orcas? Eg. Scrum

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: Thanks Mario. Be sure that I'll be banging away at that...

Grant Holliday - MVP: WRT StyleCop, you can use (www.ssw.com.au) SSW Code Auditor as a check-in policy to get 'coding style' validation.

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @DanK: RUP seems to be something I hear much about for templates.

wbarthol: DanK: For tracking of bugs/anamolies I'd actually like to see a work item template based on the IEEE 1044 standard.

Grant Holliday - MVP: I would like to see a 'lightweight' process template and a 'small team' process template included OOTB. For example Mitch Denny's "Personal Workspace" process template doesn't create SRS or WSS sites. It's just 1 work item type and source control.

Grant Holliday - MVP: http://notgartner.wordpress.com/2006/03/26/process-template-released-personal-workspace-v10/

wbarthol asked the experts: We have a large number of NUnit tests that we're migrating to MSTest, are there any solutions for making this easier? Currently there are a number of steps involved, creating a new Team Test projects, moving the classes over, removing NUnit namespaces, etc

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: Can anyone talk about any penetration metrics for TFS? Would extra templates for TFS even be something that would be used at this point? The impression in that TFS really has no penetration...

Grant Holliday - MVP: William: Have you seen NUnit Converter that uses GAT to convert unit tests: http://www.gotdotnet.com/workspaces/workspace.aspx?id=91936c5e-461f-4027-bdba-8a46f52fefdb

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @David: Extensibility, enforcement, more extensive metrics (in that order)

Grant Holliday - MVP: @David: TeamBuild integration, policy enforcement, extensibility, more extensive metrics

wbarthol: @David: Team Build and more extensive metrics for sure

AnthonyBorton asked the experts: Has any progress been made on the deployment and management of check-in policies in Orcas?

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @DanK: I consult, so I deal with clients that use varying processes (plus my custom process :-). So, an out-of-the-box RUP template would be really helpful for pushing TFS to my clients.

wbarthol: Grant: I did look at one and I think it was that one and had minimal success...We have a large number of tests that use NUnit's old assertion syntax.

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: Are there any ways to script the creation of a Team Project? Or planned.

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @GreggB: just market pentration of TFS in general. Many people I talk to seem to have the impresison it's not really out there yet.

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @David: I guess I'm out of luck on var (doesn't make it into the assembly, per se). I know many people watching C# 3. demos are really put off by wholesale abilities of their developers to use features like extension methods.

AnthonyBorton asked the experts: Mario - I had a problem that caused loss of source code on a client site because of a coding bug in a custom check-in policy. The caused ended up being related to two team projects have references to old version of the check-in policy.

wbarthol asked the experts: JeffBe: One thing i'd like to see is being able to provide work item only access to third-parties (i.e. a cut-down Team Plain) and being able to define what fields they can see, change, etc. and for CALs to access this functionality to be cheaper

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @David: I think the greatest potential of TFS/CodeAnalysis is in customization. Given it's something that makes it to the assembly level, for shops to be able to define their custom rules and enforce them at check-in would be a huge plus.

wbarthol asked the experts: Mario: Having the client pull-down check-in policies from the server rather than them having to be pushed out would be fantastic.

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @David: to specifically answer your question "...missing some". Not really, other than possibly new C# 3.0 stuff. Most of the rules would be very specific to either an in-house class library or the way one shop mandates coding/design.

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: @Jeff - Reasons for scripting team project creation: 1) Automating the tasks of kicking off/setting up a project. 2) When every employee joins our company we give them a Team Project 'personal workspace', 3) Hosted TFS

Peter Ritchie: Any progress on simplifying TFS installation ?

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: What support for 64bit will we see in Orcas + future releases?

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: Any progress on simplifying TFS installation (s)?

wbarthol asked the experts: JeffBe: We would want them to be able to see the work item but certain information would be restricted to not being visible or to being read-only... And also for the customer to be able to add history entries etc.

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: (from the last chat) You can now use SQL Named Instances - Hoorah! Thankyou!

wbarthol asked the experts: JeffBe: Althought it wouldn't be suitable for us I do know companies that would love for team system to be able to poll a mailbox and create work items for each email received (similar to how FogBugz does).

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: Something to transition from MSTest to NUnit would be helpful :-)

Grant Holliday - MVP: @William - great idea.

wbarthol: @David: We want to write our own rules...

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: Besides the ones on James Manning's blog, what other PowerShell toys are you working on?

wbarthol: JeffBe: Yeah I think that would be the ideal scenario... But it might also be necessary to go a step further and having a different work item type for the customer issue and then being able to feed back status from sub-ordinate work items back to that issu

Grant Holliday - MVP: @GreggB: Primarily Bugs, but Tasks would be a useful aswell.

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @David: RE: customizable/rule-creation. I think rule creation would tend to be more accepted. Most of the shops I deal with accept most of the out-of-the-box rules and I can't think of many that could be improved by customization (bar metrics...).

wbarthol: GreggB: I think generally people would want to create bugs from emails... Unfortunately.

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: When's the release date for Orcas and Have you decided on a name for Orcas? Will it be Visual Studio 2007 ? (hey, it was worth a try) 😊

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @Mario: no, MSTest to NUnit... I've dealt with a few shops that went down the MSTest road only to feel they got pushed into buy many Team licenses for nothing. I know this is addressed in Orcas; but they're still a little ticked...

AnthonyBorton asked the experts: A while back there was talk about guidance on publishing TFS behind ISA. I think it was a Ranger thing. Is there any updates on how to publish TFS (v1 or Orcas) behind ISA for offsite users. (No VPN)

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @David: would be great for ext. meth. rules. Extension methods open up a whole can of worms that isn't directly addressed by anything in C# 3.0

wbarthol: Another issue around licensing (and I may have this wrong) is that I believe you need to buy a Team Suite license for each build server if you want to do code analysis and web testing as part of your build? Is this true? It makes build servers VERY expensi

wbarthol asked the experts: Another issue around licensing (and I may have this wrong) is that I believe you need to buy a Team Suite license for each build server if you want to do code analysis and web testing as part of your build? Is this true? It makes build servers VERY expensi

wbarthol asked the experts: @David: We do having naming standards that are a subset of the Design Guideline, i.e. we've made some rules more restrictive so we would want to customise these.

DavidKean_MS (Moderator): We have about 12 minutes left to go on the chat. Get those last minute questions in!

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @David: metrics. Complexity is a bit subjective--that's something that would be best suited to customization. I'd be a big proponent of something that measures degree of Law of Demeter violations...

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: The Static Analysis results are published to the data warehouse, will we ever see them in the build reports? Or is there a way to customise the build reports to include them?

wbarthol: David: Will the transcript be available?

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: (from the last chat) I agree that you should consider Project Portfolio Server integration

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: Besides the addition of the migration toolkit - Will there be any changes to the existing converter tools for Orcas/Rosario?

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: Is deployment being considered for any future releases? For example, deploying the latest version of a web app onto a test server every time it builds.

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: When running VSSConverter.exe - are the "file version" numbers preserved/migrated anywhere?

Grant Holliday - MVP: all done 😊

wbarthol asked the experts: Will View History have the ability to follow branches? When you have several versions it is difficult to view the full history of a file.

Grant Holliday - MVP: @William: Agreed. Although it's available via a power tool via command line, in the box would be nice.

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: @David: ext. meth. can indeed be helpful; but they don't really follow the rules of namespacing so they can lead to some real problems if they're "accepted" too much. But, I'm getting a bit off topic...

Peter Ritchie asked the experts: Licensing: woulding floating licensing cover that? As long has you have enough floating licenses to cover the number of TFS sessions in use?

Grant Holliday - MVP: Using Team Foundation Server to Visualise Change: http://channel9.msdn.com/ShowPost.aspx?PostID=301647

wbarthol: Thanks Grant 😊

Peter Ritchie: Thanks Grant.

wbarthol asked the experts: It would be great if the VSSConverter dated the changesets correctly rather than putting the original date in the comment.

Grant Holliday - MVP: @William: The third party CSConverter is able to do this (don't know how), but it's a good idea

Grant Holliday - MVP: @William: although it violates 'correct' version control.. so maybe as an option would be OK

DavidKean_MS (Moderator): Okay, 3 minutes to go. Last chance to get some questions in.

Grant Holliday - MVP: ok, one more for me

Grant Holliday - MVP asked the experts: Is dependency replication for Team Build being considered for any future releases?

wbarthol: Grant: Yeah it's a bit of a funny one.

Grant Holliday - MVP: for example, you have CommonProject that builds Common.dll, then AnotherProject that has a dependency on Common.dll - so when CommonProject builds, it kicks off a build for AnotherProject

wbarthol: Also, if you import only one branch from VSS you lose all of the history before the branch which is a shame. It would be nice to bring that history across.
AnthonyBorton: Thanks guys
wbarthol: Thanks all!
DavidKean_MS (Moderator): Australians: Would you prefer a weekday or weekend?
DavidKean_MS (Moderator): For these chats?
Grant Holliday - MVP: @Mario: Read the heading 'What the heck is dependency replication': http://notgartner.wordpress.com/2006/09/18/getting-started-with-tfs-integrator/
Grant Holliday - MVP: @David: dont care.
AnthonyBorton: Don't mind (weekend)
wbarthol: @David: I don't mind weekends...
Grant Holliday - MVP: @David: maybe try a weekday to see if you get more/less people
DavidKean_MS (Moderator): Yeah. this afternoon (for us) chat was just a last minute thing. Next time we'll make sure there is plenty of notice.
wbarthol: David: It is much appreciated, thanks!
Peter Ritchie: This time is good for me on the East coast (NA)...
DavidKean_MS (Moderator): Peter: What time is it over there?
Peter Ritchie: 8pm
Peter Ritchie: Sometimes hard for me to make a <3PM pacific time chat...
DavidKean_MS (Moderator): Thanks everyone, this transcript and this mornings transcript will be posted over on http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/chats/bb149288.aspx in the next week or so.
Chat Topic: Open Peer-to-Peer Technical Chat in Progress