



# ZW3D API Introduction

This document only gives basic introduction to ZW3D API. We recommend C/C++ for developing add-ons based on ZW3D. We will keep improving the API to make it more supportive to help our partners develop powerful applications based on ZW3D.

Should you have any suggestions or requirements, please feel free to contact us.

You could email [zdn@zwsoft.com](mailto:zdn@zwsoft.com) for help.

Thanks.

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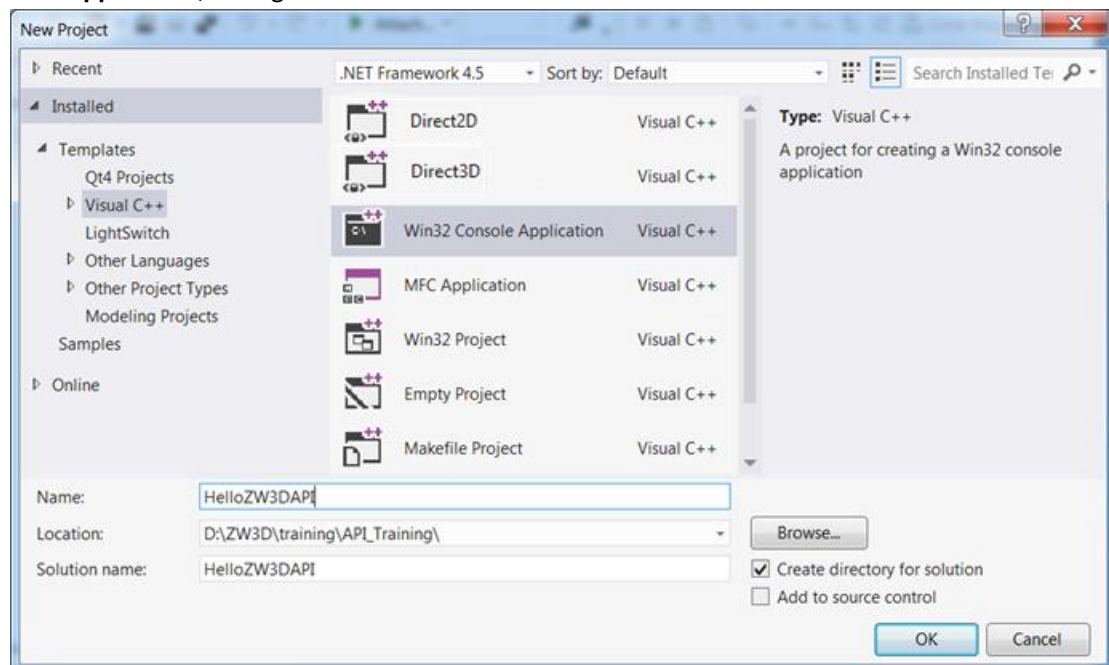
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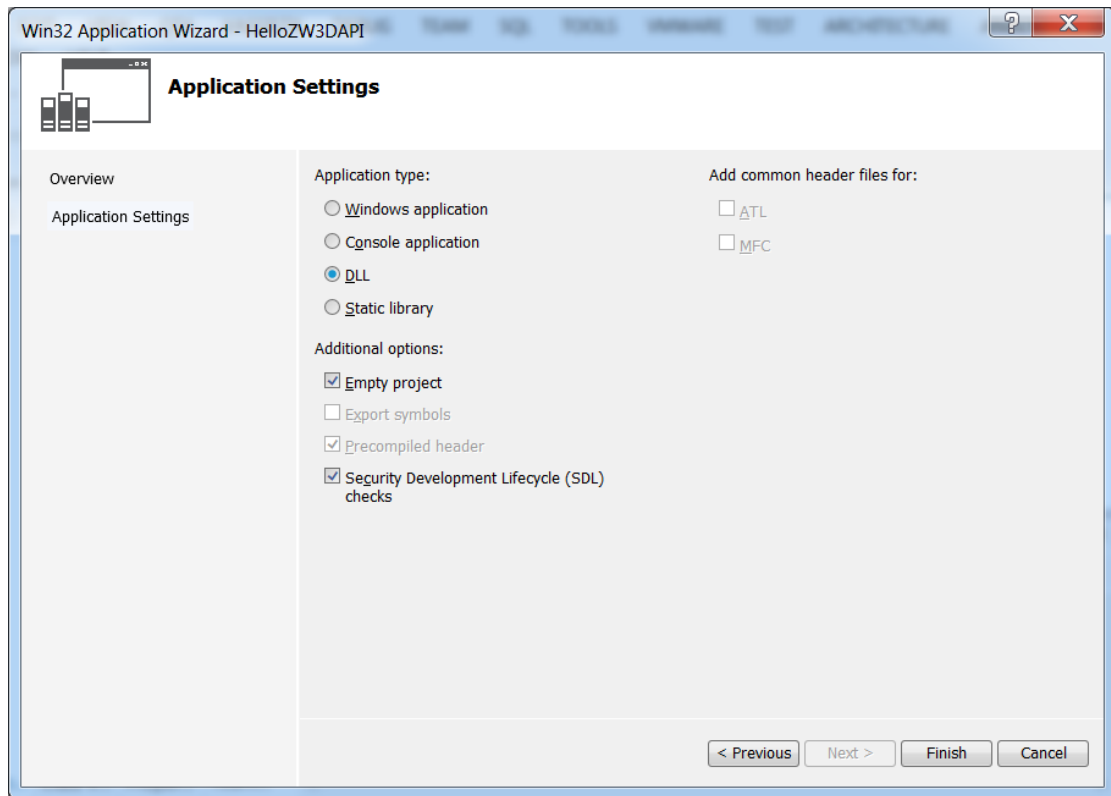
# ZW3D API Introduction

## Chapter 1: Start with ZW3D API

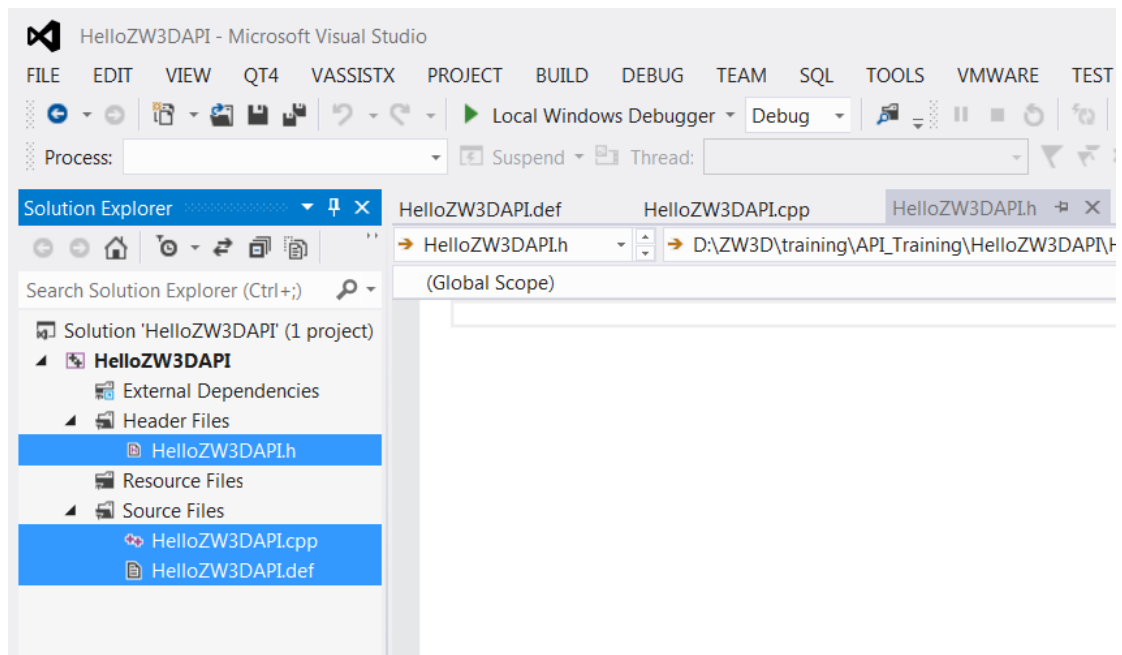
1. System requirement
  - a) Windows 7 or above
  - b) Visual studio 2012 (or any another IDE for C/C++)
  - c) ZW3D 2012 or above
2. Create a project
  - a) Open Visual Studio 2012, and choose **File → New → Project...**, choose **Win32 Console Application**, then give it a name **HelloZW3DAP**.



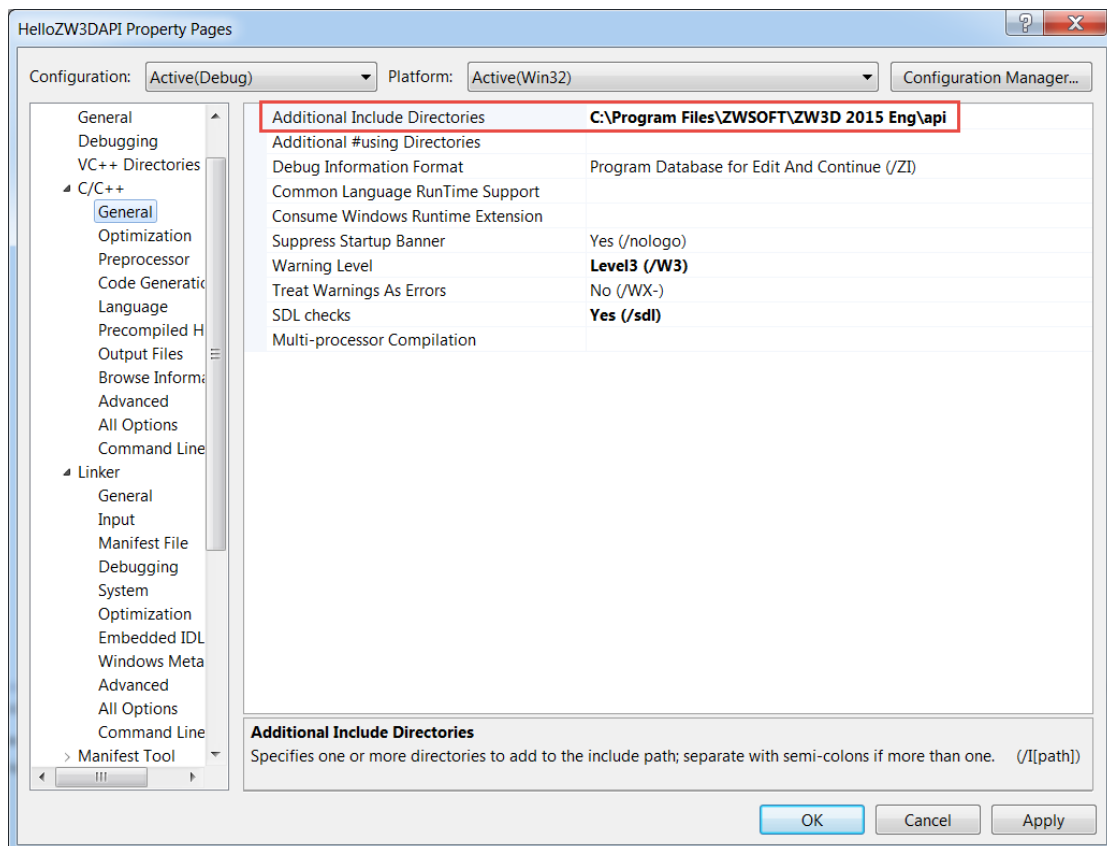
- b) Click **Next**. Then change the Type to **DLL** and set the Additional options to **Empty project**. Click **Finish**.



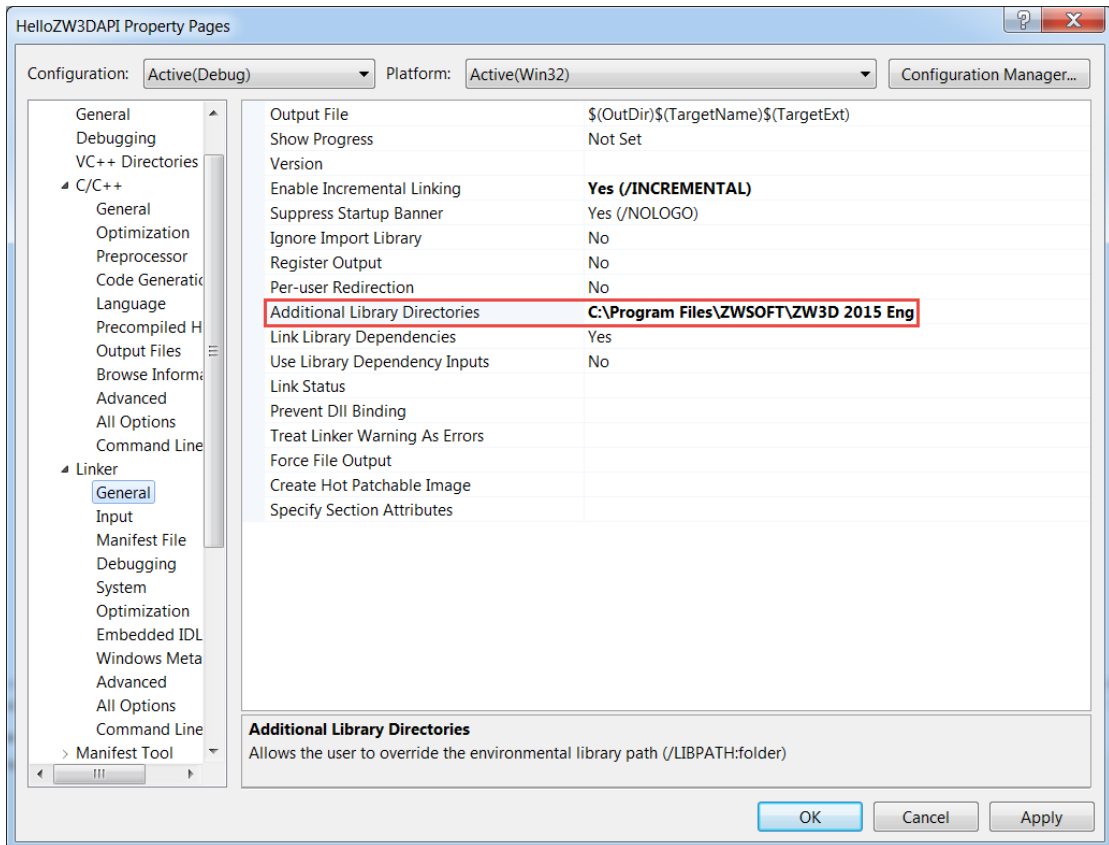
3. Add HelloZW3DAPI.h, HelloZW3DAPI.cpp HelloZW3DAPI.def to this project.



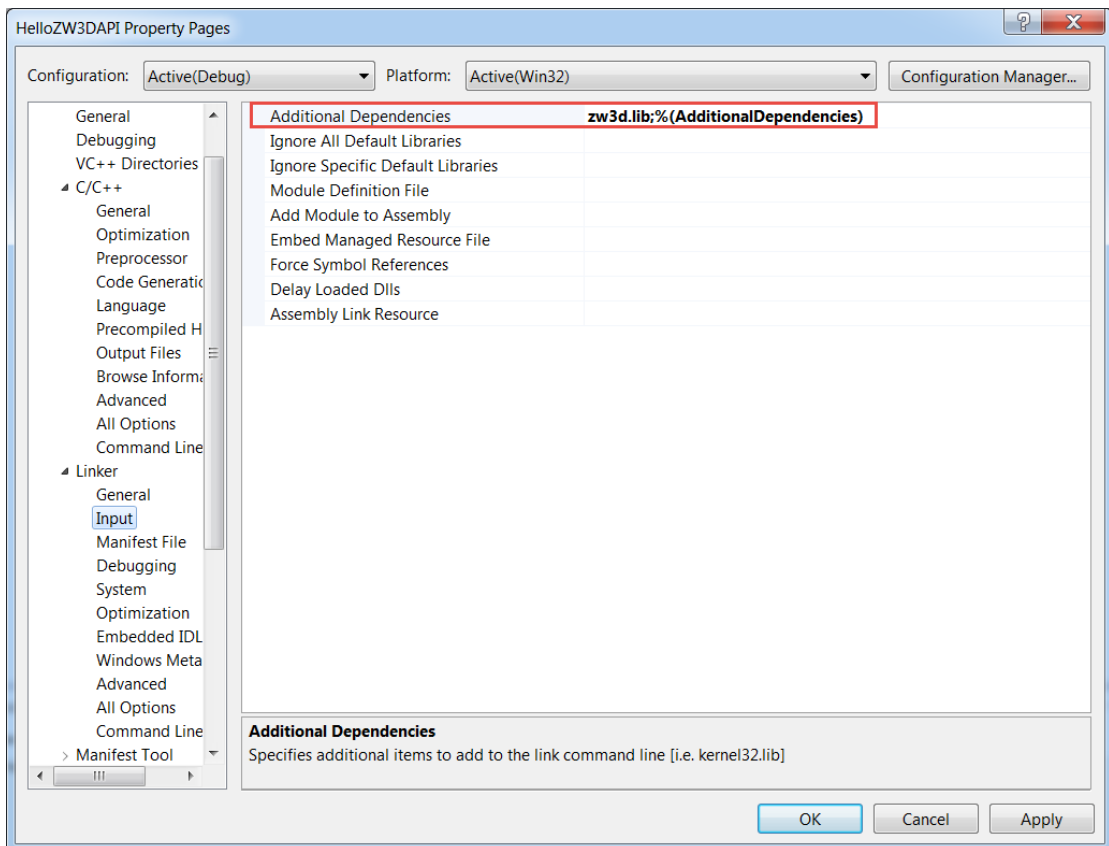
4. Set the project.
  - a) Right click on the project and choose Properties. Then, add the directory of ZW3D API head file to **C/C++ → General → Additional Include Directories**.



- b) Add the directory of ZW3D API library file to **Linker** → **General** → **Additional Library Directories**.

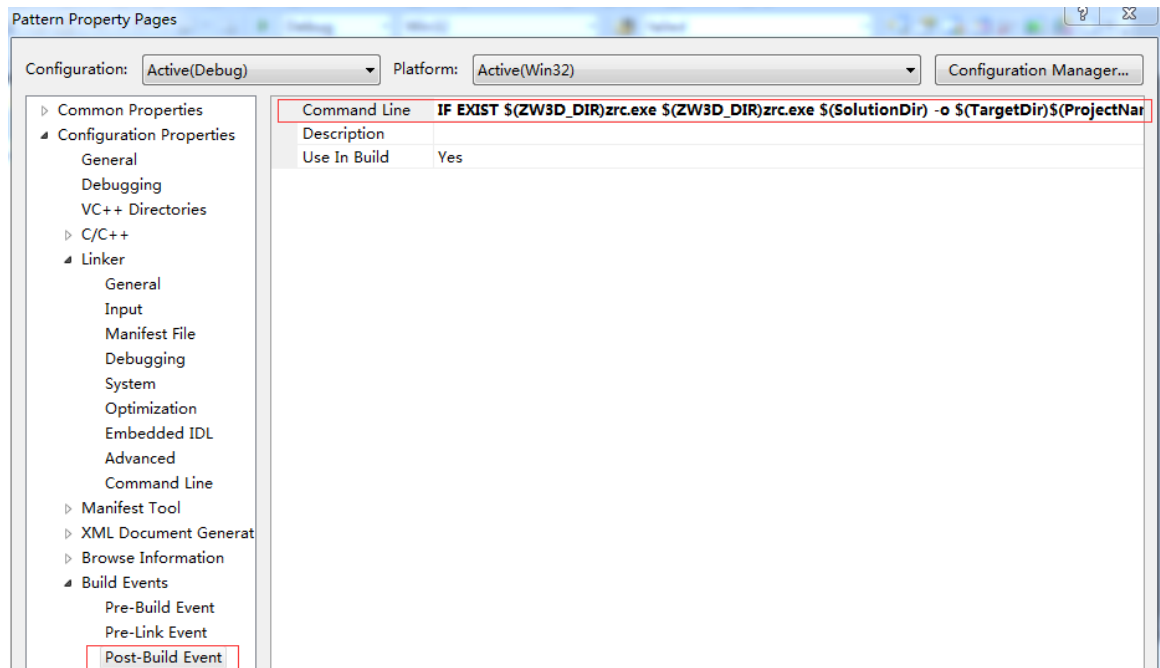


c) Add ZW3D API library to **Linker** → **Input** → **Additional Dependencies**.





- d) To compile resource, Add command line to **Build Events**→**Post-Build Event**→**Command Line**.



(Note: If there is no resource file in your project. Such as image/UI. This step is optional)

The contents as shown below:

```
IF EXIST "$(ZW3D_DIR)zrc.exe" "$(ZW3D_DIR)zrc.exe" "$(SolutionDir)\." -o
"$(TargetDir)$(ProjectName).zrc"
```

(Note: ZW3D\_DIR is an environment variable whose value is ZW3D installation path)

5. Define the functions in HelloZW3DAPI.h. You can copy the following code directly.

```
#ifndefHELLOZW3DAPI_H
#defineHELLOZW3DAPI_H

#include"VXApi.h"

IntHelloZW3DAPIInit(int format, void *data);
IntHelloZW3DAPIExit(void);
IntHelloZW3DAPI(void);

#endif
```





```

HelloZW3DAPI.def    HelloZW3DAPI.cpp    HelloZW3DAPI.h
(全局范围)
#ifndef HELLOZW3DAPI_H
#define HELLOZW3DAPI_H

#include "VXApi.h"

int HelloZW3DAPIInit(int format, void *data);
int HelloZW3DAPIExit(void);
int HelloZW3DAPI(void);

#endif

```

**Note:**The prefix of the functions must be the same as the project, which means @customizedApp@Init() and @customizedApp@Exit() are the entrance functions of the application. When @customizedApp@.dll is loaded by ZW3D, @customizedApp@Init() and @customizedApp@Exit() will be checked to know the customized functions.  
(@customizedApp@ means the name of any project you have created.)

6. Implement the functions in HelloZW3DAPI.cpp. You can copy the following code directly.

```
#include "HelloZW3DAPI.h"
```

```

IntHelloZW3DAPIInit(int format, void *data)
{
    cvxCmdFunc("HelloZW3DAPI", (void*)HelloZW3DAPI, VX_CODE_GENERAL);

    return 0;
}

IntHelloZW3DAPIExit(void)
{
    cvxCmdFuncUnload("HelloZW3DAPI");

    return 0;
}

IntHelloZW3DAPI(void)
{
    cvxMsgDisp("Hello ZW3D API!");

    return 0;
}

```





```

HelloZW3DAPI.def  HelloZW3DAPI.cpp  HelloZW3DAPI.h
(全局范围)
#include "HelloZW3DAPI.h"

int HelloZW3DAPIInit(int format, void *data)
{
    cvxCmdFunc("HelloZW3DAPI", (void*)HelloZW3DAPI, VX_CODE_GENERAL);
    return 0;
}

int HelloZW3DAPIExit(void)
{
    cvxCmdFuncUnload("HelloZW3DAPI");
    return 0;
}

int HelloZW3DAPI(void)
{
    cvxMsgDisp("Hello ZW3D API!");
    return 0;
}

```

7. Define the Module Definition file, HelloZW3DAPI.def.  
You can copy the following code directly.

```

LIBRARY HelloZW3DAPI.dll
EXPORTS
    HelloZW3DAPIInit
    HelloZW3DAPIExit
    HelloZW3DAPI

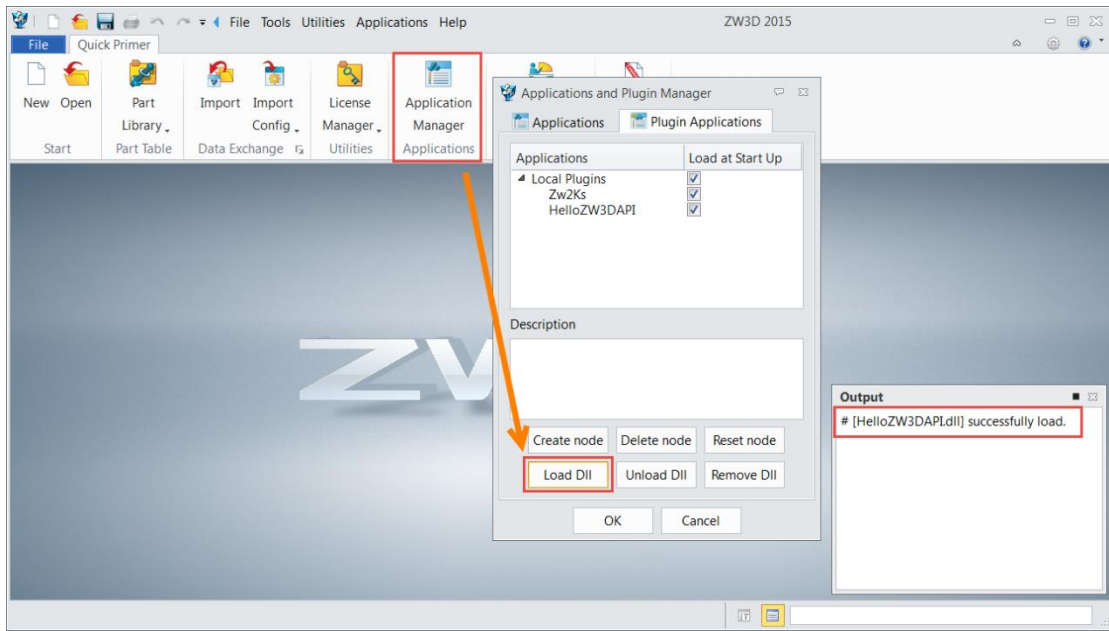
```

```

HelloZW3DAPI.def  HelloZW3DAPI.cpp  HelloZW3DAPI.h
LIBRARY HelloZW3DAPI.dll
EXPORTS
    HelloZW3DAPIInit
    HelloZW3DAPIExit
    HelloZW3DAPI

```

8. Build the project.  
Right click on this project to build the project. Then, you can find HellowZW3DAPI.dll in the directory ".\HelloZW3DAPI\Debug\HelloZW3DAPI.dll".
9. Load HelloZW3DAPI.dll.
  - a) Use ZW3D Applications Manager to load the DLL and a message in the Output dialog will show whether the command fails or succeeds.  
**Note:** This path will be remembered in registration when ZW3D is closed, and next time it will automatically follow the path to load the file.

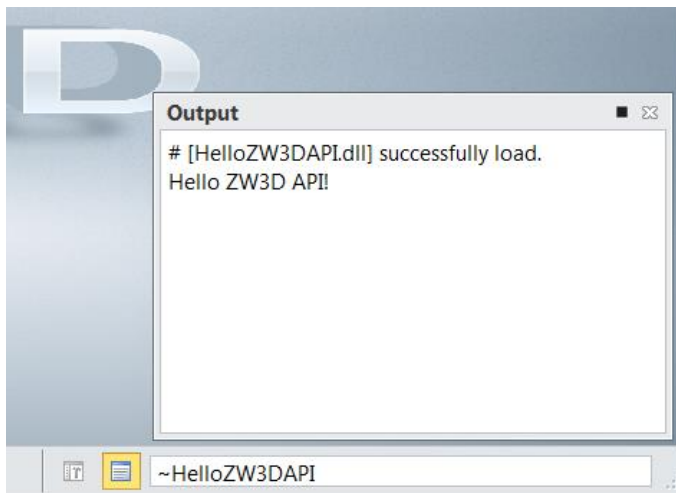


- b) Copy HelloZW3DAPI.dll to the installation folder. "C:\Program Files\ZWSOFT\ZW3D 2015 Eng\apilibs", then start ZW3D.

**Note:** ZW3D will search for applications in ".\apilibs". If any, they will be loaded.

10. Run this application.

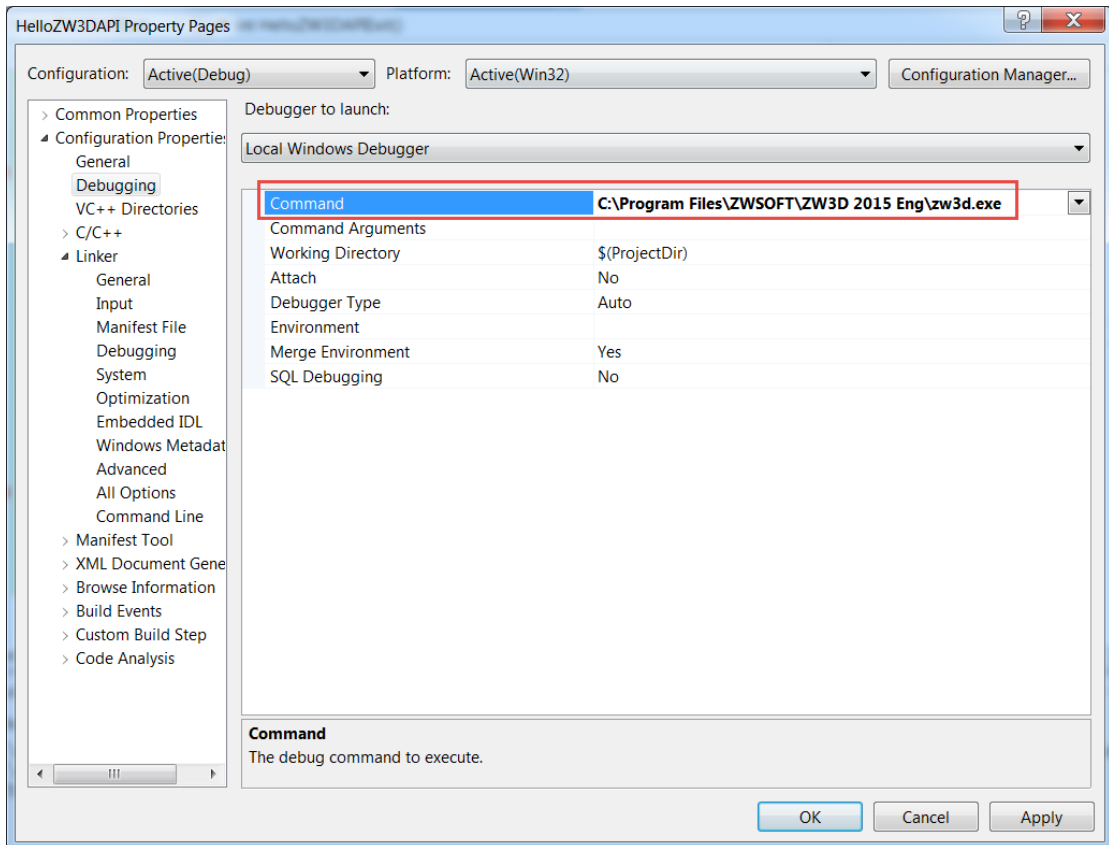
Input "~HelloZW3DAPI" in the command line, then press Enter. You can find "Hello ZW3D API!" was shown in the Output dialog.



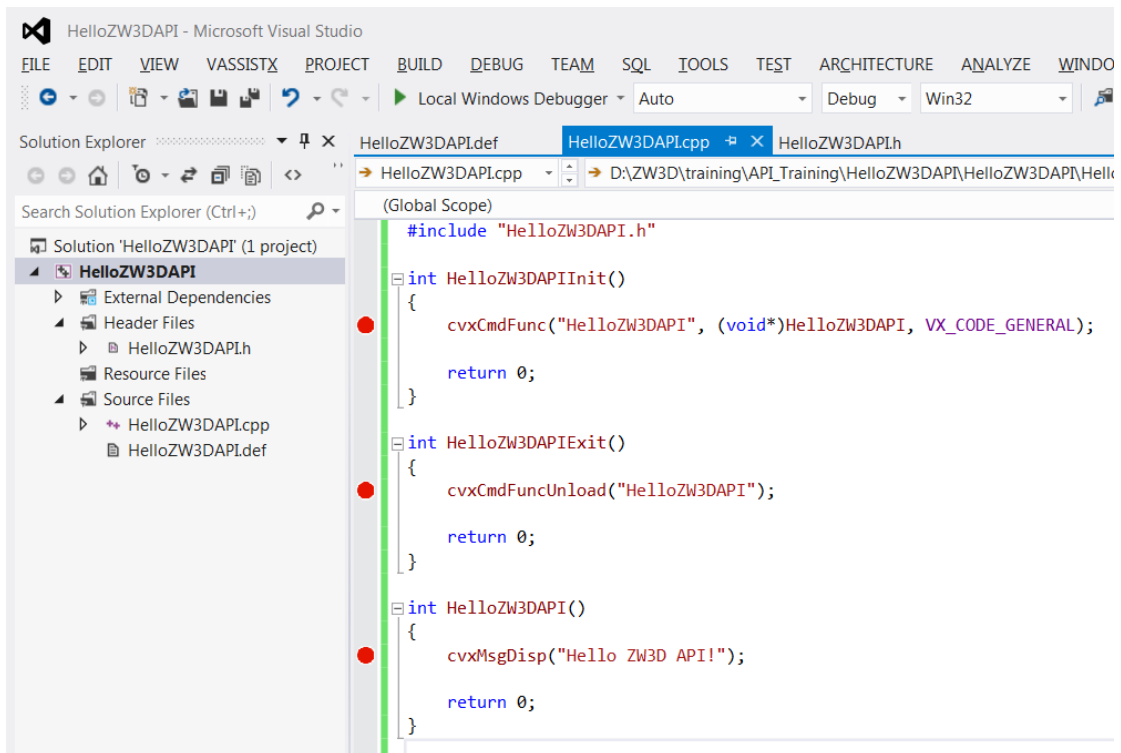
**Note:** Function name can be defined to any name, and it is not necessary to be the same as the project. But it is a good habit to define it the same as the name of project.

11. Debug the application.

- a) Right click on the project and set the Debugging Command as below. Then run "Local Windows Debugger" or press F5 to start the debugger.



b) Set the break point for each function.

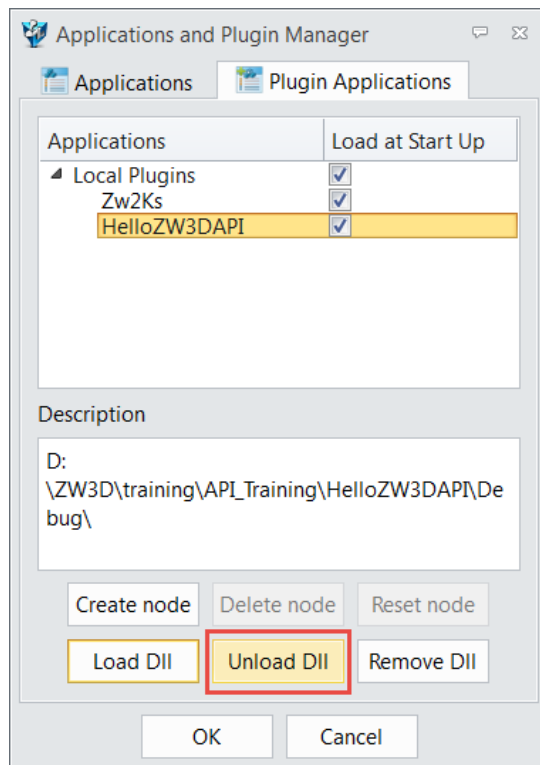


c) Reference step 9 → a) to Load the DLL, you will find the following situations.

- i. The debugger will get into HelloZW3DAPIInit() when the DLL is loaded.



- ii. The debugger will get into HelloZW3DAPi() when “~HelloZW3DAPi” (step 10) is run.
- iii. The debugger will get into HelloZW3DAPiExit() when the application is unloaded.

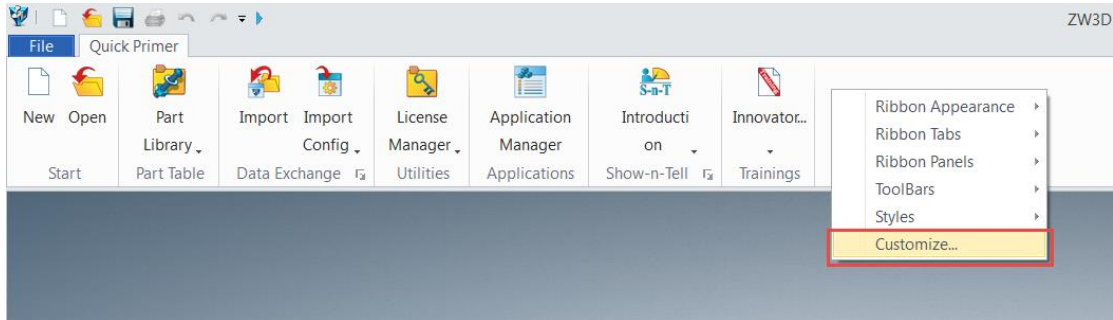




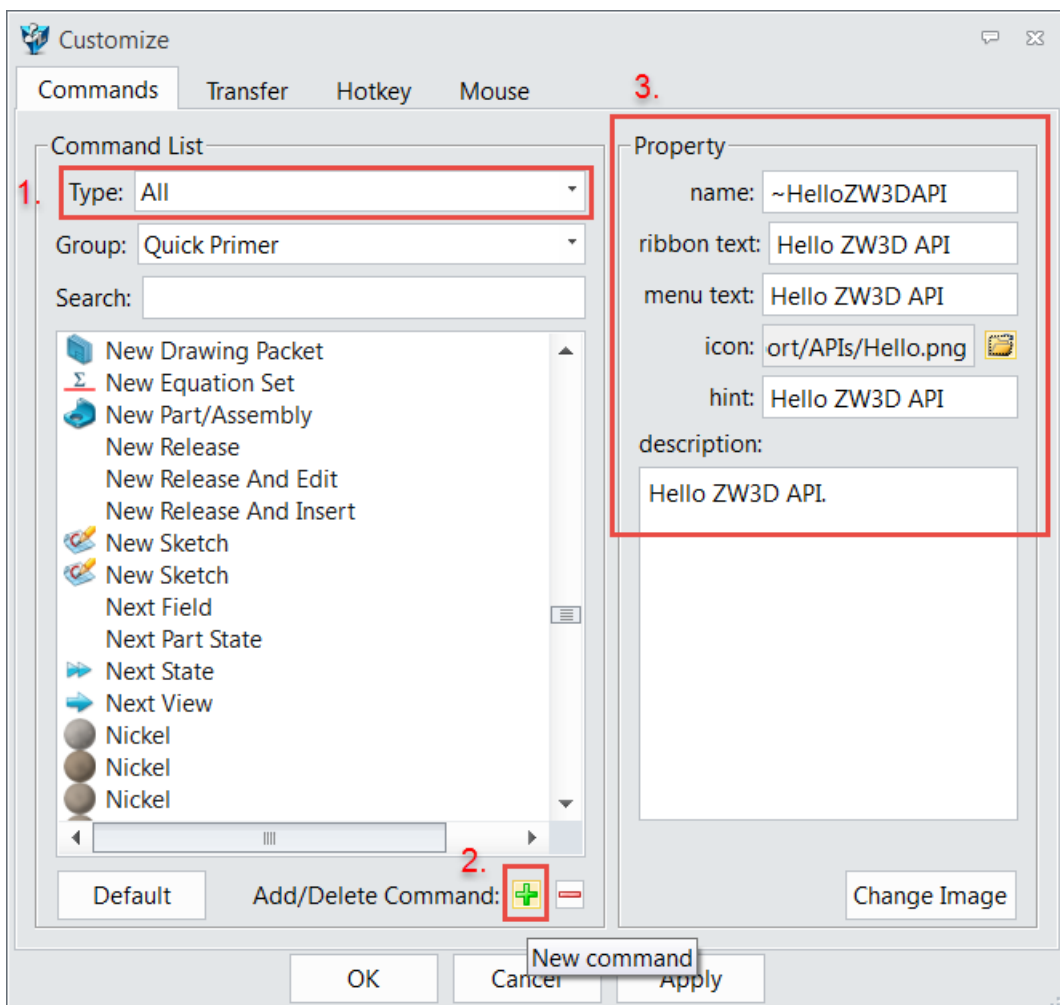
## Chapter2: Customized Menu / Ribbon / Toolbar

We create the first customized command in ZW3D. But input the command is complex. I will introduce how to put this command in the Menu / Ribbon / Toolbar.

1. Open the ZW3D and right click on the space of the ribbon. Then, click **Customize...**

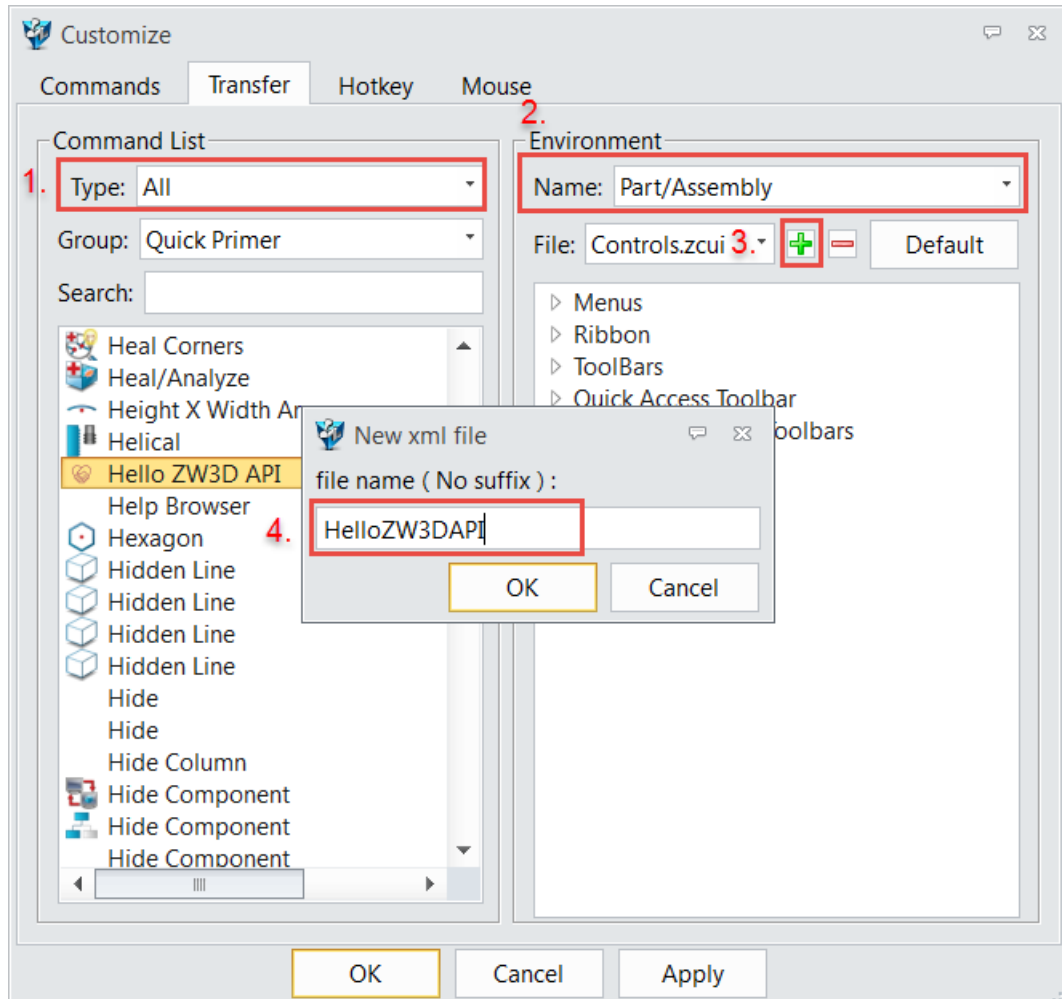


2. Define your command.
  - a) Change the type to **All**.
  - b) Add a new command.
  - c) Change the Property of the new command.



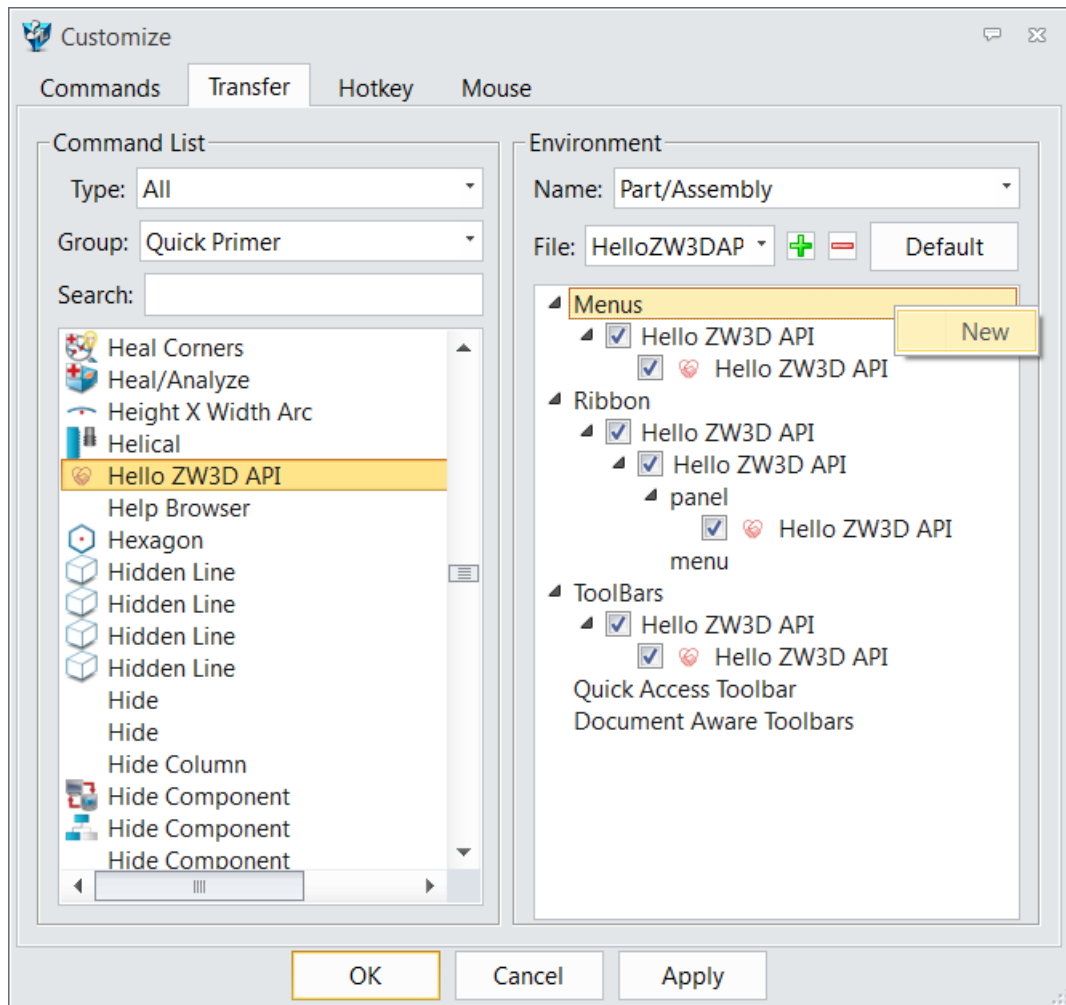


3. Change the tap to **Transfer** to create your Own Menu / Ribbon / Toolbar.
  - a) Change the Type to **All**.
  - b) Change the Environment to **Part/Assembly**.
  - c) Add a new xml file.
  - d) Give the name to **HelloZW3DAPI**.



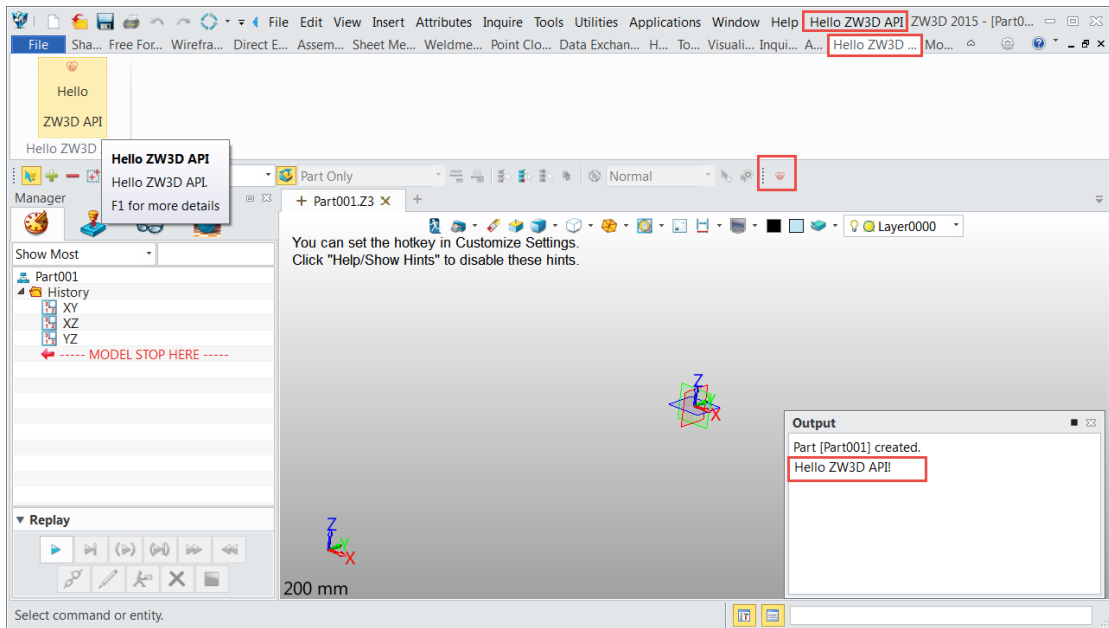
- e) Customize the new xml file.
  - i. Right click on the Menus / Ribbon / ToolBars to create new items.
  - ii. Drag the “Hello ZW3D API” command from left to the new items you just have created.
  - iii. Please refer to the following picture to create the same Menu / Ribbon / Toolbar.





- f) Click **OK** to finish the customization.
- g) Then, create a new part, and you can find the Menu / Ribbon / Toolbar there. You can press the button to run the command.





**Note:** if you get this warning: **“ALERT: Unable to find HelloZW3DAPL: No such symbol.”** It means ZW3D cannot find your command. You need to load the DLL first. Please refer to Chapter 1, point 9 to load the DLL.

4. Share the customization to other people.

- a) Get the customized UI XML file (HelloZW3DAPL.zcui) from the user’s folder:

**If your ZW3D version is prior to 2020, get from:**

%appdata%\ZW3D 2015Eng\profiles\Default\Environment-2\Controls

**If your ZW3D version after 2020(included), get from:**

%appdata%\ZWSOFT\ZW3D\ZW3D 2022Eng\custom\profiles\Default\Environment-2\Controls

- b) Get the customized Command XML file (User.zcui) from the user’s folder:

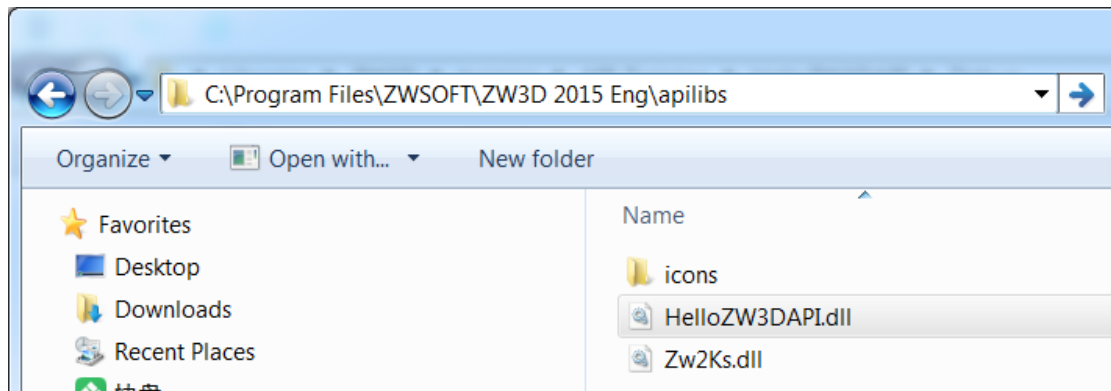
**If your ZW3D version is prior to 2020, get from:**

%appdata%\ZW3D 2015Eng\profiles\Default\Action

**If your ZW3D version is after 2020, get from:**

%appdata%\ZWSOFT\ZW3D\ZW3D 2022Eng\custom\profiles\Default\Action

- c) Copy the files to the same directory in another PC.  
d) Copy the DLL and the image to the installation directory, and the image must be put in the folder which named as icons.  
C:\Program Files\ZWSOFT\ZW3D 2015 Eng\apilibs



**Note:** you can rename the XML to any other name. But you must put them in the right directory. ZW3D will load them automatically.



## Chapter 3: ZW3D UI Designer introduction

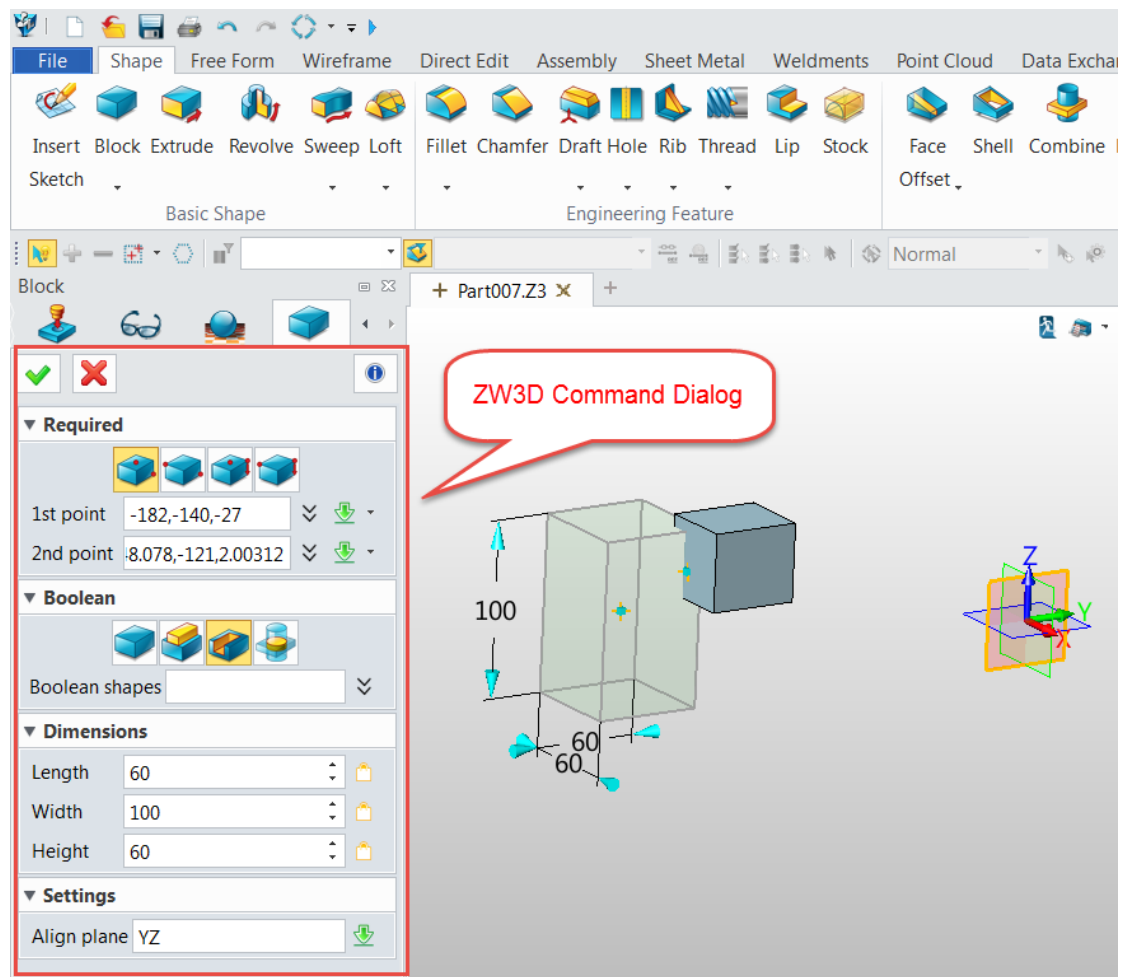
### 1. What is ZW3D UI Designer?

ZW3D UI Designer is a UI designer based on QT 4.8.4. ZWSOFT bought the QT license from Digia. So, we can release our own products based on QT technology. ZW3D UI Designer is not a plug-in based on QT Designer, and it is independent product of ZWSOFT. You can use it for free.

**Note:** You only can use ZW3D UI Designer for UI designer. All the coding logic, you cannot use QT technology. ZW3D UI Designer does not include the QT libraries. So, you need to buy the commercial version if you need to use the QT functions.

### 2. What is ZW3D Command Dialog?

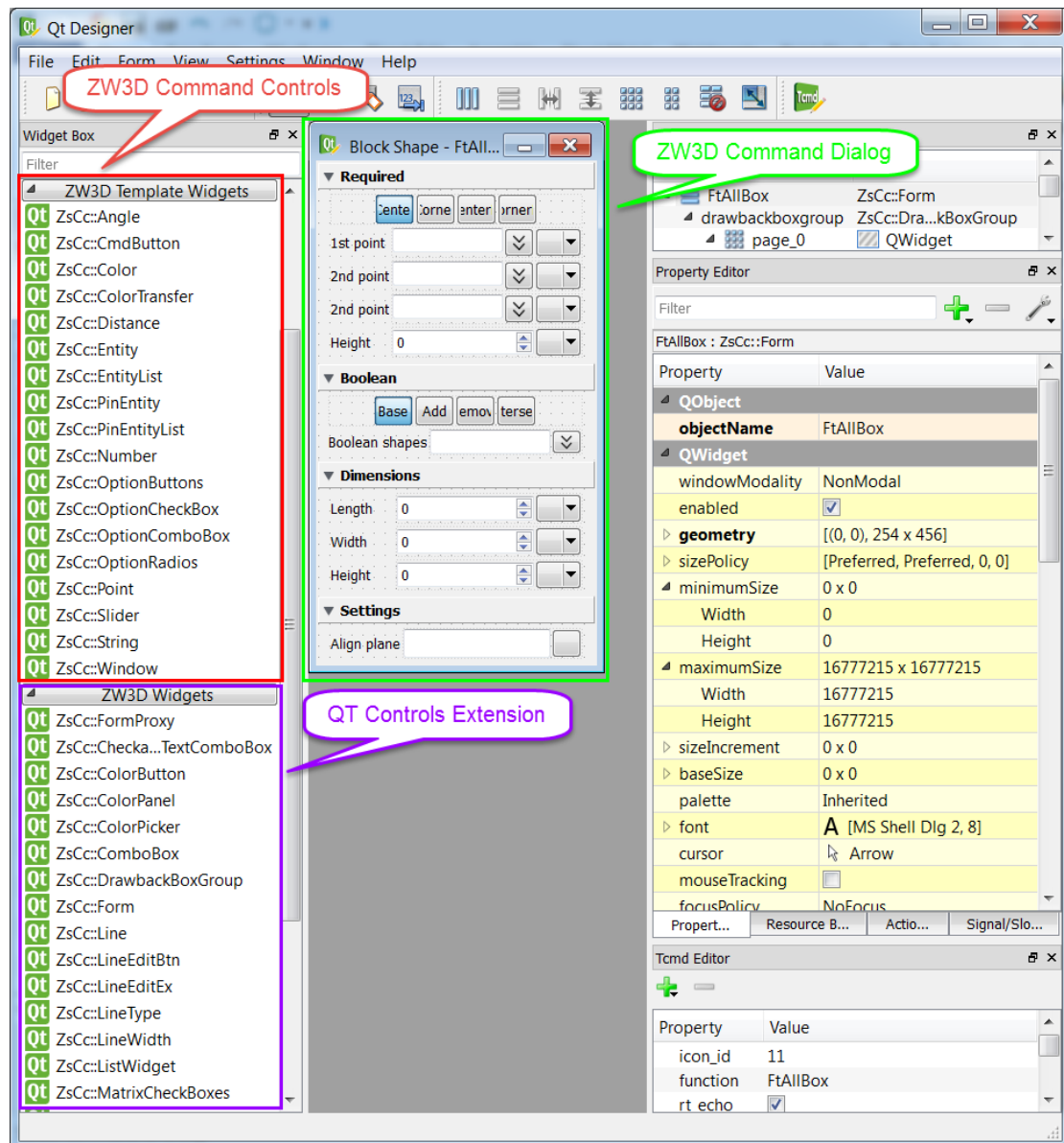
ZW3D Command Dialog is the special dialog for interaction when the user runs a command in ZW3D. ZW3D UI designer support the special controls to get the necessary values from ZW3D modeling space, or get/set some special values which only can be used in ZW3D.



### 3. ZW3D UI Designer introduction.

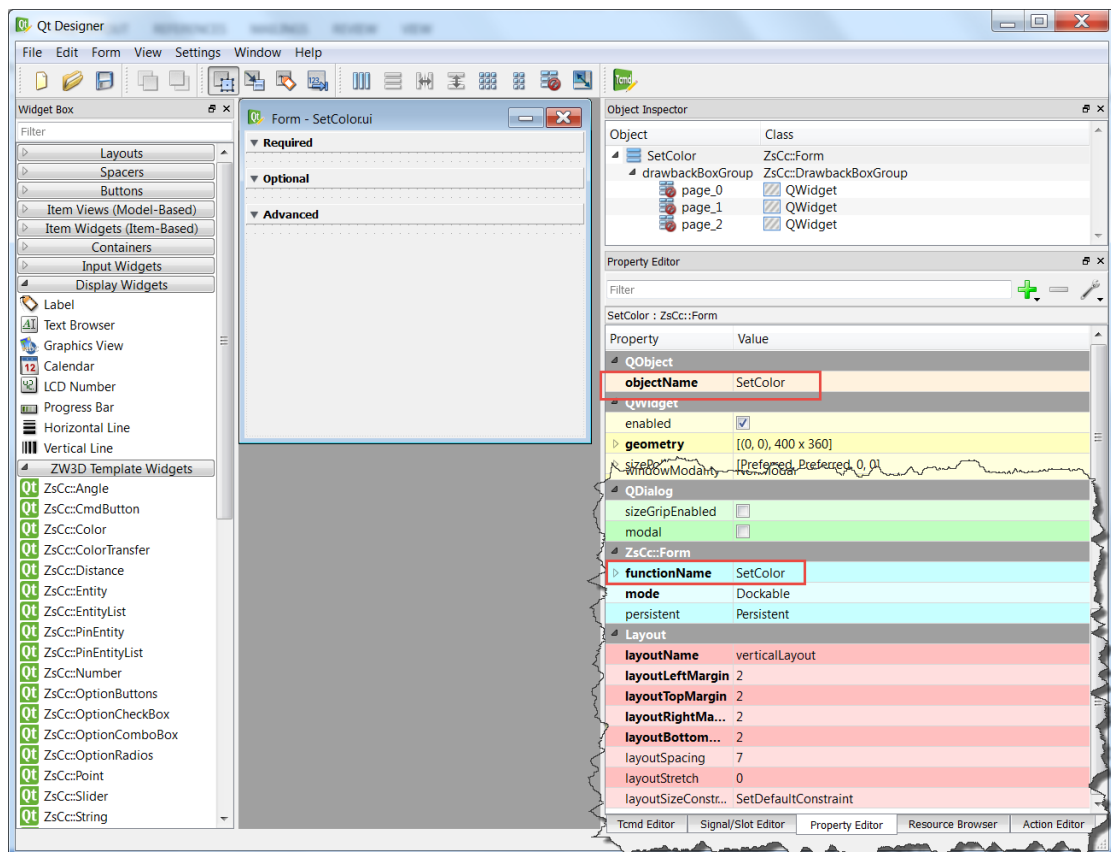
Form the following picture, you can find there are two extension groups on the left side. The group marked in red is the controls for ZW3D Command Controls. The controls are used for ZW3D Command Dialog design.

The group marked in purple is the extension of Qt controls. They are used for Qt dialog design. We don't suggest using them if you don't have some special requirement.

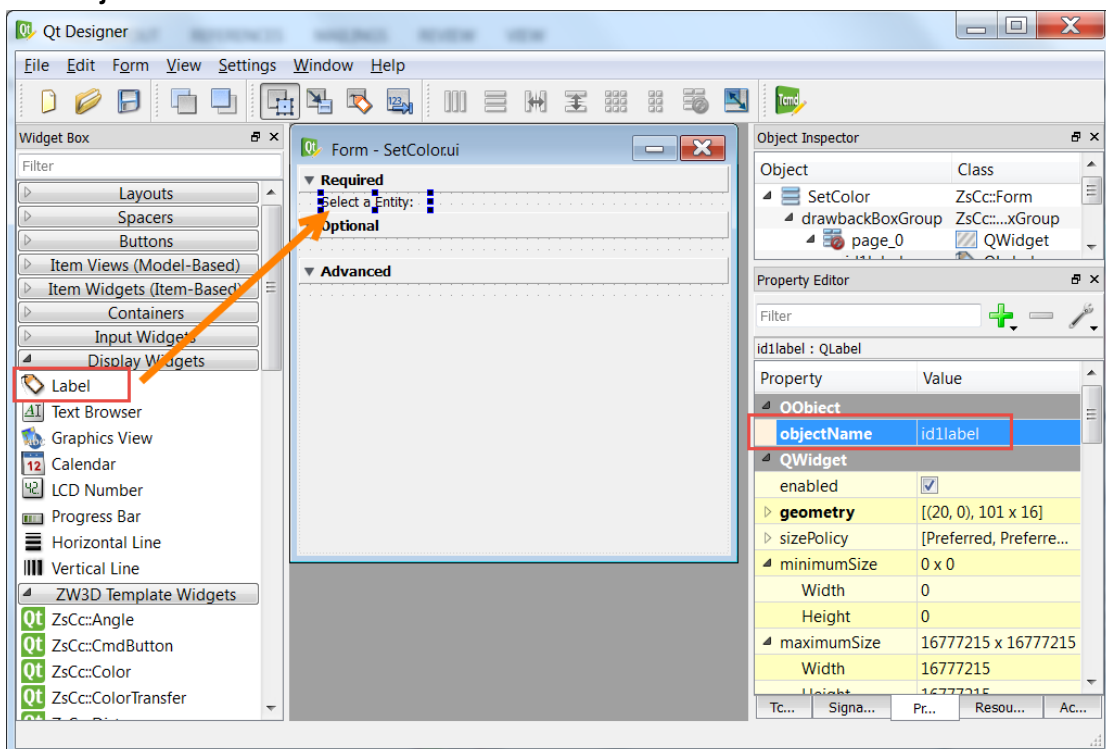


#### 4. How to create ZW3D Command dialog?

- Open ZW3D UI Designer. And create a new Form based on ZsCc::Form. You can get the basic form as the picture below. Then, set the object Name and function Name to **SetColor**.



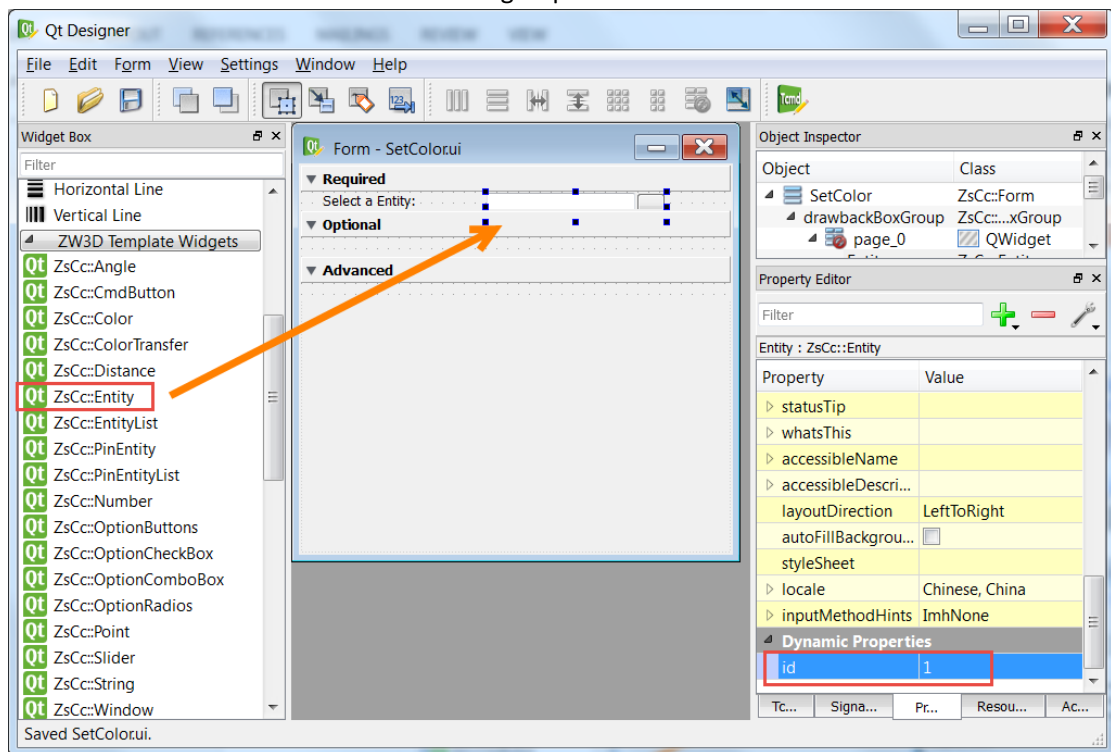
- b) Drag the Label to the Required area, change the text to "Select an Entity:". Set the object Name to id1label.



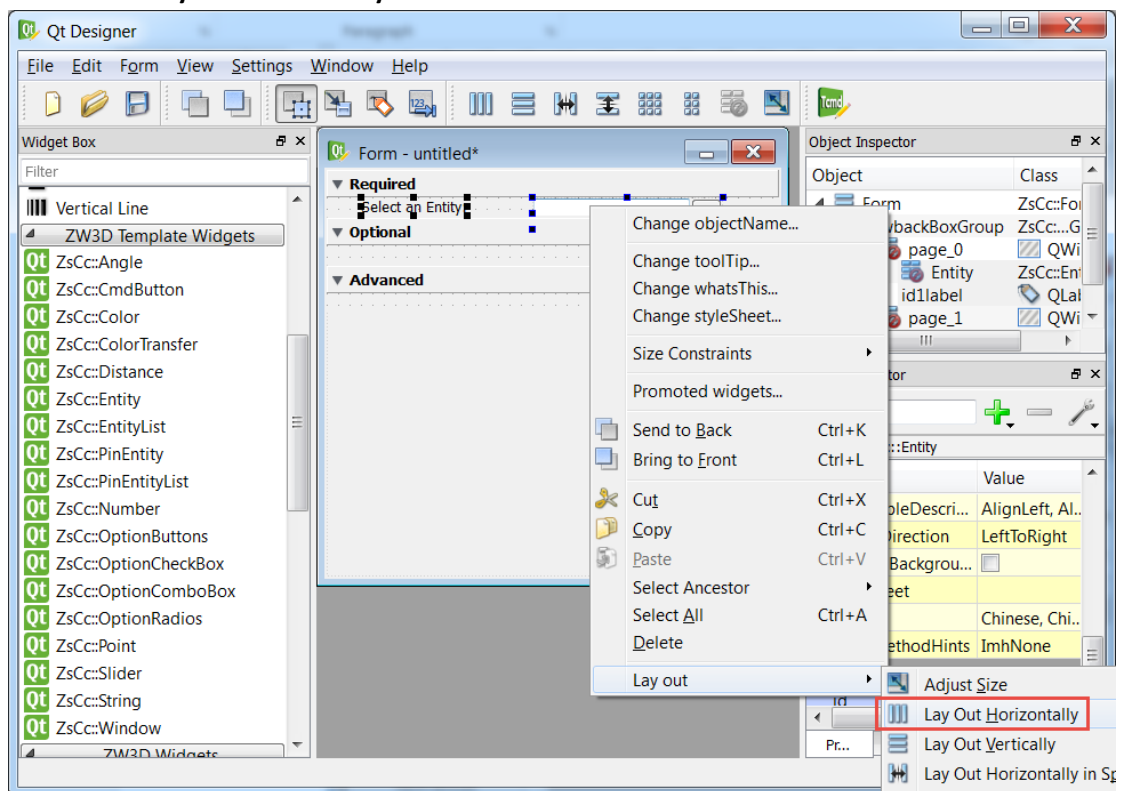
- c) Drag the Entity control to the required area. Set the ID to 1. The number of the ID can be any number, but it must be the same as the number in the Label's object Name



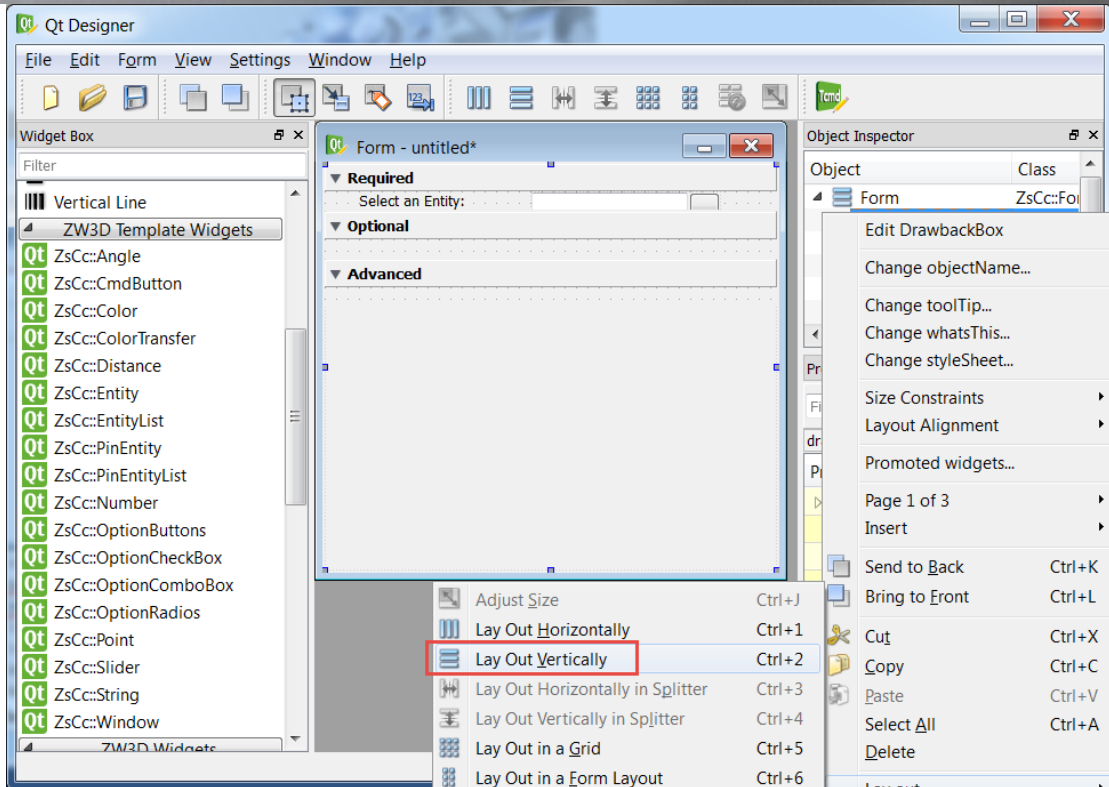
which means these two controls are a group.



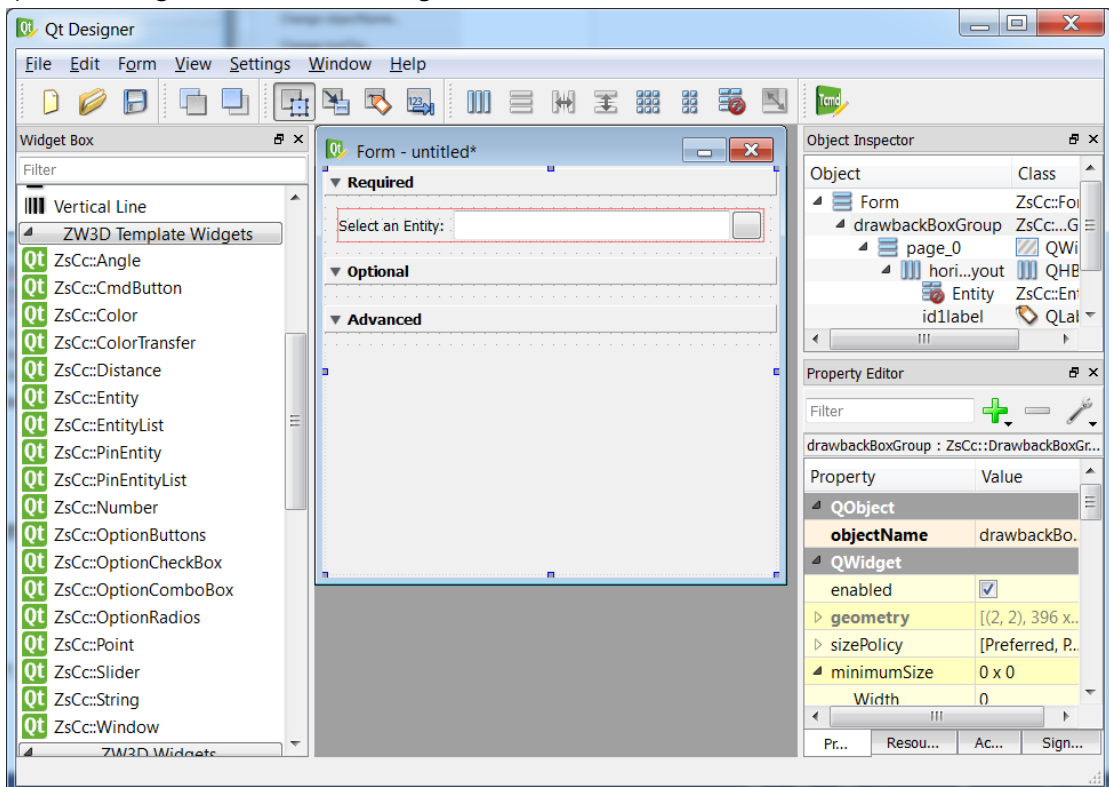
- d) Use Qt function to layout these two controls. Choose both controls and right click to choose **Lay Out Horizontally**.



- e) Right click on drawbackBoxGroup and choose **Lay Out Vertically**.

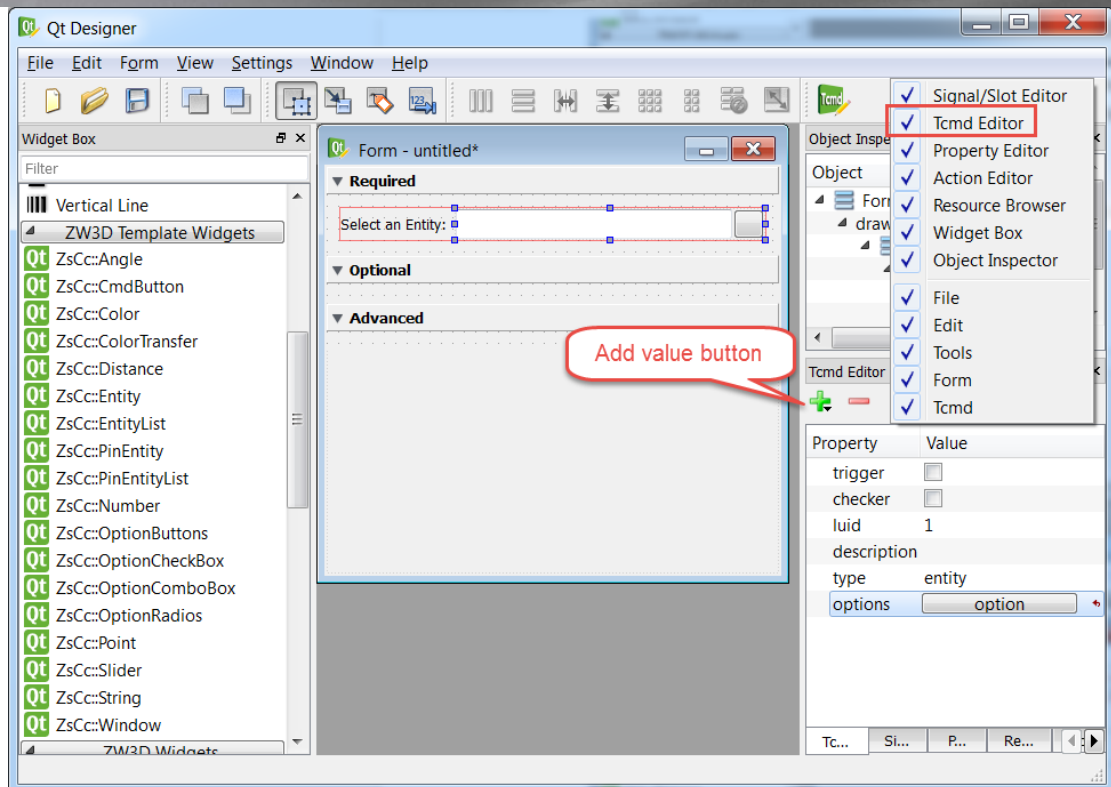


f) You will get the command dialog as follows:

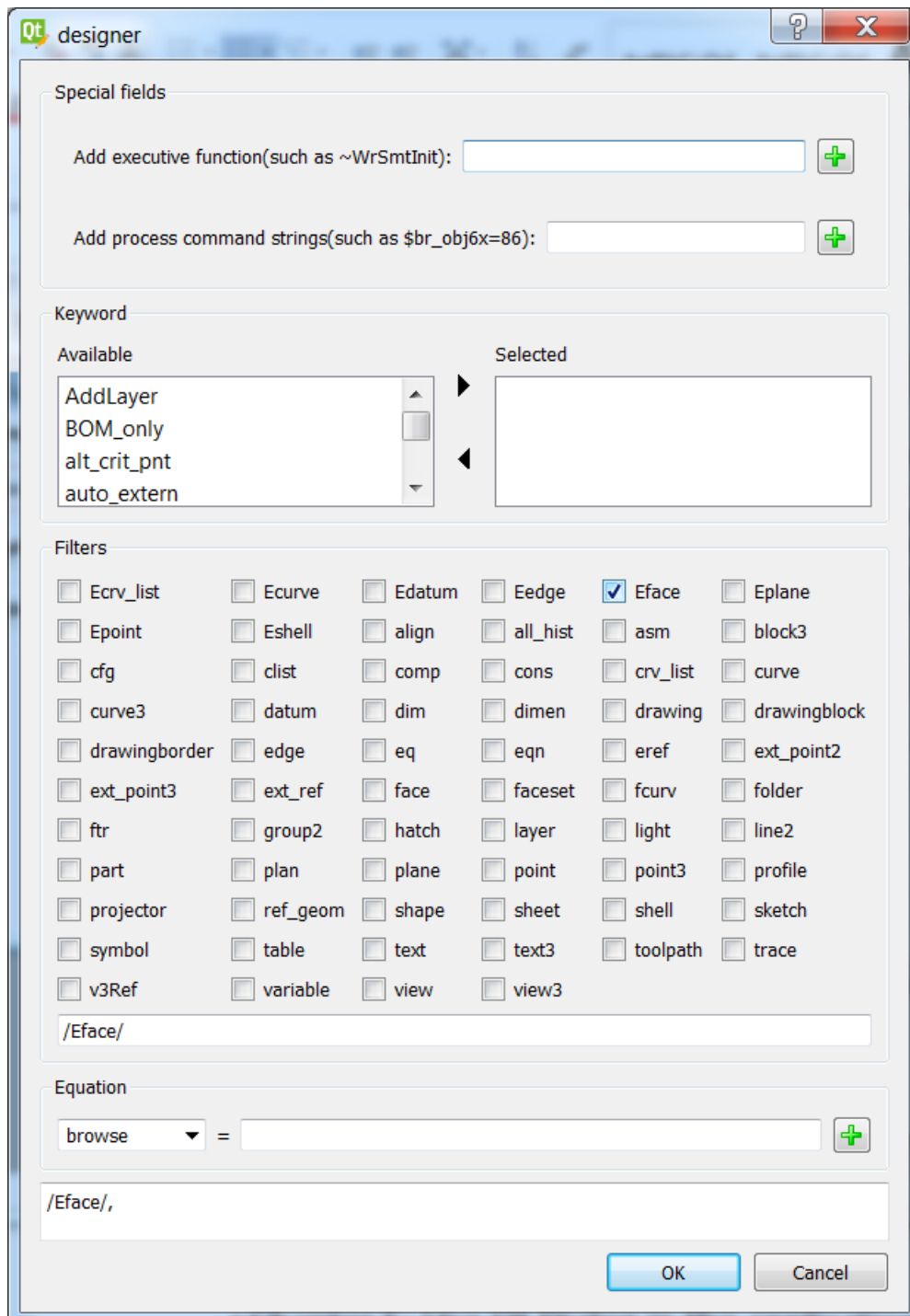


g) Right click on the space of the toolbar and show **Tcmd Editor**. Select the Entity control. You can get the Properties in the **Tcmd Editor**. Press Add value button to add **Options**.



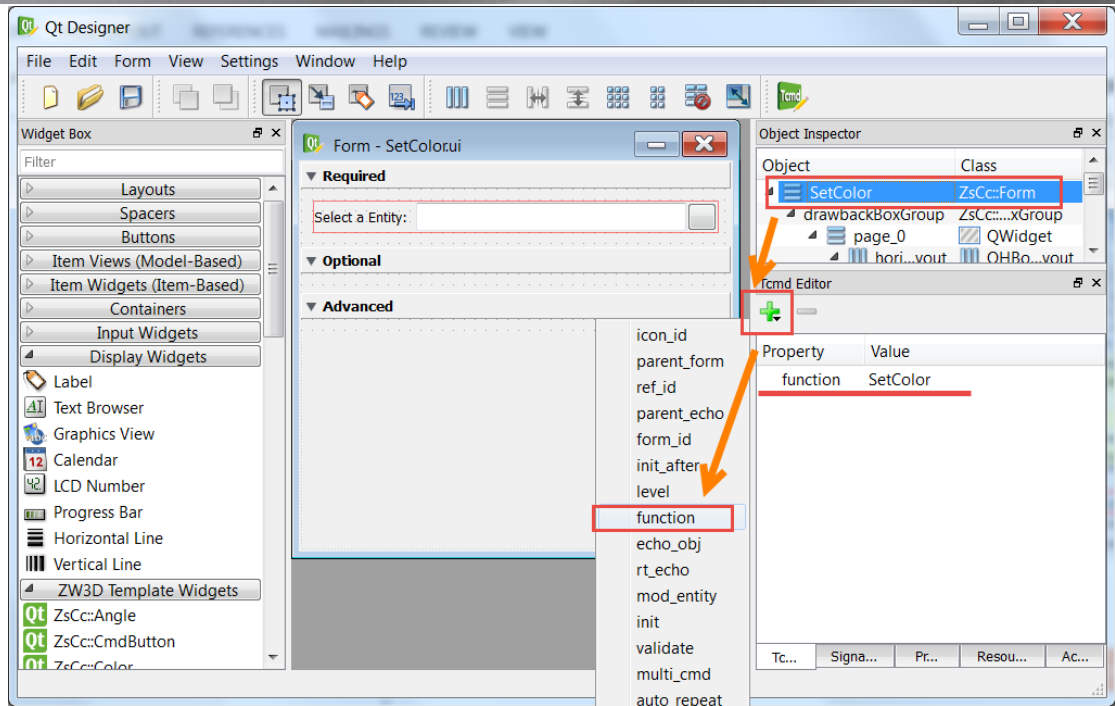


- h) Click on the **option** button, you can set the filter inside. Choose **Eface**, which means this entity control allow you to choose a face.

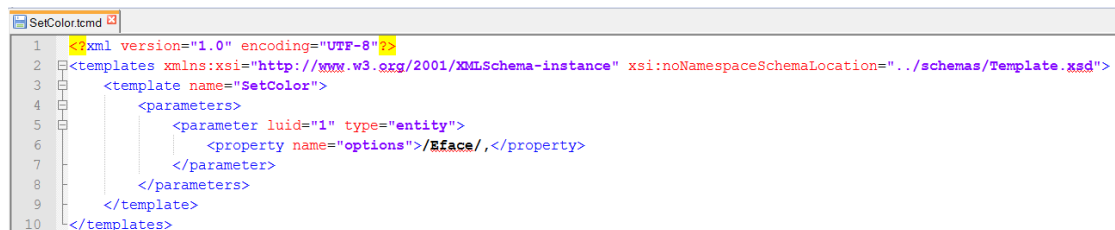


- i) Select the form item, and add a customized property, **function**. Set the value as **SetColor**.

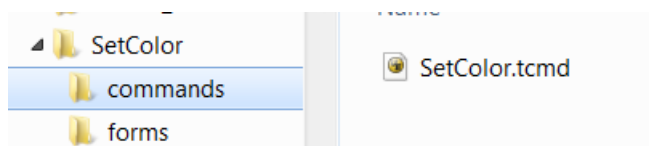
Note: this property sets the function when the user runs this command dialog.



- j) Save this command dialog to **SetColor** folder, and name as **SetColor.ui**. You can find ZW3D UI designer create **SetColor.cmd** automatically. If you open the **SetColor.cmd**, you can get the code as follows:



- k) Put **SetColor.ui** to the **forms** folder and put **SetColor.cmd** to the **commands** folder. You can refer to the picture below:

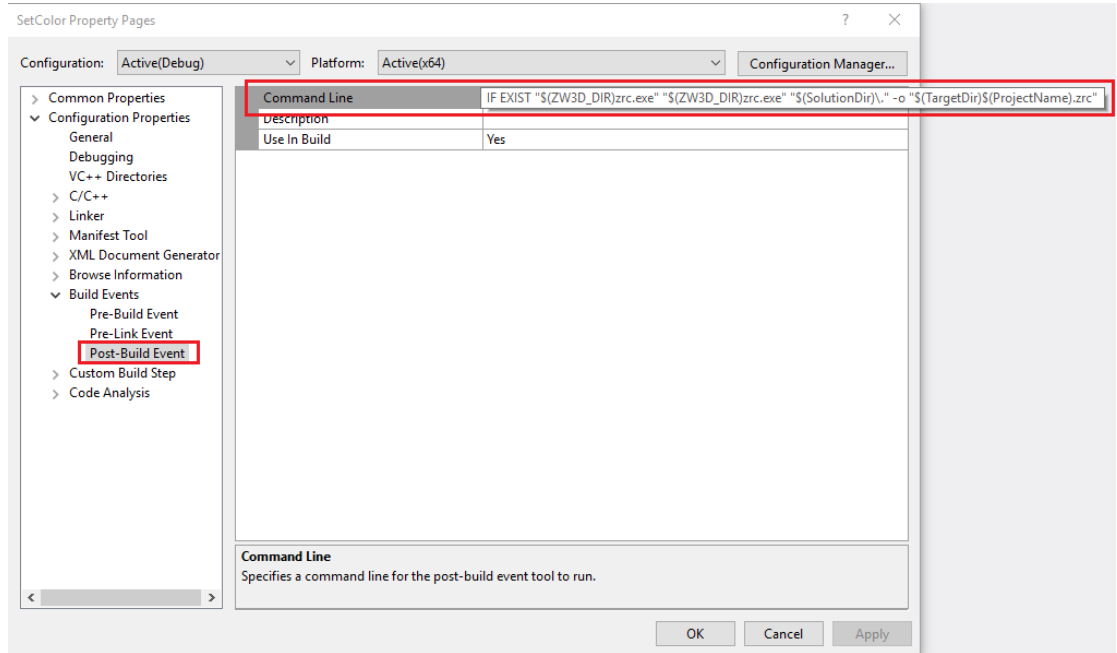


- l) To compile resource, your project need add command line to **Build Events**→**Post-Build Event**→**Command Line**.

The contents as shown below:

IF EXIST "\$(ZW3D\_DIR)zrc.exe" "\$(ZW3D\_DIR)zrc.exe" "\$(SolutionDir)\." -o  
 "\$(TargetDir)\$(ProjectName).zrc"

(Note: ZW3D\_DIR is an environment variable whose value is ZW3D installation path)



#### 5. How to get ZW3D UI Designer?

Download from the link:

<http://dl.zwsoft.com/zw3d/PC/ZW3D/Tech/API/ZW3D-UI-Designer.rar>

**Note:** You only can use ZW3D UI Designer for UI designer. All the coding logic, you cannot use QT technology. ZW3D UI Designer does not include the QT libraries. So, you need to buy the commercial version if you need to use the QT functions.

## Chapter 4: Use ZW3D Command Dialog

1. Refer to Chapter 1 to create an empty project and name it as **SetColor**.
2. Add a SetColor.cpp in the project, and input the code as follows:

```
#include "VxApi.h"
```

```
intSetColor(intidData, void* echo);
```

```
intSetColorInit(int format, void *data)
```

```
{
    cvxCmdFunc("SetColor", (void*)SetColor, VX_CODE_GENERAL);
    return 0;
}
```

```
intSetColorExit(void)
```

```
{
    cvxCmdFuncUnload("SetColor");
}
```



```

        return 0;
    }

    int SetColor(int idData, void* echo)
    {
        int idEnt = 0;
        int idParent = 0;
        vxNameentName = {0};
        cvxDataGetEnt(idData, 1, &idEnt, &idParent);
        evxEntType type;
        if (cvxEntClassNum(idEnt) == VX_ENT_FACE)
        {
            svxFaceAt att;
            cvxMemZero(&att, sizeof(att));
            cvxPartInqFaceAt(idEnt, &att);
            att.front_color.r = 0;
            att.front_color.g = 0;
            att.front_color.b = 255;
            cvxPartSetFaceAt(1, &idEnt, &att);
        }
        return 0;
    }

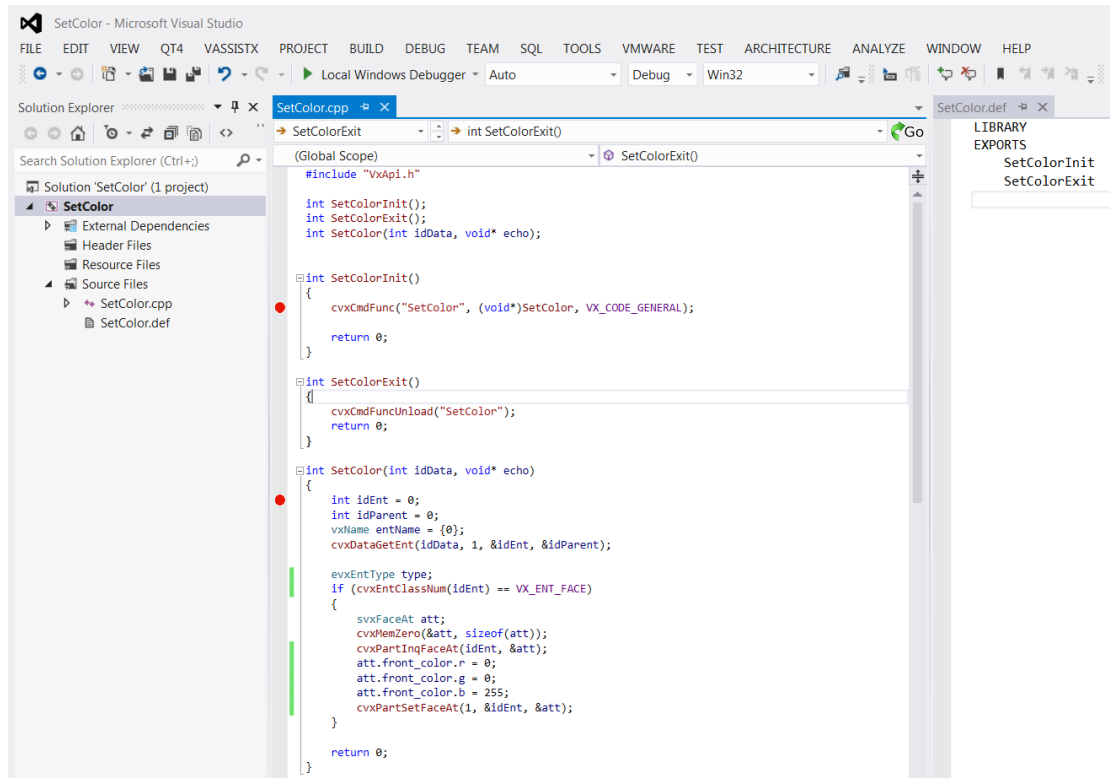
```

3. Add the Module Definition file, SetColor.def. Copy the code as follows:

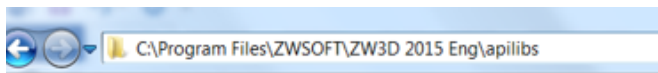
```

LIBRARY SetColor.dll
EXPORTS
    SetColorInit
    SetColorExit
    SetColor

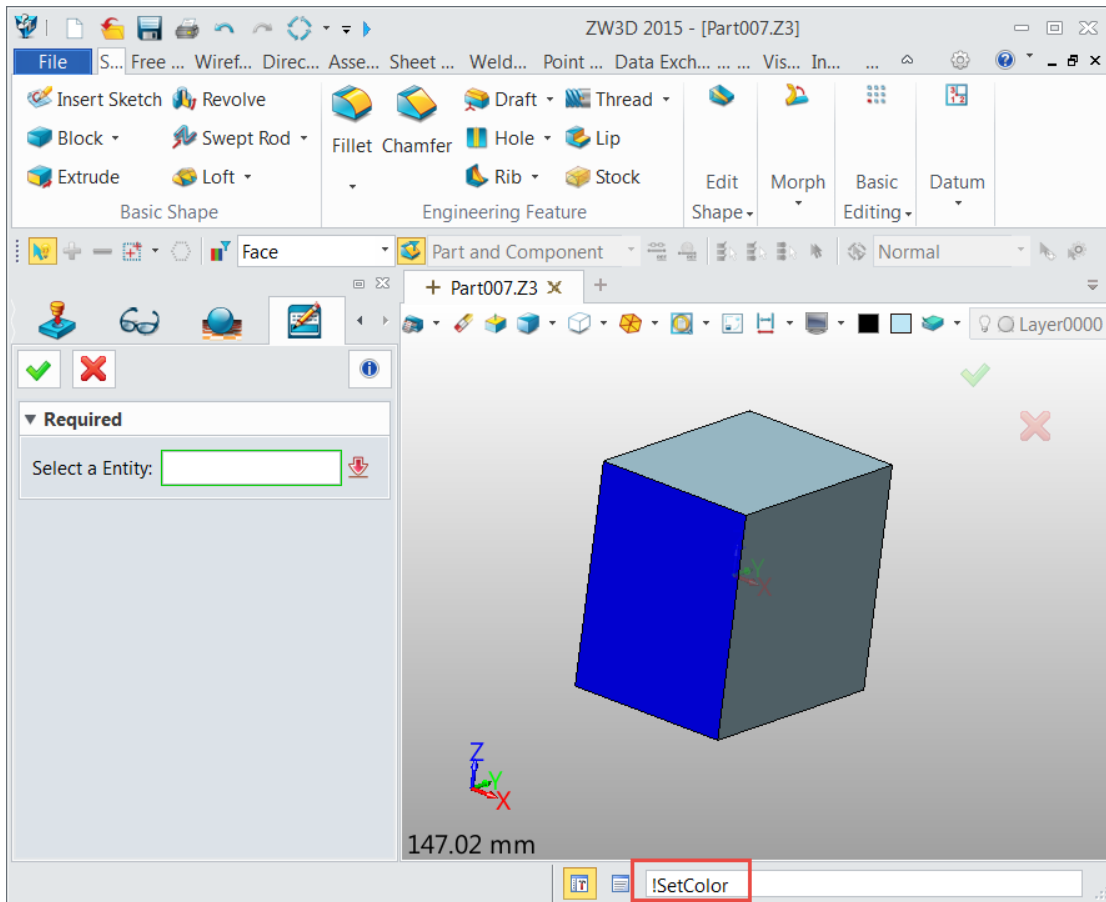
```



- Refer to Chapter 1 to set the configuration of the project and build to get **SetColor.dll** and **SetColor.zrc**. Now, we have the dll and zrc. Copy all the file to ZW3D installation directory.  
Note: you must close ZW3D before you copy the files.



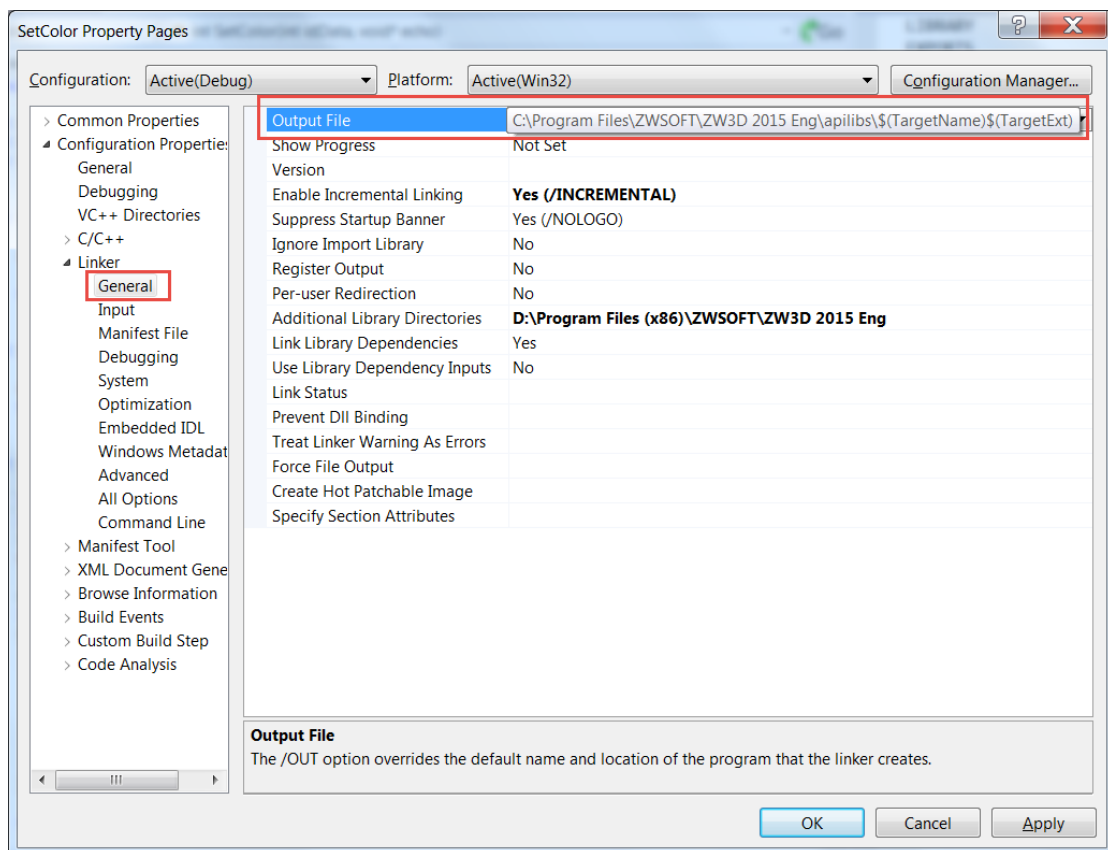
- Start ZW3D, create a new part and draw a box. Then, input "!SetColor" in the command line. You can get the command dialog as follows. Select a surface and press OK, you can find the color of the surface was changed to blue.



6. Debug this project. Set the Output File to "C:\Program Files\ZWSOFT\ZW3D 2015 Eng\apilibs\\$(TargetName)\\$(TargetExt)". You can refer to the picture as follows. Then, rebuild the project. You can set the break point and debug this project.

**Note:** ZW3D will load all the DLL in the "apilibs" directory automatically.







## Chapter 5: How to call ZW3D functions?

1. Get ZW3D command dialogs.

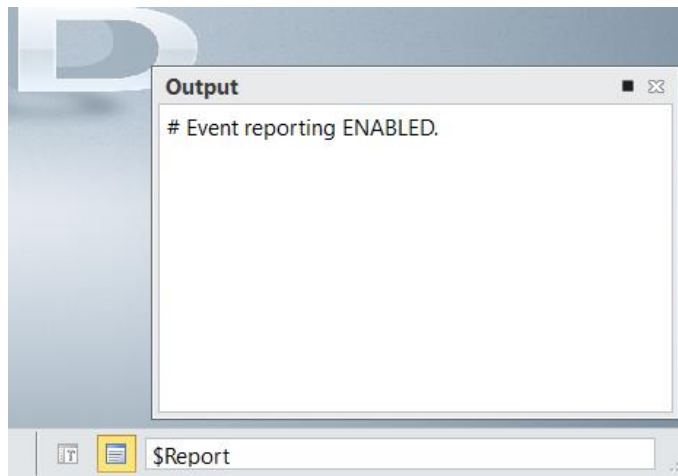
Download all ZW3D command dialogs from the following link:

[https://dl.zwsoft.com/zw3d/Products/ZW3D\\_API/2023/zw3d-command-dialog\\_2023.rar](https://dl.zwsoft.com/zw3d/Products/ZW3D_API/2023/zw3d-command-dialog_2023.rar)

2. Study the command dialog of ZW3D.

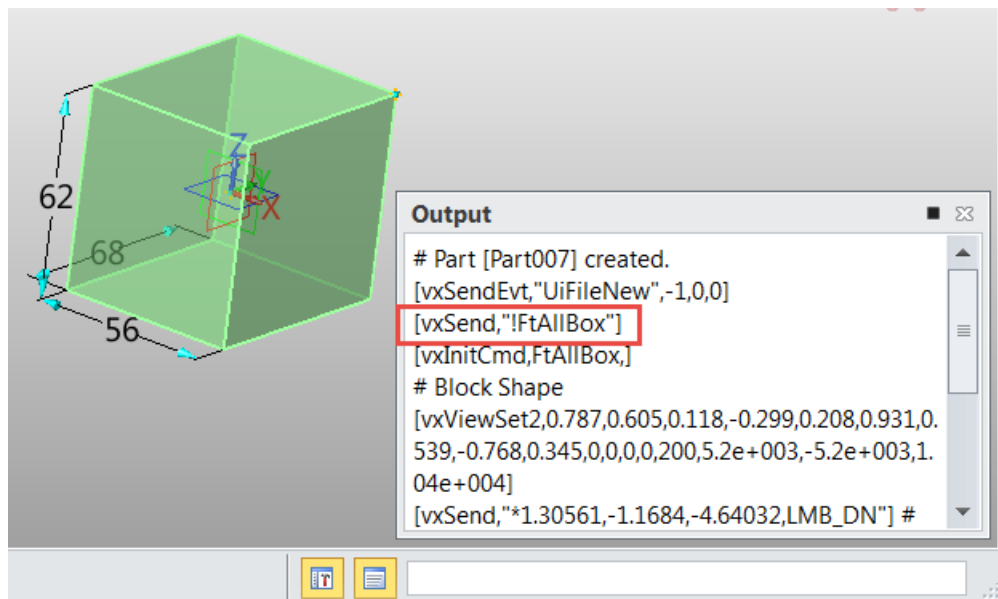
- a) Run "\$Report" in the command line of ZW3D.

You will get the following message after you run the command successfully.

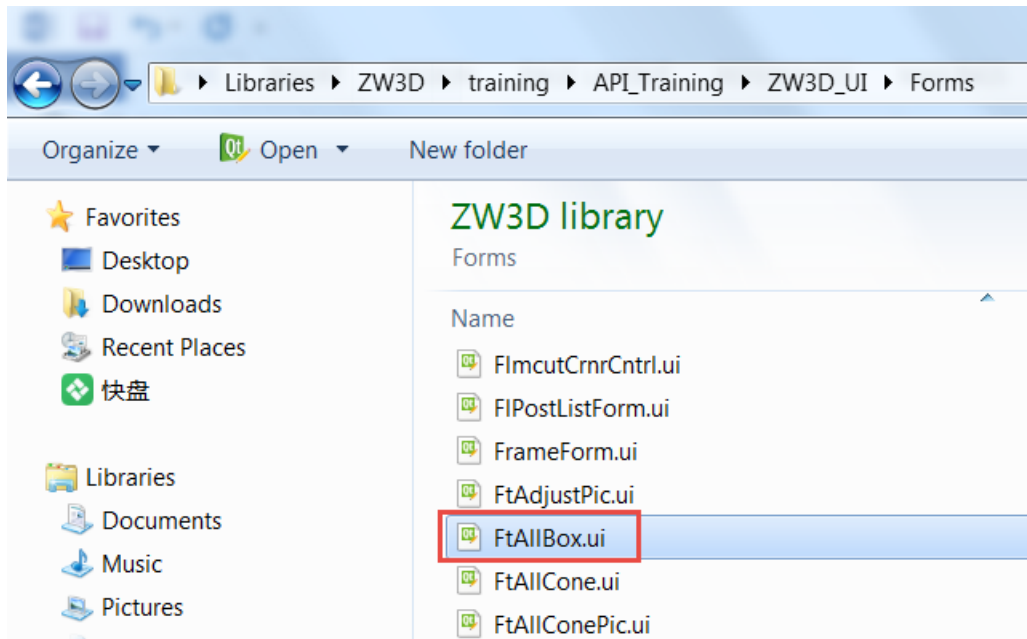


- b) Run the command you need to know, for example the function to create Box.

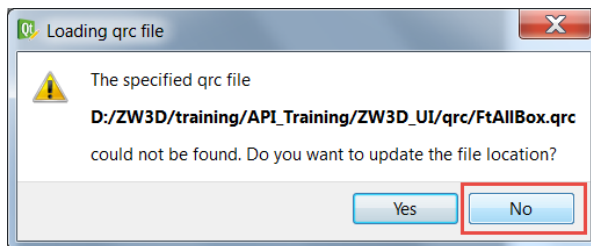
You will get the message as below, "[vxSend,!FtAllBox]", which means ZW3D run "!FtAllBox" to create the box.



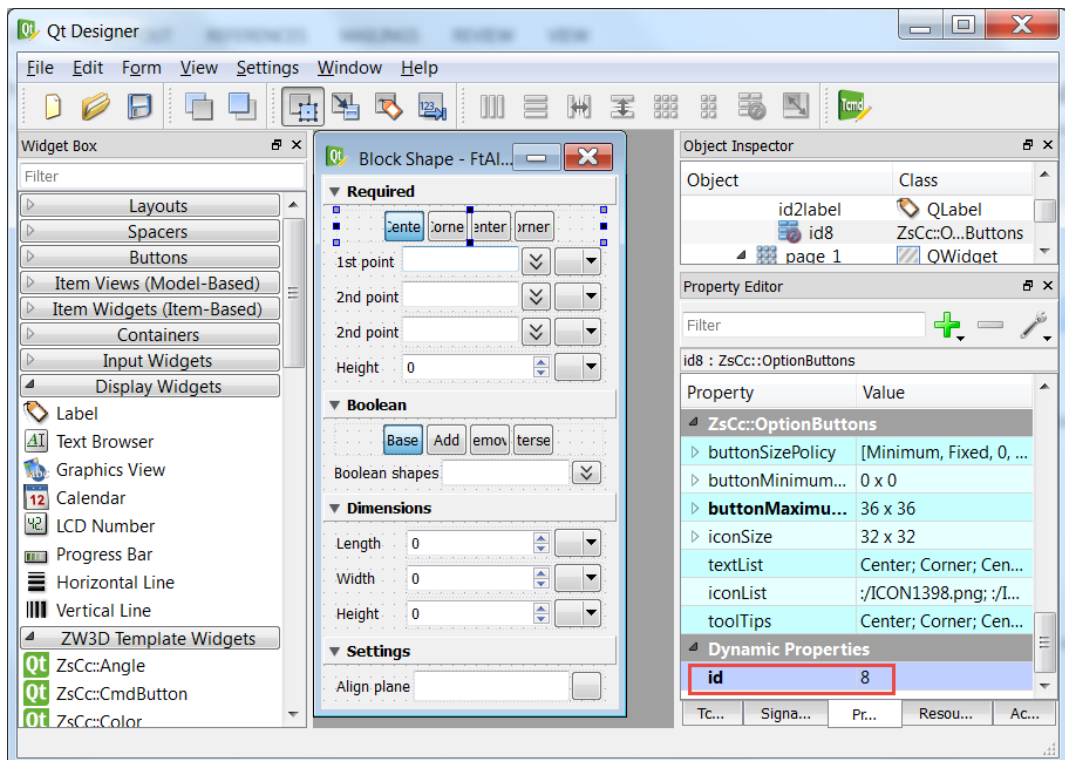
- c) Go to ZW3D Command dialog folder, you can find a command dialog named as "!FtAllBox.ui".



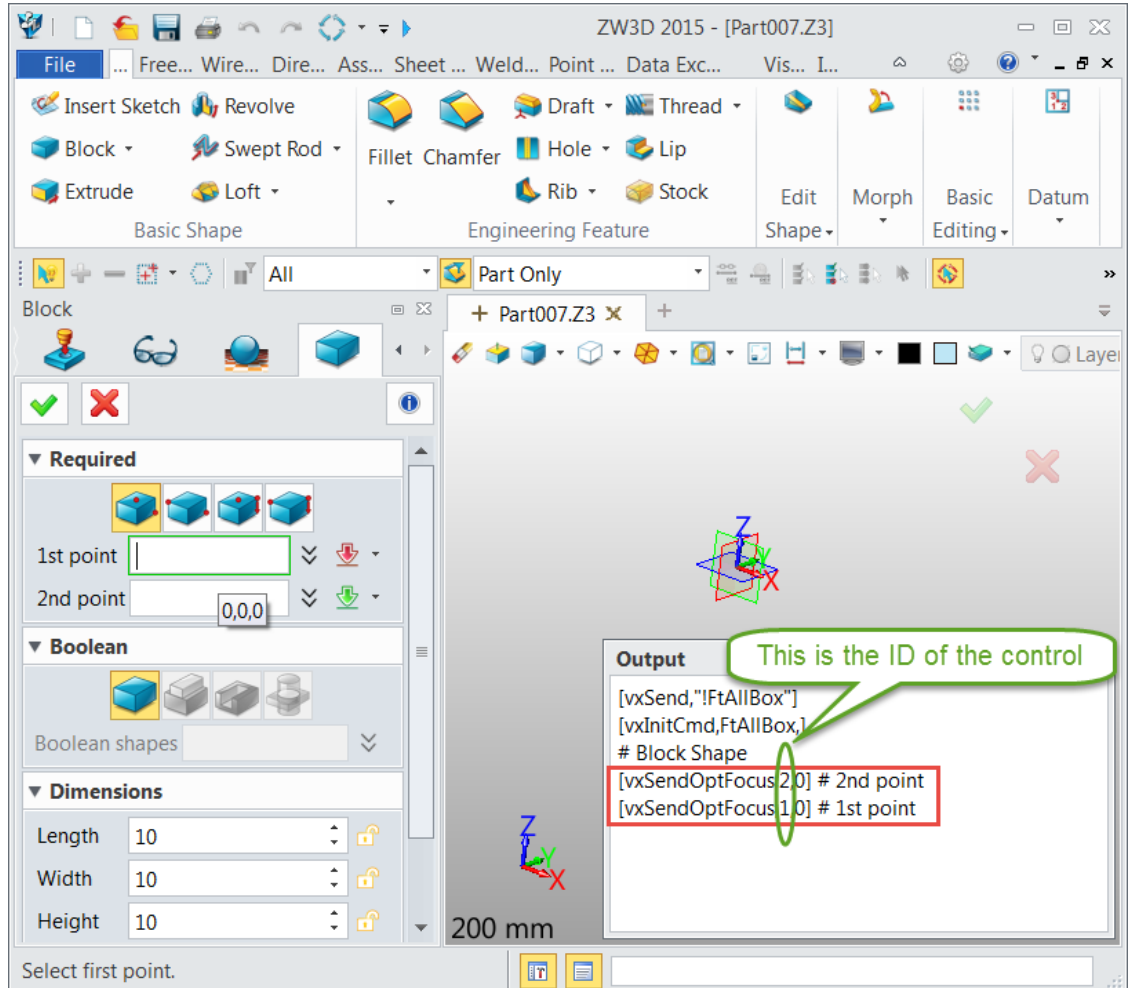
- d) Use ZW3D UI designer to open this dialog, you will get a warning. Press **No** to ignore it.



- e) You will know all the IDs of the controls.



- f) You will find there are two “2<sup>nd</sup> point” controls. To learn the difference, refer to step b) to know the function. Then, change your mouse on different controls in the command dialog. You can get different message if you change the controls. You can find the ID in the messages.



3. Now, you already know the function name and the control IDs. Let's use ZW3D function to create a box although ZW3D also support the API function to create a box [cvxPartBox()].
- Refer to chapter 1 to create a new project and named as “myBox”.
  - Add myBox.cpp, and copy the code as follows:

```
#include "VxApi.h"

int myBox();

int myBoxInit(int format, void *data)
{
    cvxCmdFunc("myBox", (void*)myBox, VX_CODE_GENERAL);
    return 0;
}
```



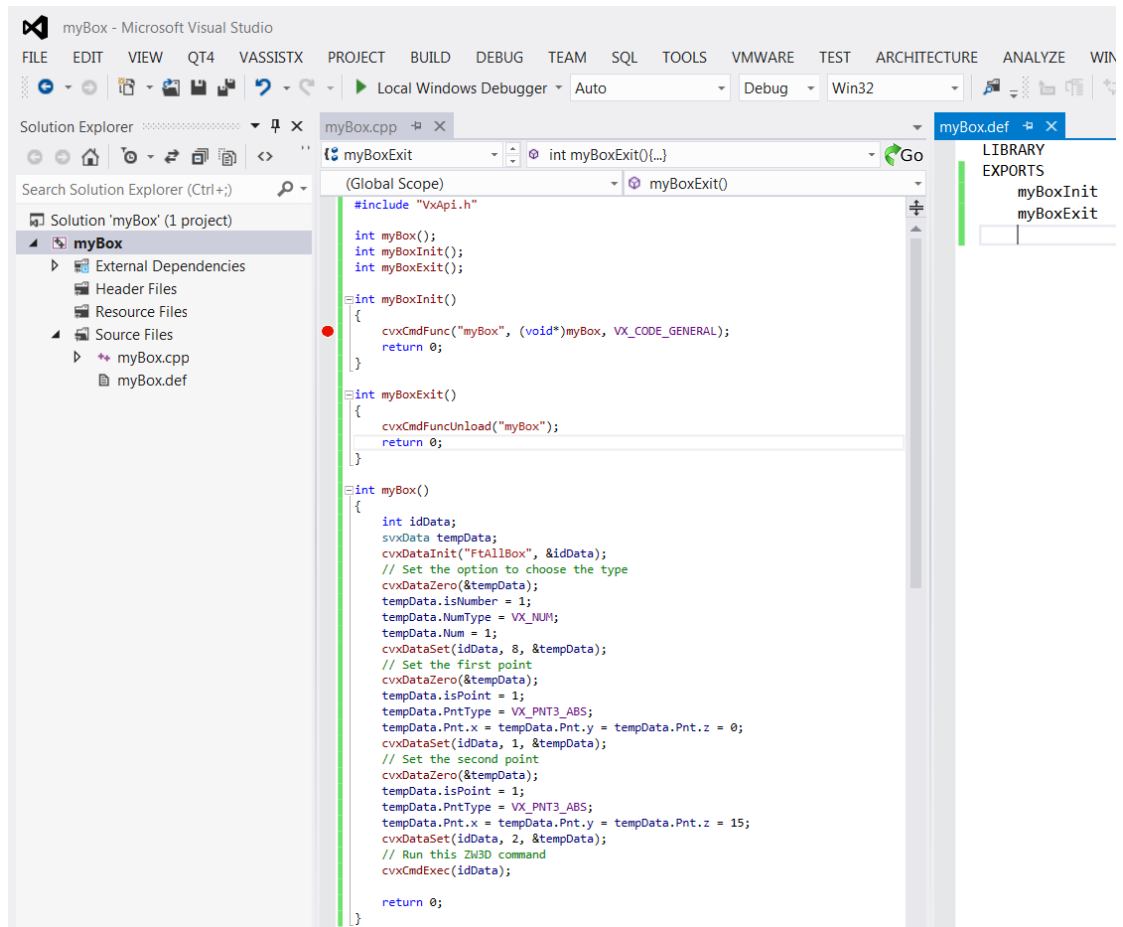
```
int myBoxExit(void)
{
    cvxCmdFuncUnload("myBox");
    return 0;
}

int myBox()
{
    int idData;
    svxData tempData;
    cvxDataInit("FtAllBox", &idData);
    // Set the option to choose the type
    cvxDataZero(&tempData);
    tempData.isNumber = 1;
    tempData.NumType = VX_NUM;
    tempData.Num = 1;
    cvxDataSet(idData, 8, &tempData);
    // Set the first point
    cvxDataZero(&tempData);
    tempData.isPoint = 1;
    tempData.PntType = VX_PNT3_ABS;
    tempData.Pnt.x = tempData.Pnt.y = tempData.Pnt.z = 0;
    cvxDataSet(idData, 1, &tempData);
    // Set the second point
    cvxDataZero(&tempData);
    tempData.isPoint = 1;
    tempData.PntType = VX_PNT3_ABS;
    tempData.Pnt.x = tempData.Pnt.y = tempData.Pnt.z = 15;
    cvxDataSet(idData, 2, &tempData);
    // Run this ZW3D command
    cvxCmdExec(idData);

    return 0;
}
```

- c) Add the Module Definition file, myBox.def. Copy the code as follows:

```
LIBRARY myBox.dll
EXPORTS
    myBoxInit
    myBoxExit
    myBox
```



Build this project and load the DLL in ZW3D. Run “~myBox” in the command line after you create a new part. This command will create a box in the modeling space.

#### 4. The value of the ZsCc::optionbuttons.

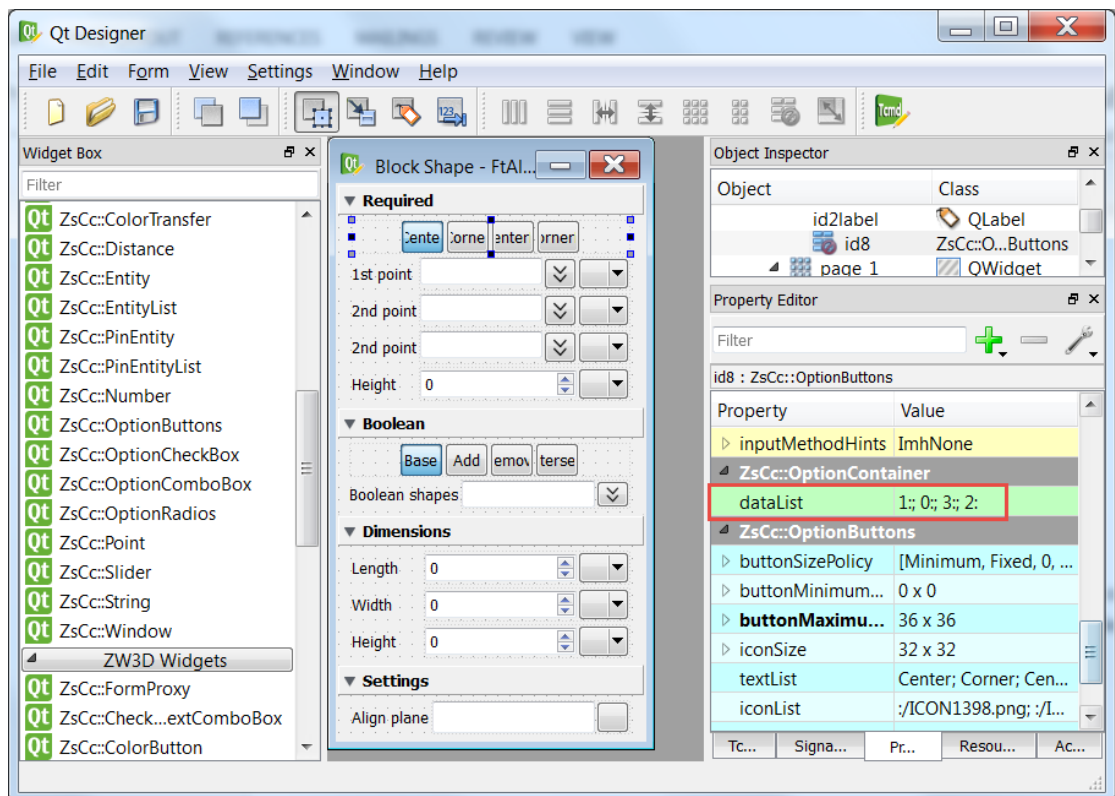
After clicking on the control, you can find the **DataList** property, where the value order of the control should be 1, 0, 3, 2. So you need to set the right value in your code. The following code means this project use the first button. If you want to use the second button, you need to set the value to 0.

```

// Set the option to choose the type
cvxDataZero(&tempData);
tempData.isNumber = 1;
tempData.NumType = VX_NUM;
tempData.Num = 1;
cvxDataSet(idData, 8, &tempData);

```









## Chapter 6: ZW3D Register information

The register of ZW3D is saved in:

64 bit: [HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ZWSOFT\ZW3D]

32 bit: [HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\ZWSOFT\ZW3D]

The **CurrentVersion** in the root directory remembers the version run last time. The **CurrentVersion** in the special version directory remembers the language run last time.

You can also get the detailed information in each language directory, like installation path.

