

Unable to start debugging on the web server

Source:

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In attempting to run a very basic web application on a student machine in a classroom, the following error message appears:

Error while trying to run project: Unable to start debugging on the web server. Access is denied.

The associated Help entry recommends checking several things. I have listed the results of doing so after each item. I will be grateful if someone can suggest additional items to check, since none of those listed has proven to be the source of the problem.

a.. Are you running a version of Windows that allows the Visual Studio debugger to automatically attach to a Web application? If not, you need to launch the application without debugging and manually attach to it. (For more information, see *Manually Attaching and ASP.NET Debugging: System Requirements.*)

>>>> *The student machines are running WindowsXP.*

a.. Does your Web application have a Web.config file?

a.. Does the Web.config file enable debug mode) by setting the debug attribute to true? For more information, see *Debug Mode in ASP.NET Applications.*

b.. Does the Web.config file contain any syntax errors? You can check for syntax errors by running the Web application without debugging. (From the Debug menu, choose *Start Without Debugging.*) If there are syntax errors in Web.config, detailed information will be displayed.

>>>> *App has the default Web.config file, which sets debug=true and has no syntax errors.*

You need to be a member of the Debugger Users group or an administrator if the ASP.NET worker process runs under your own user account.

>>>> *All students are members of the Debugger Users group*

a.. You need to be a member of the Administrators group if the ASP.NET worker process runs under any other user account besides your own.

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>>>> *Making students administrators of the local machine does solve the
>>>> problem, but opens a major security hole.*

a.. Did you create the project by specifying a specific IP address (100.20.300.400, for example)? Debugging a Web server requires NTLM authentication. By default, IP addresses are assumed to be part of the Internet, and NTLM authentication is not done over the Internet. To correct this problem:

a.. When creating the project, specify the name of the machine on your intranet.

–or–

b.. Add the IP address (<http://100.20.300.400>) to the list of trusted sites on your computer. (From the Internet Explorer Tools menu, choose Internet Options, and then select the Security tab).

>>>> *No. I simply created a new ASP.NET web application in the standard
>>>> way, dragged a Label and a TextBox onto the main form, and launched.*

a.. Does the machine running IIS server have Visual Studio .NET Remote Components installed?

>>>> *I have not confirmed this, and will not be able to verify this until
>>>> Monday. However, I do believe Visual Studio was installed with all
>>>> the defaults. Is this a likely source of the problem? Do the remote
>>>> debugging facilities even come into play when running IIS locally on
>>>> the development machine?*

a.. Was IIS installed on the local machine (the machine running Visual Studio .NET) after Visual Studio .NET was installed? IIS should be installed before Visual Studio .NET. If it was installed afterwards, you may need to repair the .NET Framework.

>>>> *IIS was installed prior to the installation of Visual Studio .NET*