Creating the first project in

mikroC PRO for dsPIC®

MikroElektronika
DEVELOPMENT TOOLS | COMPILERS | BOOKS

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Nebojsa Matic
General Manager

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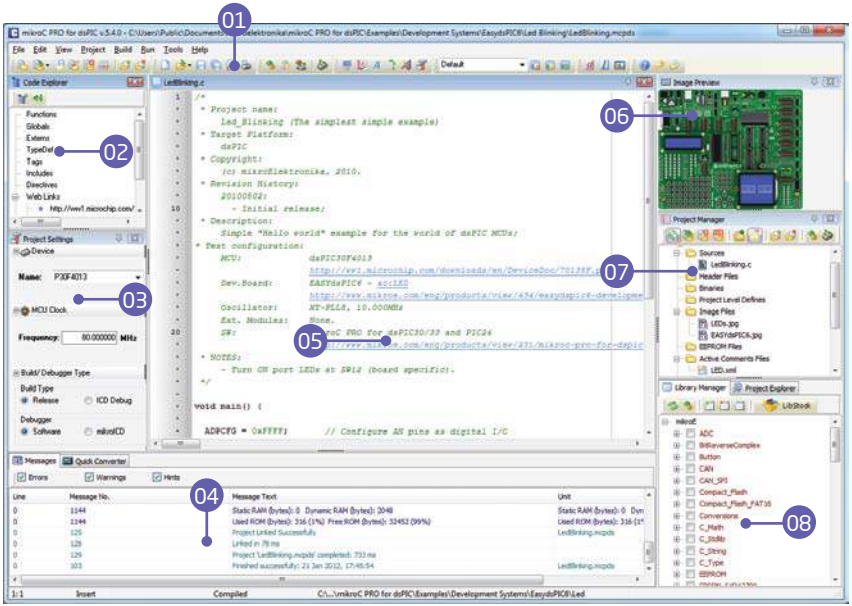
1. Introduction to mikroC PRO for dsPIC®

mikroC PRO for dsPIC® organizes applications into projects consisting of a single project file (file with the **.mcpds** extension) and one or more source files (files with the .c extension). The mikroC PRO for dsPIC® compiler allows you to manage several projects at a time. Source files can be compiled only if they are part of the project.

A project file contains:

- Project name and optional description;
- Target device in use;
- Device clock;
- List of the project source files;
- Binary files (*.mcl); and
- Other files.

In this reference guide, we will create a new project, write code, compile it and test the results. The purpose of this project is to make microcontroller PORTB LEDs blink, which will be easy to test.



01 Main Toolbar
02 Code Explorer
03 Project Settings
04 Messages
05 Code Editor
06 Image Preview
07 Project Manger
08 Library Manager

2. Hardware Connection

Let's make a simple "Hello world" example for the selected microcontroller. First thing embedded programmers usually write is a simple **LED blinking** program. So, let's do that in a few simple lines of C code.

LED blinking is just turning ON and OFF LEDs that are connected to desired PORT pins. In order to see the example in action, it is necessary to connect the target microcontroller according to schematics shown on **Figure 2-1**. In the project we are about to write, we will use only **PORTB**, so you should connect the LEDs to PORTB only.

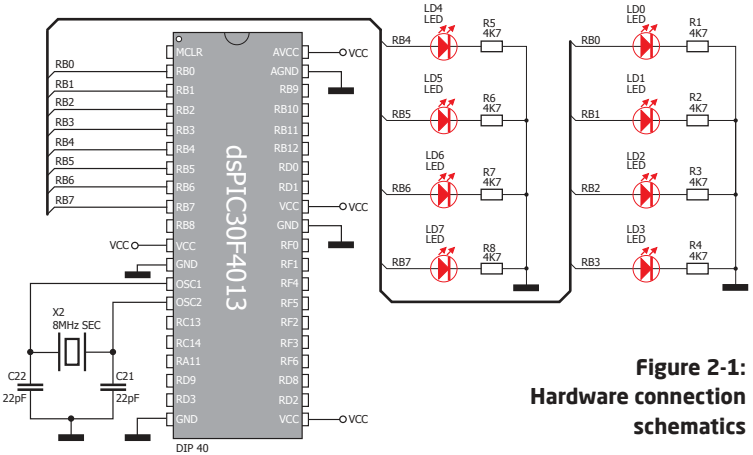


Figure 2-1: Hardware connection schematics

Prior to creating a new project, it is necessary to do the following:

Step 1: Install the compiler

Install the mikroC PRO for dsPIC® compiler from the **Product DVD** or download it from the MikroElektronika website:

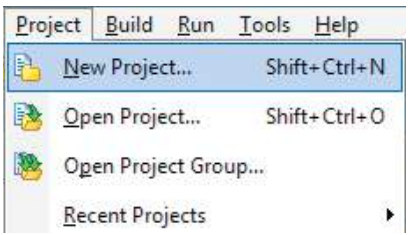
http://www.mikroe.com/eng/products/view/231/mikroc-pro-for-dspic/

Step 2: Start up the compiler

Double click on the compiler icon in the Start menu, or on your desktop to Start up the mikroC PRO for dsPIC® compiler. The mikroC PRO for dsPIC® IDE (Integrated Development Environment) will appear on the screen. Now you are ready to start creating a new project.

3. Creating a New Project

The process of creating a new project is very simple. Select the **New Project** option from the **Project menu** as shown below. The **New Project Wizard** window appears. It can also be opened by clicking the **New Project icon** from the **Project toolbar**.



The **New Project Wizard** (**Figure 3-1**) will guide you through the process of creating a new project. The introductory window of this application contains a list of actions to be performed when creating a new project.

01 Click **Next**.

Figure 3-1: Introductory window of the New Project Wizard

Step 1 - Project Settings

First thing we have to do is to specify the general project information. This is done by selecting the target microcontroller, it's operating clock frequency, and of course - naming our project. This is an important step, because compiler will adjust the internal settings based on this information. Default configuration is already suggested to us at the begining. We will not change the microcontroller, and we will leave the default **dsPIC30F4013** as the choice for this project.

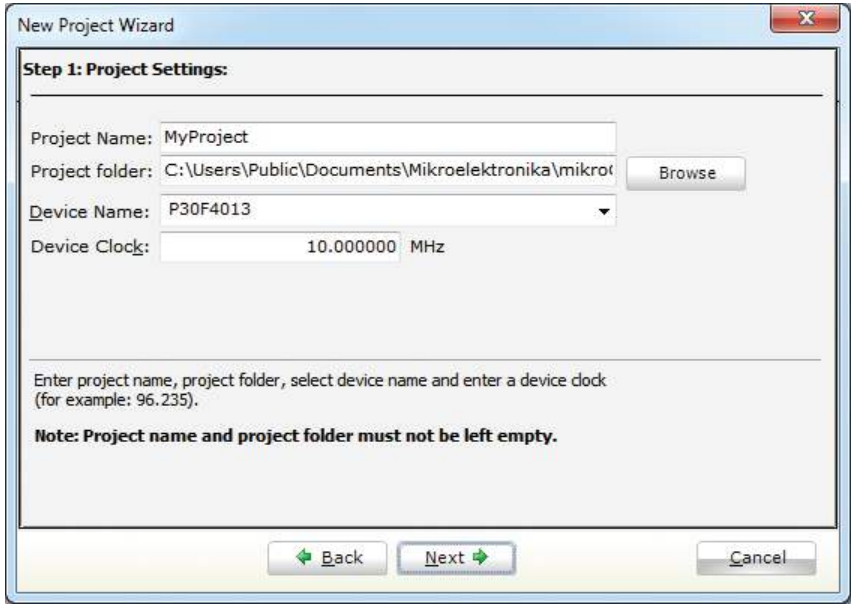


Figure 3-2: You can specify project name, path, device and clock in the first step

Step 1 - Project Settings

If you do not want to use the suggested path for storing your new project, you can **change the destination folder**. In order to do that, follow a simple procedure:

01 Click the **Browse** button of the Project Settings window to open the **Browse for Folder** dialog.

02 Select the desired folder to be the destination path for storing your new project files.

03 Click the **OK** button to confirm your selection and apply the new path.

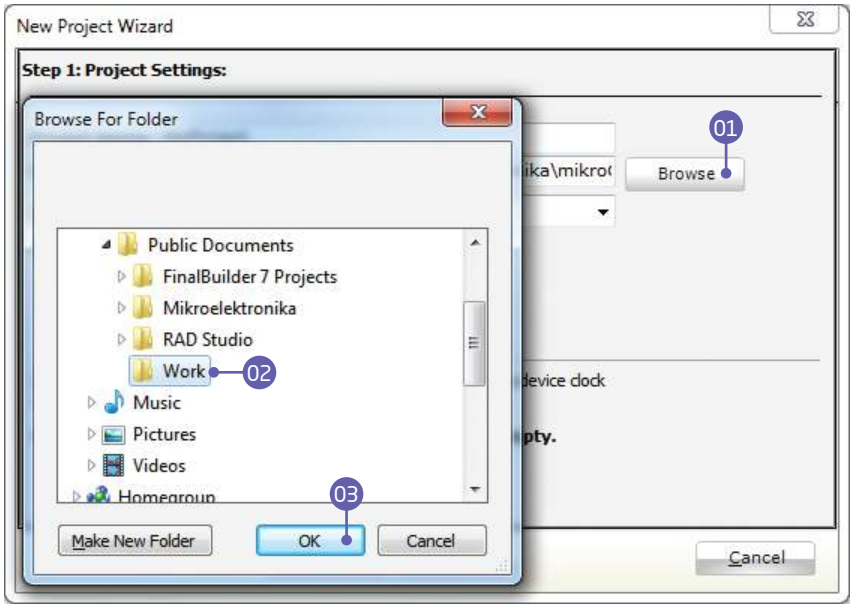


Figure 3-3: Change the destination folder using Browse For Folder dialog

Step 1 - Project Settings

Once we have selected the destination project folder, let's do the rest of the project settings:

01 Enter the name of your project. Since we are going to blink some LEDs, it's appropriate to call the project **"LedBlinking"**

02 For this demonstration, we will use the default **80MHz clock with PLL enabled**. Clock speed depends on your target hardware, and whether you are using PLL or not. But however you configure your hardware, make sure to specify the exact clock (**Fosc**) that the microcontroller is operating at.

03 Click the **OK** button to proceed.

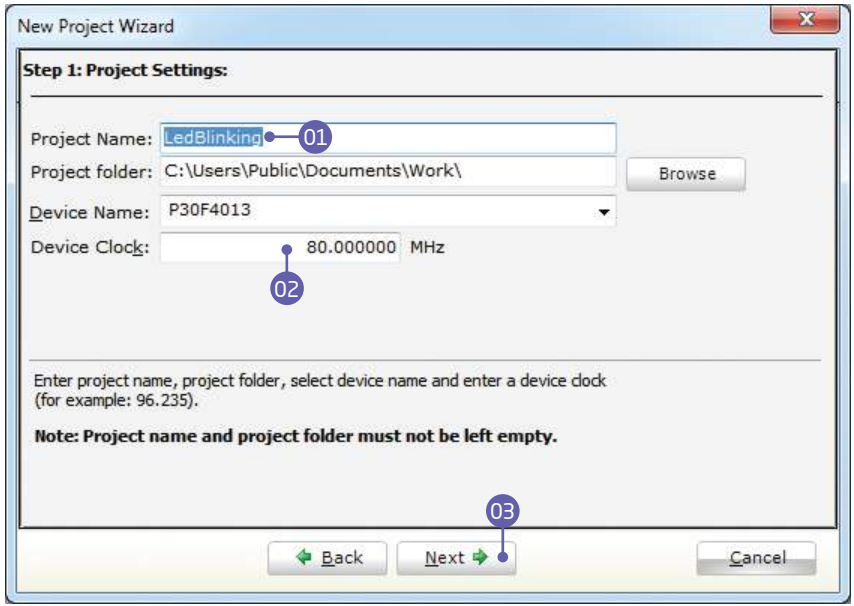


Figure 3-4: Enter project name and change device clock speed if necessary

Step 2 - Add files

This step allows you to include additional files that you need in your project: some headers or source files that you already wrote, and that you might need in further development. Since we are building a simple application, we won't be adding any files at this moment.

01 Click **Next**.

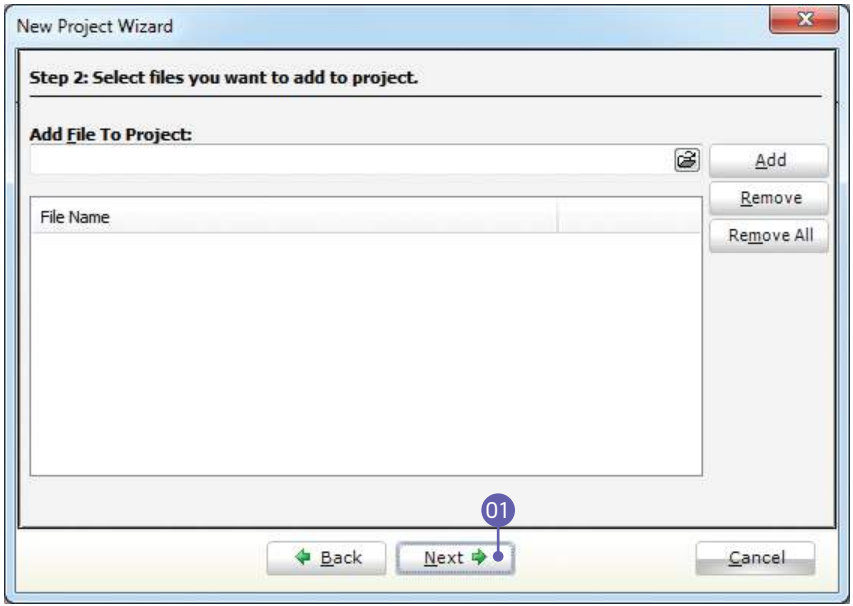


Figure 3-5: Add existing headers, sources or other files if necessary

Step 3 - Include Libraries

Following step allows you to quickly set whether you want to include all libraries in your project, or not. Even if all libraries are included, they will not consume any memory unless they are explicitely used from within your code. The main advantage of including all libraries is that you will have over **500 functions** available for use in your code right away, and visible from **Code Assistant [CTRL+Space]**. We will leave this in default configuration:

01 Make sure to leave **"Include All"** selected.

02 Click **Next.**

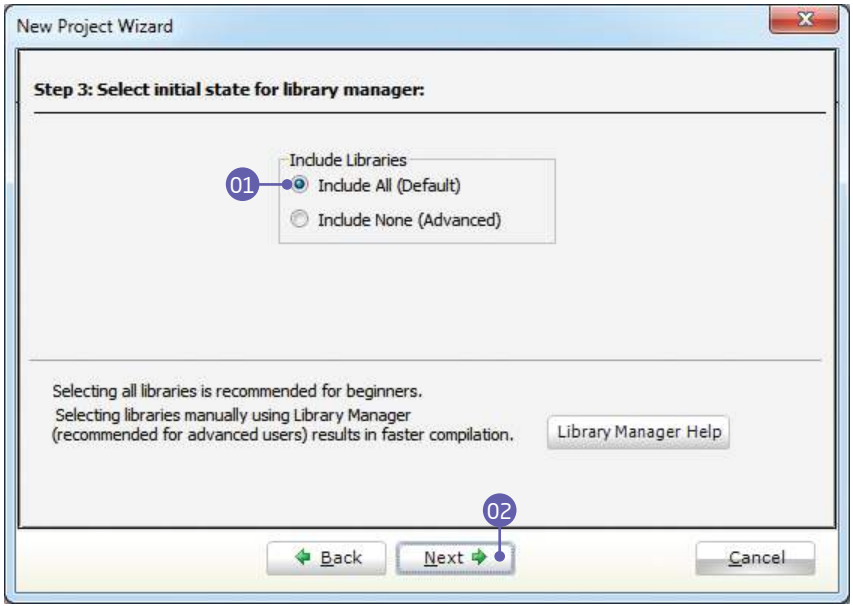


Figure 3-6: Include all libraries in the project, which is a default configuration.

Step 4 - Finishing

After all configuration is done, final step allows you to do just a bit more.

01 There is a check-box called **"Open Edit Project window to set Configuration bits"** at the final step. **Edit Project** is a specialized window which allows you to do all the necessary oscillator and PLL settings, as well as to set other configuration bits. We made sure that everything is described in plain English, so you will be able to do the settings without having to open the datasheet. Anyway, since we are only building a simple application, we will leave it at default configuration (XT oscillator with PLL enabled). **Therefore, leave the checkbox unchecked.**

02 Click **Finish**.

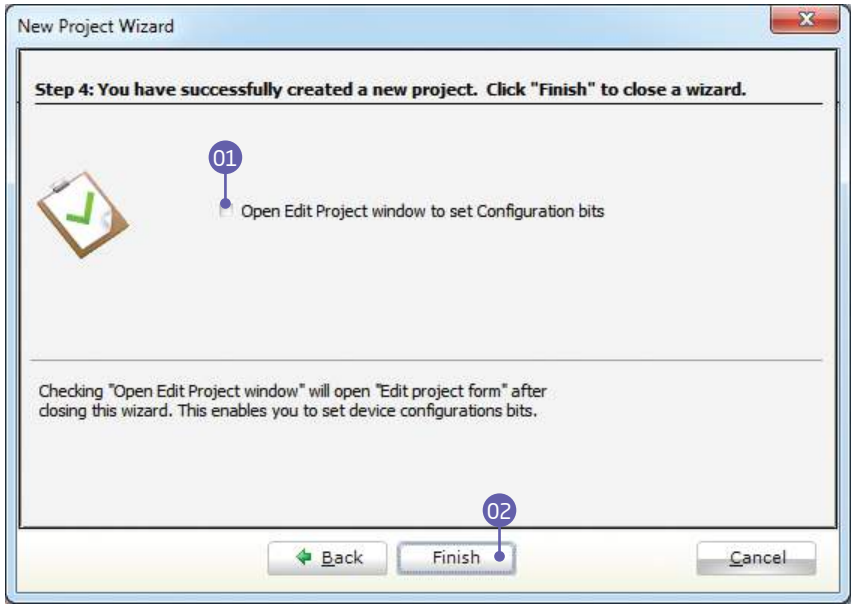


Figure 3-7: Choose whether to open Edit Project window after dialog closes.

Blank new project created

New project is finally created. A new source file called **"LedBlinking.c"** is created and it contains the `void main()` function, which will hold the program. You may notice that project is configured according to the settings done in the **New Project Wizard**.

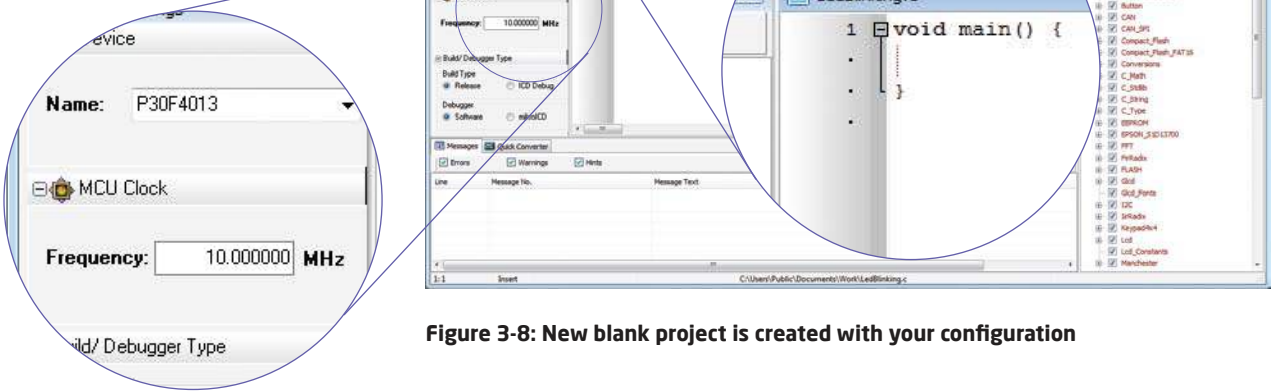


Figure 3-8: New blank project is created with your configuration

4. Code Example

Time has come to do some coding. First thing we need to do is to disable analog function of PORTB pins, so they act as digital only:

```
// Configure AN pins as digital I/O
ADPCFG = 0xFFFF;
```

Now we have to initialize PORTB to act as digital output. TRISB register, associated with PORTB, is used to set whether each pin acts as input or output.

```
// set PORTB to be digital output
TRISB = 0;
```

LATB register is used instead of PORTB for digital output. We can now initialize it with logic zeros on every pin:

```
// Turn OFF LEDs on PORTB
LATB = 0;
```

Finally, in a **while()** loop we will toggle the PORTB value, and put a 1000 ms delay, so the blinking is not too fast (see **Figure 4-1**).

LedBlinking.c - source code

```
1  void main() {
2    // Configure analog pins as digital I/O
3    ADPCFG = 0xFFFF;
4
5    // set PORTB to be digital output
6    TRISB = 0;
7
8    // Turn OFF LEDs on PORTB
9    LATB = 0;
10
11   while(1) {
12     // Toggle LEDs on PORTB
13     LATB = ~LATB;
14
15     // Delay 1000 ms
16     Delay_ms(1000);
17   }
18 }
```

Figure 4-1: Complete source code of the PORTB LED blinking

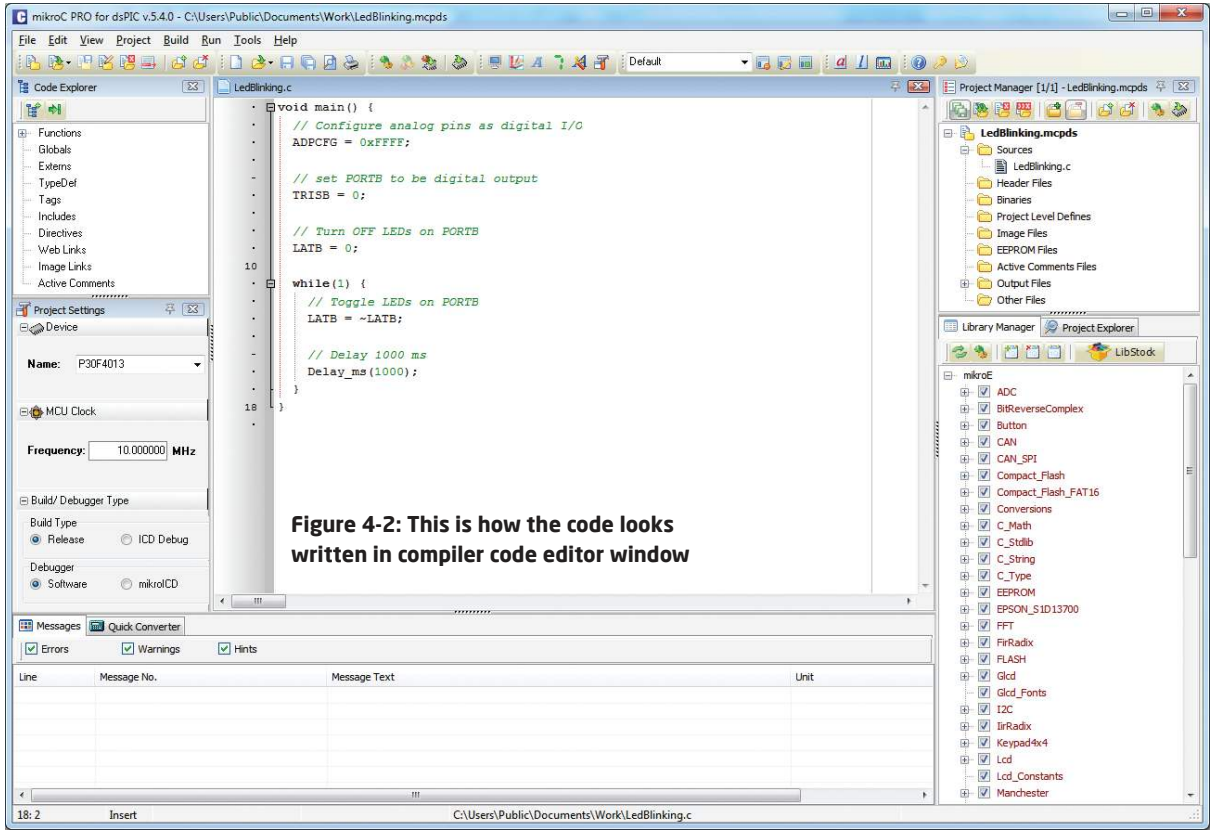
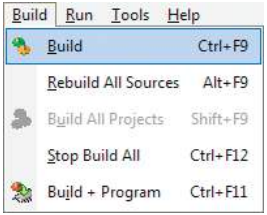
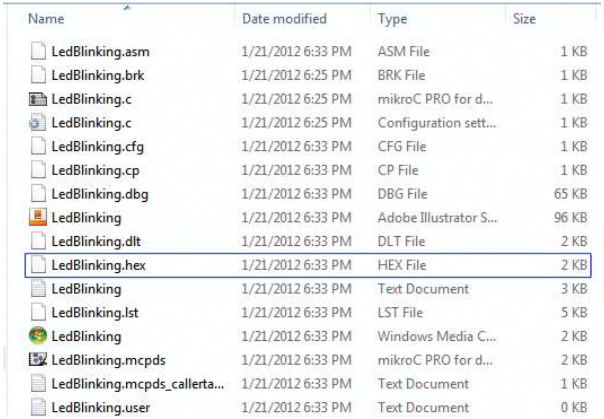


Figure 4-2: This is how the code looks written in compiler code editor window

5. Building the Source



When we are done writing our first LedBlinking code, we can now build the project and create a **.HEX** file which can be loaded into our target microcontroller, so we can test the program on real hardware. "Building" includes compilation, linking and optimization which are done automatically. Build your code by clicking on the icon in the main toolbar, or simply go to **Build menu** and click **Build [CTRL+F9]**. Message window will report the details of the building process (**Figure 5-2**). Compiler automatically creates necessary output files. **LedBlinking.hex** (**Figure 5-1**) is among them.



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
LedBlinking.asm	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	ASM File	1 KB
LedBlinking.brk	1/21/2012 6:25 PM	BRK File	1 KB
LedBlinking.c	1/21/2012 6:25 PM	mikroC PRO for d...	1 KB
LedBlinking.c	1/21/2012 6:25 PM	Configuration sett...	1 KB
LedBlinking.cfg	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	CFG File	1 KB
LedBlinking.cp	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	CP File	1 KB
LedBlinking.dbg	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	DBG File	65 KB
LedBlinking	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	Adobe Illustrator S...	96 KB
LedBlinking.dlt	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	DLT File	2 KB
LedBlinking.hex	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	HEX File	2 KB
LedBlinking	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	Text Document	3 KB
LedBlinking.lst	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	LST File	5 KB
LedBlinking	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	Windows Media C...	2 KB
LedBlinking.mcpds	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	mikroC PRO for d...	2 KB
LedBlinking.mcpds_callerta...	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	Text Document	1 KB
LedBlinking.user	1/21/2012 6:33 PM	Text Document	0 KB

Figure 5-1: Listing of project files after building is done

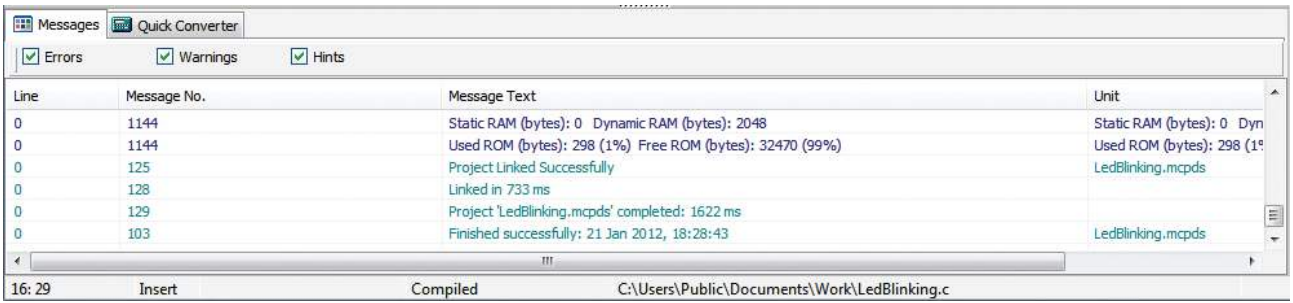


Figure 5-2: After the successful compilation and linking, the message window should look something like this

6. Changing Project Settings

If you need to change the target microcontroller or clock speed, you don't have to go through the new project wizard all over again. This can be done quickly in the **Edit Project** window. You can open it using **Project->Edit Project [CTRL+SHIFT+E]** menu option.

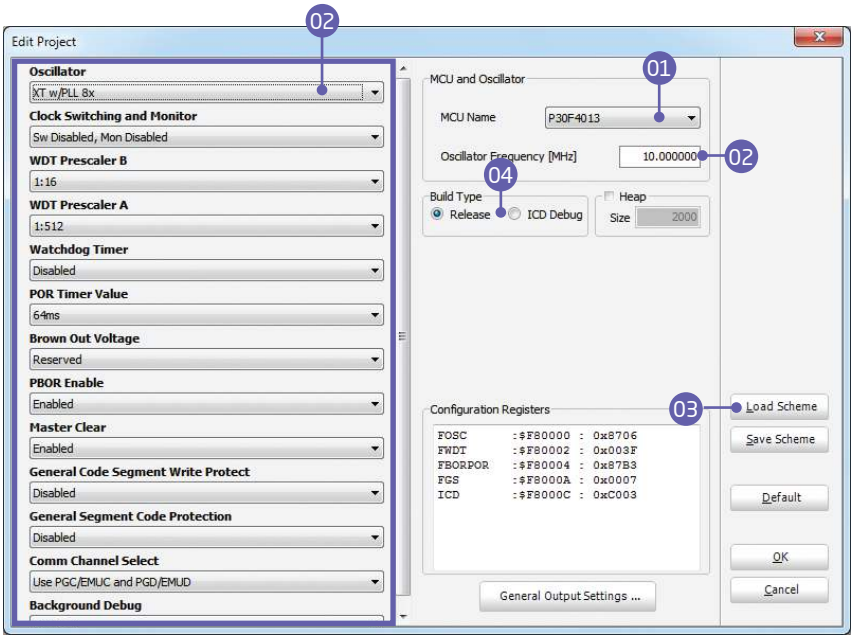


Figure 6-1: Edit Project Window

01 To change your MCU, just select the desired microcontroller from the dropdown list.

02 To change your settings enter the oscillator value and adjust configuration register bits using drop-down boxes.

03 Several most commonly used settings can be loaded using the provided oscillator "schemes". Load the desired scheme by clicking the **Load Scheme** button.

04 Select whether to build a **Debug HEX**, which is necessary for hardware debugging, or a final **Release HEX**.

7. What's next?

More examples

mikroC PRO for dsPIC® comes with over **150 examples** which demonstrate a variety of features. They represent the best starting point when developing a new project. You will find projects written for mikroElektronika development boards, additional boards, internal MCU modules and other examples. This way **you always have a starting point**, and don't have to start from scratch. In most cases, you can combine different simple projects to create a more complex one. For example, if you want to build a temperature datalogger, you can combine temperature sensor example with MMC/SD example and do the job in much less time. All projects are delivered with a working .HEX files, so you don't have to buy a compiler license in order to test them. You can load them into your development board right away without the need for building them.

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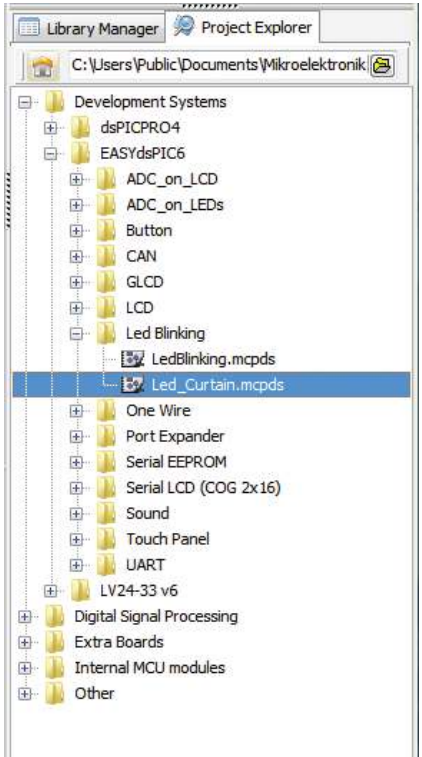

Figure 7-1: Project explorer window enables you to easily access provided examples and load them quickly

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