

[Visual Studio code snippets](#) for [DevForce 2012 "Code First"](#) can speed development of your entity models, reducing tedium and errors.

## Snippets

There are five code snippets:

***cflistnavprop.snippet***, shortcut "**cfnav**", emits a "list navigation" property returning a DevForce *RelatedEntityList* of entities. For example, a *Customer* entity might have an "Orders" list navigation property returning the customer's *Orders*.

***cfrefnavprop.snippet***, shortcut "**cfref**", emits a "reference navigation" property and a companion foreign key property. The navigation property returns a single entity. For example a "Customer" property that returns the parent *Customer* entity. A reference navigation property usually has a corresponding foreign key property; a "Customer" property of an *Order* probably should have a foreign key property named *CustomerId*.

***cfentitymanager.snippet***, shortcut "**cfentitymanager**", emits a custom [EntityManager](#) for your model. It consists mostly of standard constructors and the prototype of a query method. It produces a lot of inescapable boiler plate code that you'll probably need only once per application model.

***cfentityqueryprop.snippet***, shortcut "**cfreq**", emits an *EntityQuery<T>* property for a custom *EntityManager*. For example, to add a *Customers* query property, use this snippet to add "*public EntityQuery<Customer> Customers {get; set;}*" to your *EntityManager*.

***cfdbsetproperty.snippet***, shortcut "**cfdbset**", emits a *DbSet<T>* property for a custom *DbContext*. For example, to expose *Customer* entities, use this snippet to add "*public DbSet<Customer> Customers {get; set;}*" to your *DbContext*.

## Install

[Download the code snippets](#)

Unzip and find the snippets for your preferred language.

Copy the snippet files to a location where Visual Studio can find them such as:

"%USERPROFILE%\Documents\Visual Studio 2012\Code Snippets\Visual C#\My Code Snippets" or  
"%USERPROFILE%\Documents\Visual Studio 2012\Code Snippets\Visual Basic\My Code Snippets".

## Use in your code

Microsoft describes [numerous ways to use a code snippet](#). We prefer the "short-cut" technique:

1. Put the cursor where you want to insert the code snippet.
2. Type the shortcut for the code snippet (e.g. "cfrefnavprop").
3. Press TAB, TAB to invoke the code snippet.