

How to install, configure and use CAST Highlight extensions for **Microsoft Visual Studio Team Services**

What is CAST Highlight

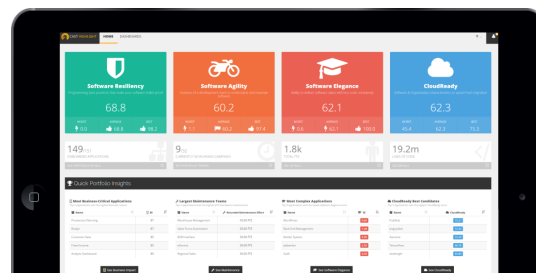
CAST Highlight is the SaaS platform to monitor software health, cloud readiness, complexity & cost of your Application Portfolio with code-level analytics. Highlight supports a wide variety of technologies, including Java, COBOL, SAP/Abap, .Net, Python, PHP, PL/SQL, Objective-C & more.

Highlight uses predictive patterns analysis built over time by scanning thousands of applications and billions of lines of code. By looking at the frequency of issues and potential impacts found into source code, managers can review how the factory is operating without drowning in detail.

In Highlight, software health of a project is monitored and tracked through four main indicators that consolidate hundreds of code patterns:

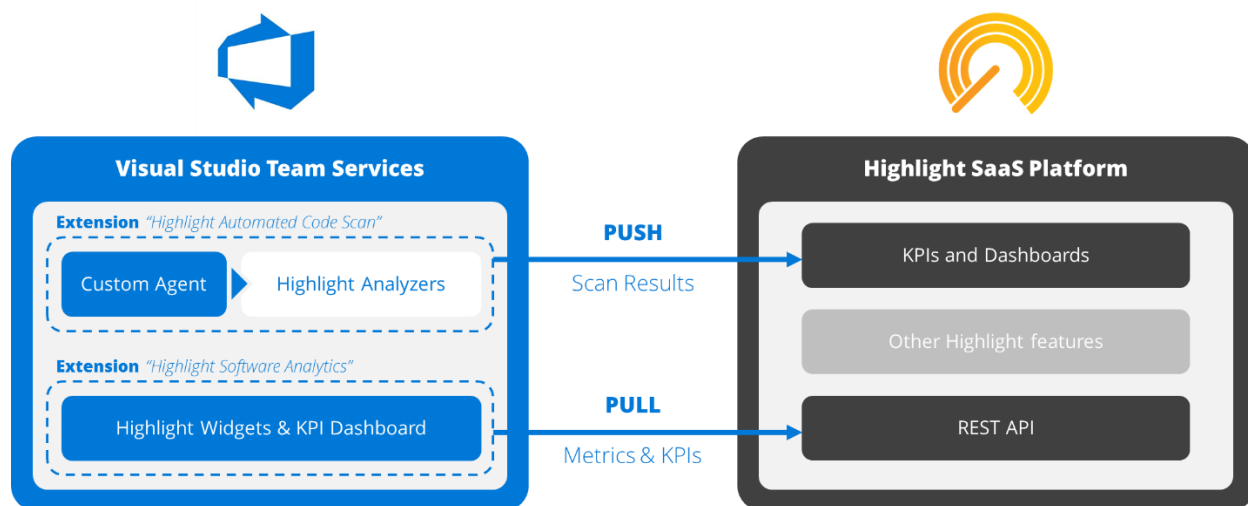
- **Software Resiliency:** indicates programming best practices that make software bullet-proof, more robust and secure. This index is derived through technology-specific code analysis that searches for the presence of code patterns that may comprise the reliability of the software at short term.
[Click here for more information](#)
- **Software Agility:** Software Agility indicates the easiness of a development team to understand and maintain an application. This index is derived through technology-specific code analysis that searches for the presence of embedded documentation and code readability good practices.
[Click here for more information](#)
- **Software Elegance:** Software Elegance measures the ability to deliver software value with less code complexity. A low Software Elegance score indicates decreased quality in the code resulting in higher defects that become costly to fix at mid-term.
[Click here for more information](#)
- **Cloud Readiness:** In Highlight, cloud readiness of an application is measured by the CloudReady index. This indicator assess the software & organization characteristics that can slow or speed a PaaS migration.
[Click here for more information](#)

More information: casthighlight.com



Overview of Highlight's extensions for Visual Studio Team Services

The aim of CAST Highlight's extensions is to allow organizations using Team Services to easily and continuously integrate and consume code-level and fact-based analytics in their software factory, while providing a consolidated view on project portfolio health to IT executives and business stake holders.



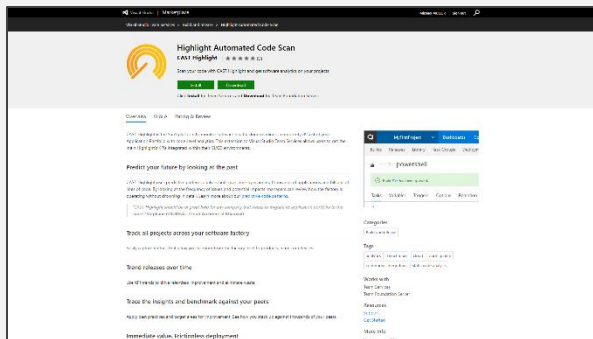
- The first extension documented hereafter (Highlight Automated Code Scan) configures and automates the code scan of a project and publish the results on Highlight dashboards, through a Visual Studio Team Services custom agent.
- The second extension (Highlight Software Analytics) consolidates and displays metrics of your scanned projects as tiles and out-of-the-box dashboard in Visual Studio Team Services, through the Highlight API.

In complement of these extensions, additional analytics (framework inventory, business impact estimation, reporting capabilities, etc.) are available directly on the SaaS platform within your regular Highlight account.

For any question, feedback or assistance on these extensions, don't hesitate to contact our product team at support@casthighlight.com.

Highlight Automated Code Scan

This extension documented hereafter (Highlight Automated Code Scan) configures and automates the code scan of a project and publish the results on Highlight dashboards, through a Visual Studio Team Services custom agent.



Visual Studio Market Place: [download the extension](#)

Category: Build and release

Work with: Team Services (VSTS), Team Foundation Server (TFS)

Prerequisites

In order to use this extension and scan source code from Visual Studio Team Services, you should have:

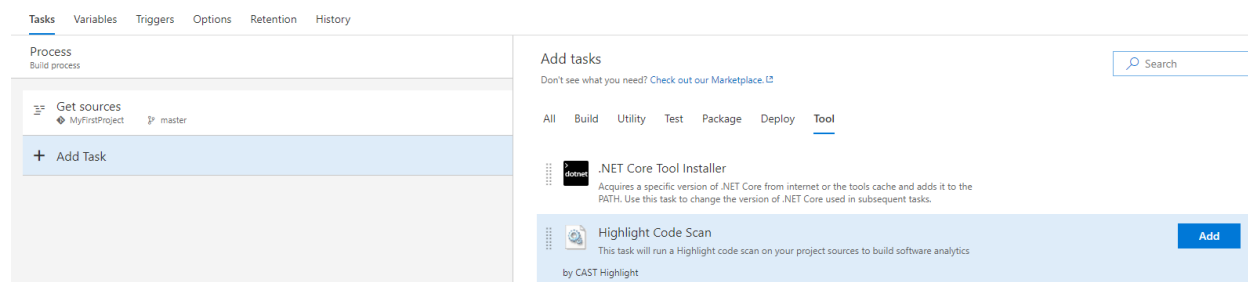
- An Highlight portfolio setup (you can [request a 30-day trial](#))
- At least one project/application created in the Highlight platform
- An Highlight user account with contributor or portfolio manager privileges for the project/application you want to scan
- Obviously, a Visual Studio Team Services account with some projects ;)

Extension configuration

In a nutshell, this extension allows Visual Studio Team Services users to run Highlight scans against a code repository as a build task, and to upload scan results for the corresponding project/application in the company's Highlight portfolio. Find hereafter the detailed steps to make it happen. In the next section, you'll see how to leverage these results and add Highlight software analytics back into your Visual Studio Team Services dashboards.

Once the extension has been installed into your Visual Studio Team Services account, a new task will be available in the build definitions of your projects:

- In Build & Release, create or edit a build definition
- Click on "+ Add Task" and click on the "Tool" tab
- Find the Highlight Automated Code Scan task and click on "Add"



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Team Services interface. On the left, the 'Process' section is visible, showing a build process with a task named 'Get sources' and a sub-task 'MyFirstProject'. Below this, there is a '+ Add Task' button. On the right, the 'Add tasks' panel is open, displaying a search bar and a list of tasks. The 'Tool' tab is selected, and the 'Highlight Code Scan' task is highlighted. The task description reads: 'This task will run a Highlight code scan on your project sources to build software analytics'. An 'Add' button is visible next to the task.

Note: Since this task will scan source code, you should get your project sources prior to executing this task.

From here, you'll be able to configure the scan task by providing the extension with scan and result upload options:

- **highlightApplicationId:** the application identifier
- **highlightCompanyId:** the company identifier
- **highlightInstanceUrl:** the instance server url
- **highlightUserToken:** a base64 encoding of your Highlight user credentials as follows base64(login:password)

Once these scan and upload parameter have been set, save your build definition. You're now just one step away to scan your first project with CAST Highlight.

Installation of a Custom Visual Studio Team Services agent

Since CAST Highlight analyzers are Perl-based and as Visual Studio Team Services hosted agents (the virtual machines where your builds and tasks will be executed) currently don't support Perl, you'll have to deploy a custom Visual Studio Team Services agent, if that's not already the case.

The following Microsoft resources detail how to set up a Visual Studio Team Services custom agent:

- **Windows:** <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/vsts/build-release/actions/agents/v2-windows>
- **Linux:** <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/vsts/build-release/actions/agents/v2-linux>

Then, in order to make this extension works properly, you'll have to install and/or run the Highlight command line on this custom agent. Please refer to the command line documentation, depending on the OS of your Visual Studio Team Services agent (Windows and Linux are supported).

The Highlight command and documentation can be downloaded from the link below:
<https://www.casthighlight.com/product-tutorials-third-party-tools/>

Once the extension and the Visual Studio Team Services custom agent are set up, you're can run your first build, scan the code, upload scan results to Highlight. You're now ready to get software analytics available in your Visual Studio Team Services dashboards.

```

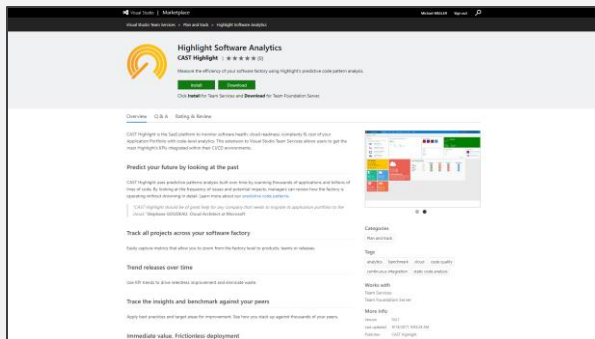
Build succeeded
Highlight Code Scan
Ran for 13 seconds (MMUW7LAP2), completed 7 days ago

Logs
1 2017-09-13T06:48:02.0032367Z ##[section]Starting: Highlight Code Scan
2 2017-09-13T06:48:02.0180757Z =====
3 2017-09-13T06:48:02.0180757Z Task           : Highlight Code Scan
4 2017-09-13T06:48:02.0180757Z Description  : This task will run a Highlight code scan on your project sources to build software analytics
5 2017-09-13T06:48:02.0180757Z Version      : 0.1.0
6 2017-09-13T06:48:02.0180757Z Author       : CAST Highlight
7 2017-09-13T06:48:02.0180757Z Help         :
8 2017-09-13T06:48:02.0180757Z =====
9 2017-09-13T06:48:03.0536020Z HIGHLIGHT SCAN
10 2017-09-13T06:48:03.0536020Z java -jar C:\Users\mmu\Downloads\vsts-agent\work\tasks\highlightcodescan_009e7949-d043-4058-b56c-103b0d8a84

```

Highlight Software Analytics

The second extension (Highlight Software Analytics) consolidates and displays metrics of your scanned projects as tiles and out-of-the-box dashboard in Visual Studio Team Services, through the Highlight API.



Visual Studio Marketplace: [download the extension](#)

Category: Plan and track

Work with: Team Services (VSTS), Team Foundation Server (TFS)

Prerequisites

In order to use this extension and display Highlight metric tiles in Visual Studio Team Services, you should have:

- An Highlight portfolio setup (you can [request a 30-day trial](#))
- At least one project/application with results available in the Highlight platform
- An Highlight user account with access to the projects/applications you want to report and consolidate in Visual Studio Team Services
- Obviously, a Visual Studio Team Services account with some projects ;)

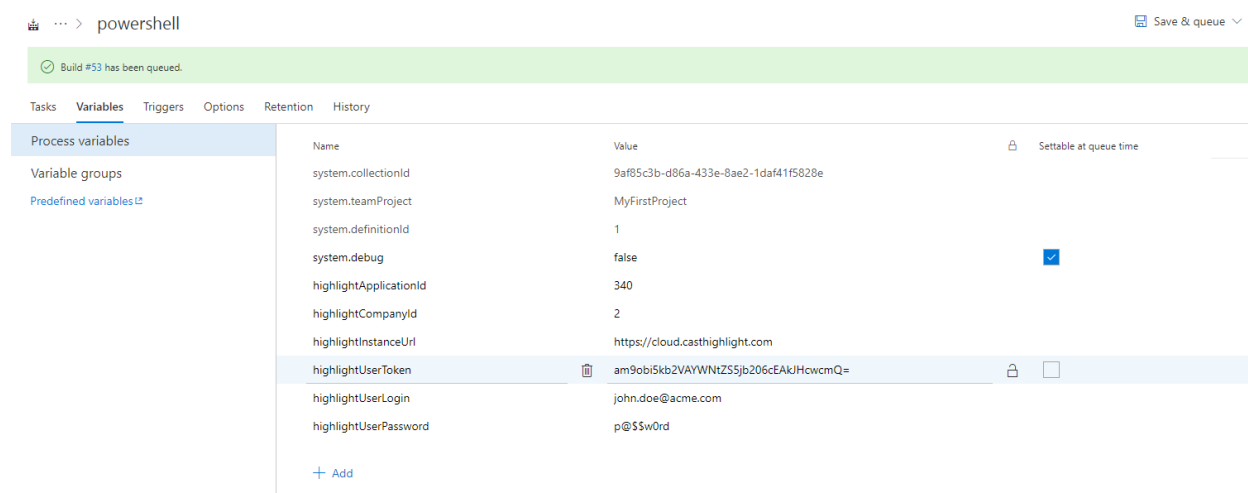
Extension configuration

In order to integrate software analytics of a project that have been previously scanned with Highlight, you'll have to link Highlight identifiers with your project build definition, as follows: In Highlight, retrieve the instance server url, the application and company IDs:

- These IDs can be found in MANAGE PORTFOLIO (requires a Portfolio Manager user account), in the url address bar once you click on an application
- The url will look like:
<https://rpa.casthighlight.com/#BusinessUnits/4/Applications/13707>
 - The instance server url is <https://cloud.casthighlight.com>
 - The company ID is 2
 - The application ID is 340

Back in Visual Studio Team Services, edit the build definition of your project and add the following variables:

- **highlightApplicationId:** the application identified
- **highlightCompanyId:** the company identifier
- **highlightInstanceUrl:** the instance server url
- **highlightUserToken:** a base64 encoding of your credentials as follows
 base64(login:password)



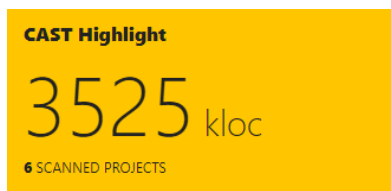
The screenshot shows the 'Process variables' section of a build definition in Visual Studio Team Services. The variables are listed in a table:

Name	Value	Settable at queue time
system.collectionId	9af85c3b-d86a-433e-8ae2-1daf41f5828e	
system.teamProject	MyFirstProject	
system.definitionId	1	
system.debug	false	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
highlightApplicationId	340	
highlightCompanyId	2	
highlightInstanceUrl	https://cloud.casthighlight.com	
highlightUserToken	am9obj5kb2VAYWNtZS5jb206cEAKjHcwcmQ=	<input type="checkbox"/>
highlightUserLogin	john.doe@acme.com	
highlightUserPassword	p@\$5w0rd	

Finally, save the build definition. These steps will automatically add your project in the request sent by the extension to the Highlight API, and will make available project metrics and KPIs in the Visual Studio Team Services widgets.

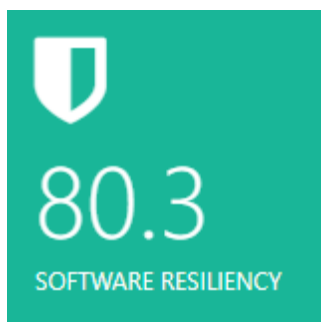
Available Visual Studio Team Services widgets

Project Counter



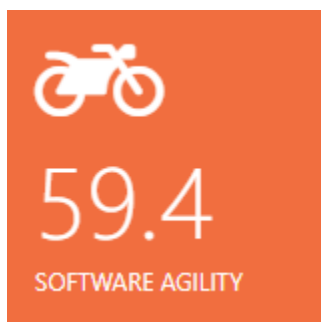
This widget displays the total number of projects scanned by Highlight and paired with Visual Studio Team Services, as well as the total number of lines of code.

Software Resiliency



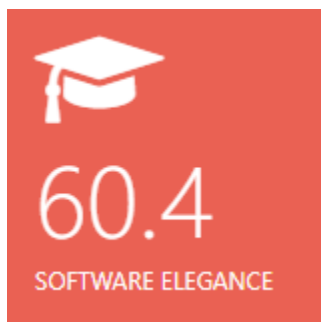
This widget displays the aggregated Software Resiliency score (average) of all projects paired with Visual Studio Team Services.

Software Agility



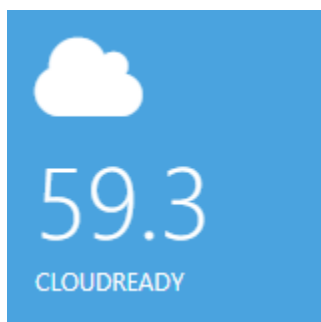
This widget displays the aggregated Software Agility score (average) of all projects paired with Visual Studio Team Services.

Software Elegance



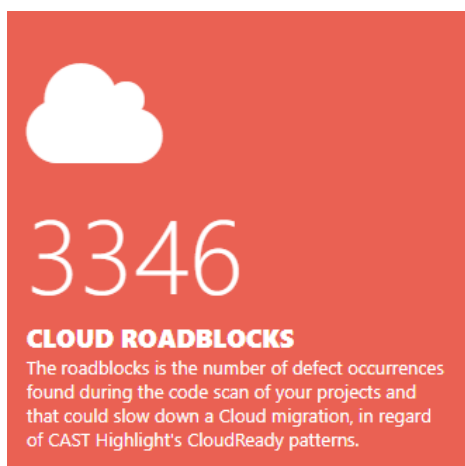
This widget displays the aggregated Software Elegance score (average) of all projects paired with Visual Studio Team Services.

CloudReady



This widget displays the aggregated Cloud Ready score (average) of all projects paired with Visual Studio Team Services.

Cloud Roadblocks



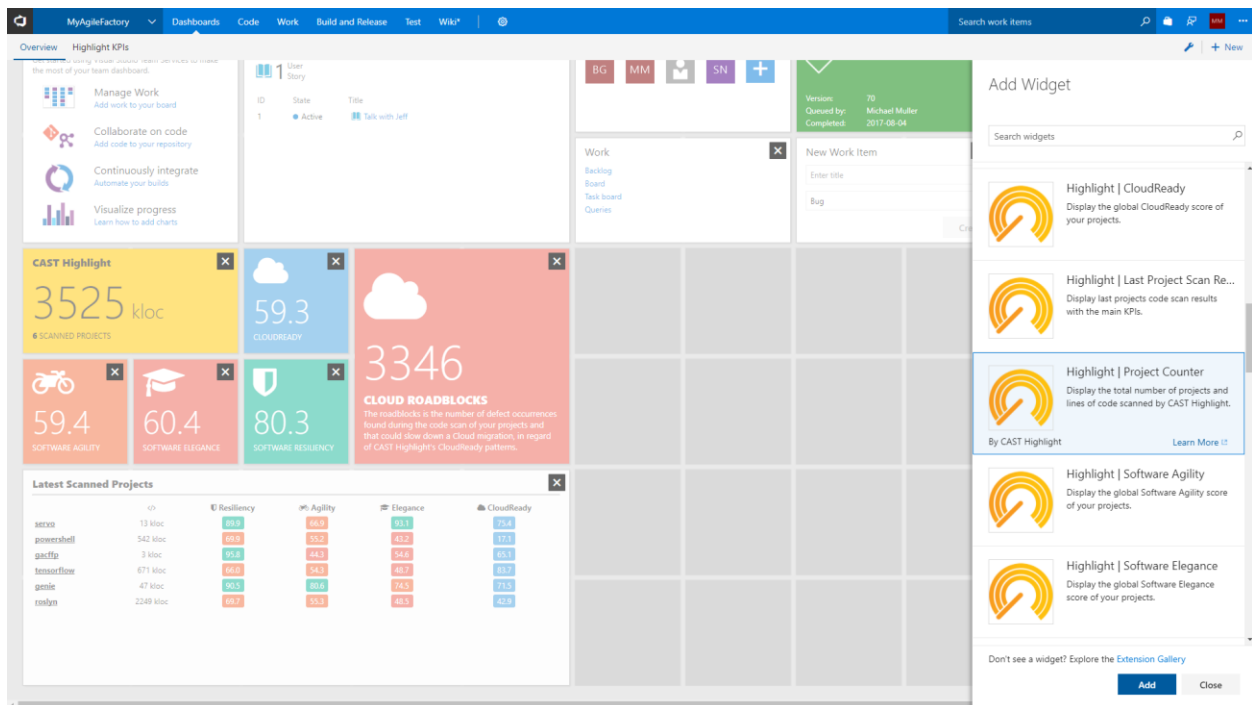
This widget displays the total number of Cloud roadblocks found during the scan of projects paired with Visual Studio Team Services.

Last Project Scan Results

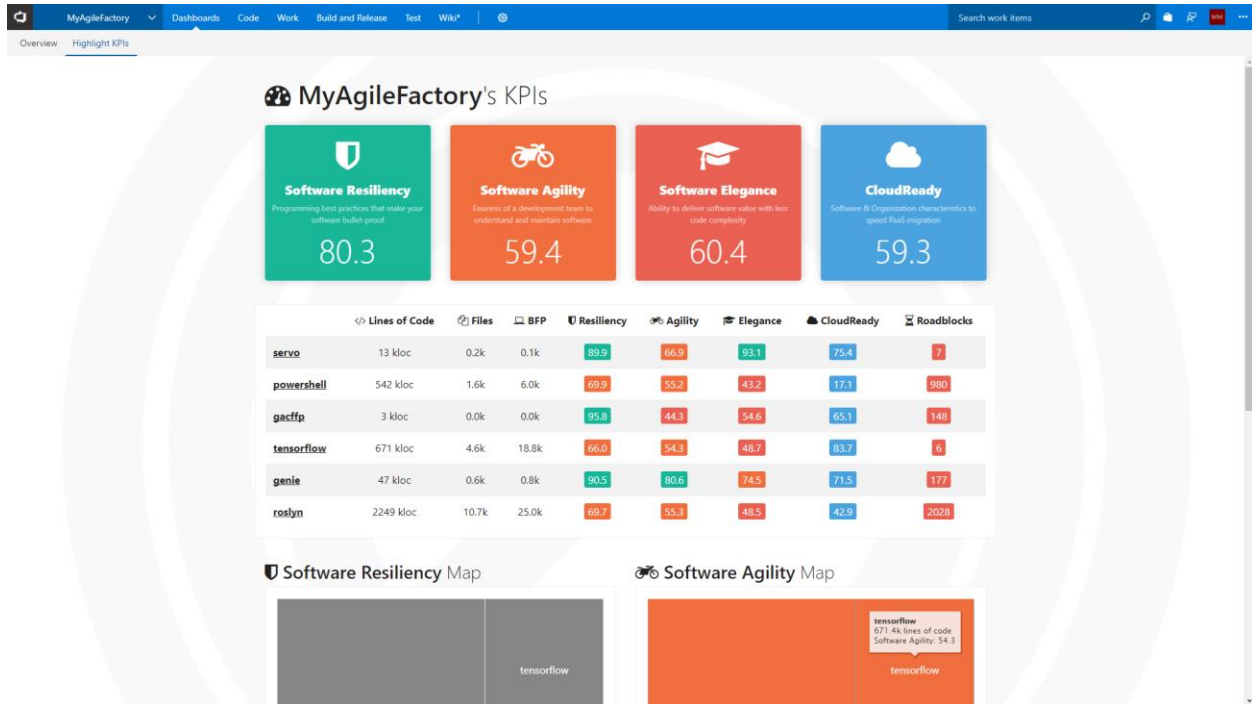
Latest Scanned Projects					
		☑ Resiliency	🚀 Agility	🏆 Elegance	☁ CloudReady
serve	13 kloc	89.9	66.9	93.1	75.4
powershell	542 kloc	69.9	55.2	43.2	17.1
gacftp	3 kloc	95.8	44.3	54.6	65.1
tensorflow	671 kloc	66.0	54.3	48.7	83.7
genie	47 kloc	90.5	80.6	74.5	71.5
roslyn	2249 kloc	69.7	55.3	48.5	42.9

This widget displays all scanned projects paired with Visual Studio Team Services and their corresponding KPIs (lines of code, software resiliency, agility, elegance and CloudReady).

As illustrated below, to add any Highlight widget to your Visual Studio Team Services “Overview” dashboard or to a new custom dashboard, edit your dashboard, click on + and pick the widget you want to add. Then save your dashboard configuration.



In addition of the widgets detailed above, this extension comes with a Visual Studio Team Services dashboard dedicated to your projects Highlight metrics from which you can get a quick overview on the code repositories you have scanned and paired with Visual Studio Team Services. To access, from the sub-menu, click on Highlight KPIs.



Contact the Product team

The product team loves getting in touch with users. Any question or feedback on these Visual Studio Team Services extensions, drop us a note at support@casthighlight.com, or leave us a message on [our website](#).