Importing Reusable Workflows

Visual Studio 2010 can import a reusable workflow that was created through some other application such as the SharePoint Designer. This provides the ability to start developing a workflow using a no-code approach and then to import it into Visual Studio where coded features can be added.

**Note** Unfortunately, you can’t export from Visual Studio. This is primarily because many of the activities in Visual Studio (such as the CodeActivity) are not supported in other tools.

In this chapter, you’ll create a simple reusable workflow in the SharePoint Designer that generates a task when a new Calendar event is created. This workflow will then be imported into Visual Studio where you’ll add an extra step that will also send an e-mail. This project will not only demonstrate the import feature but will also give you some insight into how the no-code workflows are implemented.

Creating a Workflow in the SharePoint Designer

To avoid the confusion of having two workflows associated with the same Calendar list, you’ll implement the first workflow using the Part3 site. The Visual Studio workflow will then use the Part4 site. If you have been working through these projects in order, you should already have a Part3 site. If not, any site created with the Team Site template will work.

Start the SharePoint Designer, and open the Part3 site. In the Navigation pane, click the Workflows link. Then click the Reusable Workflow button in the ribbon, as shown in Figure 15-1.
Figure 15-1. Creating a reusable workflow

In the Create Reusable Workflow dialog box that is shown in Figure 15-2, enter the name Event Review, and be sure to select the Event content type.

Figure 15-2. Selecting the Event content type

Designing the Workflow

You can refer to Chapter 7 if you want to review how to implement a workflow using the SharePoint Designer. The initial (blank) design will look like Figure 15-3.