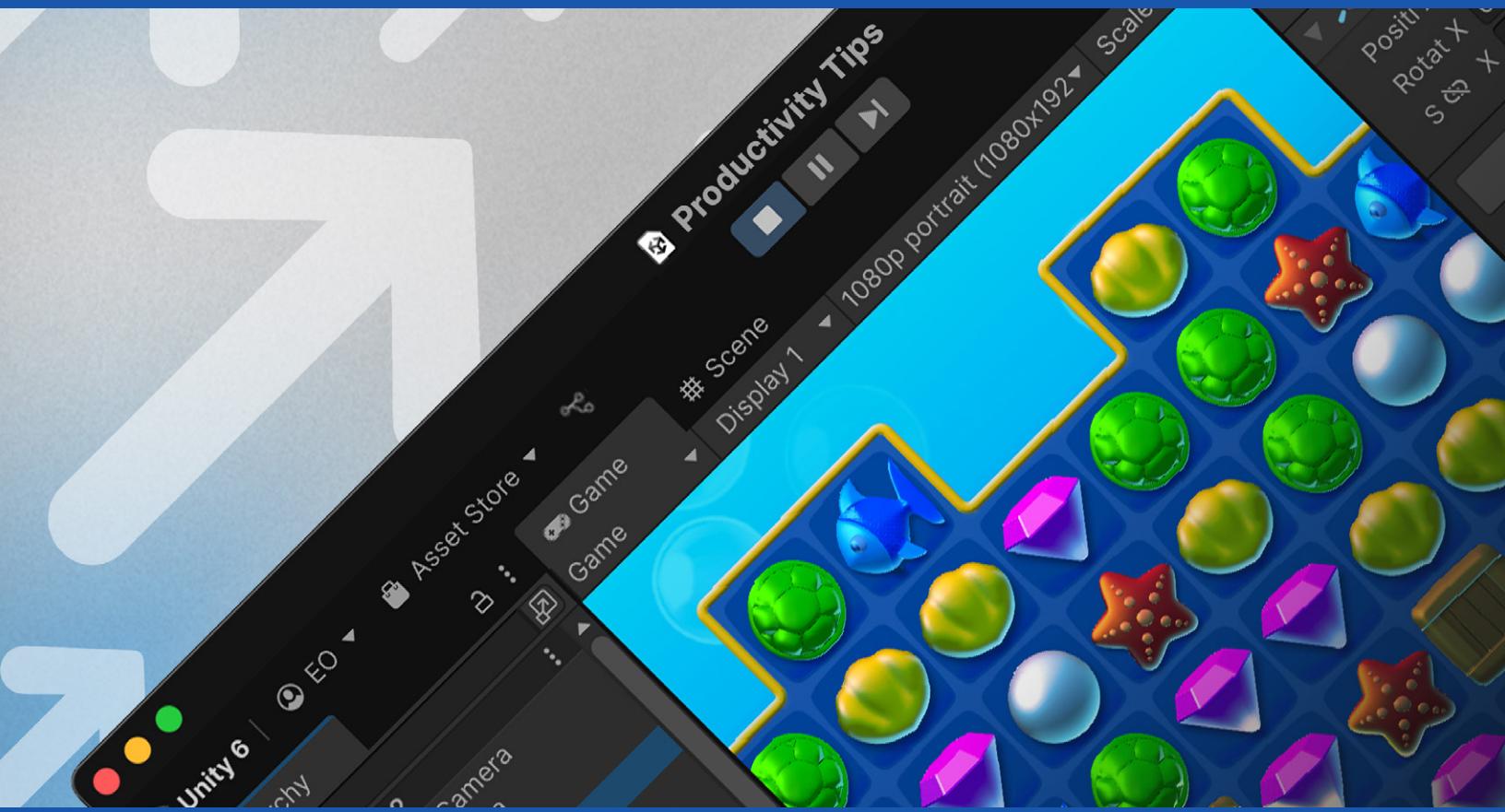


# Tips to increase productivity with Unity 6



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# Introduction

This guide provides numerous tips on how to work faster with Unity's toolsets, regardless if you're an artist or a programmer. It covers new features in Unity 6 along with time-saving steps and workflows that have been a part of Unity for years.

When you work in Unity every day, whether you work on your own or in a team, each second or mouse click adds up. We want you to be able to waste less time and be more productive. Whether you're a new or experienced Unity developer, this guide can help you speed up workflows in every stage of your game development.

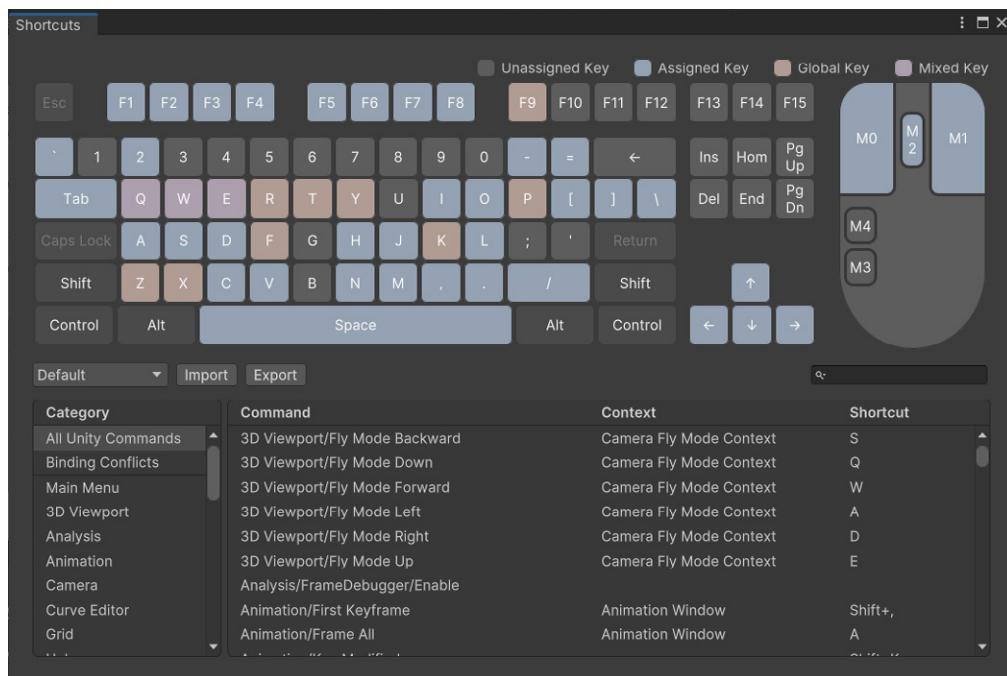
Go to the [Unity 6 web page](#), or to the [New in Unity 6.0](#) and [New in Unity 6.1](#) sections of the Unity documentation to get the full story of its new features and capabilities.

We hope you find this guide helpful.

# Editor workflows

Customize your preferred keyboard shortcuts easily

The [Shortcuts Manager](#) is an interactive visual interface to help you view, customize, and manage Editor hotkeys. It enables you to assign shortcuts to different contexts such as Global, Scene view, or specific Editor tools, and visualize existing bindings for any tools that you use frequently. You can also import/export shortcut profiles across the team or devices.



The Shortcuts Manager

Access the Shortcuts Manager from Unity's main menu:

- On Windows and **Linux**, select **Edit > Shortcuts**.
- On macOS, select **Unity > Shortcuts**.

### Common Shortcuts

Here are some common default shortcuts:

Action	Windows	Mac
Frame Selected		
Duplicate Items		
Delete GameObject		
View/Move/Rotate/Rect/Transform		
Toggle Pivot Mode		
Toggle Pivot Rotation		
Vertex Snap		
Snap		
Isolate selected objects in the Scene view		
Toggle Maximize		
Edit Prefab in Context		

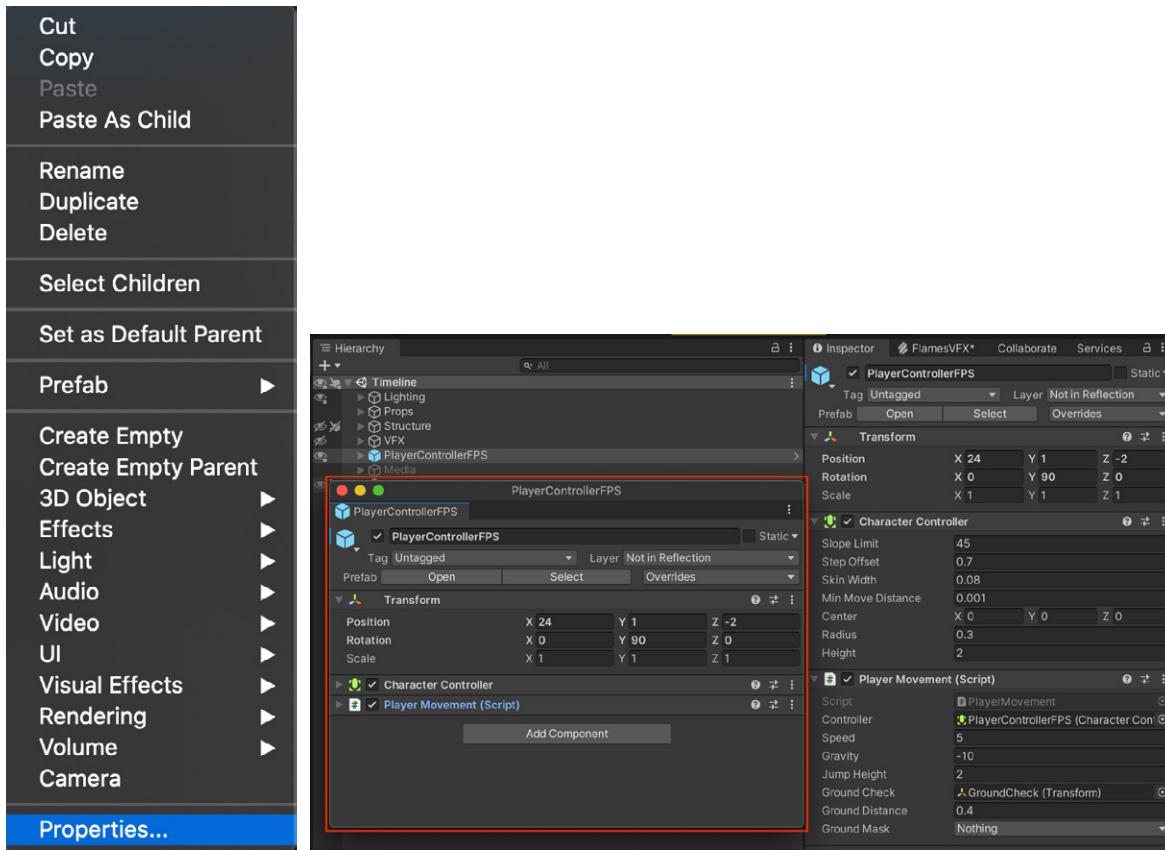
Command	Shortcut
View	Q
Move	W
Rotate	E
Scale	R
Rect	T
Transform	Y
Toggle Pivot Position	Z
Toggle Pivot Orientation	X

Common Editor shortcuts

## Work with multiple Inspectors

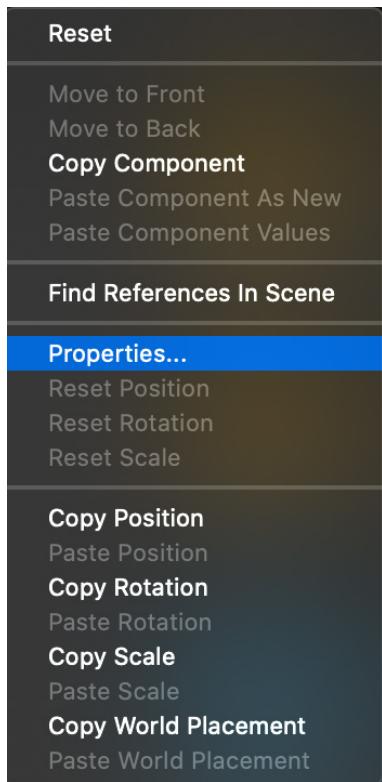
The [Focused Inspector window](#) allows you to have multiple Inspector windows at the same time to display the properties for a specific GameObject, component, or asset. It always displays the properties of the item you opened it for, even if you select something else in the Scene.

Right-click on a GameObject or component, and choose **Properties**. This reveals a floating Inspector window that you can reposition, dock, or resize like any other window.



The screenshot shows the Unity Editor interface. The Hierarchy window on the left lists a single GameObject named "PlayerControllerFPS". The Inspector window on the right shows the "PlayerControllerFPS" component with its properties. A floating "Properties" menu is open, listing various options for the selected GameObject. The "Properties..." option is highlighted in blue, indicating it was the last selected item.

A Focused Inspector comparing two GameObjects



Opening multiple Focused Inspectors at the same time allows you to reference multiple GameObjects while making changes to the Scene or make easy side-by-side comparisons.

You can also focus on a specific component of a GameObject, requiring less screen space.

## Define your own preferred default settings with Presets

[Presets](#) enable you to customize and reuse the default state of components or assets in your Inspector. When you create a [Preset](#), Unity captures the current settings of a component or asset and saves them as a [.preset asset](#).

You can then apply this configuration to other components or assets of the same type.

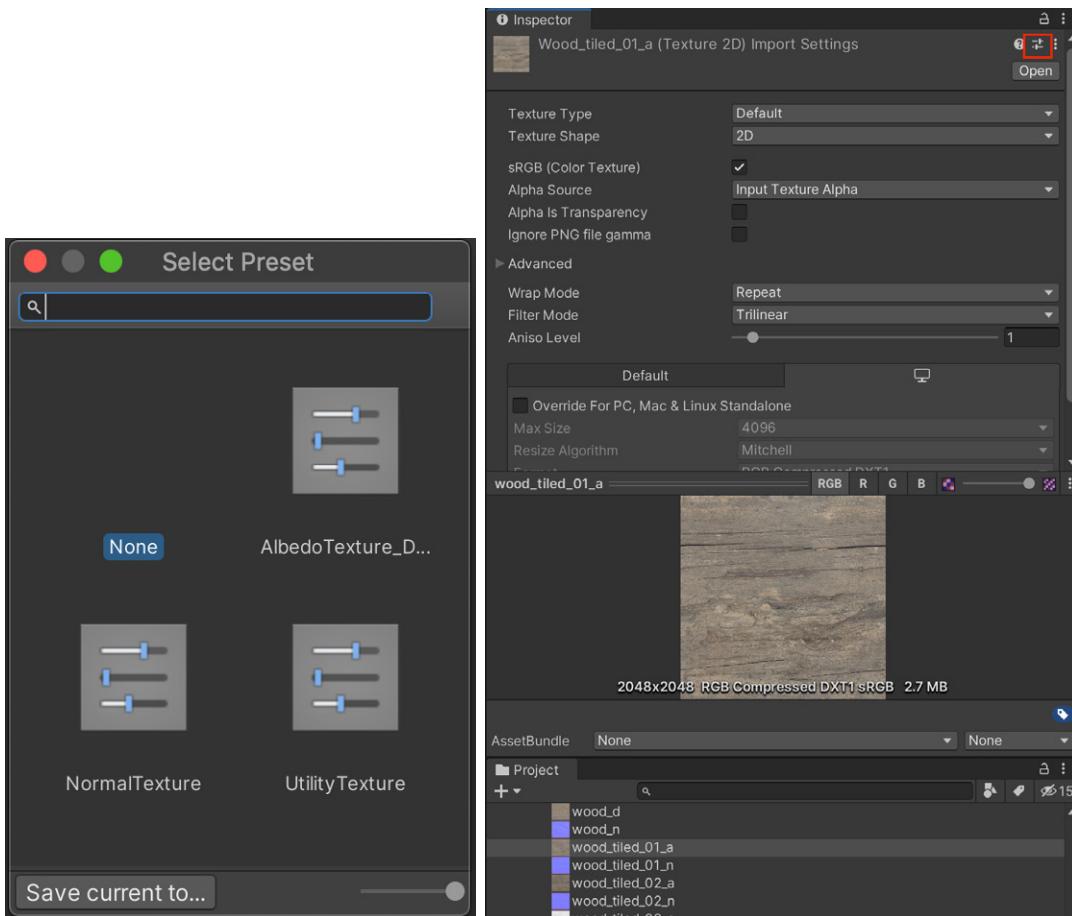
Use Presets to enforce standards or to apply reasonable defaults to new assets. This ensures consistent standards across your team, so commonly overlooked settings don't impact your project's performance.



The Preset icon is highlighted here in red.

To create a preset:

1. Click the **Preset** icon to the top right of the component.
2. Click **Save current to...** to save the Preset as an asset.
3. Click one of the available Presets to load a set of values.



In this example, the Presets contain different Import Settings for 2D textures depending on usage (albedo, normal, or utility).

Other practical ways to use Presets:

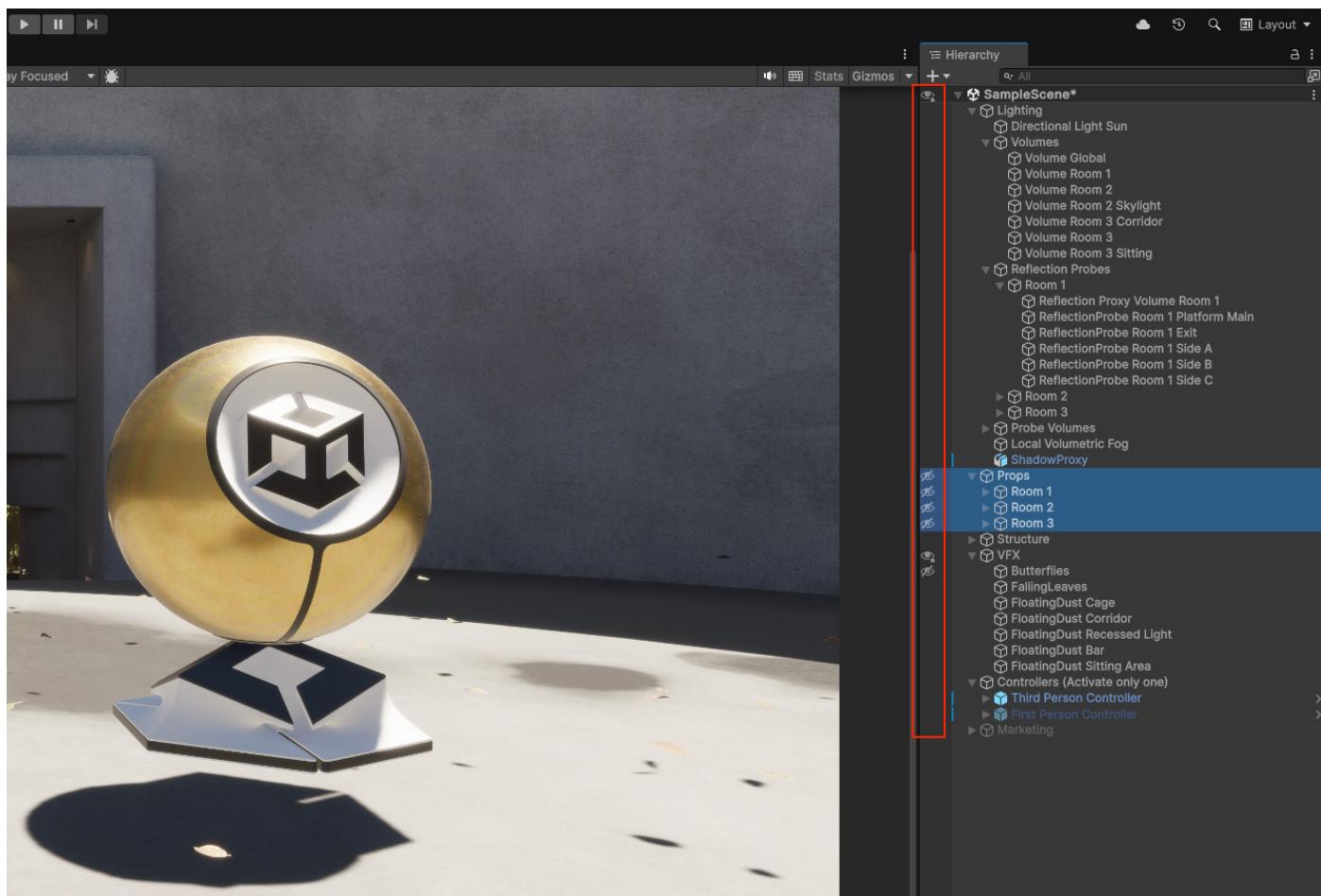
- **Create a GameObject with default values:** Drag and drop a Preset asset into the Hierarchy window to create a new GameObject with the corresponding component filled in with Preset values.
- **Associate a specific Type with a Preset:** In the **Preset Manager (Project Settings > Preset Manager)**, specify one or more Presets per Type. Creating a new component will then default to the specified Preset values.
- **Use filters to select among multiple Presets:** You can create multiple Presets for the same Type and use the filters in the Preset Manager to determine which Preset is applied.

- **Save and reuse manager settings:** Use Presets for a Manager window, so the settings can be reused; for example, if you plan to reapply the same Tags and Layers or Physics settings. Presets can reduce setup time for your next project.

## Unclutter your scene view with Scene visibility

As your Scene grows larger, you can temporarily hide specific objects to make selecting and editing your GameObjects easier.

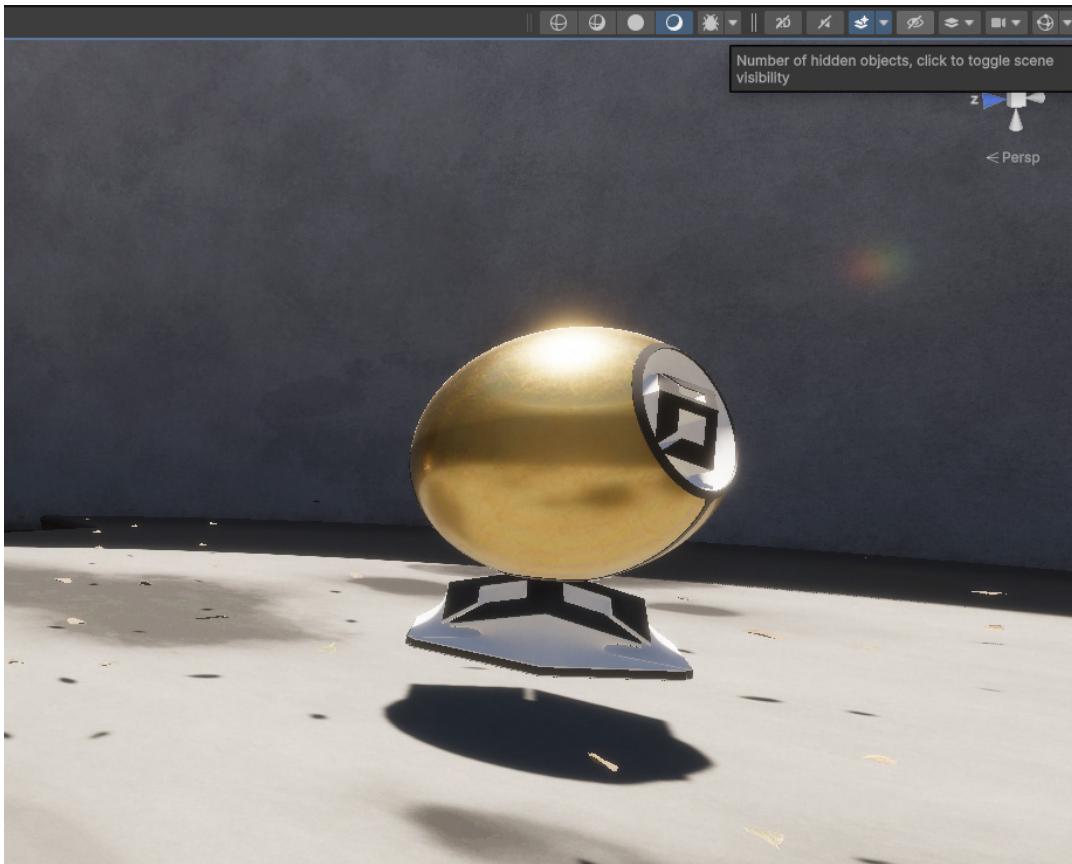
Instead of deactivating the GameObjects (which can lead to unintended behavior), you can use [Scene visibility](#) controls to toggle visibility in the Scene view. Click the eye icon next to a GameObject in the **Hierarchy** window to toggle Scene visibility. This hides the object from the Scene view without affecting its active state or in-game visibility.



Hide objects in the Scene view using Scene visibility controls.

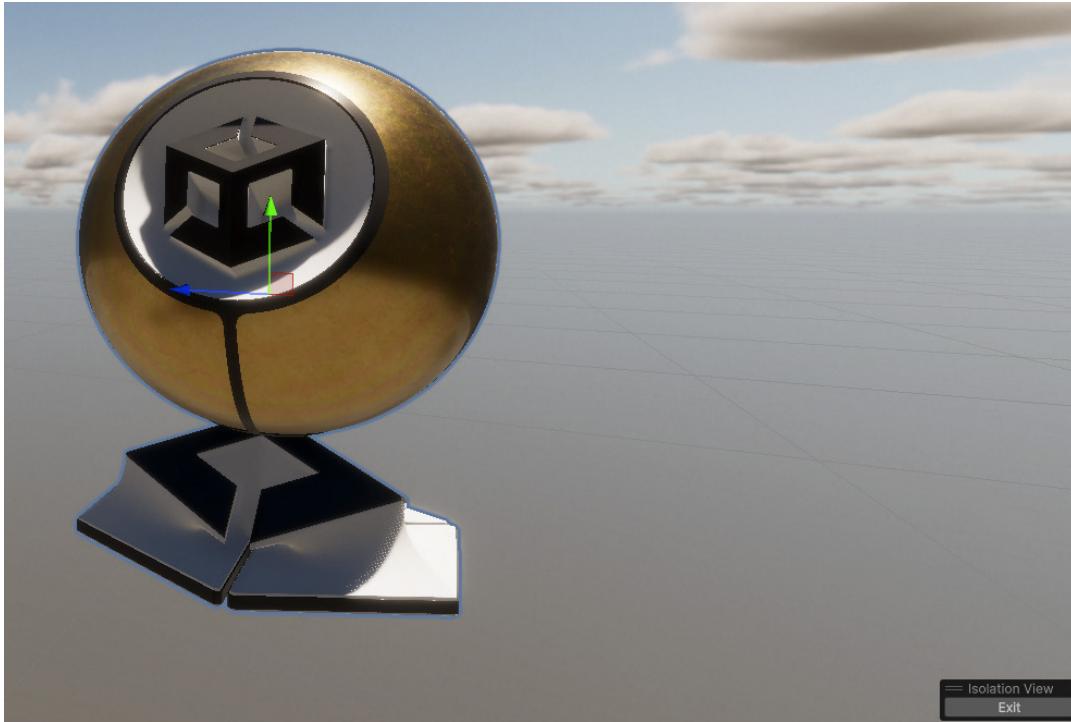
Note that the status icons may change in the Hierarchy, depending on whether parent or child objects become hidden.

Icon	Status
	The GameObject is visible, but some of its children are hidden.
	The GameObject is hidden, but some of its children are visible.
	The GameObject and its children are visible, but they only appear when you hover over the GameObject.
	The GameObject and its children are hidden.



Toggle the Scene view control bar on or off to override the global Scene visibility.

You can also use the **Isolation View** to concentrate on a specific object and its children. Select the GameObject in the Hierarchy window and press **Shift + H** to toggle it on and off. This overrides your other Scene visibility settings until you exit.



Isolation View allows you to edit a GameObject without distractions.

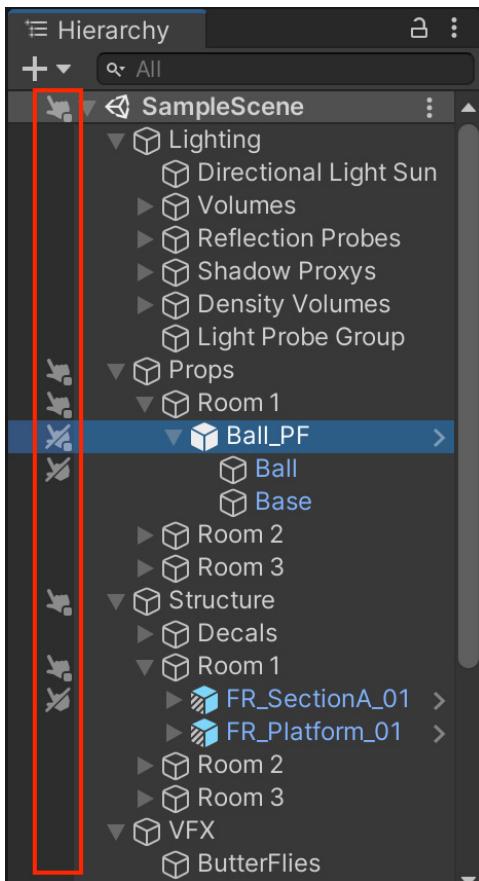
Remember that you can always use the **Shift + spacebar** shortcut to maximize the viewport and hide the rest of the Editor as well.

You can also [work with multiple scenes in Unity](#) if you need to create large streaming worlds, or want to effectively manage multiple scenes at runtime. You [can bake data in multiple scenes simultaneously](#), such as lightmaps, NavMesh data, and occlusion culling data. Also, you can [edit multiple scenes using scripts](#) within the Editor or at runtime.

## Avoid selecting the wrong objects in your Scene view

Unity allows you to control whether specific GameObjects can be selected in the Scene view, similar to how you manage Scene visibility.

You can toggle the Pickability state of a GameObject using the Scene visibility toolbar to block specific GameObjects from being selected in the Scene view. This is useful to avoid selecting and editing an unintended GameObject in large and complex scenes.



Hierarchy pickability

Because you can toggle pickability for a whole branch or a single object, some GameObjects may be pickable but have children or parents that are not. The following icons differentiate their status.

Icon	Status
	You can pick the GameObject, but you cannot pick some of its children.
	You cannot pick the GameObject, but you can pick some of its children.
	You can pick the GameObject and its children (only appears when you hover over the GameObject).
	You cannot pick the GameObject or its children.

## Preview your assets directly in the Inspector

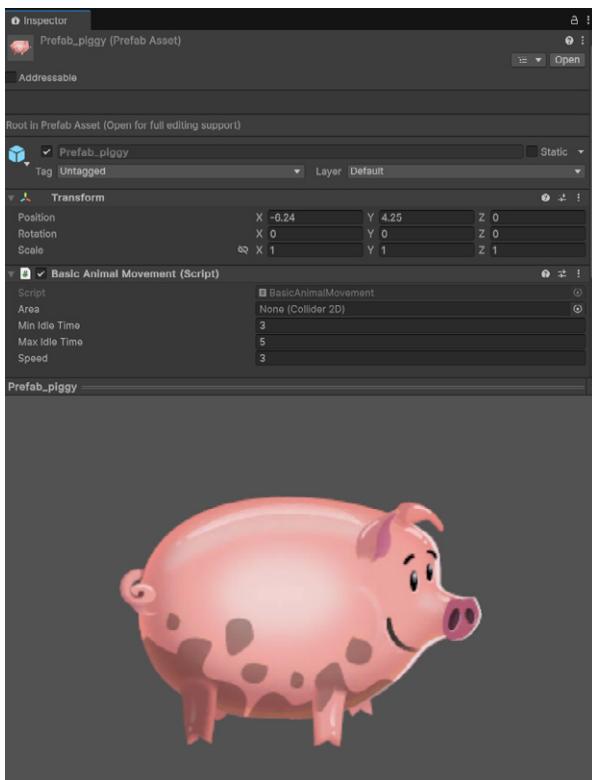
The Asset Preview is the visual panel in the Unity Editor, found in the bottom of the Inspector window, that allows you to see a preview or thumbnail of an asset, such as 3D models, materials, or textures. It provides a quick, interactive way to evaluate assets visually while working in the Editor.

For 3D assets, like models or prefabs, you can click and drag on the Asset Preview at the bottom of the Inspector window to rotate the object and inspect it from different angles. Use this to quickly check the asset's geometry, materials, or orientation without adding it to a scene.

If the Asset Preview appears too small, you can resize it by dragging the separator above the preview area in the Inspector window.

For assets like animated models, the Asset Preview often shows a simple default animation if one exists on the asset. Use this to quickly assess motion and rigging.

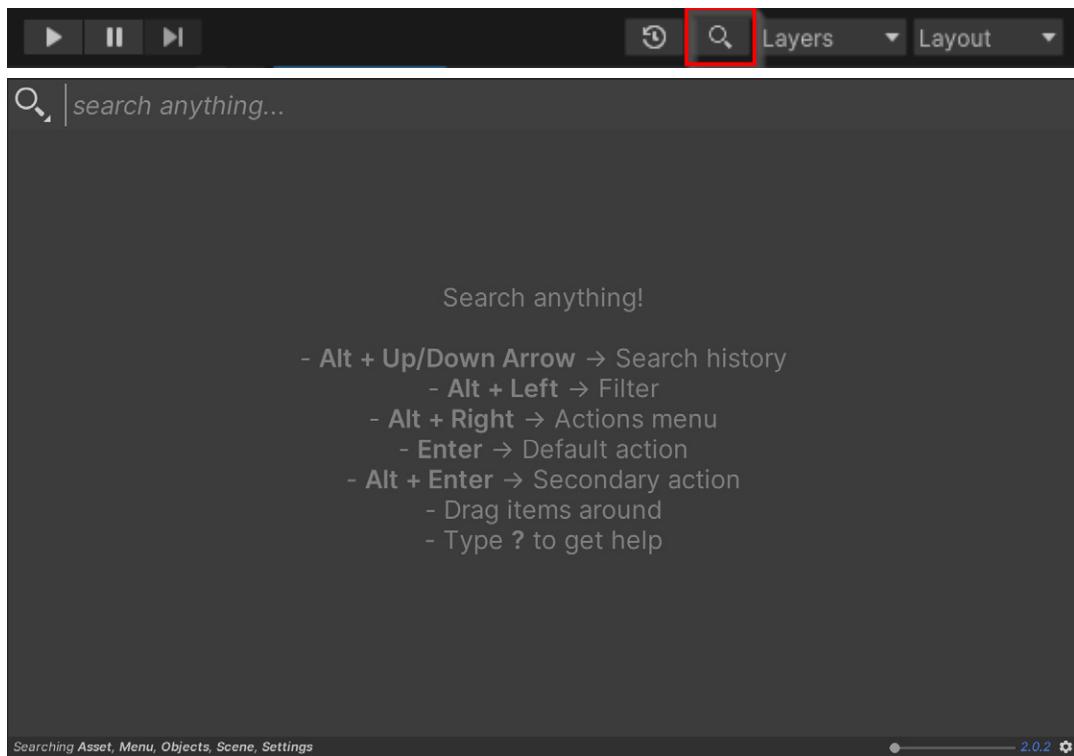
Unity can also display thumbnails (smaller versions of the Asset Preview) directly in the **Project** window. Enable this by switching your **Project** window to the **Two Column Layout** and adjusting the preview slider at the bottom. This makes it easier to visually browse and organize assets.



The Asset Preview window in the *Happy Harvest* sample

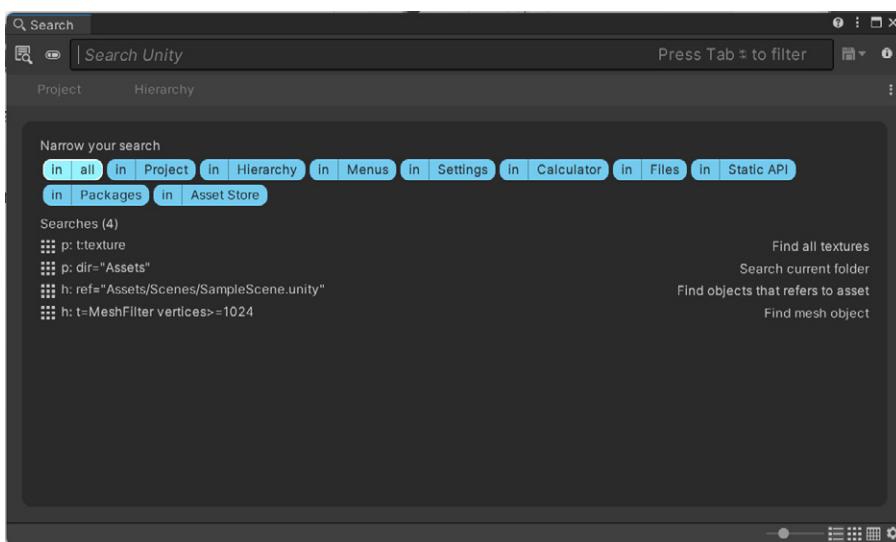
## Speed up your search in projects

There are several ways for you to search efficiently in Unity across assets, scene objects, menu items, packages, APIs, settings, etc. Besides the search functionality in the Hierarchy and Project views, you can also use the search button icon in the main menu bar or use the hotkey Ctrl + K on Windows or Cmd + K on macOS to activate it.

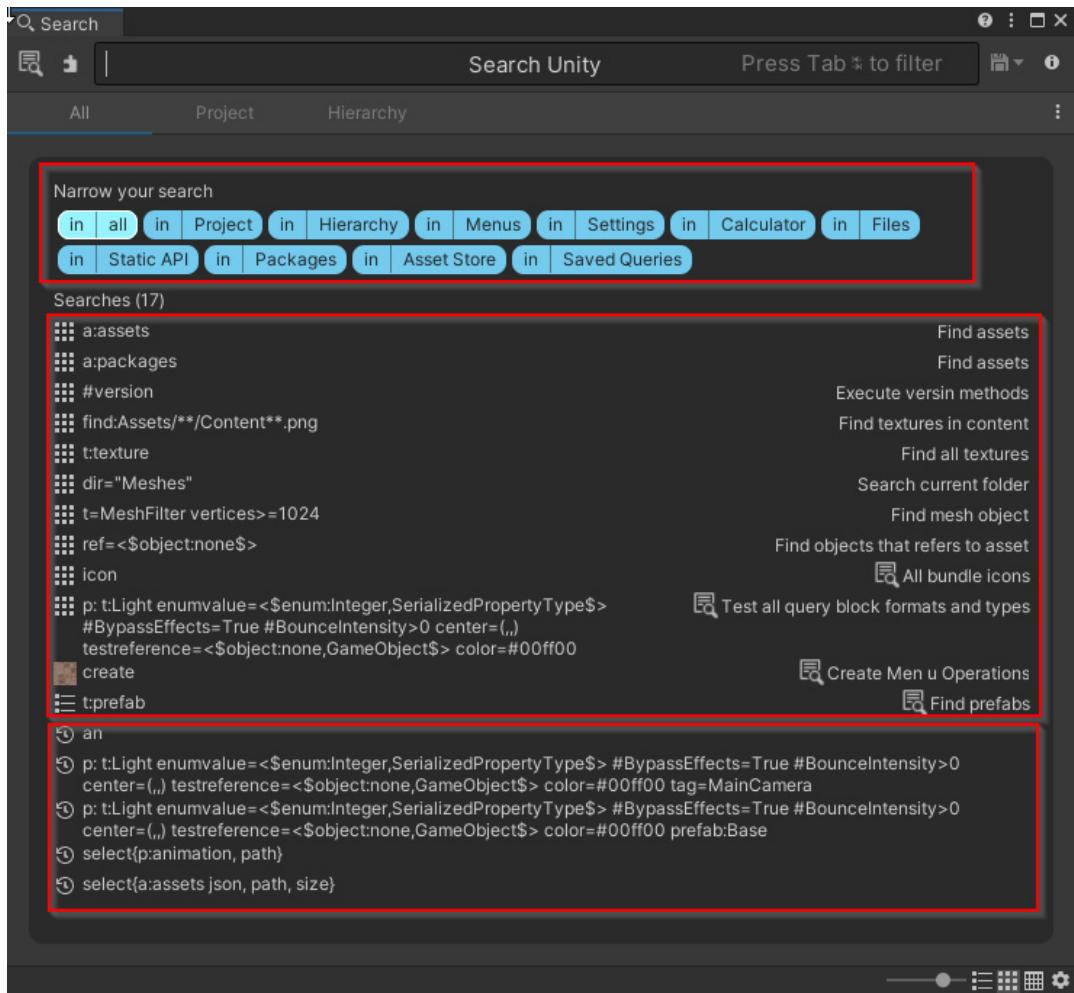


Use the hotkey or Help menu to launch QuickSearch.

This opens a search window where it's easy to filter your search.



The Search window



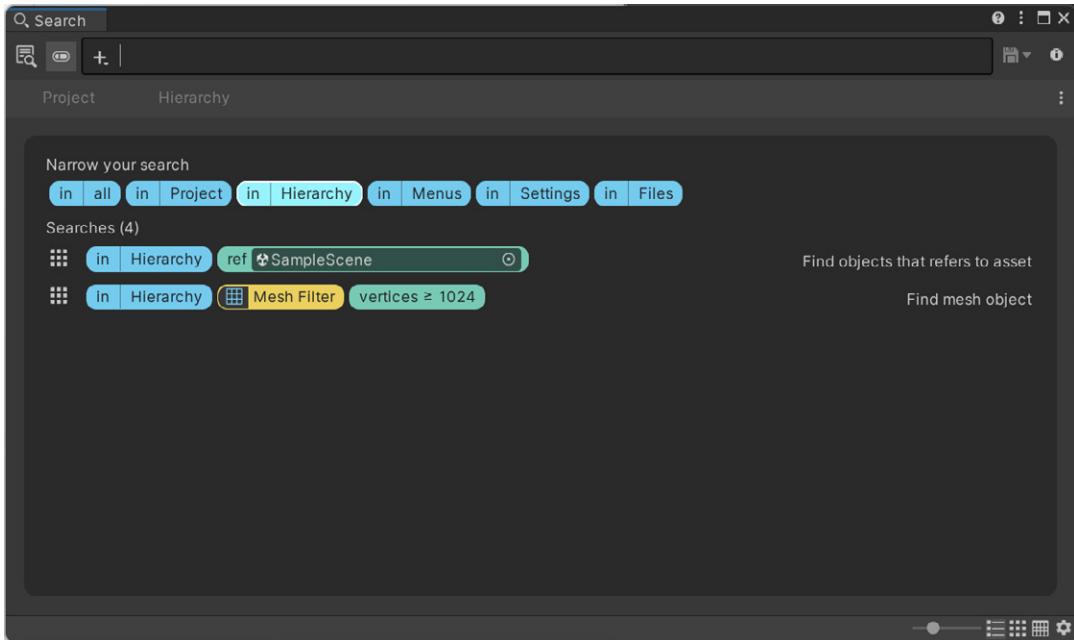
The middle section shows a list of queries available for the currently selected search area. You can click on any query to execute it. When searching for names, you can also search by type. Use the dropdown to select **Type** or the **t:** shorthand syntax, e.g., **t:scene** (to search all scenes) or **t:texture** (to search all textures).

Additionally, the Search window lets you visualize objects in various ways: Compact list view, big list view or multiple sizes of grid icons. You can also display objects in a table.

See the [QuickSearch guide](#) to learn more about searching both inside and outside of Unity.

## Use the Query Builder to create custom search filters

If you're working with complicated search queries and you need more help when exploring your project, use the Query Builder workflow. It can be activated with the builder toggle (see puzzle button next to the Search Field).

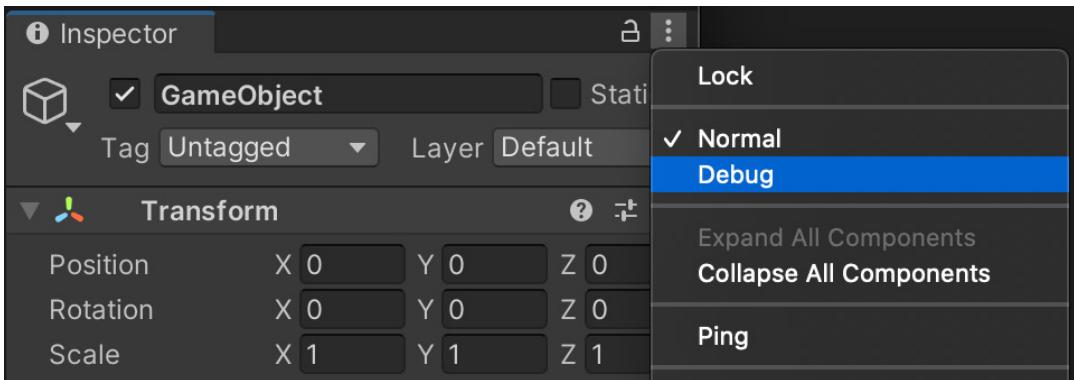


The Query Builder

Save time by creating and saving custom queries for common tasks. For example, if you frequently need to find prefabs by certain tags or locate unused assets, define a reusable query to automate this process. The Query Builder is also integrated with the Editor, and no longer a package, so that you can streamline workflows for your development team.

## Expose debug data in the Inspector

You can toggle each `GameObject`'s Inspector between Normal and Debug mode. Click the **More Items** (⋮) button to open the context menu and choose the desired mode. When using the Debug mode, all serialized fields, including private ones, hidden references, and internal Unity data are exposed in the Inspector. This can be useful for troubleshooting or inspecting components beyond their standard public interface.

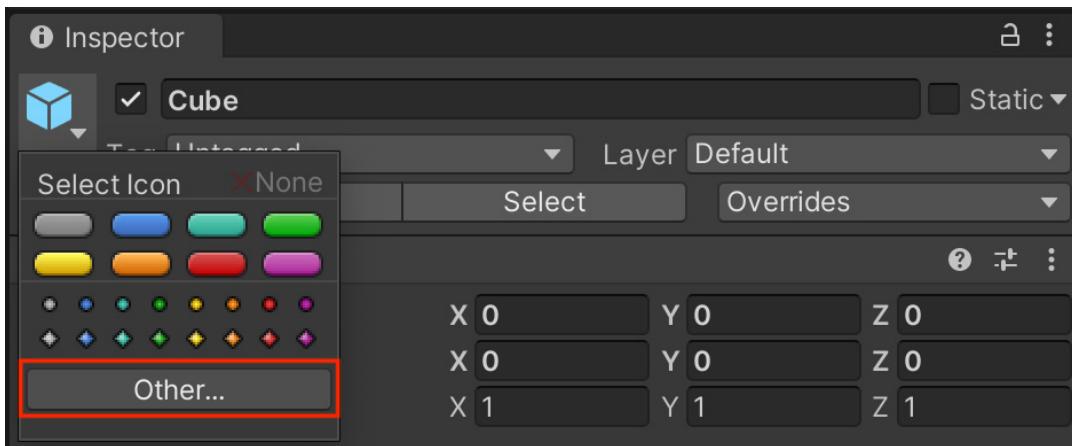


Inspector Debug mode

## Use Custom Gizmos and icons for visual debugging

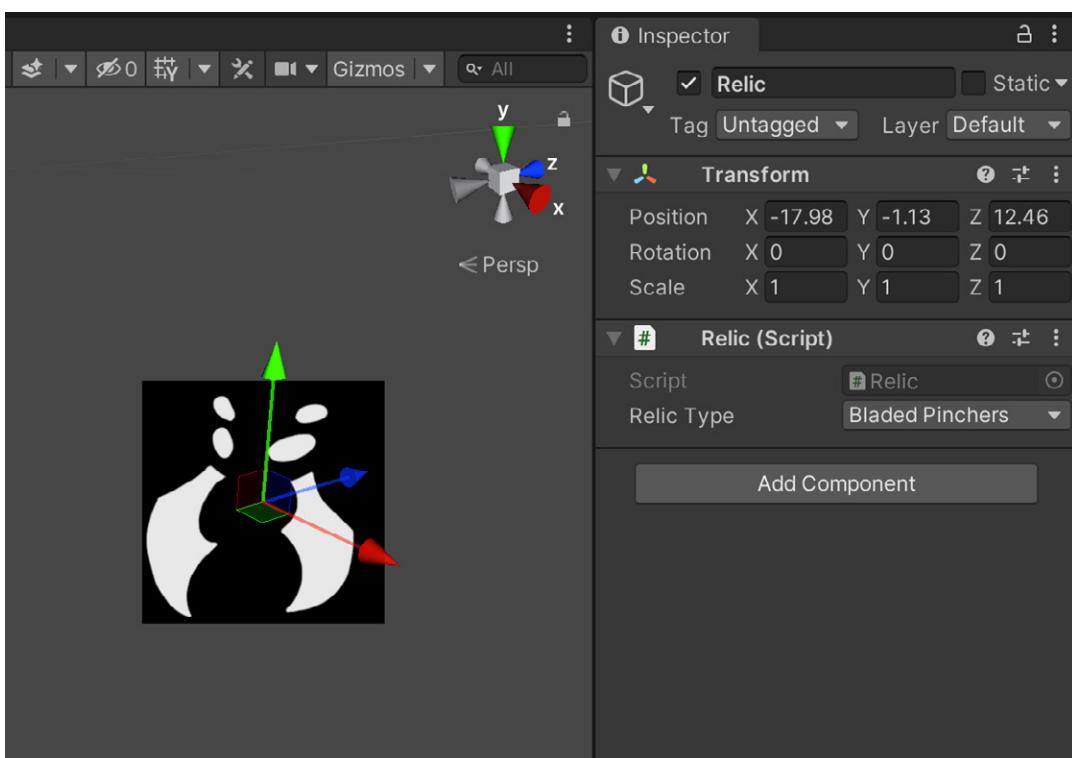
Gizmos are visual overlays that appear in the Scene view, helping you locate and identify GameObjects during development. They can be especially useful for visualizing non-rendered elements like triggers, spawn points, or scripts.

You can modify the icons for a GameObject using the Select Icon menu to your liking. Choose **Other** to define your own icon.



Use the drop-down in the Inspector to switch gizmos.

You can also create gizmos with scripts and make them interactive. For example, a gizmo could help you define a volume or area of influence for a custom component.



In this example, a script changes the gizmo based on a selection.

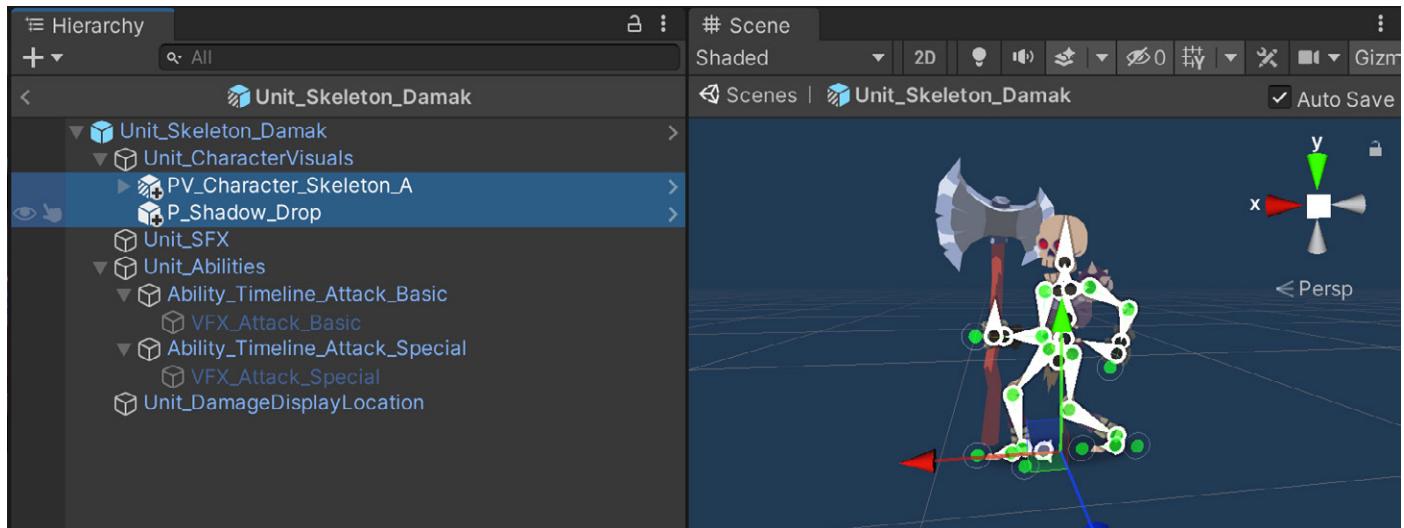
Use the **Gizmos** dialogue in the Scene control bar to toggle specific gizmos or globally enable/disable all of them.

See [Creating Custom Gizmos for Development](#) for usage examples. Also, review the APIs for [Gizmos](#) and [Handles](#).

## Leverage nested prefabs and prefab variant workflows

Prefabs allow you to save and reuse fully configured GameObjects and lets you build your scenes flexibly and efficiently. However, you can do so much more with prefabs. You can nest prefabs, create prefab variants, or use prefabs to instantiate GameObjects at runtime.

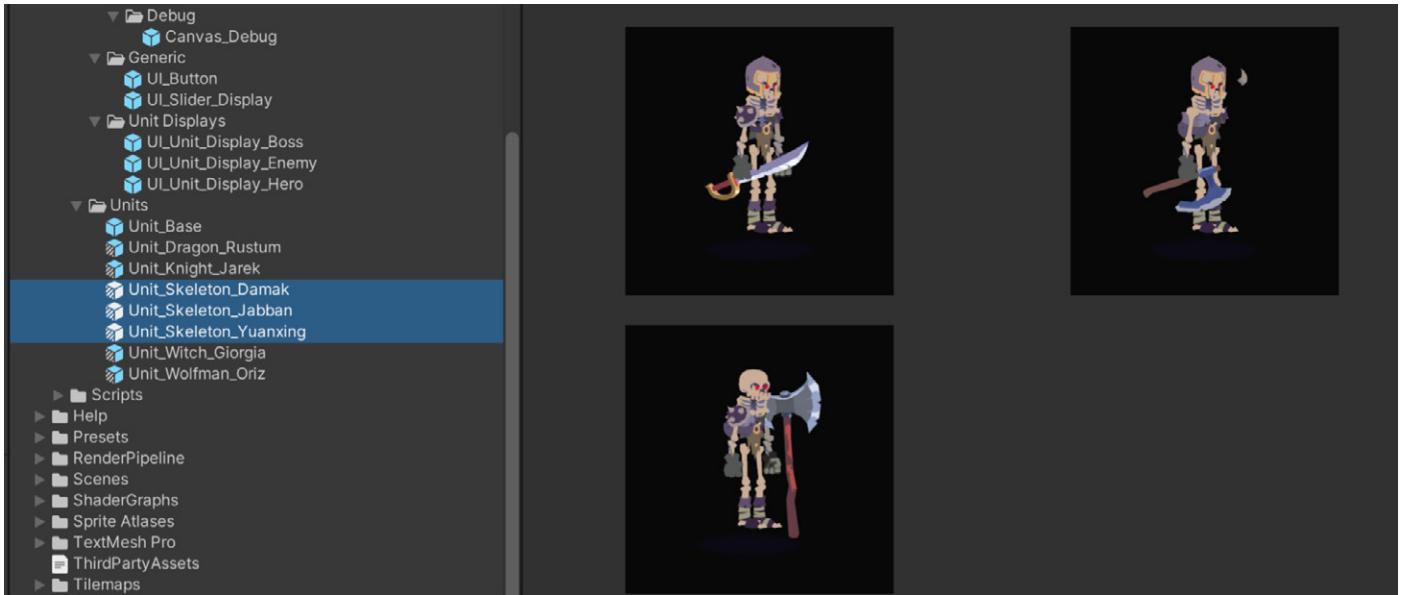
**Nested prefabs** allow you to parent prefabs to one another. You can now create a larger Prefab, such as a building, composed of smaller prefabs for the rooms and furniture. This makes it efficient to split development of your assets over a team of multiple artists and developers, who can all work on different parts of the content simultaneously.



An example of nested prefabs in the *Dragon Crashers* sample project

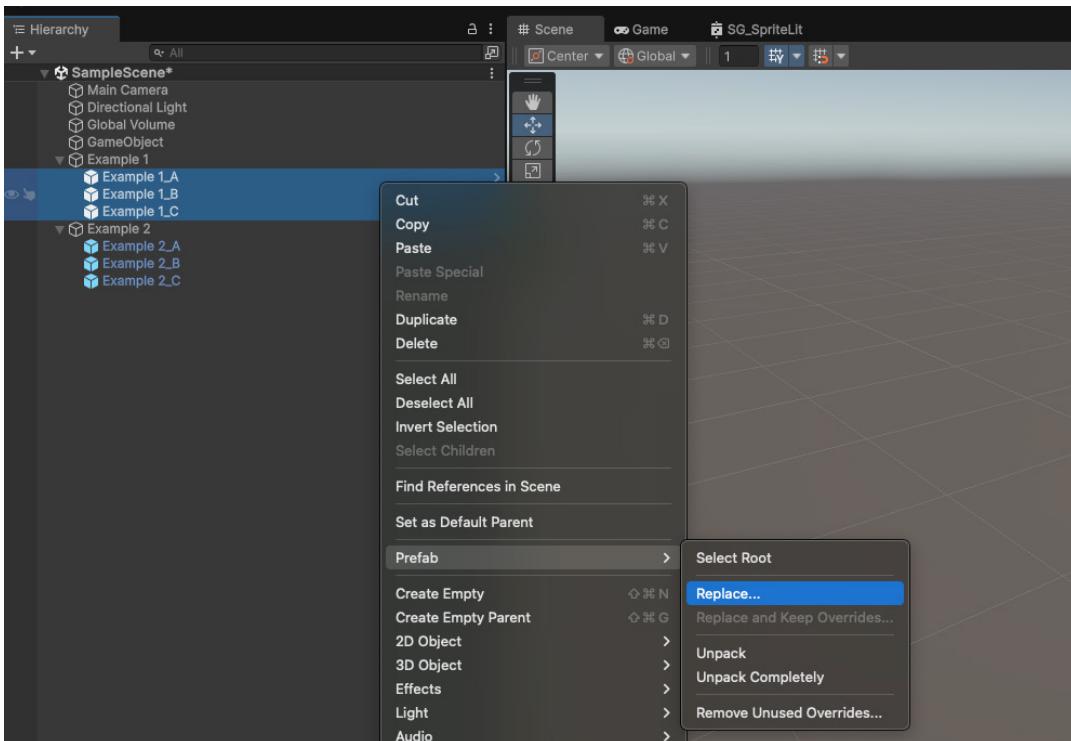
A **prefab variant** allows you to derive a prefab from other prefabs, much like inheritance in object-oriented programming. To change the variant, just override certain parts without worry of impacting the original. You can also remove all modifications and revert to the base prefab at any time.

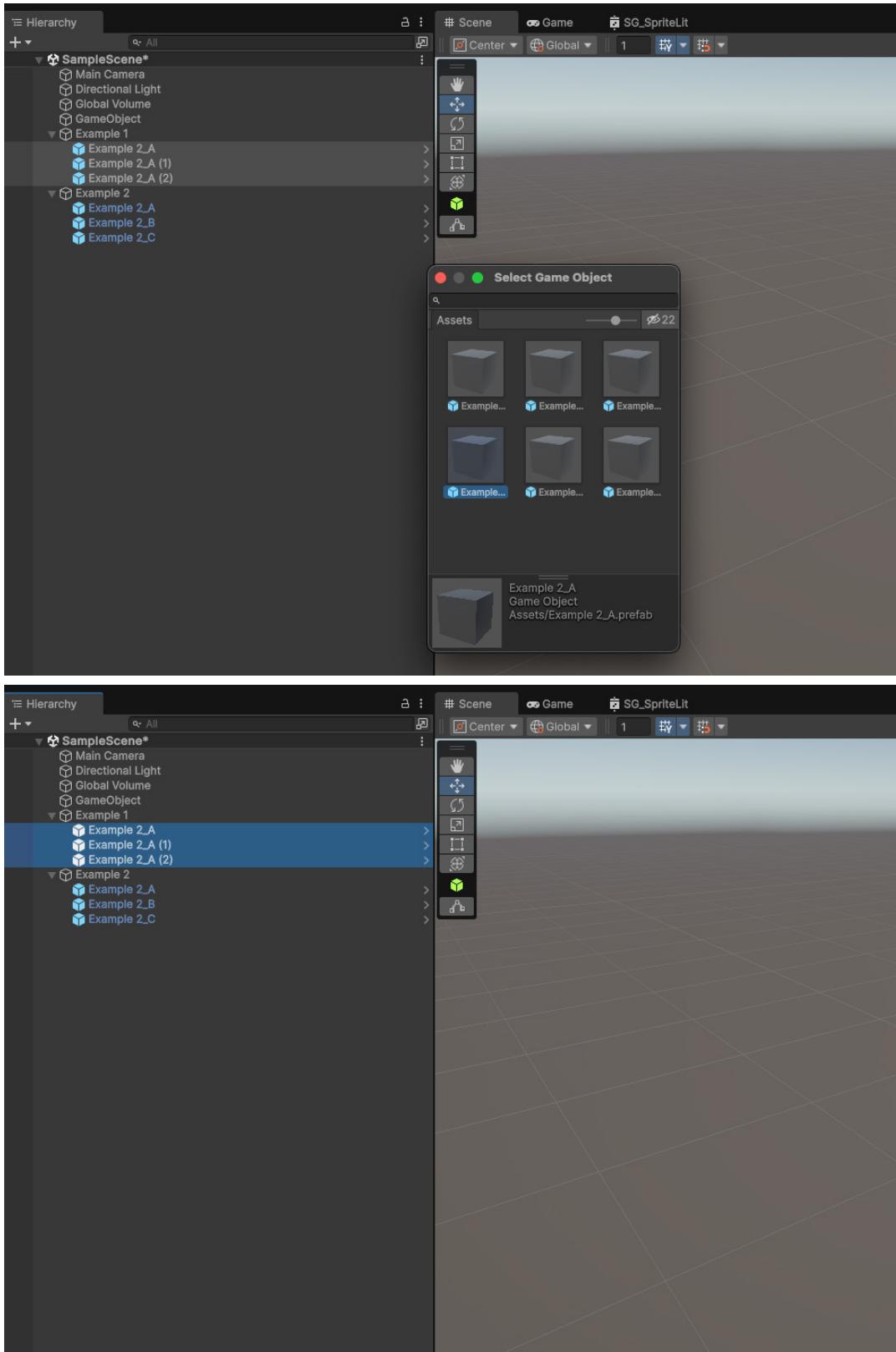
Alternatively, if you want to change all of your variants at once, apply changes directly onto the base prefab itself.



Prefab variants in the *Dragon Crashers* sample project

To replace one or many prefabs in a scene with another prefab, press Ctrl (on Windows) or Cmd (on macOS) and drag the new prefab onto the old ones.

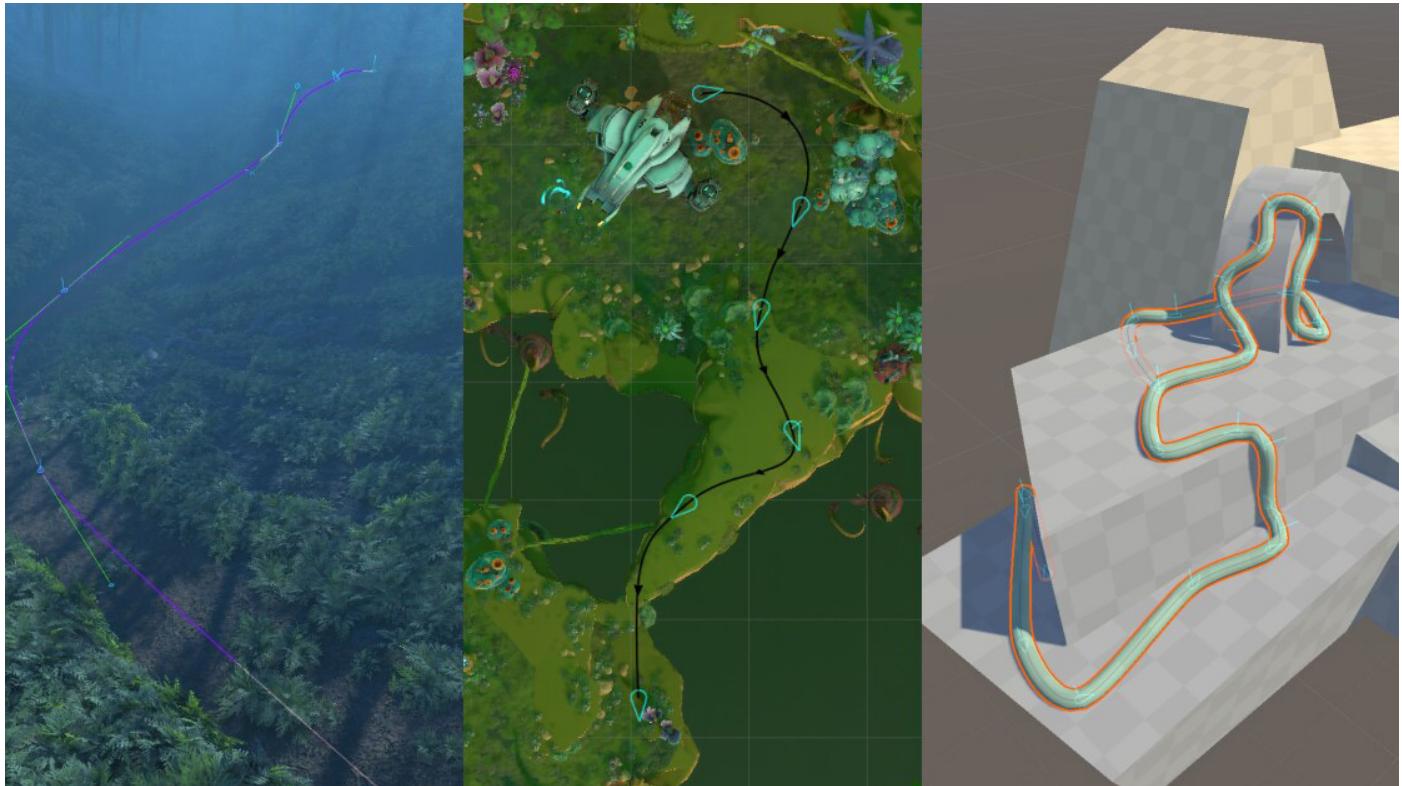




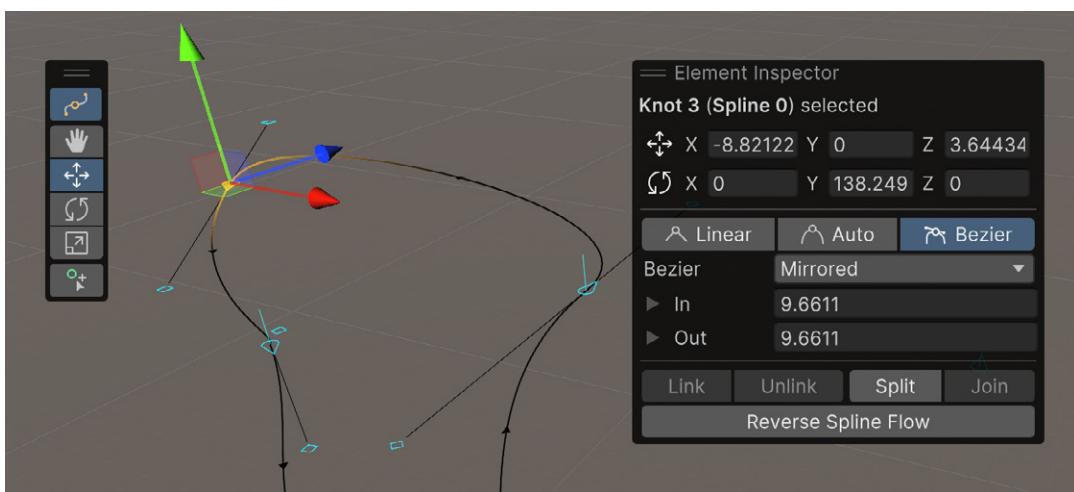
Replacing a prefab in the Hierarchy window

## Create curved paths with ease using the Splines package

The [Splines package](#) allows you to create and edit spline-based paths directly within the Editor. Splines are useful for defining smooth, curved paths that can drive elements such as roads, rivers, rails, camera tracks, or any path-based visual or gameplay element.



Examples of use cases for splines, left to right: A road through a forest, an animation path, tube meshes; find other samples showcasing all the possibilities in the Splines Package Manager page once it's installed



The handles and controls for splines in Unity resemble vector or 3D drawing tools from well-known DCC applications.

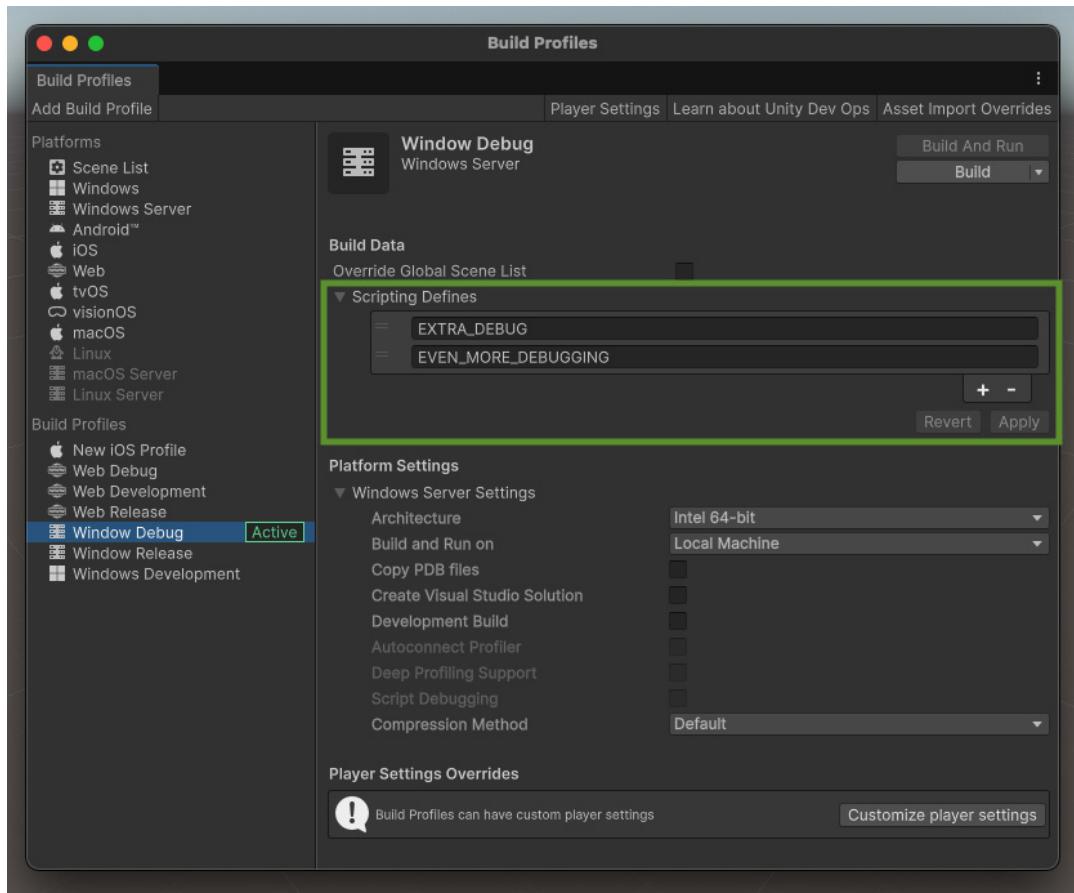
Once you've created a spline, both programmers and artists can use it in interesting ways. For example, programmers can read points of the spline and use them in the game logic with the [APIs](#).

Check out the [How to get started with the splines package](#) video tutorial to learn how to use the Splines package to solve common spline use cases, animate a GameObject's position and rotation along a spline, and instantiate prefabs along a spline to create environments.

## Customize your builds with Build Profiles

The [Build Profile](#) workflow is a new way to configure builds in Unity 6. This new workflow supports multiple configurations for any platform, each with different settings.

Create custom Build Profiles in Unity 6 to efficiently configure different build settings for specific platforms or needs (e.g., debugging, testing, production). This allows you to quickly switch between build configurations that optimize your workflow.



Use the Scripting Defines and Player Settings Overrides options within Build Profiles to set build-specific configurations, such as enabling debug tools or customizing splash images, and share these easily with your team through version control.

More resources:

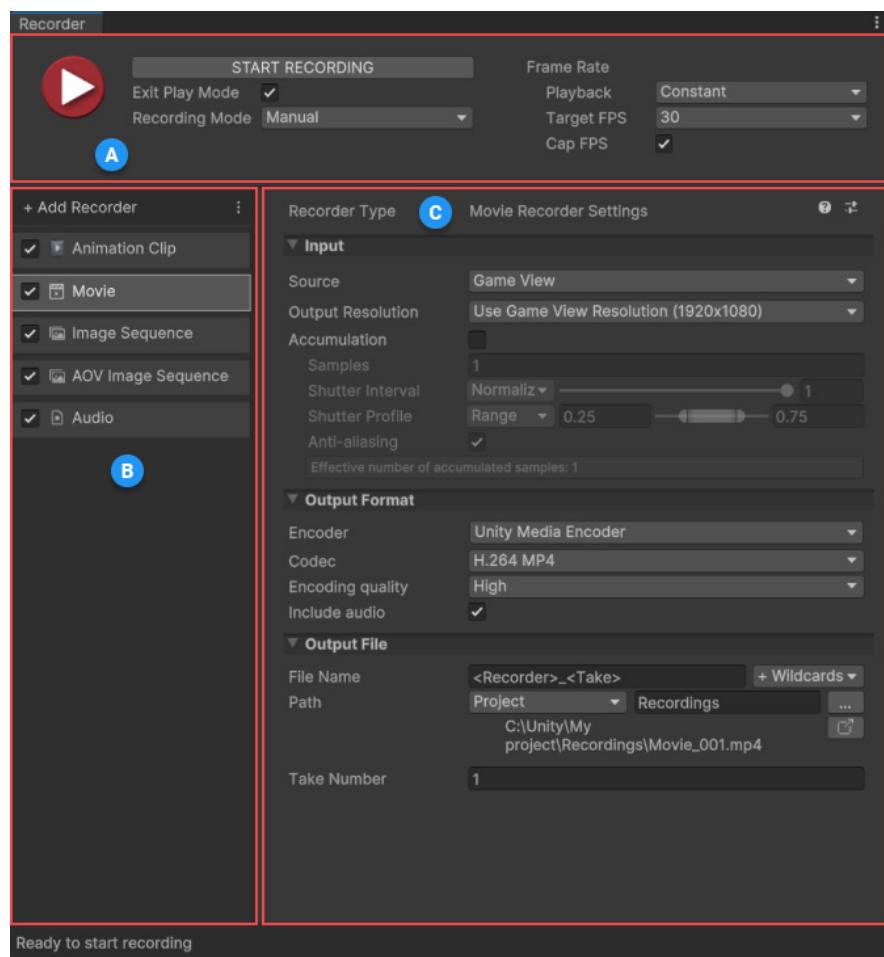
- [What you need to know about Build Profiles in Unity 6](#)
- [Everything you need to know about Build Profiles in Unity 6 | Unite 2024](#)

## Capture smooth game footage with the Recorder package

The [Unity Recorder package](#) allows you to capture and export data from your project during Play Mode. This is useful for recording gameplay, cinematics, or other runtime sequences as video files, image sequences, or animation data.

You can find the Recorder window in the Unity Editor main menu under **Window**. When you open the **Recorder** window, Unity restores the values from the last recording session, allowing for a quick restart or adjustments.

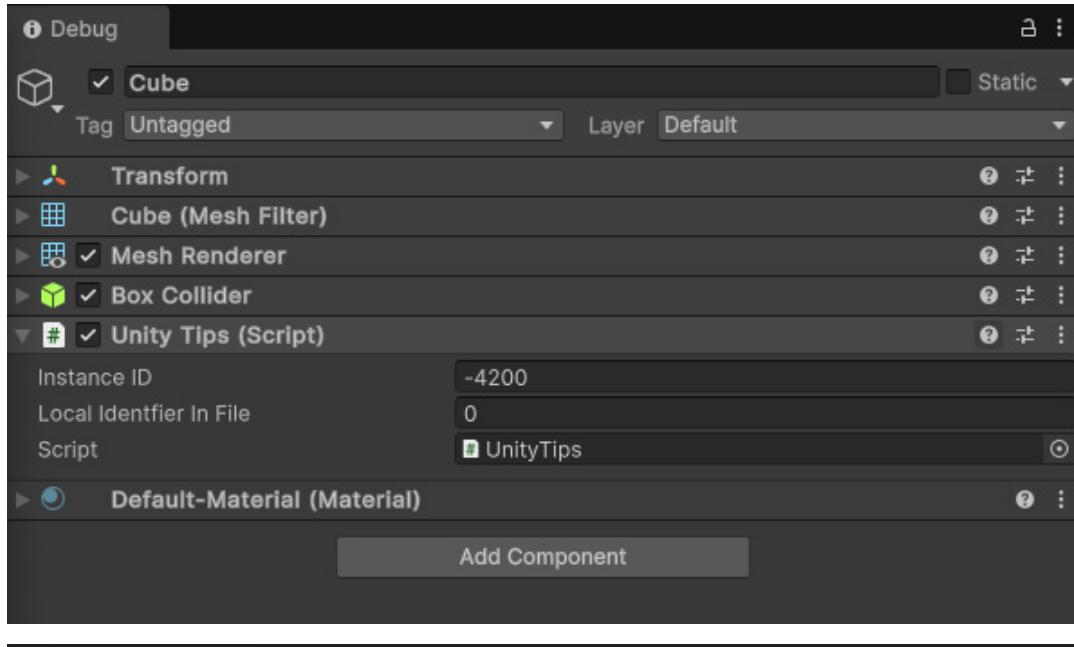
You can [capture images or footage with a transparent background](#). Unity Recorder can capture the alpha channel and output transparency under certain conditions that depend on the render pipeline you're using and the Recorder settings.



The Unity Recorder window

## Editor workflow tips

1. Use the **[HelpURL]** attribute to link the question mark icon in your **Inspector** to your documentation or other resources. When clicked from the Inspector it will open the specified URL in the user's default browser.



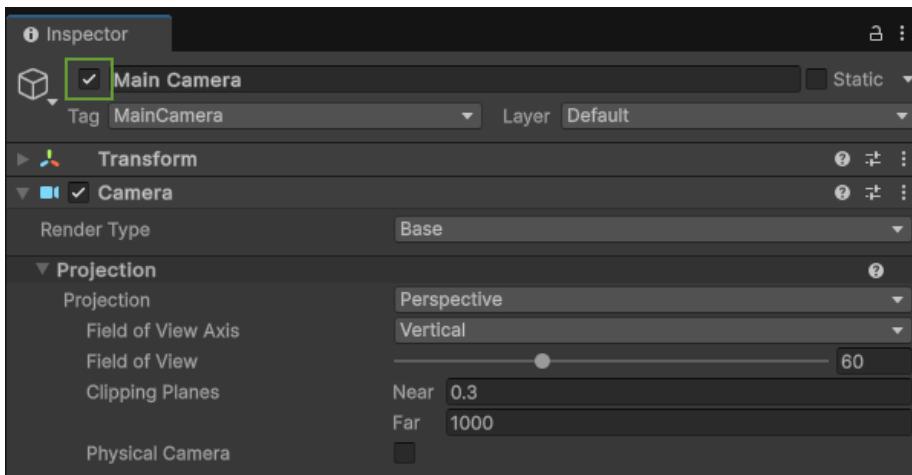
```

1  using UnityEngine;
2
3  [HelpURL ("https://docs.unity3d.com/Manual/best-practice-guides.html")]
4  public class UnityTips : MonoBehaviour
5  {
6      // Start is called once before the first execution of Update after the MonoBehaviour is created
7      void Start()
8      {
9      }
10
11     // Update is called once per frame
12     void Update()
13     {
14     }
15 }
16
17

```

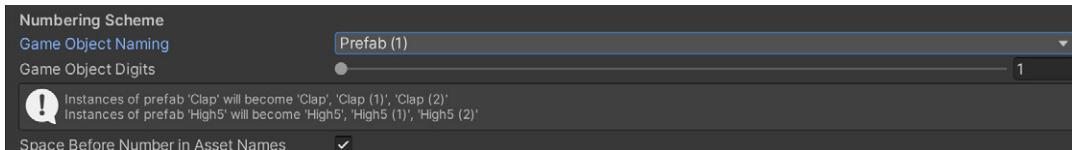
The screenshot shows the Unity Documentation website for Unity 6.0.0. The page title is 'Advanced best practice guides'. It features a sidebar with navigation links for Unity Manual, Unity User Manual, and various guides like 'Create virtual and mixed reality experiences in Unity', 'The definitive guide to animation in Unity', '2D game art, animation, and lighting for artists', 'The Unity Game Designer Playbook', 'User interface design and implementation in Unity', and 'Introduction to game level design'. The main content area displays the 'Advanced best practice guides' page, which includes a brief description and links to each of the guides listed in the sidebar.

- Save a few mouse clicks each day. Hold **Shift + Alt + A** (Windows) or **Shift + Option + A** (macOS) to activate or deactivate the currently selected GameObject.



Activate or deactivate the selected GameObject.

- Unity allows you to customize the numbering scheme of GameObjects. Find it in the **Project Settings** in the Editor tab. Define the options for the naming here as well as the padding and spacing of the instance number.



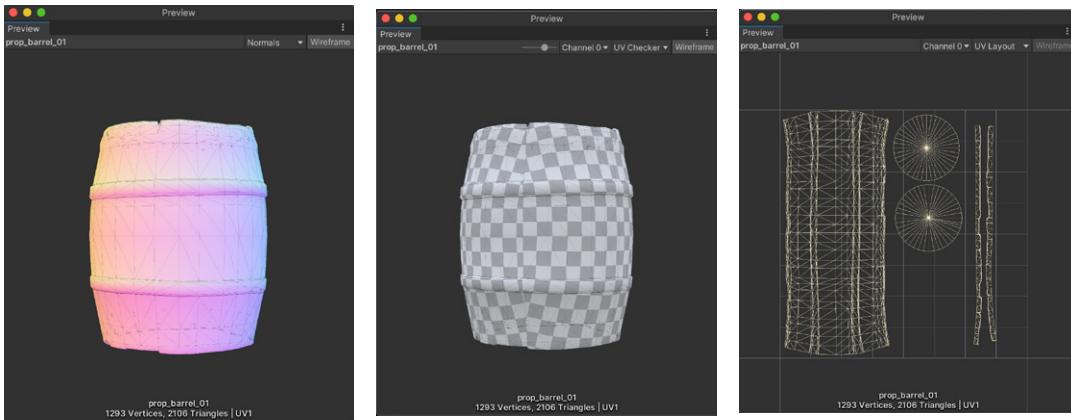
Numbering Scheme

- Cut and paste GameObjects in the Hierarchy window. You can also **Paste As Child** from the context menu.



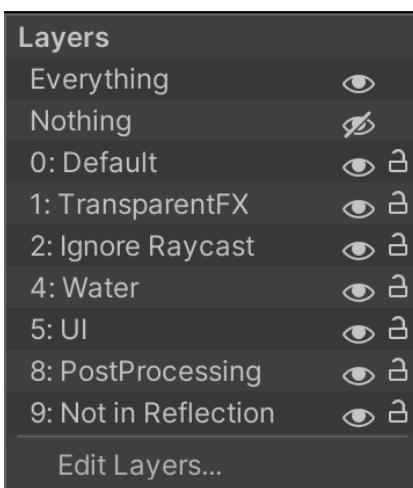
Paste As Child

5. Use the **F** shortcut to frame the selected object in Scene view. In Play mode, press **Shift + F** to lock onto a selected GameObject that is moving.
6. Display UVs, normals, tangents, and other Mesh information in the Inspector preview.



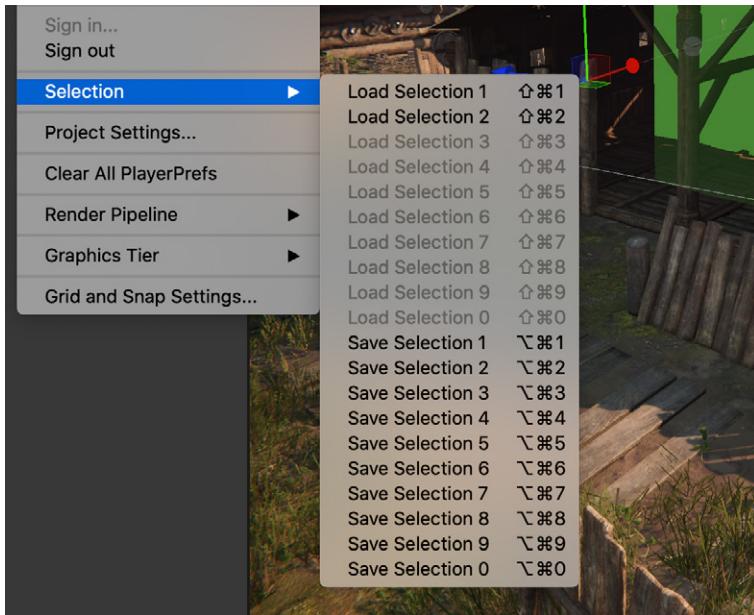
The Inspector preview

7. Use the Layers menu to toggle off the visibility of any Layers (such as UI) that may obscure your Scene view. Lock a Layer to avoid changing its state accidentally.



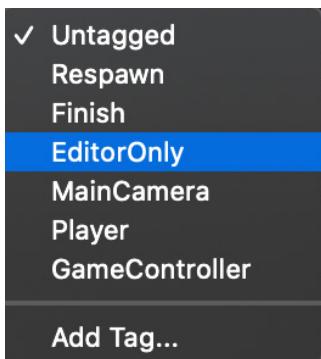
Toggle and edit Layers

8. If you frequently select the same objects in your scene, use the hotkey combos under **Edit > Selection** to quickly save or load a selection set.



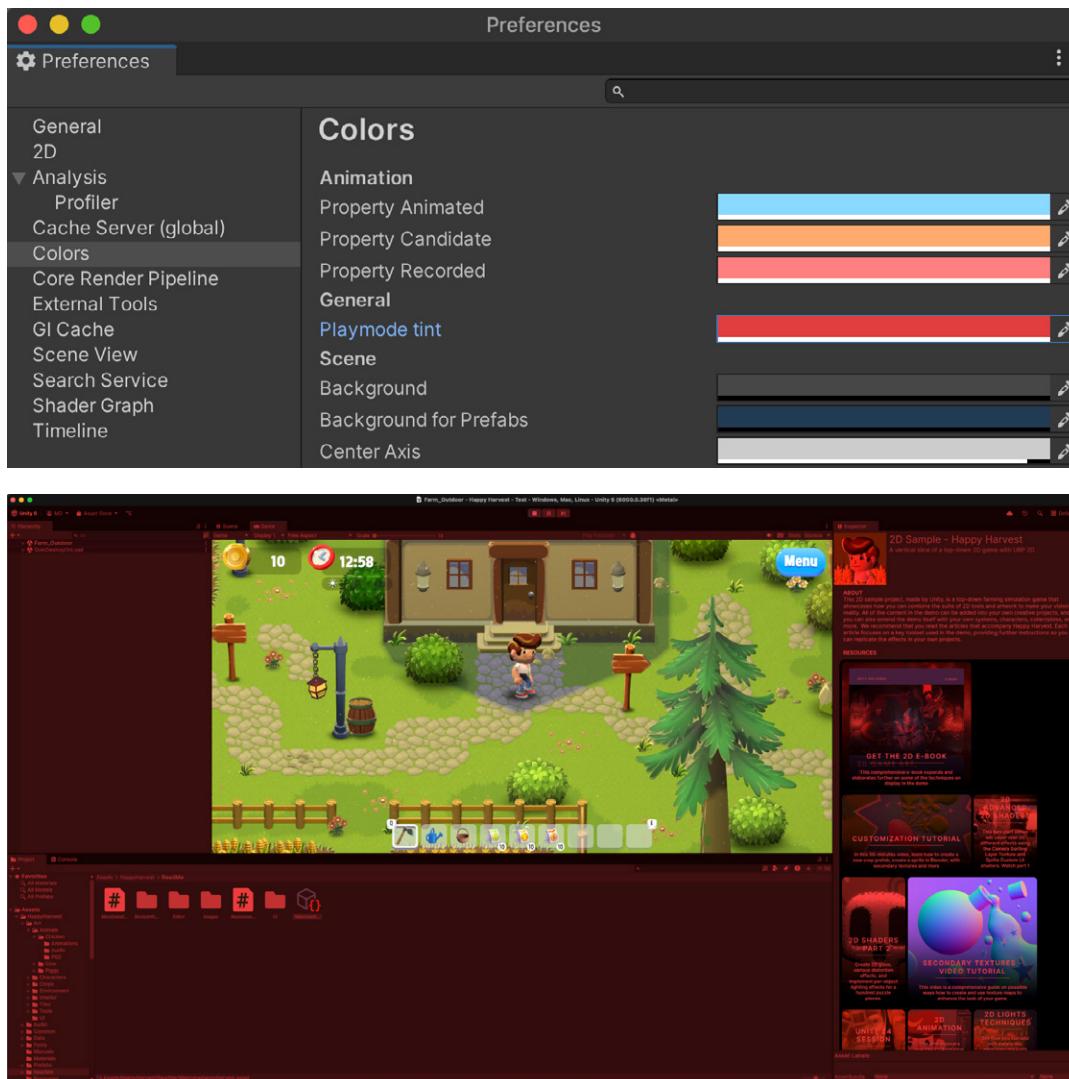
Load and Save Selections

9. Use the **EditorOnly** tag to designate GameObjects that will not appear in a build of the application.



EditorOnly tag

10. Change colors in the Editor via **Unity > Preferences > Colors** to find certain UI elements or objects more quickly. Adjust the Play mode tint to remind yourself when Play mode is active, so you don't lose any changes you intended to save on exit.



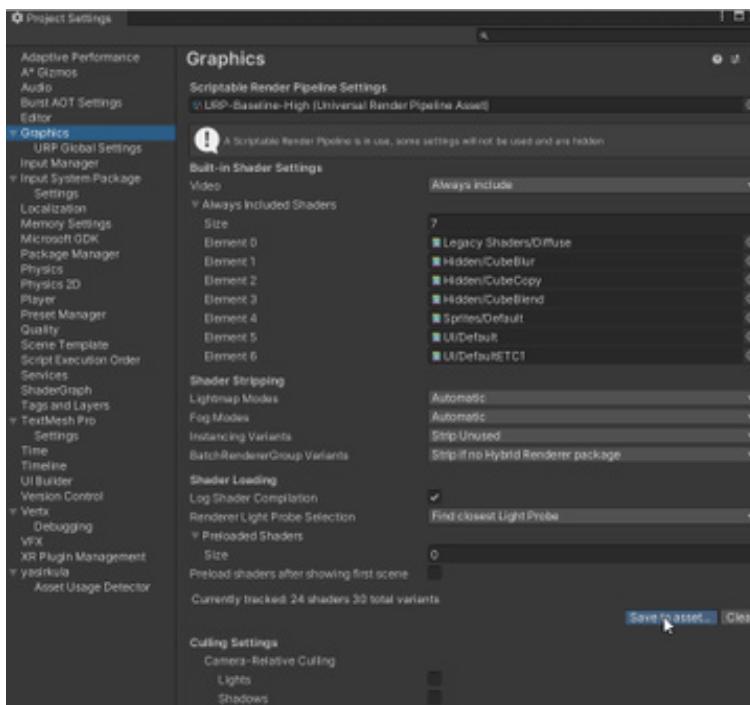
Play mode tint

11. When you set up cameras, use **GameObject > Align With View** to line up your Game camera with the Scene camera. Or, if you're matching the other way around, use **Align View to Selected** to align the Scene camera with another camera in the Hierarchy.



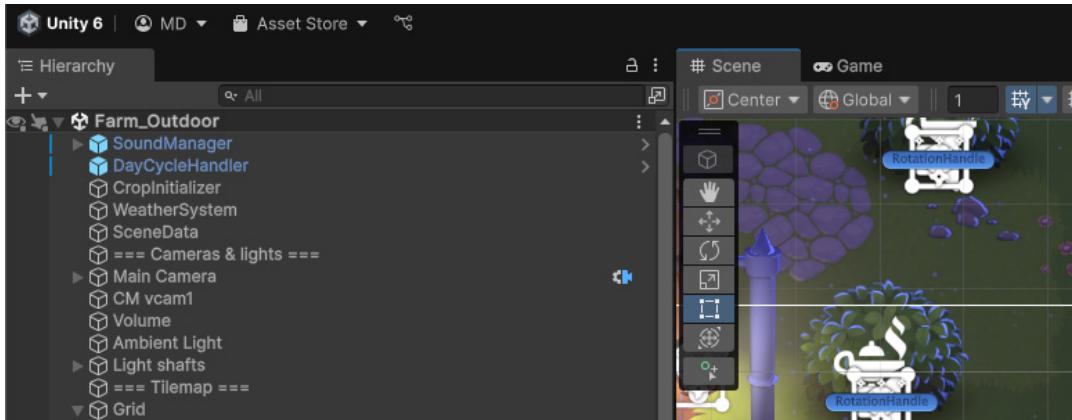
Align With View option

12. You can generate a list of shader variants that the Editor uses in the Scene: Go to **Edit > Project Settings > Graphics**. See how many shaders and variants you have under "Shader Loading". Select **Save to asset...** to create a shader variant collection asset.



Graphics window

13. Double-click any tab (**Project**, **Scene**, **Game**, etc.) to go full screen in the Editor.



Double-click on **Scene**



After double-clicking on **Scene**

## More resources

For more quick productivity tips make sure to check out the following resources:

- [Speed up your workflows in Unity with these keyboard shortcuts](#)
- [Scalable art assets - 6 tips for improving workflows](#)
- [Top tips for scripting in Unity 2022 LTS](#)

# 2D

## Sprites

A 2D project uses [Sprites](#) to create its visuals. These potentially contain different Texture assets and may thus require many draw calls if not batching properly.

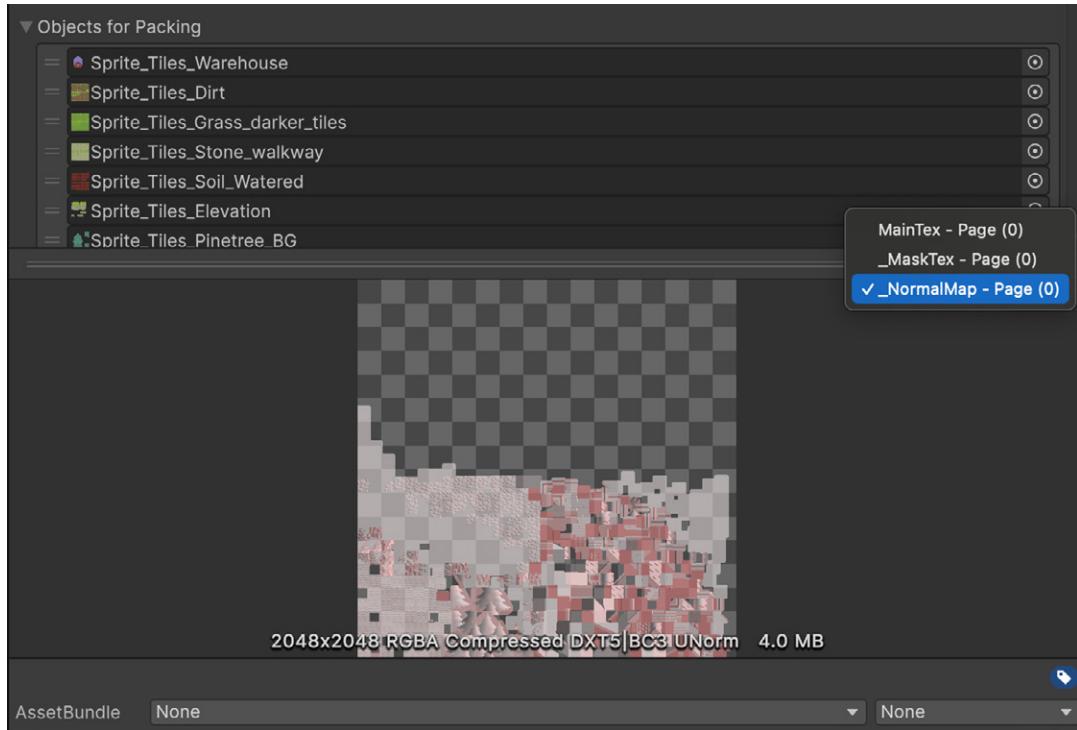
To optimize resources, use a **Sprite Atlas (Asset > Create > Sprite Atlas)** which will allow batching sprites using the same material and packed texture.

### Avoid duplicated assets when packing sprites

In 2D URP, sprites can contain normal maps or mask maps which you might also want to pack in a Sprite Atlas. This is important for performance and quality reasons, such as memory optimization, draw call reduction, and loading efficiency.

If you add folders to the Sprite Atlas, make sure they only contain the normal sprite or albedo texture. Normal maps and mask maps will automatically be added to their respective atlases that you can view in the drop-down list. Otherwise, they would be added unnecessarily to the normal pack atlas, taking up space in it.

Having neatly organized atlases for normal maps or mask maps allow you to fine-tune compression settings for each one. For example, normal maps can be half of the resolution, while the normal sprites can be in full resolution, or any other adjusting that you need based on the platform you're developing for.



The three types of atlases when packing 2D sprites

## Structure your folders to maintain consistency

Folder structure within 2D sprites makes it easier to locate and manage assets, helps manage memory by organizing assets by load time, provides a clear separation of different game elements, and more.

Here's a common folder structure to help organize the folders your Unity project:

- Sprites/Characters/[CharacterName]/Animations
- Sprites/UI/[MenuType]/Elements
- Sprites/Environment/[LevelName]/Background
- Sprites/Effects/[EffectType]
- Sprites/Common/SharedElements

## Bring your pixel art directly to Unity with Aseprite Importer

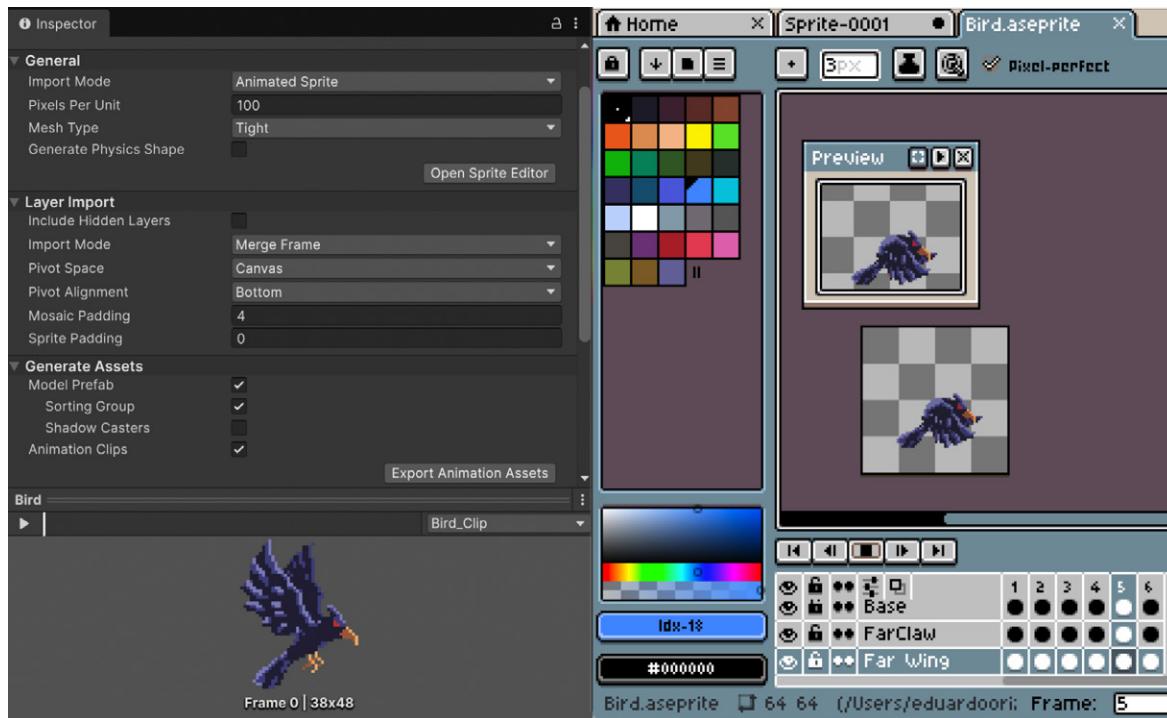
[Aseprite](#), a sprite editor and pixel art tool, has become an industry-standard DCC app for pixel artists.

With Unity Aseprite Importer, you don't have to export hundreds of .PNG sprites individually; you can add your **.aseprite** file directly to your project.



Work directly in Aseprite, click **Save**, and instantly see the changes in Unity. The Importer includes drag and drop support for .aseprite files, automatic setup of GameObjects and Animation clips so they're ready to use, and a comprehensive 2D feature set integration.

In Unity 6, we enabled auto-generation of **Tilemap assets** from **.aseprite** files containing tilemaps. Changes to the source propagate down automatically.

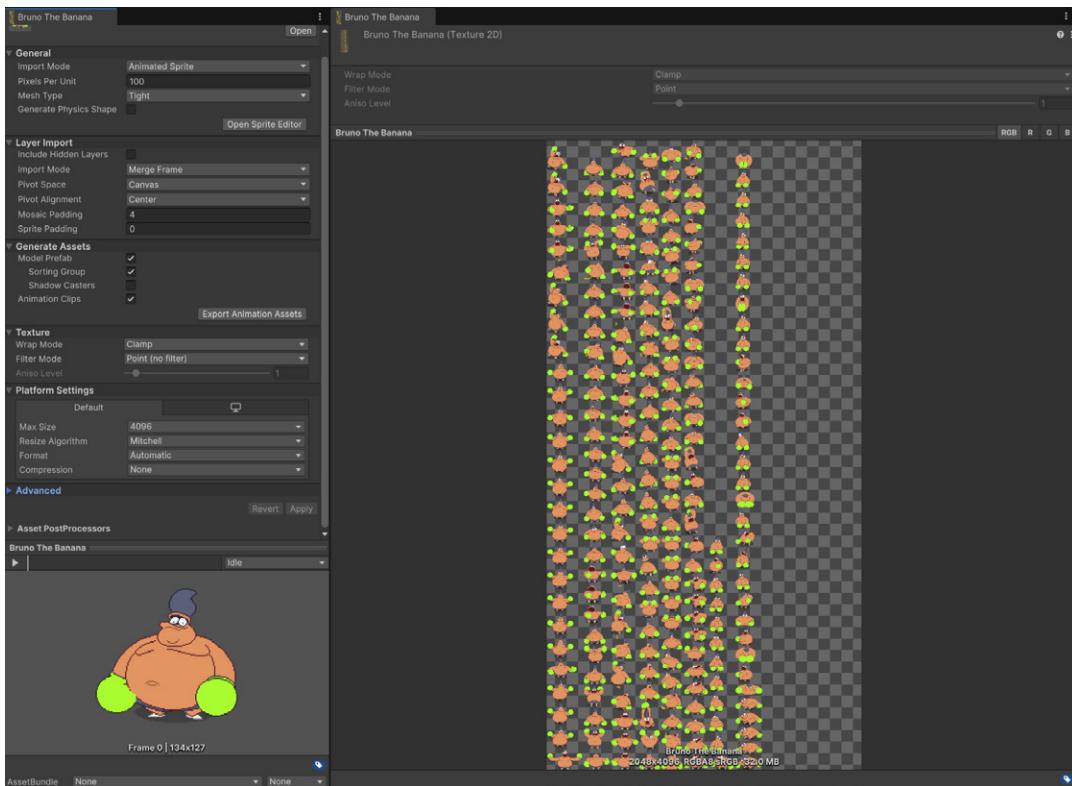


The Aseprite Importer in the Unity Project window: [This section](#) of the Unite 2024 talk Say hello to new 2D workflows and AI enhancements demonstrates the Aseprite Importer in action

## Bring your frame-by-frame animations from Aseprite to Unity

One of the most helpful tips for using the Aseprite Importer in Unity is to keep your Aseprite files well-organized with **Tags** and **Slices** before importing, as these features allow smooth and automatic handling of animations and sprite slicing directly in the Editor.

For example, use tags such as "Idle", "Walk", etc., to define and organize animations, and use Slices by marking specific areas of your sprite or separate parts, such as head, weapon, etc. This can help with streamlining the importing process and save you time.



An imported animation into Unity from Aseprite

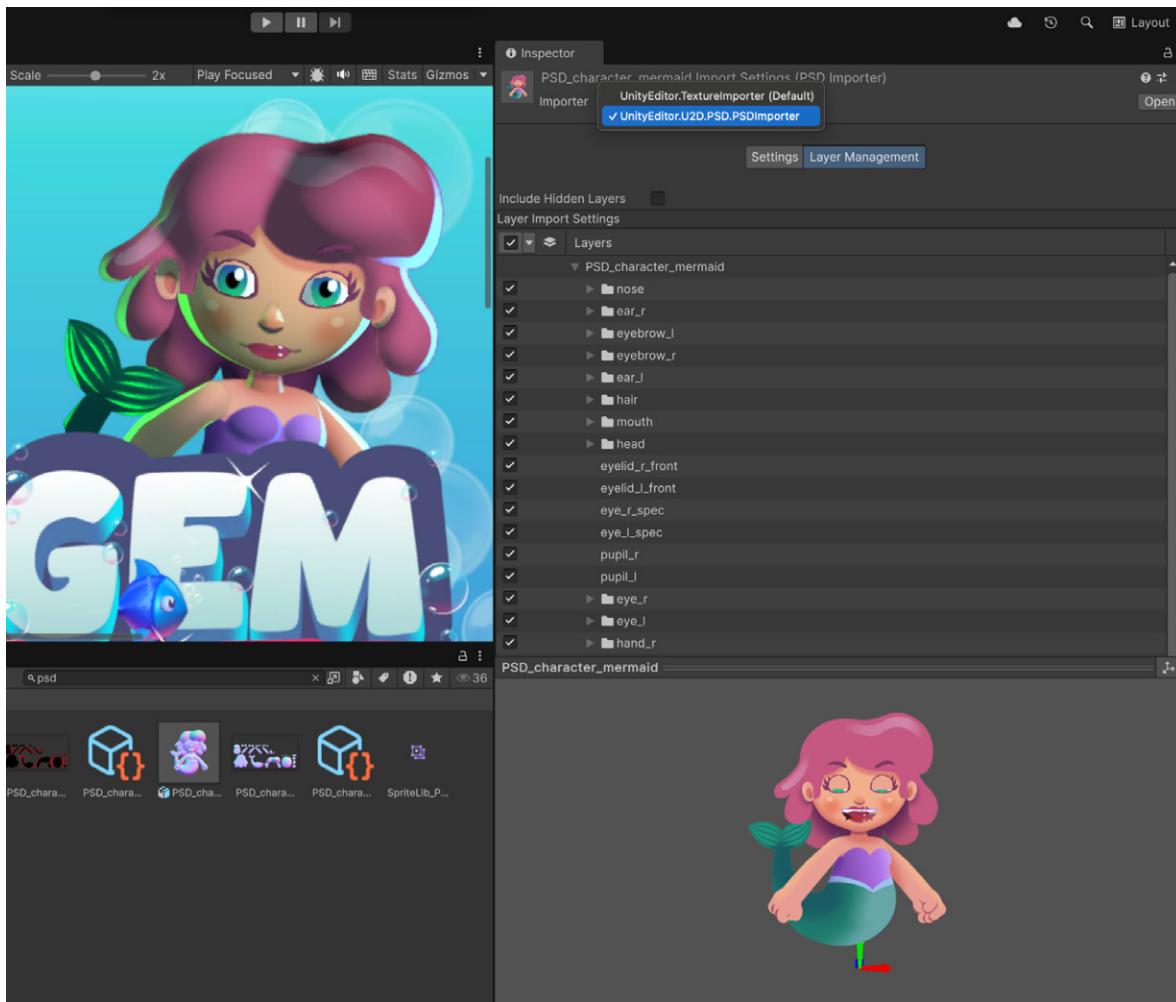
## Speed up the roundtrip import process with the PSD Importer

The [PSD Importer](#) imports Adobe Photoshop files into Unity and generates a prefab of sprites based on the imported source file.

You can speed up the importing process for 2D sprites, UI elements, or any other Photoshop-made asset with the PSD importer. Traditionally, artists would export every layer in a Photoshop file, as a .png file to use in Unity, and then they'd have to reexport .png files with every change. This is no longer needed, as Unity supports the layered .psd format.

Animated characters made for 2D, where each limb or part is in a different layer, can be imported to Unity for 2D Animation. It will set up the character so that you can rig it and animate it later.

If every PSD layer is meant to be a standalone sprite, you can uncheck the **Character Rig** option, removing the prefab object, and get a simple sliced sprite with all the layers usable as standalone sprites.



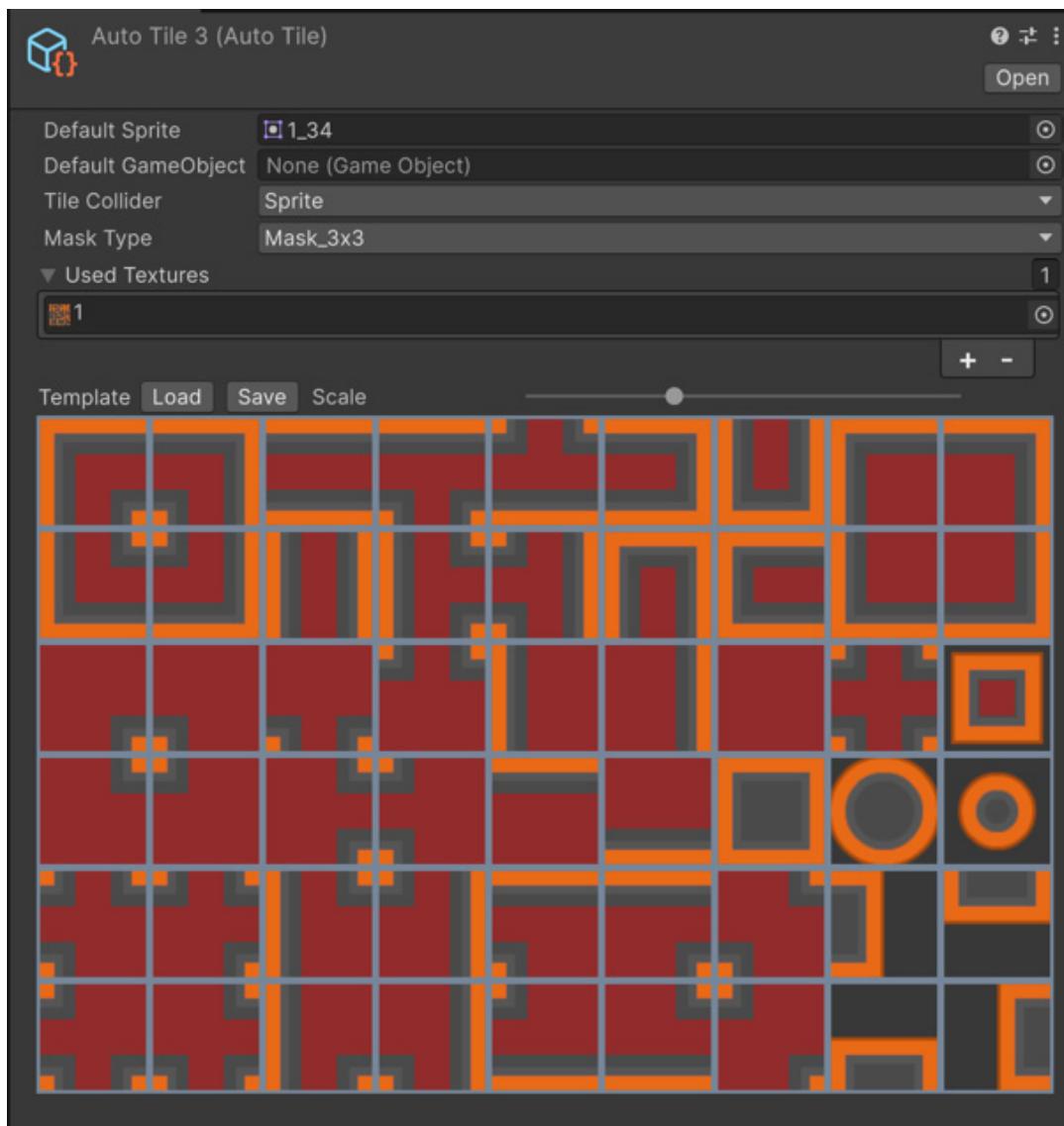
Ensure that you import your layered PSD files with the PSD Importer, and not the default texture importer, so that you have access to all the importer features.

See more helpful tips in action in this [From Photoshop to Unity with PSD Importer](#) video tutorial.

## Easier rule tiles with Tilemap Editor in Unity 6.1

Unity's [Tilemap system](#) stores and handles [Tile Assets](#) for creating grid-based 2D levels, which makes it easy to create and iterate on level design cycles within Unity.

One of the challenges when working with tiles is to create all the neighbouring tiles assets and assign them to a Rule Tile Asset. In Unity 6.1, a new option, called [AutoTile](#), simplifies this process. Load a tile sheet, select the inner areas for it, and save it to generate a tile asset that you can use in your tile palette.

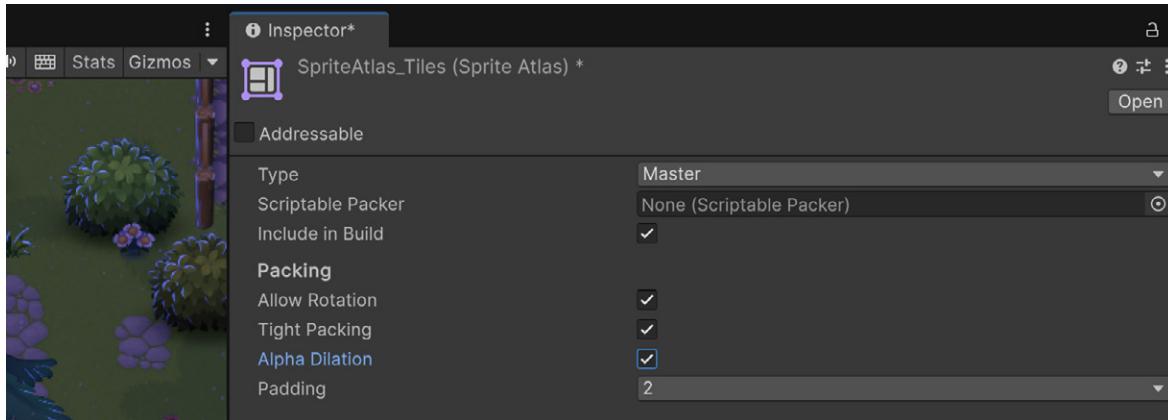


AutoTile example

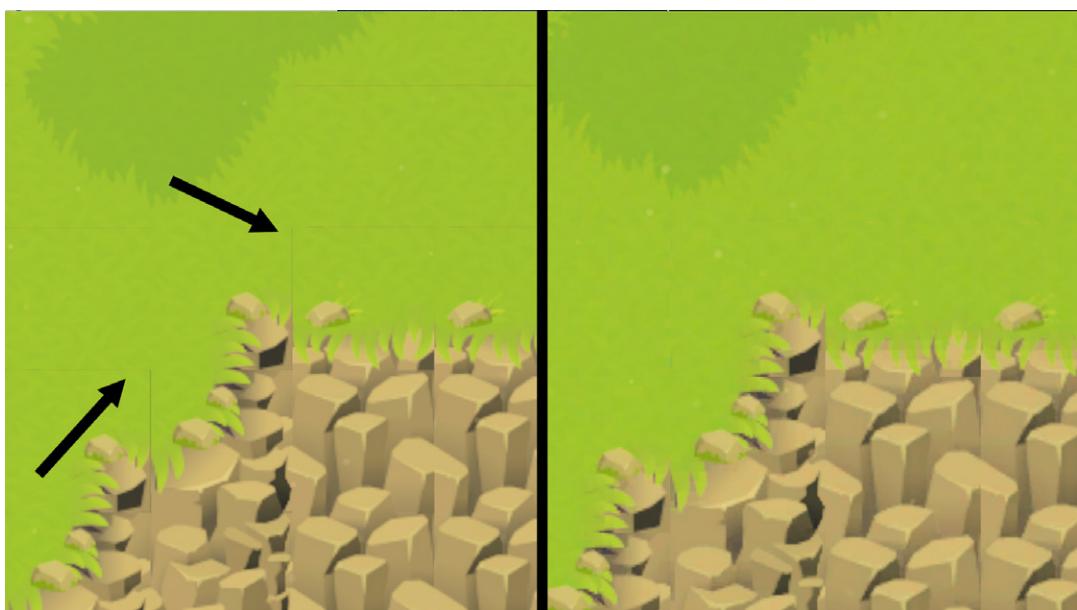
## Avoid texture bleeding or small gaps between tiles

With all the effort put into art and tilemaps, you'll want to avoid the appearance of bleeding or small gaps in between tiles due to interpolation and smoothing of edges (this isn't an issue in pixel art games, where sprites are not smoothed).

If you're not using a tile sheet then we recommend packing the sprites with **Sprite Atlas** to help smoothen seams, and with internal sorting in the **TilemapRenderer**. This will provide better project organization, performance, and creative control. Some default settings can work for most sprites but tilemaps might require a bit more tweaking. Features like avoiding rotation of sprites when packed or alpha dilation helps tiles maintain their sharp edges.



Alpha Dilation option in the Sprite Atlas



In the left image you can see some bleeding edges on tiles, which was fixed by adjusting settings in the Sprite Atlas.

## Use the 2D Inverse Kinematics system to create natural movements

Unity comes with a complete solution for skeletal animation called [2D Animation](#). Use Unity's 2D Inverse Kinematics (IK) system for rigging movement. Use IK to create natural and dynamic movements, such as bending knees or reaching out, without manually adjusting each bone.



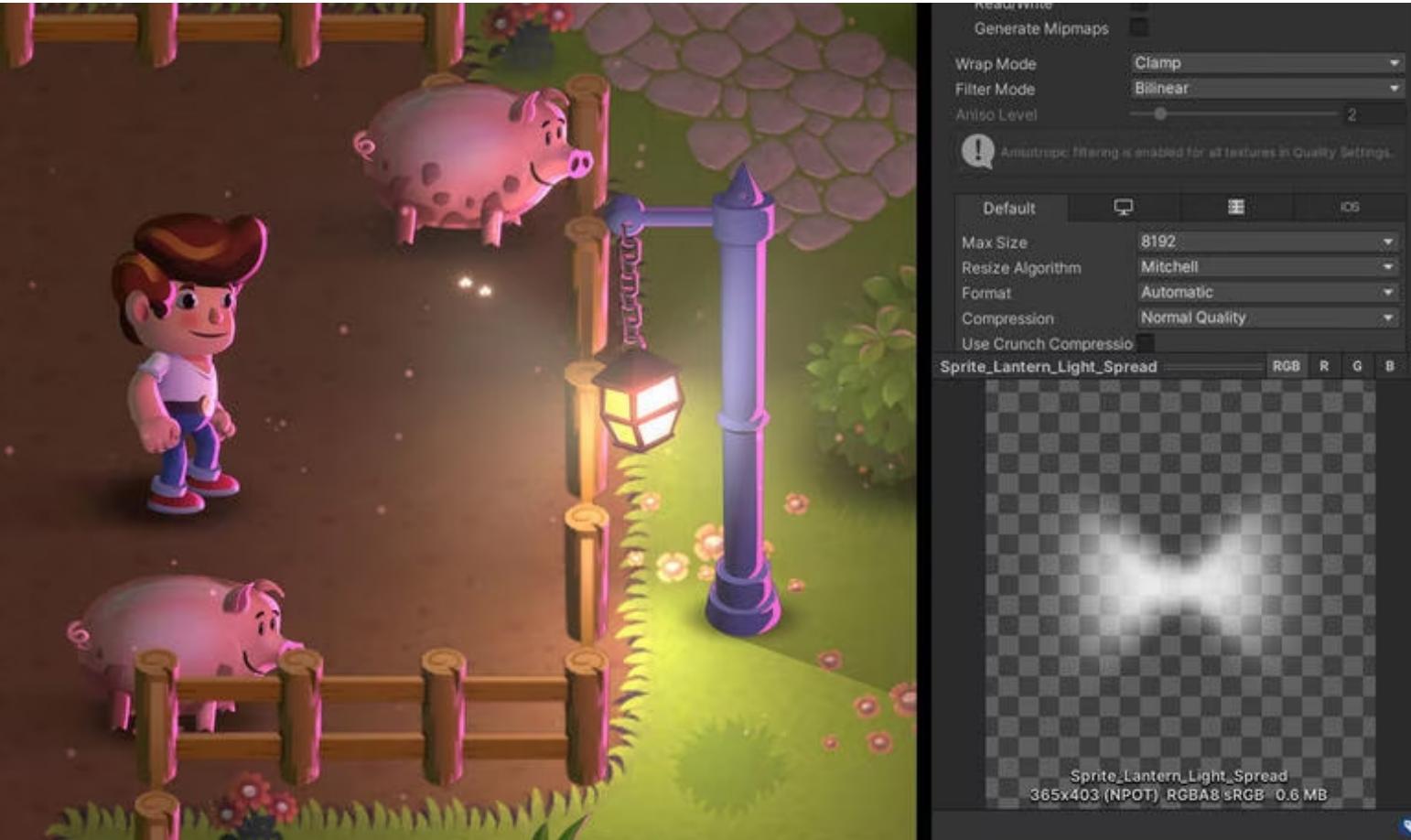
Using 2D IK during the animation process for the main character in the *Happy Harvest* sample project

Carefully design bone hierarchies in the Sprite Editor to ensure proper control. For example, parent the hand bone to the arm bone. Test the hierarchy with simple animations to ensure that any adjustments to a higher-level bone also affect its children properly.

Use [Animation Blend Trees](#) for smooth transitions between animations like walking, running, or idle states based on variables like speed or input direction. This results in natural-looking animations without abrupt changes between states.

## Simulate IES profiles with 2D lights

It's common in 3D software to simulate the fall-off of lights with IES profiles, for example in [HDRP](#). Unity's 2D light system is very flexible with easy-to-configure parameters like light colors, intensity, fall-off, and blending effects. If you want to be more precise about the fall-off effect of a light source, use a light of the type [sprite](#) and use your custom-made light effect.

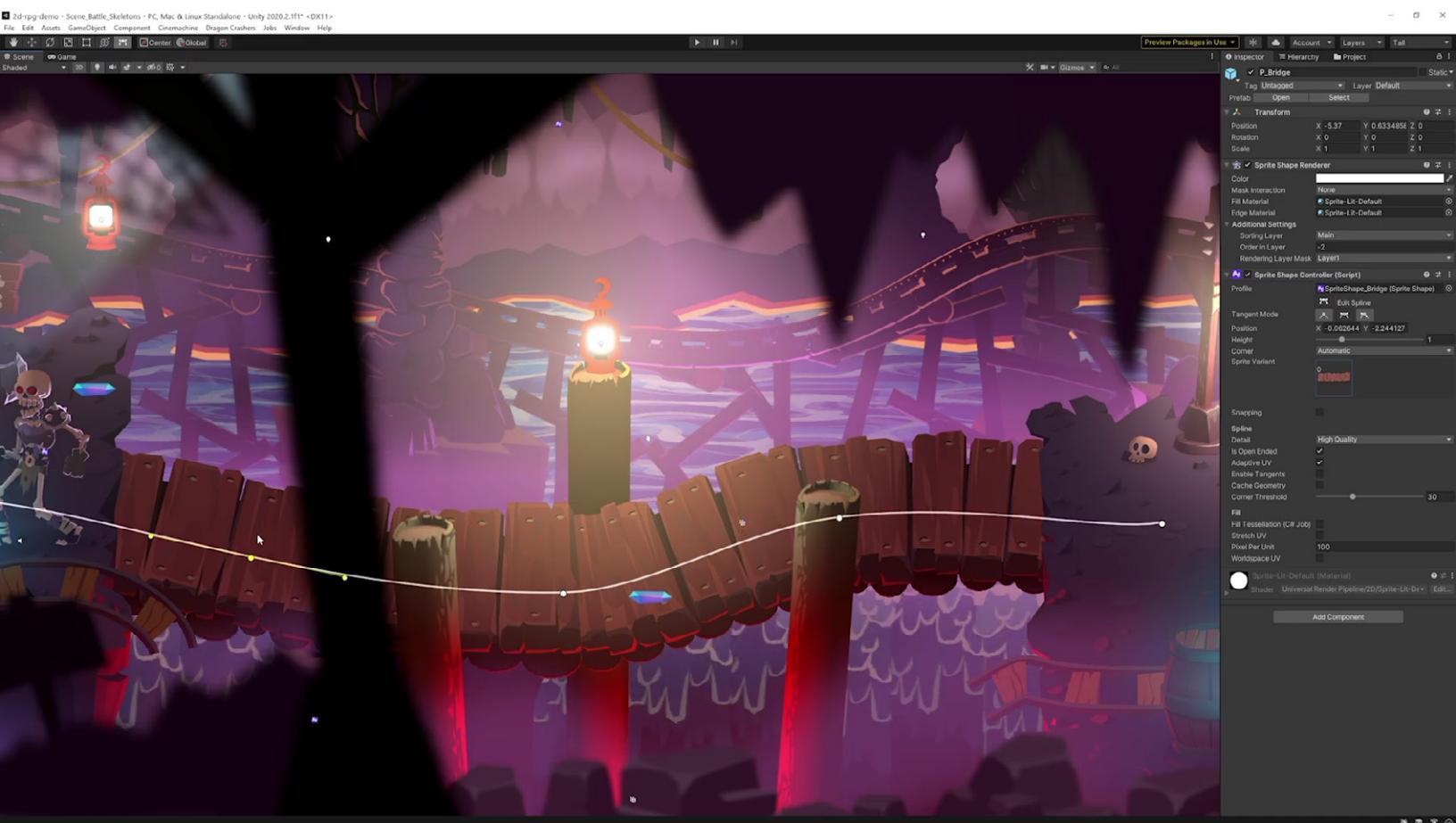


Using a sprite with a halo around a hanging lamp in the *Happy Harvest* sample project

Get more tips on [2D lighting](#) from [this article](#) by Martin Reinmann of Odd Bug Studio, and [this page](#) on 2D light and shadow techniques in the Universal Render Pipeline.

## Create rich free-form 2D environments with 2D Sprite Shape

2D [Sprite Shape](#) gives you the freedom to create rich free-form 2D environments with a visual and intuitive workflow. It tiles sprites along a shape's outline, automatically deforming and swapping them based on the outline angle.



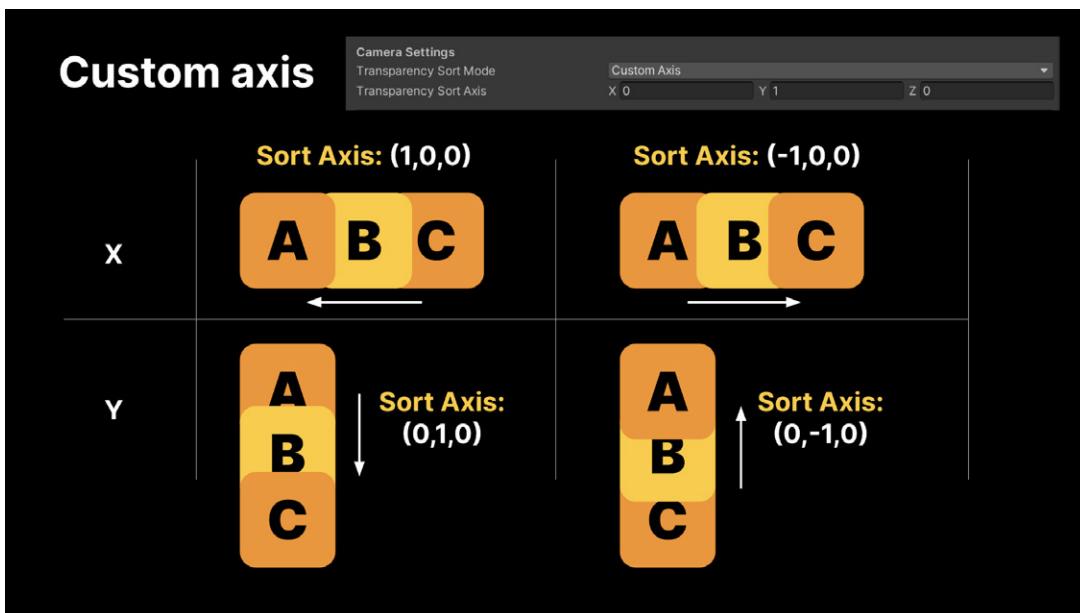
One example of how 2D Sprite Shape is used in the [Dragon Crashers](#) 2D sample project

Sprite Shape also autogenerated a Polygon Collider 2D if you want to use paths or shapes with the Physics 2D system.

## Custom Sprite Sort Axis

Sort your [sprites](#) based on your preferred direction. This can be helpful if you have a number of sprites within the same layer and sorting order and you need to resolve the sorting in a particular way. For example, imagine a card game where the individual cards overlap a bit and you want the card at the bottom of the screen to be rendered on top of the others.

In URP, in the 2D Renderer Asset, select **General > Transparency Sort Mode**, and choose **Custom Axis**. For example, use  $(0, 1, 0)$  for the **Transparency Sort Axis** to sort along the Y axis from top to bottom.



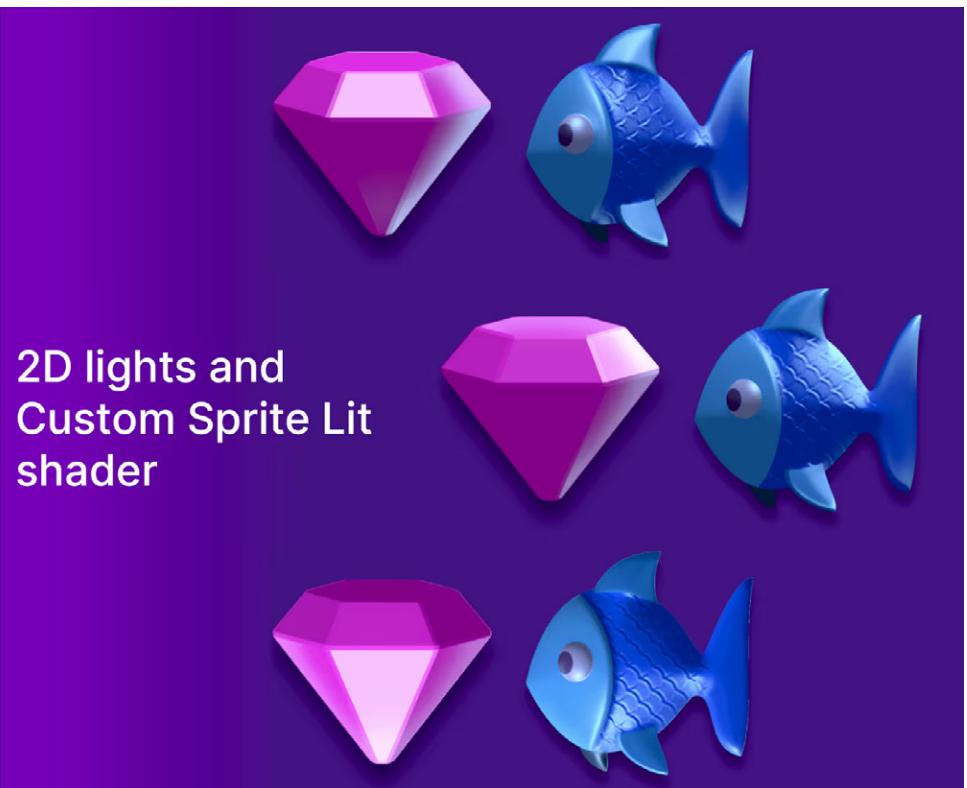
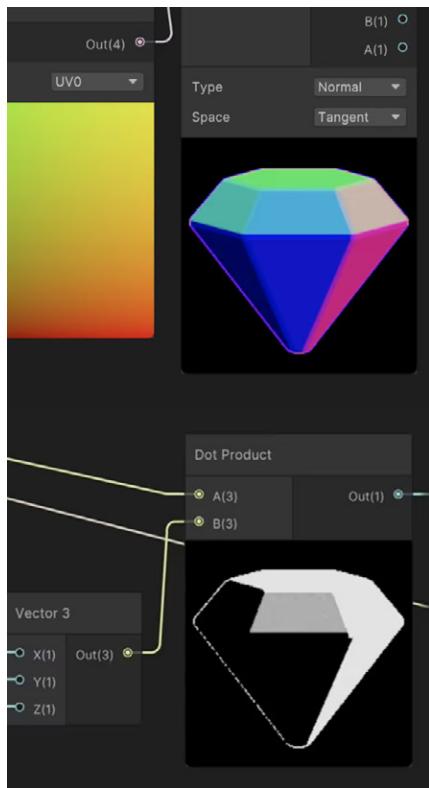
Transparency Sort Mode and Sort Axis example; check [this video tutorial](#) for other tips (based on a previous Unity version but still applicable)

## Create custom lighting with Sprite Custom Lit shaders

If you're looking to create lighting effects that are independent of global scene lights, consider using a [Sprite Custom Lit shader](#).

It's one of the techniques used for creating the visual effects in the sample [Gem Hunter Match](#). This shader substitutes for scene lighting, allowing the team to modify the 2D light texture information and control the lighting on each piece. The result is creative illumination of the sprites, like the shimmery effect that moves over the pieces.

The light position data is moved into the shader, eliminating the need for actual light objects in the scene, which also helps to keep it neat. The encapsulated per-object lighting in the shader works well for better isolation and editing at scale and improves performance where batching is possible.



The Sprite Custom Lit Shader in *Gem Hunter Match*

Learn how the team used the Custom Sprite Lit Shader for full creative control with per-object lighting on 2D sprites in the [Find a treasure trove of lighting and visual effects in our new match-3 sample Gem Hunter Match](#) blog post.

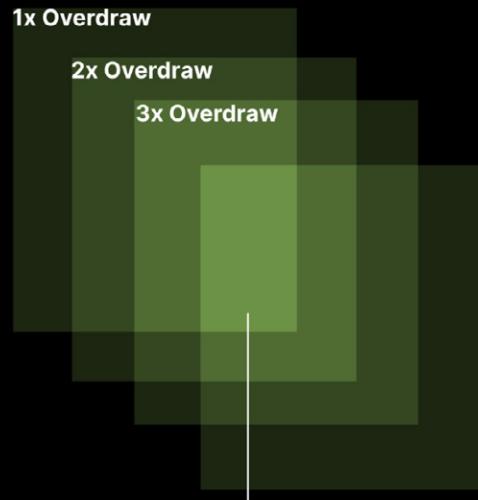
## Reduce overdraw of transparency pixels

Avoid overrawing of pixels to improve performance. Switch the **Mesh Type** to **Tight** (default option) in the [Import Settings](#). Merge overlapping graphics in a single sprite whenever possible, and try to disable sprites that could be in a background layer with no use in the game. This reduces the overdraw area and potential overlap with neighboring sprites.



**1920×1080 game  
(2,073,600 pixels)  
@ 60 fps**

### Overlapping pixels

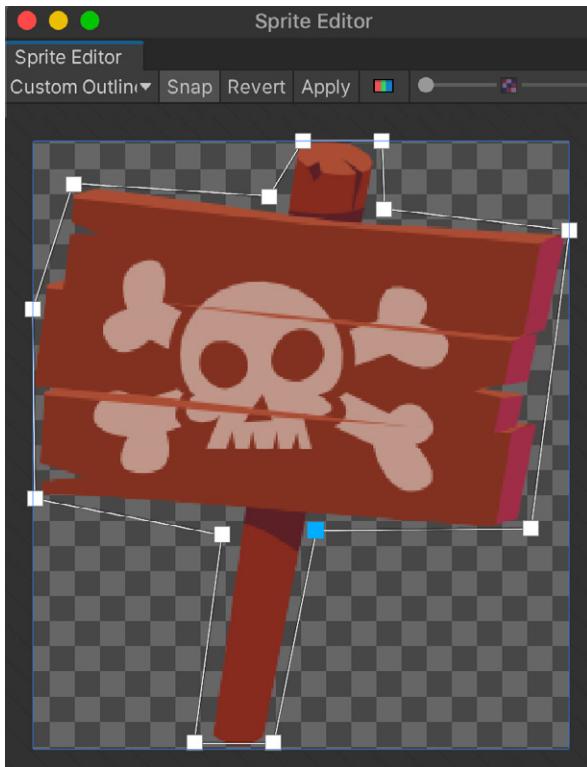


**Pixels in that area are  
overdrawn 4x every frame**

Reduce overdraw between sprites.

## Minimize unused areas with the Sprite Editor

You can also define a [custom outline](#) around each sprite using the [2D Sprite Editor](#); this can minimize the unused areas when packing the sprites and avoid overdraw.

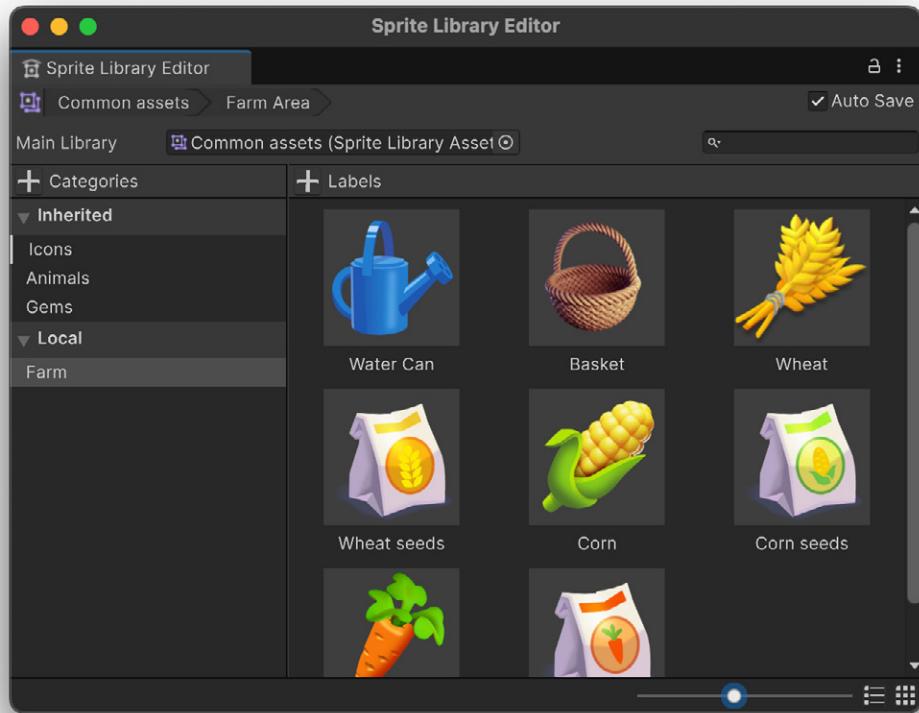


The Sprite Editor with a custom outline

## Organize your project sprites and animation with Sprite Libraries

Make use of the [Sprite Libraries](#) to easily organize your sprites for level design and multi-part characters.

Sprite Libraries are different from Sprite Atlases that are designed to group for rendering performance. However, because Sprite Libraries, Sprite Atlases, and Addressables are compatible, you can use them in combination to keep your larger projects organized.



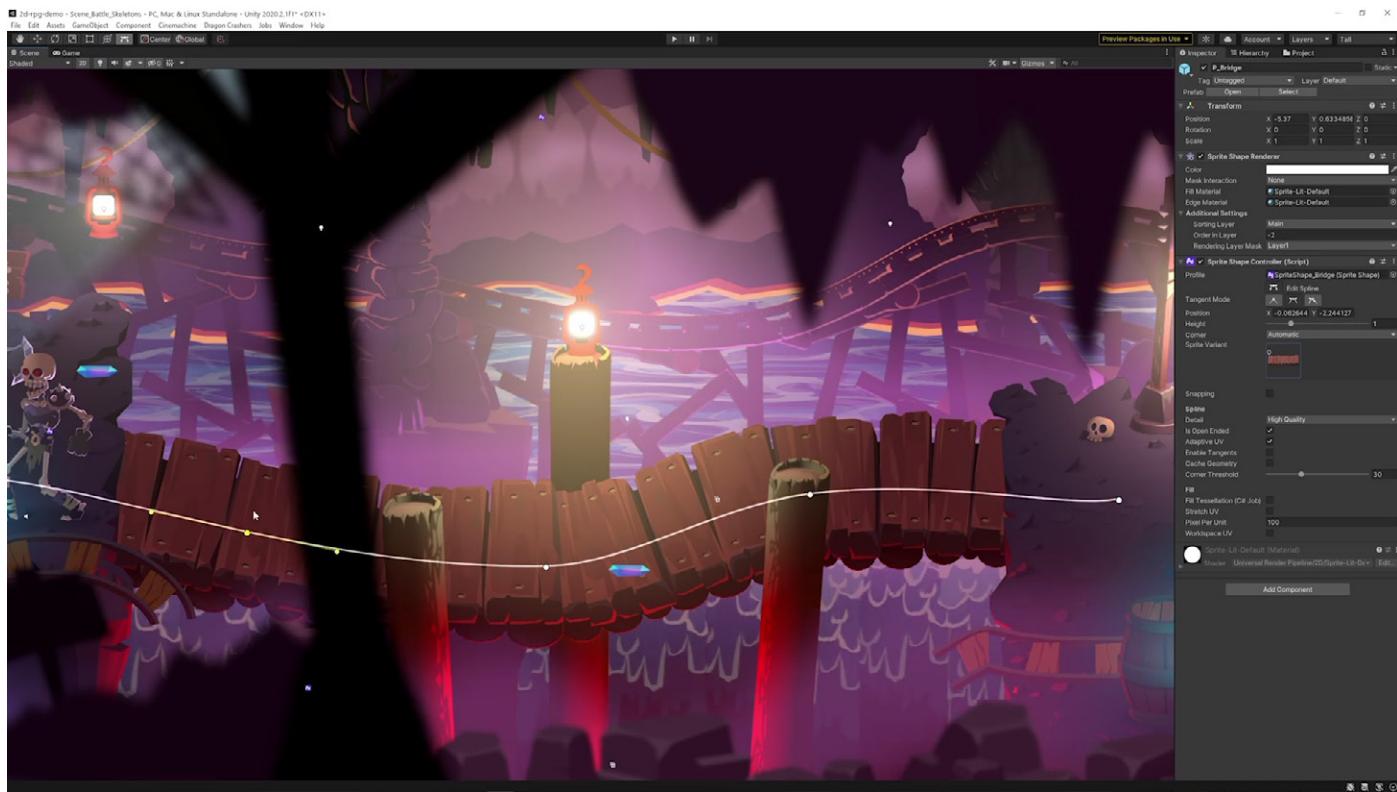
The Sprite Library Editor window

## Modifying Sprite Shapes control points

The [Sprite Shape](#) can help you design organic 2D terrain, creating hills, dynamic roads, trails, racetracks, or bodies of water, as well as decorative elements.

You can also create gameplay features – combine with Unity 2D physics to create interactive regions (e.g., destructible terrain or deformable platforms) that can adapt and reshape in real time.

You can modify the control points of the sprite shape; the [API](#) gives you access to the points at runtime or Editor time. This has a performance cost, but when it's carefully integrated it can give your game an extra edge.



Modifying Sprite Shapes control points in the *Dragon Crashers* - 2D URP sample project.

## Swap sprites conveniently from the contextual menu

The [Sprite Resolver](#) is a component that works alongside the 2D Sprite Library system and provides functionality to dynamically swap between different sprite visuals at runtime.

It allows you to change the sprite of a GameObject without manually assigning it in the Inspector, enabling more powerful and flexible sprite management for your projects.

Here are some of the best use cases for the Sprite Resolver:

- Character customization systems
- Dynamic facial expressions or moods for NPCs or characters
- Environmental sprite changes based on seasons or in-game events
- Visual upgrades or degradations of objects
- Streamlining sprite swaps in animations for greater efficiency and organization



In Unity 6 you can make use of Sprite Resolvers in the Inspector window, as well as in the Editor layout.



The Sprite Resolver component in the Sprite Library

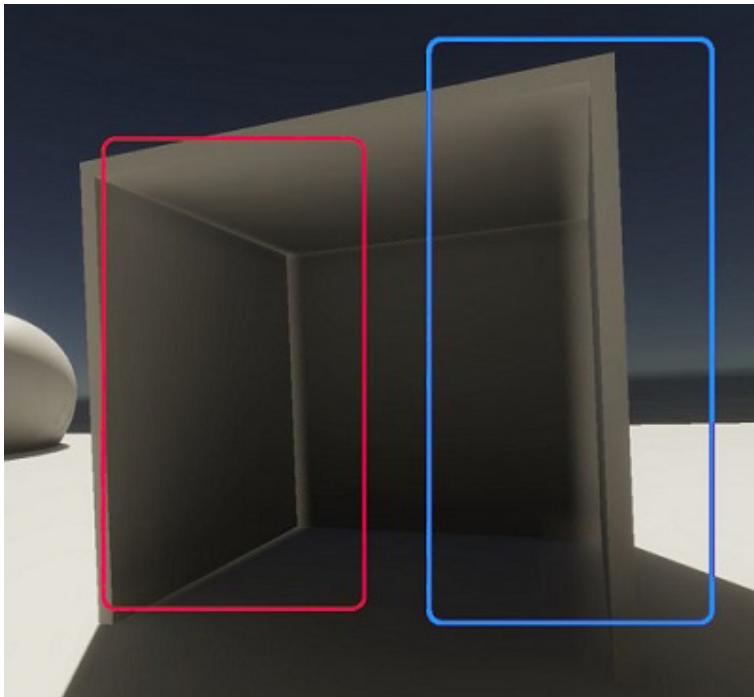
# Graphics and art assets

## Light leaks with light probes

Light leaks often occur when geometry receives light from a light probe that isn't visible to the geometry, for example due to the light probe being on the other side of a wall.

This is a complex topic, but here are a few techniques that could help fix light leaks:

- [Create thicker walls](#)
- [Add an Adaptive Probe Volumes Options Override to your scene](#)
- [Enable Rendering Layers](#)
- [Adjust Baking Set properties](#)
- [Use a Probe Adjustment Volume](#)

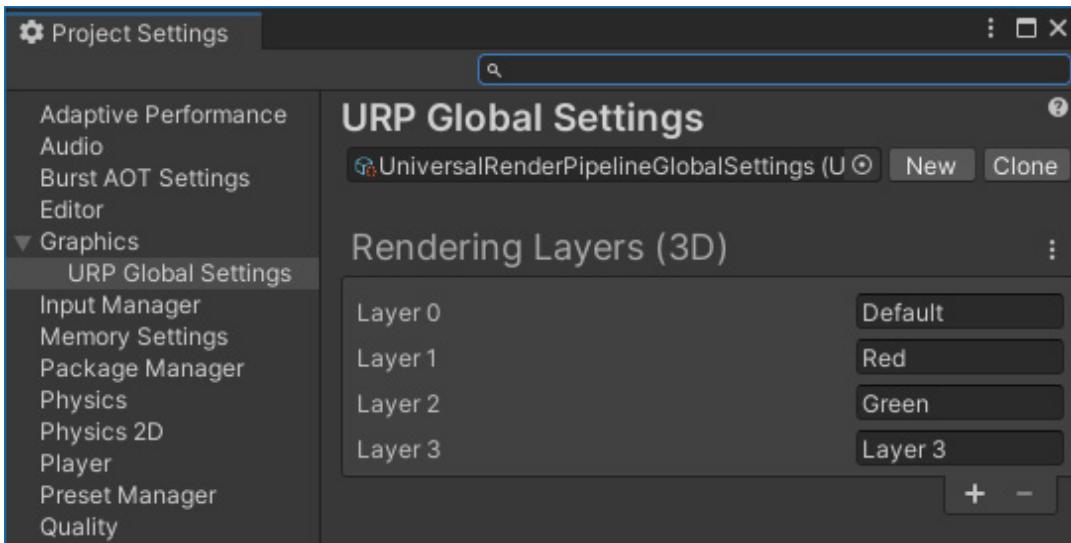


An example of a light leak

## Configure specific lights for specific GameObjects with Rendering Layers

The [Rendering Layers](#) feature lets you configure certain lights to affect only specific GameObjects.

With the [Custom Shadow Layers](#) property, you can configure certain GameObjects to cast shadows only from specific lights (even if those lights do not affect the GameObjects).

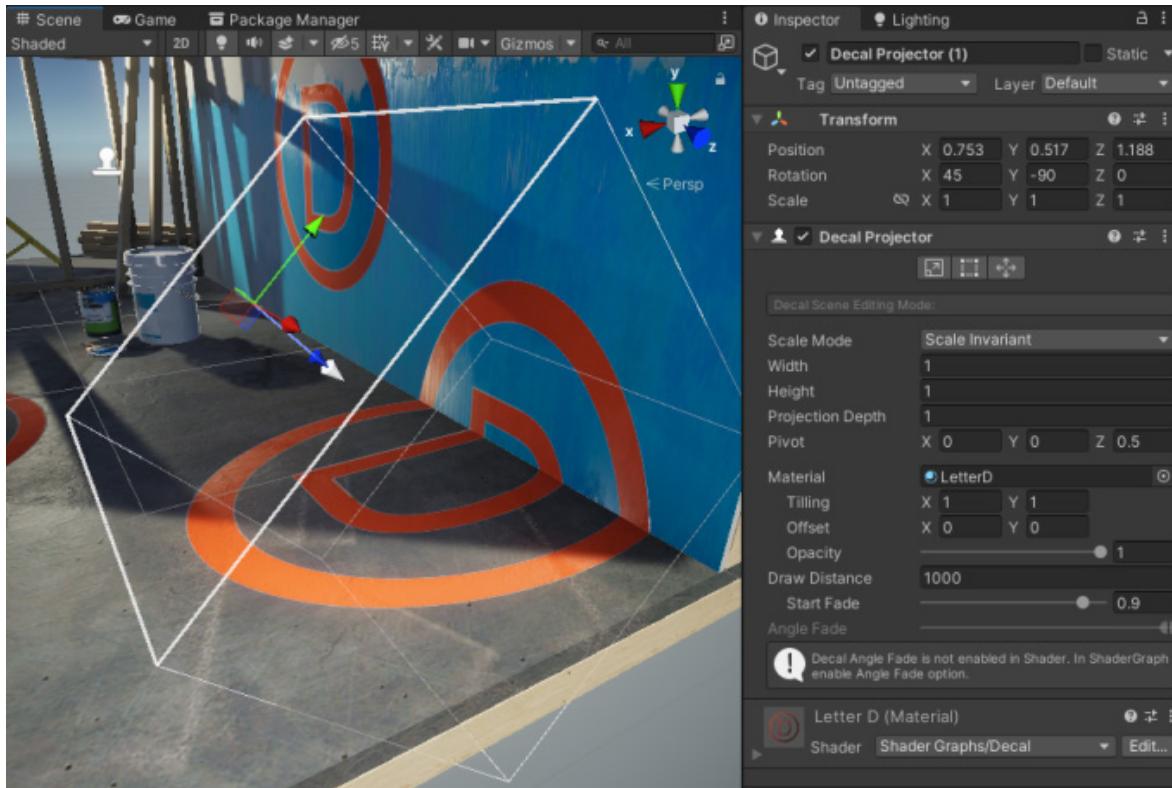


Rendering Layers in the URP Global settings

## Add details to meshes with the Decal Projector

The [Decal Projector](#) component provides you with a great way of adding detail to a mesh. Use them for elements such as bullet holes, footsteps, signage, cracks, and more.

Because they use a projection framework, they conform to an uneven or curved surface. To use a Decal Projector with URP, you need to locate your Renderer Data asset and add the [Decal Renderer Feature](#).



A Decal Projector in the Scene view

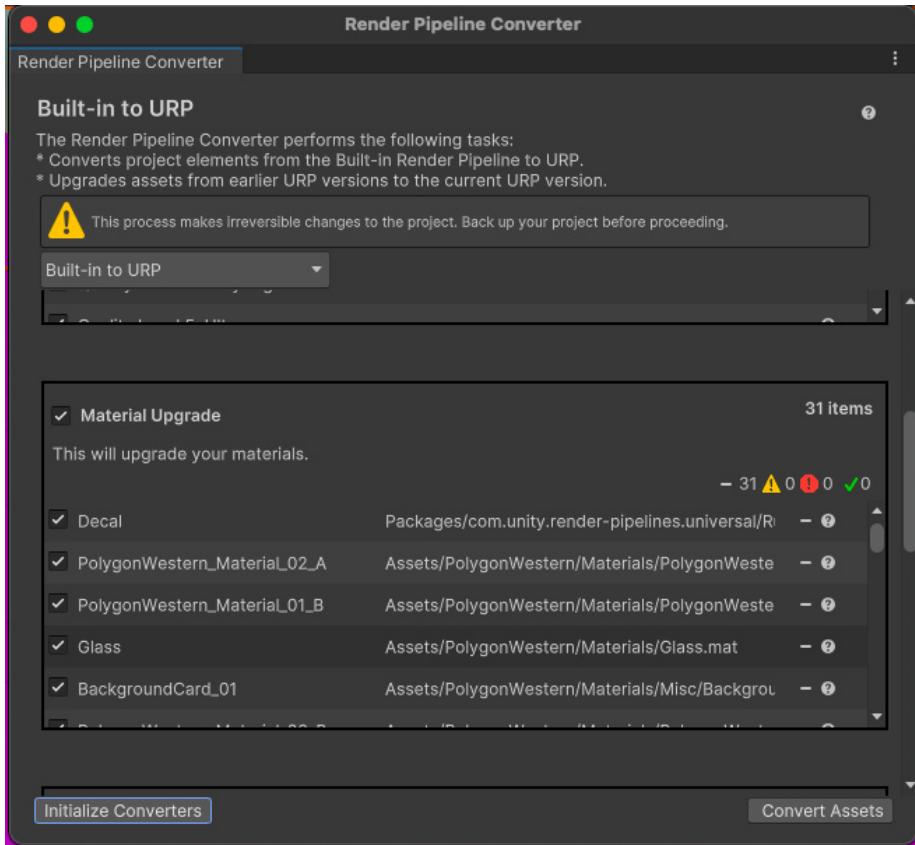
## Convert custom shaders from the Built-In Render Pipeline to URP

Refer to [this table](#) in the URP documentation to see how each URP shader maps to its Built-In Render Pipeline equivalent.

Once you select one or more of the converters, either click **Initialize Converters** or **Initialize And Convert**. Whichever option you choose, the project will be scanned and those assets that need converting will be added to each of the converter panels.

If you choose **Initialize Converters** you can limit the conversions by deselecting the items using the checkbox provided for each one. At this stage, click **Convert Assets** to start the conversion process. If you choose **Initialize And Convert**, the conversion starts automatically

after the converters are initialized. Once it's complete you might be asked to reopen the scene that is active in the Editor.

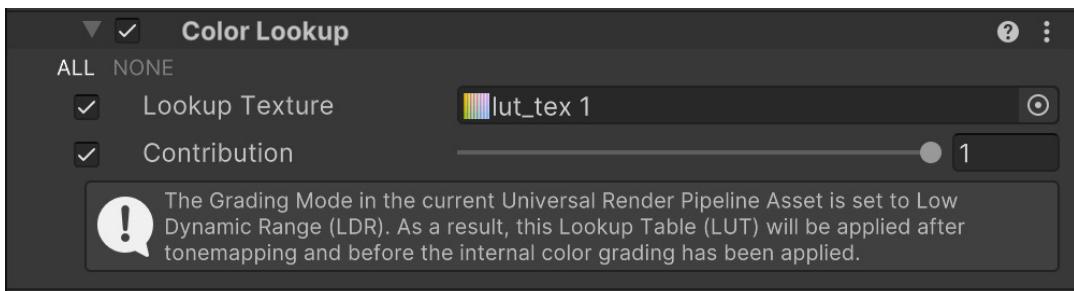


The Render Pipeline Converter

## Create color grading with LUT Textures

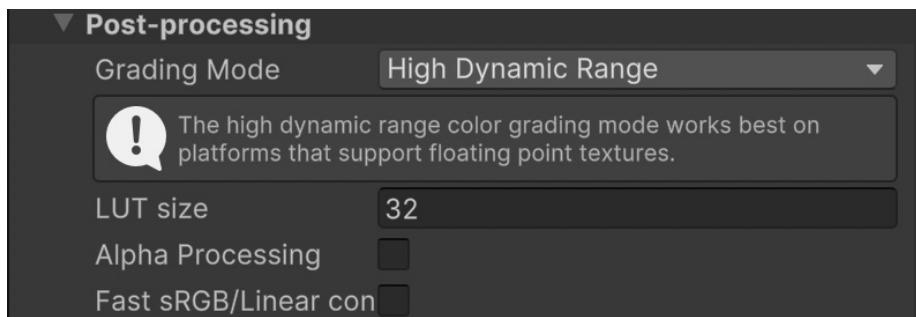
The [Color Grading](#) effect alters or corrects the color and luminance of the final image that Unity produces. You can use this to alter the look and feel of your project.

Use the **Lookup Texture and Contribution** settings to control how the Color Grading effect operates in the post-processing effect that you need to add to your Volume settings.

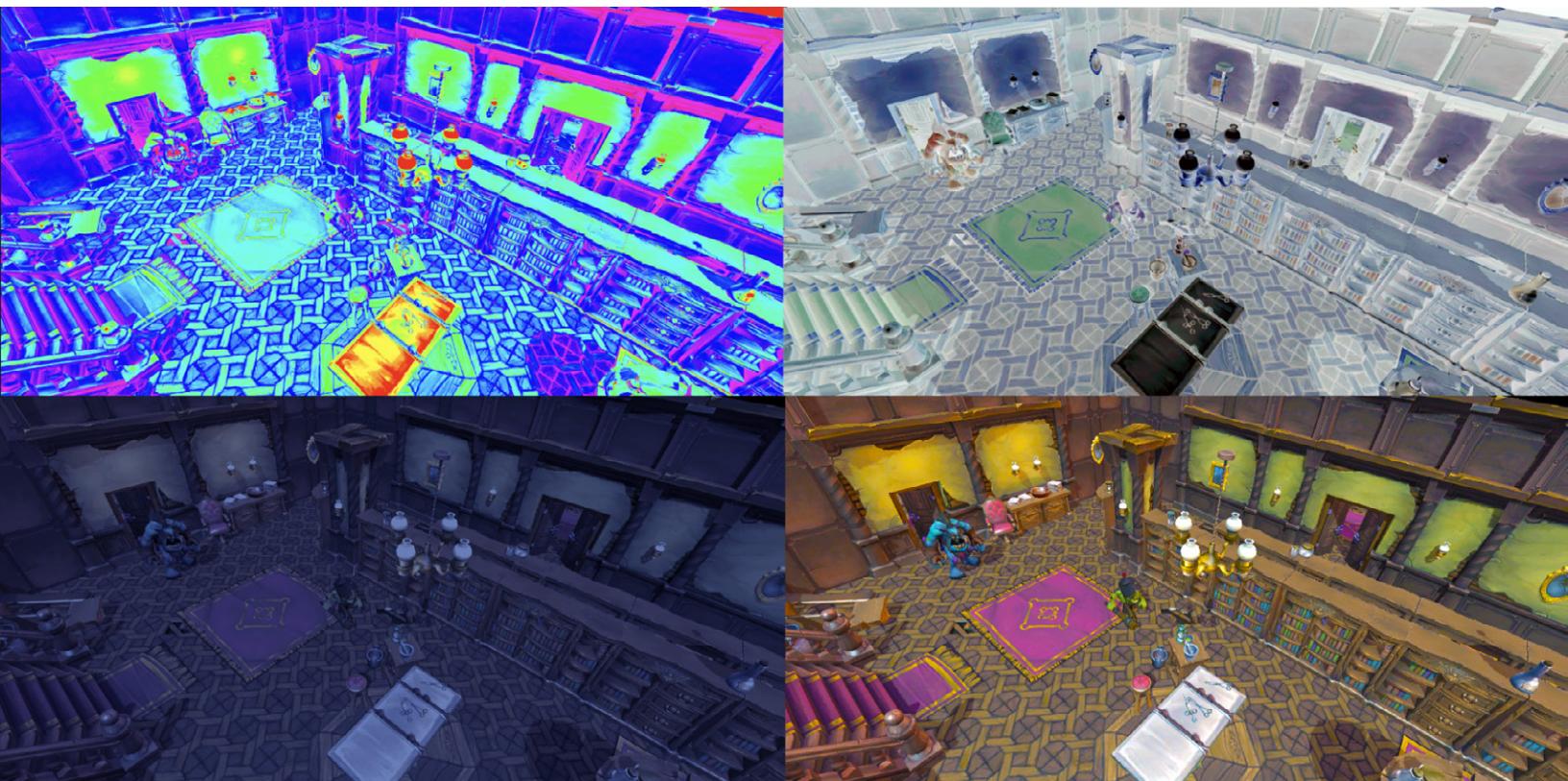


The Lookup Texture and Contribution settings in Color Lookup

Volume blending between multiple Low Dynamic Range (LDR) lookups is supported but only works correctly if they're the same size. For this reason, it's recommended to stick to a single LUT size for the whole project (256×16 or 1024×32).



Setting the LUT size in the URP Asset settings



Using various LUT textures

## Create realistic lens effects and stylized looks with lens flares

A [lens flare](#) is an artifact that appears when bright light is shining onto a camera lens. A lens flare can appear as one bright glare or as numerous colored polygonal flares matching the aperture of the camera.

Get familiar with lens flares by installing the samples from the Package Manager. This will add a set of predefined Flare assets to include lens flare effects. It also contains a test scene to browse lens flares and help you build your own.



The lens flare samples come with presets ranging from realistic lens effects to more stylized looks, example using the HDRP sample scene.

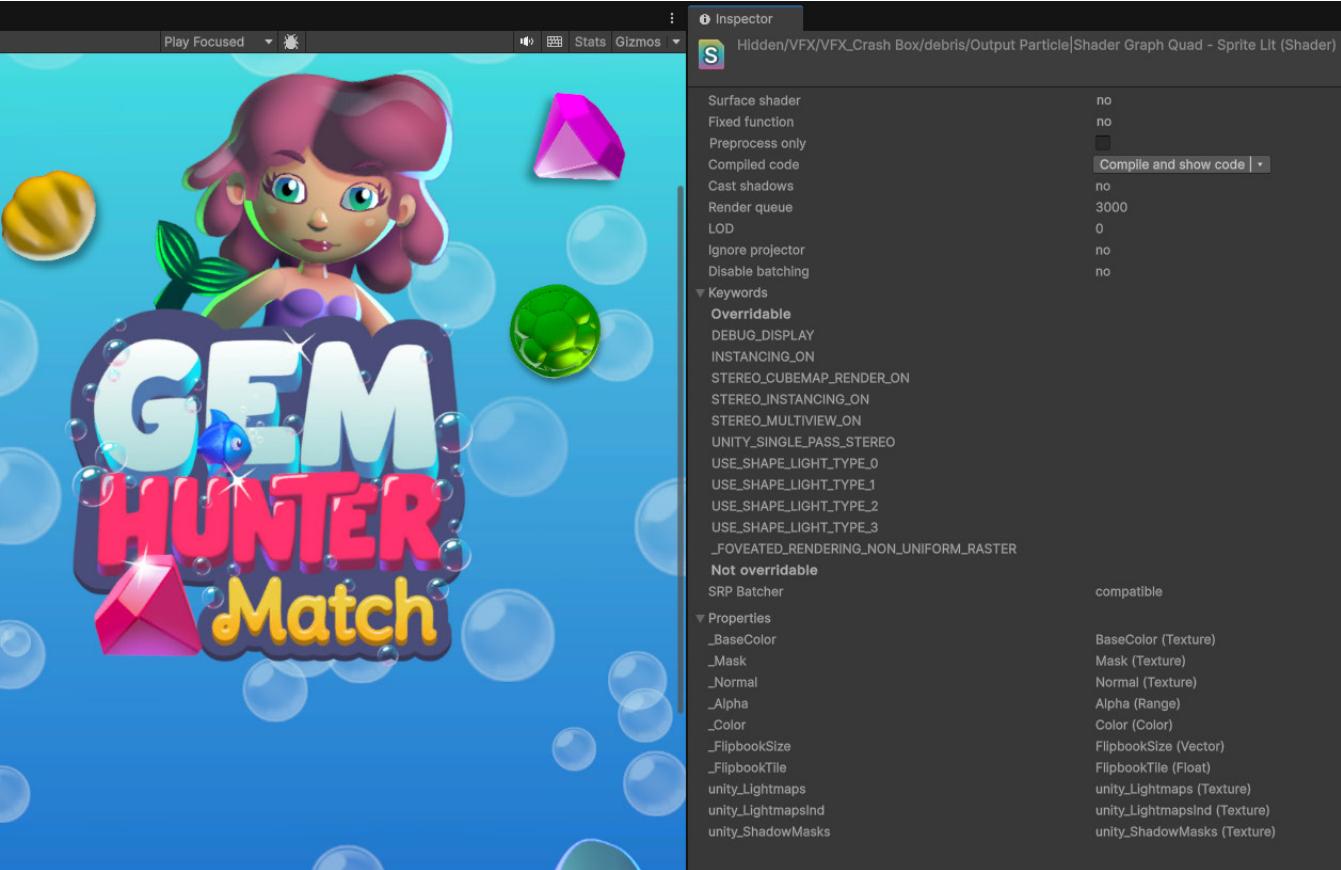
Lens flares are made out of **Lens Flare Elements**. Each element represents the different artifacts that the flare produces. The element's shape can be a polygon, circle, or a custom image.

The element parameters allow you to tweak the **Color**, **Transform** position, and deformation, or how it's positioned, colored, and scaled when the flare element is part of a **Lens Flare** effect with multiple elements. Remember that if it's attached to a light source, the flare elements can use the tint color, making it possible to reuse the same Flare asset with many different light sources.

Watch [this SIGGRAPH talk](#) to learn more about how lens flares work.

## Manage shader variants

To reduce build size and time manage shader variants carefully. Use `#pragma shader_feature` instead of `#pragma multi_compile` when variants are only needed by specific materials. `shader_feature` variants are stripped unless used by materials or enabled at runtime, while `multi_compile` variants are always included. Check the keywords in the shader's **Inspector**.



Keywords section in the Universal Render Pipeline/Lit (Shader) window in the *Gem Hunter Match* sample

## Create variants of a material

With Material Variants, you can create templates or material prefabs. Based on a base template, you can create variants that share common properties with the template material and override only the properties that differ. If you change common and non-overridden properties in the template material, the changes automatically reflect in the variant material. You can also lock certain properties on materials so they can't be overridden in the variants.



An example of Material Variants; these all share the same base material and only differ in the color property

In a more complex setup, you can create variations of a Material Variant. The material inheritance hierarchy promotes reusability and improves iteration speed and scalability of material authoring in your project.

## Planning asset groups to improve your asset workflow

As part of the preproduction planning, you and your team should agree on aspects of the asset workflow, such as the list of required assets to be created, the budget for them based on your project's technical requirements, and the development cost.

One way you can group required level elements is the following:

- **Large elements:** These elements can't be authored with unique textures but must use tiling or modular elements, such as walls, the ground, cliffs, roofs of buildings, and so on.
- **Medium-sized props:** These are props that have unique texture sheets, like barrels, crates, rocks, and doors.
- **Highly repetitive, small elements:** Think of items used to ground objects or convey scale, including pebbles, leaves, screws, and bolts.



Planning asset production by type, size, and shape

Budget the time, poly count, and texture resolution of each asset, and prioritize the tasks accordingly. Then create non-essential assets and reduce the number of essential assets to the bare minimum.

## Automate and speed up your import pipeline with the AssetPostProcessor API

In a production involving thousands of assets, avoid relying on manually configuring the specifications of each asset from the Inspector.

To automate the process of validating asset files, use the [AssetPostProcessor API](#). This helps you hook into the import pipeline and run scripts prior to, or after, importing assets; just add assets for the scripts to make the necessary changes. You can change the settings from a single script that will automatically reapply the changes to the assets in the project.



From left to right: Examples of the mood board, concept art, prefab assets, directory, and naming standards using the AssetPostProcessor, and final visuals for the [Megacity](#) demo by Unity

Use Prefab Variants for more efficient team work

Another critical aspect of the asset import workflow is the creation of prefabs from 3D models. Directly converting the FBX model into a prefab during production isn't recommended as it will break the prefab if changes are made to the FBX file, such as hierarchy changes in the geometry. This will require you to replace all the instances of it in the scene with an updated version. The solution to this problem lies in Prefab Variants.

Prefab Variants enable the scene-independent production of your art assets, making them ideal to use while prototyping. They are recommended for collaborative iteration while building the game world. They offer the benefit of regular prefabs, like making variations of the original model, but also act as a “weak” reference to the FBX model prefab. This allows you to conveniently add, split, or remove model elements without having to recreate the prefab. Production artists can make changes to the FBX models, and the Prefab Variant will update accordingly. Prefab Variants also allow artists to see art changes in context without altering the project itself.

At the same time, consider using Nested Prefabs to facilitate collaboration on the scene.



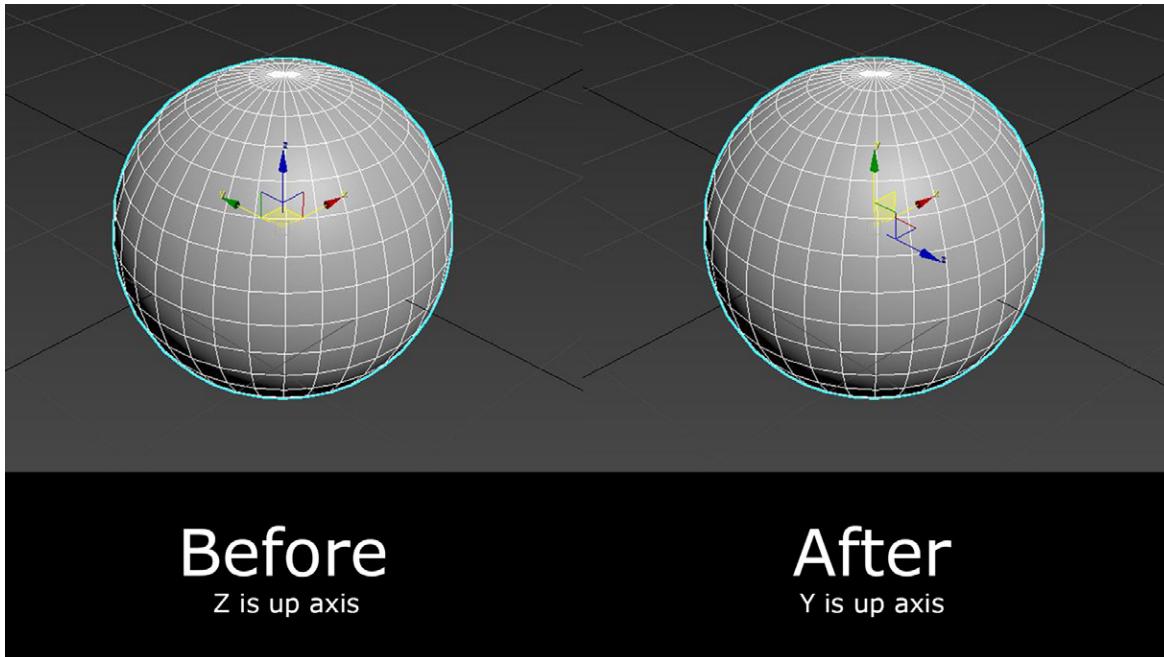
A recommended Prefab Variant workflow for productions with many collaborators

## Asset considerations for XR or mobile development

Decisions that you take early on in the process of creating or sourcing the art assets for your XR or mobile games can save you time later in the development cycle. From small props to characters, follow these tips for efficient art asset creation.

- Start with a clear concept of what you want to create. Concepts can be illustrated with something as simple as hand drawings, particularly at an early stage, to quickly plan out interactions or visuals.
  - In larger studios you might have a concept artist that can bring ideas to life; for individuals or small teams AI can help portray your idea.
- Use 3D modeling software (like Blender or Autodesk's Maya or 3ds Max) to build your model. Keep poly count (number of polygons) in mind for performance, especially for mobile AR. You can create high-poly models initially, and then optimize them later.

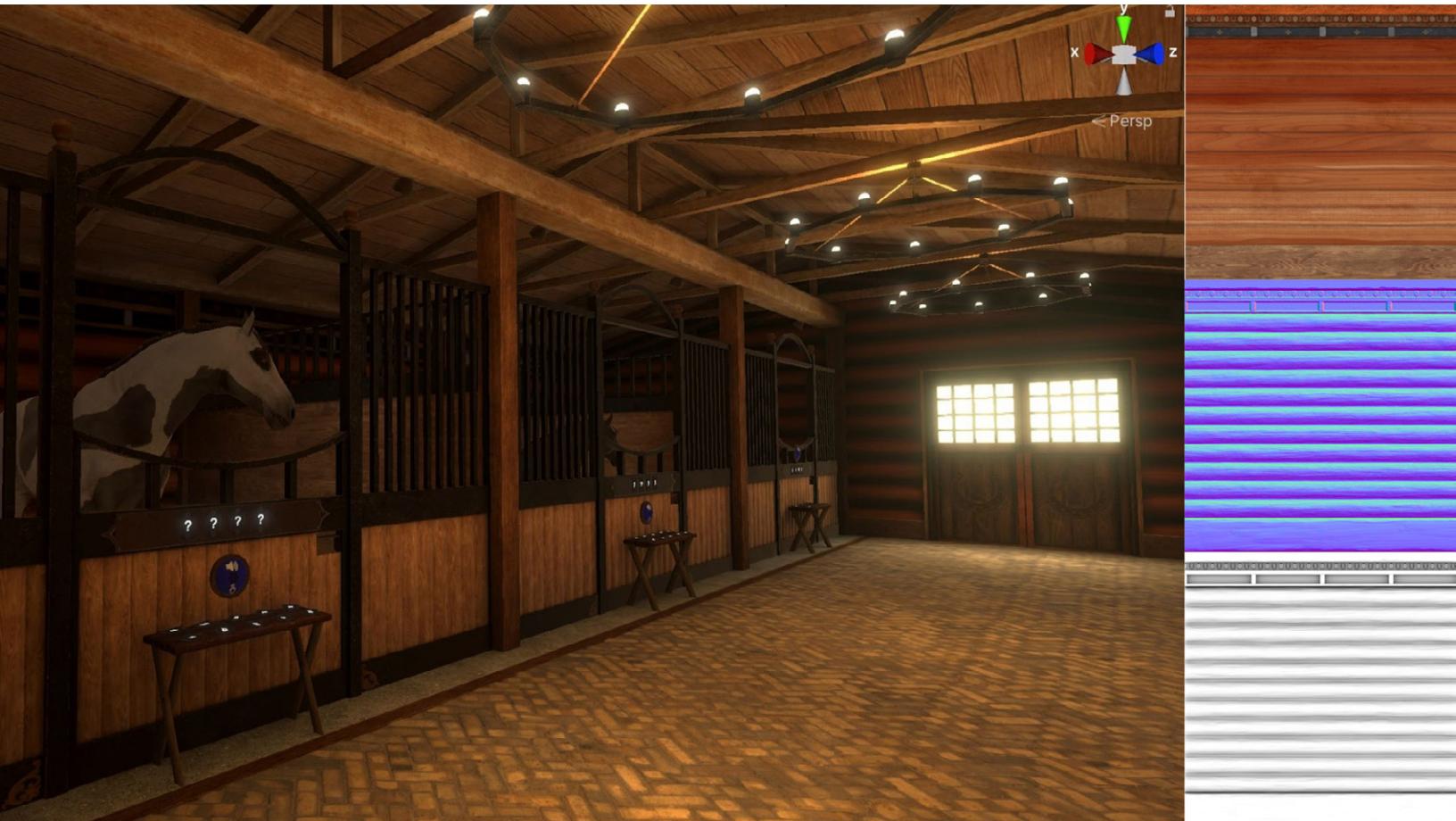
- Set the pivot point of the model in your 3D modeling software so that its orientation matches that of Unity. Below is an example of how to set the pivot point in 3ds Max, which uses the z-axis as the up axis.



Adjusting the up axis

- You can also correct the orientation of a model in Unity with these two steps:
  - a. Create an empty GameObject in the Hierarchy.
  - b. Nest your model within this GameObject, ensuring its position is set to 0,0,0 across all axes to achieve perfect centering.This method results in your model being anchored to a parent GameObject that maintains a neutral rotation of 0 across all axes. It also guarantees the model is oriented correctly with the z-axis facing forward and maintains a uniform scale of 1 on all axes. Additionally, you can also try the Bake Axis Conversion option in the Importer.
- Apply textures to give your model a realistic or stylized look. Consider using UV mapping for detailed textures. Depending on what your aesthetic is for your game you might require PBR Textures.
- Physically based (PBR) shaders in Unity typically involve two main components: Metallic-roughness workflow and Specular-glossiness workflow, each handling different aspects of material properties. The result is a more lifelike and dynamic visual appearance, enhancing the realism of 3D scenes and objects in Unity-based games or simulations.

## Populate large textured areas optimally with trim sheets



Use trim sheet for various meshes across an environment.

A trim sheet is a texturing tool used in 3D modeling and game development. It consists of a single texture containing a variety of trim patterns and details, like moldings, edges, and borders.

You can use trim sheets for optimizing game performance, as it reduces the number of individual textures required, while still allowing for visually complex and varied designs on the models.

## Export to your 3D models to scale when working in AR and VR

You can prototype and model your 3D meshes in your preferred DCC or directly in Unity with [ProBuilder](#), which is included in the Package Manager. You can mock up levels, scale objects, test how they look in Unity, and export, once the scale is correct, for further refinement to later bring them back to Unity.

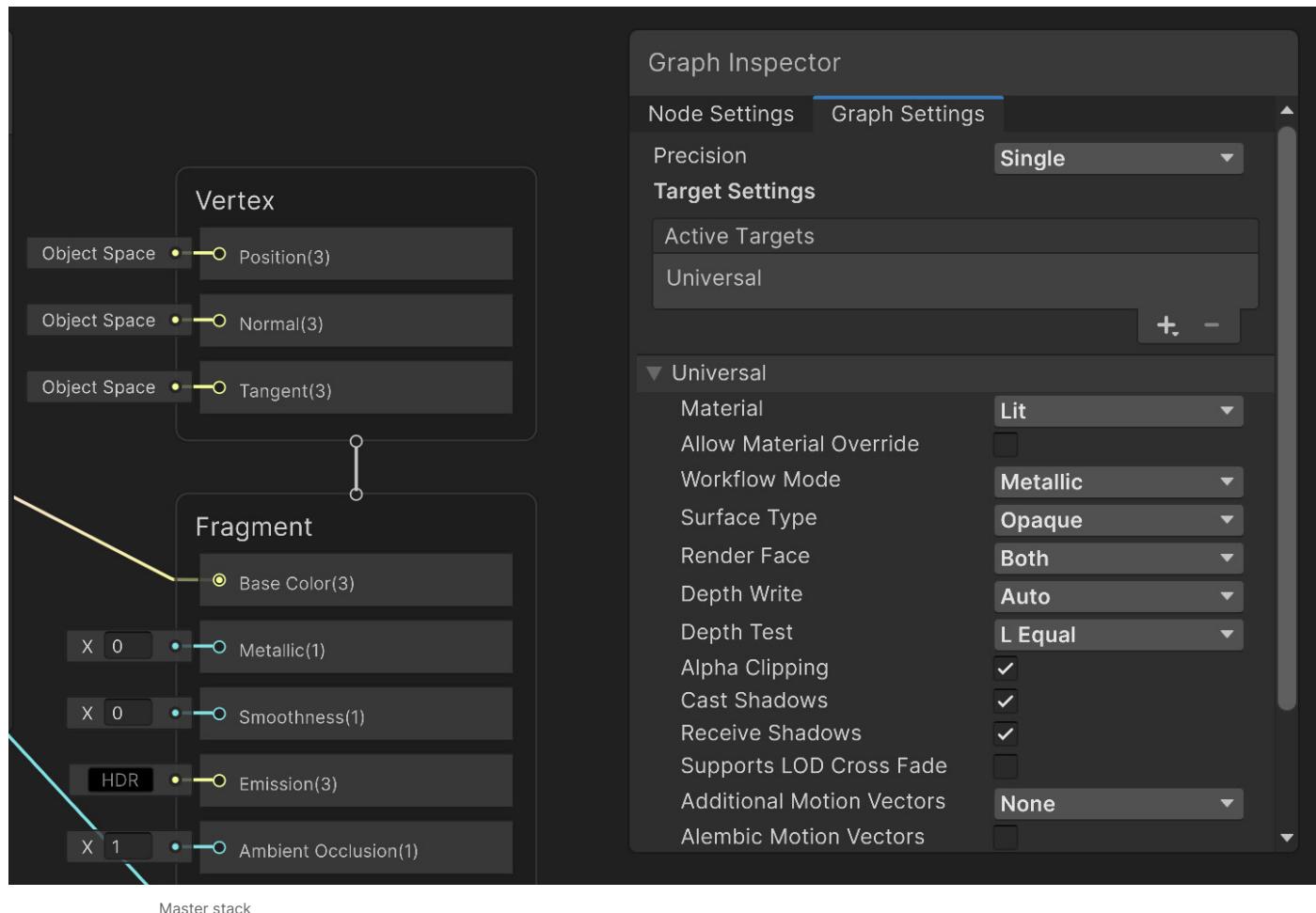
In Unity, the measurement scale is intuitively designed, where 1 unit corresponds precisely to 1 meter. To gauge the scale of your imported assets, simply introduce a cube GameObject into your scene. This cube, with dimensions of 1m x 1m x 1m, serves as an immediate and accurate reference for assessing the scale of any asset. When creating your environments and props the key is to balance aesthetics and performance, ensuring a smooth and engaging AR/VR experience.



You can prototype levels with ProBuilder and then export them with FBX Exporter to 3D modeling software to tweak them.

## Shader Graph for URP and HDRP projects

Creating Lit and/or Unlit shaders in [Shader Graph](#) can help ensure your assets are more easily adaptable to use in both URP and HDRP projects. In Shader Graph you can define the render pipeline in the Master Node but keep the logic intact, making it easier to have shaders that work in both pipelines.



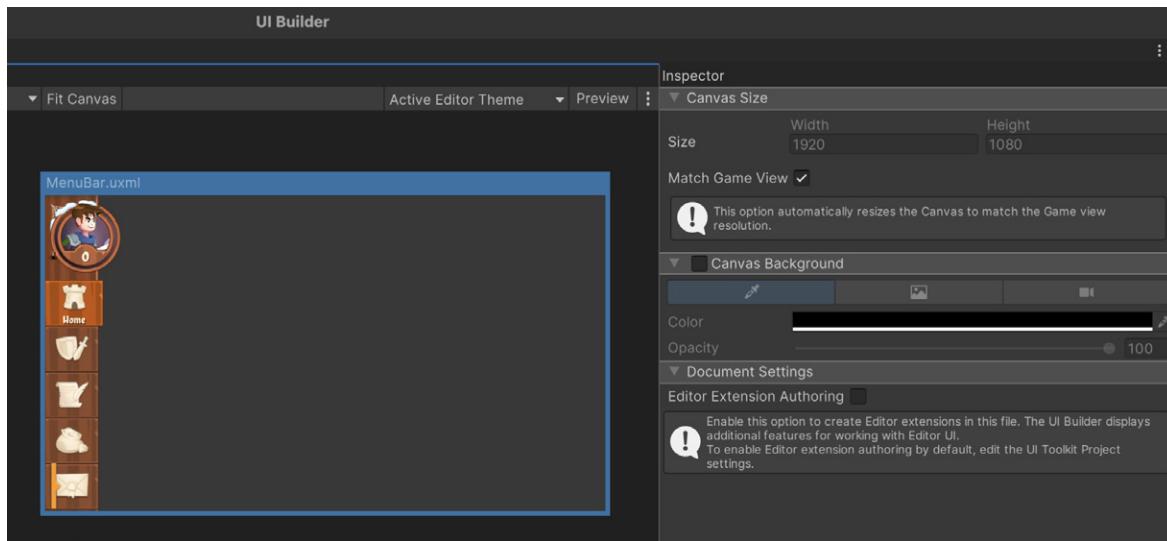
# UI Toolkit

## Design your interface with a visual reference

Enabling the Canvas background can help you visualize your element styling over a color or background image. Select the UXML file in the Hierarchy pane and then choose a Canvas background that approximates the final UI interface to judge style changes in context.

The Canvas background provides a few different options:

- **Background Color:** Represents a specific shade or hue of the game environment
- **Image:** For choosing a sprite or texture as the background (useful for replicating mockup screens or reference art)
- **Camera:** Displays the current gameplay in the background, enabling you to see the UI in context of the actual game



The Canvas of a UXML document: Use the Color and Image options to adjust its appearance.

## Iterate faster with PSD Importer when working with Photoshop files

Unity will automatically refresh the sprites included in a multi-layered PSD file every time you save the file with the PSD Importer used to import it into your project. This allows you to create a quick placeholder and iterate on it while viewing changes in the Game view. This can be a great time saver, and improve the quality of the work, by letting you see it in context without swapping files or needing support from a fellow developer in your team.

## Use emojis in your game

You can include sprites like emojis in your text via rich text tags. To use them, you'll need to use a [sprite asset](#) similar to the Gradient asset.

When importing multiple sprites, pack them into a single atlas to reduce draw calls. Make sure that the sprite atlas has a suitable resolution for your target platform.



Import the sprites, create the Sprite Asset inside Assets/Resources, and adjust the info of each glyph as needed.

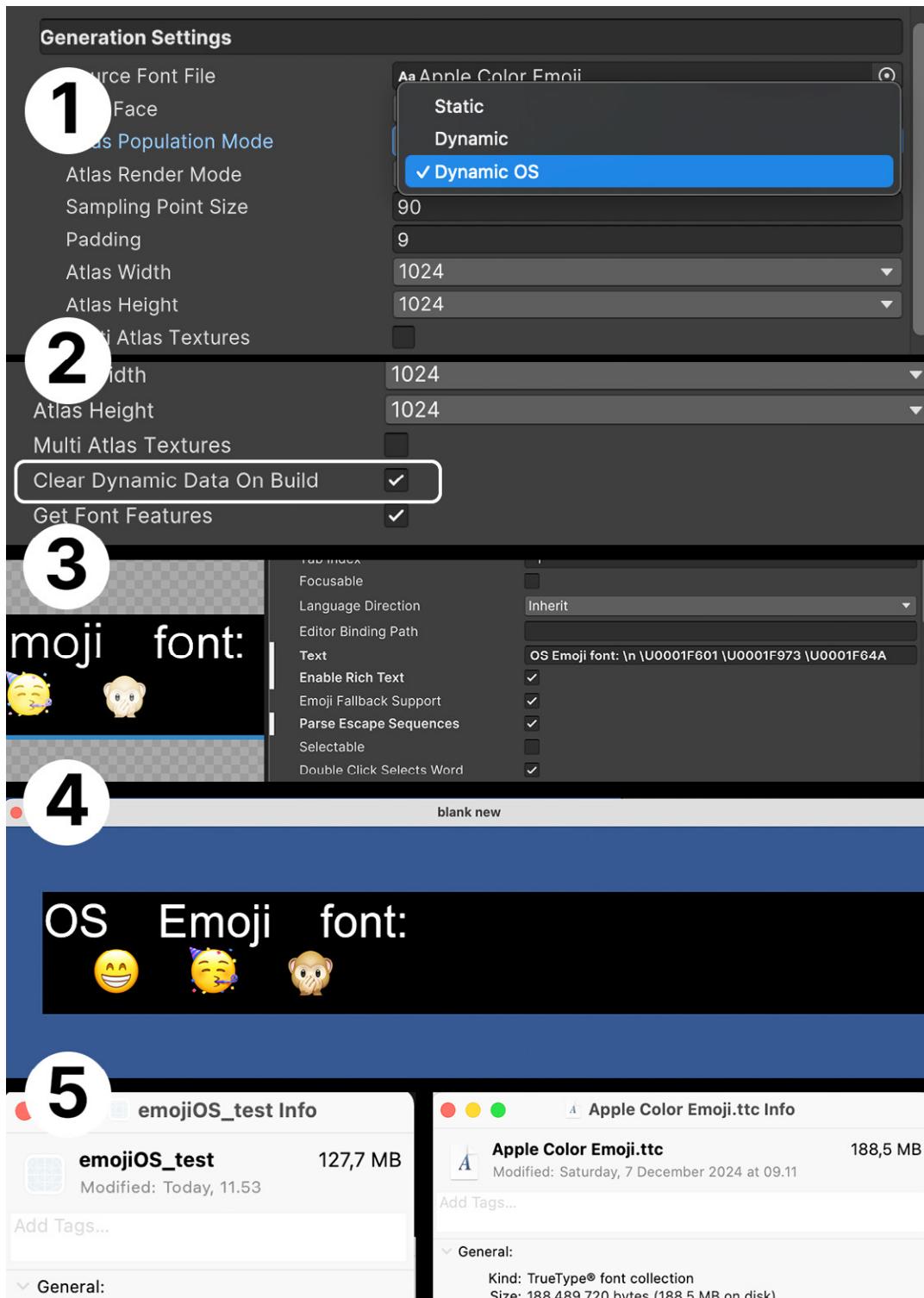


## Use the built-in emojis included with a device's OS

If you are targeting a specific runtime platform, such as iOS or Android, you can make use of the system's built-in emoji font instead of including the source font in your project. This can save memory and eliminate the need to package a large collection of emojis with your application.

These are the steps to use OS emojis in your project:

1. Create a Font asset from the font that your target system uses. On iOS the font is called Apple Emoji (used in this example), and on Android it's called Noto Color Emoji (currently only `COLRv0` is supported). Make sure the Font Asset is of the type **Color**, and then set the atlas population mode to **Dynamic OS** which doesn't require you to include the source font in your asset saving space.
2. Ensure **Clean Dynamic Data On Build** is checked on the Font Asset
3. Enable **Parse Escape Sequences** on UI Builder and enter the desired emojis using the emoji keyboard from MacOS or Windows or in UTF format, for example, you would introduce a smiley as `\U0001F601`. You can check the UTF of each emoji in the Character Table of the Font Asset.
4. The build running on MacOS displays the emojis according to the OS font.
5. We can observe that in our test, the **build size** is smaller than the standalone emoji font proving that it was not included in the project but still being used to render the appropriate emojis.

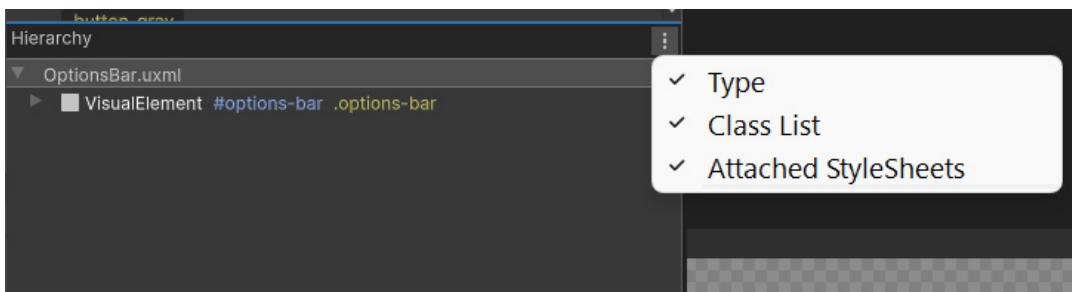




## Show additional info relative to the Visual Element on UI Builder

Click the vertical ellipsis (⋮) in the Hierarchy header to further visualize the UI elements.

In the Hierarchy pane, additional information appears next to the element Type. The **#options-bar** Name selector and **.options-bar** Style Class selector appear when checked.



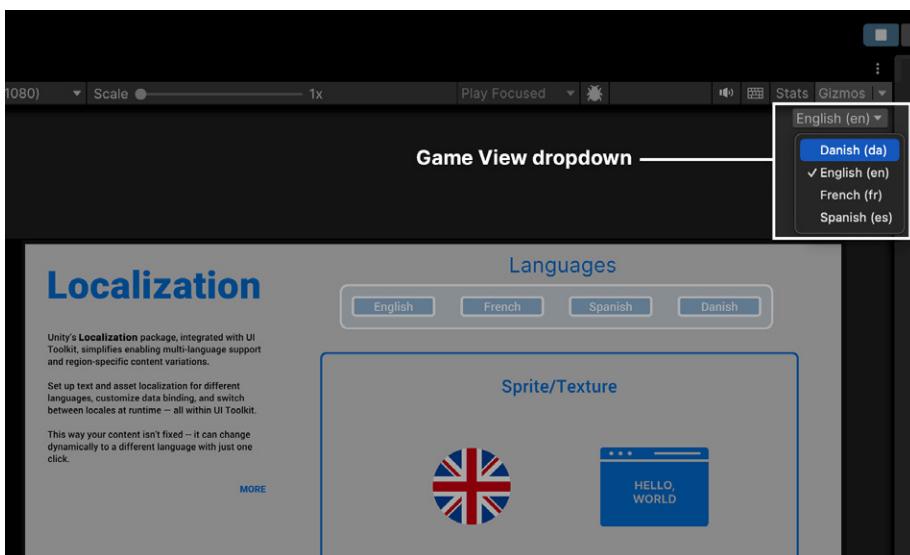
Filter for different selectors in the Hierarchy.

You might notice that some selectors begin with the **.unity-** prefix. These are default styles that apply to all elements. Any defined selectors will override these values.

## Reach more markets with integrating localization early on

You can simplify the localization process by integrating the [Localization](#) package with UI Toolkit. This integration lets you provide region-specific content for your players, no matter where they might be.

Use the Game View Locale drop-down to preview the UI in different languages, ensuring elements display correctly in each Locale.



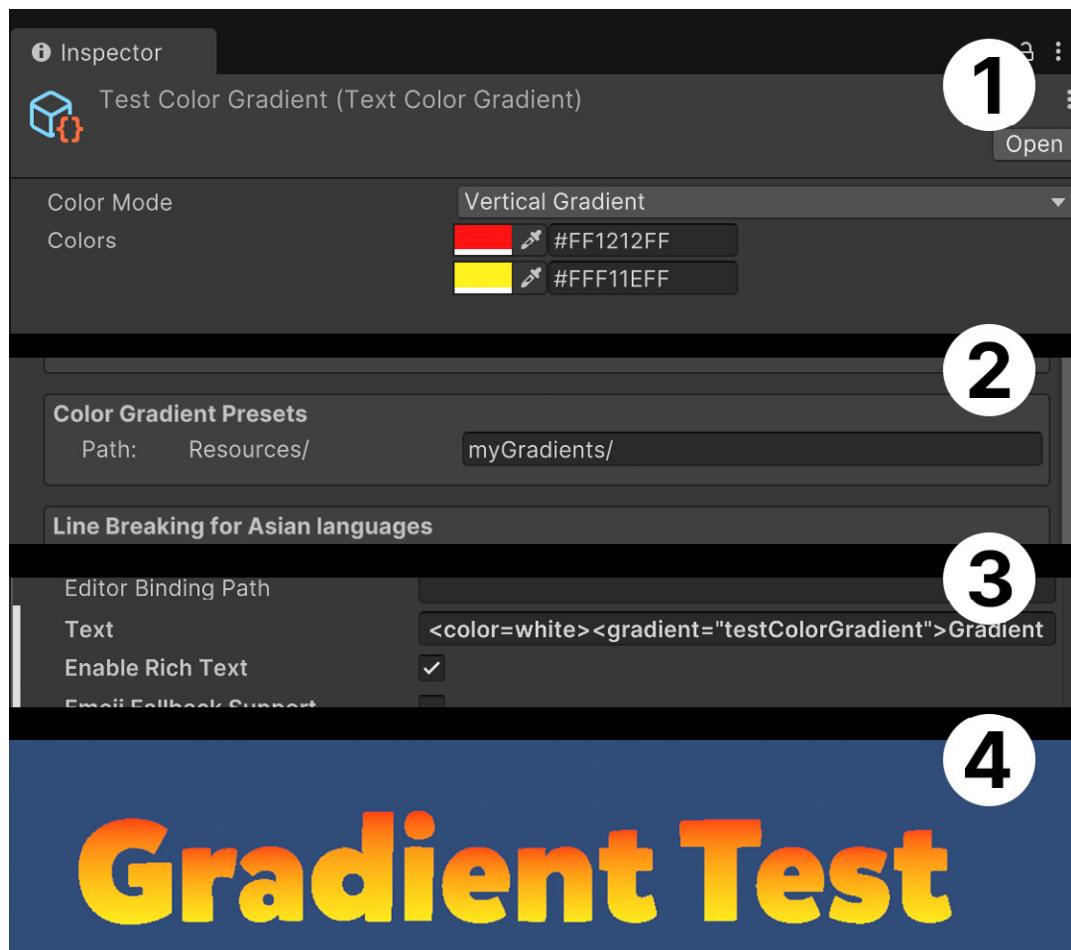
Use the Game View Locale drop-down to preview the localization.



## Add stylization throughout the interface with Gradients

In UI Toolkit you can apply **Gradients** via the `<gradient>` tag. Make sure **Rich Text** is enabled and see the changes take effect inside UI Builder or in the Game view.

1. Create a gradient color asset via **Create > Text Core > Gradient Color**. Make sure to place this file inside **Assets/Resources** or any subfolder under Resources.
2. Create a **Text Settings asset** to refer to from the Panel Settings. In the asset look for Color Gradient Presets, and indicate the folder or subfolder inside Resources where the asset is.
3. Add the following rich text tags inside UI Builder: `<color=white><gradient="testColorGradient">Gradient Test</gradient></color>`.
4. You can see the changes take effect inside UI Builder or in the Game view.



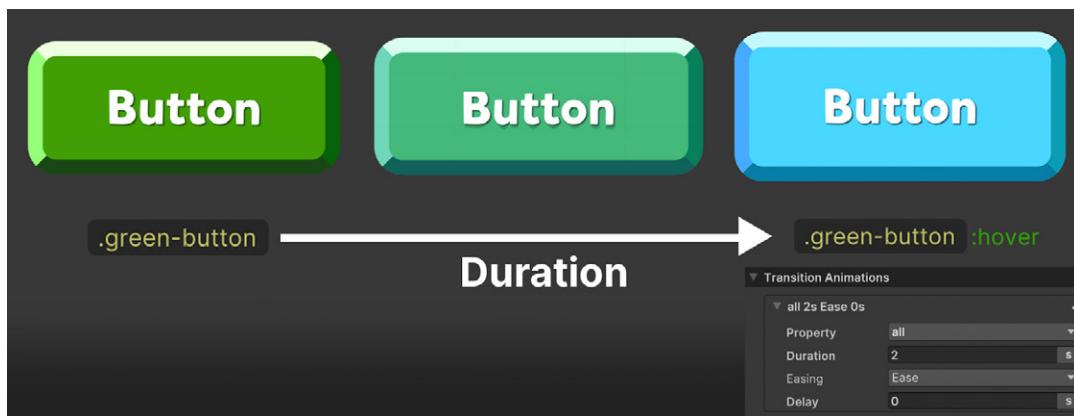
Using the `<gradient>` tag in UI Toolkit

## Animate UI with USS transitions

For visual elements, animations don't require additional code because pseudo-classes (`:active`, `:inactive`, `:hover`, etc.) can have their own selectors. Whenever a pseudo-class triggers a style change, any defined transitions will automatically animate the change.

For example: A button can grow or shrink when hovered over (`:hover`), clicked (`:active`), or elements can fade out or become invisible based on user interaction or other events.

Those changes of states are triggered by user actions but you can arbitrarily change the pseudo-class `:enabled` and `:disabled` which will manually trigger the USS animations relative to those pseudoclasses. This gives you an option to trigger animations at your will from code.

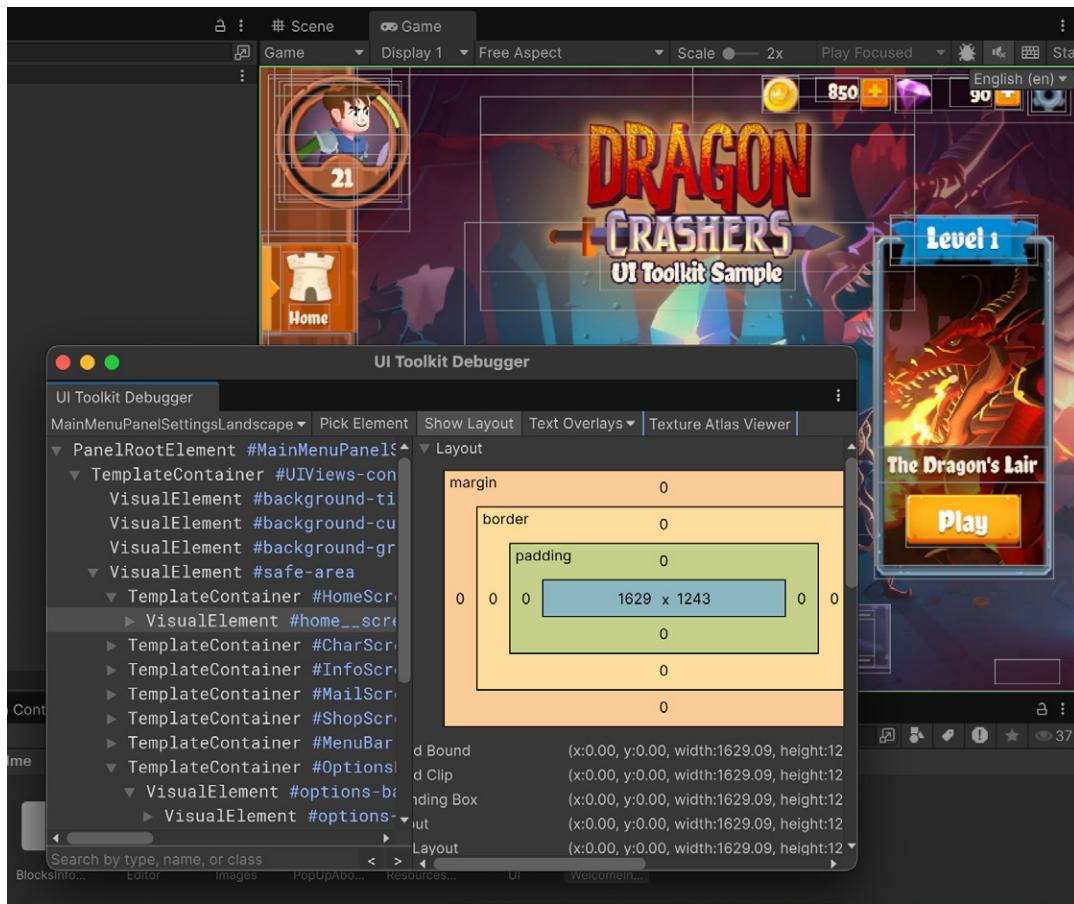


An example of a USS transition animation

## Visualize resolved styles bounding boxes in the Editor

Use bounding boxes to identify layout issues, alignment problems, and interactively debug your UI structure within the Editor.

To visualize resolved bounding boxes using UI Toolkit, go to **Window > UI Toolkit > Debugger** to open the **UI Toolkit Debugger**. Then use the **Pick Element** tool to select your UI element and enable the **Show Layout** feature. This option displays bounding boxes and layout information directly on top of your UI in the Game view.

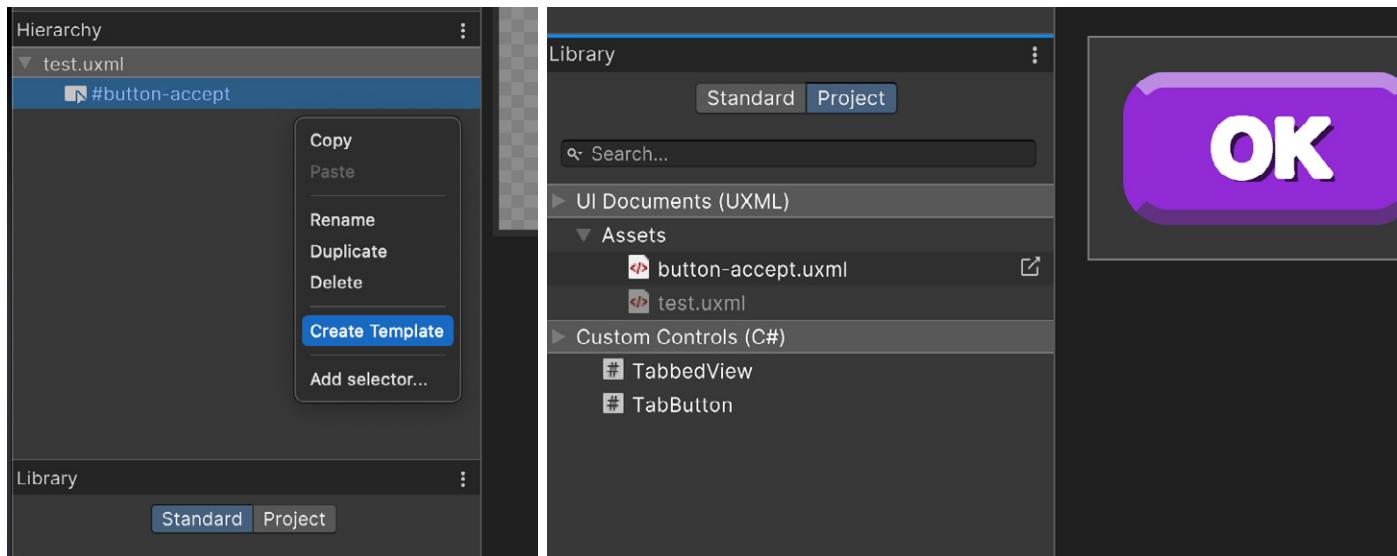


The UI Toolkit Debugger includes several handy features to help debug your UI.

## Reuse UXML files as templates to speed up your workflow

UXML files can be used similar to prefabs. For example, you could have a project with a UXML layout that contains an item icon and count number that you need to spawn many times inside an inventory.

If you right-click on any UXML you get the option to create a Template, which can later be added to any other visual element in the Hierarchy pane or instantiated from code. Once created you can find it in your Library and Project view.



Templates are reusable UXML and are available in the Library pane in the Project tab

## More resources

Download the e-book [Create scalable and performant UI with UI Toolkit in Unity 6](#) to get in-depth instructions on how to create UI with UI Toolkit across a wide range of devices.

A sample project accompanies the e-book. [UI Toolkit Sample – Dragon Crashers](#) is available in the Unity Asset Store. The UI Toolkit sample demonstrates how you can leverage UI Toolkit for your own applications. This demo involves a full-featured interface over a slice of the 2D project *Dragon Crashers*, a mini-RPG, using the Unity 6 UI Toolkit workflow at runtime.

Additionally, make sure to check out the [QuizU project](#) on the Unity Asset Store and the supporting articles:

- [The UI Toolkit sample project QuizU](#)
- [QuizU: State patterns for game flow](#)
- [QuizU: Managing menu screens in UI Toolkit](#)
- [QuizU: The Model View Presenter pattern](#)
- [QuizU: Event handling in UI Toolkit](#)
- [QuizU: UI Toolkit performance tips](#)

# Developer workflows

## Awaitable class

Unity 6 introduces the [Awaitable](#) class, a lightweight, allocation-free type designed specifically to support C# async/await workflows within Unity. It provides a performance-friendly alternative to coroutines. It makes it easier for you to write asynchronous code that integrates cleanly with Unity's frame-based update cycle.

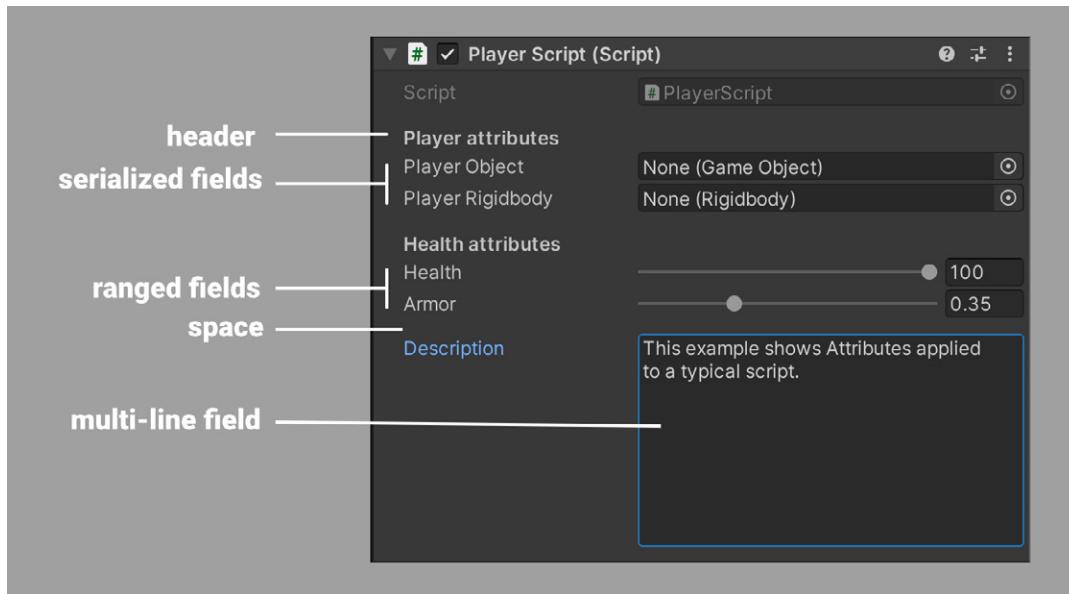
```
using UnityEngine;
using System.Threading.Tasks;

public class LogWithDelay : MonoBehaviour
{
    private async void Start()
    {
        Debug.Log("Message 1");
        await Task.Delay(1000); // Wait 1 second

        Debug.Log("Message 2");
        await Task.Delay(1000); // Wait another second
    }
}
```

## Enhance your Inspector window with attributes

Unity has a variety of attributes that can be placed above a class, property, or function to indicate special behavior such as creating headers, spacing, or ranged fields in the Inspector.



Attributes affecting the Inspector fields

C# contains attribute names within square brackets. These are some common attributes you can add to your scripts.

Attribute	Description	Example
SerializeField	This forces Unity to serialize a private field and makes it visible in the Inspector.	<code>[SerializeField] private GameObject m_myObject;</code>
Range	This attribute takes a float or int variable restricted to a specific range. The field appears as a slider in the Inspector.	<code>[Range(1,6)] public int IntegerRange;</code>  <code>[Range(0.2f, 0.8f)] public float m_floatRange;</code>
HideInInspector	This hides a variable in the Inspector while serializing it.	<code>[HideInInspector] public Int p = 5;</code>

RequireComponent	<p>This automatically adds required components as dependencies to avoid setup errors.</p> <p>Note: This attribute only checks the moment that the component is added to a GameObject.</p>	<pre>// PlayerScript requires the GameObject to have a Rigidbody [RequireComponent(typeof(Rigidbody))]  public class PlayerScript: MonoBehaviour {     private Rigidbody m_rBody;      void Start()     {         m_rBody =             GetComponent&lt;Rigidbody&gt;();     } }</pre>
Tooltip	This shows a tooltip when the user hovers a mouse over a field in the Inspector.	<pre>public class PlayerScript: MonoBehaviour {     [Tooltip("Health value between 0 and 100.")]     int m_health = 0; }</pre>
Space	This adds a small space between your fields (without any additional text) to create visual separation between your fields.	<pre>[Space(10)] // 10 pixel of spacing added int p = 5;</pre>
Header	This adds some bold text and spacing to help organize your variables in the Inspector. Only add this to the first field that you want to belong to the group.	<pre>public class PlayerScript: MonoBehaviour {     [Header("Health Settings")]     private int m_health = 0;     private int m_maxHealth = 100;      [Header("Shield Settings")]     private int m_shield = 0;     private int m_maxShield = 0; }</pre>

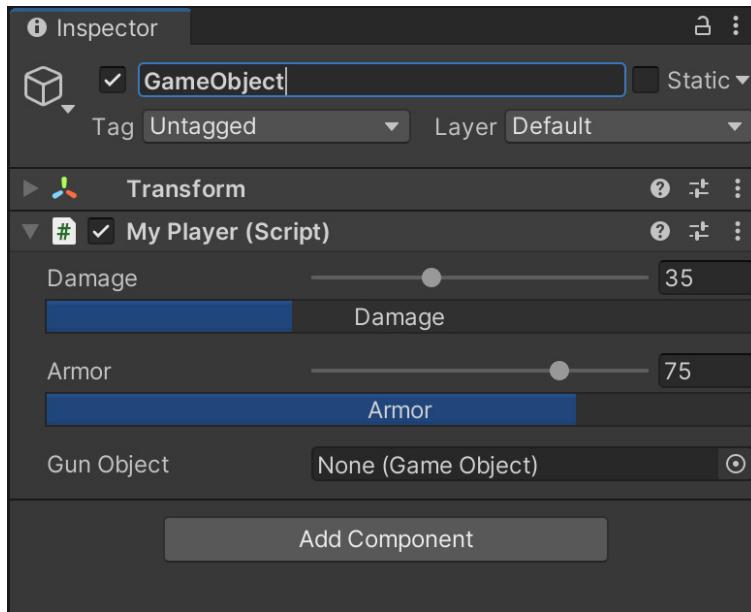
Multiline	<p>This makes the string editable with the multiline text field. Pass in an optional int to designate the number of lines.</p> <p>Tip: Use this for annotating scripts with notes to yourself or another user.</p>	<pre>[Multiline] public string textToEdit;  [Multiline(20)] public string m_moreTextToEdit;</pre>
SelectionBase	<p>This is useful for selecting an otherwise empty GameObject whose children may contain meshes. Add the attribute to any component on the base object. When picking objects in the Editor, the GameObject containing the [SelectionBase] attribute gets selected rather than the children.</p>	<pre>// add this to the base GameObject [SelectionBase] public class PlayerScript: Monobehaviour {</pre>
ColorUsage	<p>The <a href="#">[ColorUsage]</a> attribute lets you control what colors can be selected in a color field. You can enable HDR and/or disable the alpha channel, depending on the parameters.</p>	<pre>public ColorUsageAttribute(bool showAlpha, bool hdr, float minBrightness, float maxBrightness, float minExposureValue, float maxExposureValue);</pre>

RunOnce	Need to automatically run a function only once when your project starts? Using the static standard with the <a href="#">[RuntimeInitialization]</a> attribute is an easy way to do it. Use it Performing one-time project setup logic like a bootloader as demonstrated in the <a href="#">QuizU</a> sample.	public RuntimeInitializeOnLoadMethodAttribute(RuntimeInitializeLoadType loadType);
---------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This is just a small sample of the numerous attributes available. Do you want to [rename your variables without losing their values](#)? Or [invoke some logic without needing an empty GameObject](#)? You can even create your own [PropertyAttribute](#) to define custom attributes for your script variables. See the Scripting API for a complete list of [attributes](#).

## Create your own custom windows and Inspectors

One of Unity's most powerful features is its extensible Editor. We recommend that you use the [UI Toolkit](#) package to create Editor UIs such as custom windows and [custom Inspectors](#).



A custom Editor modifies how the MyPlayer script displays in the Inspector.

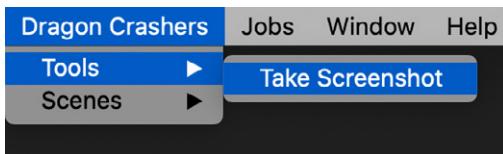
See [Creating user interfaces \(UI\)](#) for more detail on how to implement custom Editor scripts using either UI Toolkit or IMGUI. For a quick introduction to **UI Toolkit**, watch the [Getting Started with Editor Scripting](#) tutorial.

## Create custom menus

Unity includes a simple way to customize Editor menus and menu items, the **MenuItem** attribute. You can apply this to any static method in your scripts.

If you have functions for your project that you will use frequently, organize them into menu items. This allows you to build a basic user interface with just a single `PropertyAttribute` modifier.

```
1  using UnityEditor;
2  using UnityEngine;
3  using System;
4  using System.IO;
5
6  public class ScreenshotTaker
7  {
8      [MenuItem("Dragon Crashers/Tools/Take Screenshot")]
9      public static void TakeScreenshot()
10     {
11         if (!Directory.Exists("Screenshots"))
12             Directory.CreateDirectory("Screenshots");
13
14         ScreenCapture.CaptureScreenshot(string.Format("Screenshots/{0}.png",
15             DateTime.Now.ToString("yyyy-MM-dd HH.mm.ss")));
16     }
17 }
18
```



The `MenuItem` attribute creates a simple interface to attach the static method (`Take Screenshot`).

## Speed up the Enter Play time

When you enter Play mode, your project starts and runs as it would in a build. Any changes you make in the Editor during Play mode reset when you exit Play mode.

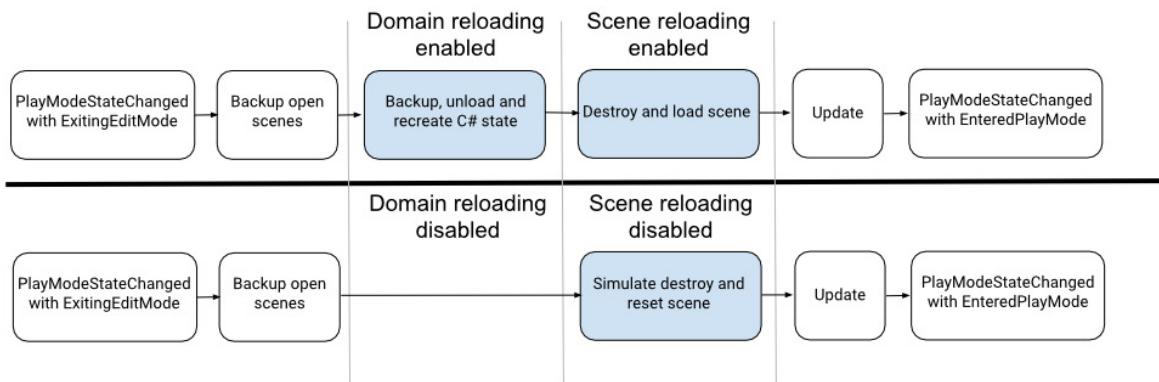
Unity performs two significant actions every time you enter Play mode:

- **Domain Reload:** Unity backs up, unloads, and recreates scripting states.
- **Scene Reload:** Unity destroys the Scene and loads it again.

These two actions take more and more time as your scripts and scenes become more complex.

If you don't plan on making any more script changes, the **Enter Play Mode Settings (Edit > Project Settings > Editor)** can save you a bit of compile time. Unity gives you the option to disable either Domain Reload, Scene Reload, or both. This can speed up entering and exiting Play mode.

Just remember that if you do plan on making further script changes, you need to reenable Domain Reload. Likewise, if you modify the Scene Hierarchy, you should reenable Scene Reload. Otherwise, unexpected behavior could result.



The effects of disabling the Reload Domain and Reload Scene settings.

## Customize the default Script templates

Do you find that you make the same changes every time you create a new script? Do you instinctively add a namespace or delete the update event function? Save yourself a few keystrokes and create consistency across the team by setting up the script template for your preferred starting point.

Every time you create a new script or shader, Unity uses a template stored in **%EDITOR\_PATH%\Data\Resources\ScriptTemplates**:

- Windows: *C:\Program Files\Unity\Editor\Data\Resources\ScriptTemplates*
- Mac: */Applications/Hub/Editor/[version]/Unity/Unity.app/Contents/Resources/ScriptTemplates*

There are also templates for shaders, other behavior scripts, and assembly definitions.

For project-specific script templates, create an *Assets/ScriptTemplates* folder. Copy the script templates into this folder to override the defaults.

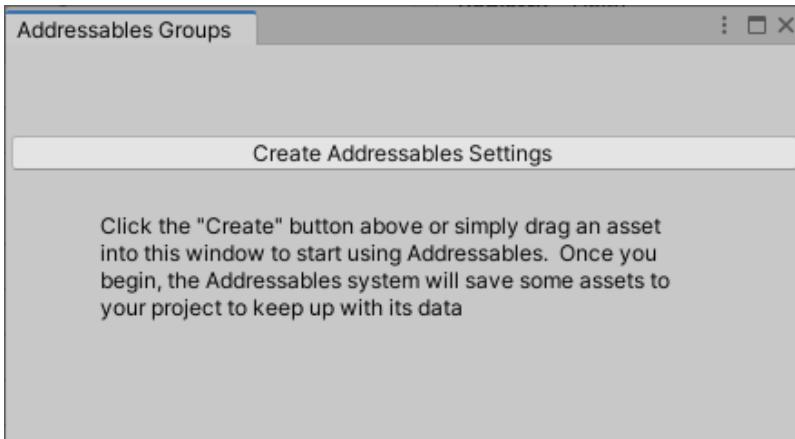
You can also modify the default script templates directly for all projects, but make sure that you back up the originals before making any changes.

## Distribute content to your players on demand with Addressables

Addressables and Asset Bundles are powerful tools to structure your game in logical blocks that can then be exported separately and added to the main executable whenever needed.



They are used to load and unload assets, to configure, build, and load asset bundles that you can then distribute to your players on demand. The Addressables system is built on top of Asset Bundles, taking care of dependencies resolution and bundle loading for you.



Before initializing the Addressables system in a Unity project

If you're new to Addressables, make sure you check out the [Get started page](#) in Unity Documentation.

Tips for effective asset management:

- Leverage Addressables from the start and ensure that every new asset is registered as an Addressable.
- Aim to group assets by how often they are loaded and used together, instead of organizing them by type. This will improve runtime memory usage, reduce boot time, and as a result improve game retention as well.
- Aim for small bundles because it leads to shorter dependency chains and lower runtime memory usage.

Read more in the [Effective asset management in Unity with Addressables](#) article.

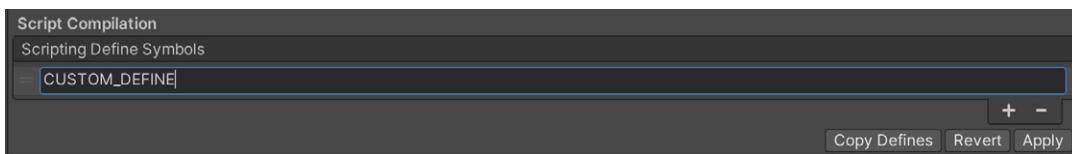
## Create conditionally compiled code with Preprocessor directives

The [platform-dependent compilation](#) feature allows you to conditionally compile and execute code based on the target platform, Unity version, or scripting backend.

This can be useful when you write cross-platform code, optimize for device-specific behavior, or manage version-specific APIs.



You can supply your own custom `#define` directives when testing in the Editor. Open the **Other Settings** panel of the [Player](#) settings, and navigate to **Scripting Define Symbols**.



Scripting Define Symbols in Script Compilation

## Use ScriptableObjects to separate data from logic

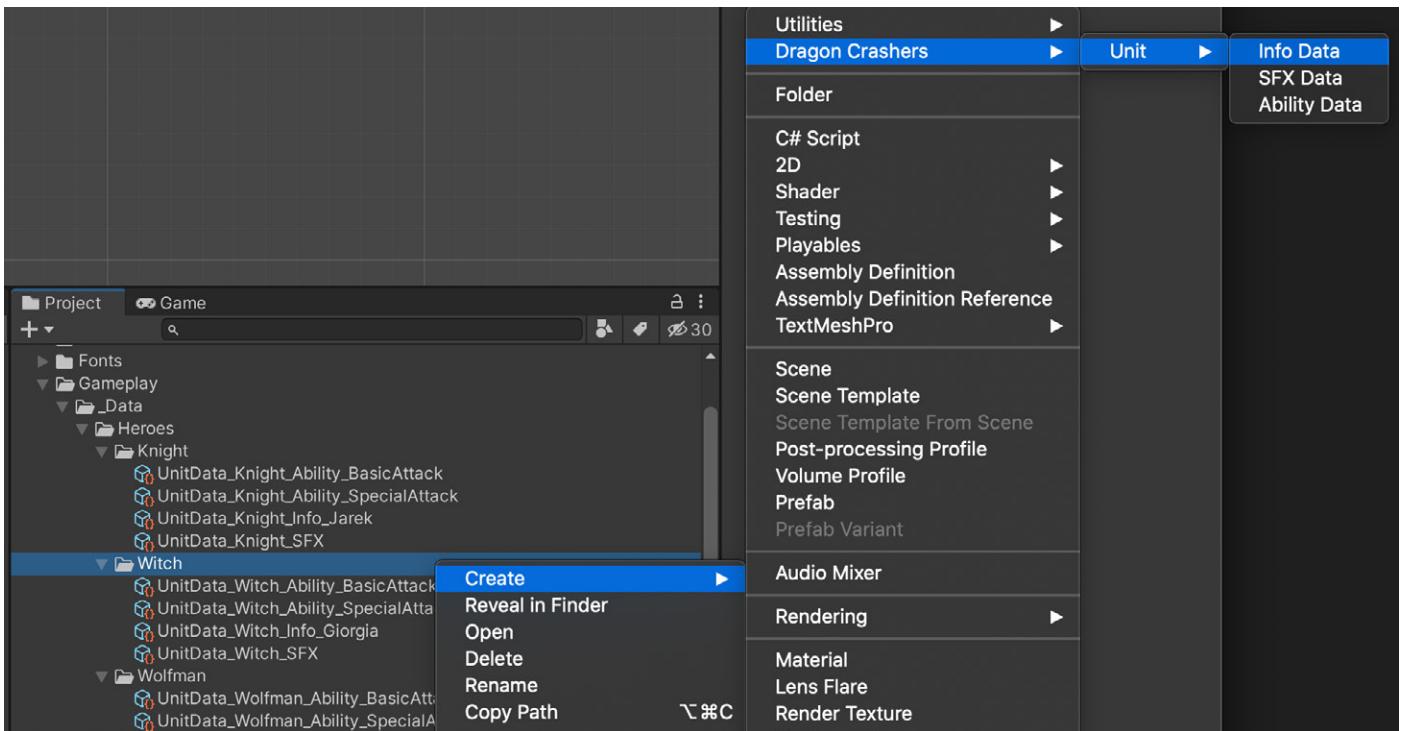
ScriptableObjects can help you promote clean coding practices by separating data from logic. This means it's easier to make changes without causing unintended side effects, which improves testability and modularity. They're also useful when you're collaborating with non-programmers like artists and designers; they can edit game data without touching code.

[Dragon Crashers](#) demonstrates a typical use case. A **UnitInfoData** class inherits from **ScriptableObject**. Each of its instances contains the unit's name, sprite, and health settings. This data remains constant over the course of gameplay, making it especially suitable for storage inside a ScriptableObject.

```
using UnityEngine;
namespace DragonCrashers
{
    [CreateAssetMenu(fileName = "Data_Unit_", menuName = "Dragon Crashers/Unit/Info Data", order = 1)]
    public class UnitInfoData : ScriptableObject
    {
        [Header("Display Infos")]
        public string unitName;
        public Sprite unitAvatar;

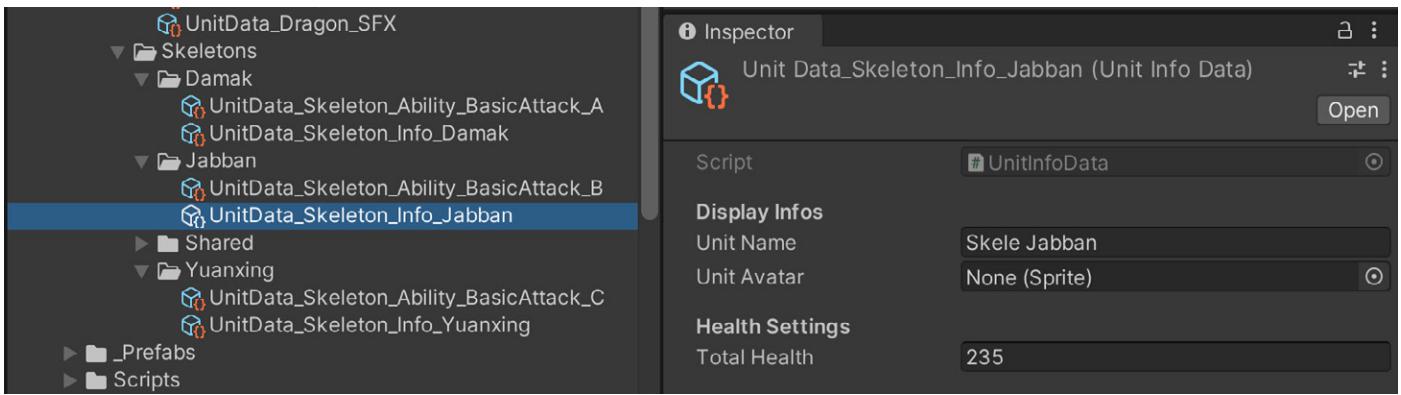
        [Header("Health Settings")]
        public int totalHealth;
    }
}
```

A ScriptableObject defines a data container object.



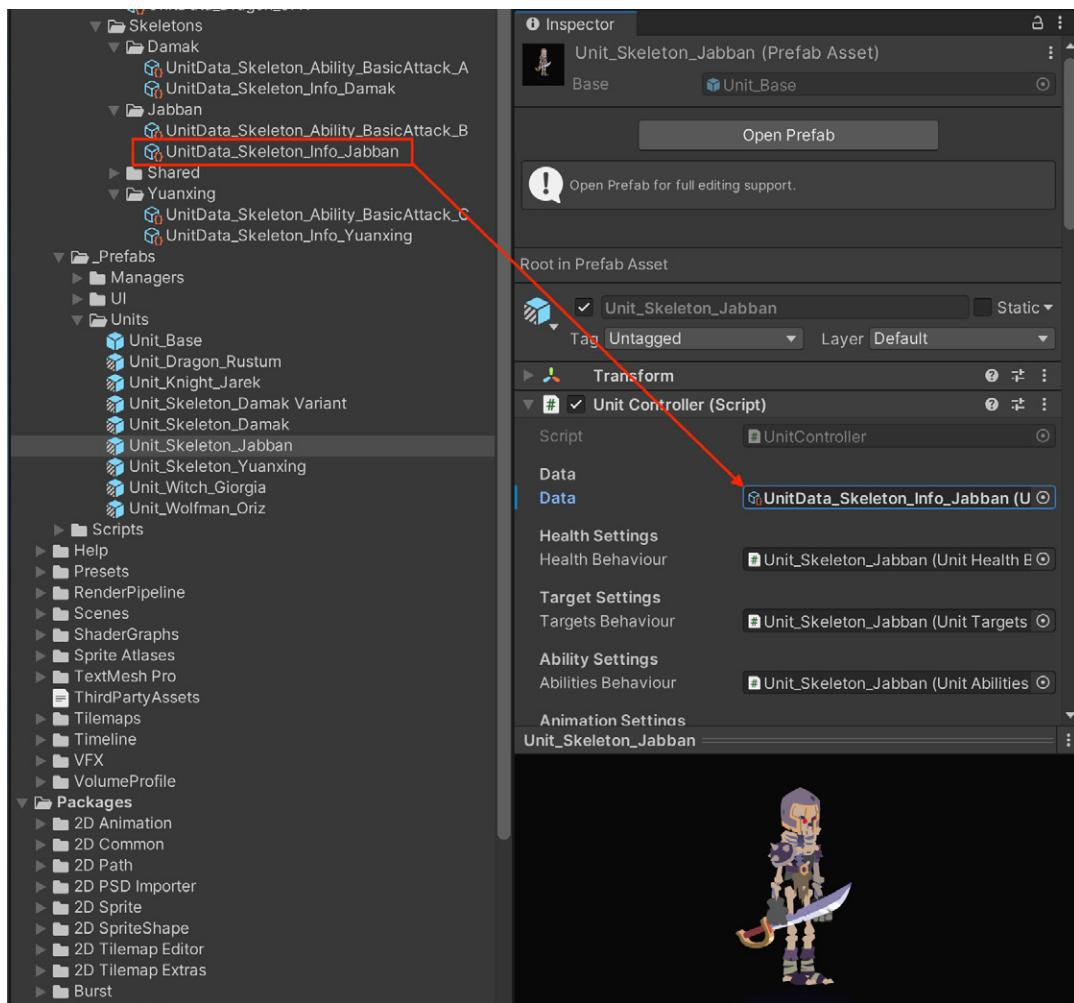
The `CreateAssetMenu` attribute generates a context menu item to help you generate a `ScriptableObject` asset. Each unit has additional `ScriptableObjects` for sound effects and special abilities.

With the assets created in the project window, you can fill in the correct values using the Inspector: Unit Name, Unity Avatar (Sprite), and Total Health.

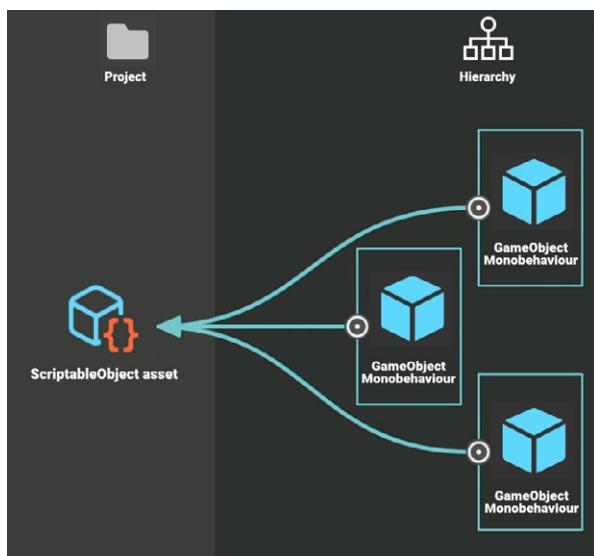


Use the Inspector to fill out values for the `ScriptableObject` asset. These values won't change during gameplay.

A `GameObject` (like the `UnitController` in this case) can then reference the `ScriptableObject` asset. If the scene suddenly fills with units, the data on the `ScriptableObject` asset does not duplicate, saving memory.



The Monobehaviour object (UnitController, shown above) refers to the ScriptableObject data asset in the project.



Save memory and stay organized with ScriptableObjects. Set static data and settings in the asset in the project just once, even if you have lots of GameObjects.



Even if you add a thousand instances of a prefab to your scene, they still refer to the same data stored in your asset. Setting up the set of values just once guarantees consistency.

As your game scales up with more unit types, simply create more ScriptableObject assets and swap them out appropriately. Maintain your gameplay data just by tweaking the centrally stored assets.

ScriptableObjects don't replace keeping [persistent data](#) for the rest of your application's save files, where the data may change during gameplay. It's a workflow suited more for storing your static gameplay settings and default values. Unlike parsing data from JSON or XML, reading a ScriptableObject asset won't generate garbage (and, as a bonus, it's faster).

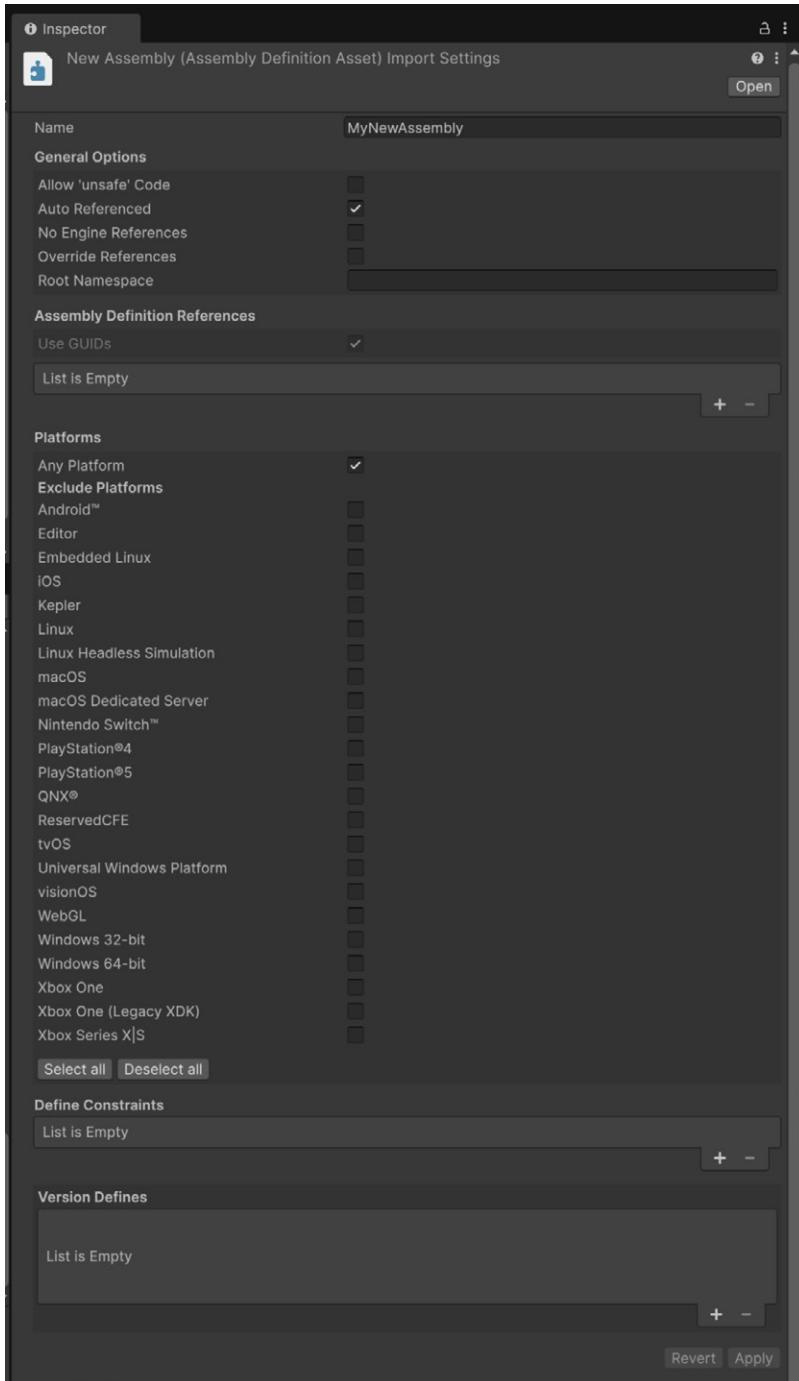
More resources on ScriptableObjects:

- [Create modular game architecture with ScriptableObjects in Unity](#)
- [ScriptableObjects Paddle Ball demo project](#)
- [ScriptableObject documentation](#)

## Promote script modularity with Assembly Definitions

An assembly is a compiled C# code library that groups related types and resources into a single, logical unit. In Unity, you can manage your assemblies using Assembly Definition Files (.asmdef). Organizing your scripts into custom assemblies promotes modularity and reusability while also decreasing compilation time. It prevents them from getting added to the default assemblies automatically and limits which other scripts they can access.

If you're cleaning up your projects with Assembly Definitions and your Editor scripts are put into your builds, then create an Assembly Definition in your Editor folder and set it to include only the Editor Platform.



Assembly Definitions settings in the Inspector



# Upgrade to the Input System

If you haven't upgraded already, make sure to check out the [Input System package](#) which is a newer, more flexible system than the Input Manager, which allows you to use any kind of Input Device to control your Unity content. It's referred to as "The Input System Package", or just "The Input System". It also supports rebindable controls, input action assets, and cleaner separation between input and gameplay logic giving you significant advantages over the legacy system.

To get started check out the following resources:

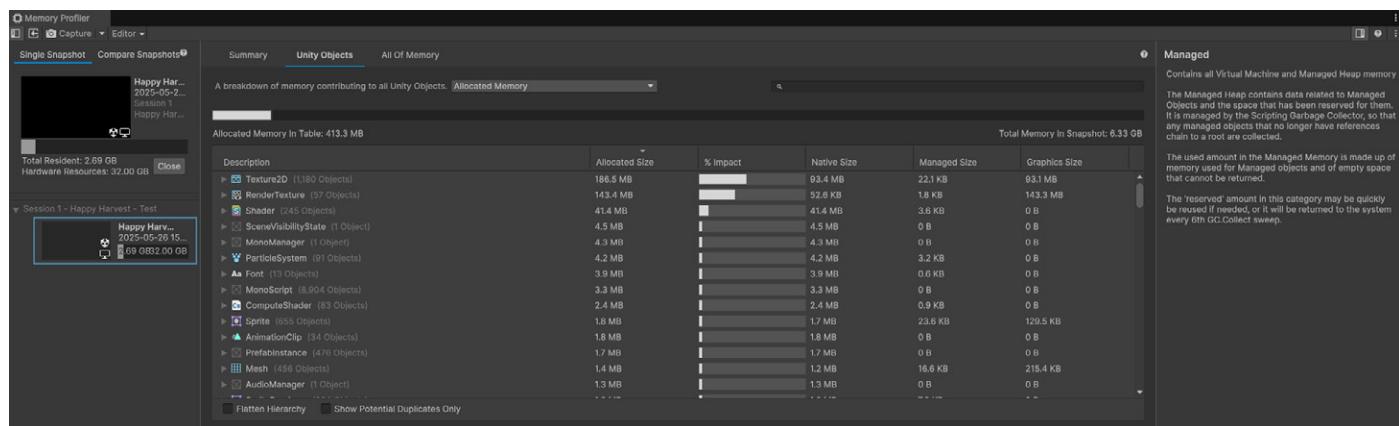
- [Prototype mobile games faster with the Input System in Unity 6 | Unite 2024](#)
- [Get up and running with the Input System](#)
- [Unity Input System 7-video tutorial series](#)

## Profiling tools

### Optimize your memory performance with Memory Profiler

The [Memory Profiler](#) lets you capture and analyze memory usage in your project to identify leaks, reduce memory spikes, and optimize runtime performance. Use it to take memory snapshots during key moments (e.g. scene loads, after long play sessions) and compare them to track down objects that aren't being released properly.

When you create resources in code make it a habit to name them in your Memory Profiler. Also, remember to release anything you allocated to avoid leaks.



A snapshot of the Memory Profiler



## Use the ProfilerMarker to pinpoint performance critical code

Instead of only seeing performance data aggregated under general markers like BehaviourUpdate, you can isolate and measure the exact execution time of your specific functions. Use the [ProfilerMarker](#) to mark up script code blocks as a way to increase the detail level of profiling runs. The information is then displayed in the CPU Profiler and can also be captured with the Unity Recorder. This provides you with a detailed breakdown of where time is spent in your specific code sections, making it easier to identify performance bottlenecks and optimize the code.

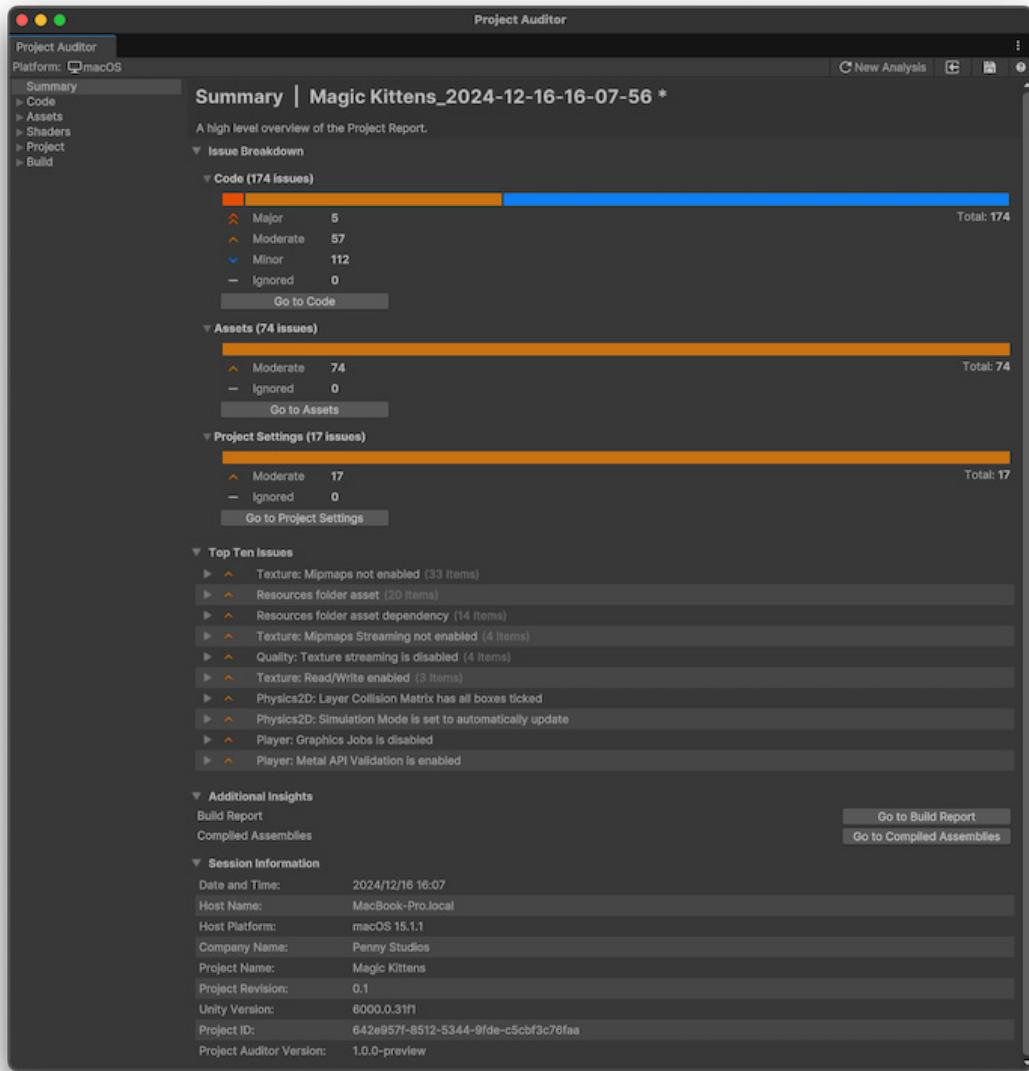
```
using UnityEngine;
using Unity.Profiling;
public class UnityTips : MonoBehaviour {
    private static readonly ProfileMarker SetupProfileMarker = new ProfileMarker("Setup");
    private static readonly ProfileMarker ExpensiveProfileMarker = new ProfileMarker("Expensive");

    public void UpdateLogic() {
        SetupProfileMarker.Begin();
        // Setup your performance heavy things, Initializers, and so on...
        SetupProfileMarker.End();
        using (ExpensiveProfileMarker.Auto()) { //This starts and ends automatically
            // More expensive things here.
        }
    }
}
```

## Get a performance audit on your project

Use the [Project Auditor](#) (introduced as a package in [Unity 6.1](#)) to analyze your projects performance, maintain best practices, and identify potential issues and bottlenecks.

With a few clicks you can scan your entire project and get a detailed report about inefficiencies, such as heavy scripting calls, unused assets, excessive entity counts, and more.



Project Auditor Summary view

The reports generated are categorized by severity, such as errors, warnings, and informational insights making it easy to focus on addressing errors and warnings first, such as over-allocation of memory or excessive garbage collection.

It's generally recommended to run the Project Auditor at key stages of development (e.g., before milestones, beta releases, final builds), so that you can catch performance bottlenecks, unused assets, or outdated code early, preventing problems from growing larger as your project scales.

You can customize the Project Auditor using custom rules and filters. For example, exclude certain scripts or assets from analysis that are meant to be unused and experimental, or make specific rules for your build targets, resolution, text compression, or other project settings to ensure they are optimized for your "budgets".

# Animation curves

## Control interpolation with the custom lerp function

By default, `Mathf.Lerp(a, b, t)` clamps the interpolation factor `t` between 0 and 1, meaning it won't return values outside the range between `a` and `b`. If you need values to overshoot (`t > 1`) or undershoot (`t < 0`), use `Mathf.LerpUnclamped(a, b, t)` instead. This gives you full control over the interpolation and allows for effects like extrapolation or momentum-based motion.

```
using UnityEngine;

public class LerpComparison : MonoBehaviour
{
    [SerializeField] private float start = 0f;
    [SerializeField] private float end = 10f;
    [SerializeField] private float t = 1.5f;

    private void Start()
    {
        // Clamps t to [0, 1]
        float clamped = Mathf.Lerp(start, end, t);
        // Uses full t value
        float unclamped = Mathf.LerpUnclamped(start, end, t);

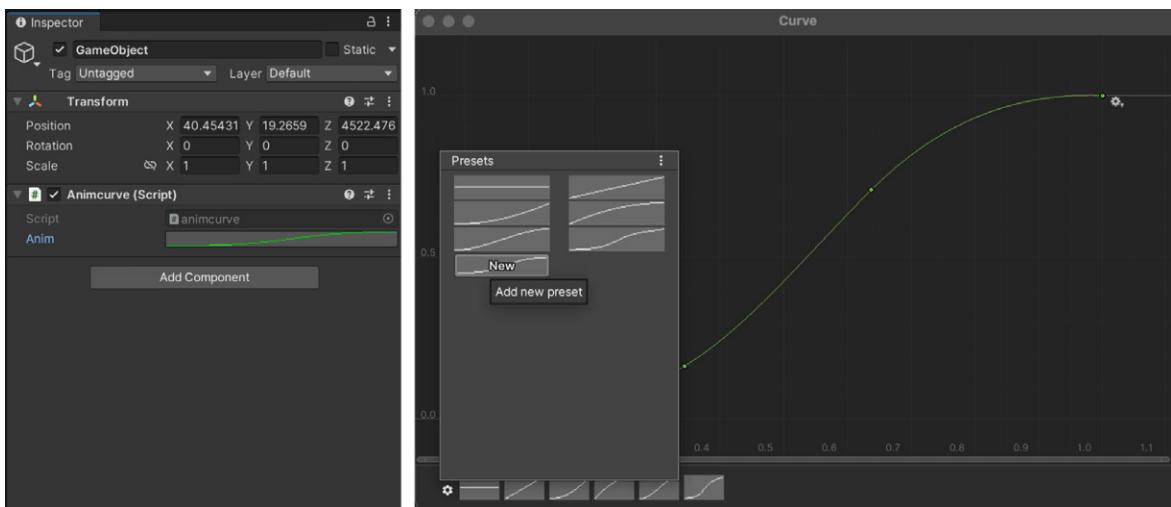
        // Outputs 10
        Debug.Log($"Mathf.Lerp: {clamped} (t = {t})");
        // Outputs 15
        Debug.Log($"Mathf.LerpUnclamped: {unclamped} (t = {t})");
    }
}
```

An example of using custom lerp in Unity

## Use AnimationCurve for more than just animation

AnimationCurves are typically used to animate the value of [component](#) properties in [AnimationClip](#), but you can use them to dynamically drive any float value.

Animation Curves can be edited within the Inspector either as public variables, or when serialized. You can save, export, or load them in Edit mode or at runtime. Editable [tangents](#) make it possible to control the shape of the curve between the keys.



An Animation Curve property in the Inspector: Clicking on it opens the Curve Editor, where you can adjust the curve and save it into your own library by selecting the cog icon.

Check out the blog post [Animation Curves, the ultimate design lever](#) for more practical tips and examples of using AnimationCurves in your project.

## Reduce processing power with object pooling

**Object pooling** is a design pattern that can enhance performance optimization by reducing the processing power required of the CPU to run repetitive create and destroy calls. Instead, with object pooling, existing GameObjects can be reused over and over.

How you use object pools will vary by application. A good general rule is to profile your code every time you instantiate a large number of objects, since you run the risk of causing a GC spike.

If you detect significant spikes that put your gameplay at risk of stuttering, consider using an object pool. Just remember that object pooling can add more complexity to your codebase due to the need to manage the multiple life cycles of the pools. Additionally, you may also end up reserving memory your gameplay doesn't necessarily need by creating too many premature pools.

Learn more about object pooling from the e-book [Level up your code with design patterns and SOLID](#) and its [companion sample project](#) that's available for free from the Unity Asset Store.

## More resources

- [Use a C# style guide for clean and scalable game code \(Unity 6 edition\)](#)
- [The Unity game designer playbook](#)
- [Create modular game architecture in Unity with ScriptableObjects](#)
- [Effective asset management in Unity with Addressables](#)
- [What you need to know about Build Profiles in Unity 6](#)

# IDEs and debugging

## Pause execution with Debug.Break

If you want to check certain values in the Inspector when the application is difficult to pause manually you can use `Debug.Break` to pause the execution in your code.

## Save an if statement with Debug.Assert

`Debug.Assert` checks a condition at runtime and logs an error message to the console if the condition you entered returns false. Unlike `Debug.Log`, which always runs, assertions are meant to flag unexpected states and can be more effective for validating assumptions in your code.

```
// You can save the if statement in release...
if (health > maxhealth)
{
    Debug.LogError("Current health is greater than maxhealth!", this);
}
//... by using an assertion
Debug.Assert(health < maxhealth, "Current health is greater than max-
health!", this);
```



## Use Debug.Log with context

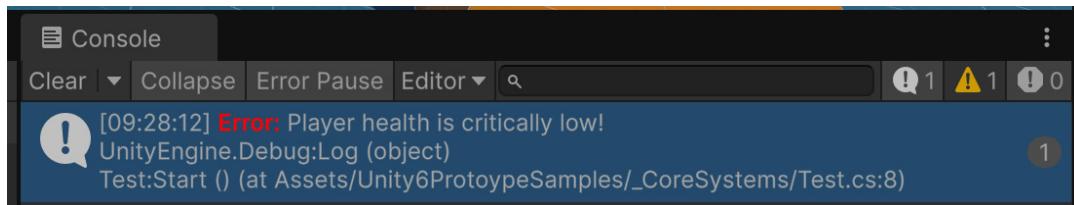
When using **Debug.Log**, you can pass in an object (typically a `GameObject` or component) as a second parameter. This links the log message to that object in the Console, so when you click the message, Unity highlights the associated object in the Hierarchy.

```
Debug.Log("Enemy spawned", gameObject);
```

## Make important messages stand out with Rich Text

Unity's Console supports a subset of **Rich Text** (like `<b>`, `<i>`, `<color>`, etc.) in **Debug.Log** messages. You can use these to highlight, color-code, or emphasize parts of your log output, making important messages stand out during development.

```
Debug.Log("<b><color=red>Error:</color></b> Player health is critically low!");
```



## Strip Debug Log from your builds

Unity does not strip the **Debug** logging APIs from non-development builds automatically. Wrap your **Debug Log** calls in custom methods and decorate them with the **[Conditional]** attribute.

Removing the corresponding **Scripting Define Symbol** from the Player Settings compiles out the Debug Logs all at once. This is identical to wrapping them in `#if... #endif` preprocessor blocks.

See this [General Optimizations](#) guide for an example.

## Troubleshoot Physics by visualizing your raycasting

Troubleshooting physics? **Debug.DrawLine** and **Debug.DrawRay** can help you visualize raycasting by drawing a line between specified start and end points.

```
void Start()
{
    // draw a 5-unit white line from the origin for 2.5 seconds
    Debug.DrawLine(Vector3.zero, new Vector3(5, 0, 0), Color.
white, 2.5f);
}
```

## Use Debug.isDebugEnabled for development builds

Use [Debug.isDebugEnabled](#) to check if the application is running as a Development Build. This allows you to conditionally execute debug-only code, such as logging, diagnostics, or test utilities, without affecting release builds.

```
if (Debug.isDebugEnabled)
{
    Debug.Log("Running in Development Build mode.");
}
```

## Set Application.SetStackTraceLogType

Use [Application.SetStackTraceLogType](#) or the equivalent checkboxes in PlayerSettings to decide which kinds of log messages should include stack traces. Stack traces can be useful, but they are slow and generate garbage.

Stack Trace*	None	ScriptOnly	Full
Log Type			
Error	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Warning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Log	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Exception	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Stack Trace in PlayerSettings in the Editor window

## Customize your log

The [Logger API](#) allows you to create and configure custom Logger instances for more advanced or modular logging. While you can use the built-in [Debug.unityLogger](#), creating your own logger gives you finer control over log formatting, filtering, and output channels:

```
var logger = new Logger(Debug.unityLogger.logHandler);
logger.Log(LogType.Log, "Custom log message");
```

## Speed up your workflows with Visual Code shortcuts

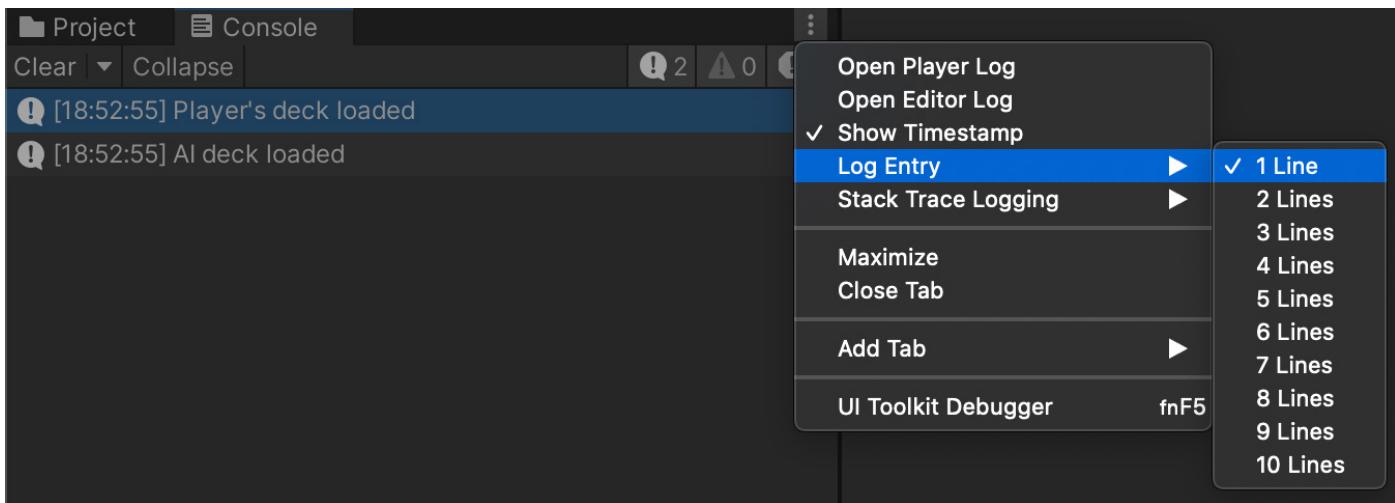
If you use Visual Code as the IDE of choice, these [shortcuts](#) may prove useful:

- [Windows](#)
- [Mac](#)



## Configure your Console Log Entry for improved readability

By default, the Console Log Entry shows two lines. For improved readability, you can configure this to be more streamlined with one or multiple lines depending on your preferences (see image below).



The Console Log Entry options allows you to set the number of lines in your log.

## More resources

- [How to debug game code with Roslyn Analyzers](#)
- [How to run automated tests for your games with the Unity Test Framework](#)
- [Speed up your debugging workflow with Microsoft Visual Studio Code](#)
- [How to debug your code with Microsoft Visual Studio 2022](#)
- [Testing and quality assurance tips for Unity projects](#)

# DevOps workflows

## Unity Version Control tips

Unity Version Control (UVCS) is a scalable, engine-agnostic [version control](#) and [source code management](#) tool for game development studios of all sizes.

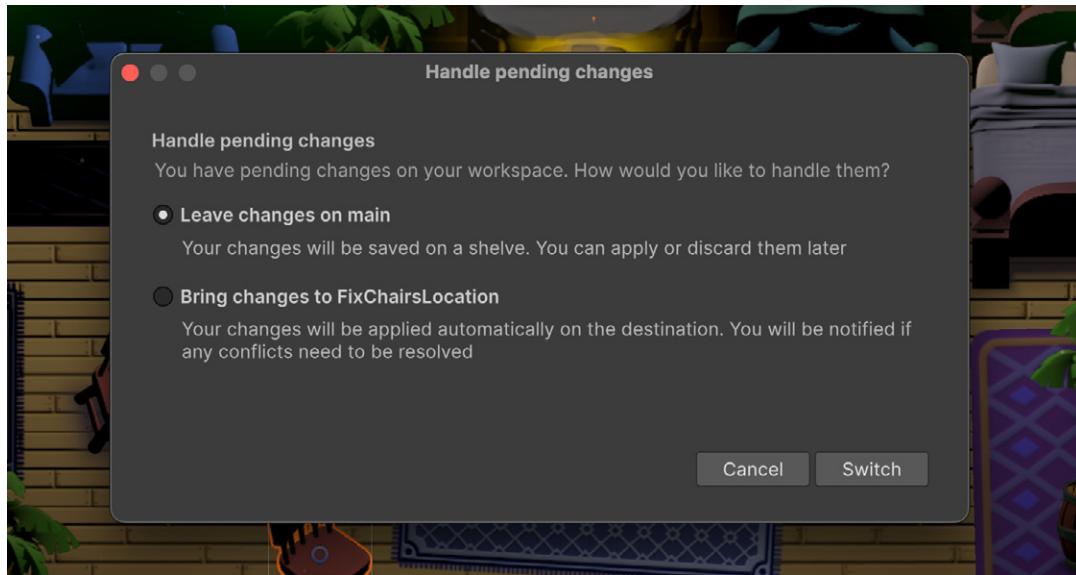
If you're already using Unity Version Control with Unity 6, here are some of the latest updates and tips that your team could use in your day-to-day work.

### **Work on multiple branches in parallel, without losing your work, with Shelve and Switch**

Starting with [UVCS package version 2.7.1](#), you can use shelvesets to temporarily save your current changes when switching between branches, to make sure your unfinished work is safely stored and easily accessible.

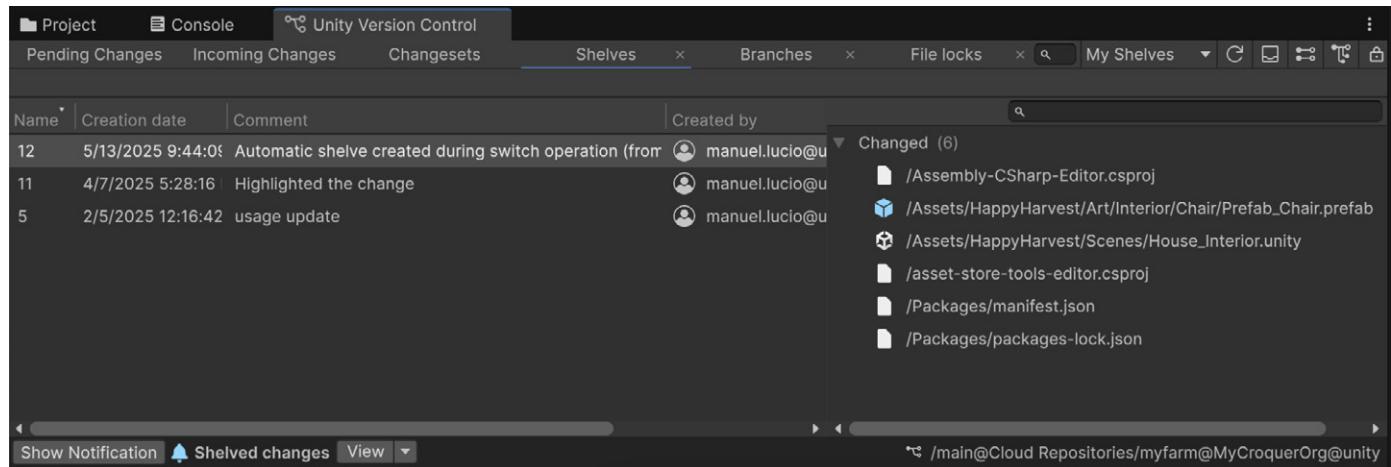


In your Unity Version Control window, right-click the branch you'd like to switch to and select **Switch workspace to this branch**.



The **Handle pending changes** window

Then choose whether you want to carry your changes or leave them behind temporarily. The **Shelves** option provides great flexibility by allowing you to revisit your changes, re-apply them, and share them with your team.



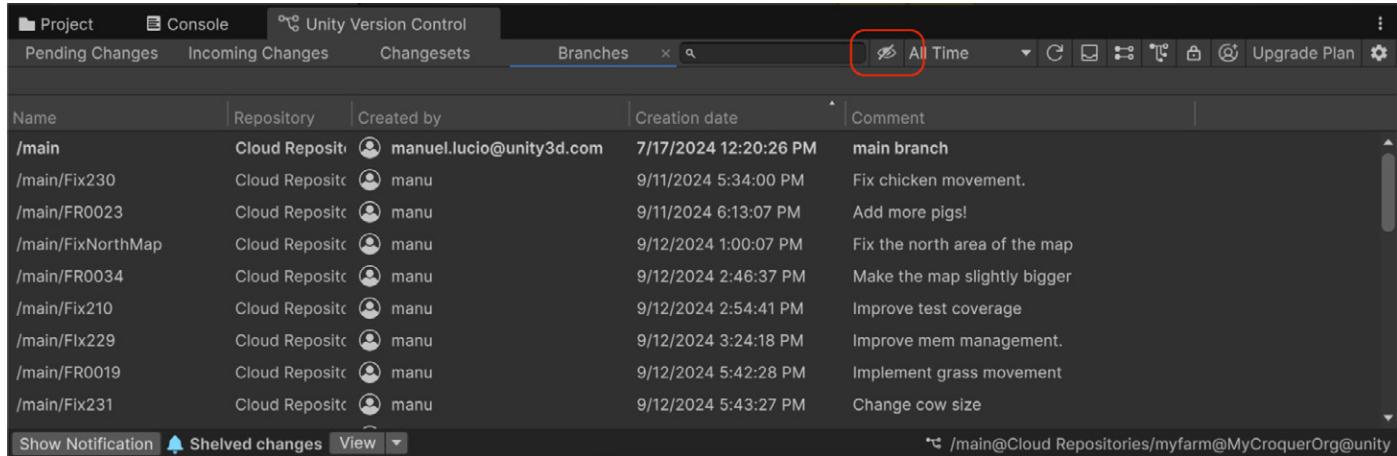
The Shelves tab in the Unity Version Control window



## Declutter your branches view with the Hide/Unhide feature

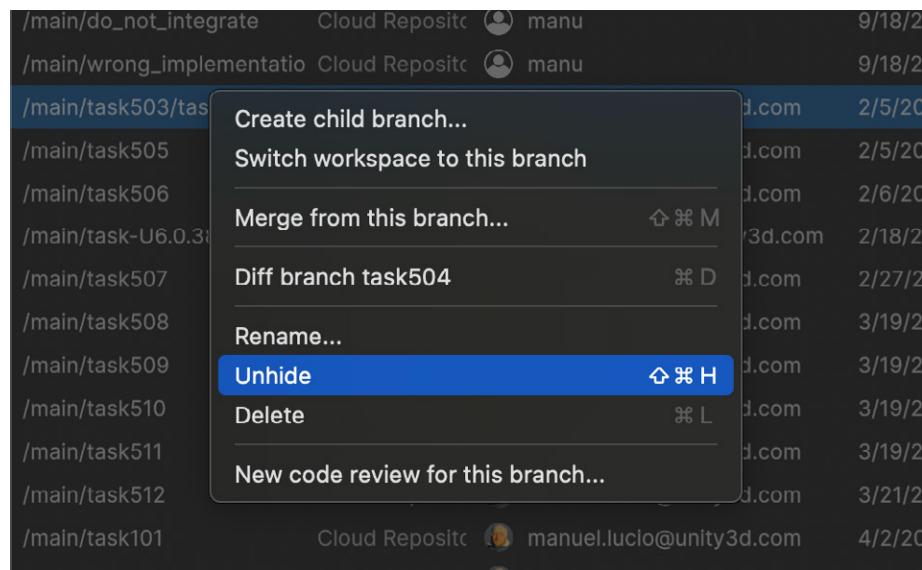
When your project's branches view becomes cluttered, you can use the global **Hide/Unhide** feature to hide branches directly from the context menu, making them invisible for your entire team across all UVCS platforms (Unity plugin, Unity Dashboard, or the Desktop application).

You can make Hidden branches visible again by using the “strikethrough eye” icon or from the context menu of the Hidden branches list (see images below).



The screenshot shows the Unity Version Control interface with the 'Branches' tab selected. The 'All Time' filter button is highlighted with a red circle. The interface displays a list of branches with their names, repository, creator, creation date, and a brief comment. The 'Comment' column includes entries like 'main branch', 'Fix chicken movement.', 'Add more pigs!', etc.

The strikethrough eye icon in Unity Version Control



The screenshot shows a context menu for a hidden branch named '/main/task503/task503'. The menu includes options like 'Create child branch...', 'Switch workspace to this branch', 'Merge from this branch...', 'Diff branch task504', 'Rename...', 'Unhide' (which is highlighted in blue), 'Delete', and 'New code review for this branch...'. The menu is displayed over a list of branches, with the 'Unhide' option being the focal point.

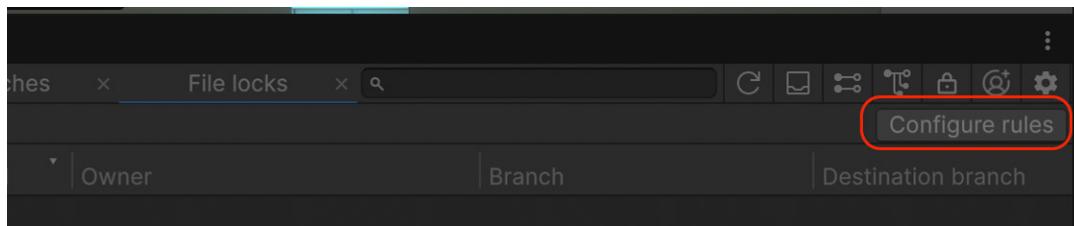
The “Unhide” option in the branch context menu

## Avoid losing asset data with the exclusive lock option

The UVCS plugin for the Unity Editor allows you to lock an asset to prevent others from modifying it. This helps the team to avoid losing any work-in-progress data and removes the merge operation for files that can't be merged.

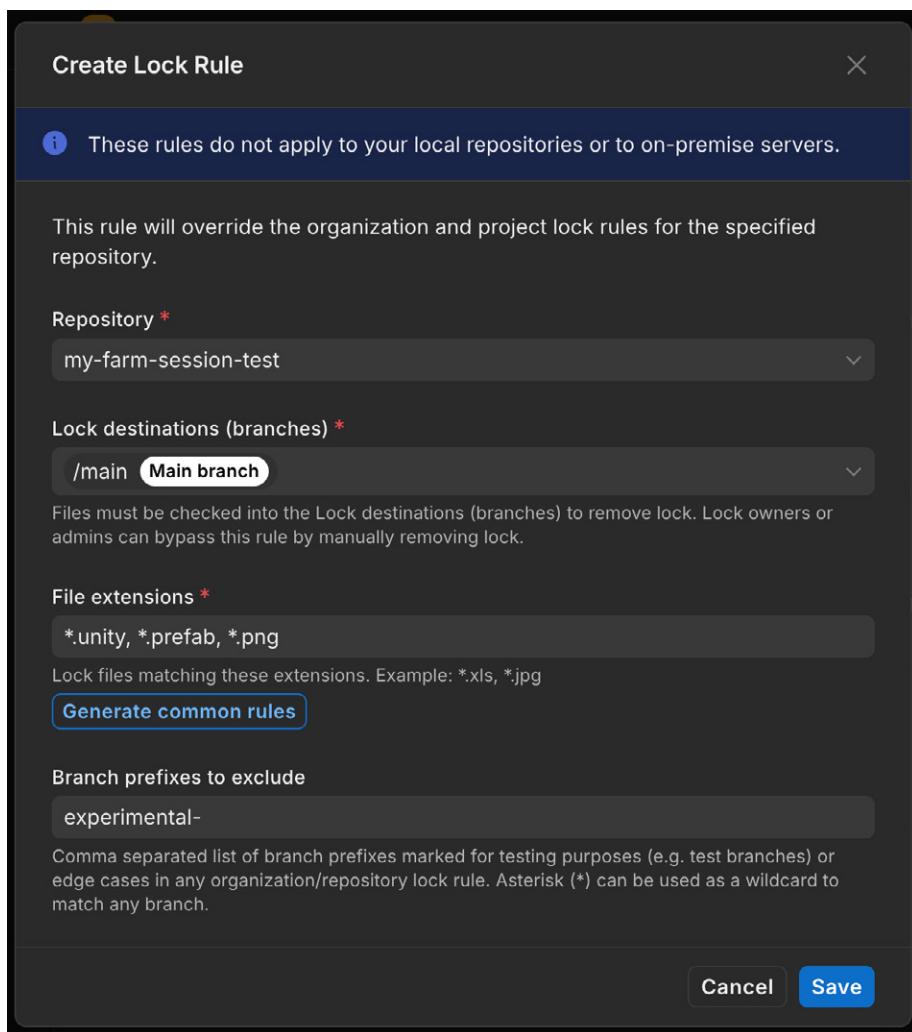


To enable the lock support go to **Configure rules** in the **File locks** tab.



The Configure rules option in the File locks tab

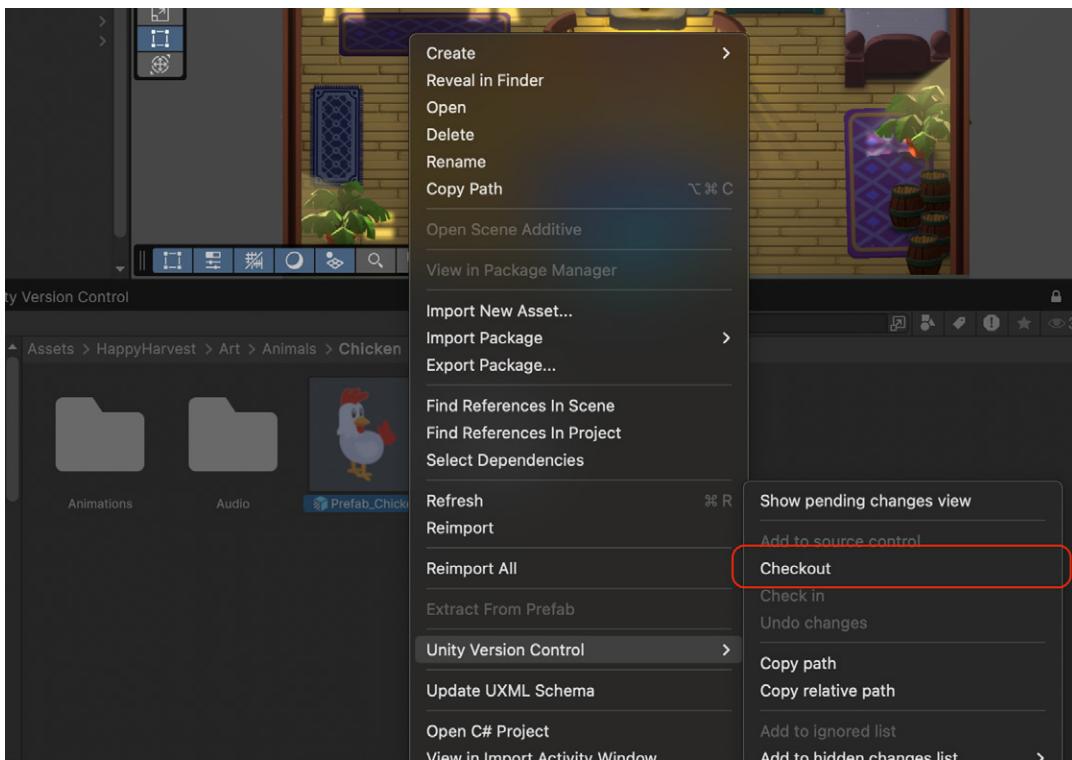
Then configure the repository, the destination branch (usually the main branch), and the file extensions you want in order to enable the lock support.



The Create Lock Rule in Unity Version Control



To avoid conflicts, make sure to check out the assets before making changes.



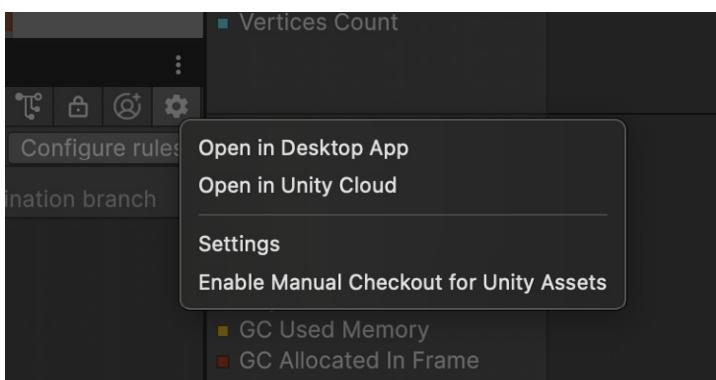
The Checkout option from the Unity Version Control context menu

If you want to learn more about the smart locks system check out the [Smart Locks](#) page.

## Protect your changes with “Enable manual checkout for Unity Assets”

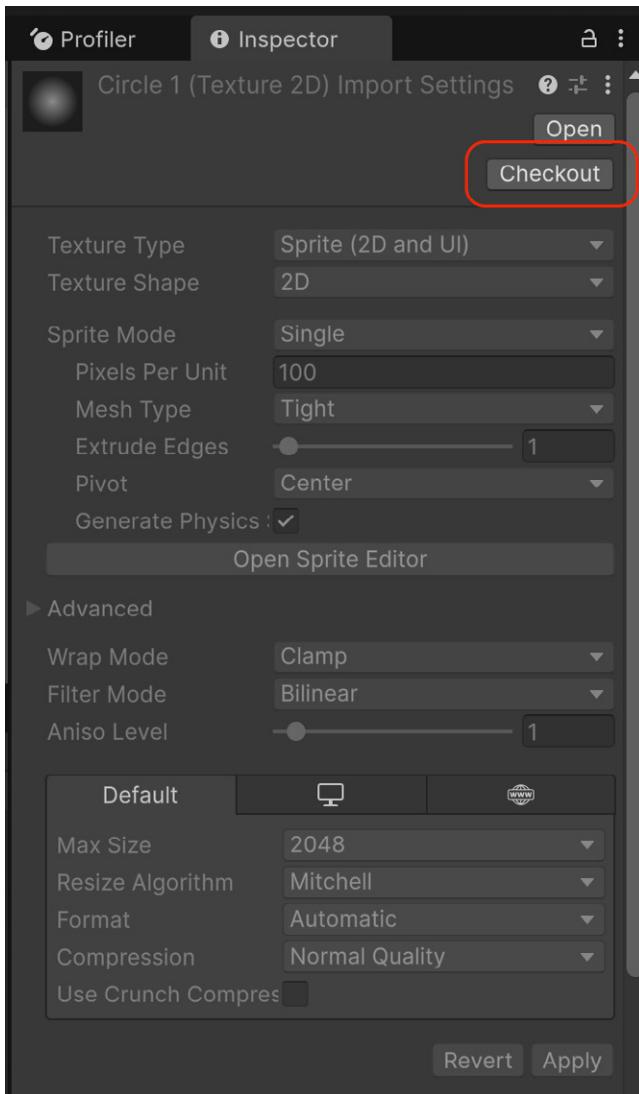
When working with unmergeable assets, the UVCS Unity plugin will automatically check out a file after you modify and save it. This workflow leaves room for someone else to lock the same file without your changes.

To avoid this from happening, go to the UVCS plugin settings via clicking on the **gear** icon, and select the option **Enable manual checkout for Unity Assets**.



The Enable Manual Checkout for Unity Assets option

This preference makes the asset read-only until it's explicitly checked out. When you click the **Checkout** option in the Inspector, your file becomes editable and you'll get the exclusive lock to change it.



The Checkout option in the Inspector

## Asset Manager

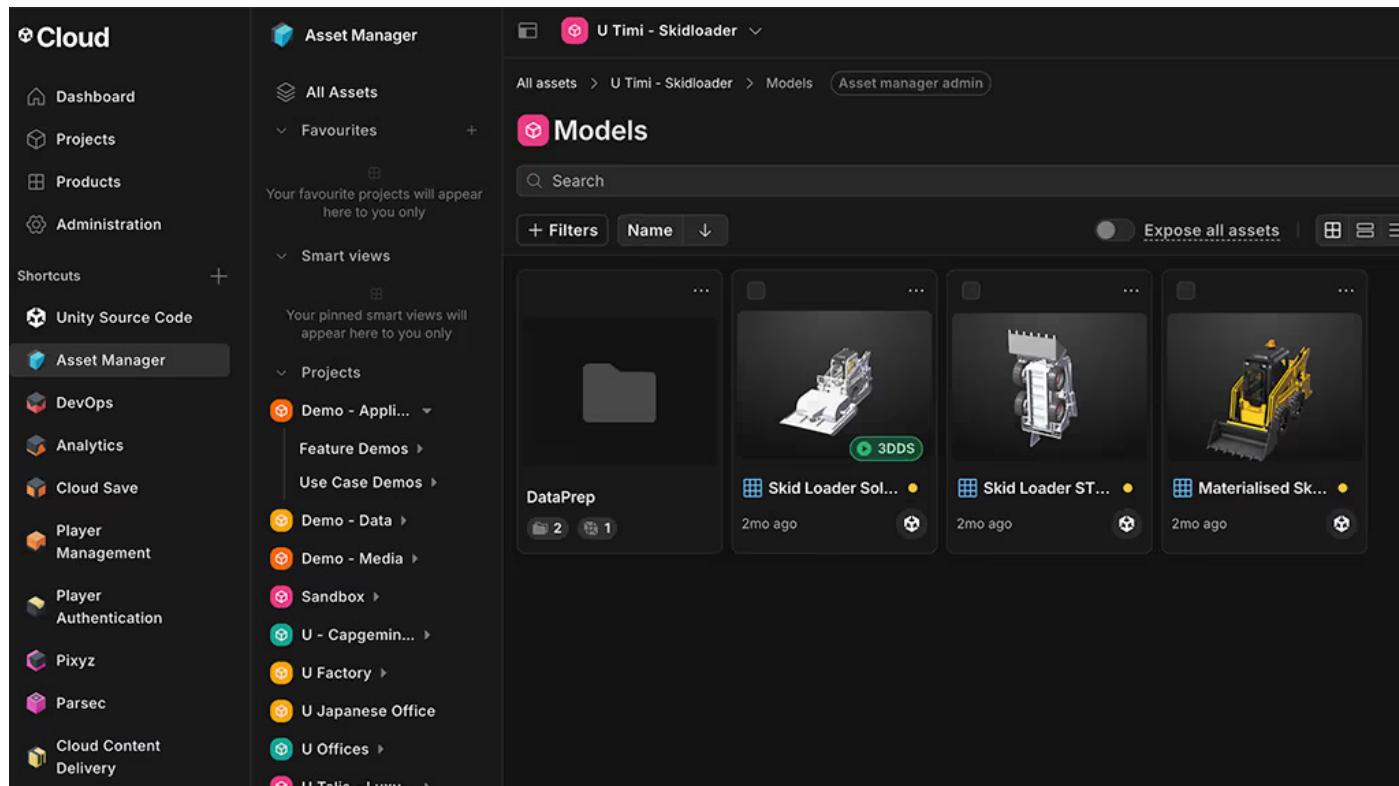
If you're looking for a digital asset management system to manage your assets, such as models, textures, audio files, etc., then check out [Unity's Asset Manager](#). It supports [over 70 file formats](#) to help teams centralize, organize, discover, and use assets seamlessly across projects.

Use the Asset Manager via the web interface or through the Editor integration, depending on your needs.

## Manage, view, and organize your assets in your preferred browser

The web interface enables asynchronous, speedy collaboration among all team members and stakeholders involved in your projects. Through the web interface, you can create and manage collections, move assets between collections or projects, and track changes with version history.

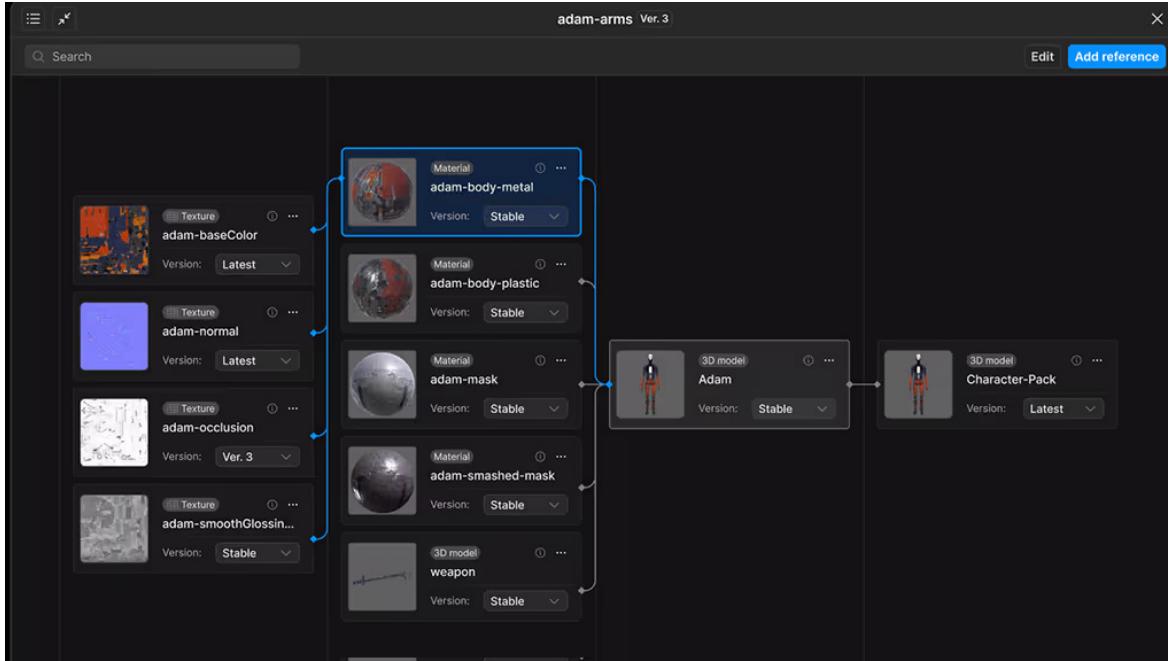
You can easily upload single or multiple files while adding relevant collections and tags, making it straightforward to structure your assets and collaborate with your team to review and improve them. You can enrich assets with custom metadata, where admins, owners, and managers can define new metadata fields – like text, Boolean, and numeric field types – while all users can add tags, including AI-suggested tags, for overall better organization.



The screenshot shows the Unity Asset Manager interface within a web browser. The left sidebar, titled 'Cloud', includes links for Dashboard, Projects, Products, Administration, Unity Source Code, Asset Manager (which is selected and highlighted in blue), DevOps, Analytics, Cloud Save, Player Management, Player Authentication, Pixyz, Parsec, and Cloud Content Delivery. The main content area is titled 'Asset Manager' and shows a project named 'U Timi - Skidloader'. The 'Models' section displays four asset cards: 'DataPrep' (a folder icon), 'Skid Loader Sol...' (a 3D model of a skid-steer loader with a '3DDS' badge), 'Skid Loader ST...' (another 3D model of a skid-steer loader), and 'Materialised Sk...' (a 3D model of a skid-steer loader). Each card includes a timestamp ('2mo ago') and a gear icon for settings. The top navigation bar shows 'All assets > U Timi - Skidloader > Models' and 'Asset manager admin'.

Working with assets in the web interface of the Asset Manager

The [Dependency Viewer](#) reveals asset relationships at a glance, showing what each asset needs and what depends on it. Both upstream and downstream dependencies are available in the Dependency Viewer.

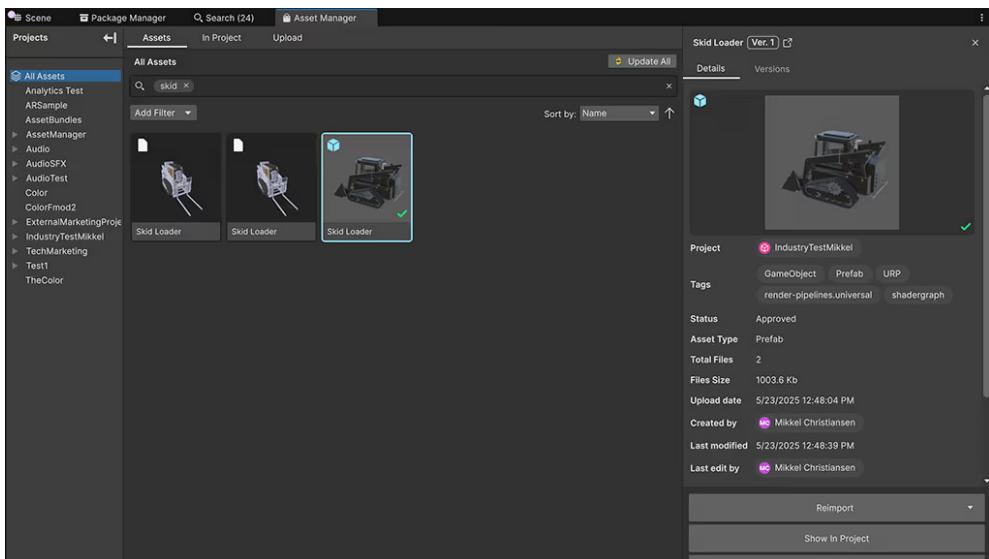


An example of asset dependencies in the Dependency Viewer

## Manage assets without any disruptions in the Editor

The Unity Asset Manager package integrates with the Unity Editor, allowing you to manage assets without disrupting your workflow. After installing it, you can upload assets to, and import them from, the Unity Cloud, as well as access assets from all your projects through the Editor's search interface.

The in-Editor solution also makes it easier to reuse prefabs, scripts, and other cross-project components, speeding up iteration time and enabling teams to focus on better workflows and optimization.



Accessing the Asset Manager from the Unity Editor



To help you locate specific assets efficiently, make sure to filter by creator, status, type, update time or import status. The plugin automatically detects dependencies across assets. For example, if multiple prefabs use the same material, only one instance of the material is uploaded. This ensures optimized storage and prevents unnecessary duplication.

Learn more about the Unity Asset Manager from the following resources:

- Video tutorial: [A quick guide to the Asset Manager in Unity](#)
- Unity Learn: [Unity Asset Manager: Quick start guide](#)
- Article: [Introduction to Asset Manager transfer methods in Unity](#)

## Unity Build Automation

Unity DevOps Build Automation, formerly known as Cloud Build, is a turnkey continuous integration and deployment (CI/CD) solution that can execute and deploy builds in the cloud. It empowers you to build and release more often for higher-quality, more innovative releases.

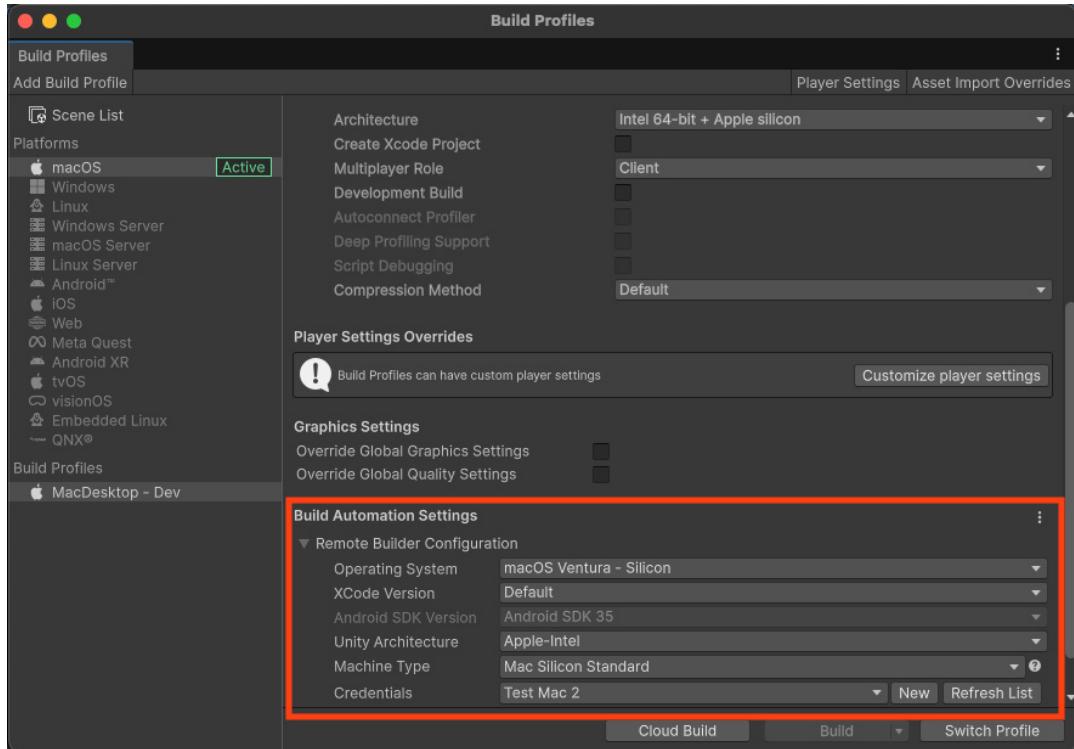
Build Automation can be connected to any source control repository in a matter of minutes and set up to execute builds manually or automatically once any change is committed to version control. Build Automation also supports multiple platforms including iOS, Android, Windows, and Unity Web, eliminating the need to maintain unique build infrastructure for every platform.

As of [Unity 6.1](#), Build Automation is now fully integrated with the Editor and you can run quick validation builds from local branches with your build automation settings.

### Share and reuse build settings across your teams

You can install the Build Automation package from the Build Profiles window or from the Package Manager.

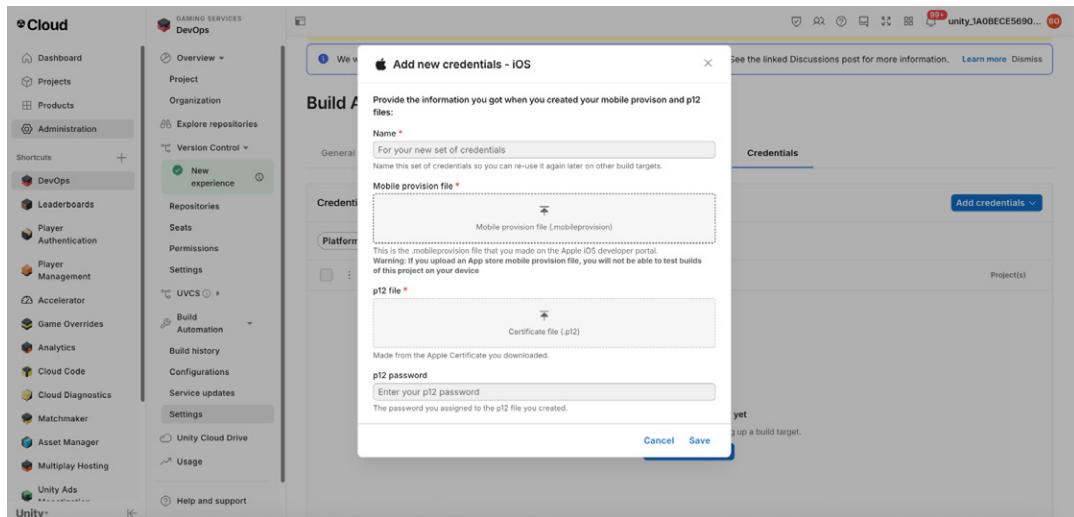
Once you install the package, a new section labeled **Build Automation Settings** will appear under your selected profile. These settings allow you to define how Unity automates your builds.



The Build Automation Settings section in your Build Profiles window

For Android, iOS, and other platforms that require credentials, you'll have to configure the credentials in the Unity Dashboard. To create new credentials, click on the **New** button next to the **Credentials** drop-down.

This opens a new window in the Build Automation dashboard where you can create a new set of credentials. To learn more about credentials and app signing make sure to check out the [Unity Build Automation documentation](#).



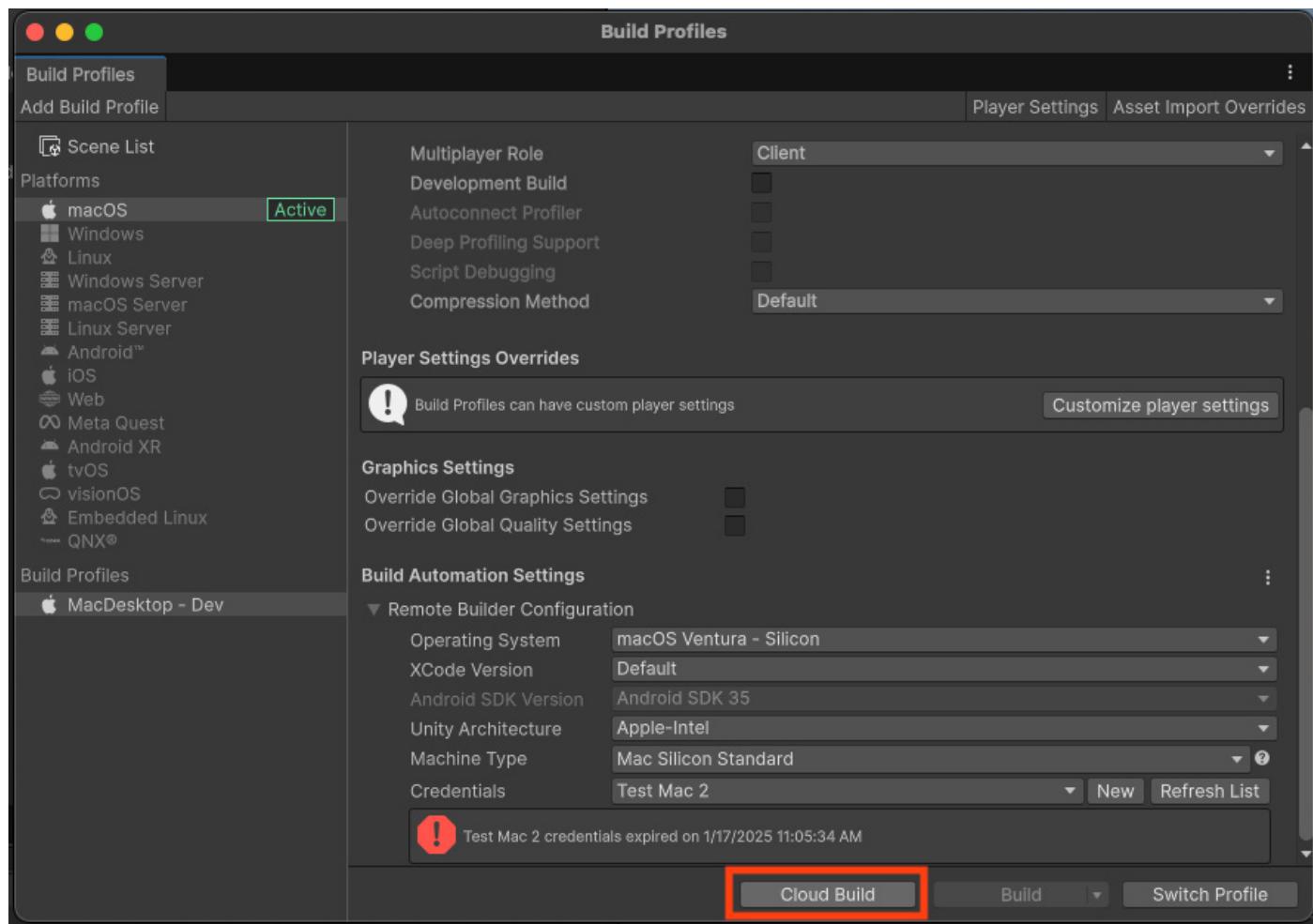
Credentials configurations window in the Unity Dashboard



Once you save your credentials, go back to the Build Profiles window and click on **Refresh list**. You should see the credentials in the drop-down list. The build settings are automatically saved to your build profile, which means you can reuse and share across your team.

## Test work in progress with Shelve and Build

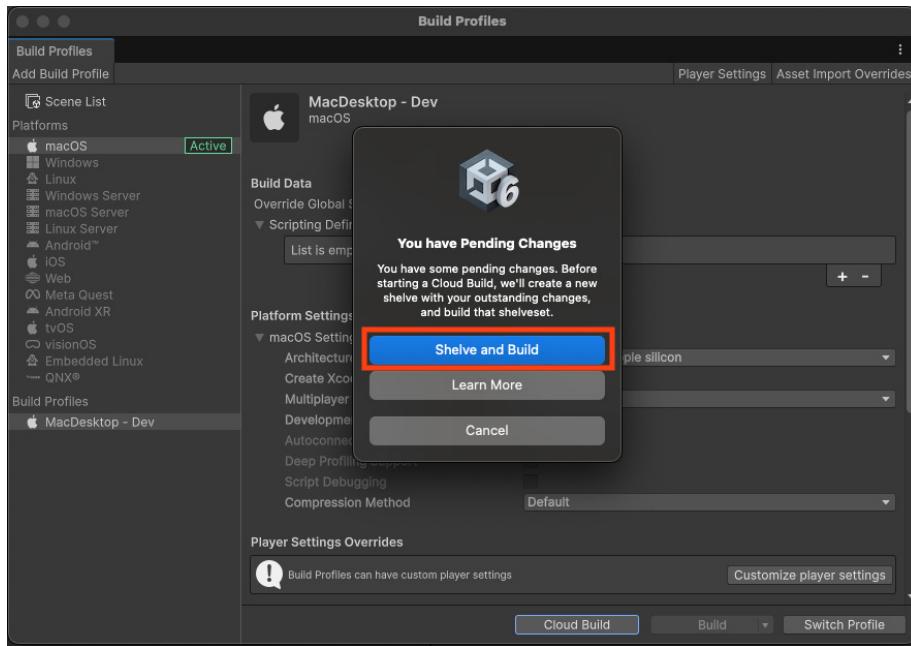
Once you've configured your settings, and you're ready to run a build, click the **Cloud Build** button in your build profile. Unity will then begin processing your build in the cloud.



Cloud Build settings in your build profile



If you have pending changes in your project, you'll be prompted with the option to **Shelve and Build**. This allows you to build your local changes without pushing them to the main repository which is ideal for testing work in progress.

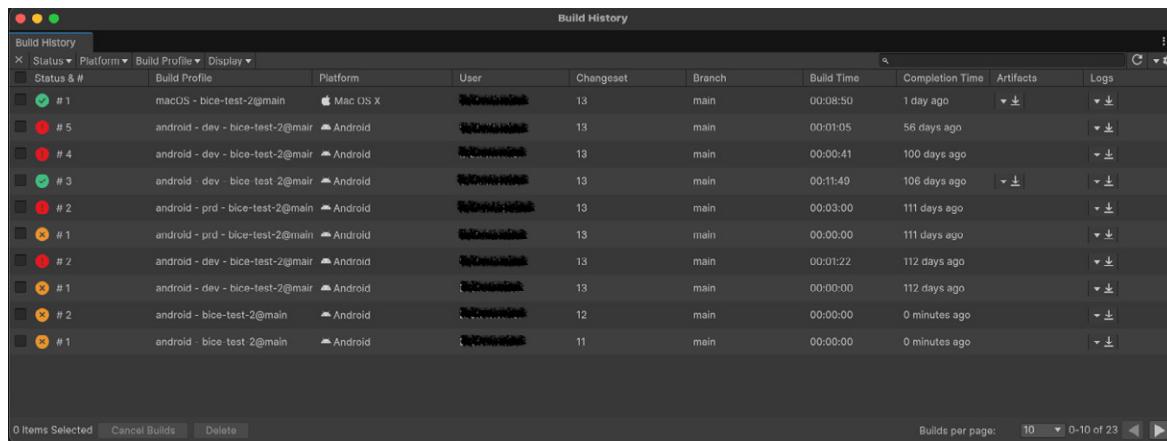


Shelve and Build pending changes

If you have no pending changes, Unity will create a build using the latest commit from the branch you currently have checked out.

## Track build progress, troubleshoot, and download results with Build History

As soon as the build begins, the Editor will open the **Build History** window where you can monitor its progress and the build status. This view provides logs and access to the build artifacts, allowing you to troubleshoot or download results easily.



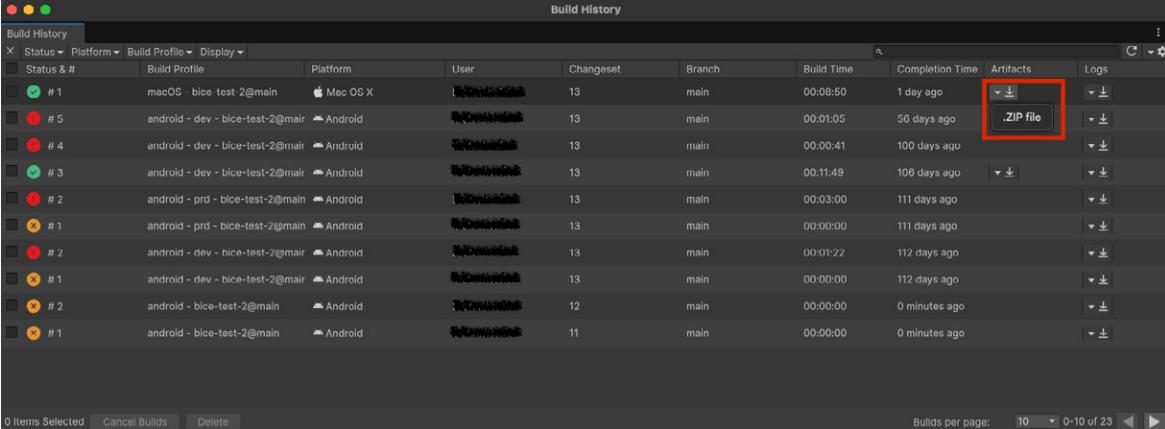
Build History window



Each status is color-coded for quick visibility and allows you to take actions, e.g., rerun failed builds or download the log. Check out [this documentation](#) page to get a full overview of what each status symbol means.

## Share build artifacts links with your team members

Once builds are successfully completed, you can download the build artifacts or share links with team members.



The screenshot shows a 'Build History' interface with a table of build logs. The columns include Status & #, Platform, Build Profile, Platform, User, Changeset, Branch, Build Time, Completion Time, Artifacts, and Logs. Build #1 is highlighted with a red box around the 'Artifacts' column, which contains a download icon and the text '.ZIP file'. Other builds are listed with their respective details, including status icons (green, red, yellow, grey), build profiles, and completion times.

Download build artifacts for successful builds

For failed builds, you can download the logs for further inspection.

Learn more about Build Automation from the [Getting started with Build Automation in Unity](#) video tutorial and the [Unity Build Automation: Quick start guide](#) tutorial on Unity Learn.

## Unity Build Server

If you want to streamline and automate the process of building, compiling, and packaging Unity projects, especially across larger teams and organizations, try [Unity Build Server](#).

This is a license management tool that enables floating build licenses for Unity, allowing multiple machines to build without requiring a full Unity Editor license for each machine. It is a great addition to your automated build pipeline and continuous integration (CI) environments.

To start using Unity Build Server, you can deploy the Unity Licensing Server software on a central server in your network and add your Unity Build Server licenses to this server. Then, you can configure each build machine to request a build license from the Build Server when it needs to build a project.

The Unity Licensing Server that is used in the Build Server solution can support more than one type of subscription on the same server. Customers can use the same server to distribute floating licenses to the developers using a Unity Enterprise Floating or a Unity Industry Floating subscription. See an example in the image below.



You can learn more about the requirements for Unity Build Server, how to set it up, and how to get started from the [Unity Licensing Server](#) documentation.

The screenshot shows the Unity Licensing Server interface. The top navigation bar includes the 'Licensing Server' icon, the project name 'licensing-server-linux-x64', a '0 issue' badge, and a user 'Administrator' with a 'A' icon. The main content area is the 'Overview' page, which displays the following information:

- Average active licenses:** A line chart showing the number of active licenses over time from June 20 to June 27. The chart has two lines: a blue line for 'Unity Build Server' and a red line for 'Unity Enterprise Floating'. The 'Unity Build Server' line shows higher peaks, reaching up to 400 active licenses, while the 'Unity Enterprise Floating' line remains much lower, generally below 100.
- Server health report:** A table with six items, all marked as healthy (green checkmark):
  - Server Licenses: Status: Healthy
  - License Signing Certificate: Status: Healthy
  - Server Delegations: Status: Healthy
  - Database Status: Status: Healthy
  - HTTP Config Status: Status: Healthy
- Licenses:** A table showing license usage for two categories:
  - Unity Build Server:** 17% in use (blue progress bar), 999 total, 170 used, 829 available.
  - Unity Enterprise Floating:** 3% in use (green progress bar), 999 total, 32 used, 967 available.

Two active subscriptions: Unity Build Server (for build machines) and Unity Enterprise Floating (for developers).

## Sample projects

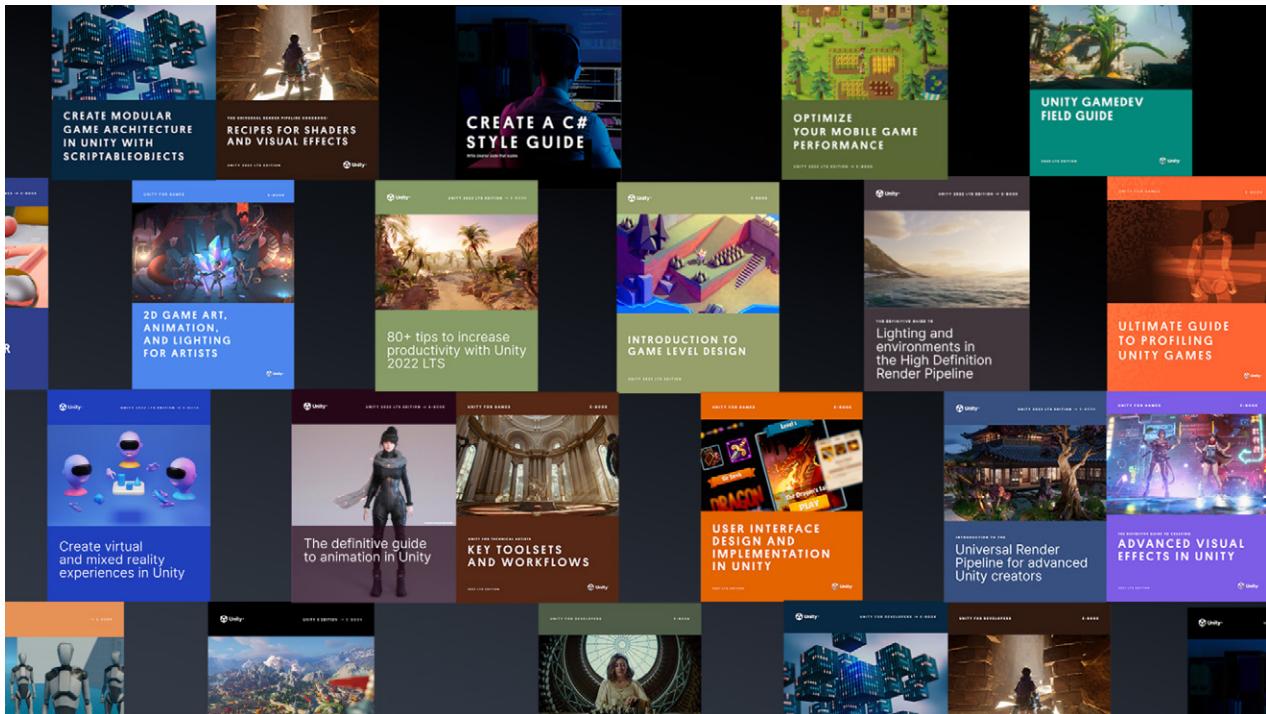
From sample projects that provide game interfaces that showcase UI Toolkit and UI Builder workflows, or samples demonstrating various design patterns and project architecture, as well as those that showcase capabilities of 2D lighting and visual effects in the Universal Render Pipeline (URP) in Unity 6, we've got you covered with these projects.

- [Happy Harvest - 2D Sample Project](#)
- [Gem Hunter Match - 2D Sample Project](#)
- [Dragon Crashers - UI Toolkit Sample Project](#)
- [QuizU - A UI Toolkit sample](#)
- [Paddle Game ScriptableObjects](#)



- Level up your code with design patterns and SOLID
- C# Code style guide
- Fantasy Kingdom
- Shader Graph samples
- VFX Learning Templates Sample Content
- URP 3D sample
- HDRP sample scene
- HDRP Time Ghost
- VR Multiplayer Template
- MR multiplayer template
- UGS samples

## Resources for all Unity users



You can download many more e-books for advanced Unity developers and creators from [the Unity best practices hub](#). Choose from over 30 guides, created by industry experts, and Unity engineers and technical artists, that provide best practices for efficient game development with Unity's toolsets and systems.

You'll also find tips, best practices, and news on the [Unity Blog](#) and [Unity community forums](#), as well as through [Unity Learn](#) and the [#unitytips](#) hashtag.



[unity.com](https://unity.com)