

## Unit-IV

### ADVANCED FEATURES OF ASP.NET

ASP.NET is a unified Web development model that includes the services necessary for you to build enterprise-class Web applications with a minimum of coding. ASP.NET is part of the .NET Framework, and when coding ASP.NET applications you have access to classes in the .NET Framework. You can code your applications in any language compatible with the common language runtime (CLR), including Microsoft Visual Basic, C#, JScript .NET, and J#. These languages enable you to develop ASP.NET applications that benefit from the common language runtime, type safety, inheritance, and so on.

ASP.NET includes:

- A page and controls framework
- The ASP.NET compiler
- Security infrastructure
- State-management facilities
- Application configuration
- Health monitoring and performance features
- Debugging support
- An XML Web services framework
- Extensible hosting environment and application life cycle management
- An extensible designer environment

#### Page and Controls Framework

The ASP.NET page and controls framework is a programming framework that runs on a Web server to dynamically produce and render ASP.NET Web pages. ASP.NET Web pages can be requested from any browser or client device, and ASP.NET renders markup (such as HTML) to the requesting browser. As a rule, you can use the same page for multiple browsers, because ASP.NET renders the appropriate markup for the browser making the request. However, you can design your ASP.NET Web page to target a specific browser, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer 6, and take advantage of the features of that browser. ASP.NET supports mobile controls for Web-enabled devices such as cellular phones, handheld computers, and personal digital assistants (PDAs).

ASP.NET Web pages are completely object-oriented. Within ASP.NET Web pages you can work with HTML elements using properties, methods, and events. The ASP.NET page framework removes the implementation details of the separation of client and server inherent in Web-based applications by presenting a unified model for responding to client events in code that runs at the server. The framework also automatically maintains the state of a page and the controls on that page during the page processing life cycle.

#### ASP.NET Compiler

All ASP.NET code is compiled, which enables strong typing, performance optimizations, and early binding, among other benefits. Once the code has been compiled, the common language runtime further compiles ASP.NET code to native code, providing improved performance.

ASP.NET includes a compiler that will compile all your application components including pages and controls into an assembly that the ASP.NET hosting environment can then use to service user requests.

### **Security Infrastructure**

In addition to the security features of .NET, ASP.NET provides an advanced security infrastructure for authenticating and authorizing user access as well as performing other security-related tasks. You can authenticate users using Windows authentication supplied by IIS, or you can manage authentication using your own user database using ASP.NET forms authentication and ASP.NET membership. Additionally, you can manage the authorization to the capabilities and information of your Web application using Windows groups or your own custom role database using ASP.NET roles. You can easily remove, add to, or replace these schemes depending upon the needs of your application.

ASP.NET always runs with a particular Windows identity so you can secure your application using Windows capabilities such as NTFS Access Control Lists (ACLs), database permissions, and so on.

### **State-Management Facilities**

ASP.NET provides intrinsic state management functionality that enables you to store information between page requests, such as customer information or the contents of a shopping cart. You can save and manage application-specific, session-specific, page-specific, user-specific, and developer-defined information. This information can be independent of any controls on the page.

ASP.NET offers distributed state facilities, which enable you to manage state information across multiple instances of the same application on one computer or on several computers.

### **ASP.NET Configuration**

ASP.NET applications use a configuration system that enables you to define configuration settings for your Web server, for a Web site, or for individual applications. You can make configuration settings at the time your ASP.NET applications are deployed and can add or revise configuration settings at any time with minimal impact on operational Web applications and servers. ASP.NET configuration settings are stored in XML-based files. Because these XML files are ASCII text files, it is simple to make configuration changes to your Web applications. You can extend the configuration scheme to suit your requirements.

### **Health Monitoring and Performance Features**

ASP.NET includes features that enable you to monitor health and performance of your ASP.NET application. ASP.NET health monitoring enables reporting of key events that provide information about the health of an application and about error conditions. These events show a combination of diagnostics and monitoring characteristics and offer a high degree of flexibility in terms of what is logged and how it is logged.

ASP.NET supports two groups of performance counters accessible to your applications:

- The ASP.NET system performance counter group
- The ASP.NET application performance counter group

### Debugging Support

ASP.NET takes advantage of the run-time debugging infrastructure to provide cross-language and cross-computer debugging support. You can debug both managed and unmanaged objects, as well as all languages supported by the common language runtime and script languages.

In addition, the ASP.NET page framework provides a trace mode that enables you to insert instrumentation messages into your ASP.NET Web pages.

### XML Web Services Framework

ASP.NET supports XML Web services. An XML Web service is a component containing business functionality that enables applications to exchange information across firewalls using standards like HTTP and XML messaging. XML Web services are not tied to a particular component technology or object-calling convention. As a result, programs written in any language, using any component model, and running on any operating system can access XML Web services.

### Extensible Hosting Environment and Application Life-Cycle Management

ASP.NET includes an extensible hosting environment that controls the life cycle of an application from when a user first accesses a resource (such as a page) in the application to the point at which the application is shut down. While ASP.NET relies on a Web server (IIS) as an application host, ASP.NET provides much of the hosting functionality itself. The architecture of ASP.NET enables you to respond to application events and create custom HTTP handlers and HTTP modules.

### Extensible Designer Environment

ASP.NET includes enhanced support for creating designers for Web server controls for use with a visual design tool such as Visual Studio. Designers enable you to build a design-time user interface for a control, so that developers can configure your control's properties and content in the visual design tool.

## USING THE NEW SECURITY CONTROLS IN ASP.NET 2.0

Implementing security in a site has the following aspects:

- **Authentication** – it is the process of ensuring the user's identity and authenticity. ASP.Net allows four types of authentication system:
  - Windows Authentication

- Forms Authentication
- Passport Authentication
- Custom Authentication
- **Authorization** – it is the process of defining and allotting specific roles to specific users.
- **Confidentiality** – it involves encrypting the channel between the client’s browser and the web server.
- **Integrity** – it involves maintaining the integrity of data. For example, implementing digital signature.

ASP.NET comes with several new security controls (located under the Login tab in the Toolbox; see Figure 1) that greatly simplify the life of a Web developer. Using the new security controls, we can now perform tasks such as user logins, registration, password changes, and more, with no more effort than dragging and dropping controls onto Web form.



Figure 1: The new security controls in ASP.NET 2.0.

To begin, let's explore using the **LoginView**, **LoginStatus** and **LoginName** controls. First, let's build a Web project using Visual Studio 2005 Beta 2, so go ahead and launch the Visual Studio IDE. From the File menu, click New Web Site to create a new Web project. Name the project C:\SecurityControls.

You need to set the `ContinueDestinationPageURL` property of the `CreateUserWizard` control so that when the Continue button is clicked the user can be redirected to another page, such as a welcome page.

In the Default.aspx Web form, drag and drop the **LoginView** control. The **LoginView** control is a container control that displays different information depending on whether the user is logged in or not.

Populate the **LoginView** control with the text shown in **Figure 2**. Also, drag and drop the Login control onto the **LoginView** control. The text that you have just typed will be displayed

when the user is not yet authenticated (anonymous). The Login control displays a link to allow the user to be redirected to another page to log into the application.

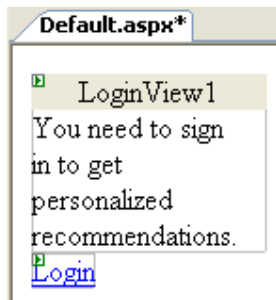


Figure 2: Populating the LoginView control.

In the Smart Tasks menu of the **LoginView** control, change the Views to "LoggedInTemplate" (**Figure 3**).

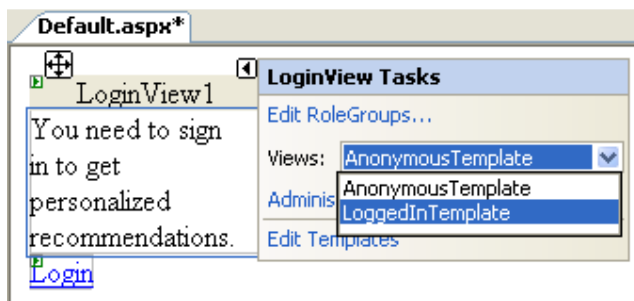


Figure 3: Changing the view of the

LoginView control.

With the view changed, enter the text shown in **Figure 4** into the LoginView control. This text will be displayed once the user has been authenticated. Drag and drop the **LoginName** control onto the **LoginView** control. The **LoginName** control will display the name of the user that is used to log into the application.

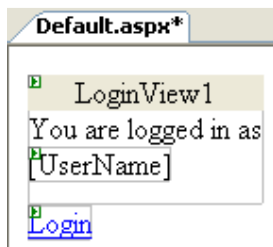


Figure 4: This text will display when the user is authenticated.

### Using the Login Control

Let's now add a new Web form to the project (right-click on project name in Solution Explorer and select Add New Item...) and name it Login.aspx. Your application will use this form to let users log into the application.

Drag and drop the Login control onto Login.aspx. You can apply formatting to the Login control to make it look more professional. Click on the Smart Tag of the Login control and select the Auto Format...link (**Figure 5**).

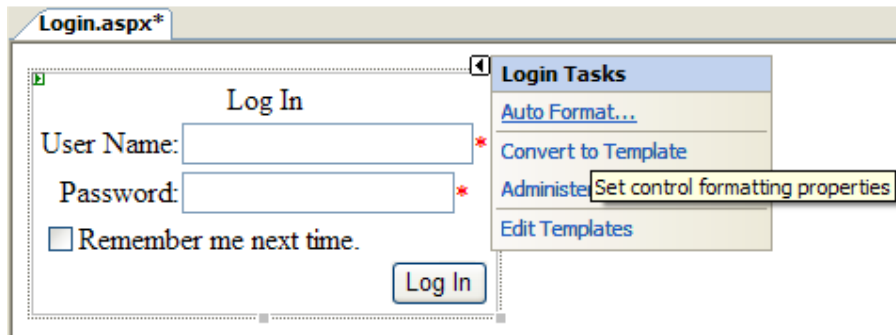


Figure 5: Applying auto format to the Login control.

Select the Colorful scheme and the Login control should now look like **Figure 6**.

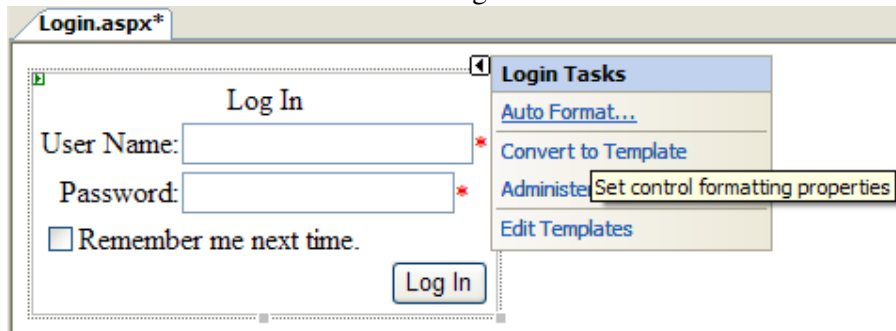


Figure 6: The new look of the Login control after applying the Colorful scheme.

By default, ASP.NET 2.0 uses Windows authentication, which is not very flexible if you are targeting Internet users. And so you will change the default authentication mode from Windows to Forms.

Add a Web.config file to your project (right-click on project name in Solution Explorer and select Add New Item.... From the list of available choices select Web Configuration File).

In Web.config, change the authentication mode from Windows to Forms by adding the following line of code. You use forms authentication so that you can add users to your Web site without needing to create the user accounts in Windows.

```
<system.web>

  <authentication mode="Forms"/>

  ...
```

### Adding a New User to Your Application

Before you proceed to test the application, you need to create a new user for the application. You can use the ASP.NET Web Site Administration Tool (WAT) to add a new user to your application. To invoke the WAT, select Website and then choose ASP.NET Configuration (**Figure 7**).

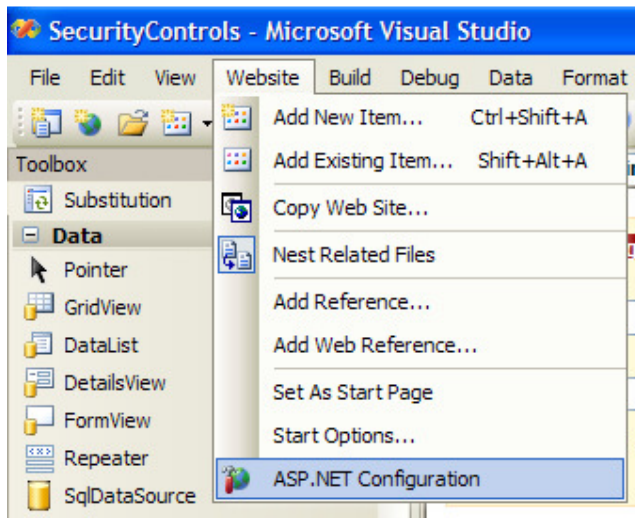


Figure 7: Invoking the WAT.

The WAT will be displayed in a new Web page. Click the Security link to go to the Security tab(fig.8)

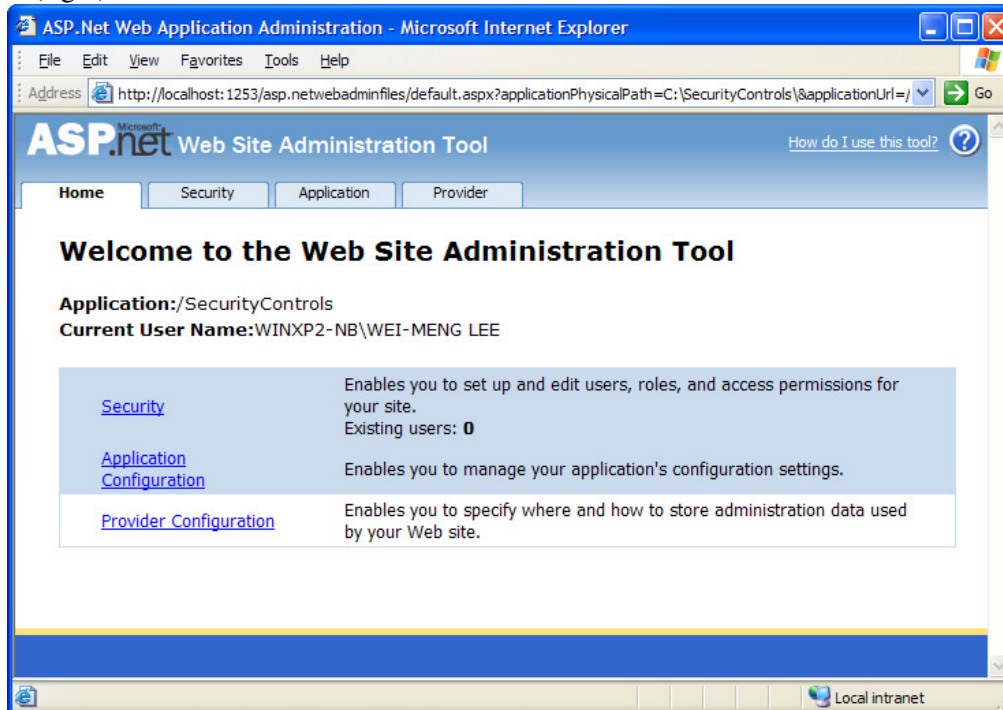


Figure8:The WAT.

The Security tab allows you to perform tasks such as creating and deleting users as well as creating roles and access rules for your application. Click on the Create user link to add a new user to your application (**Figure 9**).

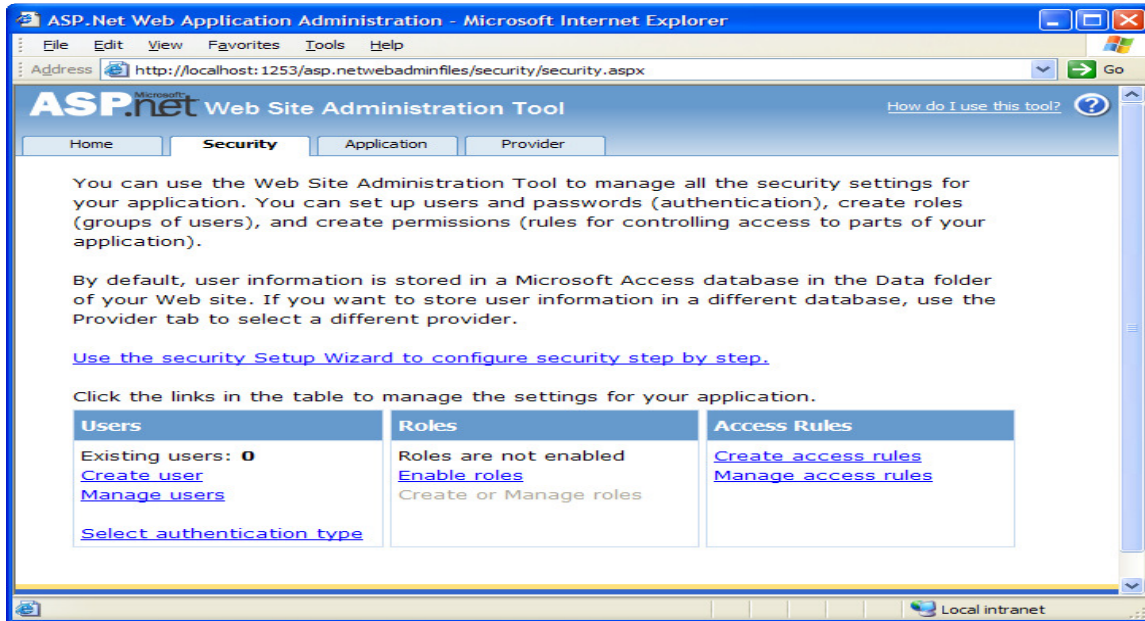


Figure 9: The Security tab in the WAT.

Supply the required information for the new user account (**Figure 10**). Note that the password must have a combination of numeric, alphabetical, and special characters. Be sure to supply at least seven characters for the password. Click Create User to add the new user.

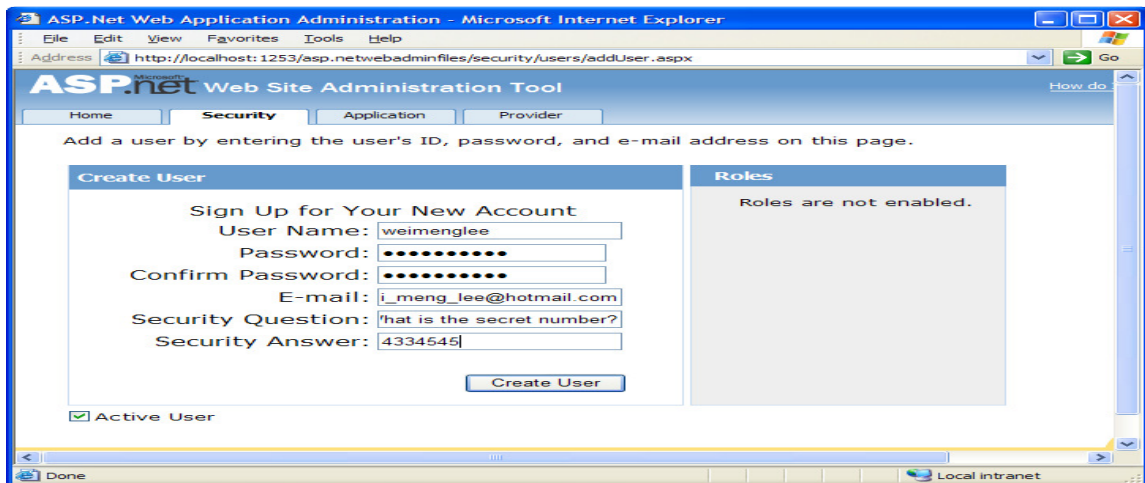


Figure 10: Adding a new user account to your application.

You are now ready to test the application. Select Default.aspx in Solution Explorer and press F5. Click the Login link to log into the application and then enter the account information. When you have successfully logged into the application, the Login link changes to Logout. **Figure 11** shows the sequence of events.



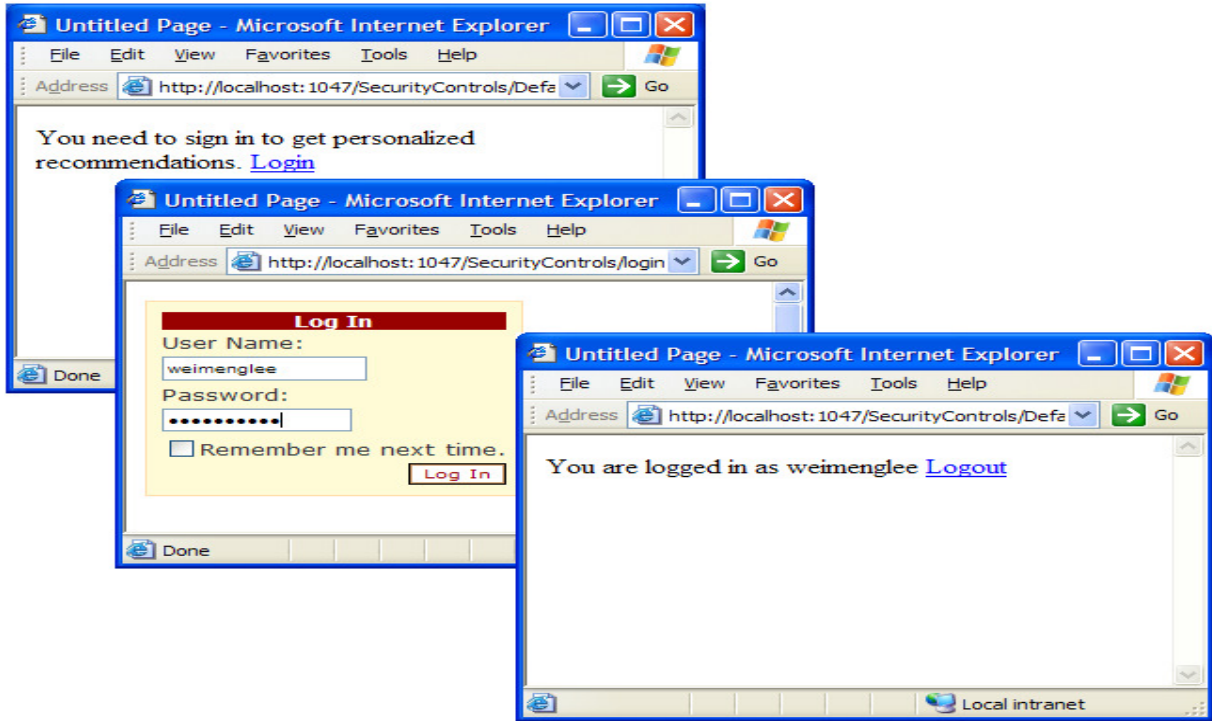


Figure 11: Logging in to the application.

### Creating New Users

Besides creating user accounts for users, you can also allow users to create new accounts themselves. This is useful in scenarios where you allow users to create free accounts in order to access your application, such as in a discussion forum.

To allow users to create new accounts, use the **CreateUserWizard** control. Drag and drop the **CreateUserWizard** control onto Default.aspx and apply the **Colorful** scheme. The control should now look like **Figure 12**.

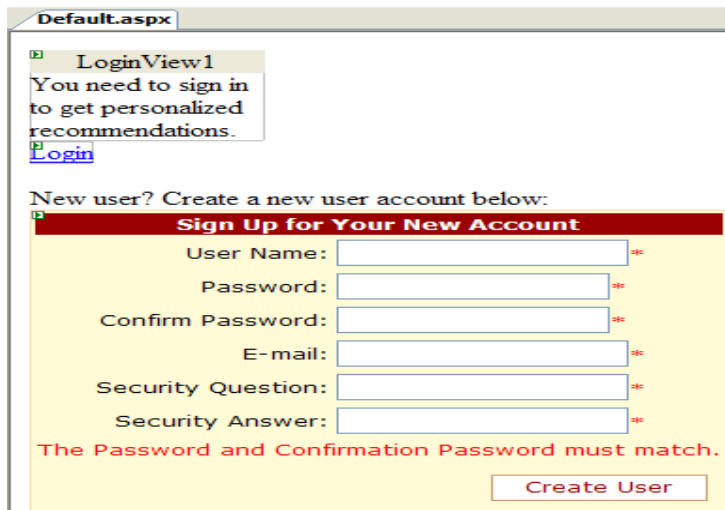


Figure 12: Creating new user accounts using the CreateUserWizard control.

To test the application, press F5. You can now create a new user account yourself (**Figure 13**). Supply the needed information and click Create user

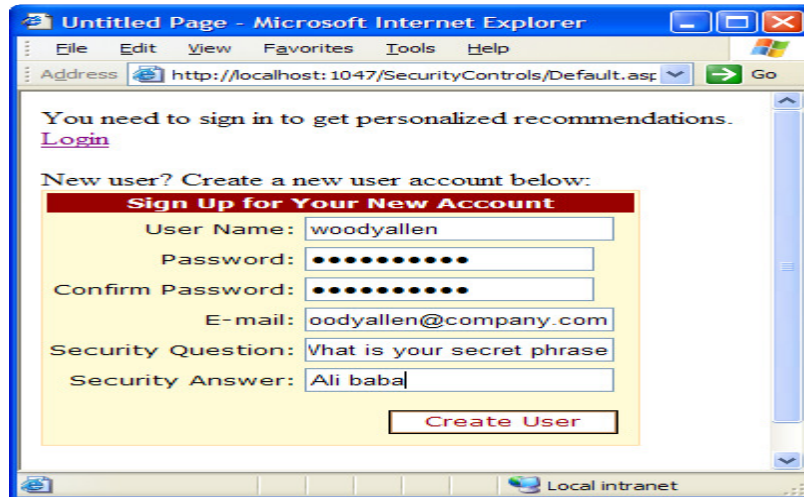


Figure 13: Creating a new user account.

When the user is created successfully, you will see the screen as shown in **Figure 14**.

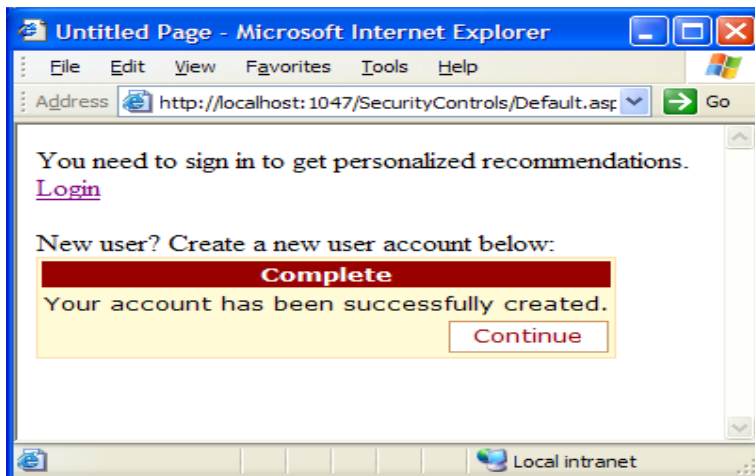


Figure 14: A new account is successfully created.

### Where Is the User's Information Stored?

So far you have seen how to create users using the WAT as well as using the CreateUserWizard control. You're probably wondering where this information is stored. If you now examine the Solution Explorer and refresh the App\_Data folder (right-click on it and select Refresh Folder), you will see an item named ASPNETDB.MDF (**Figure 15**).

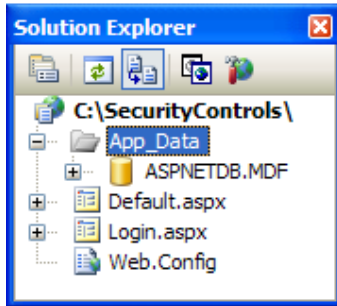


Figure 15: The ASPNETDB.MDF database file.

The ASPNETDB.MDF is a SQL Server 2005 Express database that ASP.NET 2.0 uses by default to store application-related data such as user accounts, profiles, etc. To examine the database, double-click it and you'll see its content displayed in the Database Explorer (**Figure 16**). Specifically, the `aspnet_Membership` and `aspnet_Users` tables will store the user accounts information that you have just created in the previous sections. To view the content of the tables, right-click on the table name and select Show Table Data.

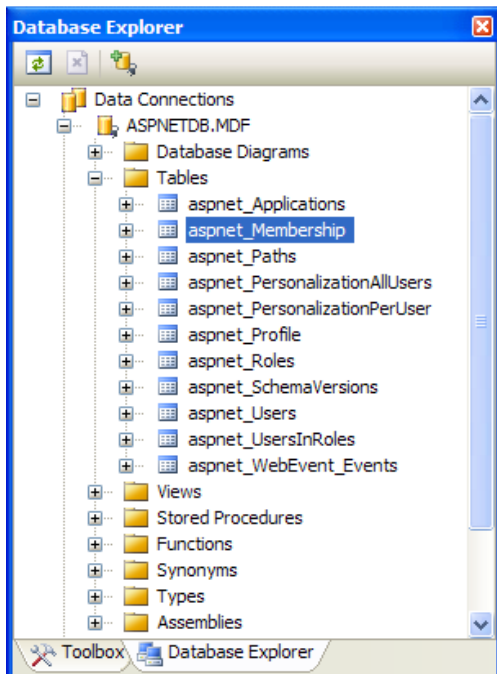


Figure 16: Examining the ASPNETDB.MDF database.

One really nice feature of ASP.NET 2.0 is that there is no need to create custom databases to store your users' information. And you don't even need to worry about hashing the users' password to store them securely. ASP.NET 2.0 does this automatically for you.

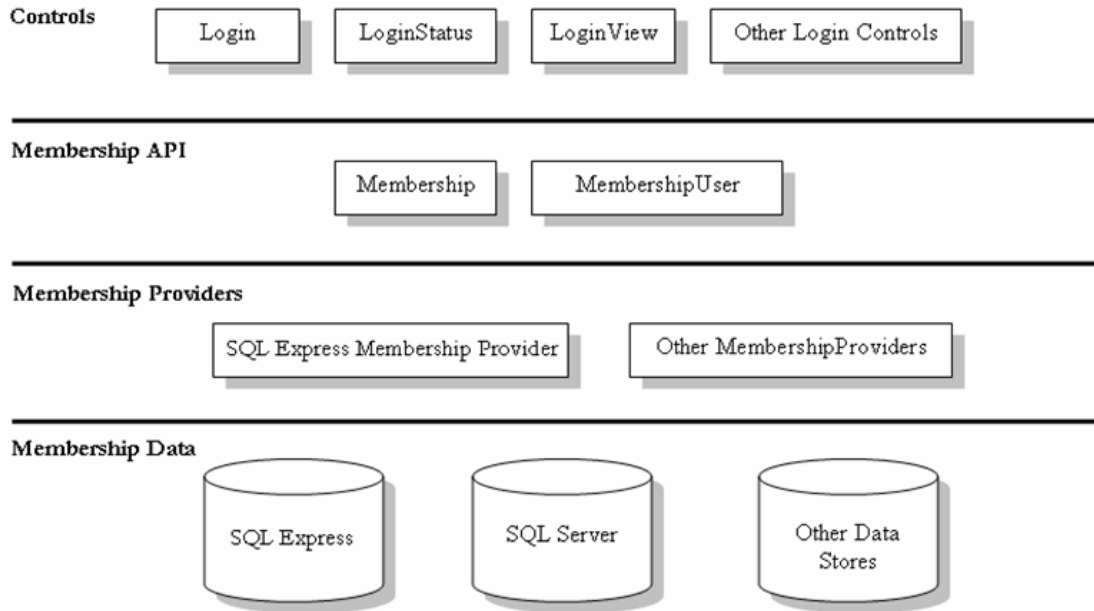


Figure 17: The Membership Provider model.

### Recovering Lost Passwords

Recovering/resetting lost passwords is a common task that you need to perform as an administrator. The **PasswordRecovery** control allows users to perform this mundane task themselves by automatically retrieving the password and then sending it to the user via e-mail.

Password recovery makes sense only if you store the password as plain text and not its hashed value. However, by default, the settings in the machine.config file specify that all passwords be hashed before they are stored in the member database. Machine.config also disables password retrieval by default.

To store the user's password in plain text, add the following entry in Web.config.

```

...
<system.web>
  <membership
    defaultProvider="SqlProvider"
    userIsOnlineTimeWindow="15">
    <providers>
      <clear />
      <add name="SqlProvider type="System.Web.Security.SqlMembershipProvider"
connectionStringName="LocalSqlServer"
  
```

```

applicationName="SecurityControls"
enablePasswordRetrieval="true"
enablePasswordReset="true"
requiresQuestionAndAnswer="true"
requiresUniqueEmail="true"
passwordFormat="Clear" /> </providers> </membership>
...

```

Specifically, you are clearing all the Membership Providers and then adding a new **SqlMembershipProvider**. Note that you need to set the **enablePasswordRetrieval** (to true) and **passwordFormat** (to Clear) attributes in order to allow passwords to be retrieved.

If you set the **passwordFormat** as Hashed, then you must set **enablePasswordReset** to false.

Now drag and drop the **PasswordRecovery** control onto Default.aspx and then apply the Colorful scheme. The **PasswordRecovery** control now looks like **Figure 18**.

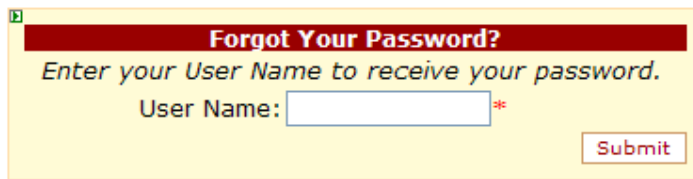


Figure 18: The PasswordRecovery control.

In the Properties window of the **PasswordRecovery** control, set the From and Subject fields under the **MailDefinition** property as shown in **Figure 19**.

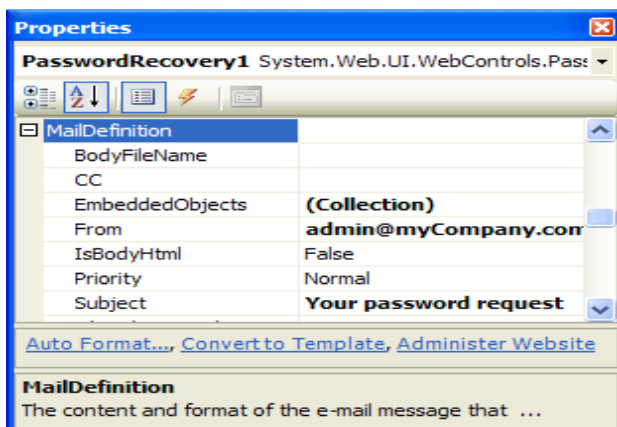


Figure 19 : Configuring the PasswordRecovery control.

You also need to have SMTP service configured on your machine for the **PasswordRecovery** control to send an e-mail. To configure SMTP service on your machine, start WAT, choose Application, then choose Configure SMTP e-mail settings.

To test the application, press F5. You will be prompted for your user name and then your security question. If the answer to the security question is correct, the password will be e-mailed to you; otherwise you will get an error message on the page like that shown in **Figure 20**.

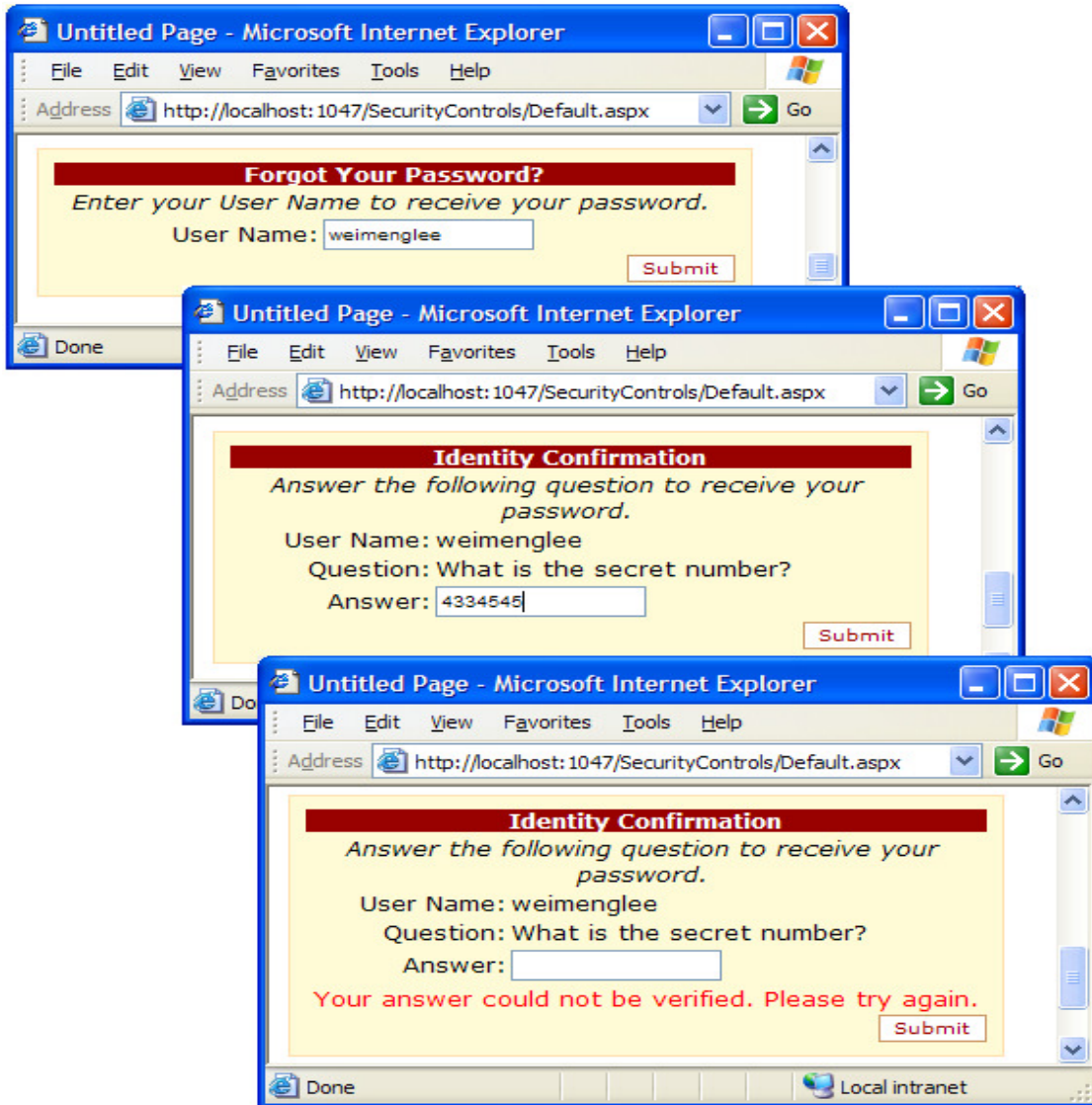


Figure 20 : Recovering lost password.

For security reasons, it is not a good idea to send a user's password through e-mail. Hence, you really need to consider using this option very carefully.

### Changing Passwords

Besides recovering lost passwords, you also need to allow users to change their passwords. In ASP.NET 2.0, you can do so using the **ChangePassword** control.

Since a user can only change their password after they have logged in, you will now create a new folder in your application that is accessible to only authenticated users.

You can add a new folder to your application by right-clicking on the project name in Solution Explorer, choose Add Folder, and then choose Regular Folder. Name the folder "Members." Now add a new Web form to this new folder (right-click on Members and then select Add New Item...). Name the new Web form ChangePassword.aspx (**Figure 21**).

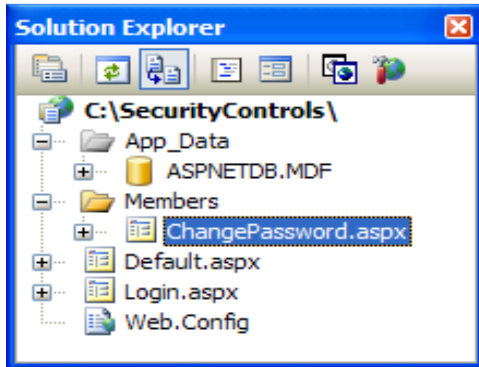


Figure 21 : Adding a new folder to the project.

To restrict accesses to the Members folder, add the following <location> element to Web.config.

```

...
</system.web>
  <location path="Members">
    <system.web>
      <authorization>
        <deny users="?" />
      </authorization>
    </system.web>
  </location>
</configuration>

```

Essentially, pages within the Members folder are only accessible to authorized users (all anonymous users (?) will be denied access).

Drag and drop the **ChangePassword** control onto ChangePassword.aspx and apply the **Colorful** scheme (**Figure 22**).

Members/Chan...ssword.aspx\*

**Change Your Password**

Password: \*

New Password: \*

Confirm New Password: \*

The Confirm New Password must match the New Password entry.

Figure 22: The ChangePassword control.

To test the application, in Solution Explorer select the ChangePassword.aspx file in the Members folder and press F5. You will first be redirected to the login.aspx page (for authentication) and once authenticated the ChangePassword.aspx page will be loaded. You can now change your password (**Figure 23**).

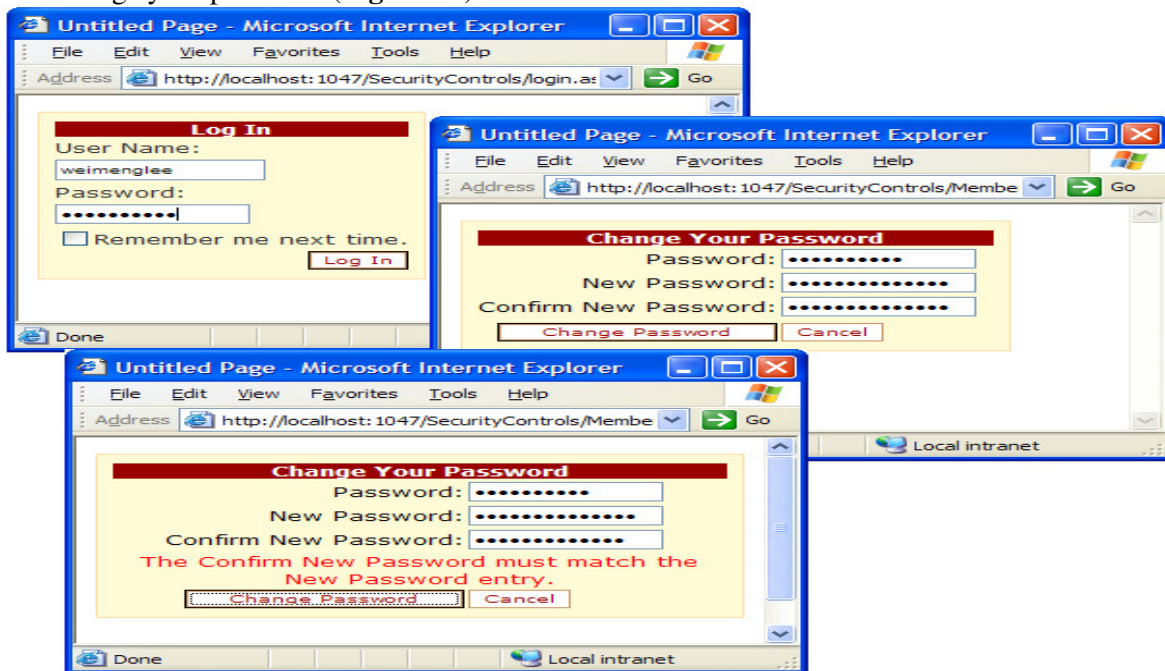


Figure 23: Changing passwords using the ChangePassword control.

## STATE MANAGEMENT

HTTP is a stateless protocol. Once the server serves any request from the user, it cleans up all the resources used to serve that request. These resources include the objects created during that request, the memory allocated during that request, etc. For a guy coming from a background of Windows application development, this could come as a big surprise because there is no way he could rely on objects and member variables alone to keep track of the current state of the application.

If we have to track the users' information between page visits and even on multiple visits of the same page, then we need to use the State management techniques provided by ASP.NET. State management is the process by which ASP.NET let the developers maintain state and page information over multiple request for the same or different pages.

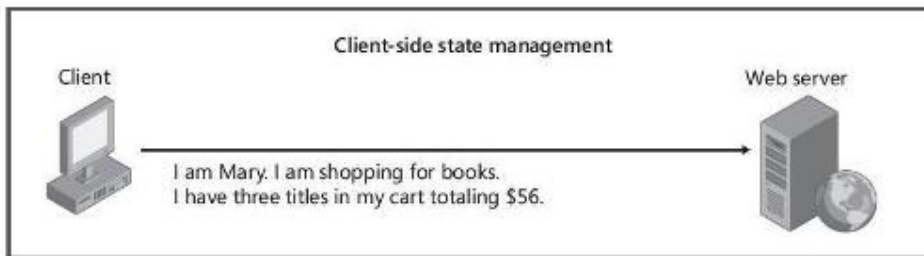


## Types of State Management

There are mainly two types of state management that ASP.NET provides:

1. Client side state management
2. Server side state management

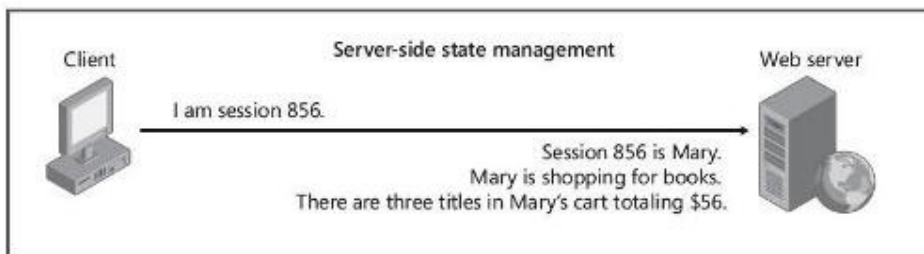
When we use client side state management, the state related information will be stored on client side. This information will travel back and forth with every request and response. This can be visualized as:



**Note:** Image taken from Microsoft press' Book.

The major benefit of having this kind of state management is that we relieve the server from the burden of keeping the state related information, it saves a lot of server memory. The downside of client side state management is that it takes more bandwidth as considerable amount of data is traveling back and forth. But there is one more problem which is bigger than the bandwidth usage problem. The client side state management makes the information travel back and forth and hence this information can be intercepted by anyone in between. So there is no way we can store the sensitive information like passwords, creditcard number and payable amount on client side, we need server side state management for such things.

Server side state management, in contrast to client side, keeps all the information in user memory. The downside of this is more memory usage on server and the benefit is that users' confidential and sensitive information is secure.



**Note:** Image taken from Microsoft press' Book.

We cannot say that we will use any one type of state management in our application. We will have to find a mix of client side and server side state management depending on the type and

size of information. Now let us look at what are the different ways we can manage state on client side and server side.

### *Client side state management techniques*

- View State
- Control State
- Hidden fields
- Cookies
- Query Strings

### *Server side state management techniques*

- Application State
- Session State

## **View State**

ASP.NET uses this mechanism to track the values of the controls on the web page between page request for same page. We can also add custom values to view state. ASP.NET framework takes care of storing the information of controls in view state and retrieving it back from viewstate before rendering on postback.

If we need to use `viewstate` to store our information, we just need to remember that the `viewstate` is a `dictionary` object. We can have our data stored as key value pair in `viewstate` (see code below). The controls information is also being hashed into this dictionary during request and populated back during response.

Since this information is stored in the web page itself, ASP.NET encrypts the information. We can tweak the encryption related parameters from `web.config`.

```
<Configuration>
  <system.web>
    <pages ViewStateEncryptionMode="Always"/>
  </system.web>
</configuration>
```

or page declarative:

```
<%@ Page Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true"
CodeFile="Default.aspx.cs" Inherits="_Default" ViewStateEncryptionMode="Always"%>
```

Let us now look at a small implementation for `viewstate`. We have a simple web page with a `textbox` and a `button`. The idea is that we will write something in the text box and see how ASP.NET stores this information in view state. We will store our own information in the view state too. When we run the page and write my name in the `textbox` and press the button, a postback occurs but my name still remains in the `textbox`. `Viewstate` made that possible so after postback, the page looks like:

Name:

When we look at the source, the view state looks like:

```
<input type="hidden" name="__VIEWSTATE"
id="__VIEWSTATE"
value="/wEPDwUKMTkwNjc4NTIwMWRkfIZa4Yq8wUbdapyAjKouH5Vn1Y=" />
```

Now let us try to add our own information in the **viewstate**. Let's keep track of users' postback on this page. Whenever user will hit a button, we will add 1 to the stored post back value. The way to do would be:

```
protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    if(IsPostBack == true)
    {
        if (ViewState["number"] != null) //Lets retrieve, increase and store again
        {
            ViewState["number"] = Convert.ToInt32(ViewState["number"]) + 1;
        }
        else //First postback, lets store the info
        {
            ViewState["number"] = 1;
        }

        Label1.Text = ViewState["number"].ToString();
    }
}
```

When we run the page and hit the button to do a postback, the web will show us the postbacks being done so far which is being stored in **viewstate**:

Name:

[Stored in ViewState]: Number of postbacks: 4

View State is enabled by default, but we can disable it by setting the **EnableViewState** property for each web control to **false**. This reduces the server processing time and decreases page size.

### Control State

We now know what a **viewstate** is and we also know that we can disable **viewstate** for controls on the page. But imagine if we are developing a custom control and we internally are using **viewstate** to store some information but the user of the control can disable the **viewstate** for our

control. To avoid this problem, we can have `viewstate` like behavior which cannot be disabled by control users and it is called `ControlState`. Control states lies inside custom controls and work the same as `viewstate` works.

To use control state in a custom control, we have to override the `OnInit` method and call the `RegisterRequiresControlState` method during initialization. Then we have to override the `SaveControlState` and `LoadControlState` methods.

## Hidden Fields

Hidden field are the controls provided by the ASP.NET and they let use store some information in them. The only constraint on hidden filed is that it will keep the information when HTTP post is being done, i.e., button clicks. It will not work with HTTP `get`. Let us do the same exercise of keeping track of postbacks using `HiddenFields` now. (Note: `ViewState` also uses hidden field underneath.)

```
//Store in Hidden Field -----
int newVal = Convert.ToInt32(HiddenField1.Value) + 1; //Hidden field default value was 0
HiddenField1.Value = newVal.ToString();
Label2.Text = HiddenField1.Value;
```

Name:

[Stored in ViewState]: Number of postbacks: 5

[Strored in HiddenField]: Number of postbakcs: 5

When we run the page and hit the button to do a postback, the web will show us the postbacks being done so far which is being stored in `Hiddenfields` (See code for details).

## Cookies

There are scenarios when we need to store the data between page requests. So far, the techniques we have discussed store the data for the single page requests. Now we look at the techniques that store information between page requests.

Cookies are small pieces of information that can be stored in a text file on users' computer. The information can be accessed by the server and can be utilized to store information that is required between page visits and between multiple visits on the same page by the user. Let us do the same exercise of keeping track of postback by using cookies.

```
int postbacks = 0;
if (Request.Cookies["number"] != null) //Lets retrieve, increase and store again
{
```

```

    postbacks = Convert.ToInt32(Request.Cookies["number"].Value) + 1;
}
else //First postback, lets store the info
{
    postbacks = 1;
}
Response.Cookies["number"].Value = postbacks.ToString();

Label3.Text = Response.Cookies["number"].Value;

```

Name:

[Stored in ViewState]: Number of postbacks: 4

[Stored in HiddenField]: Number of postbacks: 4

[Stored in Cookies]: Number of postbacks: 4

We cannot keep track of postbacks using cookies as cookies will stay on user machine, so essentially we are looking at the number of times user POSTED back on their page so far since the beginning.

When we run the page and hit the button to do a postback, the web will show us the postbacks being done so far which is being stored in Cookies (see code for details). The cookies can have various parameters like how long they are valid and when should they expire. These parameters can be manipulated as:

```
Response.Cookies["number"].Expires = DateTime.Now.AddDays(1);
```

This cookie will expire after 1 day of its creation.

## Query Strings

Query strings are commonly used to store variables that identify specific pages, such as search terms or page numbers. A query string is information that is appended to the end of a page URL. They can be used to store/pass information from one page to another to even the same page. Let us work on storing the postback information in querystrings now:

```

//GetDataItem from querystring
if (Request.QueryString["number"] != null) //Lets retrieve, increase and store again
{
    Label4.Text = Request.QueryString["number"];
}

//set in query string
int postbacks = 0;

```

```

if (Request.QueryString["number"] != null) //Lets retrieve, increase and store again
{
    postbacks = Convert.ToInt32(Request.QueryString["number"]) + 1;
}
else //First postback, lets store the info
{
    postbacks = 1;
}

Response.Redirect("default.aspx?number=" + postbacks);

```

One thing to notice here is that we can no way store the postback information in the query string we are dealing with same page. The reason is that the query string creates a new URL each time and it will be a fresh request each time we use query strings. SO we are now essentially tracking number of click here. The idea behind query string is to pass small information to OTHER pages that can be used to populate information on that page.

[anagement/default.aspx?number=3](#)

Name:

[Stored in ViewState]: Number of postbacks: 0

[Stored in HiddenField]: Number of postbacks: 0

[Stored in Cookies]: Number of postback since the first runs: 0

[Stored in QueryStrings]: Number of clicks: 4

**NOTE:** The use of cookies and querystring here are just for the purpose of demonstration. In real scenarios, they should never be used to store information required for same page. The Querystrings should be used to store the information between multiple page visits. Cookies should be used to store information between multiple visits to our website from the same computer.

### Application State

ASP.NET allows us to save values using application state. A global storage mechanism that is accessible from all pages in the Web application. Application state is stored in the Application key/value dictionary. This information will also be available to all the users of the website. In case we need user specific information, then we better use **sessionstate**.

ASP.NET provides three events that enable you to initialize **Application** variables (free resources when the application shuts down) and respond to **Application** errors:

- **Application\_Start**: Raised when the application starts. This is the perfect place to initialize **Application** variables.
- **Application\_End**: Raised when an application shuts down. Use this to free application resources and perform logging.
- **Application\_Error**: Raised when an unhandled error occurs. Use this to perform error logging.

Let us now store the information of postbacks in application state:

```
//global.asax
void Application_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    Application["number"] = 0;
}

//In web pages
Application.Lock();
Application["number"] = Convert.ToInt32(Application["number"]) + 1;
Application.Unlock();

Label5.Text = Application["number"].ToString();
```

Name:

[Stored in ViewState]: Number of postbacks: 4

[Stored in HiddenField]: Number of postbacks: 4

[Stored in Cookies]: Number of postback since the first runs: 4

[Stored in QueryStrings]: Number of clicks: 0

[Stored in ApplicationState]: Number of postbacks on this run so far: 4

When we run the page and hit the button to do a postback, the web will show us the postbacks being done so far which is being stored in **ApplicationState**. We can use this object to keep track of clicks by all users on the entire website (see code for details).

## Session State

Like **Application** state, this information is also in a global storage that is accessible from all pages in the Web application. **Session** state is stored in the **Sessionkey/value dictionary**. This information will be available to the current user only, i.e., current session only.

```

//global.asax
void Session_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    // Code that runs when a new session is started
    Session["number"] = 0;
}

// Web forms
Session["number"] = Convert.ToInt32(Session["number"]) + 1;

Label6.Text = Session["number"].ToString();

```

Name:

[Stored in ViewState]: Number of postbacks: 4

[Stored in HiddenField]: Number of postbacks: 4

[Stored in Cookies]: Number of postback since the first runs: 4

[Stored in QueryStrings]: Number of clicks: 0

[Stored in ApplicationState]: Number of postbacks on this run so far: 4

[Stored in SessionState]: Number of postbacks on this run for THIS user so far: 4

When we run the page and hit the button to do a postback, the web will show us the postbacks being done so far which is being stored in **SessionState**. We can use this object to keep track of clicks by the current user, i.e., who owns the session for the entire website (see code for details).

### Advantages of Client Side State Management

- Better scalability
- Support for multiple browser

### Advantages of Server Side State Management

- Better security
- Reduced bandwidth



## MOBILE APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT IN ASP.NET

### Introduction

Mobile application development in ASP.NET is similar to traditional ASP.NET web application development. And it is very easy for ASP.NET developer to develop mobile application. All mobile web pages are inherit from **MobilePage** class which exists in **System.Web.UI.MobileControls** namespace. ASP.NET exposes a **System.Web.Mobile** namespace is for specifically to Web development.

### Background

In this demonstration, you will create a mobile web page that dedicated to mobile device. The page will show a loan repayment calculator and after passing valid parameter it will show repayment amount of a principal amount with terms and rate.

### Creating Web Application in ASP.NET

1. Click to open Microsoft Visual Studio 2008
2. On the **File menu** , choose New, and then choose Web Site.  
The New Web Site dialog box appears.
3. Under Visual Studio installed templates, select ASP.NET Web Site.
4. Click **Browse** .  
The Choose Location dialog box appears.
5. Location **File System** and **LRC**
6. Language **Visual C#**
7. Click **OK** button

A Default.aspx is added in your solution and it is traditional ASP.NET page which is inherited from System.Web.UI.Page. But you need to create page which inherit from **MobilePage** class in **System.Web.UI.MobileControls** namespace. In this demonstration, you will use controls from the **System.Web.Mobile** namespace that are specifically designed for devices that cannot display as much information as a desktop browser.

### Creating Mobile Web Page in Application

1. Right-click the Default.aspx page in Solution Explorer and choose **Delete**.
2. Click **OK** in the dialog box.
3. Right-click the application in Solution Explorer and choose **Add New Item**
4. Choose **Mobile Web Form** under **Visual Studio installed templates**.

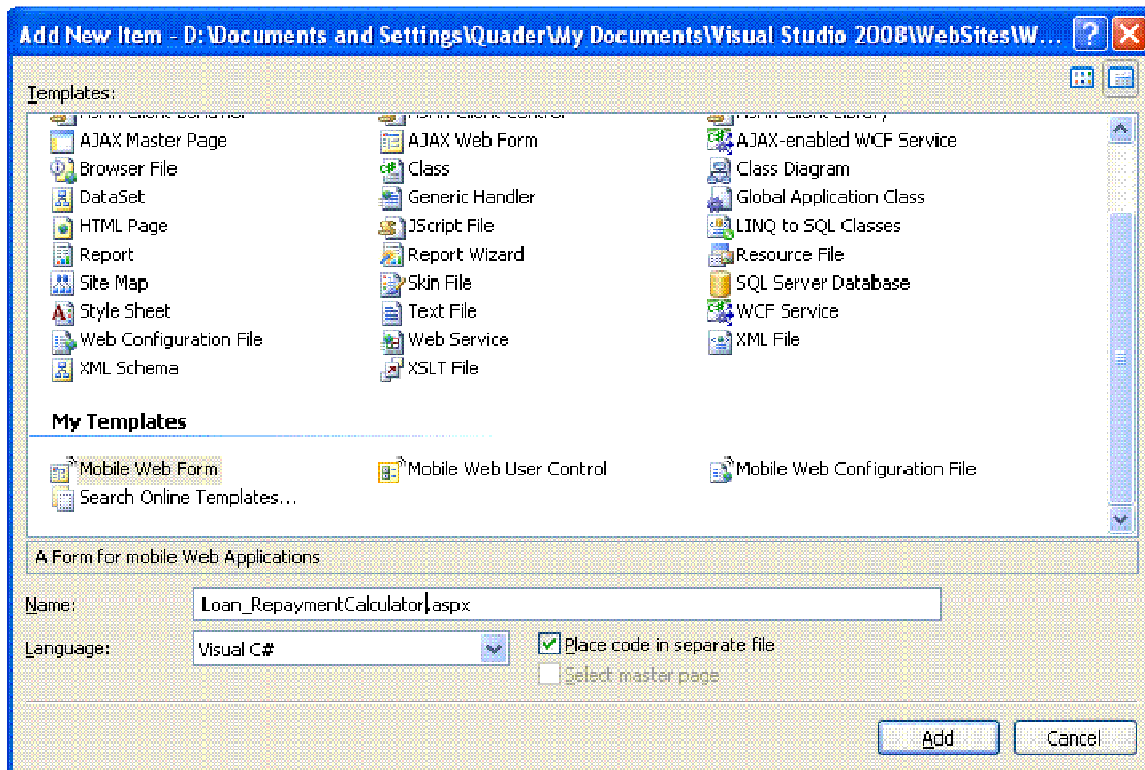


Figure 1

Download ([Download MobileWebFromTemplate.zip - 16.12 KB](#)) mobile page template if you do not have mobile form template in Add New Item box and place template according to instruction provided in readme file. After extracting MobileWebFromTemplate.rar file you will get two folders: a 'Web Application' and another is 'Web Site'. Place RAR files in the Web Application folder to '[My Documents]\Visual Studio 2008\Templates\ItemTemplates\Visual C#' and RAR files in the Web Site folder to '[My Documents]\Visual Studio 2008\Templates\ItemTemplates\Visual Web Developer'. Now you will get the Mobile Web Form template.

5. Name **Loan\_RepaymentCalculator.aspx**
6. Choose Language **Visual C#**
7. Check Place code in separate file.
8. Click **Add** in the dialog box

Right click on **Loan\_RepaymentCalculator.aspx** choose View Code define namespace for **Loan\_RepaymentCalculator** class.

```
namespace STL.Web.Mobile.UI
{
    public partial class Loan_RepaymentCalculator :
    System.Web.UI.MobileControls.MobilePage
    {
```

```
}
}
```

Set Inherits attribute value `STL.Web.Mobile.UI.Loan_RepaymentCalculator` in page directive of **Loan\_RepaymentCalculator**'s source file.

[⇨Collapse](#) | [Copy Code](#)

```
<%@ Page Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true"
CodeFile="Loan_RepaymentCalculator.aspx.cs"
Inherits="STL.Web.Mobile.UI.Loan_RepaymentCalculator" %>
```

## Design Mobile Web Page

In solution explorer double click on **Loan\_RepaymentCalculator.aspx** to view source code and you will find mobile form **form1** rename it as **frmInput**. From the **Mobile Web Forms** folder of the Toolbox, drag controls onto frmInput and set their properties as defined in the following.

### 1. Label control

- a. ID = "lblHeading"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. Wrapping = "Wrap"
- e. StyleReference="StyleHeader"

### 2. Label control

- a. ID = "lblPrincipal"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. Text = "1. Amount"
- e. StyleReference="StyleLabel"

### 3. TextBox control

- a. ID = "PrincipalAmount"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. Numeric = "True"
- d. MaxLength = "12"
- e. Size = "10"
- f. Title = "Principal Amount"
- g. StyleReference="StyleTextBox"

**4. RequiredFieldValidator** control for validating principal amount that expect input from user.

- a. ID = "rfvPrincipal"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. ControlToValidate = "PrincipalAmount"

- d. ErrorMessage = "Amount Empty!"
- e. StyleReference="StyleValidation"

**5. RegularExpressionValidator** control for validating principal amount that expect only numeric(fractional) value from user .

- a. ID = "revPrincipal"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. ControlToValidate = "PrincipalAmount"
- d. ErrorMessage = "Invalid Amount!"
- e. ValidationExpression = "^([0-9]+)?\.\d{1,2}"
- f. StyleReference="StyleValidation"

**6. Label** control

- a. ID = "lblTerm"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. Text = "2. Term(Year)"
- e. StyleReference="StyleLabel"

**7. TextBox** control

- a. ID = "Term"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. Numeric = "True"
- d. MaxLength = "6"
- e. Size = "10"
- f. Title = "Term"
- g. StyleReference="StyleTextBox"

**8.RequiredFieldValidator** control for validating term that expect input from user.

- a. ID = "rfvTerm"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. ControlToValidate ="Term"
- d. ErrorMessage ="Term Empty!"
- e. StyleReference="StyleValidation"

**9. RegularExpressionValidator** control for validating term that expect only numeric(not fractional) value from user .

- a. ID = "revTerm"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. ControlToValidate = "Term"
- d. ErrorMessage = "Invalid Amount!"
- e. ValidationExpression = "^[1-9]([0-9]+)?"
- f. StyleReference="StyleValidation"

**10. Label** control

- a. ID = "lblRate"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. Text = "3. Rate(%)"
- e. StyleReference="StyleLabel"

**11. TextBox** control

- a. ID = "Rate"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. Numeric = "True"
- d. MaxLength = "5"
- e. Size = "10"
- f. Title = "Rate"
- g. StyleReference="StyleTextBox"

**12. RequiredFieldValidator** control for validating rate that expect input from user.

- a. ID = "rfvRate"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. ControlToValidate ="Rate"
- d. ErrorMessage ="Rate Empty!"
- e. StyleReference="StyleValidation"

**13. RangeValidatorcontrol** for validating rate that expect only numeric value between 1 to 100 from user.

- a. ID = "rvRate"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. Type="Double"
- d. ControlToValidate = "Rate"
- e. ErrorMessage = "Invalid Rate!"
- f. MinimumValue="0"
- g. MaximumValue="100"
- h. StyleReference="StyleValidation"

**14. Command** control

- a. ID = "cmdRepayment"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- e. Text = "Repayment"
- f. OnClick="cmdRepayment\_Click"

The **Command** control provides a way to invoke ASP.NET event handlers from UI elements, thus posting user input from UI elements back to the server. The command is for calculate repayment. Event OnClick of cmdRepayment is bind with cmdPayment\_Click event procedure, it will discuss later in this demonstration.

The Form mobile control enables you to break up complex pages into a collection of forms on a mobile Web page. With this ability, you can minimize the effort required to port Web-based applications to mobile devices.

ASP.NET mobile web page can contain more than one form control and mobile application displays only one form at a time. And a form control cannot be a inner element of another form control.

Add second form control into **Loan\_RepaymentCalculator.aspx** page after **frmInput** from the **Mobile Web Forms** folder of the Toolbox, and define form control ID is **frmResult**

Now from the **Mobile Web Forms** folder of the Toolbox, drag controls onto **frmResult** and set their properties as defined in the following.

**1. Label** control

- a. ID = "lblHeadingResult"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. Wrapping = "Wrap"
- e. StyleReference="StyleHeader"

**2. TextView** control to display result

- a. ID = "tvLoanDetails"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. StyleReference="StyleLabelResult"

**3. Command** control it is a navigation button to go previous form control

- a. ID = "cmdBack"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- e. Text = "Back"
- f. OnClick="cmdBack\_Click"

Event OnClick of the cmdBack command button bind with cmdBack\_Click event procedure will discuss later in this demonstration.

Add last form control into **Loan\_RepaymentCalculator.aspx** page after **frmResult** from the **Mobile Web Forms** folder of the Toolbox, and define form control ID is **frmError**. If runtime error occurs application will show this error form.

Now from the Mobile Web Forms folder of the Toolbox, drag controls onto **frmError** and set their properties as defined in the following.

**1. Label** control

- a. ID = "lblHeadingError"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. Wrapping = "Wrap"
- e. StyleReference="StyleHeader"

**2. TextView** control to display error

- a. ID = "tvError"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. Text ="Sorry For Inconvenience!"
- e. StyleReference="StyleError"

**3. Command** control it is a navigation button to go previous form control

- a. ID = "cmdHome"

- b. Runat = "Server"
- e. Text = "Home"
- f. OnClick="cmdBack\_Click"

Event OnClick of the cmdBack command button bind with cmdBack\_Click event procedure will discuss later in this demonstration.

## StyleSheet

**StyleSheet** can be internal or external in mobile ASP.NET application. External stylesheet is for entire application while internal stylesheet only for page specific. The stylesheet control is need to implement style in application. Stylesheet control can contain any number of style elements, or elements that inherits from the style element. Each style element must have a unique **name** property. You can use the Name property to refer to each **Style** element in the **StyleSheet** control from other controls on the same **MobilePage** object.

To create the external style sheet, you create a user control, in an .ascx file, and place a single style-sheet control with a set of styles in it. Then, to refer to this file, you place a style-sheet control on the page and set its ReferencePath property to the relative URL of the user control.

Now add a StyleSheet folder in LRC Application. To do this follow the below steps:

1. Right Click on LRC application
2. Choose New Folder
3. Rename it **StyleSheet**

Add Mobile Web User Control in StyleSheet folder. Follow the below steps:

1. Right Click on StyleSheet folder in LRC application
2. Choose **Add New Item**

Add New Item dialogbox appear as below,

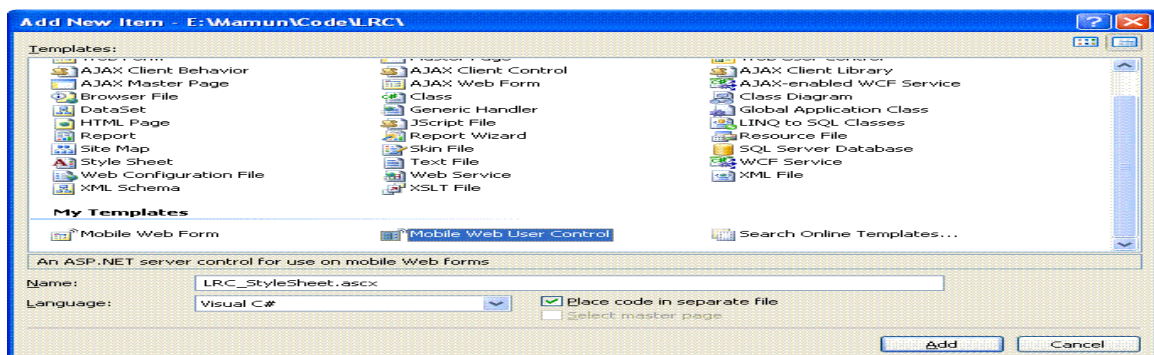


Figure 2

3. Name **LRC\_StyleSheet.ascx**
4. Language **Visual C#**
5. Click **Add** in the dialog box.

set **STL.Web.Mobile.UI** namespace for **LRC\_StyleSheet** class in **LRC\_StyleSheet.ascx.cs** file and Set

**Inherit="STL.Web.Mobile.UI.LRC\_StyleSheet"** in control directive of **LRC\_StyleSheet's** source file.

To define style sheet you need to add a **StyleSheet** control on the page from **Toolbox** under **Mobile Web Forms Folder**. And define styles as bellow:

```
<mobile:StyleSheet ID="StyleSheet1" runat="server">
  <mobile:Style Name="StyleForm" Font-Size="Small">
  </mobile:Style>
  <mobile:Style Name="StyleHeader" ForeColor="#999966" Font-Size="Small" Font-
Bold="True">
  </mobile:Style>
  <mobile:Style Name="StyleLabel" ForeColor="#cc3399" Font-Size="Small" Font-
Bold="False">
  </mobile:Style>
  <mobile:Style Name="StyleTextBox" ForeColor="#cc3399" Font-Size="Small" Font-
Bold="False">
  </mobile:Style>
  <mobile:Style Name="StyleValidation" ForeColor="Red" Font-Size="Small" Font-
Bold="False">
  </mobile:Style>
  <mobile:Style Name="StyleLabelResult" ForeColor="#cc0066" Font-Size="Small" Font-
Bold="False">
  </mobile:Style>
  <mobile:Style Name="StyleError" ForeColor="Red" Font-Size="Small">
  </mobile:Style>
</mobile:StyleSheet>
```

To add style reference from this external **StyleSheet into Loan\_RepaymentCalculator.aspx**, Just go to the source of this page and add a **StyleSheet** control from the **Toolbox** under **Mobile Web Forms** add set

**ReferencePath="~/StyleSheet/LRC\_StyleSheet.ascx"**

```
<mobile:StyleSheet ID="StyleSheet1" runat="server"
ReferencePath="~/StyleSheet/LRC_StyleSheet.ascx">
</mobile:StyleSheet>
```

Now you can add **StyleReference** in elements of a mobile web page.

```
<mobile:Label ID="lblHeading" runat="server" EnableViewState="False"
StyleReference="StyleHeader" Wrapping="Wrap">
</mobile:Label>
```



## Class

Add a class under **STL.Web.Mobile.UI** namespace in LRC Application for UI constants

### Steps:

1. Right Click on the App\_Code folder
2. Choose **Add New Item**
3. Choose **Class**
4. Name **UIConstant.cs**
5. Click **Add** in the dialog box.

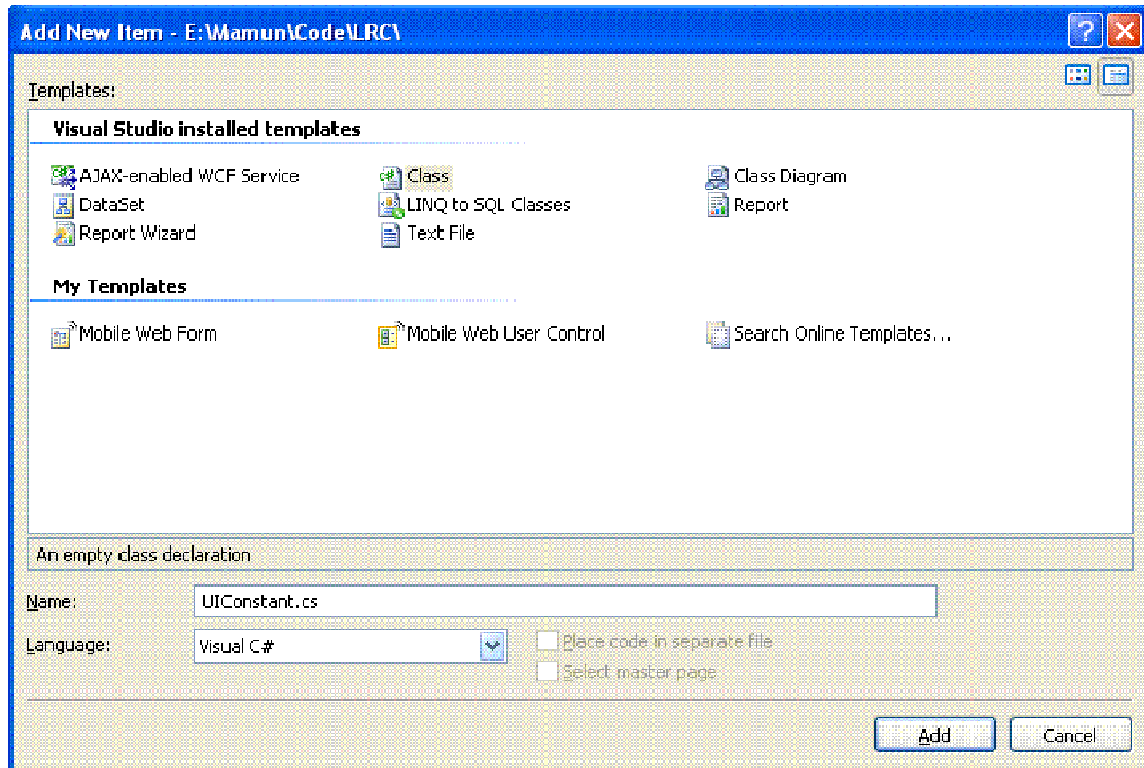


Figure 3

Add constants in UIConstant.cs files

```
namespace STL.Web.Mobile.UI
{
    public class UIConstant
    {
        private UIConstant()
        {
        }
        public const String TITLE_BAR="Loan Payment Calculator";
        public const String PAGE_TITLE = "Loan Payment Calculator";
    }
}
```

## Events

Add **Microsoft.VisualBasic.dll** reference in application to calculate monthly payment using `Financial.Pmt` method.

### Steps:

1. Right Click on the LRC Application
2. Choose **Add Reference**
3. Choose **Microsoft.VisualBasic**
4. Click **Add** in the dialog box.

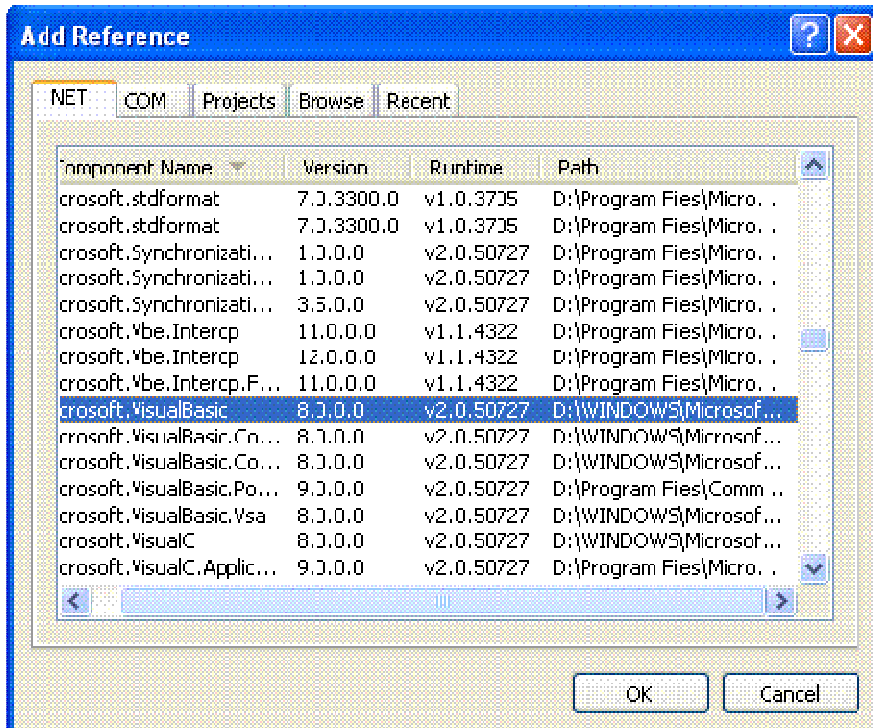


Figure 4

Using **Microsoft.VisualBasic** namespace in `Loan_RepaymentCalculator.aspx.cs` file

```
using Microsoft.VisualBasic;
```

**OnClick** event of `cmdRepayment` command in `frmInput` form is as bellow

```
protected void cmdRepayment_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    if (!Page.IsValid) return;
    try
    {
        Double dblPrincipal = double.Parse(this.PrincipalAmount.Text);
        Double dblApr = double.Parse(this.Rate.Text);
    }
}
```

```

    Double dblMonthlyInterest = (Double)(dblApr / (12 * 100));
    Int64 intTermInMonths = Int64.Parse(this.Term.Text) * 12;
    Double dblMonthlyPayment;
        //Calculate monthly payment
    dblMonthlyPayment = Microsoft.VisualBasic.Financial.Pmt(dblMonthlyInterest,
intTermInMonths, -dblPrincipal, 0,
Microsoft.VisualBasic.DueDate.BegOfPeriod);
    this.ActiveForm = this.frmResult;
    StringBuilder sbDetailsSpec = new StringBuilder("");
    sbDetailsSpec.Append(String.Format("{0} @ {1}% for {2} years
Payment: ", dblPrincipal.ToString("C0"), dblApr.ToString(),
this.Term.Text));
    sbDetailsSpec.Append(" + dblMonthlyPayment.ToString("C") + "");
    this.tvLoanDetails.Text = sbDetailsSpec.ToString();
}
catch
{
    //If runtime error occurs then go to error form.
    this.ActiveForm = frmError;
}
}

```

**OnClick** event of cmdBack command in **frmInput** form is as bellow

```

protected void cmdBack_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    //To back to input form
    this.ActiveForm = this.frmInput;
}

```

**Initialize** user method to initialize elements in the mobile web page

```

private void Initialize()
{
    this.frmInput.Title = UIConstant.TITLE_BAR;
    this.frmResult.Title = UIConstant.TITLE_BAR;
    this.frmError.Title = UIConstant.TITLE_BAR;

    this.lblHeading.Text = UIConstant.PAGE_TITLE;
    this.lblHeadingResult.Text = UIConstant.PAGE_TITLE;
    this.lblHeadingError.Text = UIConstant.PAGE_TITLE;
}

```

**Load** event of the page

```

        protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            Initialize();
        }

```

## Application Level Errors

To handle application level error you need to add a error page. To add page

Steps:

1. Right click on the LRC application
2. Choose **Add New Item**
3. Name **ErrorPage.aspx**
4. Click **Add** in the dialog

Set **Inherits="STL.Web.Mobile.UI.ErrorPage"** in page directive of ErrorPage.aspx. And define STL.Web.Mobile.UI namespace for ErrorPage

```

namespace STL.Web.Mobile.UI
{
    public partial class ErrorPage : System.Web.UI.MobileControls.MobilePage
    {
    }
}

```

Add a **StyleSheet** control in the page and set ReferencePath="~/StyleSheet/LRC\_StyleSheet.ascx"

Add a **form** control in the ErrorPage and set ID="frmError"

Add control in **frmError** that is defined as following:

### 1. Label control

- a. ID = "lblHeadingError"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. Wrapping = "Wrap"
- e. StyleReference="StyleHeader"

### 2. TextView control to display error

- a. ID = "tvError"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- c. EnableViewState = "False"
- d. Text ="Sorry For Inconvenience!"
- e. StyleReference="StyleError"

**3. Command** control it is a navigation button to go previous form control

- a. ID = "cmdHome"
- b. Runat = "Server"
- e. Text = "Home"
- f. OnClick="cmdBack\_Click"

Code of the ErrorPage file is as follows:

```
public partial class ErrorPage : System.Web.UI.MobileControls.MobilePage
{
    #region Event

    protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
    {
        Intitalize();
    }

    protected void cmdHome_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
    {
        //To redirect to Loan_RepaymentCalculator page
        Response.Redirect("~/Loan_RepaymentCalculator.aspx");
    }

    #endregion Event

    #region Method

    private void Intitalize()
    {
        this.frmError.Title = UIConstant.TITLE_BAR;
        this.lblHeadingError.Text = UIConstant.PAGE_TITLE;
    }

    #endregion Method
}
```

### Web.config

You need to change configuration in Web.config file to redirect to Error Page when application level error is occurred.

set **mode="on"** and **defaultRedirect="~/ErrorPage.aspx"** in customErrors element under System.Web element.

### Test Application

To test the application you can use **Microsoft Mobile Explorer 3.0** . If not available Microsoft Mobile Explorer 3.0 you can use your desktop browser or free download it from net. Install **Microsoft Mobile Explorer 3.0** in your system.

To browse with **Microsoft Mobile Explorer 3.0** you need to do as follows:

1. Right click on **Loan\_RepaymentCalculator.aspx** file
2. Choose **Browse With**  
( If Microsoft Mobile Explorer 3.0 is not available in Browsers list of Browse With dialog, you need add it)
3. Click **Add**
4. Browse your location where you installed **Microsoft Mobile Explorer 3.0 (mmeemu.exe)**
5. Select **Microsoft Mobile Explorer**
6. Click **Set as Default** in the dialog box.

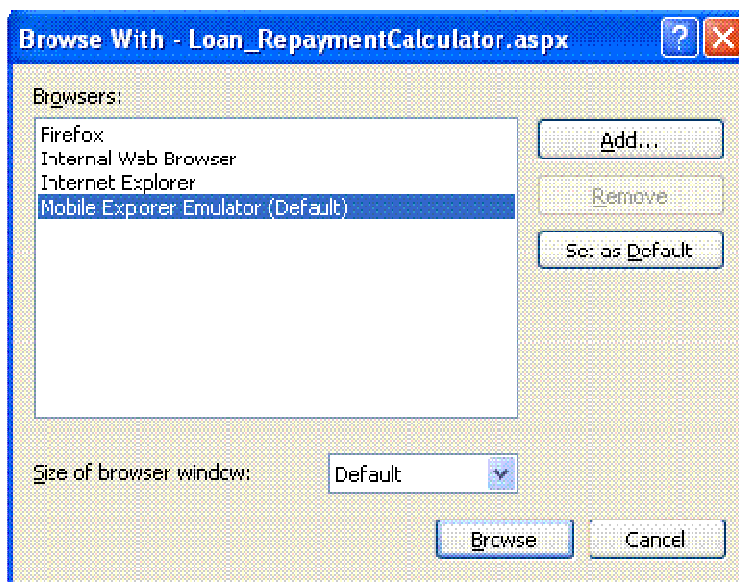


Figure 5

Press F5 to run the application. Microsoft Mobile Explorer Emulator will appear. Click ASP.NET Development Server icon in the system tray to get application URL name and its port. It may be different in your system.

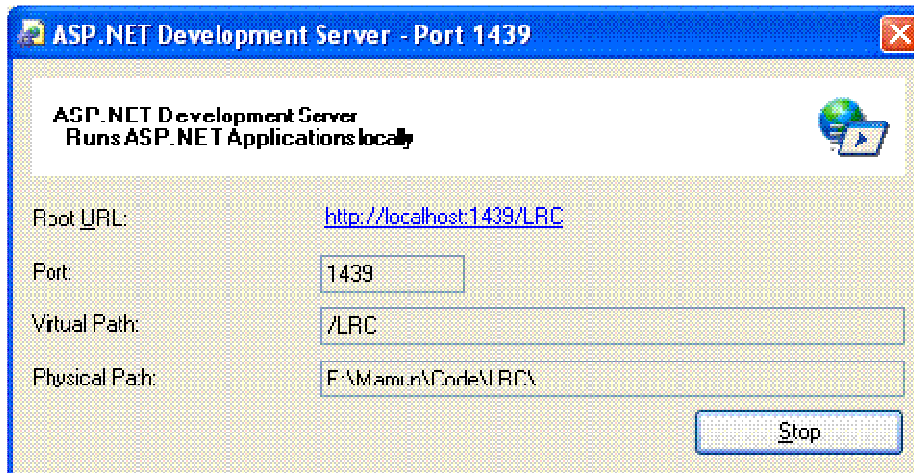


Figure 6

In the Microsoft Mobile Explorer Emulator type URL as **http://localhost:1439/LRC/Loan\_RepaymentCalculator.aspx**

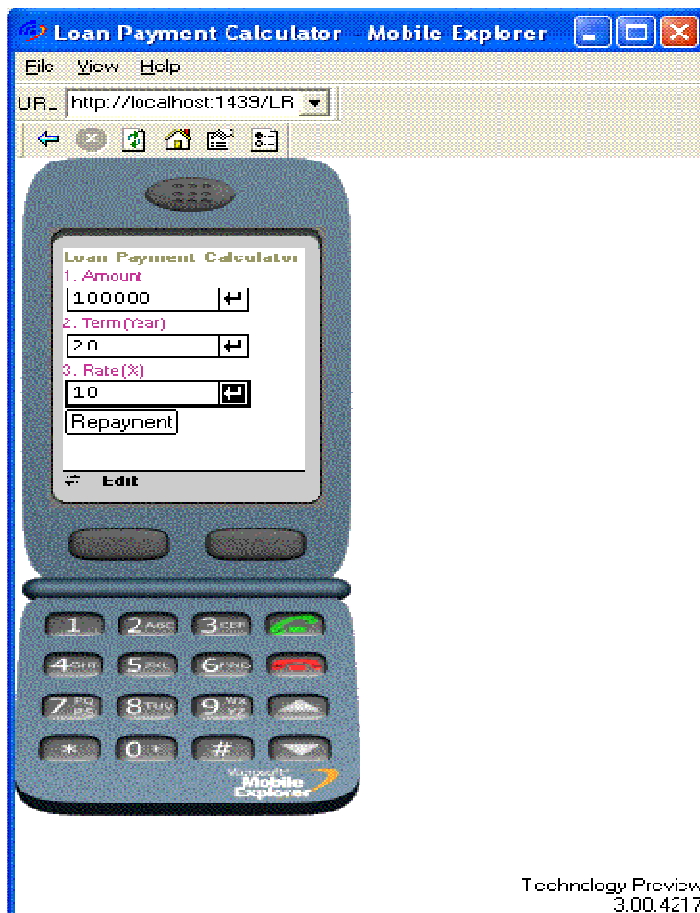


Figure 7

Enter **Amount, Term & Rate**. Click on Repayment button in the screen. You will get result like bellow,



Figure 8

## Tools

For testing application in Mobile Emulator  
[http://devhood.com/tools/tool\\_details.aspx?tool\\_id=52](http://devhood.com/tools/tool_details.aspx?tool_id=52)