

Lesson 1-6: Create an ASP.NET Web Forms Site project

note

Compiling

When a project is compiled, it is changed from program code that you can read into binary code that a web server can read.

Advantages of Web Forms Applications

1. Because a Web Forms Site project is not compiled, the web server has to compile it as the site is viewed. This makes Web Forms Sites slightly slower than Web Forms Applications.

2. Because a Web Forms Application is compiled, the code of the web site it produces will not be easy to edit.

This prevents the web site from being tampered with and allows you to protect your source code.

For these reasons you will only work with Web Forms Applications after this lesson.

note

Razor

You'll notice that options exist for *Razor v1* and *Razor v2* Web Site projects.

Razor is a new technology that allows ASP.NET web sites to be created in a different way.

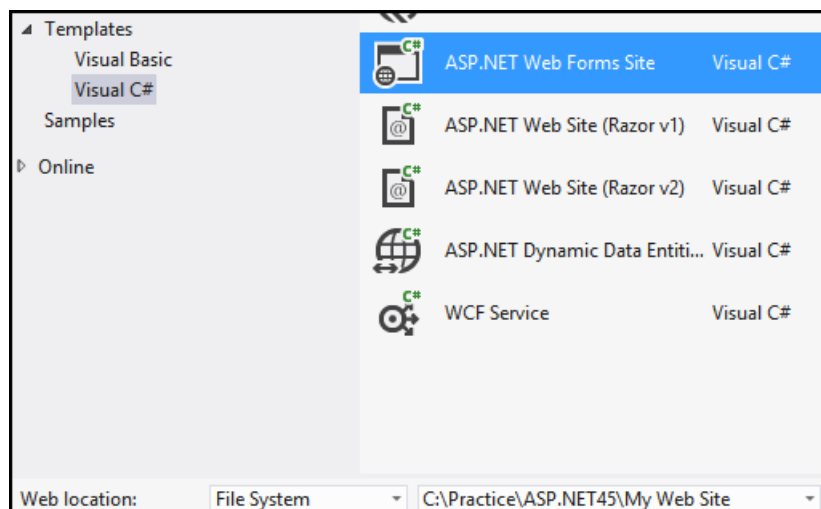
Ordinary ASP.NET projects separate their page design and C# code into two separate files. Razor combines page designs and C# code into a single file – this is actually how the earliest versions of ASP worked.

You won't use Razor projects in this course, but the skills you will learn will be very relevant if you choose to use Razor in the future.

As well as Web Forms Application projects, you can also create Web Forms Site projects. A Web Forms Site is very similar to a Web Forms Application, but it is not compiled.

Compiling offers many advantages, making the Web Forms Application the preferred project type (see sidebar), but for completeness you'll also learn how to create a Web Forms Site project in this lesson.

- 1 Open Visual Studio (if it isn't open already).
- 2 Create a new Web Site project.
 1. Click File→New Web Site....
 2. Click *Visual C#*.
 3. Click *ASP.NET Web Forms Site*.
 4. Click the *Browse...* button and browse to the folder where you placed your sample files, then click the *Open* button.
 5. Append the text **\My Web Site** to the box showing the path to your Sample Files folder.



6. Click *OK*.
 7. Click *Yes* to create the folder if prompted.
- A new web site is automatically created and opened.
- 3 Close and re-open the Web Site.
 1. Close Visual Studio.
 2. Navigate to your sample files folder using Windows.
 3. Open the new *My Web Site* folder that has appeared.

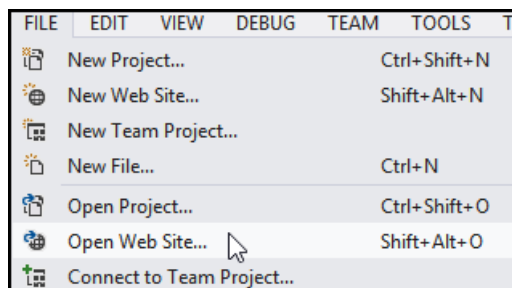
Name	Date modified	Type
Account	11/04/2013 14:42	File folder
App_Code	11/04/2013 14:42	File folder
App_Data	11/04/2013 14:42	File folder
bin	11/04/2013 14:42	File folder
Content	11/04/2013 14:42	File folder
Images	11/04/2013 14:42	File folder
Scripts	11/04/2013 14:42	File folder
About.aspx	11/04/2013 14:42	ASP.NET Server Page
About.aspx.cs	11/04/2013 14:42	Visual C# Source file
Bundle.config	15/01/2013 10:18	XML Configuration File
Contact.aspx	11/04/2013 14:42	ASP.NET Server Page
Contact.aspx.cs	11/04/2013 14:42	Visual C# Source file

This is quite different to your Web Forms Application project!

When you created your Web Forms Application, a *.csproj* file and a *.sln* file were created to tell Visual Studio which files are included in the project. Web Forms Site projects don't use these files; instead they assume that all of the files in the same folder are part of the project. This means that you can't open a Web Forms Site in the same way as you can open a Web Forms Application.

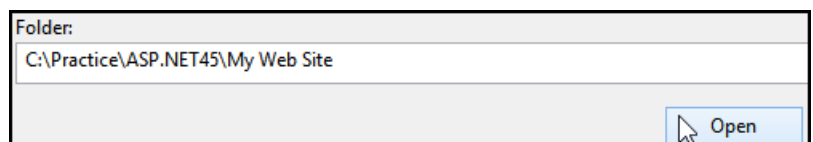
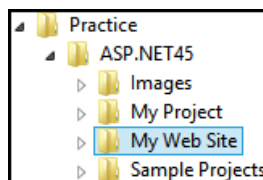
You'll only be using Web Forms Applications from this point on, but it's useful to know how to open a Web Forms Site.

4. Open Visual Studio.
5. Click File → Open Web Site...



6. Browse to the *My Web Site* folder and click *Open*.

Click *Yes* if prompted.



The web site project is opened in Visual Studio.