Introduction to C#, Visual Studio and Windows Presentation Foundation

Lecture #3: C#, Visual Studio, and WPF
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C#

- Combination of C++ and Java
  - no pointer manipulation
  - built in data structures – Lists, Hash tables
  - some higher level constructs
    - foreach
  - C# not difficult
- .NET high learning curve
- Intellisense makes things much easier

Quick C# Reference
Visual Studio 2008 Beta 2

- Good IDE
  - debugging
  - intellisense
- Handles WPF well
- Visual UI designer
  - Integrates with XAML

Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF)

- Latest UI development platform from MSFT
- Integration of
  - INK!!!!
  - 2D graphics
  - 3D graphics
  - video/audio/animation
- Declarative/Procedural programming model
  - XAML
  - C# / Visual Basic / etc…
- Uses retained mode
  - implies scenegraph

www.markmywords.org

blogs.msdn.com/mgrayson/
WPF Features and Machinery

- Control library
  - buttons, sliders, menus, toolbars
  - tool tips, popups, scroll bars, etc...
  - user defined as well
- Layout panels
  - canvas, stack, wrap, doc panels
  - grid – most flexible
- Actions
  - events
  - commands
  - triggers
- Styles, skins, themes, templates

Logical and Visual Trees in WPF

- UIs are constructed from a tree of objects
  (logical tree)
- Visual tree expands logical tree
  - nodes broken down into visual components
  - not all logical tree nodes appear in visual tree
Extensible Application Markup Language (XAML)

- Set of semantics on top of XML
- Tags always defined in context namespace
- Easy to read like and write
  - a.k.a. HTML
  - declarative
  - want to integrate graphic designers
- Independent of WPF
- Ideal for rapid UI prototyping
  - set up UI then write procedural code

WPF Example – Button

```
<Window xmlns='http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation'
    Title='Hello World'>
    <Button>Howdy!</Button>
</Window>
```

**WPF Example – Stack Panel**

```xml
<Window
xmlns='http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation'
xmlns:x='http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml'
Title='Hello World' >
  <StackPanel>
    <Button>Howdy!</Button>
    <Button>A second button</Button>
  </StackPanel>
</Window>
```

**WPF Example – More Controls**

```xml
<Window
xmlns='http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation'
xmlns:x='http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml'
Title='Hello World' >
  <StackPanel>
    <Button>Howdy!</Button>
    <Button>A second button</Button>
    <TextBox>An editable text box</TextBox>
    <CheckBox>A check box</CheckBox>
    <Slider Width='75' Minimum='0' Maximum='100' Value='50' />
  </StackPanel>
</Window>
```
WPF Example – Wrap Layout

```xml
<Window
xmlns='http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation'
Title='Hello World' >
  <WrapPanel>
    <Button>Howdy!</Button>
    <Button>A second button</Button>
    <TextBox>An editable text box</TextBox>
    <CheckBox>A check box</CheckBox>
    <Slider Width='75' Minimum='0' Maximum='100' Value='50' />
  </WrapPanel>
</Window>
```

WPF Example – Events

```csharp
using System;
using System.Windows.Controls;
using System.Windows;
namespace CAP5937Test
{
    public partial class MyWindow : Window {
        public MyWindow() {
            InitializeComponent();
        }

        void HowdyClicked(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
            _text1.Text = "Hello from C#!";
        }
    }
}
```
WPF Example – Resource Binding

```xml
<Window.Resources>
    <SolidColorBrush x:Key='bg' Color='Red' />
</Window.Resources>
<WrapPanel>
    <Button Background='{StaticResource bg}'
        Click="HowdyClicked">Howdy!</Button>
    <Button Background='{StaticResource bg}'>A second button</Button>
</WrapPanel>
```

WPF Example – Property Binding

```xml
<Button Background='{StaticResource bg}'>A second button</Button>
<TextBox x:Name='_text1'>An editable text box</TextBox>
<CheckBox Content='{Binding ElementName=_text1, Path=Text}' />
```

WPF Actions

- 3 principles
  - element composition
  - loose coupling
  - declarative actions
- Uses events, commands, and triggers
- Utilize routed events – traverse visual tree
- Semantic events vs. physical events
  - Click vs. MouseDown

WPF Events

- Declare events in XAML/implement in code
- Routed events
  - Direct – fire on single source
  - Tunneling – travel from root to target element
  - Bubbling – opposite of tunneling
- Tunneling version prefixed with Preview
- Handled property can break traversal
Event Ordering Example

```xml
<Window ...
  PreviewMouseRightButtonDown='WindowPreviewRightButtonDown'
  MouseRightButtonDown='WindowRightButtonDown' >
  <GroupBox PreviewMouseRightButtonDown='GroupBoxPreviewRightButtonDown'
            MouseRightButtonDown='GroupBoxRightButtonDown' >
    <StackPanel>
      <Button>One</Button>
      <Button PreviewMouseRightButtonDown='ButtonTwoPreviewRightButtonDown'
              MouseRightButtonDown='ButtonTwoRightButtonDown' > Two </Button>
    </StackPanel>
  </GroupBox>
</Window>
```

Ordering → 1. Window PreviewMouseRightButtonDown
2. GroupBox PreviewMouseRightButtonDown
3. Button PreviewMouseRightButtonDown
4. Button MouseRightButtonDown
5. GroupBox MouseRightButtonDown
6. Window MouseRightButtonDown

Commands

- Provide single name to signify an action
  - define command
  - define command implementation
  - create trigger for command
- Uses ICommand interface

```csharp
public interface ICommand {
    event EventHandler CanExecuteChanged;
    bool CanExecute(object parameter);
    void Execute(object parameter);
}
```
Command Example

```csharp
class Exit : ICommand {
    public bool CanExecute(object parameter) {
        return true;
    }

    public event EventHandler CanExecuteChanged;

    public void Execute(object parameter) {
        Application.Current.Shutdown();
    }
}
```

```xml
<MenuHeader Header='File'>
    <MenuItem Header='Exit'>
        <MenuItem.Command>
            <l:Exit />
        </MenuItem.Command>
    </MenuItem>
</MenuHeader>

public partial class Window1 : Window {
    public static readonly ICommand ExitCommand = new Exit();
...
</MenuHeader>
```

Triggers

- Designed for markup
- Signaled by
  - state of a display property (Trigger)
  - state of a data property (DataTrigger)
    - used only within a data template
  - an event (EventTrigger)
- Cause set of actions when signaled
- MultiTrigger and MultiDataTrigger
Event Trigger Example

```xml
<EventTrigger RoutedEvent='FrameworkElement.Loaded'>
    <EventTrigger.Actions>
        <BeginStoryboard>
            <BeginStoryboard.Storyboard>
                <Storyboard>
                    <DoubleAnimation
                        From='-25'
                        To='25'
                        Storyboard.TargetName='rotation'
                        Storyboard.TargetProperty='Angle'
                        AutoReverse='True'
                        Duration='0:0:2.5'
                        RepeatBehavior='Forever'/>
                    </Storyboard>
                </BeginStoryboard.Storyboard>
            </BeginStoryboard>
        </EventTrigger.Actions>
    </EventTrigger>
</Window.Triggers>
```

Readings

- Windows Presentation Foundation by Nathan
  - Chapters 1-7