

Lesson 1-13: Change properties in Source view

In the last lesson you changed properties using *Design* view, but it's also possible to do the same thing in *Source* view. This is useful when your page contains hidden elements or is too complicated for *Design* view to display properly. Some developers prefer to work in *Source* view most of the time.

In this lesson, you'll use *Source* view to change the properties of controls on your page.

1 Open *ShiningStone* from your sample files folder.

It can be found in the *Sample Projects* sub-folder.

2 Open *buy.aspx* in *Source* view.

After opening *buy.aspx* you can switch to *Source* view by clicking the *Source* button at the bottom of the window.

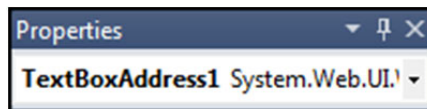
3 Change control properties in *Source* view using the *Properties* window.

1. Click on the line that begins:

```
<asp:TextBox ID="TextBoxAddress1"
```

The line should be highlighted in gray. You will see that *TextBoxAddress1* is automatically selected in the *Properties* window.

```
<asp:TextBox ID="TextBoxAddress1"
```



2. In the *Properties* window, Type **Enter Address** into the *Text* property and press <Enter>.

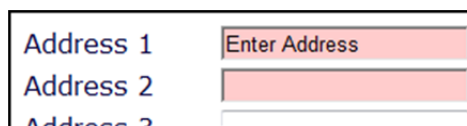
```
Text Enter Address
```

After a brief delay *Enter Address* appears on *TextBoxAddress1*'s line in the *Code Window*.

```
Text="Enter Address"></asp:TextBox>
```

3. View *buy.aspx* in your browser.

You'll see that changing the *Text* property has placed the text *Enter Address* inside the *Address 1* text box. The *Text* property is useful when you want to display default text in a text box control.

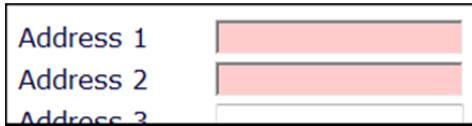


4. Close your browser and return to Visual Studio.

5. Delete the text you entered from the *Text* property and press **<Enter>**.

You will see that the text has been removed from the code.

```
BackColor="#FFCCCC"></asp:TextBox>
```



6. View *buy.aspx* in your browser again.
You'll see that the text has been removed from the text box.
7. Close your browser and return to Visual Studio.

Whenever you change properties using the *Properties* window, the page's code (visible in *Source* view) is being updated. This also works the other way around: if you change properties in *Source* view, they will change in the *Properties* window.

4 Manually change properties in *Source* view.

Although you can use the *Properties* window to change properties while in *Source* view, *Source* view is really intended to be used to edit code manually.

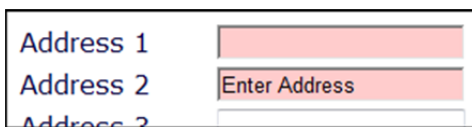
1. Click in the space just after `<asp:TextBox` underneath *Address 2*.

```
<td>
    Address 2
</td>
<td>
    <asp:TextBox ID=
</td>
```

2. Type **Text="Enter Address"**, followed by a space.

```
<td>
    Address 2
</td>
<td>
    <asp:TextBox Text="Enter Address" ID=
</td>
```

You have just manually set the *Text* property of *TextBoxAddress2*.



3. View *buy.aspx* in your browser.
You'll see that the text has been placed in the second text box, just as you'd expect.
4. Remove the *Text* property by deleting the code you added.

```
<td>
    Address 2
</td>
<td>
    <asp:TextBox ID="TextBoxAddress2"
</td>
```

Source view can be useful, as it displays all of a page's code. There are some things that *Design* view is incapable of displaying, but *Source* view will always contain everything.

5 Close Visual Studio.