

Lesson 1-14: Add controls to a page with the Toolbox

You now know how to navigate through a project and make basic changes to the controls on your pages. Using the *Toolbox*, you can add controls to your pages by simply dragging and dropping them.

- 1 Open *My Project* from your sample files folder.
- 2 Open the HTML code of *mypage.aspx* and switch to *Design* view.


You learned how to do this in: *Lesson 1-9: View .aspx pages in Source and Design views.*

- 3 Expand the *Toolbox*.



1. Click the *Toolbox* icon on the top left of the screen.


The *Toolbox* will appear.

2. Click the *Auto Hide* icon () to the right of the top bar of the *Toolbox* to pin it to the window.

This will stop it from overlapping your page and stop it from disappearing automatically (see sidebar).

- 4 Expand the *Standard* category in the *Toolbox* (if it isn't already expanded)

This is done the same way as in the *Solution Explorer* and *Properties Window*.

Click the  icon next to the *Standard* category (unless it is already expanded).

The *Standard* category contains the most commonly-used controls.

- 5 Add a button control to the page.

Click and drag a *Button* control from the *Toolbox* onto your page, underneath the text you added earlier.

You will see that a button has been created called *Button1*.



- 6 Switch to *Source* view.

- 7 Add a *TextBox* control in *Source* view.

1. In the same way as you did with the *Button*, drag a *TextBox* control from the *Toolbox* onto the *Code Window*.

Try to drop the *TextBox* just before the line that contains the button you added earlier (the line that begins `<asp:Button`).

```
<asp:TextBox ID="TextBox1" runat="server"></asp:TextBox>
<asp:Button ID="Button1" runat="server" Text="Button" />
```

Some code is added to the page for your new *TextBox* control.

tip

Auto Hide

You may have noticed that the *Solution Explorer*, *Properties Window* and *Toolbox* all have the same 'pin' icon in the top-right corner of their windows:

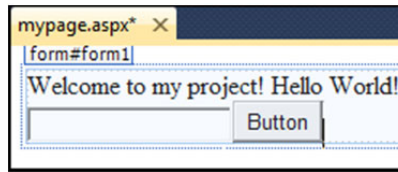


This button switches on and off *Auto Hide*. When *Auto Hide* is switched on, the window will automatically minimize away from the screen when it is not in use. By auto-hiding your windows, you can get a large unobstructed view of the main window.

Feel free to experiment with *Auto Hide*. Remember that you can always reset your window layout to default by clicking *Window* → *Reset Window Layout*.

- Switch back to *Design* view.

You will see that the new text box control has been inserted before the button.



note

ASP.NET controls and HTML

If you're familiar with HTML, you have probably noticed that the objects that begin with `<asp:` are unfamiliar. This is because they are ASP.NET controls.

As you read earlier, HTML is the language that web browsers understand. However, these `<asp:` lines aren't valid HTML code so a browser cannot understand them.

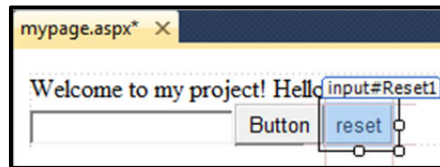
When an ASPX web page is requested by a web browser, ASP.NET controls are converted into valid HTML code by the web server before they are sent to the browser.

You will learn more about this in: *Lesson 3-1: Change properties with C#.*

- Add an *HTML* control.

- Switch to *Design* view if you're not in that view already.
- Collapse the *Standard* category in the *Toolbox*.
- Expand the *HTML* category in the *Toolbox*.
- Drag an *Input (Reset)* control onto your page after your button.

Your page should now look like this:

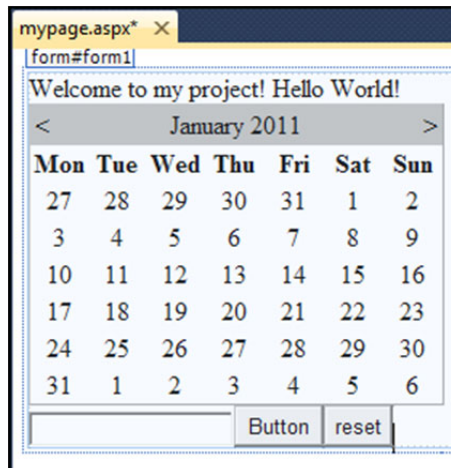


- Add a *Calendar* control.

You will find the *Calendar* control in the *Standard* category of the *Toolbox*.

In the same way you added the last two controls, add a *Calendar* control to the page. Try to place it before your text box.

Your page should now look like this:



- Save your changes and close Visual Studio.