

# Lesson 1-5: Create an ASP.NET Web Application project

An ASP.NET Web Application project is the starting point in creating an ASP.NET web site. Projects contain all of the web pages, images and other files that are needed to create a web site.

In this lesson, you'll create an ASP.NET Web Application project.

- 1 Open Visual Studio.
- 2 Create a new Web Application project.

1. Click File→New Project...

2. Click *Visual C#* in the left-hand pane.

This book will teach you about the C# programming language, not the Visual Basic programming language (see sidebar).

3. Click *ASP.NET Web Application* in the central pane.

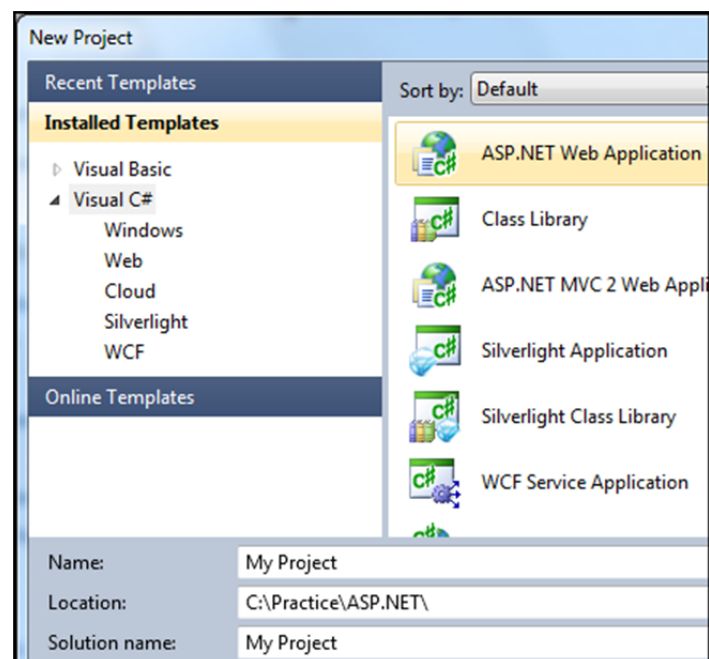
4. Enter **My Project** into the *Name* box.

Notice that the *Solution name* box automatically copies what you enter.

5. Click the *Browse...* button and browse to C:/Practice/ASP.NET (or the folder where you placed your sample files). Then click the *Select Folder* button.

6. Make sure the *Create directory for solution* box is ticked.

7. Click OK.



You have just created your first ASP.NET Web Application project. Visual Studio will automatically open it (this may take a little time).

## note

### What are the other project types?

When creating a new project, you'll notice there are lots of other project types besides the one you chose in this lesson.

In this book, you'll only be using the *ASP.NET Web Application* and *ASP.NET Empty Web Application* project types, but many of the others will be covered in the next book in this series: *Learn ASP.NET 4.0, C# and Visual Studio 2010 Expert Skills with The Smart Method*.

## note

### ASP.NET MVC web applications

MVC stands for: *Model, View, Controller*. It's a programming methodology where all code is separated into those three groups.

MVC web application projects exist for programmers who want to design their web applications using the MVC methodology.

ASP.NET isn't really designed for the MVC methodology, so MVC projects tend to be harder to work with than standard web applications, especially if you're new to programming.

For this reason, you won't use MVC projects in this book.

## note

### Why am I learning C# and not Visual Basic?

Visual Studio offers you the choice of working in Visual C# or Visual Basic.

In this book, you will learn the basics of C#, rather than Visual Basic. This is because C# is a more sought-after skill.

Several surveys have shown that there are more jobs advertised for C# developers than Visual Basic, so your skills will be more marketable by choosing C#.

Regardless of this, C# and Visual Basic are very similar indeed. If you learn C#, you should find that Visual Basic is very easy to pick up.

## note

### My Project.suo

The *.suo* file is hidden by default, so you will only see it if you have configured Windows to display hidden files.

The *.suo* file is used to store settings for your project, and will be automatically updated through Visual Studio.

You will never have to open it directly.

## 3 Open the new project.

1. Close Visual Studio.
2. Navigate to your sample files folder using Windows.
3. Open the new *My Project* folder that has appeared.

Name	Date modified	Type
My Project	01/04/2011 17:21	File folder
My Project.sln	01/04/2011 17:21	Microsoft Visual Studio Solution
My Project.suo	01/04/2011 17:21	Visual Studio Solution User Options

You will see another *My Project* folder and a file called *My Project.sln*.

*My Project.sln* is the *solution* file. The solution file tells Visual Studio which files are in your project. If you double-click on it, your project will be opened in Visual Studio.

4. Open the *My Project* folder by double-clicking on it.

Name	Date modified	Type
Account	01/04/2011 17:20	File folder
App_Data	01/04/2011 17:20	File folder
bin	01/04/2011 17:20	File folder
obj	01/04/2011 17:20	File folder
Properties	01/04/2011 17:20	File folder
Scripts	01/04/2011 17:20	File folder
Styles	01/04/2011 17:20	File folder
About.aspx	01/04/2011 17:20	ASP.NET Server Page
About.aspx.cs	01/04/2011 17:20	Visual C# Source file
About.aspx.designer.cs	01/04/2011 17:20	Visual C# Source file
Default.aspx	01/04/2011 17:20	ASP.NET Server Page
Default.aspx.cs	01/04/2011 17:20	Visual C# Source file
Default.aspx.designer.cs	01/04/2011 17:20	Visual C# Source file
Global.asax	01/04/2011 17:20	ASP.NET Server Application
Global.asax.cs	01/04/2011 17:20	Visual C# Source file
My Project.csproj	01/04/2011 17:21	Visual C# Project file
My Project.csproj.user	01/04/2011 17:21	Visual Studio Project User Options file
Site.Master	01/04/2011 17:20	ASP.NET Master Page
Site.Master.cs	01/04/2011 17:20	Visual C# Source file
Site.Master.designer.cs	01/04/2011 17:20	Visual C# Source file
Web.config	01/04/2011 17:20	XML Configuration File
Web.Debug.config	01/04/2011 17:20	XML Configuration File
Web.Release.config	01/04/2011 17:20	XML Configuration File

This folder has lots of items in it! These are the files that contain all of the code and content for your site.

You'll notice a file named *My Project.csproj*. This is the *project* file.

Projects are very similar to solutions. You can open your project by double-clicking *My Project.csproj*, just as you can open it by double-clicking *My Project.sln*. The major difference is that a solution can contain several projects.

In the course of this book you'll only work with one project at a time, so it doesn't matter which file you use to open your projects.

5. Open the project by double-clicking the solution or project file.