

Lesson 1-6: Create an ASP.NET Web 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 Applications

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

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

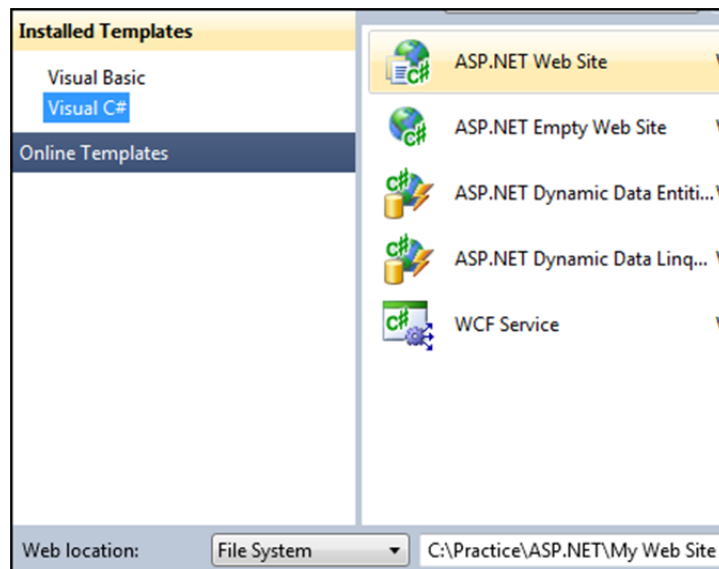
This prevents the web site from being tampered with and allows you to protect your source code.

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

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

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

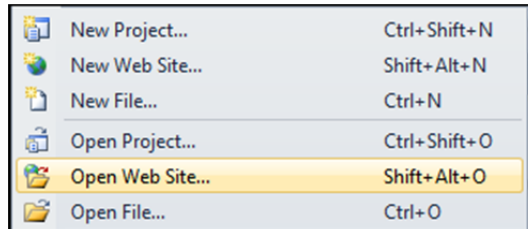
Name	Date modified	Type
Account	01/04/2011 17:42	File folder
App_Data	01/04/2011 17:42	File folder
Scripts	01/04/2011 17:42	File folder
Styles	01/04/2011 17:42	File folder
About.aspx	01/04/2011 17:42	ASP.NET Server Page
About.aspx.cs	01/04/2011 17:42	Visual C# Source file
Default.aspx	01/04/2011 17:42	ASP.NET Server Page
Default.aspx.cs	01/04/2011 17:42	Visual C# Source file
Global.asax	01/04/2011 17:42	ASP.NET Server Application
Site.master	01/04/2011 17:42	ASP.NET Master Page
Site.master.cs	01/04/2011 17:42	Visual C# Source file
Web.config	01/04/2011 17:42	XML Configuration File

This is quite different to your Web Application project!

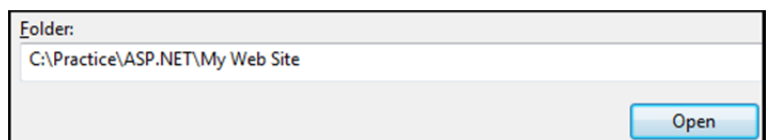
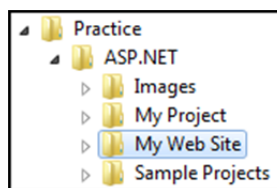
When you created your Web Application, a *.csproj* file and a *.sln* file were created to tell Visual Studio which files are included in the project. Web Sites don't use these files; instead they assume that all of the files in the same folder are part of the Web Site. This means that you can't open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

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

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



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



The web site is opened.