

Lesson 1-7: Manage a project with the Solution Explorer

The *Solution Explorer* window can be found at the top-right of the Visual Studio screen. It displays all of the web pages and other objects that are in your current solution and allows you to edit them. It also enables you to add files to your project and remove them.

When you created *My Project* in *Lesson 1-5: Create an ASP.NET Web Application project*, a lot of different files were automatically added to it. In this lesson you'll learn how to open some of those files, add new files and remove files.

1 Open *My Project* from your sample files folder.

1. Click File → Open Project.
2. Click the *My Project.sln* file in the *My Project* subfolder of your Sample Files folder.
3. Click *Open*.

Alternatively, you can navigate to your Sample Files folder and double-click on *My Project.sln* as you did in *Lesson 1-5: Create an ASP.NET Web Application project*.

2 Double-click *Default.aspx* in the *Solution Explorer*.

This will open the HTML code of *Default.aspx* in the main window. You can open any file in your project by double-clicking it in this way.

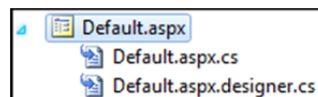
Don't worry if you don't understand any of the code displayed yet. By the time you've finished this course you'll completely understand what it all means.

An *aspx* file acts as a web page and can be understood by a web browser. You may have noticed some web addresses ending with *.aspx* while browsing the Internet.

Default.aspx is normally the 'home page' of a web site.

3 Open the 'code-behind' file of *Default.aspx*.

1. Expand *Default.aspx* by clicking the small arrow to the left of it in the *Solution Explorer*.

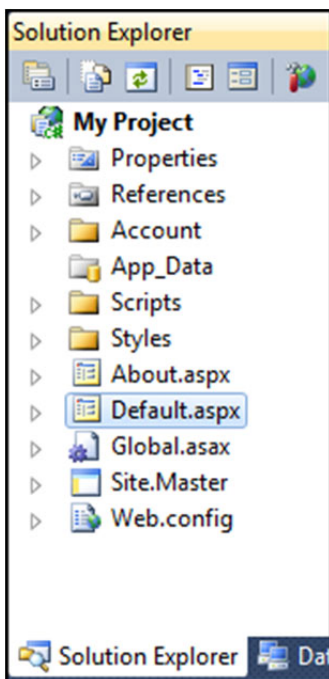


2. Double-click *Default.aspx.cs*

This will open the C# 'code-behind' file of *Default.aspx* in the main window.

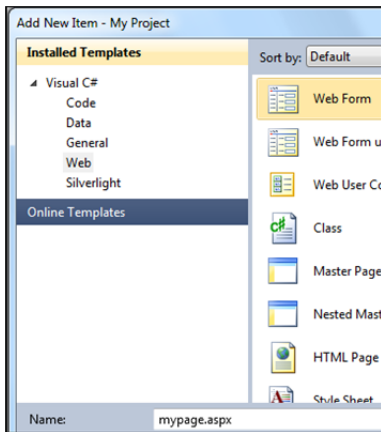
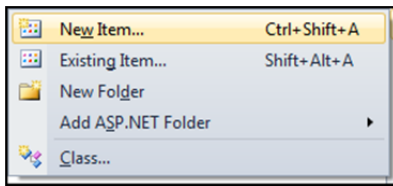
You won't understand any of the C# code you see in this file yet, but by the end of this book it will all make sense to you.

Every *.aspx* file has a code-behind file. The code-behind files are actually separate files, but they are grouped together by the solution explorer for clarity.



If you are not completing the course incrementally use the sample file: **Lesson 1-6** to begin this lesson.

Sample files with the starting point for each lesson are also provided for all of the other lessons in this session.



important

You might think that if you were to copy an image directly into your project's *Images* folder it would appear in the *Solution Explorer*, but if you did that it would not appear in your project.

Because you're using a *Web Application* project, only the files you add to your project using the *Solution Explorer* will be included when you publish the site.

You should only ever create folders in a project using the *Solution Explorer*. If you create folders using Windows there is no way to make them appear in your project.

4 Add a new page to the project.

You can also open the code-behind file by right-clicking on *Default.aspx* and then clicking *View Code* from the shortcut menu.

1. Right-click on *My Project* in the *Solution Explorer* and then click *Add*→*New Item...* from the shortcut menu.
2. Click *Web* in the left pane of the dialog and then click *Web Form* from the top of the center panel.
3. Enter **mypage.aspx** in the *Name* box and then click *Add*.

You have now added a new page to your project. Visual Studio helpfully opens its HTML code for you. You will also see that *mypage.aspx* has appeared in the *Solution Explorer*.

5 Add a new folder to the project.

Adding a folder is very similar to adding a folder in Windows.

1. Right-click on *My Project* in the *Solution Explorer* and then click *Add*→*New Folder* from the shortcut menu.

The new folder is created and its default name (*NewFolder1*) is highlighted, ready for you to type a meaningful name.

2. Type **Images** as the name of your new folder and press <Enter>.

6 Add an image to the *Images* folder.

1. Right-click on the *Images* folder and then click *Add*→*Existing Item...* from the shortcut menu.
2. Navigate to your sample files folder and choose the file *balloon.jpg* in the *Images* folder, then click *Add*.

This will take a copy of *balloon.jpg* and place it in your project's *Images* folder. You can use this method to add any file to your project.

7 Remove the *About.aspx* page.

1. Right-click on the *About.aspx* page and then click *Delete* from the shortcut menu.
2. Click *OK*.

If you check your Recycle Bin, you'll find that the *About.aspx* page has been moved there.

8 Exclude *balloon.jpg* from the project.

1. Right-click on the *balloon.jpg* file you added in step 6.
2. Click *Exclude From Project* from the shortcut menu.

You'll see that *balloon.jpg* disappears from your project, but if you check the *Images* folder using Windows you'll see that the file is actually still there.

By excluding *balloon.jpg*, you have stopped it from being included in the web site when it is published, but you haven't actually deleted the file from the project.

This is useful when you want to remove something from a project but aren't sure if you might need it again later.