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## Understanding Custom Server Controls in ASP.NET

By Balaji

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Understanding Custom Server Controls in ASP.NET

ASP.NET offers many server controls for the developers to create web applications. However, at some point of development time when the developer does not get the control they want, they can create a new server control. This new server control can be called ASP.NET Custom Server Controls or user control. The basic difference between a ASP.NET Custom Server Controls and a user control is that unlike a user control that does not appear in the Toolbox, you can view a ASP.NET Custom Server Controls in the Toolbox. ASP.NET Custom Server Controls have their own events such as Enter, Onclick, and Onmouseover.

ASP.NET Custom Server Controls are very handy tool to use in your web forms. User controls prove inefficient in advanced scenarios. ASP.NET Custom Server Controls are the compiled code that makes them user friendly. You should write the ASP.NET Custom Server Controls in code, thereby view it in the visual designer with full properties and design-time features. You can create a ASP.NET Custom Server Controls by inheriting one of the base control classes. These classes have all the functionality that is needed for a server control. Therefore, you just have to modify some of the programming aspects to suit your requirements.

Just as you have created a ASP.NET Custom Server Controls you can customize it too to create a unique identity. You can even consume a single ASP.NET Custom Server Controls for multiple web forms. For ASP.NET Custom Server Controls only one copy of the control is needed in the Global Assembly Cache (GAC). Moreover, ASP.NET Custom Server Controls are very helpful if you want a dynamic layout for your web application.

To access online version of the above article, go to <http://www.dotnet-guide.com/customcontrols.html>

Visit <http://www.dotnet-guide.com> for a complete introduction to .NET framework. Learn about ASP.NET, VB.NET, C# and other related technologies.

## Understanding Code Behind in .Net Framework

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Understanding Code Behind in .Net Framework

The ASP.NET Code Behind feature in .Net Framework allows developers to separate the server-side code from the presentation layer. This concept makes the server-side code to store in one file and the presentation code, that is, HTML code in another file. When you compile the ASP.NET page both these files get compiled as a single entity. In the traditional ASP model, this could not be achieved which often leads to intermingling of the code and the design.

The biggest advantage, in ASP.NET, is that the presentation code will be in .aspx file and the server-side code will be in any .Net compatible language such as Visual Basic.Net, C#, or J#. You can also do away with the presentation layer because you can give this role to the web designers. This saves time and you can concentrate only on the coding part of the application. In addition, you can create a class for your code and inherit this class from the ASP.NET Page object. By this way the class can access the page intrinsic and also interact with the postback architecture. After this you can create the ASP.NET page and apply a page directive to inherit from this new class.

But before you create an ASP.NET Code Behind class, you have to reference it to a namespace. The namespace could be System.Web.UI or System.Web.UI.WebControls. Next you have to inherit the class from the Page object. You must declare some public instances of server controls using the name for the variables that are similar to the web controls. This procedure will create a link between the ASP.NET Code Behind class and the server controls.

You can use the ASP.NET Code Behind feature in various web applications development tools such as Visual Studio.Net and ASP.NET Web Matrix. They provide very easy ways to use the ASP.NET Code Behind. After dragging and dropping the server control from the Toolbox to the web page you can just right click on it to view the ASP.NET Code Behind page.

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