

Beginning
DotNetNuke 4.0
Web Site Creation
in VB 2005 with Visual Web
Developer 2005 Express

From Novice to Professional



Nick Symmonds

**Beginning DotNetNuke 4.0 Web Site Creation in VB 2005 with Visual Web Developer 2005 Express
From Novice to Professional**

Copyright © 2006 by Nick Symmonds

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner and the publisher.

ISBN-13 (pbk): 978-1-59059-767-5

ISBN-10 (pbk): 1-59059-767-2

Printed and bound in the United States of America 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Trademarked names may appear in this book. Rather than use a trademark symbol with every occurrence of a trademarked name, we use the names only in an editorial fashion and to the benefit of the trademark owner, with no intention of infringement of the trademark.

Lead Editor: Matthew Moodie

Technical Reviewer: Adriano Baglioni

Editorial Board: Steve Anglin, Ewan Buckingham, Gary Cornell, Jason Gilmore, Jonathan Gennick,

Jonathan Hassell, James Huddleston, Chris Mills, Matthew Moodie, Dominic Shakeshaft, Jim Sumser,
Keir Thomas, Matt Wade

Project Manager: Elizabeth Seymour

Copy Edit Manager: Nicole Flores

Copy Editor: Heather Lang

Assistant Production Director: Kari Brooks-Copony

Production Editor: Katie Stence

Compositor: Kinetic Publishing Services, LLC

Proofreader: Elizabeth Berry

Indexer: Broccoli Information Management

Cover Designer: Kurt Krames

Manufacturing Director: Tom Debolski

Distributed to the book trade worldwide by Springer-Verlag New York, Inc., 233 Spring Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10013. Phone 1-800-SPRINGER, fax 201-348-4505, e-mail orders-ny@springer-sbm.com, or visit <http://www.springeronline.com>.

For information on translations, please contact Apress directly at 2560 Ninth Street, Suite 219, Berkeley, CA 94710. Phone 510-549-5930, fax 510-549-5939, e-mail info@apress.com, or visit <http://www.apress.com>.

The information in this book is distributed on an “as is” basis, without warranty. Although every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this work, neither the author(s) nor Apress shall have any liability to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in this work.

The source code for this book is available to readers at <http://www.apress.com> in the Source Code section.

Contents

About the Author	xiii
About the Technical Reviewer.....	xv
Acknowledgments	xvii
Introduction.....	xix
■ CHAPTER 1 The Basics	1
What You Need to Know	1
Programming Experience.....	1
Web Experience	2
What You Need to Have	14
Hardware.....	14
Software	15
Configuring the Browser.....	18
Summary	23
■ CHAPTER 2 The Express and DotNetNuke Combination	25
Microsoft .NET	25
Before .NET.....	25
What .NET Fixes.....	27
Garbage Collection	28
Safe Code	30
Versioned Assemblies	31
Complete Classes	32
Common Data Types	33
.NET Remoting	33
Reversion to Configuration Files	34
No Pointers	34

	The Evolution of DotNetNuke.....	35
	DotNetNuke Features	36
	Summary	38
CHAPTER 3	Installation	39
	Installing IIS	40
	Installing Visual Basic Express Edition.....	43
	Installing Visual Web Developer	47
	Installing DotNetNuke.....	48
	A Better Install	48
	Using VWD to Complete the DNN Install	51
	Compiling and Running DotNetNuke	61
	Installing and Configuring SQL Server Express Edition.....	63
	Installing SQL Server Express	64
	Summary	70
CHAPTER 4	Primary Visual Basic.....	73
	The Visual Basic Integrated Development Environment.....	74
	The Look and Feel	74
	Creating a New Project.....	76
	Starting the Project	76
	Project Setup	79
	Designing the Form.....	83
	Adding the Code.....	85
	Trying the Code	106
	Summary	108
CHAPTER 5	Visual Web Developer.....	111
	The VWD IDE.....	111
	The Look and Feel	111
	The Code-Behind File	118
	Coding the Event Handler.....	121

Adding More Controls	126
The New Web Screen	128
The HTML Code Page	131
Completing the Code-Behind	133
Changing State	144
Summary	150
 ■ CHAPTER 6 DotNetNuke Basics	 153
A DotNetNuke Review	153
What Now?	154
How DotNetNuke Works	155
A Look at Modules	158
Editing a DNN Site	160
The Project	171
Getting Started	172
Setting Up the Site	173
Creating Pages	174
Summary	189
 ■ CHAPTER 7 Creating a DNN Module	 191
Creating the Module	191
Creating Tables	194
Viewing the SQL Results	196
Starting the Module	197
What Did You Do?	198
Enhancing the Module	201
The Database Layer	201
The Database Fields	201
The Business Logic Layer	217
The Presentation Layer	224
Summary	242

CHAPTER 8	Finishing the DotNetNuke Module	243
	Setting Up the Code Transfer	243
	The CalculateHours Method	244
	The WeekPunches Class	244
	The FillData Method	247
	Initial State	256
	Editing the ViewTimePunch Code	257
	Member Variables	257
	The DisplayWeek Method	257
	The Combo Box Event Handler	258
	The Punch Button Event Handler	258
	The Page Load Event Handler	260
	Last Edit	262
	Testing It All Out	263
	Looking at the Data	264
	Summary	266
 CHAPTER 9	 DNN Permissions and Portals	 267
	Permissions	267
	The Host Role	267
	The Registered User	273
	The Subscriber	274
	All Users	275
	Unauthenticated Users	275
	The Administrator Role	276
	Managing the Web Site	276
	A New Role	276
	Adjusting Page Permissions	278
	Testing the Permissions	280
	Managing Portals	282
	What Is a DNN Portal?	283
	Creating the Portal	285
	Editing the Portal	287
	The Look and Feel	292
	Summary	294

CHAPTER 10	DNN Hosting	295
	Hosting	295
	What You Get From a Host	297
	Downloading Your Project	298
	Finding a Host	299
	Installing a Skin	299
	Uploading a New Skin	299
	DNN Security	308
	Unauthorized Break-Ins	308
	Secure Sockets Layer	312
	Summary	313
 CHAPTER 11	 Creating a DNN Skin	 315
	What Is a Skin?	315
	How DNN Does Skins	315
	DNN Tokens	317
	CSS Basics	319
	Preparation	321
	Using a Template	322
	Editing the Skin	332
	Rearranging the Table	336
	Adjusting the .css File	338
	Testing the Skin	344
	Packaging the Skin	344
	Creating the Test Harness	345
	Uploading the Skin	346
	Skin Edit Cycle	350
	The Last Panel	354
	Other Skinning Tasks	355
	What Else Can Be Skinned?	357
	Creating a Container	358
	Copying a Template	358
	Editing the Template	362
	Packaging the Container	366
	Summary	371

■ CHAPTER 12	JavaScript and Ajax	373
	JavaScript	373
	What Can JavaScript Do?	374
	JavaScript Syntax	374
	When to Use JavaScript in ASP.NET	376
	A Small Example	376
	Ajax	390
	Ajax and JavaScript	391
	Ajax Limitations	392
	ASP.NET and Ajax	394
	A Small Ajax Example	394
	Summary	400
■ CHAPTER 13	Next Steps and Suggestions	403
	ASP.NET Development	403
	Investigating ASP.NET	405
	Other .NET Stuff	407
	More Fun with DotNetNuke	408
	Modules	408
	Other DNN Tricks	408
	Summary	409
■ INDEX	411