

GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE DESIGN

Chapter 7

Software Engineering
Computer Science School
DSIC – UPV

Goal

- Understand the principles of visual applications.
- Understand the design of the graphical user interface (use of controls and events).
- Understand the communication between the presentation and the business logic layers.

Contents

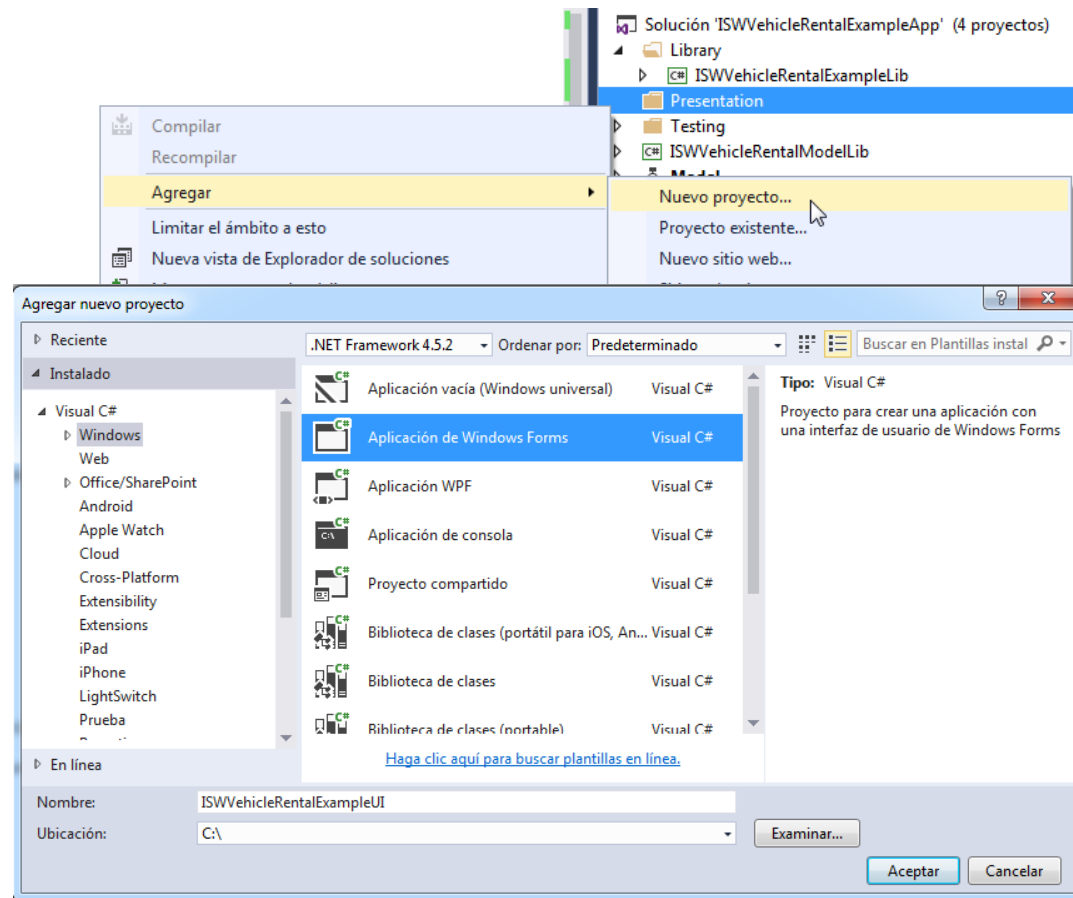
1. Creating a Basic Windows Application
2. Forms with controls
3. Events in forms
4. Designing and using menus
5. Apps with several forms
 1. Designed by the coder
 2. Dialog forms
6. Displaying data sets
7. Advanced operations: Visual Inheritance

Introduction

- The creation of **Visual Apps for Windows** may be done, among others with the namespace `System.Windows.Forms` which includes classes, structures, interfaces, etc. to develop these types of applications.
- The namespace `System.Windows.Forms` includes the following classes:
 - **Application**: The core of a Windows app. Its methods are used to process Windows messages and visual apps are created and destroyed.
 - **Form**: Represents a window or a dialog box in a visual application.
 - **Button, ListBox, TextBox, PictureBox, Label,...**: Providing the functionality of common Windows controls.
 - **StatusBar, ToolBar,...**: Windows utilities.
 - **ColorDialog, FileDialog,...**: Standard dialog boxes.
 - **StripMenu, StripMenuItem,...**: Use to create different types of menus.
 - **ToolTip, Timer,...**: To ease the interactivity of applications.

Creating a Windows Application

- Add a new project of type **Aplicación de Windows Forms** to the solution folder **Presentation**.



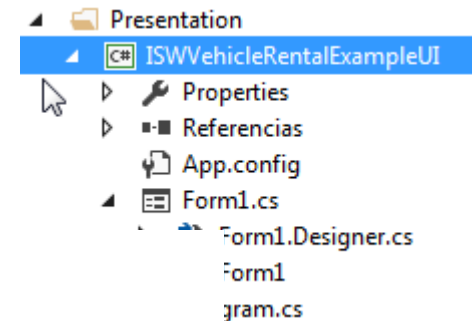
Creating a Windows Application

- If the app is run, a Windows with the standard basic features is created.
- The files in this Project are:

- Form1.cs: contains the design of the form. If opened the form may be modified in a visual designer.

- Form1 has constructor InitializeC
- Form1.Des generated
- Program.cs method().

```
namespace ISWVehicleRentalExampleUI
{
    0referencias
    static class Program
    {
        /// <summary>
        /// Punto de entrada principal para la aplicación.
        /// </summary>
        [STAThread]
        0referencias
        static void Main()
        {
            Application.EnableVisualStyles();
            Application.SetCompatibleTextRenderingDefault(false);
            Application.Run(new Form1());
        }
    }
}
```

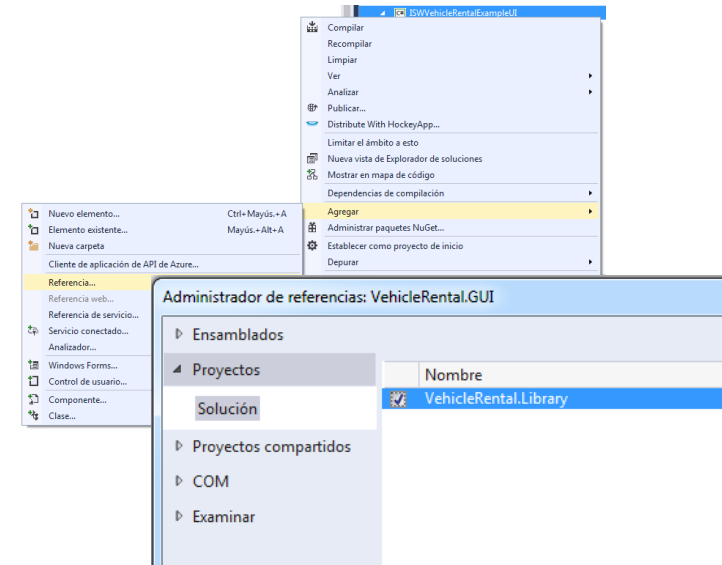


Dependencies Management

- This Project will depend on `IVehicleRentalService` and on the domain classes located at `VehicleRental.Services`. Thus, a reference has to be added

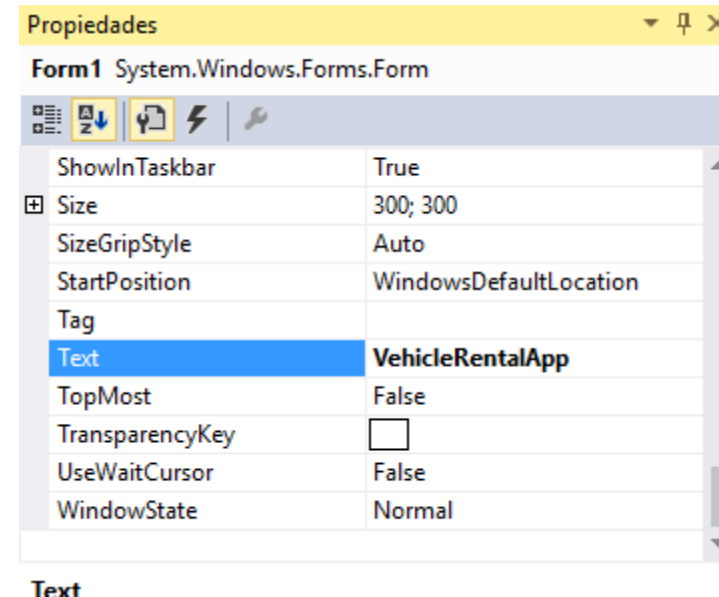
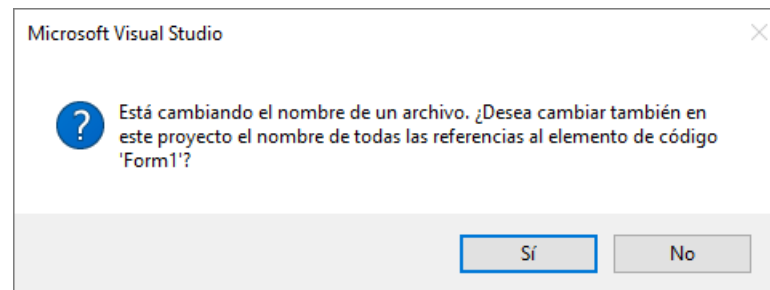
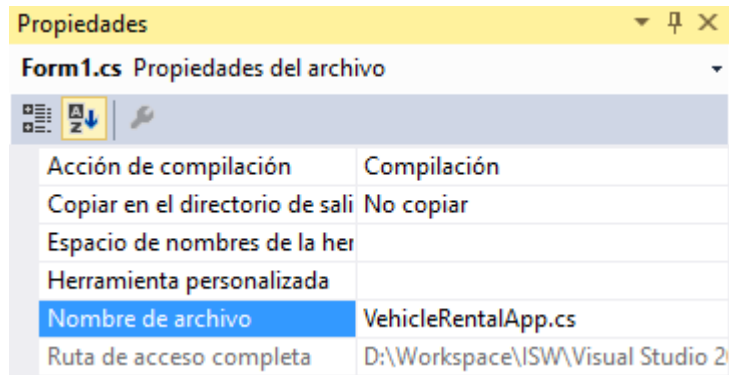
```
using VehicleRental.Services;

namespace VehicleRental.Presentation
{
    2 referencias
    public partial class VehicleRentalApps : Form
    {
        private IVehicleRentalService service;
        0 referencias
        public VehicleRentalApps(IVehicleRentalService service)
        {
            InitializeComponent();
            this.service = service;
        }
    }
}
```



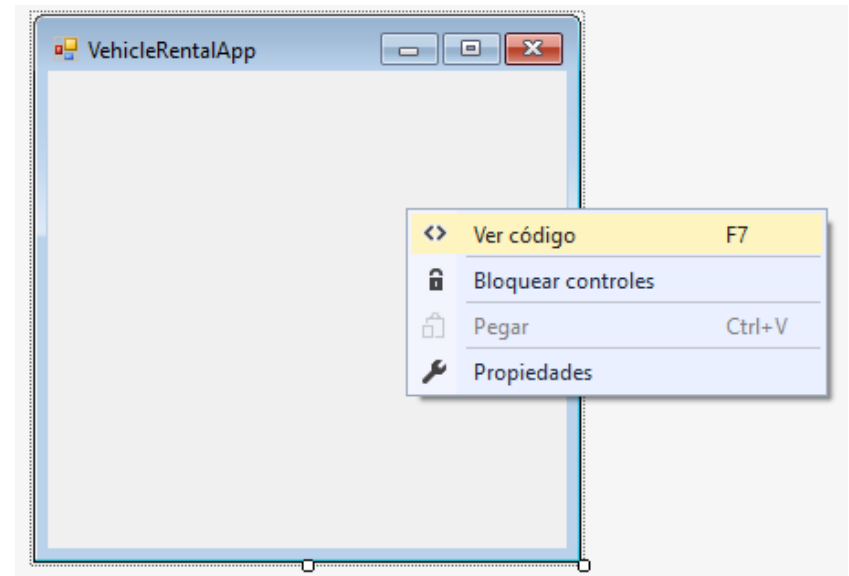
First steps...

- Give an appropriate name to the elements in the Project (e.g. change the name of the file **Form1.cs** to **VehicleRentalApp**).

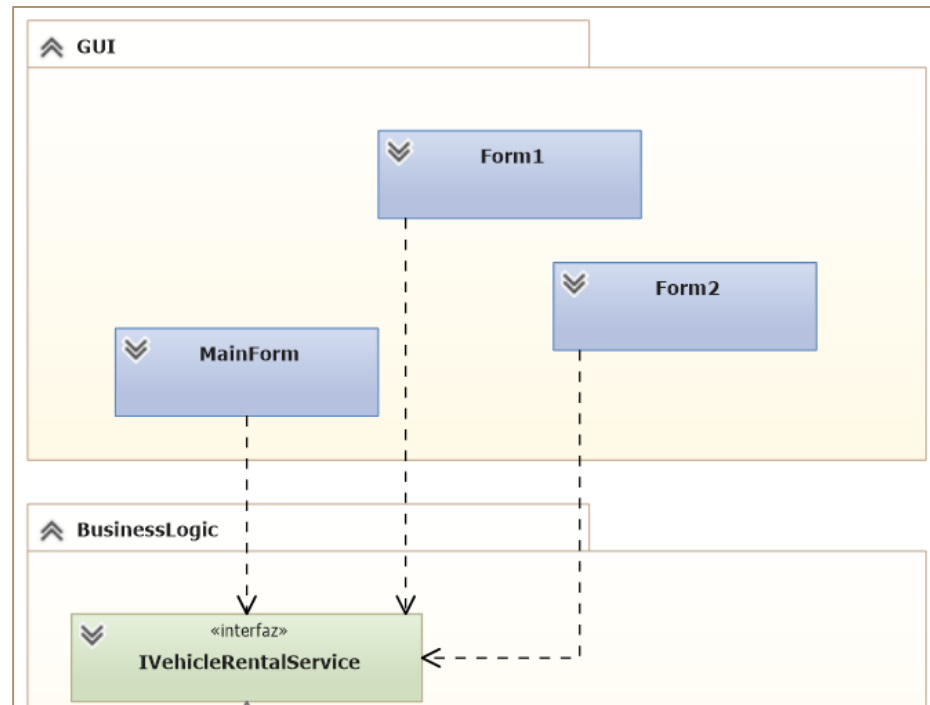


Code Inspection...

- Two ways to Access C# editable code of the form:
 - Double click on
 - Select the form *right button click* > **Ver código**, or **F7**



Connect with Business Logic Layer



Connect with Business Logic Layer

Modify class **VehicleRentalApp** to have an attribute of type **IVehicleRentalService**, which is passed as a parameter in the constructor.

```
using VehicleRental.Services;

namespace VehicleRentalUI

public partial class VehicleRentalApp:Form
{
    private IVehicleRentalService service;

    public VehicleRentalApp(IVehicleRentalService service)
    {
        InitializeComponent();
        this.service = service;
    }
}
```

Connect with Business Logic Layer

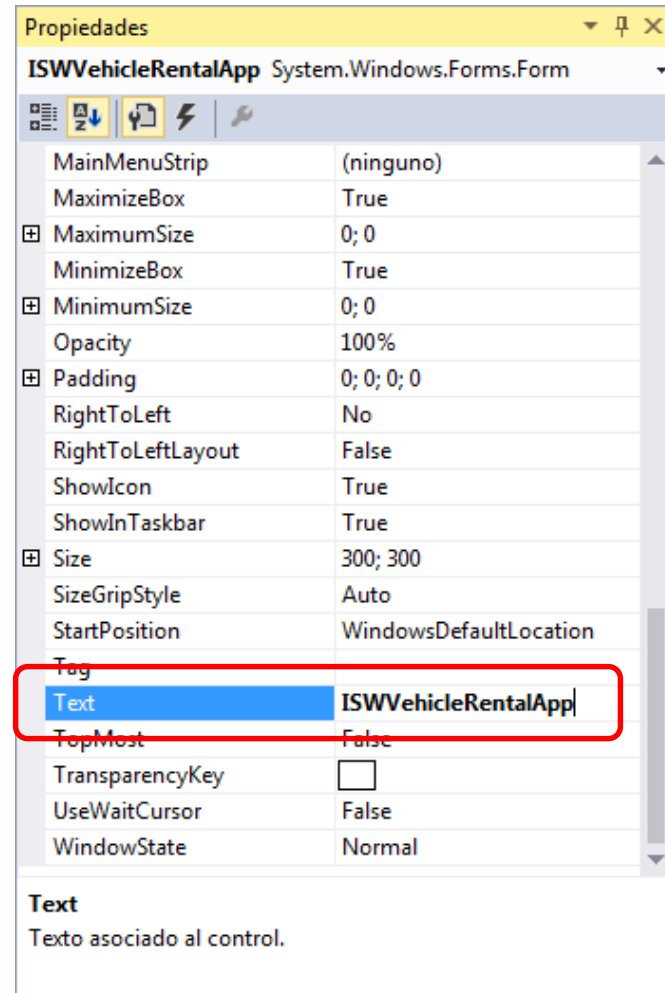
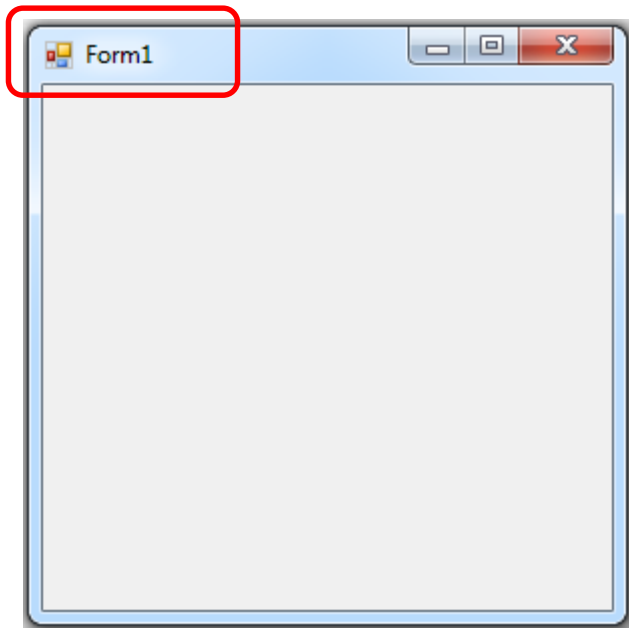
Modify the Main method (Program class) to create an object **IVehicleRentalService** and pass it to the main form.

```
static void Main()
{
    IVehicleRentalService service = new VehicleRentalService(new
    EntityFrameworkDAL(new VehicleRentalDbContext()));

    Application.EnableVisualStyles();
    Application.SetCompatibleTextRenderingDefault(false);
    Application.Run(new VehicleRentalApp(service));
}
```

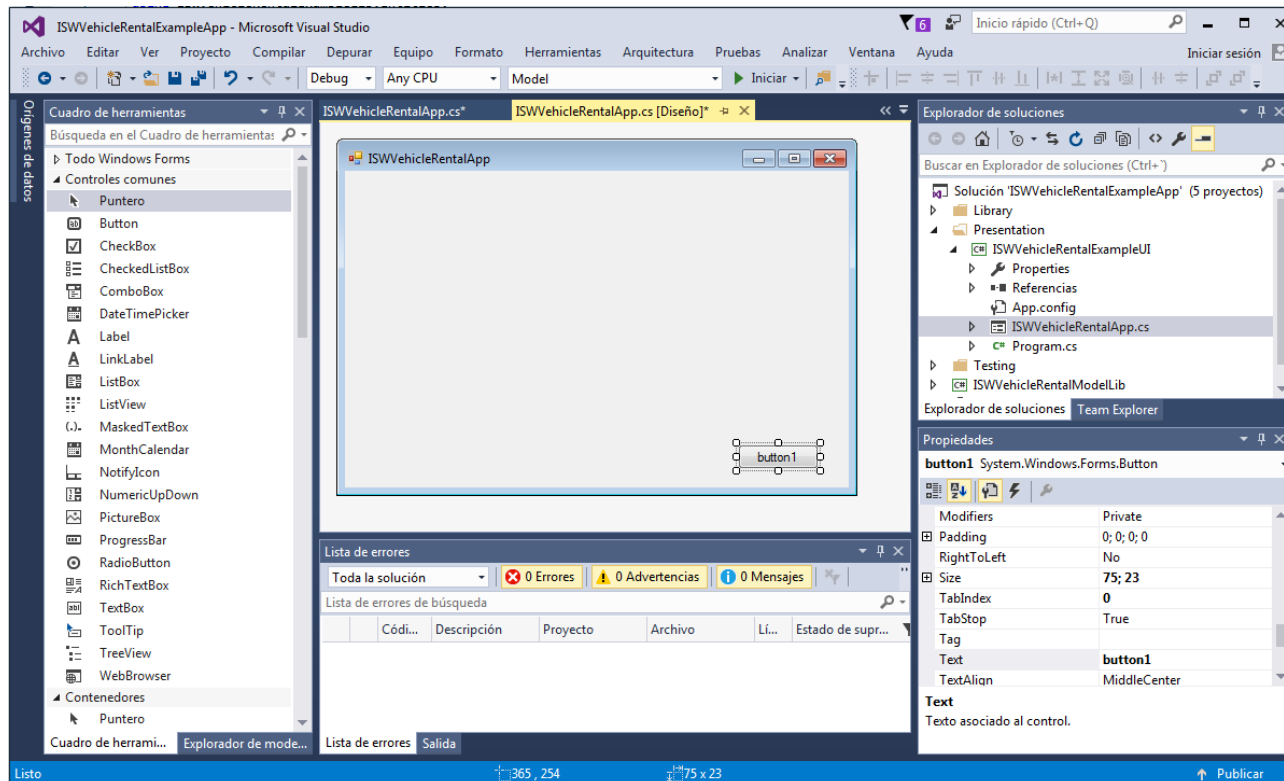
First steps...

- Modify the properties of the form elements:



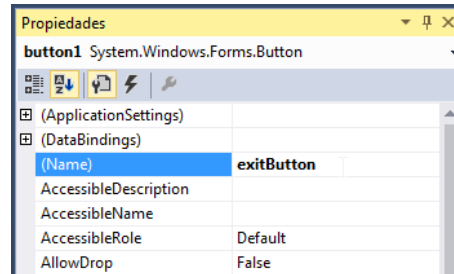
Forms with controls

- Controls are objects of the Control class: buttons, textboxes, ...
- Can be added at design time (visual editor and toolbox) or at execution time.

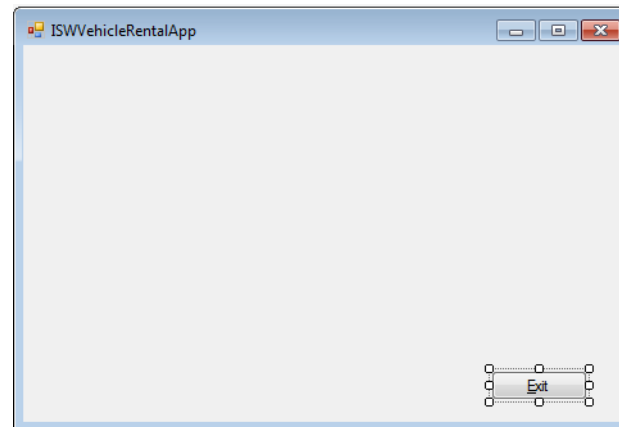
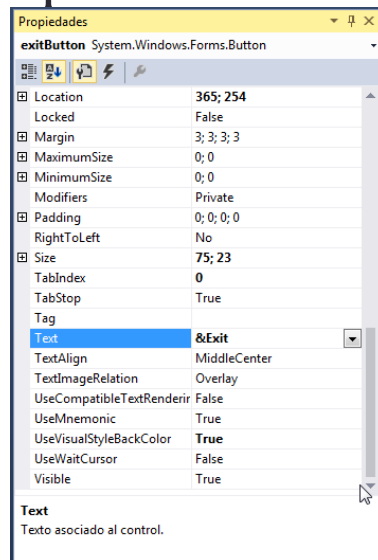


Controls: Properties

- **Name:** The name of the control. It is important to select a meaningful name.



- **Text:** Represents the title of the control

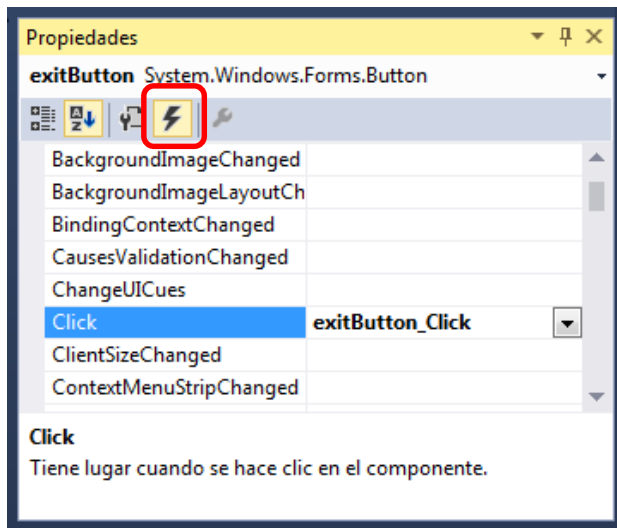


Events in forms

- An event describes a situation to which the application must respond.
- Events are generated by:
 - A user action (click a mouse button, hit a key, etc.)
 - The app code.
 - The operating system.
- Windows apps are event-driven:
 - When an event occurs the app may specify methods (event handlers) to process the event and execute the corresponding actions
- Every control exhibits events to which a handler can be associated.

Events: handlers

- When an event occurs the associated handler is executed
- The events that may be raised by a control appear in the properties window.
- A handler may be associated as follows:
 - Writing the name of the handler method.
 - Selecting a handler method from the dropdown list.
 - double *click*, and Visual Studio creates a default handler definition.



Object that raised the event

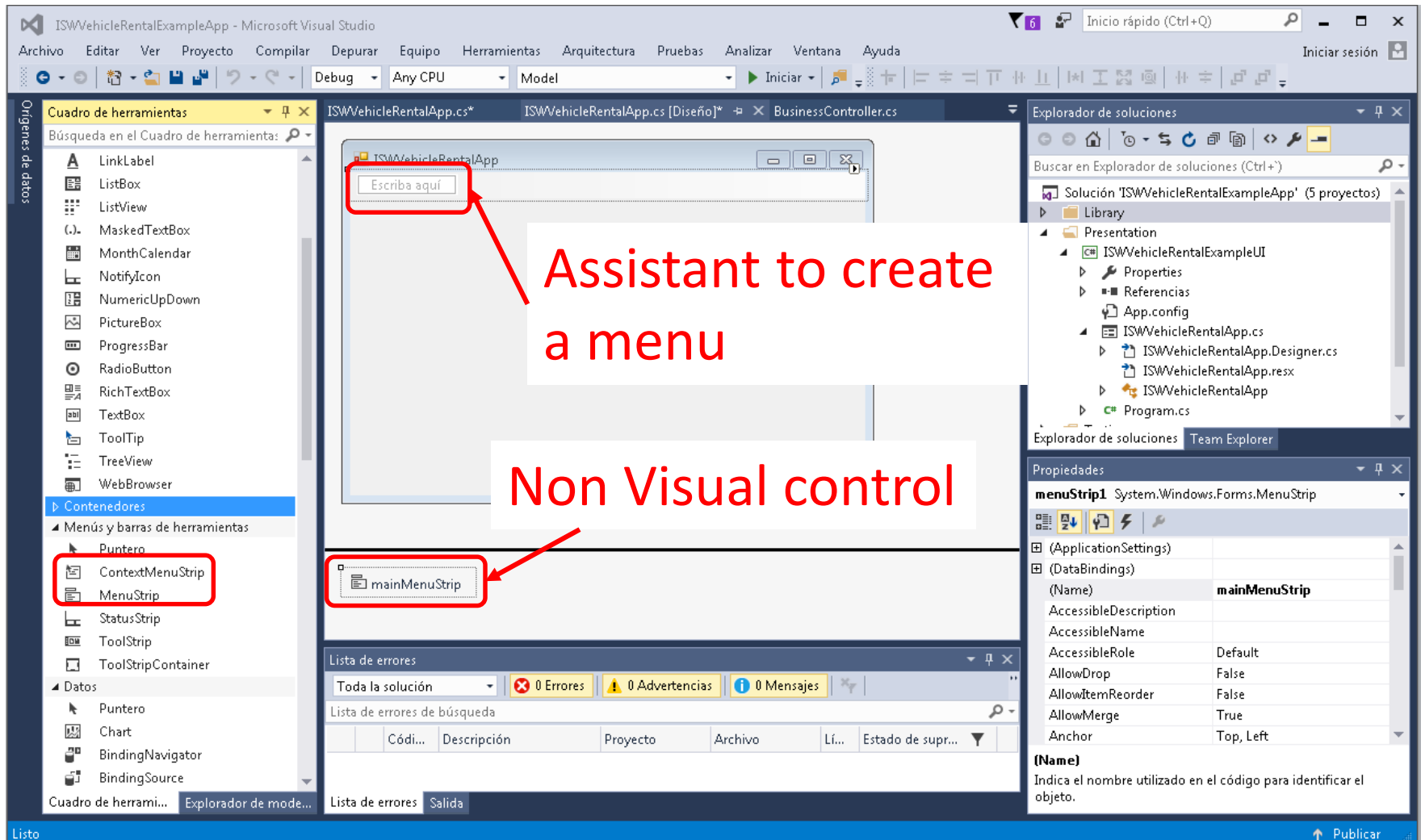
```
1 referencia
private void exitButton_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    Application.Exit();
}
```

Event information

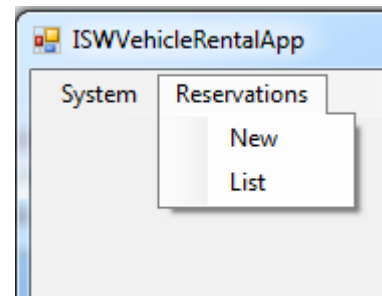
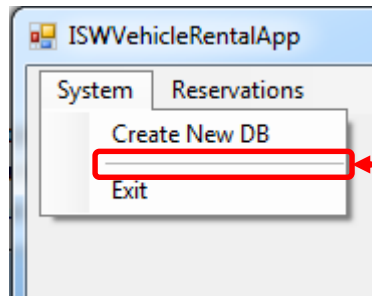
Designing and using menus

- Most Windows applications have menus
- There are two types of menus:
 - `MenuStrip`: a main menu
 - `ContextMenuStrip`: a contextual menu
- All the elements of a menu are stored in the `Item` property which is a collection of objects belonging to the class `ToolStripMenuItem`. These elements may contain other submenus.

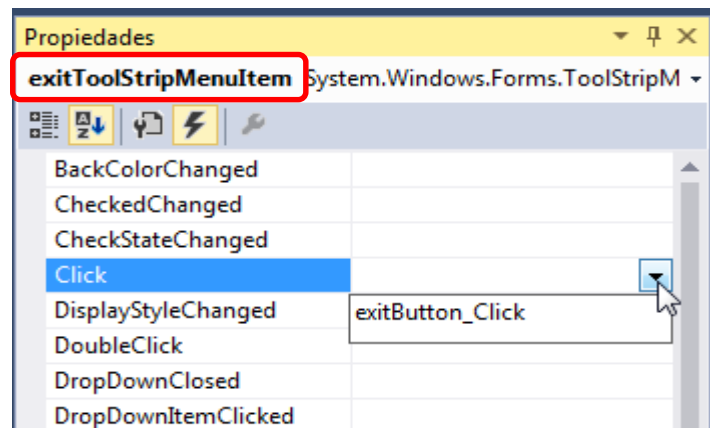
Designing and using menus



Example Menu



- Assigning a handler is done in the same way as with other controls.



Applications with several forms

- Usually several forms are used.
- The predefined aspect of a form is defined by the property `FormBorderStyle`.
- There are several types of forms:
 - User designed: added to the Project with Proyecto|Agregar Windows Forms.
 - Predefined in the environment: dialog box.

User Defined Forms

- Modal: It must be closed to return to the main form. It is shown using the method `ShowDialog()`.
- Non Modal: several forms may be used simultaneously. Shown using the method `Show()`.

Creating an object of the class `ExampleForm`

```
ExampleForm myForm = new ExampleForm();  
myForm.ShowDialog();
```

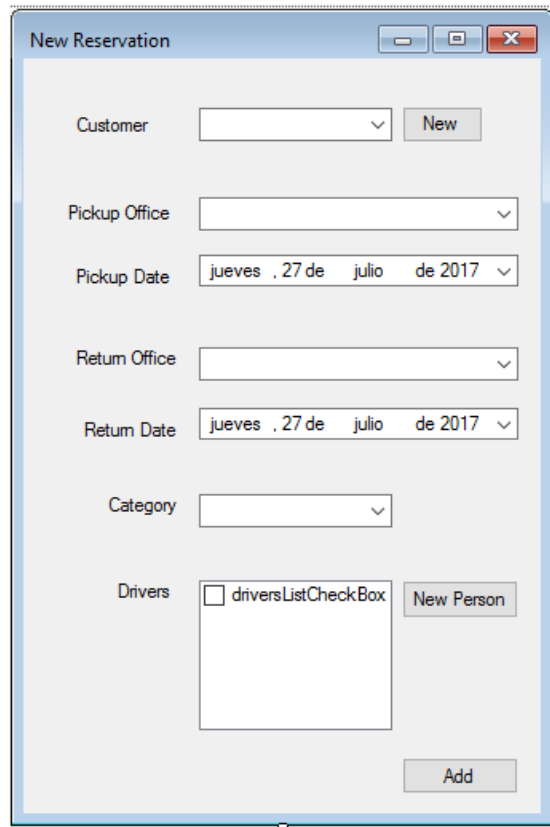
```
ExampleForm myForm = new ExampleForm();  
myForm.Show();
```

Shown in a modal way

Shown in a non modal way

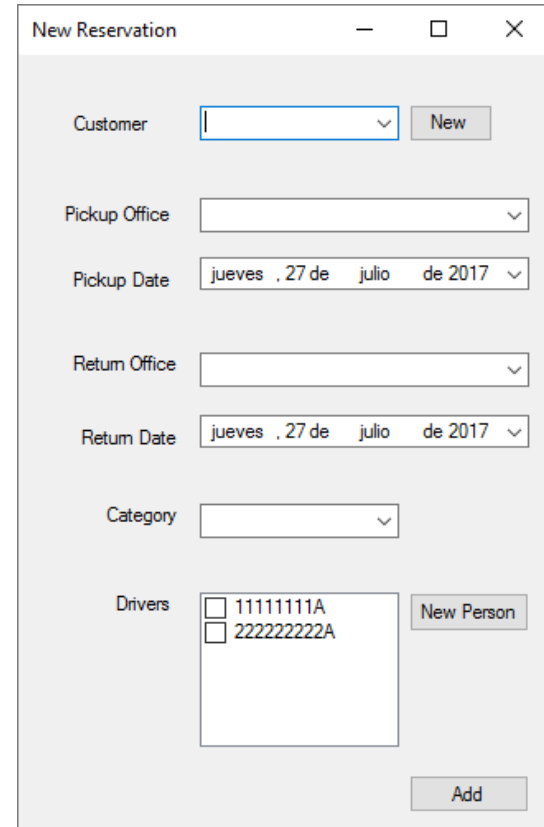
Forms: Example

- Design view



The image shows the design view of a 'New Reservation' form. The form is titled 'New Reservation' and has a standard Windows window border with minimize, maximize, and close buttons. The form contains several input fields: 'Customer' (a dropdown menu with a 'New' button), 'Pickup Office' (a dropdown menu), 'Pickup Date' (a date picker showing 'jueves , 27 de julio de 2017'), 'Return Office' (a dropdown menu), 'Return Date' (a date picker showing 'jueves , 27 de julio de 2017'), 'Category' (a dropdown menu), and 'Drivers' (a list box with a 'New Person' button). The 'Drivers' list box is currently empty and labeled 'driversListCheckBox'. An 'Add' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

- Run time view



The image shows the run time view of the 'New Reservation' form. The form is titled 'New Reservation' and has a standard Windows window border with minimize, maximize, and close buttons. The form contains several input fields: 'Customer' (a dropdown menu with a 'New' button), 'Pickup Office' (a dropdown menu), 'Pickup Date' (a date picker showing 'jueves , 27 de julio de 2017'), 'Return Office' (a dropdown menu), 'Return Date' (a date picker showing 'jueves , 27 de julio de 2017'), 'Category' (a dropdown menu), and 'Drivers' (a list box with a 'New Person' button). The 'Drivers' list box now contains two items: '11111111A' and '22222222A'. An 'Add' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Forms: Example of Main Form

```
public partial class VehicleRentalApp : Form
{
    private IVehicleRentalService service;
    private NewReservationForm newReservationForm;
    private ListReservationsForm listReservationForm;

    public VehicleRentalApp(IVehicleRentalService service)
    {
        InitializeComponent();
        listReservationForm = new ListReservationsForm(service);
        newReservationForm = new NewReservationForm(service);
    }

    private void newToolStripMenuItem_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
    {
        newReservationForm.ShowDialog();
    }
    ...
}
```

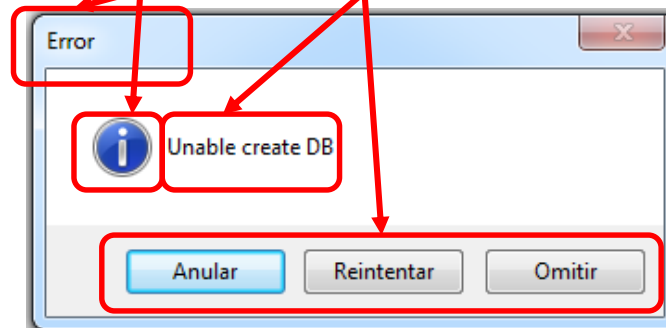
Passing parameters in constructor

New form is shown "Modal"

Dialog boxes

- The class **MessageBox** provides simple dialog boxes and modal behavior.
- The title, the descriptive message and the icon may be customized using the Show method

```
DialogResult answer = MessageBox.Show(this, "Unable create DB", "Error",  
    MessageBoxButtons.AbortRetryIgnore,  
    MessageBoxIcon.Asterisk);  
if (answer == DialogResult.Retry) //retry operation  
{ }
```



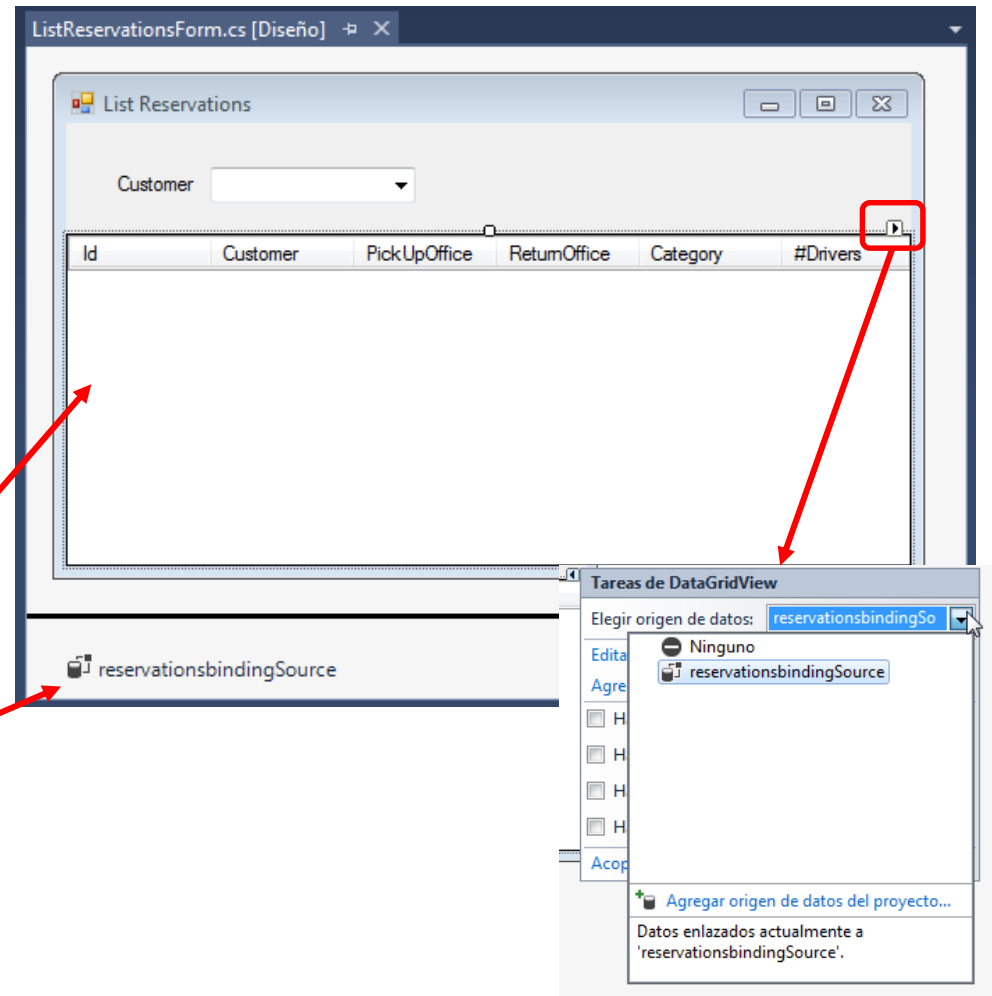
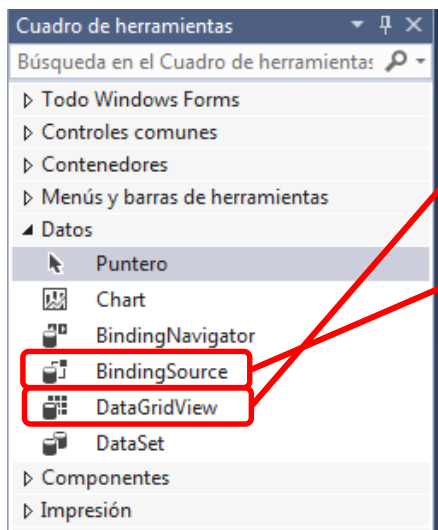
Dialog Boxes

- **Standard Dialog Boxes**

- These allow carrying out operations such as opening and storing files, printing, selecting colors, etc: ***OpenFileDialog***, ***SaveFileDialog***, ***FolderBrowserDialog***, ***ColorDialog***, ***FontDialog***, ***PageSetupDialog*** and ***PrintDialog***.
- Inherit from the class `CommonDialog`. The most important method is `ShowDialog()`, that shows the form and returns an object `DialogResult` :
 - `DialogResult.OK` if the user clicks the OK button
 - `DialogResult.CANCEL` otherwise.

Displaying Data Sets

1. Add a control *BindingSource* and give it a name.
2. Add a *DataGridView*
3. Assign the data source to the control
4. Add columns

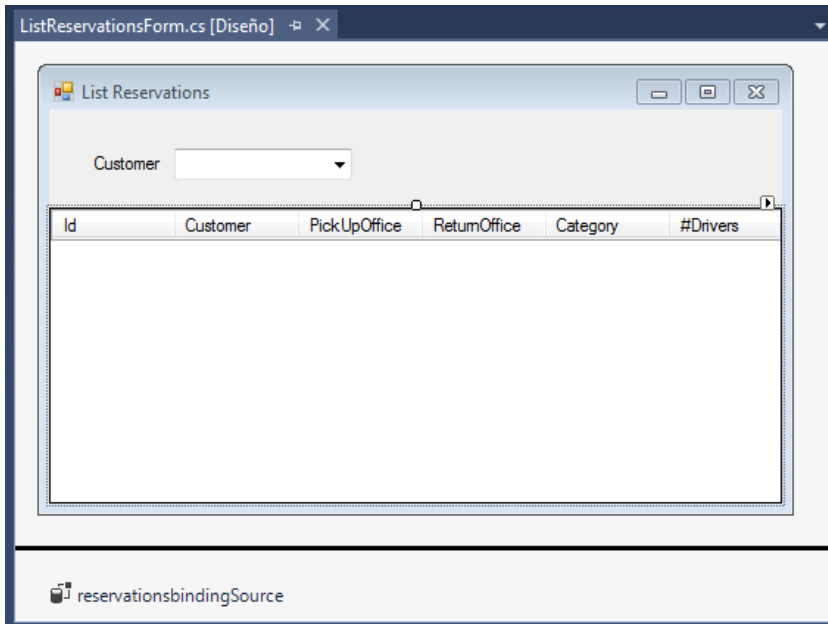


Displaying data sets

The image shows a Visual Studio IDE with a Windows Form named 'List Reservations'. The form has a 'Customer' dropdown and a 'reservationsbindingSource' data source. A 'Tareas de DataGridView' (DataGridView Tasks) context menu is open over the grid, with 'Agregar columna...' (Add column...) highlighted. A red arrow points from this menu item to the 'Agregar columna' (Add column) dialog box. This dialog shows 'Columna sin enlazar' (Unbound column) selected, with 'Nombre' (Name) set to 'Id' and 'Tipo' (Type) set to 'DataGridViewTextBoxColumn'. Below the dialog, the 'Editar columnas' (Edit columns) dialog is open. It shows a list of selected columns: 'Id', 'Customer', 'PickUpOffice', 'ReturnOffice', 'Category', and '#Drivers'. The 'Propiedades de columnas enlazadas' (Bound column properties) section is visible, with 'DataPropertyName' set to 'ds_Id' (highlighted with a red box). The 'DataPropertyName' property is described as 'El nombre de la propiedad de origen de datos o la columna de base de datos a la que DataGridViewColumn...'. The 'Aceptar' (Accept) button is at the bottom right.

After adding columns they must be edited to assign the name of the property in the data source.

Displaying data sets



Functionality

1. When the form is shown a Customer may be selected.
2. After selecting the customer the information is displayed in the *DataGridView*.

Displaying data sets

- When the form is created the *ComboBox* is populated.

The method *LoadData* populates the *ComboBox customersComboBox*:

```
public ListReservationsForm(IVehicleRentalService service) : base(service)
{
    InitializeComponent();
    LoadData();
}

public void LoadData()
{
    ICollection<Customer> customers = service.findAllCustomers();
    customersComboBox.Items.Clear();
    if (customers!=null)
        foreach (Customer c in customers)
            customersComboBox.Items.Add(c.Dni);
    customersComboBox.SelectedIndex = -1;
    customersComboBox.ResetText();
    reservationsbindingSource.DataSource = null;
}
```

Displaying data sets

When an element is selected in the *ComboBox* the *DataGridView* is populated.

The event handler *SelectedIndexChanged* of the *ComboBox* object is executed.

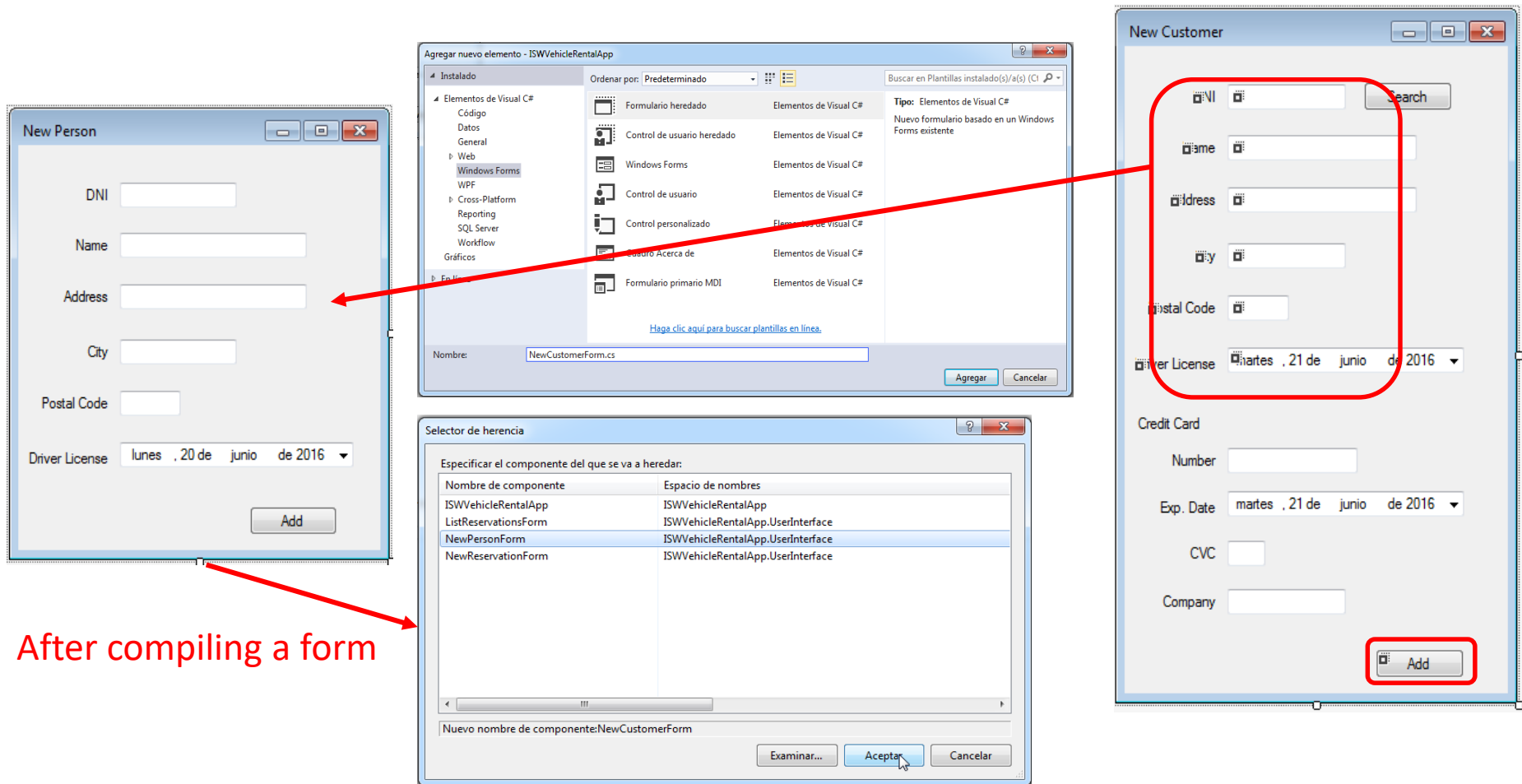
```
private void customersComboBox_SelectedIndexChanged(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    string dni = (string) customersComboBox.SelectedItem;
    ICollection<Reservation> reservations = service.findReservationsbyCustomerID(dni);

    //A BindingList of anonymous objects is used to provide the data model to the DataGridView

    BindingList<object> bindinglist = new BindingList<object>();
    foreach (Reservation r in reservations)
        //Adding one anonymous object for each reservation obtained
        bindinglist.Add(new
        {
            //ds_... are DataPropertyNames defined in the DataGridView object
            //see DataGridView column definitions in Visual Studio Designer
            ds_Id = r.Id,
            ds_Customer = r.Customer.Name,
            ds_PickUpOffice = r.PickUpOffice.Address,
            ds_ReturnOffice = r.ReturnOffice.Address,
            ds_Category = r.Category.Name,
            ds_NumDrivers = r.Drivers.Count
        });
    reservationsbindingSource.DataSource = bindinglist;
}
```

Advanced Operations: Visual Inheritance

Forms may inherit from other forms so that the behavior and visual appearance is reused



The diagram illustrates the process of visual inheritance in Windows Forms. It shows three windows:

- New Person**: A form with fields for DNI, Name, Address, City, Postal Code, and Driver License. An **Add** button is at the bottom.
- Agregar nuevo elemento - ISWVehicleRentalApp**: A dialog box for adding a new element. It shows a list of components to inherit from, including **Formulario heredado**, **Control de usuario heredado**, **Windows Forms**, **Control de usuario**, **Control personalizado**, **Formulario Acerca de**, and **Formulario primario MDI**. The **Nombre** field is set to **NewCustomerForm.cs**.
- New Customer**: A form that inherits from **New Person**. It has fields for Name, Address, City, Postal Code, Driver License, and Credit Card. It also has an **Add** button.

Red arrows indicate the inheritance flow: from **New Person** to **Agregar nuevo elemento**, and from **Agregar nuevo elemento** to **New Customer**. A red box highlights the controls in the **New Customer** form, and another red box highlights the **Add** button.

After compiling a form