## How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website
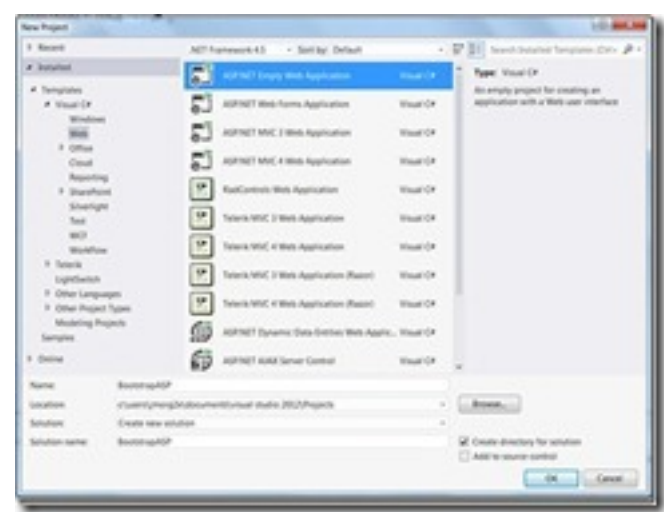
Author: Jeremy Morgan

If you don't know what Twitter Bootstrap is, you should check it out. Basically the idea is taking a bunch of commonly used web elements that you would usually code and having them already set up for you. Things like buttons, forms, and other things you w normally code already set up.

I know what you're thinking "Just like the toolbox?" yes but Twitter Bootstrap goes even farther, and can provide even more valu tools for your site such as layouts and widgets. The idea is to get you to spend less time on trivial elements and more time actua building your site.

I decided to see how hard it would be to integrate something like Twitter Bootstrap into a basic ASP.Net site, with master pages. see how it works.
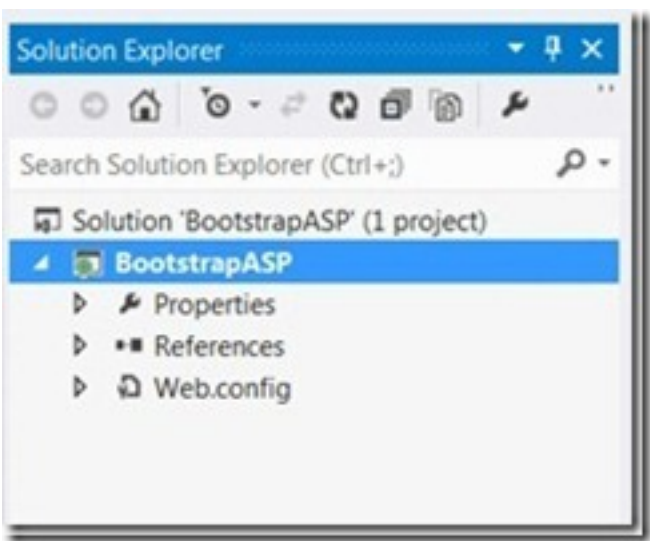
### Create a New Project

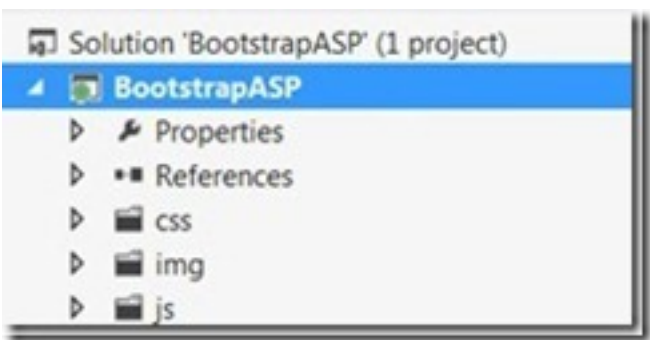So I open up Visual Studio and select Start –> New Project and select "ASP.NET Empty Web Application"



I named mine "BootstrapASP" and click ok.

Your project looks, well, pretty empty, here is what you'll have:



Which is pretty plain. Let's create a folder structure that looks like this:



### Get Twitter Bootstrap

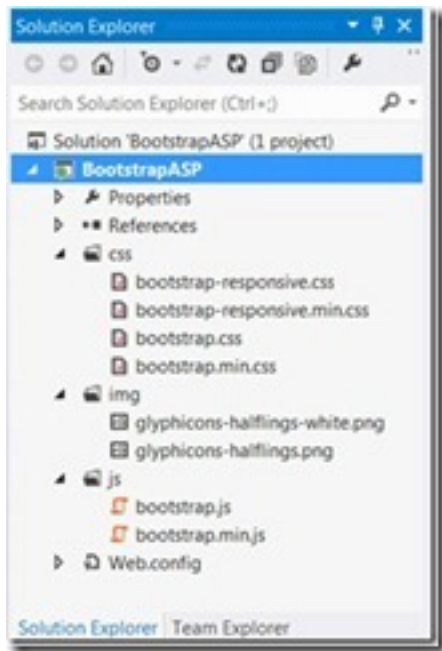Head on over to the Twitter Bootstrap github and download the bootstrap archive into a folder on your hard drive.

It should look like this:

| Name | Date modified | Type |
| --- | --- | --- |
| css | 9/17/2012 10:31 AM | File folder |
| img | 9/17/2012 10:31 AM | File folder |
| js | 9/17/2012 10:31 AM | File folder |

Pretty self explanatory.

Import all these files into your project. If you don't know how to do that, right click on the css folder and select **add –> Existing Item**. Then browse the folder where you unzipped the Twitter bootstrap and select all the files in the CSS folder. Do this with the and js folders as well, and make sure to keep this structure intact.

Your structure should now look like this:



You're almost ready. for this tutorial we're going to use normalize.css you can download it here and import it into your project. Th keep the layout more consistent and is a good alternative to reset tags.

## Create Your Master Page

For this site we are going to want to use a master page, so we can have a common header and footer throughout the site.

Right click on the BootstrapASP folder and select **Add –> New Item**

In the dialog that pops up select **Master Page** and name it "BootstrapASP.Master"

Open the **BootstrapASP.Master** file.

Here you will find the following code:

```
<%@ Master Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true" CodeBehind="BootstrapASP.master.cs"
Inherits="BootstrapASP.BootstrapASP" %>

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head runat="server">
    <title></title>
    <asp:ContentPlaceHolder ID="head" runat="server">
    </asp:ContentPlaceHolder>
</head>
<body>
    <form id="form1" runat="server">
    <div>
        <asp:ContentPlaceHolder ID="ContentPlaceHolder1" runat="server">

        </asp:ContentPlaceHolder>
    </div>
    </form>
</body>
</html>
```

This is pretty much your standard html page, but we're going to make a few additions to it.

On the line after the <title></title> tags add the following lines:

```
<link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="css/bootstrap.css" />
```

```
<link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="css/normalize.css" />
```

Then at the bottom of the page, right before the </body> tag, add the following two lines:

```
<script type="text/javascript"  src='<%# ResolveUrl ("~/Js/jquery-1.2.3.min.js") %>'></script>

<script src="js/bootstrap.min.js"></script>
```

Then add a method to your master page code behind. (Open up BootstrapASP.Master.cs)

Add the following method:

```
protected override void OnLoad(EventArgs e)
    {
        base.OnLoad(e);
        Page.Header.DataBind();
    }
```

## What is this "ResolveUrl" Method?

Often times when you use jQuery on an ASP site with Master Pages you get JS runtime error because the path of the page you ar
may be different from the one that was present when jQuery was loaded. This solution by Waleed Mohamed solves the JavaScript
inside Master Pages problem.

## Set up the Master Page

Twitter Bootstrap contains some features to layout your page, we'll do something very basic with it today.

In the web form of your master page, insert the following code:

```
<div>
    <div class="container">
        <div class="row-fluid"><div class="span12"><h1>Welcome to our Website</h1></div></div>
        <div class="row-fluid">
         <div class="span2">
         sidebar
         </div>
         <div class="span10">
           <asp:ContentPlaceHolder ID="ContentPlaceHolder1" runat="server"></asp:ContentPlaceHolder>
         </div>
        </div>
    </div>
</div>
```

This creates a 2 column layout with a header. Span=12 is the full width of the page, and that's what we want our header to do. S
is the sidebar, which is of course much smaller than span 10 which is our content.

We'll do more with this page in a minute.

## Create Your Index Page

**Add –> New Item**

In the next dialog Select "Web form using Master Page"

Name it **Default.aspx**

Select a Master Page –> BootstrapASP.master

## Modify Index Page

Open up Default.aspx and you'll see there isn't much there. However there is a content holder with an of "ContentPlaceHolder1" a
that's where your dynamic text will go. *Note: If you're unsure about how Master Pages work that's ok, it's not complicated. You s
read up on it so you can better understand what's going on here though.*

Lets throw in a hello world and press play (F5)

This is your basic page. Let's throw in some random elements in there for fun.

## Add Some Style to Master Page

Open up the Master Page again (BootstrapASP.Master.cs) and add the following inside the "span2" div

```
<ul>
    <li>Home</li>
    <li>Schedule an appointment</li>
    <li>Contact us</li>
    <li>About Us</li>
    <li>Follow us on Twitter</li>
</ul>
```

This will be the side menu that sits on the left.

**Add –> New Item**

In the next dialog Select "Style Sheet"

save as "ourstyle.css"

Now add

```
<link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="/css/ourstyle.css" />
```

to your master page. We're going to extend some of these styles.

Open up ourstyle.css and put in the following code:

```
#topheader
{
    background-color: #0094ff;
    color: white;
}
#sidebar
{
    background-color: #999999;
    min-height: 600px;
}
#footer
{
    background-color: #b200ff;
    text-align: center;
}
```

Save the file.

Now go back to your Master Page and make the following modifications:

change the top 12 span:

```
<div class="span12">
```

to

```
<div class="span12" id="topheader">
```

and

```
<div class="span2">
```

to

```
<div class="span2" id="sidebar">
```

and ( lower 12 span)

```
<div class="span12">
```

to

```
<div class="span12" id="footer">
```

This puts IDs on the layout elements.

Finished Master Page Code (within the form)

```
<div>
      <div class="container">
        <div class="row-fluid"><div class="span12" id="topheader"><h1>Welcome to our Website</h1></div></div>
        <div class="row-fluid">
          <div class="span2" id="sidebar">
          <ul>
              <li>Home</li>
              <li>Schedule an appointment</li>
              <li>Contact us</li>
              <li>About Us</li>
              <li>Follow us on Twitter</li>
          </ul>
          </div>
          <div class="span10">
            <asp:ContentPlaceHolder ID="ContentPlaceHolder1" runat="server"></asp:ContentPlaceHolder>
          </div>
        </div>
        <div class="row-fluid"><div class="span12" id="footer">&copy; 2012 Your Company</div></div>
      </div>
    </div>
```

This gets your Master Page styled up and ready. Though I admit it looks horrible it gives you a general idea of how Twitter bootst
can help you with layouts.

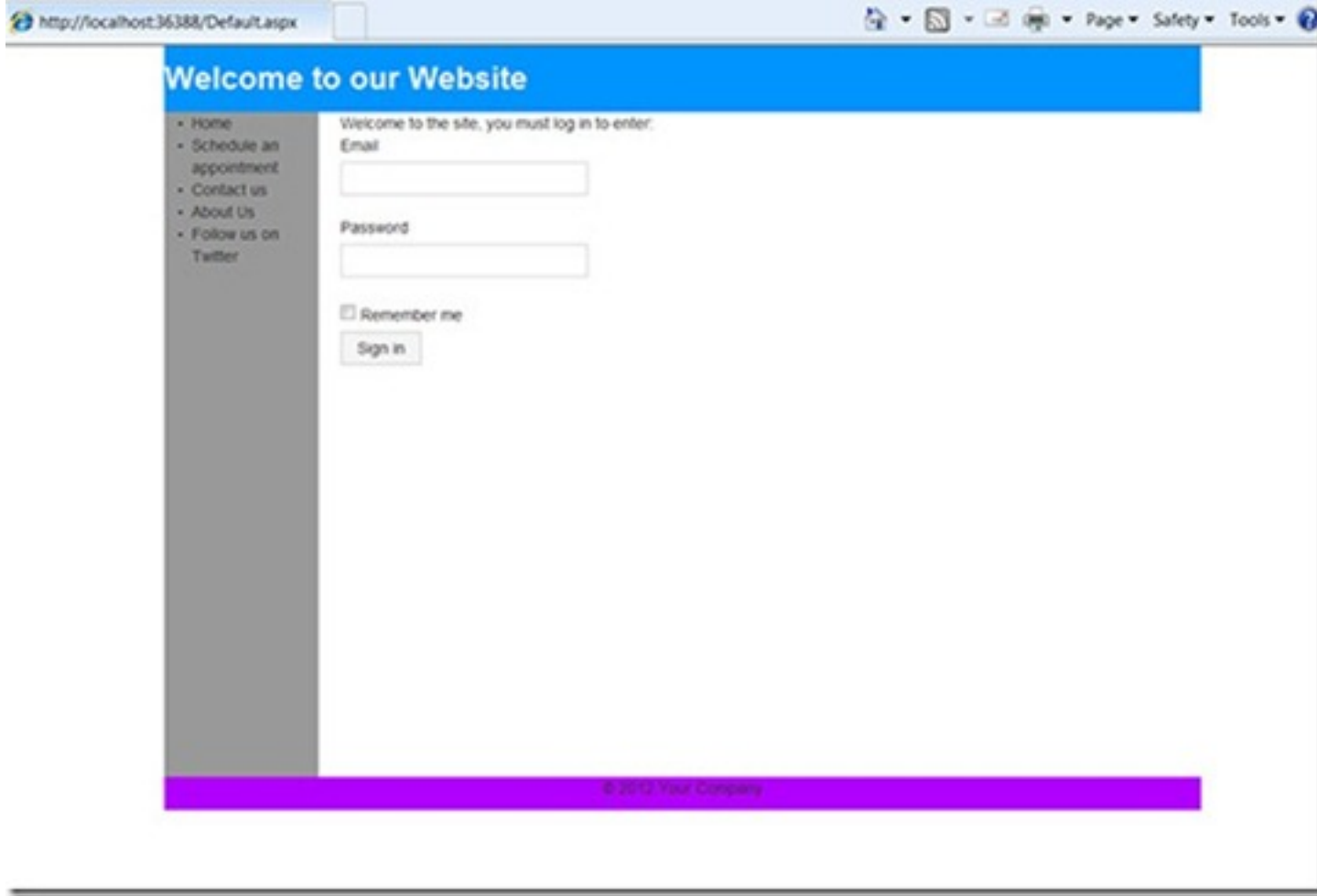## Last Step: Open Your Index Page (Default.aspx) again

Open up your Default.aspx site again and add some code after the tag: <asp:Content ID="Content2"
ContentPlaceHolderID="ContentPlaceHolder1" runat="server">

```
<p>Welcome to the site, you must log in to enter</p>

  <div class="control-group">
  <label class="control-label" for="inputEmail">Email</label>
  <div class="controls">
    <input type="text" id="inputEmail" placeholder="Email">
  </div>
</div>
<div class="control-group">
  <label class="control-label" for="inputPassword">Password</label>
  <div class="controls">
    <input type="password" id="inputPassword" placeholder="Password">
  </div>
</div>
<div class="control-group">
  <div class="controls">
    <label class="checkbox">
      <input type="checkbox"> Remember me
    </label>
    <button type="submit" class="btn">Sign in</button>
  </div>
</div>
```

This is not a functional form, but I wanted to throw a few things on there so you can see what types of things are included in the
Twitter Bootstrap kit.

Now press play (F5) and it should look something like this:

As you may know, master pages work as a templating system where the inner content changes, but the headers and menus stay same. You can test this out by creating new pages using the master page you just created.

**Select Add –> New Item –> Web** Form From Master Page and select the Master Page you just created, and save the file as something else.
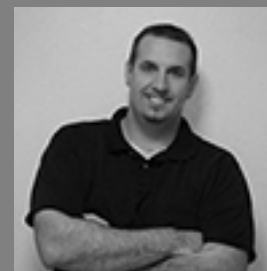
I hope this has helped those folks out there who want to utilize Twitter Bootstrap with their ASP pages.

Thanks for reading!

- Jeremy

**About the Author**

Jeremy Morgan is a software engineer with over a decade of experience as a polyglot coder, dabbling in both LAMP and .Net worlds equally. He enjoys creating tutorials for new programmers in the hopes it will encourage more people to join this exciting hobby. Check out his programming blog here or say hi on Google+ sometime.

Share This Post:     Short Url: http://wblo.gs/dDQ

Print | posted on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 7:27 AM | Filed Under [ Tutorials ]



**Feedback**

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

Excellent article! Thanks!

PS: I didn't found the normalize.css

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

Hi,

Thanks for this article but I received an error:

Unhandled exception at line 6, column 27 in http://localhost:*****/js/bootstrap.min.js

0x800a138f - Microsoft JScript runtime error: Object expected

When I pressed F5 around the Hello World part.

Thanks.

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

rex, I ran into this problem also. There were issues with the .js files for a lot of the twitter bootstrap .js files. You need t
make sure your includes are in the proper order (check their example file). It seems as if some of the .js files hold
dependencies that the other files need.

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

Please, change the "#" for a "=" in the JQuery link. You got me pulling my hair for an hour until I noticed it (you moron.
Also you could do it right and also use ResolveUrl with Bootstrap script.

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

I did not find the link for normalize.css. please provide the same to download

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

please provide the same to download

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

Hi Jeremy,
thanks for the tutorial, it was really useful!
I have a question: when I try to add a CheckBox or a RadioButton, the text is displayed under the box (check or radio)
instead of at the right of it.
Is there a way to avoid this?
Thanks again!

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

You can download normalize.css from the source here: http://necolas.github.io/normalize.css/

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

hi All,
We are looking for a Sr. .Net Developer with Bootstrap in Austin TX. Please send your resumes to monica@identitysol.co

5/3/2013 9:14 AM | Monica

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

good jump start! thank you.

5/8/2013 9:07 AM | Vijay

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

hi there thank you very much for the tutorial but I have a little problem where you find BootstrapASP.Master.cs
if it's code behind maybe is BootstrapASP.Master.vb instead of BootstrapASP.Master.cs

am just curious because i cant add that lines of code anywhere sorry if i cant understand am just a rookie on this

5/19/2013 9:31 PM | Charlie

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

Hi all,

Thanks for this tutorial.
In my project, in use meta queries in my css.
So, don't forget to add <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0"> in the master.
Else, the metas queries are not detected.

6/18/2013 7:41 AM | GAetan

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

here u just show us to include some js & css file related twitter. does it enough to design a website based on twitter libr
do i need to do anything extra ?

7/3/2013 4:50 AM | Tridip

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

@Charlie you are using c# here not vb...so BootstrapASP.Master.cs page will be created for code behind file..

7/4/2013 10:53 PM | Panchal Dhaval

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**
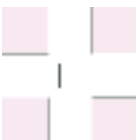
change from

<script type="text/javascript" src='<%# ResolveUrl ("~/Js/jquery-1.2.3.min.js") %>'></script>

to

<script type="text/javascript" src='<%= ResolveUrl ("~/Js/jquery-1.2.3.min.js") %>'></script>

8/26/2013 2:10 AM | Change

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

Great Tutorial !

9/20/2013 3:13 AM | Pierre

**# re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website**

Hi,
I am adding couple of responsive pages to my website using Bootstrap 3. My client's requirement is that only these 2 pa
should be responsive while other pages should behave non-responsive.

While doing this i find that there are common user controls used in the website like topnavigation, main menu bar etc. In order to include the bootstrap classes, extra divs and few additional html tags for mobile menu and at the same time remove these in non-responsive pages, what is the better way to add and remove html content to the existing controls including bootstrap classes based on responsive and non-responsive page checks?

## Post A Comment

Title: re: How To Use Twitter Bootstrap on an ASP.Net Website

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Verification:

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