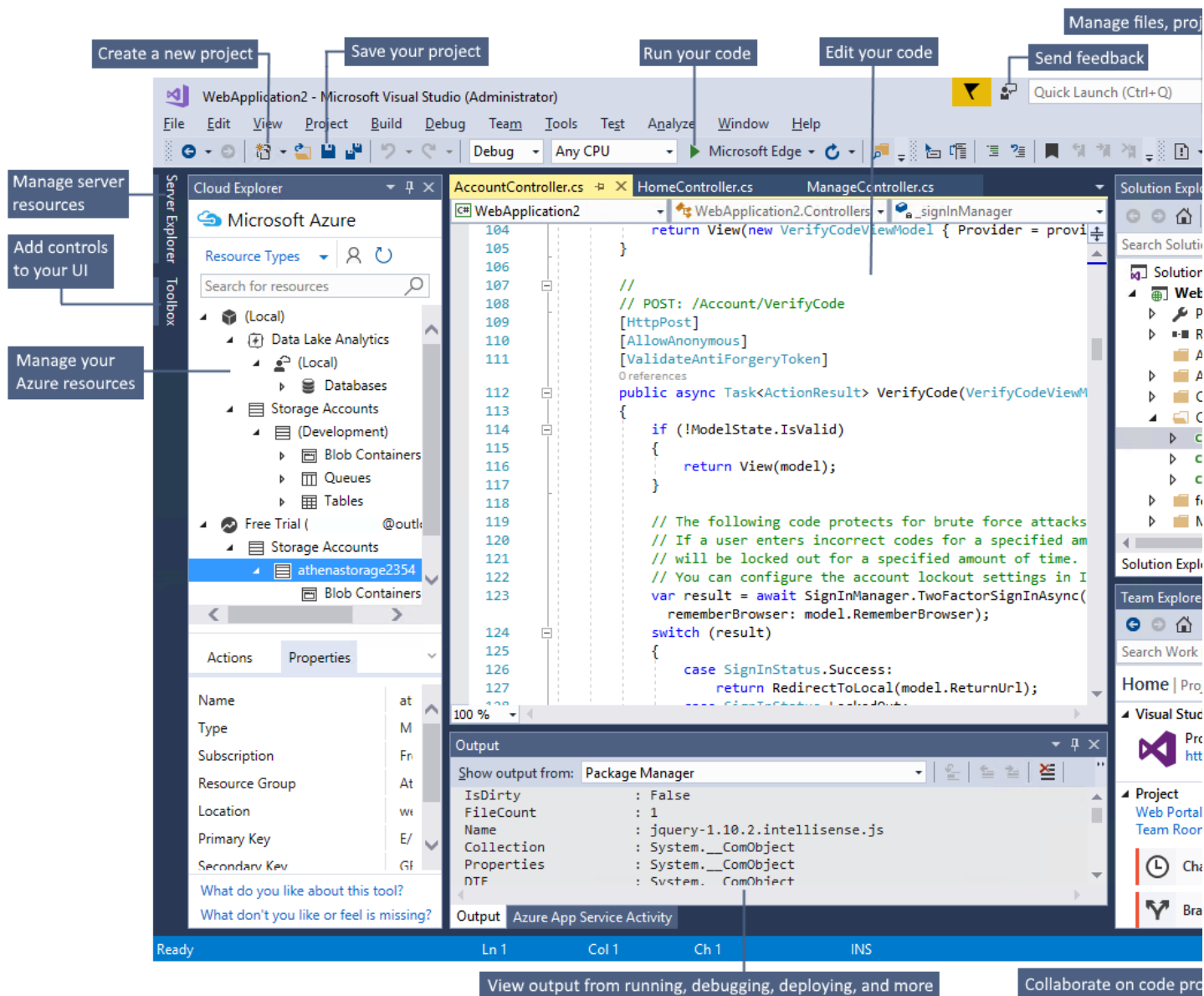


# [0019] Visual Studio Tips and Tricks

Visual Studio is the full featured, professional IDE with many, many features and many, many customization capabilities.



making lots of changes. One reason you might want to avoid making too many changes is because you need to fully understand how your IDE works "normally" before you can make intelligent choices about how to customize it. Another reason to leave things "as is" is because most videos and tutorials on the web use those same "default" settings too. Finally, the support resources at LW Tech (including your instructor) may not be able to help you if you've heavily changed your IDE settings.

## Tip #1: Spend some time reviewing the Visual Studio documentation

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/ide/?view=vs-2019>  
(<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/ide/visual-studio-ide?view=vs-2017>)

This page is an excellent introduction to Visual Studio and includes another version of the HelloWorld app we just did. It also links to all of the other great Visual Studio documentation Microsoft has created.

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/ide/quickstart-ide-orientation?view=vs-2019> (<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/ide/quickstart-ide-orientation?view=vs-2017>)

This is also a very good introductory tutorial about using Visual Studio.

I highly recommend reading this information.

## Tip #2: Take time to fully understand how Solutions, Projects and Class files work in Visual Studio.

Microsoft has created an additional hierarchy level for the directories that you create using Visual Studio. C# class files can be grouped into C# projects which can, in turn, be grouped into "VS Solutions." Each time you start a new assignment for class, you will start by creating a new "Solution" that will contain one project that will, in turn, contain your work.

This can be really confusing at first and Microsoft's documentation doesn't help much either. Here's their explanation:

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/ide/solutions-and-projects-in-visual-studio?view=vs-2019> (<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/ide/solutions-and-projects-in-visual-studio?view=vs-2017>)

We will be using a new, different VS Solution for each of our programming assignments.

### **Tip #3: Don't blindly rely on IntelliSense / Autocomplete.**

Visual Studio's suggestions are not always correct. Some suggestions are meant for advanced programmers. Some suggestions can be misleading. Some suggestions are based on incorrect assumptions about your code (such as - you've finished writing it!) And then there are times where IntelliSense is just flat out confused.

Bottom Line: Make sure any suggestion from IntelliSense make sense to **you** before adopting it.