Windows Phone

Controls and Toolkits Cheat Sheet
Beyond SDK v7.1 "Mango"

Beta v0.3

Prepared by Kevin Ashley, Microsoft Architect Evangelist

http://kevinashley.com

@kashleytwit

1 Tools and Controls

When you install Windows Phone SDK, you get plenty of standard controls and tools: everything you need to build quality robust Windows Phone apps, ready to drag-and-drop from the Visual Studio Toolbox. This cheat sheet lists some **extra controls and tools** for professional Windows Phone developers.

2 NuGet

recommended: must have add-on for visual studio
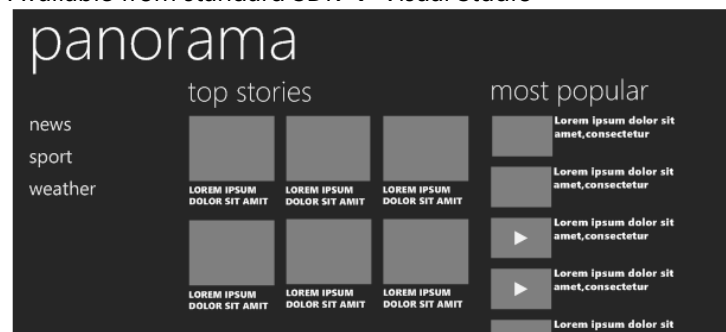
http://nuget.codeplex.com/

NuGet – A "get it all" add on for the Visual Studio. Instead of searching through multiple Web sites, simply install NuGet package manager. Basically, it does several things for you: provides a quick search mechanism for external libraries, detects your installed version, checks for updates, automatically adds references to your Visual Studio project and updates configuration files.
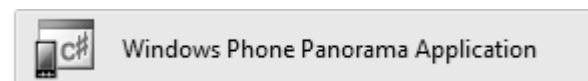
3 Standard Controls

3.1 Panorama Control

Available from standard SDK → Visual Studio

Panorama control is so popular with Windows Phone apps, it was even made into a standard Visual Studio project template, and eventually included into the standard SDK. Now all you need to do create a Panorama app, is open Visual Studio and select Panorama template.

Windows Phone Panorama Application

You can also add Panorama page to any existing project

Windows Phone Panorama Page   Visual C#

Panorama control is placed on pages of your app. You can set title and background. PanoramaItems define sections of the panorama control and each has a header.

```xml
<controls:Panorama Grid.Row="1" Title="Title"
Foreground="Black">
    <controls:Panorama.Background>
        <ImageBrush ImageSource="PanoramaBackground.png"/>
    </controls:Panorama.Background>
```

PanoramaItems definition example:

```xml
<controls:PanoramaItem>
<!-- Anything else  -->
</controls:PanoramaItem>
```

Panorama controls co-exist perfectly with MVVM frameworks and tools, such as MVVM Light or MVVM Catel (see below). These frameworks provide additional data-binding services for Windows Phone apps **(Highly Recommended)**

3.2 Pivot Control

Available from standard SDK → Visual Studio

Pivot control is similar to Panorama and tab controls in the desktop world, specifically designed for mobile interaction. This control can be used to filter large datasets, or switching application views. Pivot control is used in many Windows Phone apps.

```xml
<controls:Pivot Title="MY APPLICATION">
    <controls:PivotItem  Header="home">
        <StackPanel  Margin="20">
            <TextBlock TextWrapping="Wrap" Text="Sample"
```

```xml
Style="{StaticResource PhoneTextLargeStyle}"></TextBlock>
        </StackPanel>
    </controls:PivotItem>
        <!-- other pivot items -->
</controls:Pivot>
```

Pivot control apps may be created from Visual Studio Pivot application template, or by adding a Windows Phone Pivot page to the project. Alternatively, templates provided with MVVM frameworks, such as MVVM Light or Catel provide templates.

Windows Phone Pivot Page   Visual C#

3.3 Panorama and Pivot Usage Considerations

✓ *Floating buttons should be avoided.*
✓ *Minimise the use interactive content on the panorama (forms, search boxes etc.). Panorama controls should be used to entice the user to explore.*
✓ *Use a standard Windows Phone button (an icon encapsulated by a circle) and right align it. The application bar in the panorama can also now be used for generic tasks (refresh, search, settings etc...)*
✓ *A maximum of five panes are recommended. Any more than five and they will be difficult to navigate and performance will take a hit.*

4 Silverlight Toolkit

recommended: best quality control set

http://silverlight.codeplex.com/ → NuGet

Silverlight Toolkit is a very feature rich open source control set built for Windows Phone. Use **NuGet** tool to add it to your project.

4.1 HubTile Control

If you want to simulate the Windows Phone Start screen with tiles, you can use Pivot control as a container with PivotItems including lists of HubTiles from Silverlight Toolkit.


```xml
<toolkit:HubTile Grid.Row="1"
Source="/Images/Dessert.jpg"
Title="Dessert"
Notification="2 New&#x0d;&#x0a;Receipes">
```

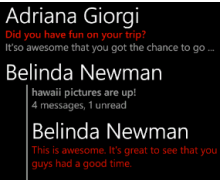```
DisplayNotification="True"
GroupTag="Food"/>
```

## 4.2  Lockable Pivot

Lockable Pivot from Silverlight Toolkit works just like the regular Pivot control, but it adds a special mode where only the current item is shown. The user can select, draw, navigate maps or slide within the PivotItem control.

## 4.3  Long List Selector

Long List Selector rom Silverlight Toolkit helps users scroll down long lists and pick items faster. It's an advanced ListBox which supports grouped and flat lists. This is great for apps that have long contact lists.



## 4.4  Expander View

Expander View rom Silverlight Toolkit is a great control to use for expanding lists, just like Outlook or Mail apps.



# 5  Phone7.Fx

recommended: an alternative to built-in application bar
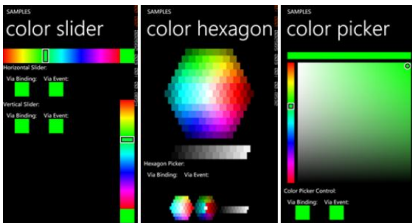
http://phone7.codeplex.com/

Phone7.Fx toolkit includes some very useful controls, such as the bindable and collapsible Application Bar. With bindable application bar you can bind it to your data model just like you would any standard Silverlight control.

# 6  Coding4Fun Toolkit

http://coding4fun.codeplex.com/ → NuGet

Coding4Fun toolkit has some very cool controls: About Prompt, Color Picker, Toast Prompt and more.



# 7  Data Binding and MVVM

Model View View Model is a pattern used in many Silverlight and Windows Phone apps. There're several toolkits that provide a very extensive support for this pattern and greatly simplify building data bound Windows Phone apps.
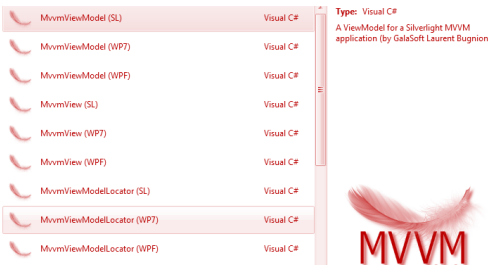
## 7.1  MVVM Light

recommended: simple and rich mvvm toolkit

http://mvvmlight.codeplex.com/

If you haven't tried any MVVM toolkits yet, MVVM Light toolkit is the best starting point. It provides many ready-made application and page templates.

MVVM Light helps you separate your view from data model, which results in cleaner and more efficient code.



## 7.2  Catel MVVM

http://catel.codeplex.com/ → NuGet

Catel MVVM toolkit provides many unique features, such as out of the box support for collecting and binding sensor data.

# 8  Monetize with Microsoft Ad Control

recommended: make money with the ad control



Microsoft Advertising control is a drag-and-drop control that quickly gets you up and running with the Microsoft Advertising solutions. The control is available with the standard SDK, all you need to do is to set your app id and advertisement id, and check your balance in Microsoft Advertising PubCenter→

# 9  Reference and Resources

Silverlight Toolkit

http://silverlight.codeplex.com/

NuGet

http://nuget.codeplex.com/

Windows Phone Training

http://create.msdn.com/en-US/education/catalog

Windows Phone Offline Training Kit

http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/WP7MangoTrainingCourse

Get the code samples and the starter kit

http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff431744(v=VS.92).aspx

Register for App Hub

http://create.msdn.com/en-us/home/membership

My Blog

http://kevinashley.com →