

A Windows 8 Shell for WPF

By: Paul D. Sheriff
PSheriff@pdsa.com
www.pdsa.com or
www.PaulSheriffInnerCircle.com

Paul.About

- Paul D. Sheriff (psheriff@pdsa.com)
 - President of PDSA, Inc.
 - Author, Speaker, Architect
 - Custom Software Development, Developer Tools
 - Software Audits
 - www.pdsa.com
- Developer Tools
 - Haystack Code Generator
 - www.CodeHaystack.com
 - .NET Productivity Framework



Agenda

- Windows 8 Shell Overview
- A Simple Message Broker
- Building Buttons
- A Style-able Message Box
- Creating a Tile
- Add/Edit/Delete Screen

Windows 8 Shell Overview

- Provide a XAML Shell that looks like Windows 8 Start Screen
- You can start using this today
- Don't have to upgrade your users to Windows 8 immediately

Windows 8 Shell

Demo

- Show running application

Building Blocks

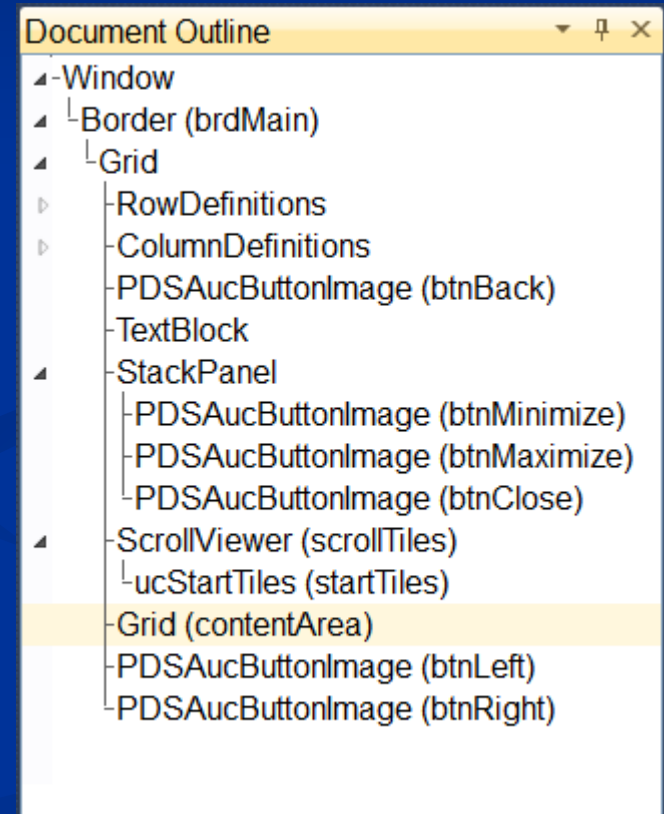
- User Controls
 - ucButton, ucButtonImage, ucButtonImageText
 - ucTile
- Simple Message Broker
 - Communicate from controls to main shell
- Custom Message Box
 - Allows you to style
- Standard Resource Dictionaries

Building Blocks

- Start Group Tile Controls
 - ucStartGroup1, ucStartGroup2, etc.
 - A collection of Tile user controls
- Start Tile Control
 - ucStartTiles
 - A collection of Start Group Tile Controls
 - Placed on Main Window

Main Window

- Grid
 - ucButtonImage
 - Back, min, max, close buttons
 - ScrollView
 - Contains ucStartTiles
 - Grid
 - Content Area
 - ucButtonImage
 - Left and Right Buttons



Back Arrow
(ucButtonImage)

Header Text

Min, Max, Close
Buttons
(ucButtonImage)

ucStartTiles (User Control)

ucStartGroup1



ucStartGroup2



ucStartGroup n



Scroll Left Arrow
(ucButtonImage)

Scroll Right Arrow
(ucButtonImage)

Home Screen Design

- Create a borderless window
- Events
 - Drag
 - Maximize / Minimize
 - Close
- Start Tiles
 - ScrollView / Left and Right Buttons
- Clicking a Tile sends a message

Home Screen Overview

Demo

- Borderless Attributes
- Events
- Tiles
- Message Sending

Message Broker

- Create a central “Communication” class
- Avoids coupling between objects
- Send messages...
 - From one user control to another
 - From one class to another
 - From view model to main shell
 - Etc.

Message Broker

Demo

- Let's look at the Message Broker

Building Buttons

- Hard to style normal WPF Button
 - Without having to create new template
- Create your own buttons
 - Using user controls
- Buttons with
 - Text
 - Images
 - Text and Images

Button Controls

Demo

- Text Button
- Button with an Image
- Image and Text Button

Custom Message Box

- MessageBox.Show() displays Windows UI
- Can ruin the look of your application
- Create a window with styles
- Use resource dictionaries
 - Helps you to override styles

Custom Message Box

Demo

- A style-able message box

Creating a Tile

- Windows 8 / Windows Phone use Tiles
 - For navigation
 - For launching applications
- Create your own user control in XAML
 - Grid
 - Image
 - TextBlock
 - Visual State Manager
 - A couple of events

Tiles

Demo

- Creating Tiles

Launch Application

- When you click on a tile, you can...
 - Launch another application
 - Display a web page
 - Display a window
 - Load a user control
- Let's look at loading a user control

Launch Application

Demo

- Displaying a user control

Summary

- User Controls are essential
 - Buttons, Tiles, etc.
- Create resource dictionaries
- Use a communication system to avoid strong-coupling

Thank You

- Sign up for Haystack Webcasts
 - <http://www.pdsa.com/webcasts>



- Sign up for Paul Sheriff's Inner Circle
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 - Over \$2000 worth of ebooks, video, etc.
 - <http://www.PaulSheriffInnerCircle.com>

Sample Code

- <http://www.pdsa.com/event/???>
 - Get Free Silverlight Video
 - Silverlight XAML for the Complete Novice - Part 1
- **** Haystack Special ****
 - Special Price: \$499
 - Use Code: ???
 - Valid until: ??/??/11