**Getting started with Bootstrap**

Introducing Bootstrap

Bootstrap is an open-source framework for developing websites. Based on HTML, CSS and JavaScript, Bootstrap started as a project by Mark Otto and Jacob Thornton at Twitter. The intention was to encourage consistency across web pages, but grew to include tooling for mobile-first design and common features web developers want, such as validation and dialog boxes.

Bootstrap is built using [Less](http://lesscss.org/). Less is a stylesheet language that helps overcome some of the complexities and shortcomings with CSS, and is converted into CSS that browsers can use. Because the Less is converted to CSS, developers using Bootstrap do not need to be familiar with Less. However, knowing Less can make customizing sites easier.

Bootstrap offers web developers many advantages. It makes it easier to layout pages without the use of tables. It simplifies CSS, as the bulk of the functionality you look for as a developer is already built for you, and frequently only requires the addition of classes to HTML elements, and a bit of structure.

There are several tools that make development with Bootstrap even easier. Visual Studio has IntelliSense for Bootstrap, which offers autocompletion of the different classes. You can also download a set of snippets for Visual Studio, which allows you to create complex Bootstrap structures with just a couple of clicks of the mouse.