

# Module 2

## "Data Binding Properties"



WINCUBATE

# Agenda

- ▶ **Data Binding**
- ▶ Data Conversion
- ▶ Validation
- ▶ Change Notification



# The **Binding** Class

## ▶ Binding

- ElementName, Source, RelativeSource
- Path
- XPath
- Mode
- Delay
- NotifyOnSourceUpdated
- NotifyOnTargetUpdated
- FallbackValue + TargetNullValue

XML sources

SourceUpdated event

TargetUpdated event

## ▶ Binding can be set

- Declaratively in XAML
  - Full syntax or markup extension syntax "{}"
- Programmatically in code

## ▶ Bindings can be cleared (in code) via **BindingOperations.ClearBinding()**



# RelativeSource

- ▶ You can bind to another element in the visual tree relative to the element being bound
  - use the **RelativeSource** property
  
- ▶ **RelativeSource**
  - Mode
    - FindAncestor
      - AncestorType
      - AncestorLevel
    - Self
    - PreviousData
    - TemplatedParent



# Data Context

- ▶ It is possible to bind to CLR objects by
  - Referencing the namespace and assembly
  - Setting the **Binding.Source** property
- ▶ The can be shared among all child elements by setting the **FrameworkElement.DataContext** property
  - Can be set in XAML
  - Can be set in code
  - Bindings then implicitly refer to the data in **DataContext**
    - **ElementName** or **Source** can then be omitted



# Binding Mode

- ▶ The binding mode specifies the direction of the binding
- ▶ **Binding**
  - **Mode**
    - Default                      determined by the target property
    - OneTime
    - OneWay
    - OneWayToSource
    - TwoWay
  - **UpdateSourceTrigger**
    - Default                      determined by the target property
    - Explicit                      when **BindingExpression.UpdateSource()** is called
    - LostFocus
    - PropertyChanged



# Small, Important Features... 😊

- ▶ Bindings can be delayed
  - New feature in .NET 4.5

```
<Slider Name="slider"  
        Value="{Binding ElementName=textbox,  
                  Path=Text,  
                  Mode=TwoWay,  
                  Delay=500}" />
```

- ▶ Applies for updates from target to source in two-way bindings
  - The delay does not apply for both directions!
- ▶ Data binding can be set up "visually" through Visual Studio



# Agenda

- ▶ Data Binding
- ▶ **Data Conversion**
- ▶ Validation
- ▶ Change Notification





# IValueConverter

- ▶ Value converters
  - Convert, format, localize, combine data
    - Conditionally or unconditionally
  - Usually applied with Data Binding
- ▶ **IValueConverter**
  - **Convert()** Source -> Target
  - **ConvertBack()** Target -> Source
- ▶ Localization proceeds through the **culture** parameter
  - Defaults to **xml:lang**
- ▶ **ValueConversionAttribute**
  - Only conveys the intended meaning to tools
  - Has no semantic meaning!



# IMultiValueConverter

- ▶ Multi-value converters
  - Performs similar conversion, but combines multiple values
- ▶ **IMultiValueConverter**
  - **Convert()**
    - Accepts **object[]** instead of just **object**
  - **ConvertBack()**
    - Returns **object[]** instead of just **object**
- ▶ Must use **MultiBinding** to apply multi-value converter!
- ▶ Side note:
  - There is also a **PriorityBinding** for use with asynchronous data binding. We will investigate that in Module 13



# Data Binding Special Cases

- ▶ Converters can return special values when conversions are not possible (or not wanted)
  
- ▶ **Binding.**
  - `FallbackValue`
  - `DoNothing` Ignore update
  
- ▶ **DependencyProperty.**
  - `UnsetValue` “Errorneous” update



# Agenda

- ▶ Data Binding
- ▶ Data Conversion
- ▶ **Validation**
- ▶ Change Notification



# Validation Rules

- ▶ Data bindings are subjected to a set of validation rules
  - Exceptions are by default not thrown
- ▶ **ValidationRule**
  - **ExceptionValidationRule** built-in
- ▶ Setting **Binding.ValidatorsOnExceptions** to true
  - is equivalent to adding **ExceptionValidationRule**
- ▶ Custom validation rules
  - Override **ValidationRule.Validate()**
  - **ValidationResult** signals success or failure



# Handling Validation Errors

## ▶ Validation.

- HasErrors
- Errors ValidationError collection
- Error event
  - Raised if `Binding.NotifyOnValidationError == true`

## ▶ ValidationErrorEventArgs

- Action
  - Added
  - Removed
- Error
  - ErrorContent
  - Exception
  - RuleInError
  - BindingInError



# Validation Error Templates

- ▶ Controls can set attached **Validation.ErrorTemplate** property
- ▶ Note:
  - This is a **ControlTemplate** (not a **DataTemplate**)
  - **AdornedElementPlaceholder** refers back to control being validated!



# IDataErrorInfo

- ▶ **IDataErrorInfo** in **System.ComponentModel**

```
public interface IDataErrorInfo
{
    string Error { get; }
    string this[ string columnName ] { get; }
}
```

- ▶ **DataErrorValidationRule**
  - Checks for errors raised by classes implementing **IDataErrorInfo**
- ▶ Setting **Binding.ValidatesOnDataErrors** to true
  - is equivalent to adding **DataErrorValidationRule**
- ▶ WPF 4.5 adds **INotifyDataErrorInfo** for more advanced uses
  - There is a similar **Binding.ValidatesOnNotifyDataErrors**





# Agenda

- ▶ Data Binding
- ▶ Data Conversion
- ▶ Validation
- ▶ **Change Notification**



# INotifyPropertyChanged

- ▶ Implement **INotifyPropertyChanged** to propagate modifications to a single element through data binding
  - **PropertyChanged** event
    - Raise event with CLR property name whenever it is changed



# Caller Info Attributes

- ▶ C# 5.0 introduced three types of caller info attributes
  - [CallerMemberName]
  - [CallerFilePath]
  - [CallerLineNumber]

```
static void Log(  
    [CallerMemberName] string callerName = null,  
    [CallerFilePath] string callerFilePath = null,  
    [CallerLineNumber] int callerLine = -1 )  
{  
    ...  
}
```

- ▶ Applicable to default parameters
  - Compiler replaces values at compilation time
  - In **System.Runtime.CompilerServices**



Perfect for **INotifyPropertyChanged**...! ☺



# Summary

- ▶ Data Binding
- ▶ Data Conversion
- ▶ Validation
- ▶ Change Notification





WINCUBATE

***Jesper Gulmann Henriksen***

PhD, MCT, MCSD, MCPD

Phone : +45 22 12 36 31

Email : [jgh@wincubate.net](mailto:jgh@wincubate.net)

WWW : <http://www.wincubate.net>

Hasselvangel 243

8355 Solbjerg

Denmark