IAP C# Lecture 5 XAML and the Windows Presentation Foundation

Geza Kovacs

What is Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF)?

- A toolkit for building graphical user interfaces (GUI) for an application
- Ships as part of the .NET platform for Windows, Windows Phone 7, and Silverlight

Elements of a GUI application

- The frontend / interface: where are the controls (buttons, labels, sliders, text boxes) placed, how does the application look like to your user?
- The backend code: when the user clicks a button, what code gets executed?

Coding a GUI

- Each control (button, label, slider, text box) is represented by an object
- Each object representing a control has some properties: (ex: the text on a button)
- Writing an GUI in C#: create objects representing your Window and each of the controls, set all their properties, then show the interface

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args)
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```



```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                  Hello World
static class MyMainClass
                                                    Click Me
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args)
                                              Defines a Window
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                  Hello World
static class MyMainClass
                                                     Click Me
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args)
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
                                             Sets the Window's title
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                  Hello World
static class MyMainClass
                                                     Click Me
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args)
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
                                             Defines a Button control
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                  Hello World
static class MyMainClass
                                                     Click Me
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args)
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
                                            Sets the text in the button
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                   Hello World
static class MyMainClass
                                                     Click Me
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args)
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
                                         Sets the button text font size
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                  Hello World
static class MyMainClass
                                                     Click Me
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args)
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
                                        Adds the button to the window
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                  Hello World
static class MyMainClass
                                                    Click Me
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args)
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
                                            Shows the window
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args)
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```



Needed to start a WPF application

Adding Interactivity to an application

- Whenever the user does something to the GUI (like, clicking a button), an event will be triggered
- You can have a method be called whenever an event occurs (ie, a button is clicked), by subscribing to the event

- Whenever the user does something to the GUI (like, clicking a button), an event will be triggered
- You can have a method be called whenever an event occurs, by subscribing to the event

```
static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
    Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
}
static void Main(string[] args)
{
    Button button = new Button();
    button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
    ...
}
```

- Whenever the user does something to the GUI (like, clicking a button), an event will be triggered
- You can have a method be called whenever an event occurs, by subscribing to the event

```
static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
    Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
}

static void Main(string[] args)
{
    Button button = new Button();
    button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
    ...
}
An event
```

- Whenever the user does something to the GUI (like, clicking a button), an event will be triggered
- You can have a method be called whenever an event occurs, by subscribing to the event

```
static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
    Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
}

static void Main(string[] args)
{
    Button button = new Button();
    button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
    ...
}
Subscribing
to an event
```

- Whenever the user does something to the GUI (like, clicking a button), an event will be triggered
- You can have a method be called whenever an event occurs, by subscribing to the event

```
static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
    Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
}

static void Main(string[] args)
{
    Button button = new Button();
    button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
    ...
}
Which method to call
    whenever event occurs
```

- Whenever the user does something to the GUI (like, clicking a button), an event will be triggered
- You can have a method be called whenever an event occurs, by subscribing to the event

```
static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
    Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
}

Method's signature
depends on the event

static void Main(string[] args)
{
    Button button = new Button();
    button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
    ...
}
```

- Whenever the user does something to the GUI (like, clicking a button), an event will be triggered
- You can have a method be called whenever an event occurs, by subscribing to the event

```
static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
    Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
    Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
static void Main(string[] args)
    Button button = new Button();
    button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
```

- Whenever the user does something to the GUI (like, clicking a button), an event will be triggered
- You can have a method be called whenever an event occurs, by subscribing to the event

```
static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
    Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
    Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
static void Main(string[] args)
    Button button = new Button();
                                              Can subscribe multiple methods
    button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
                                                to an event; all will be called
    button.Click += PrintSomethingElse;
                                                whenever button is pressed
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
    }
    static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
        button.Click += PrintSomethingElse;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
    }
    static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
                                               Define a window, set its title
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
        button.Click += PrintSomethingElse;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
    }
    static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
                                                Define a new button, set the
        button.Content = "Click Me";
                                                 button text and font size
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
        button.Click += PrintSomethingElse;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
    static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
                                                 Subscribe methods to the button's click
        button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
                                                    event (both called when clicked)
        button.Click += PrintSomethingElse;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
    }
    static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
        button.Click += PrintSomethingElse;
        window.Content = button;
                                                     Add button to the window
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
    }
    static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
        button.Click += PrintSomethingElse;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
                                                         Show the window
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
    }
    static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
        button.Click += PrintSomethingElse;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
                                                        Start the application
        app.Run();
```

```
using System;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    static void PrintHelloWorld(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Hello World");
    }
    static void PrintSomethingElse(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
        Console.WriteLine("Something Else");
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        Button button = new Button();
        button.Content = "Click Me";
        button.FontSize = 32.0;
        button.Click += PrintHelloWorld;
        button.Click += PrintSomethingElse;
        window.Content = button;
        window.Show();
        Application app = new Application();
                                                        Start the application
        app.Run();
```

Layouts

- So far, we've had only 1 button. What if we want multiple buttons (or textbox, label, or other controls) on screen?
- In WPF, we usually use a layout to organize multiple widgets on screen
 - StackPanel: stacks items horizontally or vertically
 - Grid: organizes them into columns and rows





```
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
        Window window = new Window();
        window.Title = "Hello World";
        window.Show();
        Button button1 = new Button();
        button1.FontSize = 36.0;
        button1.Content = "Button 1";
        Button button2 = new Button();
        button2.FontSize = 36.0;
        button2.Content = "Button 2";
        StackPanel panel = new StackPanel();
        panel.Children.Add(button2);
        panel.Children.Add(button1);
        window.Content = panel;
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

using System;

using System.Windows;



StackPanel is a layout for organizing our 2 buttons

```
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
static class MyMainClass {
    [STAThread]
    static void Main(string[] args) {
        Window window = new Window();
                                                            MainWindow
        window.Title = "Hello World";
                                               Button 2 Button 1
        window.Show();
        Button button1 = new Button();
        button1.FontSize = 36.0;
        button1.Content = "Button 1";
        Button button2 = new Button();
        button2.FontSize = 36.0;
        button2.Content = "Button 2";
        StackPanel panel = new StackPanel();
                                                        Can change orientation
        panel.Orientation = Orientation.Horizontal;
        panel.Children.Add(button2);
        panel.Children.Add(button1);
        window.Content = panel;
        Application app = new Application();
        app.Run();
```

using System;

Separation of frontend and backend

- The frontend / interface: where are the buttons placed, how does the application look like to your user?
- The backend code: when the user clicks a button, what code gets executed?
- GUI applications should try to keep these are separate as possible
 - Makes it easy to replace interface while keeping the backend code working correctly
- In WPF, this is accomplished via XAML

XAML

- A specialized (XML-based) language for defining an interface in WPF
 - Can describe an interface more concisely than simply using C#
- Ex: defining a button in WPF vs in C#:

```
Button Content="Click Me" FontSize="32" />

Button button = new Button();
button.Content = "Click Me";
button.FontSize = 32.0;
```

Defining a stack layout in XAML vs C#



```
Button button1 = new Button();
button1.FontSize = 36.0;
button1.Content = "Button 1";
Button button2 = new Button();
button2.FontSize = 36.0;
button2.Content = "Button 2";
StackPanel panel = new StackPanel();
panel.Children.Add(button2);
panel.Children.Add(button1);
```

Defining a stack layout in XAML vs C#



```
Button button1 = new Button();
button1.FontSize = 36.0;
button1.Content = "Button 1";
Button button2 = new Button();
button2.FontSize = 36.0;
button2.Content = "Button 2";
StackPanel panel = new StackPanel();
panel.Orientation = Orientation.Horizontal;
panel.Children.Add(button2);
panel.Children.Add(button1);
```

```
<Window x:Class="MyWindow"
   xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
   xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml"
   Title="MainWindow">
        <StackPanel Orientation="Horizontal">
              <Button Content="Button 2" FontSize="32" />
              <Button Content="Button 1" FontSize="32" />
        </StackPanel>
```

</Window>

InitializeComponent();

MyWindow.xaml.cs – the backend logic for MyWindow (none at the moment)

```
<Window x:Class="MyWindow"</pre>
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
  xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xam1"
  Title="MainWindow">
    <StackPanel Orientation="Horizontal">
                                                                     MyWindow.xaml
         <Button Content="Button 2" FontSize="32" />
                                                                      the interface
         <Button Content="Button 1" FontSize="32" />
    </StackPanel>
</Window>
  using System.Windows;
  public partial class MyWindow : Window {
                                                           MyWindow.xaml.cs – the
     public MyWindow() {
         InitializeComponent();
                                                         backend logic for MyWindow
                                                            (none at the moment)
using System;
using System.Windows;
static class MyMainClass {
   [STAThread]
                                                MyMainClass.cs – creates a MyWindow,
   static void Main(string[] args) {
       MyWindow window = new MyWindow();
                                                shows it, and starts the WPF application
       window.Show();
       new Application().Run();
```

```
<Window x:Class="MyWindow"</pre>
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
  xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xam1"
  Title="MainWindow">
    <StackPanel Orientation="Horizontal">
         <Button Content="Button 2" FontSize="32" />
         <Button Content="Button 1" FontSize="32" />
    </StackPanel>
</Window>
 using System.Windows;
 public partial class MyWindow : Window {
     public MyWindow() {
         InitializeComponent();
     public void DoSomething1(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
         Console.WriteLine("button 1 clicked");
     }
```

 Suppose we want some method in MyWindow.xaml.cs to be called whenever button 1 gets clicked (an event)

```
<Window x:Class="MyWindow"</pre>
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
  xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xam1"
  Title="MainWindow">
    <StackPanel Orientation="Horizontal">
         <Button Content="Button 2" FontSize="32" />
         <Button Content="Button 1" FontSize="32" Click="DoSomething1" />
    </StackPanel>
                                                                   Subscribes
</Window>
                                                             DoSomething1 method
                                                             to button1's Click event
  using System.Windows;
  public partial class MyWindow : Window {
     public MyWindow() {
         InitializeComponent();
     public void DoSomething1(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e) {
         Console.WriteLine("button 1 clicked");
                                                 Executed whenever button is clicked
     }
```

- Suppose we want some method in MyWindow.xaml.cs to be called whenever button 1 gets clicked
 - Add "Click=DoSomething1" in XAML to subscribe the method to the event

```
<Window x:Class="MyWindow"</pre>
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
  xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xam1"
  Title="MainWindow">
    <StackPanel>
         <Label Content="Enter Text" /> <</pre>
         <TextBox />
                                TextBox
    </StackPanel>
</Window>
  using System;
  using System.Windows;
                                                                       ■ MainWindow
  using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                              Enter Text
  public partial class MyWindow : Window {
                                                              some text entered by me
     public MyWindow() {
         InitializeComponent();
```

- TextBox control user can enter text in it
- Label control displays some message

```
<Window x:Class="MyWindow"</pre>
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
  xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xam1"
  Title="MainWindow">
    <StackPanel>
         <Label Content="Enter Text" />
         <TextBox TextChanged="RunWhenTextChanges" />
    </StackPanel>
                                 Subscribe RunWhenTextChanges to
</Window>
                                        TextChanged event
  using System;
  using System.Windows;
                                                                       MainWindow
  using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                              Enter Text
  public partial class MyWindow : Window {
                                                             some text entered by me
     public MyWindow() {
         InitializeComponent();
     public void RunWhenTextChanges(object sender, TextChangedEventArgs e) {
         Console.WriteLine("text changed");
                                                Executed whenever text changes
```

TextBox's TextChanged event is triggered whenever user enters text into the textbox

```
<Window x:Class="MyWindow"</pre>
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
  xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xam1"
  Title="MainWindow">
    <StackPanel>
         <Label Content="Enter Text" />
         <TextBox TextChanged="RunWhenTextChanges"
                                                            Name="textBoxA" />
    </StackPanel>
                                                             Can refer to this TextBox as
</Window>
                                                                  textBoxA in code
  using System;
  using System.Windows;
                                                                        ■ MainWindow
  using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                              Enter Text
  public partial class MyWindow : Window {
                                                              some text entered by me
     public MyWindow() {
         InitializeComponent();
     public void RunWhenTextChanges(object sender, TextChangedEventArgs e) {
         Console.WriteLine(textBoxA.Text);
                                               extBoxA.Text: text entered in the TextBox
```

Suppose we want to retrieve text from the TextBox

 we'll need the name of the instance. Can specify
 this in XAML using the "Name" property

```
<Window x:Class="MyWindow"</pre>
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
  xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xam1"
  Title="MainWindow">
    <StackPanel>
         <Label Content="Enter Text" />
         <TextBox TextChanged="RunWhenTextChanges"
                                                            Name="textBoxA" />
    </StackPanel>
                                                             Can refer to this TextBox as
</Window>
                                                                  textBoxA in code
  using System;
  using System.Windows;
                                                                        ■ MainWindow
  using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                              Enter Text
  public partial class MyWindow : Window {
                                                              some text entered by me
     public MyWindow() {
         InitializeComponent();
     public void RunWhenTextChanges(object sender, TextChangedEventArgs e) {
         Console.WriteLine(textBoxA.Text);
                                               extBoxA.Text: text entered in the TextBox
```

Suppose we want to retrieve text from the TextBox

 we'll need the name of the instance. Can specify
 this in XAML using the "Name" property

```
<Window x:Class="MyWindow"</pre>
  xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
  xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xam1"
  Title="MainWindow">
    <StackPanel>
         <Label Content="Slide the slider" />
         <Slider Minimum="0" Maximum="100" Name="sliderA"</pre>
                  ValueChanged="sliderA_ValueChanged" />
    </StackPanel>
</Window>
  using System;
                                                                 MainWindow
  using System.Windows;
  using System.Windows.Controls;
                                                               Slide the slider
  public partial class MyWindow : Window {
     public MyWindow() {
         InitializeComponent();
     public void sliderA ValueChanged(object sender, RoutedPropertyChangedEventArgs<double>
         Console.WriteLine(sliderA.Value);
                                                  sliderA.Value: value in the slider
```

 Slider: can be slid by user, between a Minimum and Maximum value. ValueChanged event occurs when user slides the slider