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Windows Applications Programming

Windows Forms



Few words about me...



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Further Reading / Watching

- Courses on Microsoft Virtual Academy - mva.microsoft.com
 - Free
- Courses on PluralSight - www.pluralsight.com
 - Free trial
 - Free access (limited period) through [Microsoft DreamSpark](#)

API reference and Source code

- API reference:
 - <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/>
- .NET Framework source code:
 - <http://referencesource.microsoft.com/#mscorlib/system/string.cs,8281103e6f23cb5c>

Windows Forms

.NET Graphical User Interface

- Windows Forms (2001)
- Windows Presentation Foundation
- Universal Windows Platform

Startup and Shutdown

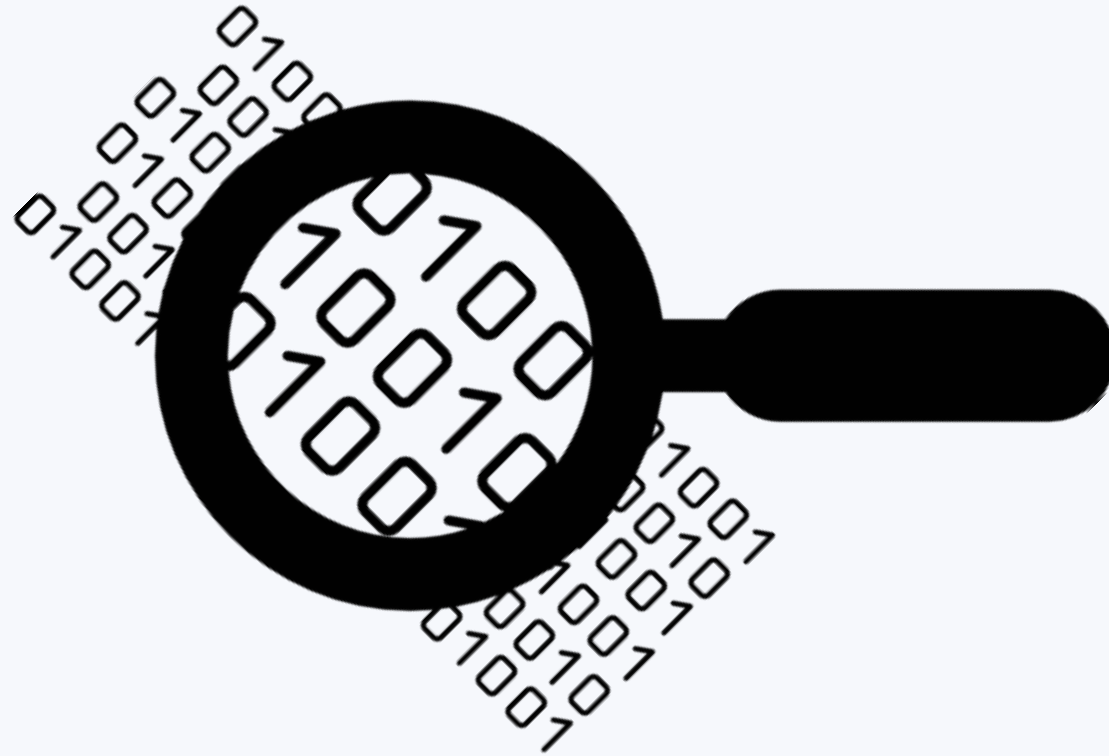
- Startup

```
[STAThread]
static void Main( )
{
    Application.Run(new Form1( ));
}
```

Application Class

- The Application Class
 - Run
 - Exit
 - ThreadException

Demo



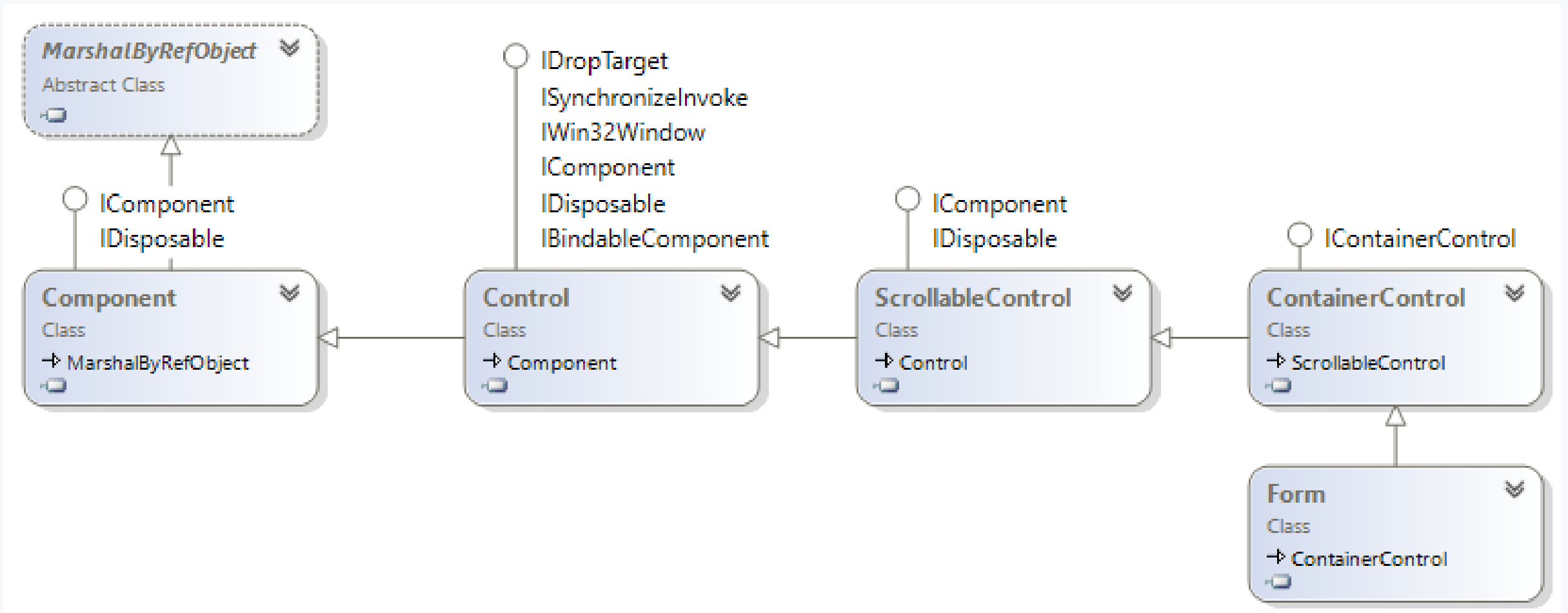
Form Class

Form Class

- All windows in a Windows Forms application are represented by objects of some type deriving from the Form class.

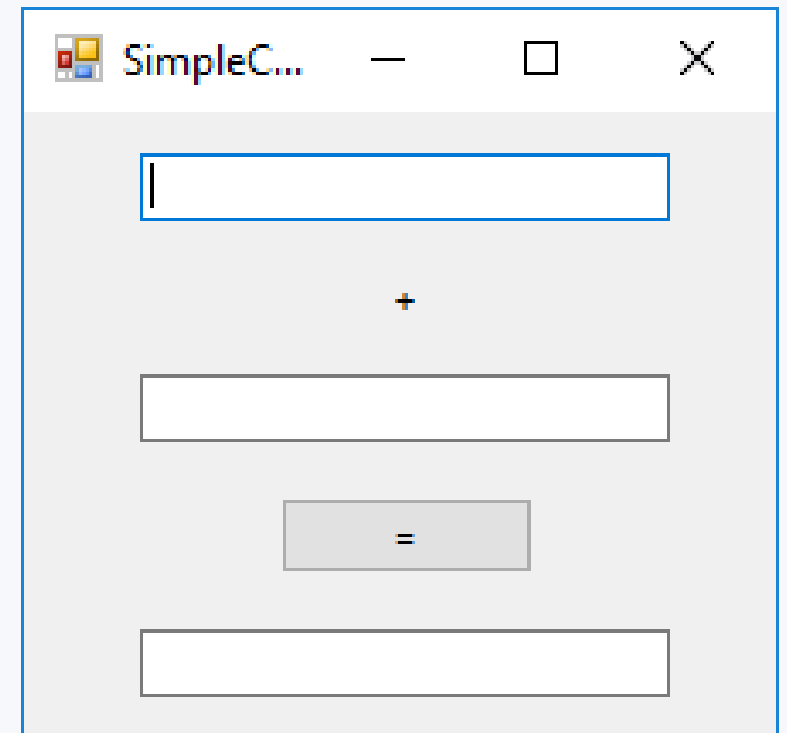
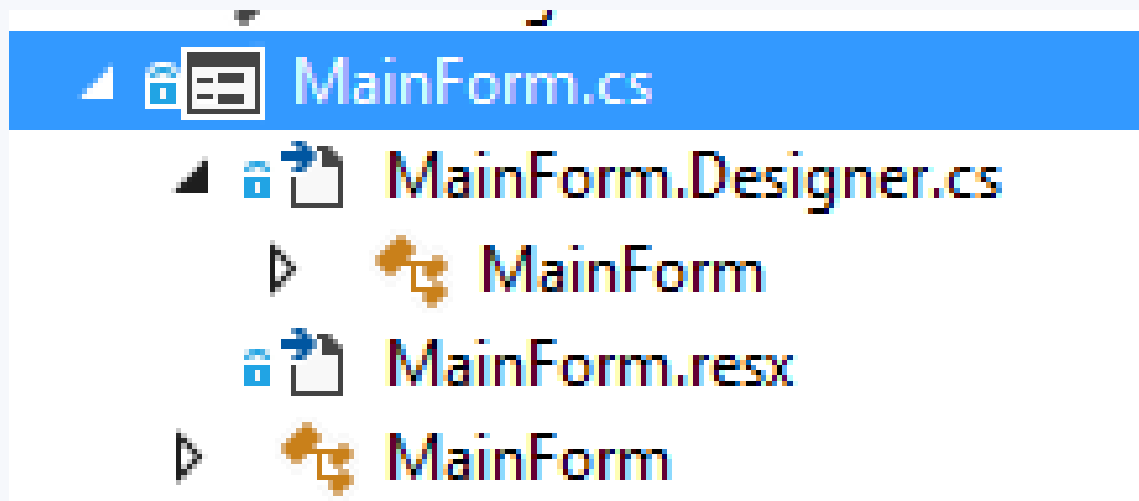
```
public partial class MainForm : Form
{
    // Constructor
    public MainForm()
    {
        InitializeComponent();
    }
}
```

Inheritance



The Forms Designer

- visual designer that auto-generates code.
- Uses partial classes.



Demo



Partial Class

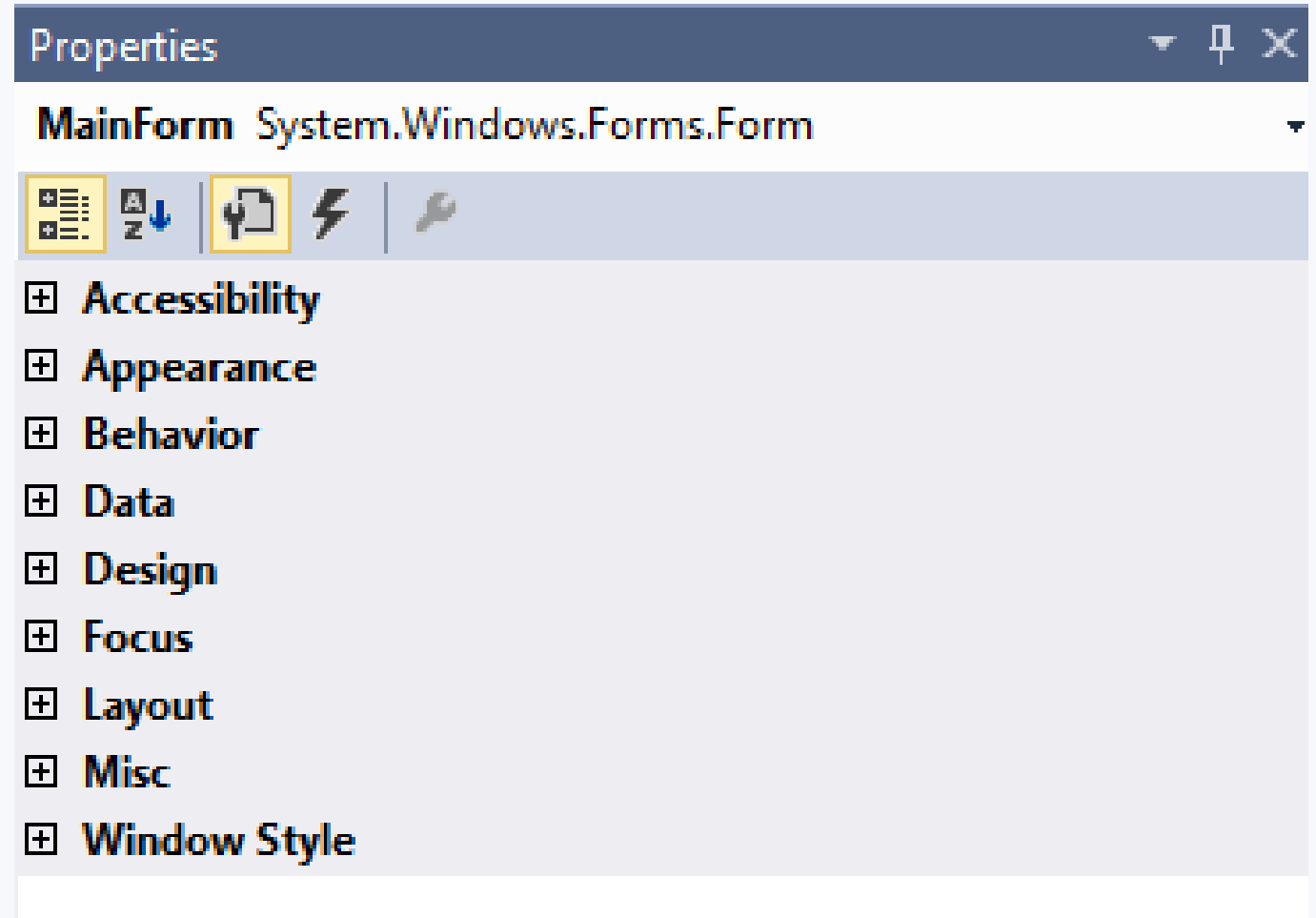
- It is possible to split the definition of a class or a struct, an interface or a method over two or more source files. Each source file contains a section of the type or method definition, and all parts are combined when the application is compiled.

```
public partial class Employee{  
    public void DoWork() {  
    }  
}
```

```
public partial class Employee{  
    public void GoToLunch() {  
    }  
}
```

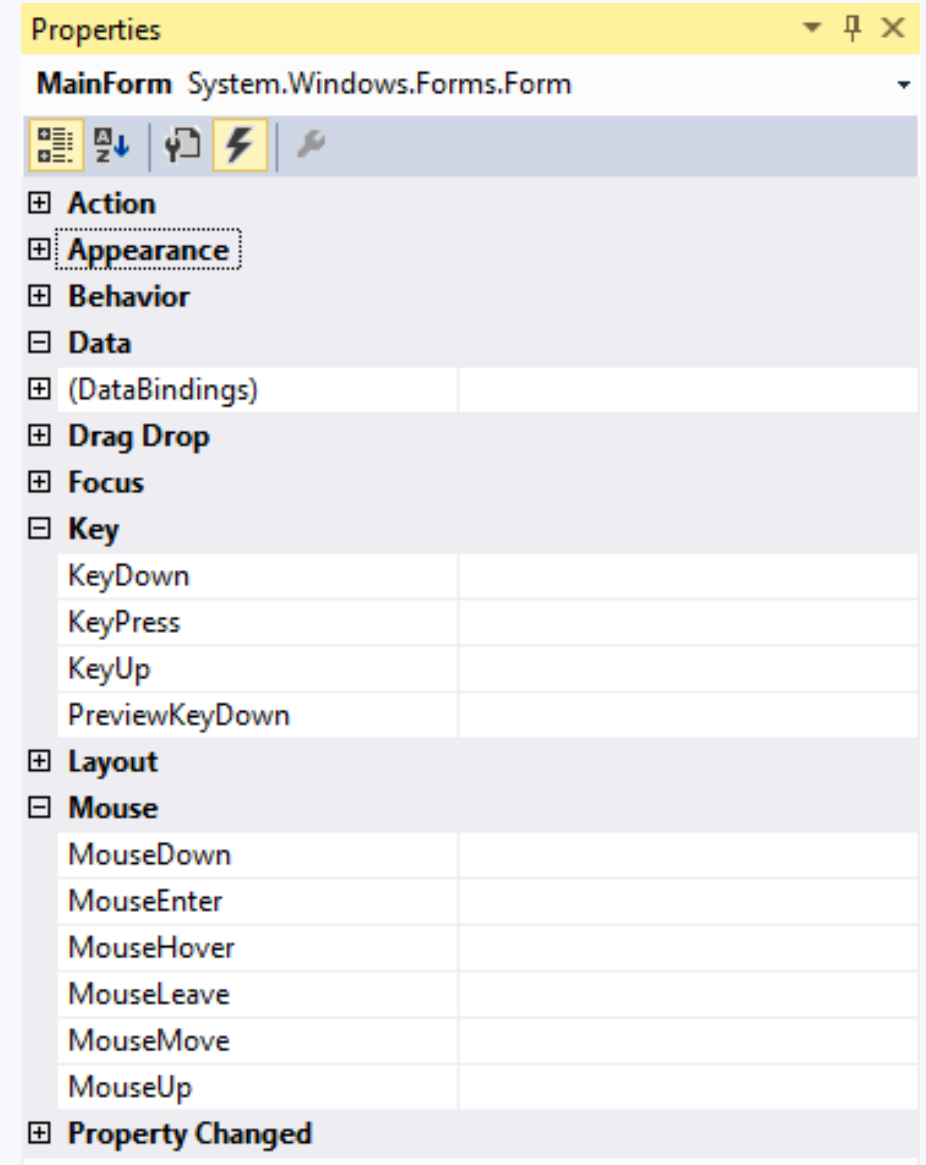
Properties

- Appearance
 - BackColor
 - Font
 - ForeColor
 - Text
- Design
 - Name



Events

- Key
 - KeyDown
 - KeyPress
 - KeyUp
- Mouse
 - MouseDown
 - MouseUp
 - Click



Keyboard Events

Keyboard Events

- Key events occur in the order specified below.

Event	Event data	Description
KeyDown	KeyEventArgs	Raised when a key is pressed. The KeyDown event occurs prior to the KeyPress event.
KeyPress	KeyPressEventArgs	Raised when a character generating key is pressed. The KeyPress event occurs after the KeyDown event and before the KeyUp event.
KeyUp	KeyEventArgs	Raised when a key is released.

KeyPress

- Occurs when a character is pressed on the keyboard, and again each time the character is repeated while it continues to be pressed.
- The KeyPress event is not raised by non-character keys other than space and backspace; however, the non-character keys do raise the KeyDown and KeyUp events.
- Use the KeyChar property to sample keystrokes at run time and to consume or modify a subset of common keystrokes.

KeyPressEventArgs

Property	Description
Handled	Boolean value indicating if the event was handled. false until set otherwise. When true, the keystroke is not displayed.
KeyChar	Read-only value of type char containing the composed ASCII character.

KeyDown andKeyUp

- **KeyDown** - Occurs when a key on the keyboard is pressed down.
- **KeyUp** - Occurs when a key on the keyboard is released.
- The **KeyDown** and **KeyUp** events are useful to fine-tune an application's behavior as keyboard keys are pressed and released, and for handling noncharacter keys such as the function or arrow keys.
- Handlers for these events receive an instance of the `KeyEventArgs` class as their event parameter.

KeyEventArgs properties

Property	Data type	Description
Alt	Boolean	Read-only value indicating if the Alt key was pressed. true if pressed, false otherwise.
Control	Boolean	Read-only value indicating if the Ctrl key was pressed. true if pressed, false otherwise.
Shift	Boolean	Read-only value indicating if the Shift key was pressed. true if pressed, false otherwise.
Modifiers	Keys	Read-only flags indicating the combination of modifier keys (Alt, Ctrl, Shift) pressed. Modifier keys can be combined using the bitwise OR operator.
Handled	Boolean	Value indicating if the event was handled. false until set otherwise.
KeyCode	Keys	Read-only value containing the key code for the key pressed. Typical values include the A key, Alt, and BACK (backspace).
KeyData	Keys	Read-only value containing the key code for the key pressed, combined with modifier flags to indicate combination of modifier keys (Alt, Ctrl, Shift).
KeyValue	integer	Key code property expressed as a read-only integer.

Mouse Events

Mouse Events

Event	Event argument	Description
Click	EventArgs	Raised when the control is clicked.
DoubleClick	EventArgs	Raised when the control is double-clicked.
MouseEnter	EventArgs	Raised when the mouse cursor enters the control.
MouseHover	EventArgs	Raised when the mouse cursor hovers over the control.
MouseLeave	EventArgs	Raised when the mouse cursor leaves the control.
MouseDown	MouseEventArgs	Raised when the mouse cursor is over the control and a mouse button is pressed.
MouseMove	MouseEventArgs	Raised when the mouse cursor is moved over the control.
MouseWheel	MouseEventArgs	Raised when the control has focus and the mouse wheel is rotated.
MouseUp	MouseEventArgs	Raised when the mouse cursor is over the control and a mouse button is released.

Click and MouseClick

Depressing a mouse button when the cursor is over a control typically raises the following series of events from the control:

- MouseDown event.
- Click event.
- MouseClick event.
- MouseUp event.

Click events are logically higher-level events of a control. They are often raised by other actions, such as pressing the ENTER key when the control has focus.

MouseClick contains specific mouse information (button, number of clicks, wheel rotation, or location),

MouseEventArgs properties

Property	Description
Button	Returns the pressed mouse button. Must be one of the members of the MouseButton enumeration
Clicks	Returns the integer number of times the mouse button was pressed and released. Resets after two clicks.
Delta	Returns the signed integer number of detents the mouse wheel was rotated. A positive value indicates that the wheel was rotated forward, i.e., away from the user, and a negative value indicates the wheel was rotated backward, i.e., toward the user.
X	The X coordinate, in pixels, of the mouse cursor's hot spot when the button was clicked, relative to the top-left corner of the control.
Y	The Y coordinate, in pixels, of the mouse cursor's hot spot when the button was clicked, relative to the top-left corner of the control.

Click

```
this.btnCalculate.Click += new System.EventHandler(this.btnCalculate_Click);
```

```
private void btnCalculate_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    var value1 = int.Parse(tbValue1.Text);
    var value2 = int.Parse(tbValue2.Text);

    var sum = value1 + value2;
    tbSum.Text = sum.ToString();
}
```

Alt Shortcuts

Alt Shortcuts

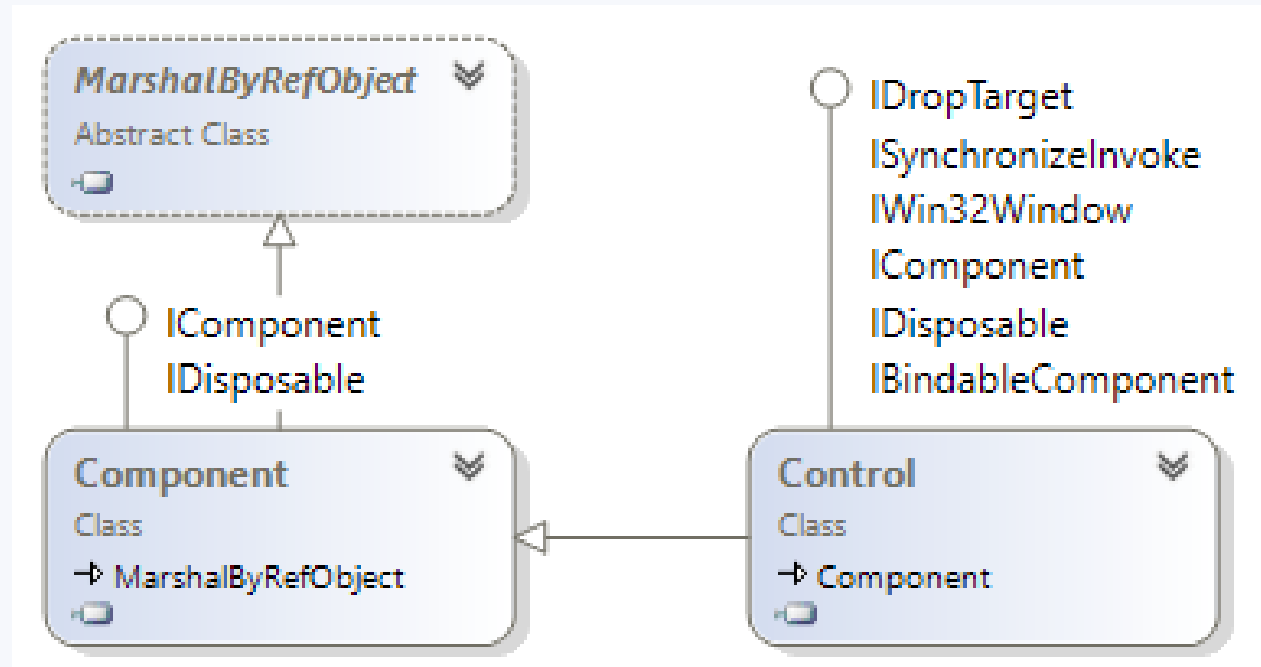
- An **access key** is an underlined character in the text of a menu, menu item, or the label of a control such as a button. It allows the user to "click" a button by pressing the ALT key in combination with the predefined access key.

```
// C#  
// Set the letter "P" as an access key.  
button1.Text = "&Print";
```

Controls

Control Class

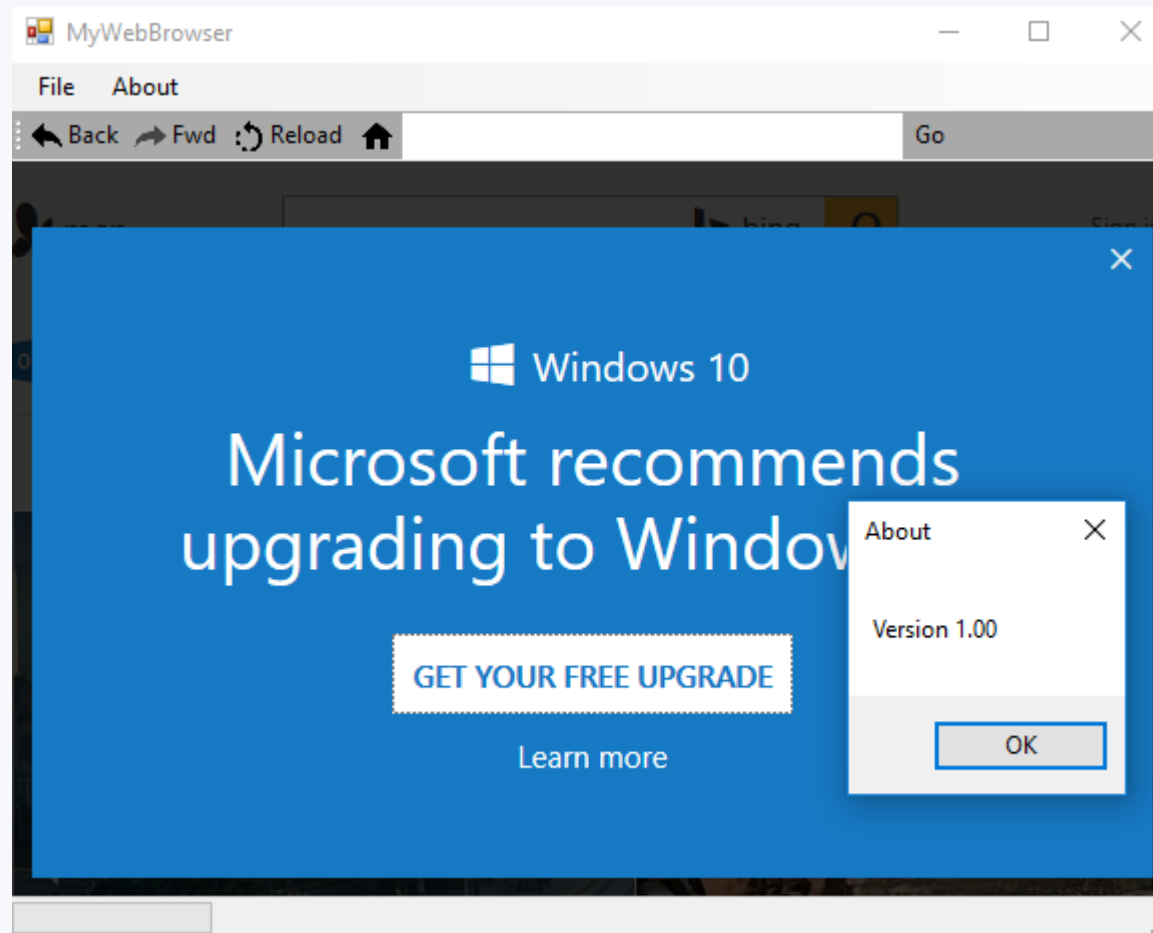
- The Control class forms the basis for all windows controls in .NET, and provides many properties, methods, and events.



- Further reading: [link](#)

Common controls

- Recommended Controls and Components by Function:
<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/xfak08ea%28v=vs.110%29.aspx>

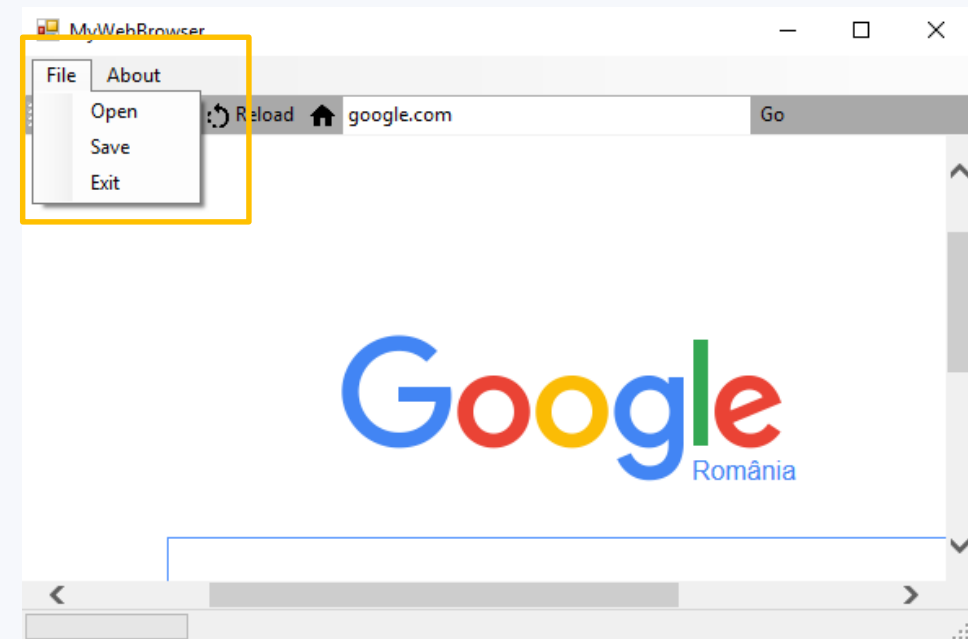
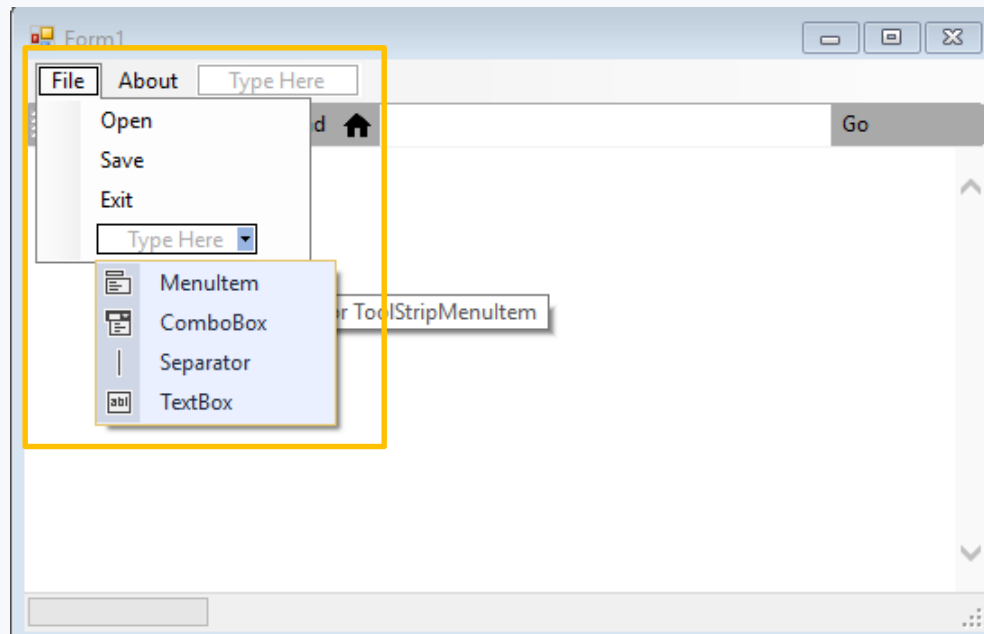


Common controls

- Alphabetic list of controls and components: <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/3xdhey7w%28v=vs.110%29.aspx>

Menus

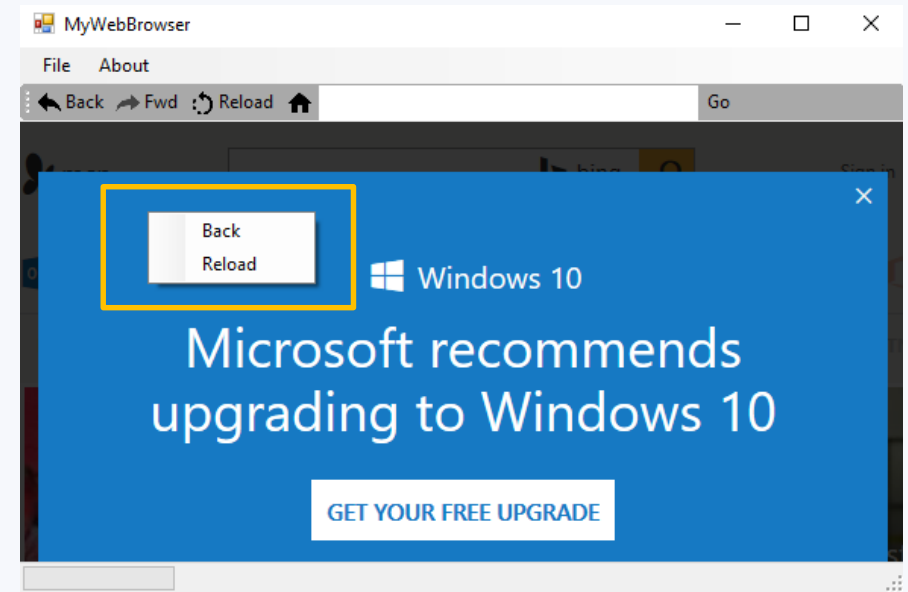
MenuStrip



MenuStrip

- `System.Windows.Forms.MenuStrip`
- The MenuStrip control represents the container for the menu structure of a form. You can add [ToolStripMenuItem](#) objects to the MenuStrip that represent the individual menu commands in the menu structure.
- Each [ToolStripMenuItem](#) can be a command for your application or a parent menu for other submenu items.
- Further reading: [link](#)

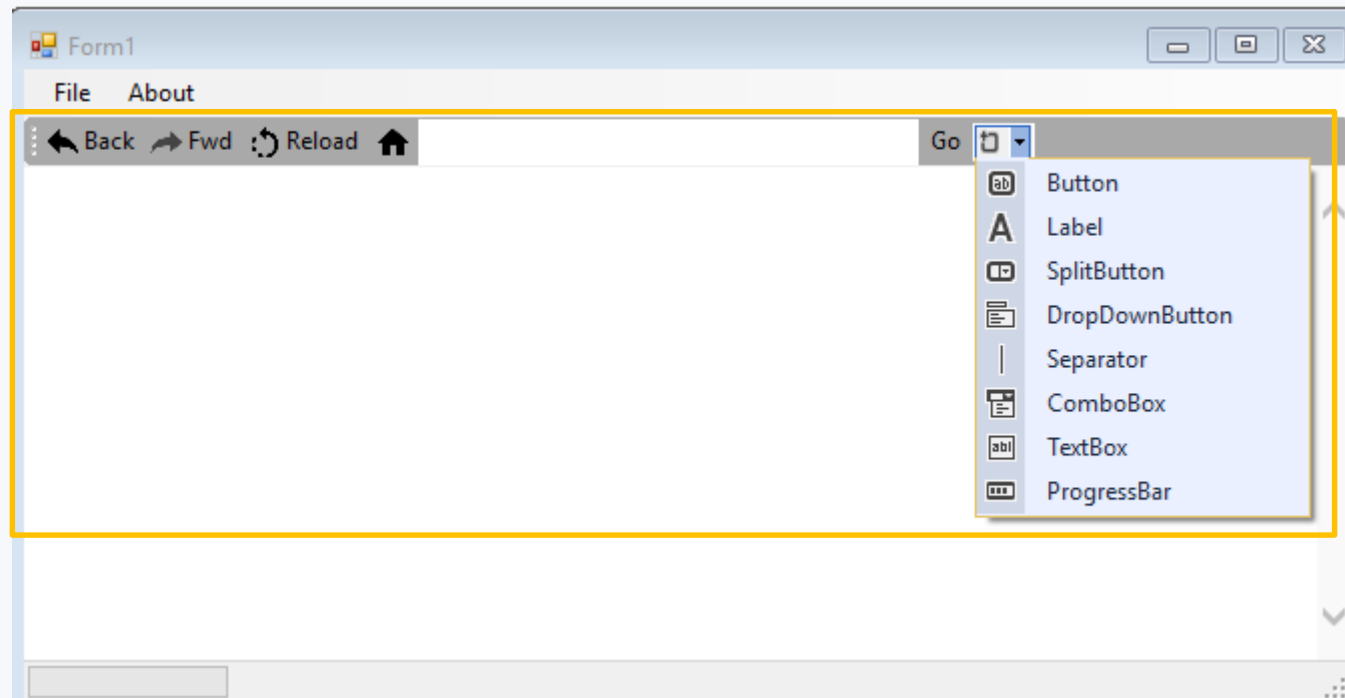
ContextMenuStrip



ContextMenuStrip

- `System.Windows.Forms.ContextMenuStrip`
- Shortcut menus, also called context menus, appear at the mouse position when the user clicks the right mouse button. Shortcut *menus* provide options for the client area or the control at the mouse pointer location.
- Further reading: [link](#)

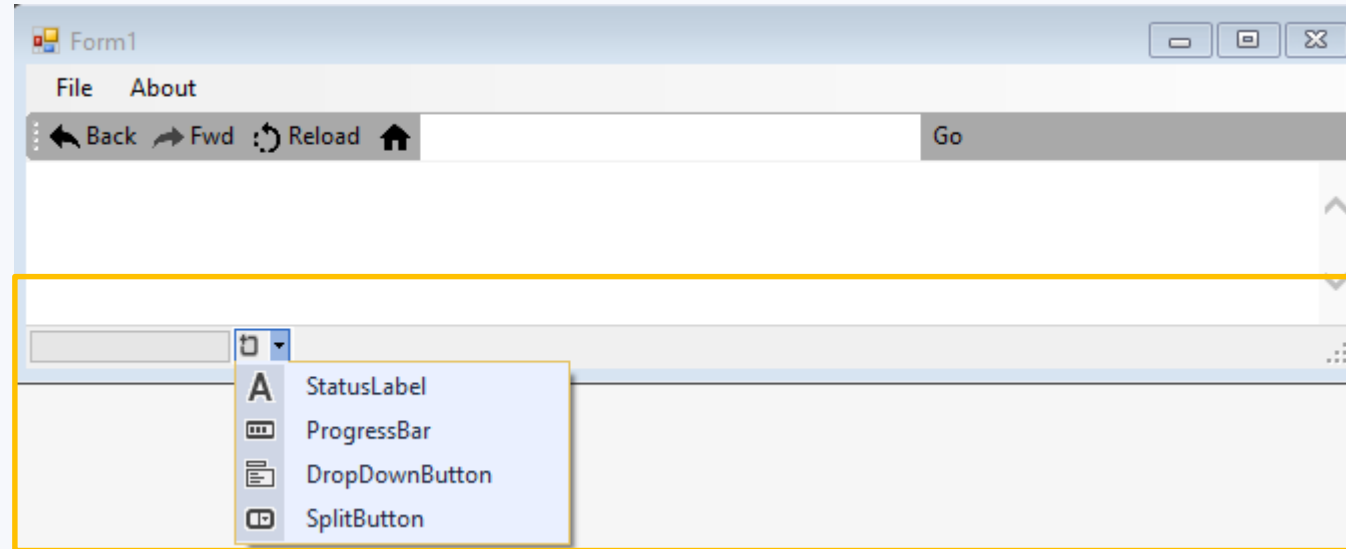
ToolStrip



ToolStrip

- `System.Windows.Forms.ToolStrip`
- The Windows Forms ToolStrip control and its associated classes provide a common framework for combining user interface elements into toolbars, status bars, and menus. ToolStrip controls offer a rich design-time experience that includes in-place activation and editing, custom layout, and rafting, which is the ability of toolbars to share horizontal or vertical space.
- Further reading: [link](#)

StatusStrip



StatusStrip

- `Windows.Forms.StatusStrip`
- A `StatusStrip` control displays information about an object being viewed on a Form, the object's components, or contextual information that relates to that object's operation within your application.
- Typically, a `StatusStrip` control consists of `ToolStripStatusLabel` objects, each of which displays text, an icon, or both. The `StatusStrip` can also contain `ToolStripDropDownButton`, `ToolStripSplitButton`, and `ToolStripProgressBar` controls.
- Further reading: [link](#)

Data Validation

Using Validating and Validated Events

The screenshot shows a Windows application window titled "WinAppProgramming Run". Inside the window is a form titled "New Participant". The form contains the following fields and controls:

- Last Name:** A text box that is currently empty. A red error icon is visible to its right.
- First Name:** A text box.
- Gender:** Two radio buttons labeled "Male" and "Female".
- SSN:** A text box.
- Birth Date:** A date picker showing "Thursday . April 07, 2016".
- Add Participant:** A button.

A validation error message box is displayed over the form, stating: "The Last Name should not be empty!".

Control.Validating Event

- Occurs when the control is validating.
- If the CausesValidation property is set to **false**, the Validating and Validated events are suppressed.

```
private void tbLastName_Validating(object sender, CancelEventArgs e)
{
    string lastName = ((TextBox) sender).Text.Trim();

    if (string.IsNullOrEmpty(lastName))
    {
        e.Cancel = true;

        epLastName.SetError((Control) sender, "Last Name is empty!");
    }
}
```

Control.Validating Event

- Events:
 1. Enter
 2. GotFocus
 3. Leave
 4. Validating
 5. Validated
 6. LostFocus

- If the Cancel property of the CancelEventArgs is set to **true** in the Validating event delegate, all events that would usually occur after the Validating event are suppressed.

Control.Validated Event

- Occurs when the control is finished validating.

```
private void tbLastName_Validated(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    epLastName.Clear();
}
```


Validating the entire form

```
private void btnAdd_Click(object sender, EventArgs e) {
    string firstName = tbFirstName.Text.Trim();
    string lastName = tbLastName.Text.Trim();

    bool formContainsErrors = false;

    if (string.IsNullOrEmpty(lastName)) {
        epLastName.SetError(tbFirstName, "Last Name is empty!");
        formContainsErrors = true;
    }

    if (string.IsNullOrEmpty(firstName)) { ... }

    if (formContainsErrors) {
        MessageBox.Show("The form contains errors!", "Error",
            MessageBoxButtons.OK, MessageBoxIcon.Error);
    }
}
```

Validating the entire form

The screenshot shows a Windows application window titled "WinAppProgramming Run". Inside the window is a form titled "New Participant". The form contains the following fields and controls:

- Last Name:** A text box containing "gfhfg".
- First Name:** An empty text box with a red error icon (a circle with an exclamation mark) to its right.
- Birth Date:** A date picker showing "Thursday , April 07, 2016".
- Gender:** Radio buttons for "Male" (selected) and "Female".
- SSN:** A text box containing "222222".
- Add Participant:** A button located at the bottom right of the form.

An "Error" dialog box is overlaid on the form. It has a title bar "Error" and a close button (X). The message inside the dialog is "The form contains errors!". There is a red circle with a white 'X' icon to the left of the message. At the bottom right of the dialog is an "OK" button.

Complex Visualization Controls

ListView

- System.Windows.Forms. ListView
- Represents a Windows list view control, which displays a collection of items that can be displayed using one of four different views.

The screenshot shows a Windows application window titled "WinAppProgramming Run". Inside the window, there is a "New Participant" form with three text boxes: "Last Name" (containing "LastName3"), "First Name" (containing "FirstName3"), and "Birth Date" (containing "Tuesday, June 10, 1980"). An "Add Participant" button is located to the right of the "First Name" box. Below the form, there are five tabs: "Details", "List", "LargeIcon", "SmallIcon", and "Tile". The "List" tab is selected, displaying a ListView control. The ListView contains two groups of items: "Children" and "Adults". The "Children" group has three items, each with a child icon, "LastName1", "FirstName1", and "4/8/2016". The "Adults" group has two items, each with an adult icon, "LastName2", "FirstName2", "6/10/1980", and "LastName3", "FirstName3", "6/10/1980".

Last Name	First Name	Birth Date
Children		
LastName1	FirstName1	4/8/2016
LastName1	FirstName1	4/8/2016
LastName1	FirstName1	4/8/2016
Adults		
LastName2	FirstName2	6/10/1980
LastName3	FirstName3	6/10/1980

ListView

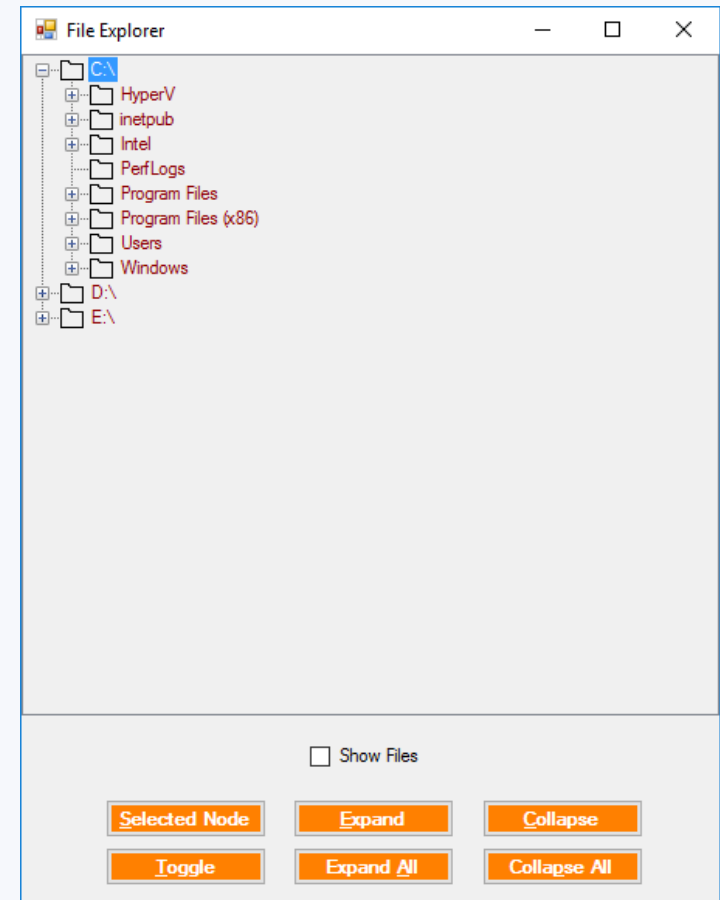
- Important properties:
 - Items
 - Columns
 - Groups
- CheckBoxes
- View: Details, List, Tile, SmallIcon, LargeIcon
- FullRowSelect: True/False
- GridLines: True/False
- SmallImageList / LargeImageList

ListView

- Important events:
 - SelectedIndexChanged

TreeView

- `System.Windows.Forms.TreeView`
- Displays a hierarchical collection of labeled items, each represented by a [TreeNode](#).



TreeView

- Important properties:
 - Nodes
 - SelectedNode
 - Sorted
 - CheckBoxes
 - ImageList

TreeView

- Important Events:
 - AfterSelect
 - AfterExpand

Exception Handling

Common Exception Types

- **System.ArgumentException** - Thrown when a function is called with a bogus argument.
- **System.ArgumentNullException** - Subclass of ArgumentException that's thrown when a function argument is (unexpectedly) null.
- **System.ArgumentOutOfRangeException** - Subclass of ArgumentException that's thrown when a (usually numeric) argument is too big or too small. For example, this is thrown when passing a negative number into a function that accepts only positive values.

Common Exception Types

- **System.InvalidOperationException** - Thrown when the state of an object is unsuitable for a method to successfully execute, regardless of any particular argument values. Examples include reading an unopened file or getting the next element from an enumerator where the underlying list has been modified partway through the iteration.
- **System.NotSupportedException** - Thrown to indicate that a particular functionality is not supported. A good example is calling the Add method on a collection for which IsReadOnly returns true.
- **System.NotImplementedException** - Thrown to indicate that a function has not yet been implemented.

Secondary Forms

Modal & Modeless

- Forms can exhibit either **modal** or **modeless** behavior
- A **modal form** is one that demands the user's immediate attention, and blocks input to any other windows the application may have open.
- Good UI design suggests that you should use **modal** dialogs **only** when absolutely necessary. Typical examples: error messages

Modal & Modeless

```
//modal
```

```
Form frm = new Form( );  
frm.ShowDialog( );
```

```
//modeless
```

```
Form frm = new Form( );  
frm.Show ( );
```

UI Design

Alignment



