

Windows Forms Best Practices

Creating Excellent Windows Forms Applications

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Module Overview

Why are we still using Windows Forms?

You can create excellent Windows Forms applications

Demo: improving an existing
Windows Forms application

Not Dead Yet!

2002	.NET 1.0	Windows Forms launched
2006	.NET 3.0	WPF launched
2008	.NET 3.5	Last significant WinForms update
2014	.NET 4.5.2	WinForms bug-fixes included

Windows Forms applications can be
created in Visual Studio 2013

Windows Forms is **mature** and **stable** –
The programming model is not changing

Why Use Windows Forms?

- Existing applications

- Lots of code
- Lots of customers
- Would take too long to migrate

- Existing experience

- Take advantage of your expertise
- Avoid learning a new UI paradigm

- Existing control libraries

- Commercial or in-house
- Custom look and feel

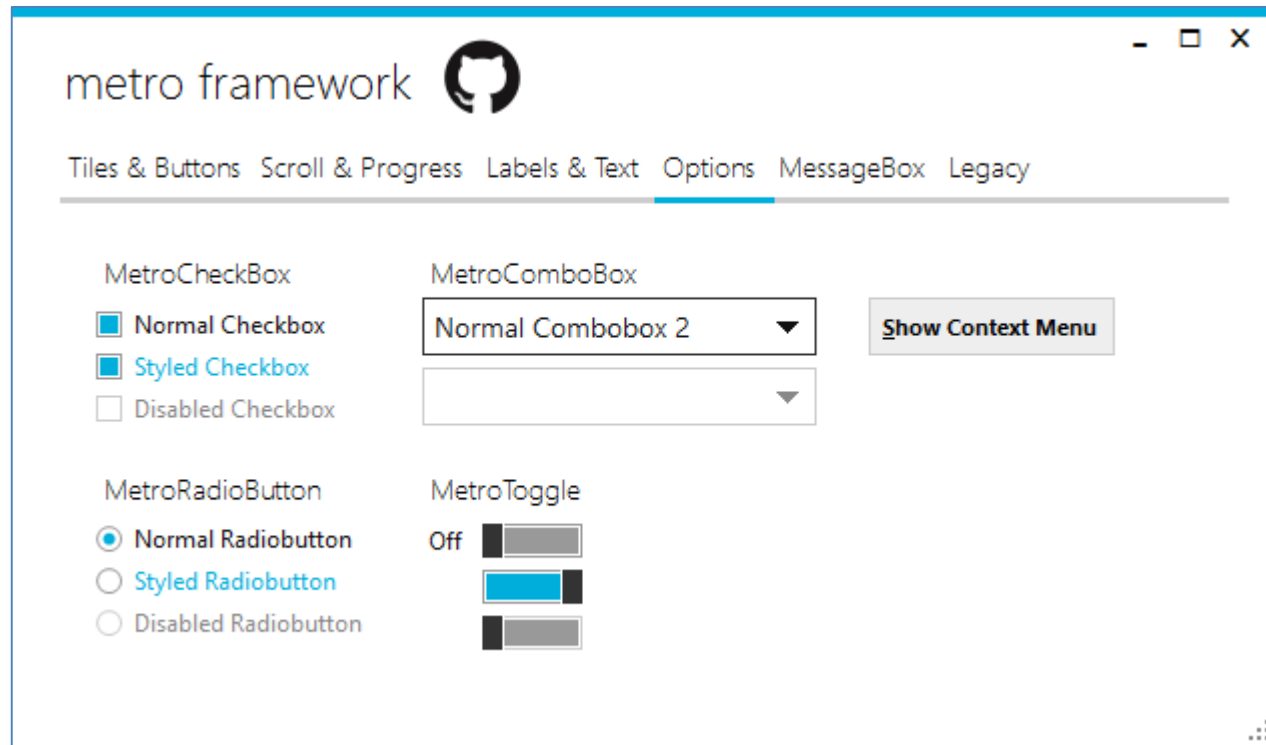


Time

Money

Building Great Windows Forms Applications

- Just because it's old technology doesn't mean it has to...
 - Look terrible
 - Be difficult to use



Building Great Windows Forms Applications

- **You can write maintainable and well architected WinForms code...**
 - Test Driven Development
 - “Clean” Code
 - “SOLID” Code
 - Design Patterns
 - Inversion of Control containers

Building Great Windows Forms Applications

- You can combine WinForms with newer parts of .NET...
 - LINQ
 - Reactive Extensions (Rx)
 - C# 5 **async** and **await** keywords



IronPython

Moving Away from Windows Forms

- **Some WPF advantages**
 - More powerful animation
 - Richer data binding model
 - Support for MVVM
- **Windows Forms limitations**
 - Can't create Windows 8 Store applications
 - Can't create Windows Phone applications
- **Preparing for transition**
 - Decouple reusable business logic from user interface code
 - Hosting WPF or web inside WinForms

What You Should Know Already

- **Things you should already know**
 - How to create a WinForms project
 - How to drag controls from the toolbox onto the designer
 - How to set properties using the properties Window
 - How to add event handlers
 - How to view the code behind for a form or user control
 - The basics of Button, TextBox, ComboBox, Label, ListBox etc

Introduction to Windows Forms

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Introduction to Windows Forms

This course is designed to help you get started building applications with Windows Forms. It starts with basics and moves to coverage of different application layouts, data binding and deployment. Demonstrations in this course are primarily done using Visual Basic

Authored by: [Rob Windsor](#)

Duration: 5h 51m

Level: **Beginner**

Released: 8/15/2013

Course Rating: ★★★★★



3



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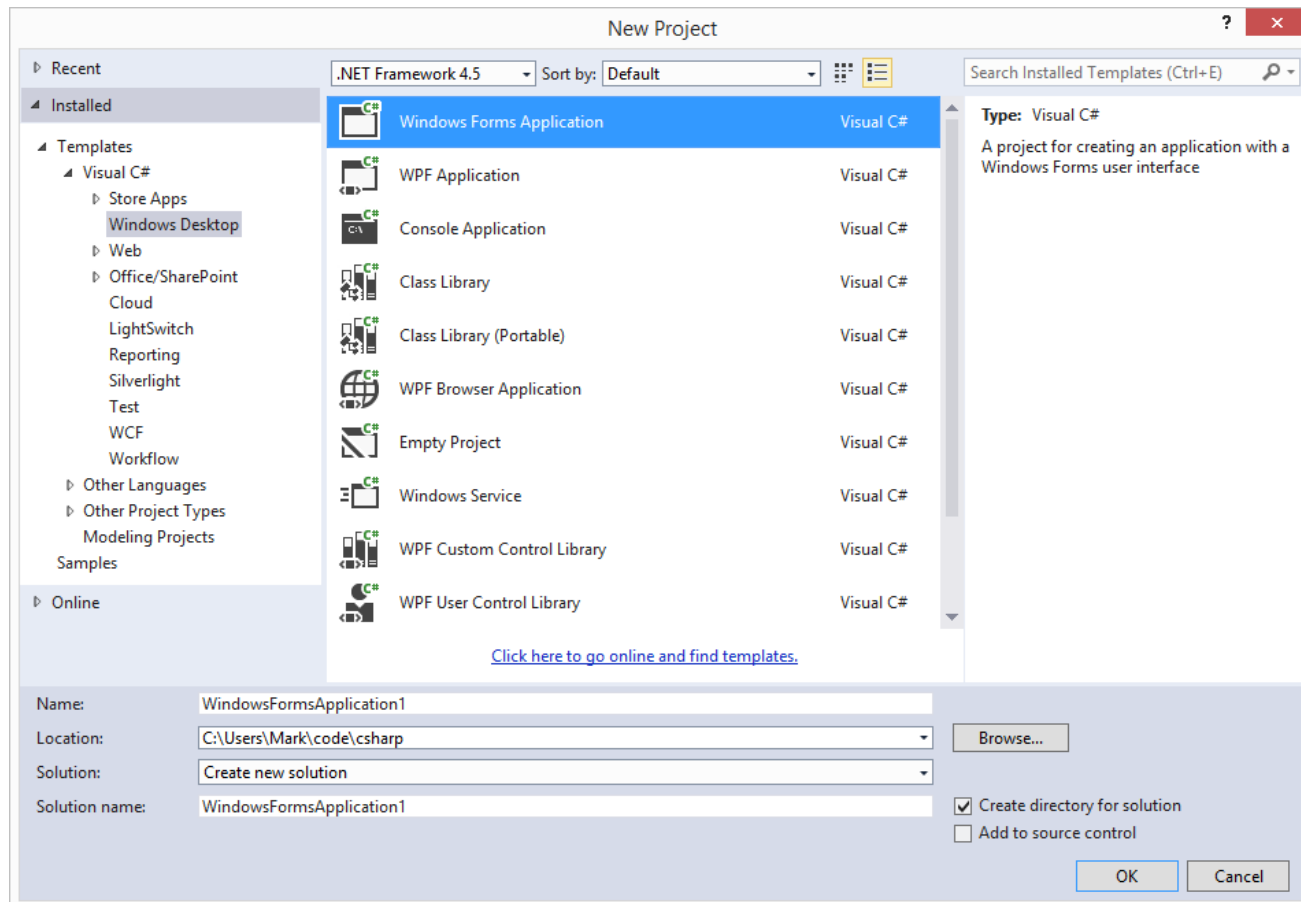
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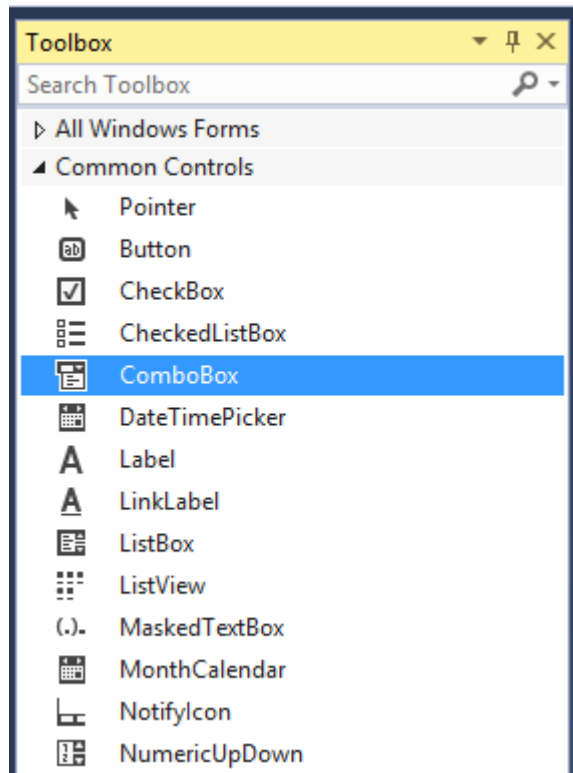
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What You Should Know Already

- How to create a new Windows Forms project





What's in this Course?



“Best” Practices

Relative

**Better ways of
working**

**Avoid common
pitfalls**

Contextual

**Don't apply in every
situation**

Suggestions not rules

Demo Application

- **My Podcasts**

- Manages a list of podcasts
- Shows a list of episodes
- Allows you to listen
- Allows you to add notes, tags and ratings



Module Summary

Windows Forms may be old, but...

You can still create excellent Windows
Forms applications

Visually
Appealing

Usable

Well
Architected

Maintainable

Testable

Best Practices



Give controls and events meaningful names

textBoxEpisodeName OnSelectedPodcastChanged

Simplify code behind with data binding

ListBox ComboBox

Don't leave your forms with default properties

AcceptButton CancelButton Localizable
ShowInTaskbar StartPosition MaximizeBox