Working with ASP.NET Server Controls

Asst. Prof. Dr. Özgü Can

Server Controls

- Mixing plain HTML and server-side control in classic ASP or PHP
 - To create a text box with a message and current date and time:

```
<input type="text" value="Hello World, the time is <%=Time()%>" />
```



Difficult to write and manage pages.

Server Controls

- In ASP.NET, controls "live" on the server inside an ASPX page.
 - 1. Browser requests the page
 - 2. The server-side controls are <u>processed by</u> the ASP.NET engine

responsible for receiving and processing requests for ASPX pages

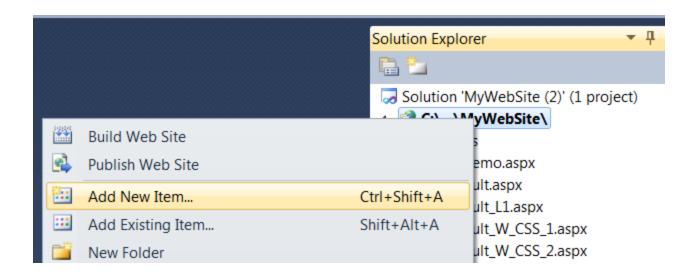
- 1. Controls emit <u>client-side HTML code</u>
- 2. <u>HTML code</u> ends up in the browser

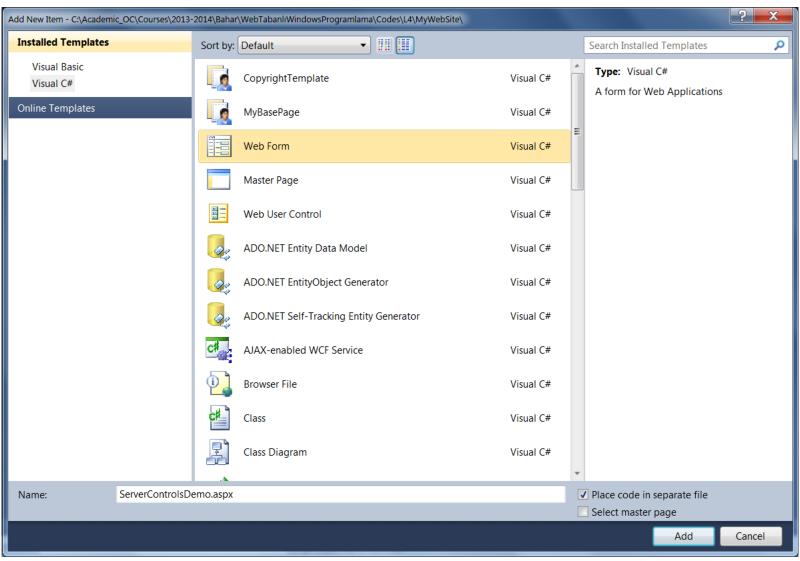
Server Controls

 Instead of defining HTML controls in your pages directly, you define an ASP.NET server control:

```
casp: TypeOfControl ID="ControlName" Runat="Server" />
Prefix
This is a control that lives on the server.
```

```
<asp:TextBox ID="Message" Runat="Server" />
<asp:TextBox ID="Message" Runat="Server"></asp:TextBox>
```





In Design View:

Add Label, TextBox and a Button



• Properties:

```
- Label → Text : Your Name
```

- Button → Text: Submit Information

ID: submitButton

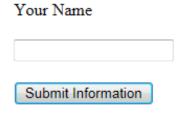
-TextBox → ID: yourNameTextBox

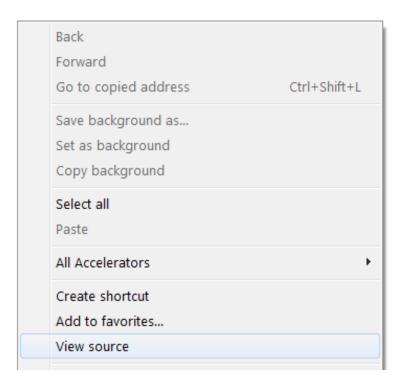
ServerControlsDemo.aspx	×
body	
Your Name	
Submit Information	
ļ-	

Double-click submitButton

```
protected void submitButton_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    Label1.Text = "Your name is " + yourNameTextBox.Text;
}
```

- View in browser.
- Don't click button!
- View Source







View Source

Common Properties for All Controls

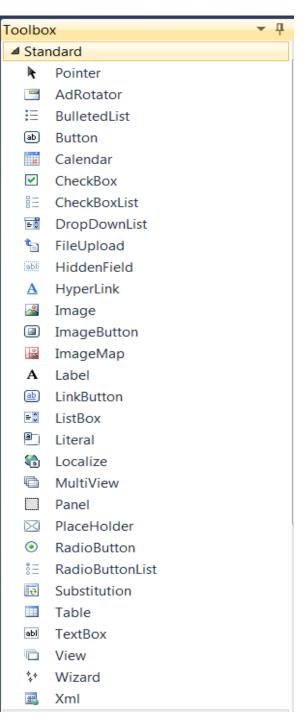
PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION
AccessKey	Enables you to set a key with which a control can be accessed at the client by pressing the associated letter.
BackColor ForeColor	Enables you to change the color of the background (BackColor) and text (ForeColor) of the control.
BorderColor BorderStyle BorderWidth	Changes the border of the control in the browser. Each of these three ASP.NET properties maps directly to its CSS counterpart.
CssClass	Lets you define the HTML class attribute for the control in the browser. This class name then points to a CSS class you defined in the page or an external CSS file.
Enabled	Determines whether the user can interact with the control in the browser. For example, with a disabled text box (Enabled="False") you cannot change its text.
Font	Enables you to define different font-related settings, such as Font-Size, Font-Names, and Font-Bold.
Height Width	Determines the height and width of the control in the browser.
TabIndex	Sets the client-side HTML tabindex attribute that determines the order in which users can move through the controls in the page by pressing the Tab key.
ToolTip	Enables you to set a tooltip for the control in the browser. This tooltip, rendered as a title attribute in the HTML, is shown when the user hovers the mouse over the relevant HTML element.
Visible	Determines whether or not the control is sent to the browser. You should really see this as a server-side visibility setting because an invisible control is never sent to the browser at all. This means it's quite different from the CSS display and visibility properties you saw in the previous chapter that hide the element at the client.

Common Properties for All Controls

```
<form id="form1" runat="server">
<div>
    <asp:TextBox ID="TextBox1" AccessKey="a" BackColor="Black" ForeColor="White" Font-Size="30px"</pre>
    BorderColor="Yellow" BorderStyle="Dashed" BorderWidth="4" CssClass="TextBox"
    Enabled="True" Height="40" Width="200" TabIndex="1" ToolTip="Hover text here"
    Visible="True" runat="server" Text="Hello World" ></asp:TextBox>
</div>
                           Hello World
<div>
   <asp:TextBox ID="TextBox1" runat="server" AccessKey="a" CssClass="TextBox" TabIndex="1"</pre>
      ToolTip="Hover text here" Text="Hello World"></asp:TextBox>
</div>
                            Styles/StylesTextbox.css* X ServerConf
                                 .TextBox
                                 background-color: Black;
                                                                                Much easier
                                 color: White;
                                 font-size: 30px;
                                                                                 to read, to
                                 border-color: Yellow;
                                                                                  reuse and
                                 border-style: Dashed;
                                 border-width: 4px;
                                 height: 40px;
```

width: 200px;

Standard Controls



Simple Controls

 The Toolbox contains a number of simple and straightforward controls, including:

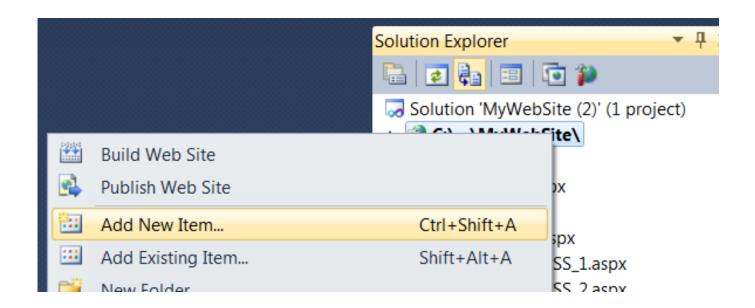
```
- TextBox,
```

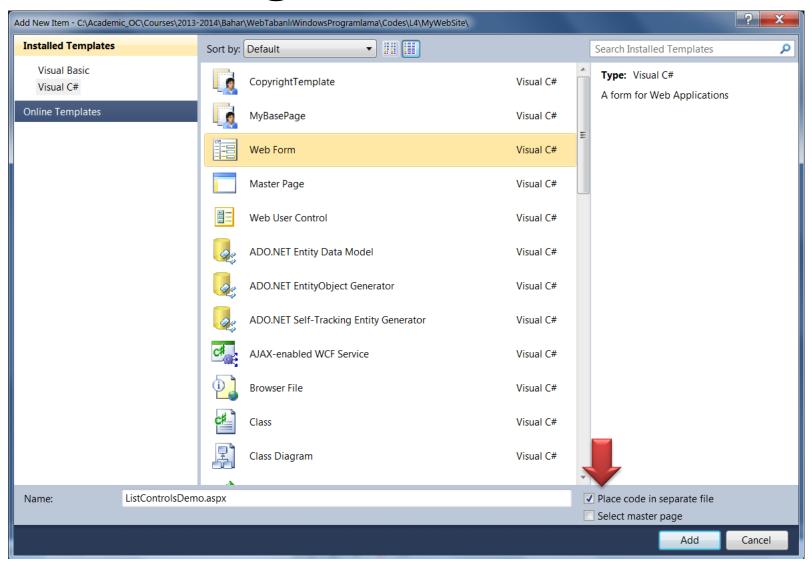
- -Button,
- -Label,
- HyperLink,
- RadioButton, and
- CheckBox.

List Controls

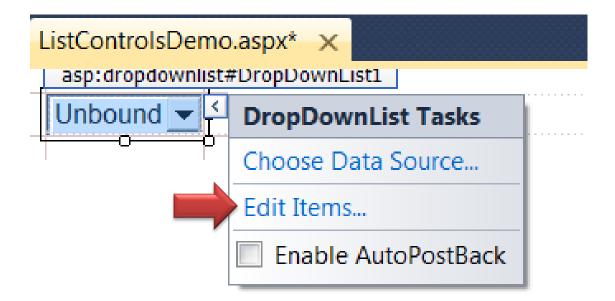
- The standard category also contains a number of controls that present themselves as lists in the browser.
- These controls include:
 - -ListBox,
 - DropDownList,
 - CheckBoxList,
 - RadioButtonList, and
 - BulletedList.

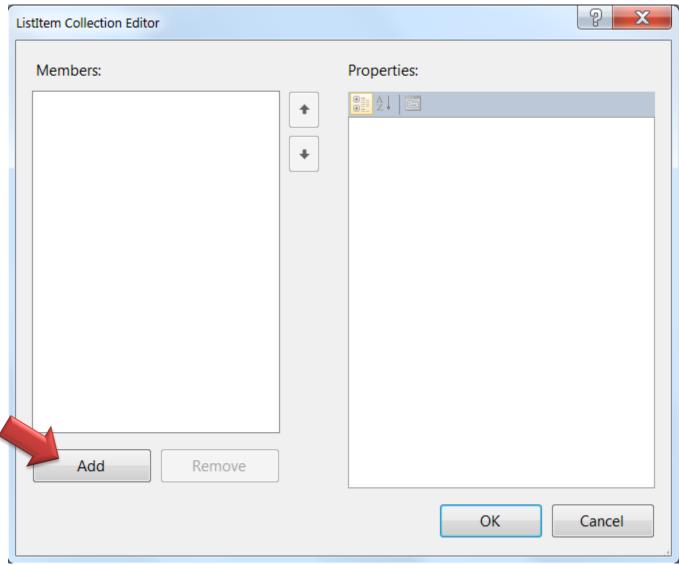
Add New Item in the Solution Explorer

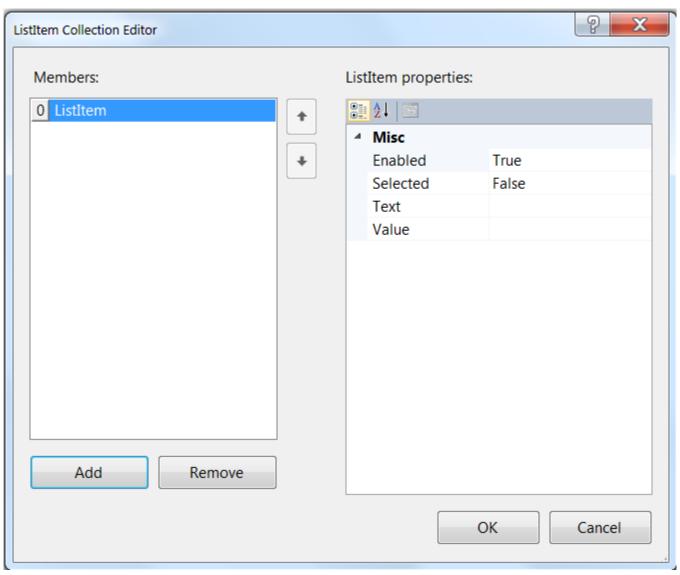


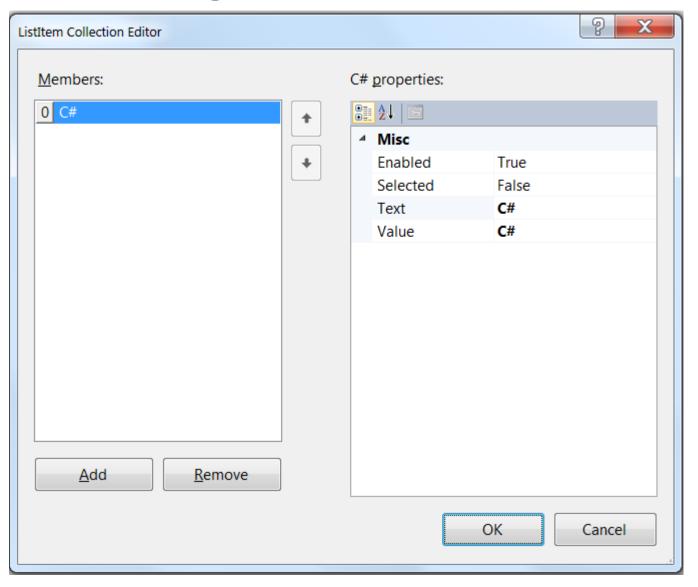


- In Design View:
 - Drag a DropDownList control

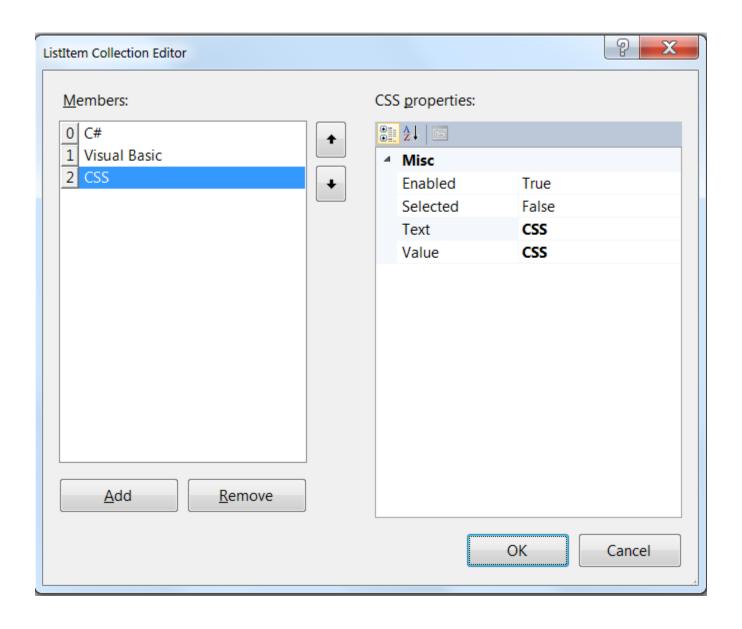








Repeat creating list items for Visual Basic and CSS

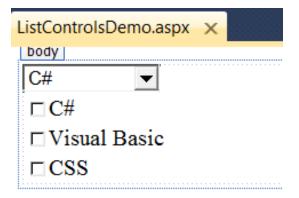


In Source View:

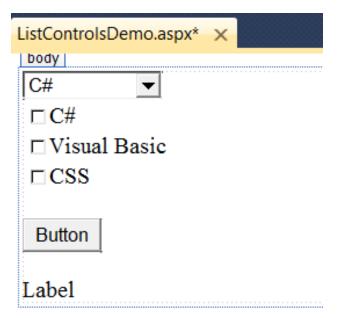
 Drag a CheckBoxList control after the DropDownList control.

Copy the three <asp:ListItem>
 elements from the DropDownList you
 created and paste them between the opening
 and closing tags of the CheckBoxList.

In Design View:



 Drag a Button and a Label after the CheckBoxList control



- Clear Label text
- Double-click the Button

```
protected void Button1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
   Label1.Text = "In the DropDownList you selected " + DropDownList1.SelectedValue + "<br />";
   foreach (ListItem item in CheckBoxList1.Items)
   {
      if (item.Selected == true)
      {
        Label1.Text += "In the CheckBoxList you selected " + item.Value + "<br />";
      }
   }
}
```

View in Browser

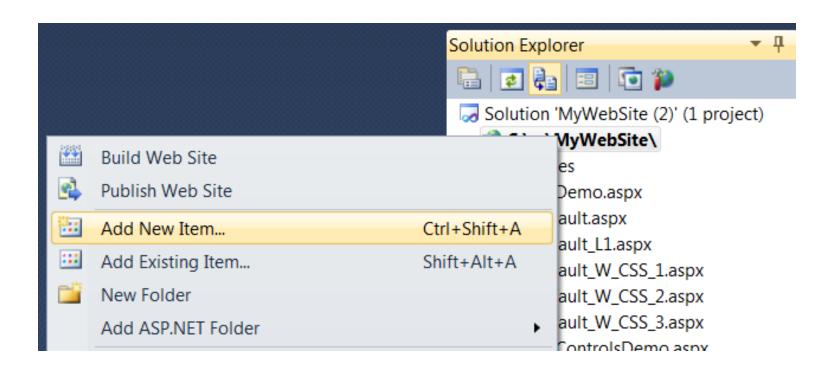
C# ▼
□ C#
■ Visual Basic
CSS
Button
Visual Basic ▼
▼ C#
■ Visual Basic
✓ CSS
Button

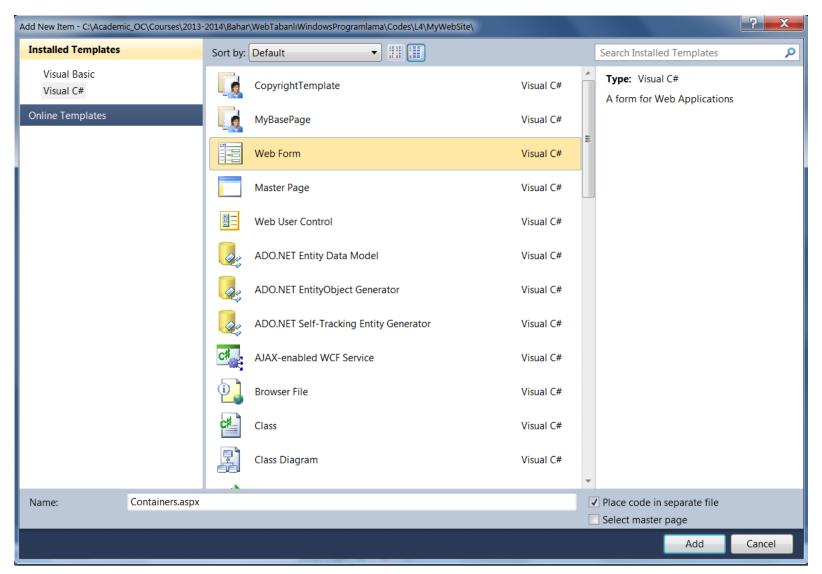
In the DropDownList you selected Visual Basic In the CheckBoxList you selected C# In the CheckBoxList you selected CSS

Container Controls

- It's desirable to have the ability to group related content and controls:
 - Panel
 - PlaceHolder
 - MultiView
 - -Wizard

Add New Item in the Solution Explorer





Drag a CheckBox and a Panel

```
Containers.aspx* ×

| body |

| [CheckBox1]
```

- Properties
 - CheckBox -> Text = Show Panel

 AutoPostBack = True
 - Panel → Visible = False

Containers.aspx	X					
□ Show Pane	:1	 	 	 	 	

Type some text inside Panel \rightarrow I am visible now!

I am visible now!</asp:Panel>

```
Containers.aspx* X

| body |
| Show Panel |
| I am visible now!

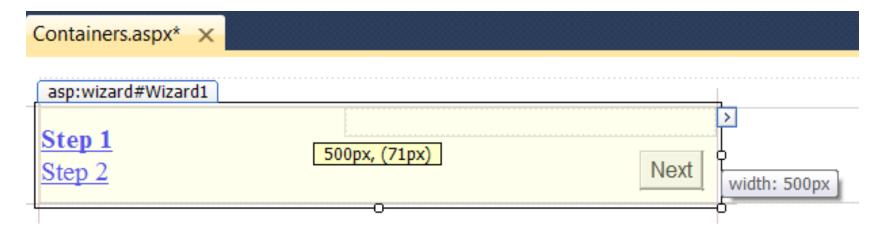
<asp:CheckBox ID="CheckBox1" runat="server" AutoPostBack="True" Text="Show Panel" />
<asp:Panel ID="Panel1" runat="server" Visible="False">
```

Double-click the **CheckBox** control.

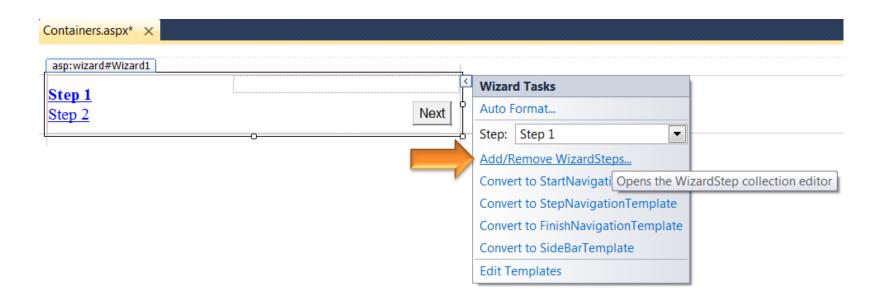
```
protected void CheckBox1_CheckedChanged(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    Panel1.Visible = CheckBox1.Checked;
}
```

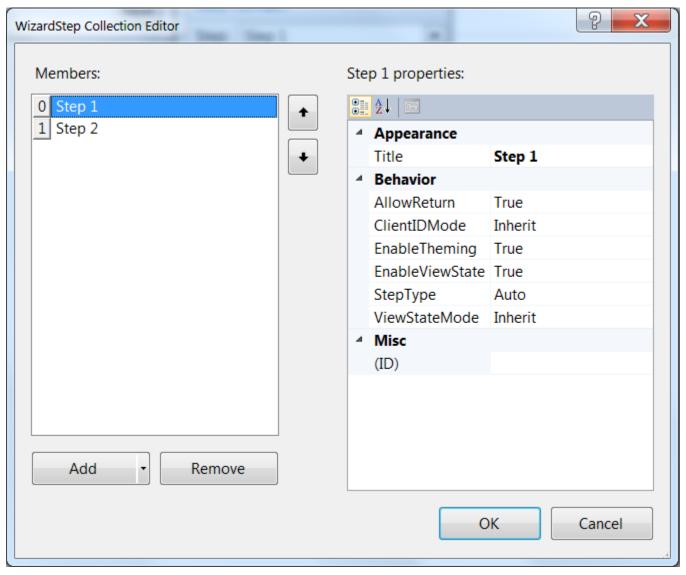
View in browser & source

- In Containers.aspx:
 - Remove the text "I am visible now"
 - Drag a Wizard control inside the Panel
 - Drag its right edge further to the right, increasing the total width of the control to 500px.

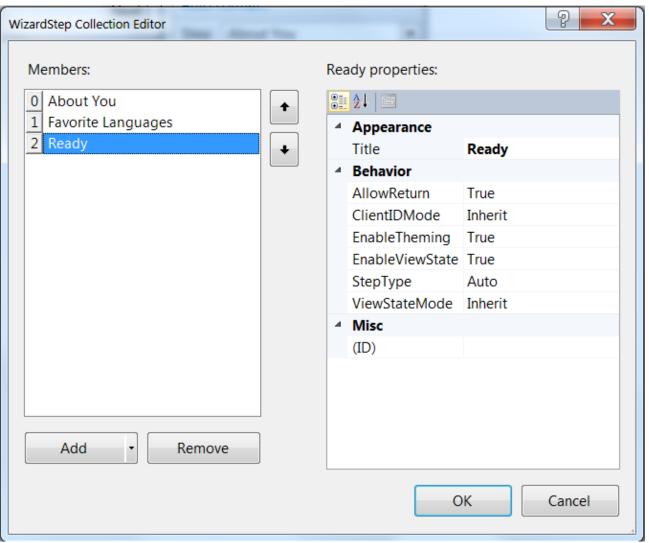


Open the Wizard's Smart Tasks panel

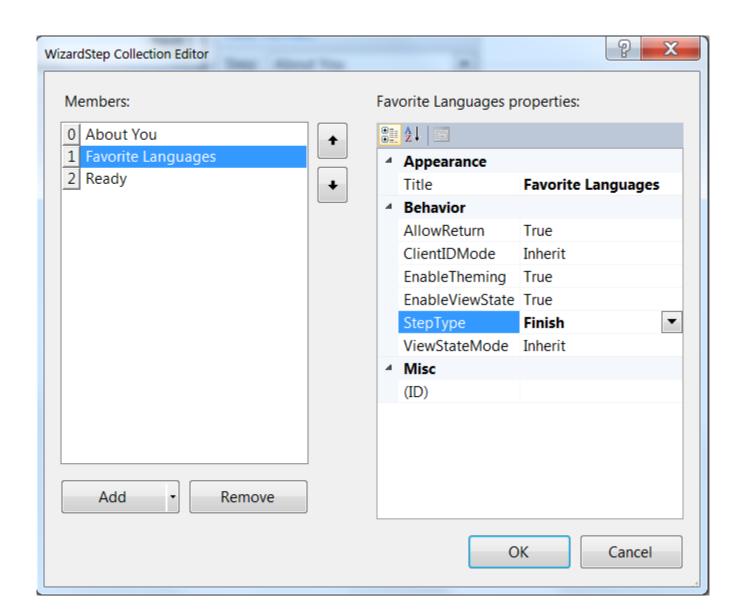




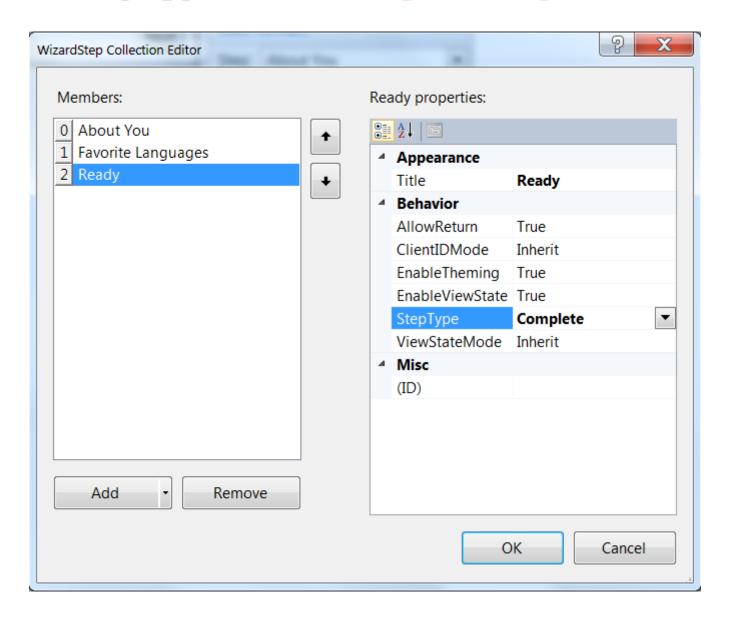
- Click the Add button to insert a third wizard step.
- Change the Title of Members list: About You,
 Favorite Language and Ready, respectively.



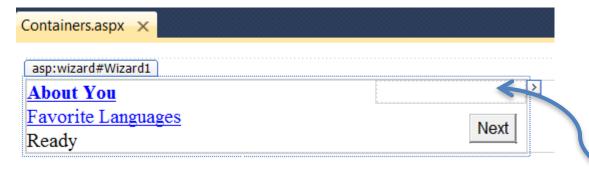
Change the **StepType** of the **Favorite Language** to **Finish**.



Change the **StepType** of the **Ready** to **Complete**.



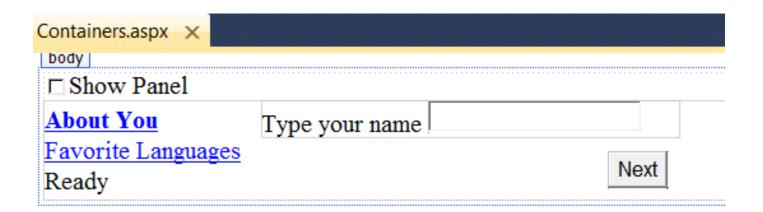
Click About You to make it the active step



 Add a Label and a TextBox inside the grey rectangle.



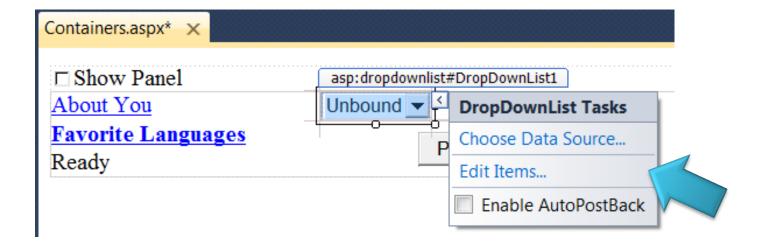
- Properties:
 - -Label → Text = Type your name
 - $-\text{TextBox} \rightarrow \text{ID} = \text{yourNameTextBox}$



Click Favorite Language to make it the active step

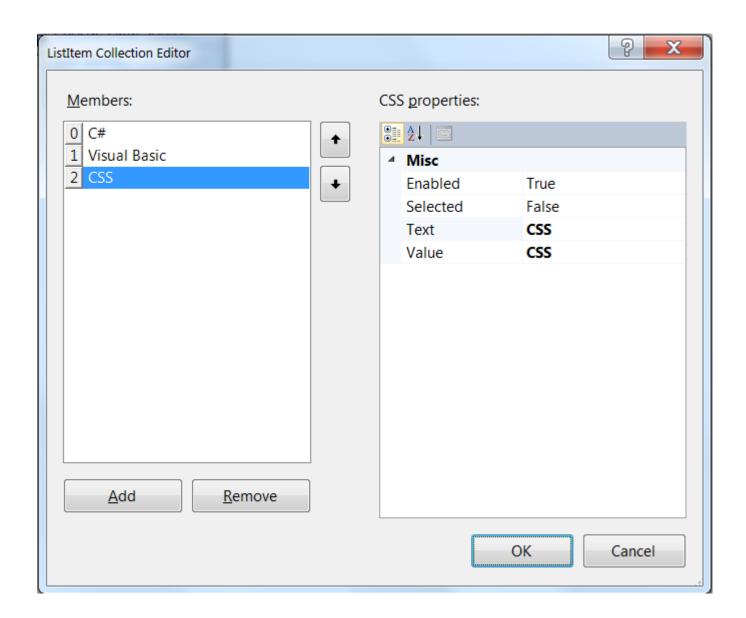


- Properties:
 - -ActiveStepIndex = 1
- Add a DropDownList inside the grey rectangle.



- Properties:
 - ID = favoriteLanguageDropDownList
- Choose Edit Items

Add 3 items: C#, Visual Basic and CSS



In Source View:

```
<asp:WizardStep runat="server" StepType="Complete" Title="Ready">
</asp:WizardStep>
```

- Drag a Label inside the last WizardStep labeled Ready.
 - -Change Label \rightarrow ID = Result

Double-click the Wizard Finish button

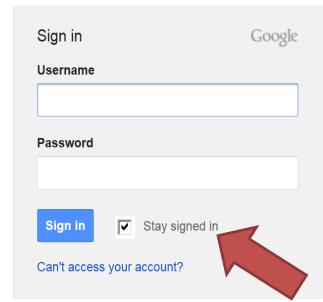
```
protected void Wizard1_FinishButtonClick(object sender, WizardNavigationEventArgs e)
{
   Result.Text = "Your name is " + yourNameTextBox.Text;
   Result.Text += "<br />Your favorite language is " + favoriteLanguageDropDownList.SelectedValue;
}
```

View in browser

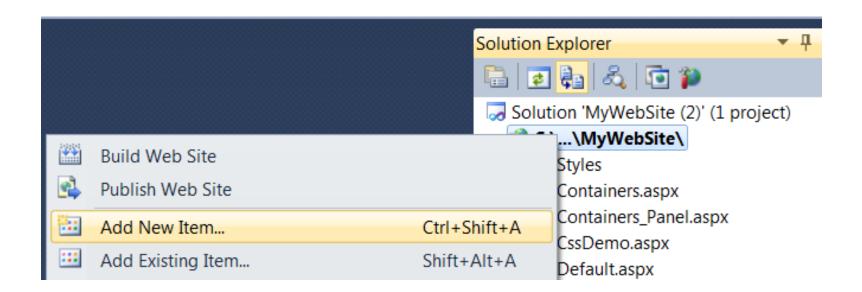
Show Panel				
Show Panel About You Favorite Languages Ready	Type your name			Next
Show Panel About You Favorite Languages Ready	C# ▼	Previous	Finish	
☑ Show Panel Your name is Özgü Your favorite language	re is Visual Rasic			

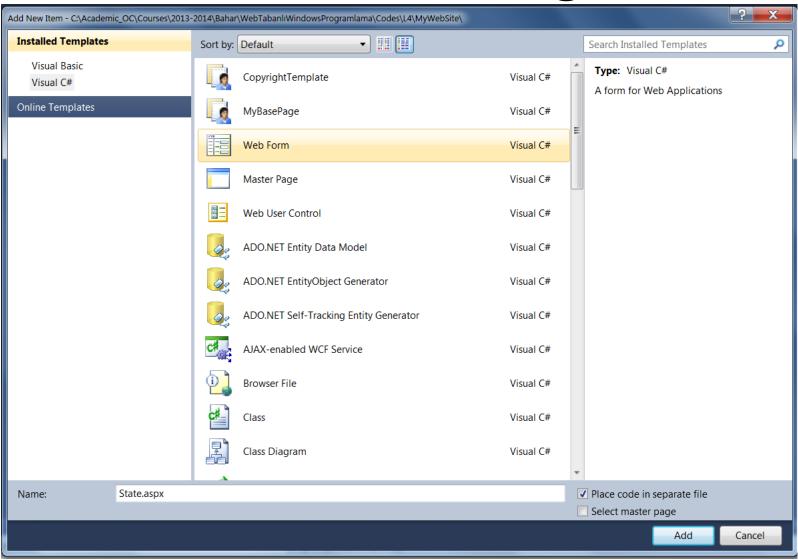
ASP.NET State Engine

- HTTP is **stateless**.
 - Web server does not keep track of requests that have been made from a specific browser.
- It's <u>useful</u> if controls are able to maintain their own state.
- The state engine in ASP.NET is <u>capable of storing</u> state for many controls.

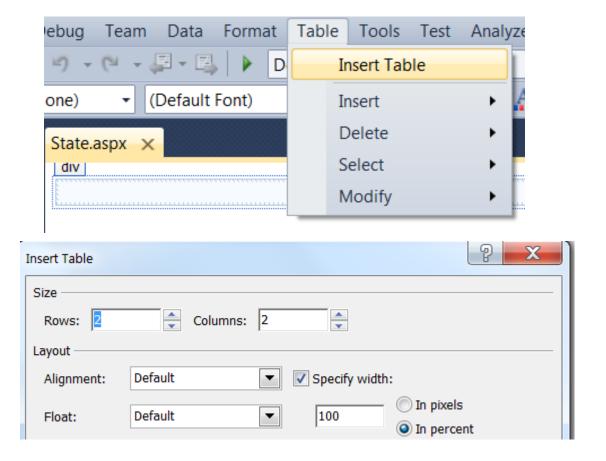


Add New Item in the Solution Explorer





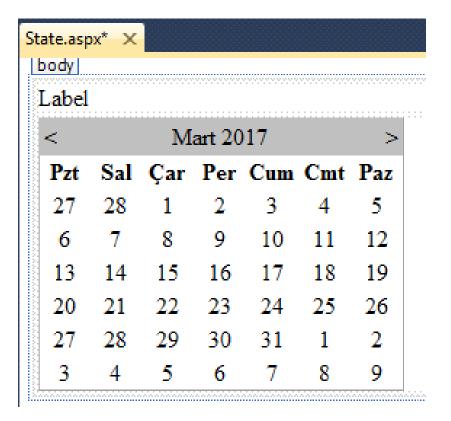
In Design View insert a table with 2 rows & 2 columns



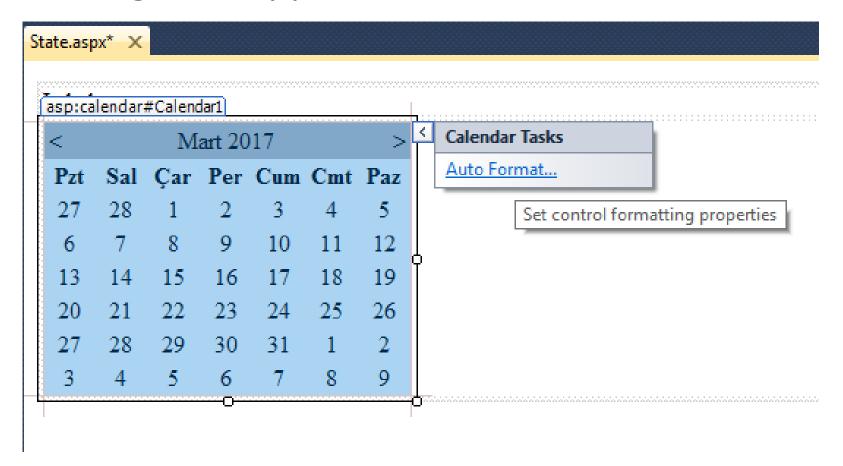
- Drag a Label

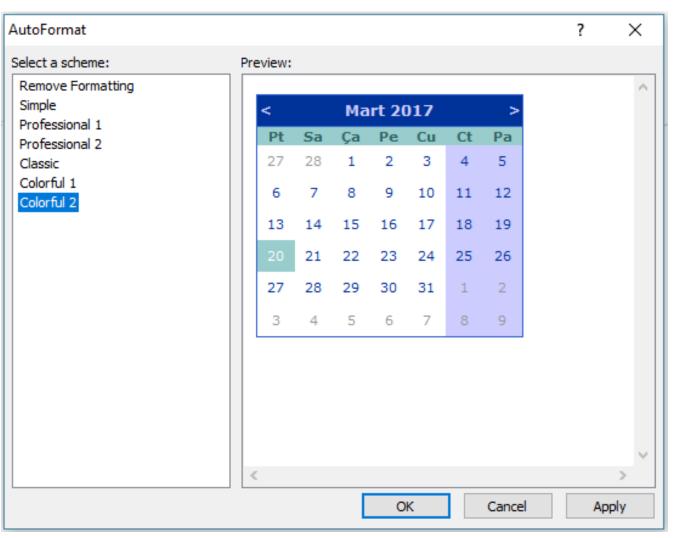
 First cell first row
- Drag a Calendar

 First cell second row

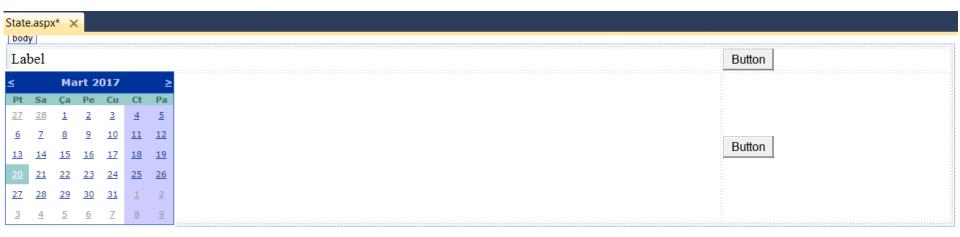


Change the appearance of the calendar

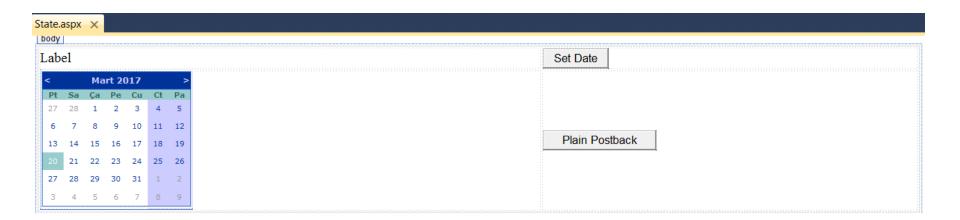




Drag a Button control to each of the 2 cells



- Properties for the button in the 1st row:
 - -ID = setDateButton
 - Text = Set Date
- Properties for the button in the 2nd row:
 - ID = plainPostbackButton
 - -Text = Plain Postback



Double-click Set Date button

```
protected void setDateButton_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    Label1.Text = DateTime.Now.ToString();
}
```

View in browser



Click Set Date



Notice that Label does not change when you click Plain Postback.

- Label Properties:
 - EnableViewState = False
 - Asp.NET runtime does not track the Label control anymore.

EnableViewState

 Gets or sets a value indicating whether the server control persists its view state, and the view state of any child controls it contains, to the requesting client.

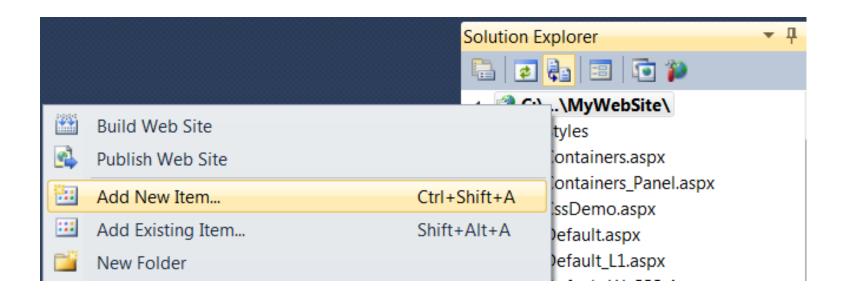
View in browser & Click Set Date

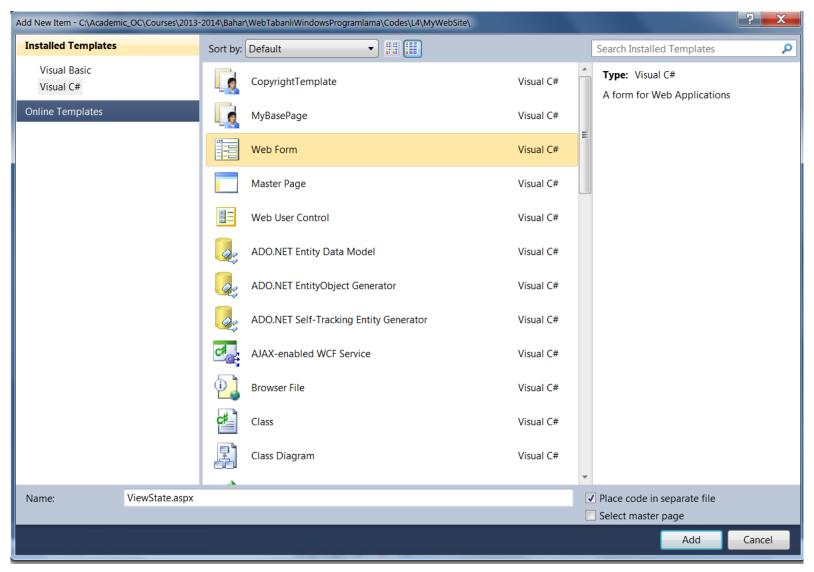


Click Plain Postback

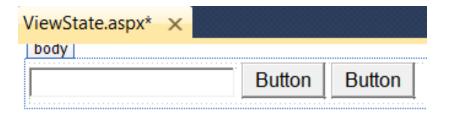


Add New Item in the Solution Explorer





Drag a TextBox and 2 Button control

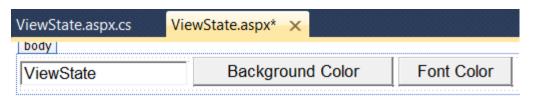


- Properties:
 - TextBox → Text = ViewState
 - Button1 → ID = backgroundColorButton

Text = Background Color

- Button2 \rightarrow ID = fontColorButton

Text = Font Color



Double-click Background Color button

```
protected void backgroundColorButton_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    TextBox1.BackColor = System.Drawing.Color.Orange;
}
```

Double-click Font Color button

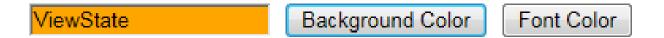
```
protected void fontColorButton_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    TextBox1.ForeColor = System.Drawing.Color.Green;
}
```

- Properties:
 - TextBox → EnableStateView = True

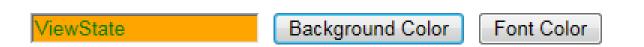
View in browser

ViewState Background Color Font Color

Click Background Color



Click Font Color



View source code

```
<input type="hidden" name="__VIEWSTATE" id="__VIEWSTATE" value="/wEPDwUKLTc5NDc1NDA2MGRkgXj+tKVBdE9dbSzvduVa8muIjTPSxQB5rWi6nsi7QrU=" />
```

After you click:

```
<input type="hidden" name="__VIEWSTATE" id="__VIEWSTATE"
value="/wEPDwUKLTc5NDc1NDA2MA9kFgICAW9kFgICAQ8PFgYeCUJhY2tDb2xvcgp/HgRfIVNCAgweCUZvcmVDb2xvcgpPZGRktFa/eiATMUwNUFY97X81nulmd1KYHb3j7kQuADdTCA0=" />
```

- Properties:
 - TextBox → EnableStateView = False

View in browser

ViewState Background Color Font Color

Example ViewState

Click Background Color

ViewState Background Color Font Color

Click Font Color

ViewState Background Color Font Color

- View State engine <u>adds</u> a <u>considerable</u>
 amount of information to the page.
 - Turn it off when you don't need it!
- This way, you can <u>minimize</u> the size of the hidden VIEWSTATE field.
 - The <u>page</u> becomes <u>smaller</u> → The <u>page</u> is <u>loaded</u>
 faster in the browser.

Turning off View State:

At the web site level

At the page level

At the control level

At the web site level

 You can do this in the web.config file in the root of the site by modifying the <pages> element under <system.web>, setting the enableViewState attribute to false:

```
<pages enableViewState="false">
    ...
</pages>
```

At the page level

In the page directive you can set
 EnableViewState to False:

<%@ Page Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true" CodeFile="State.aspx.cs" Inherits="State" EnableViewState="false" %>

At the control level

 Each ASP.NET Server Control enables you to set EnableViewState individually, giving you the option to turn it off for some controls, while leaving it on for others.



Once you've turned off View State at a <u>higher</u> level (web.config or page level) you can't turn it on again at a <u>lower level</u> (the page or a specific control).

Do not turn off View State in the web.config file.

 At the page level, set EnableViewState to True and ViewStateMode to Disabled:

```
<%@ Page Language="C#" ... EnableViewState="True" ViewStateMode="Disabled" %>
```

• This turns off View State for all controls in the page except for those that explicitly enable it again by setting the ViewStateMode to Enabled.

 For the controls you want to give View State support, set the ViewStateMode to Enabled:

```
<asp:Label ID="Label1" runat="server" Text="Label" ViewStateMode="Enabled" />
```

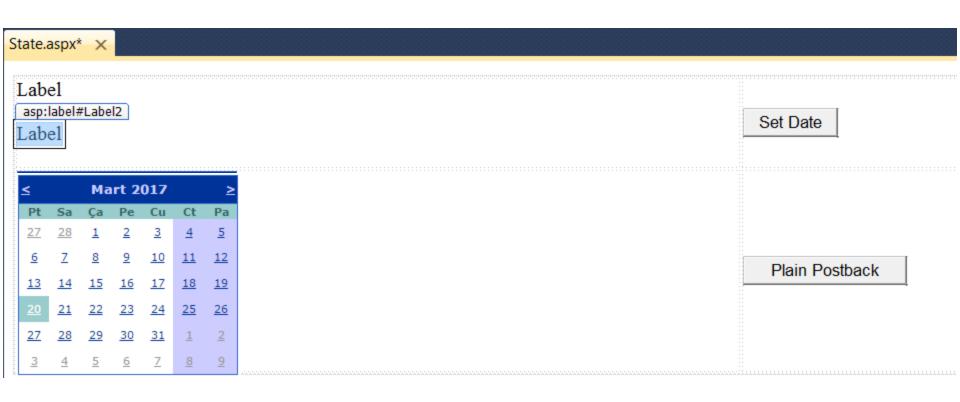
Modify the page directive in State.aspx

```
K%@ Page Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true" CodeFile="State.aspx.cs" Inherits="State" %>
```

- EnableViewState = True
- ViewStateMode = Disabled



In Desing View
 Drag a second Label



Enable the ViewStateMode for Label1

```
<asp:Label ID="Label1" runat="server" ViewStateMode="Enabled" Text="Label"></asp:Label>
<br />
<br />
<asp:Label ID="Label2" runat="server" Text="Label"></asp:Label>
```

• Update setDateButton_Click

```
protected void setDateButton_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    Label1.Text = DateTime.Now.ToString();
    Label2.Text = DateTime.Now.ToString();
}
```

View in browser



20.03.2017 11:52:15

20.03.2017 11:52:15

≤ Mart 2017 ≥						
Pt	Sa	Ça	Pe	Cu	Ct	Pa
<u>27</u>	28	1	2	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	7	8	9	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	1	2
<u>3</u>	4	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	7	<u>8</u>	9

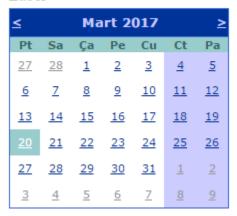
Set Date

Plain Postback

Click Plain Postback

20.03.2017 11:52:15

Label



Set Date

Plain Postback