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| **Area** | **Web application projects** | **Web site projects** |
| Project file structure | A Visual Studio project file (.csproj or .vbproj) stores information about the project, such as the list of files that are included in the project, and any project-to-project references. | There is no project file (.csproj or .vbproj). All the files in a folder structure are automatically included in the site. |
| Compilation | * You explicitly compile the source code on the computer that is used for development or source control. * By default, compilation of code files (excluding .aspx and .ascx files) produces a single assembly. | * The source code is typically compiled dynamically (automatically) by ASP.NET on the server the first time a request is received after the site has been installed or updated.   You can precompile the site (compile in advance on a development computer or on the server).   * By default, compilation produces multiple assemblies. |
| Namespaces | Explicit namespaces are added to pages, controls, and classes by default. | Explicit namespaces are not added to pages, controls, and classes by default, but you can add them manually. |
| Deployment | * You copy the assembly to a server. The assembly is produced by compiling the application. * Visual Studio provides tools that integrate with the IIS Web deployment tool to automate many deployment tasks. | * You copy the application source files to a computer that has IIS installed on it. * If you precompile the site on a development computer, you copy the assemblies produced by compilation to the IIS server. * Visual Studio provides tools for deployment, but they do not automate as many deployment tasks as the tools available for Web application projects. |