Getting Started with ASP.Net

ASPNet Lesson 1:
Supplemental Material:
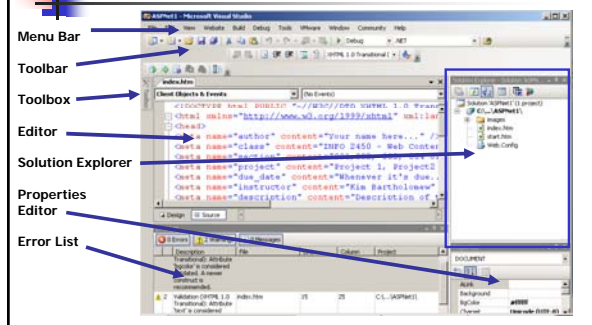Modifying web pages in the
ASP.Net environment

What is ASP.Net?

- ASP.Net is part of the Visual Studio development environment
- The different windows or panes provide support to your web designing process
- ASP.Net is mainly used to create server side applications, but will support work with HTML and CSS
- Visual Studio is available to students as part of the MSDNAA license

More about ASP.Net

- ASP.Net is a complete Web Authoring environment which integrates web page development and web file management.
- It provides a Design View which has a simple graphical (**WYSIWYG** – what you see is what you get) interface.
- A Source View is also provided which allows for direct code manipulation.

The ASP.Net Environment

Menu Bar
Toolbar
Toolbox
Editor
Solution Explorer
Properties Editor
Error List

Toolbars in ASP.Net

- You can add or delete items from the Toolbar.
- Many of the Toolbar options allow for file or project features like save, copy, cut and paste, and Undo and Redo.
- You can run your page as if it were located on a web server using the green arrow (Debug mode)
  - You may be asked to allow creation of a Web.config file.
  - Say yes and it will just add this file to your web site.
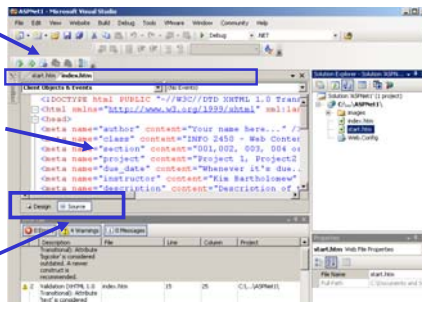- Notice the validation standard defaults to XHTML 1.0 Transitional, which is our standard for the class

ASP.Net Toolbar

- Mouse over to see the purpose of icons in the Toolbar
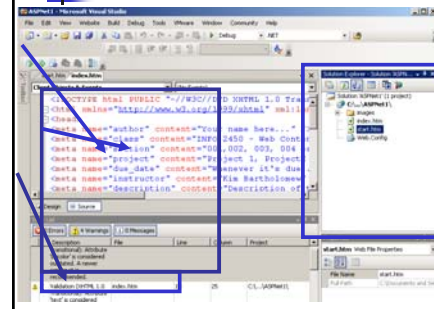- Many of these items are also available in the menu

The ASP.Net Environment

- **Page Tabs**: Allows for working with multiple pages at once
- **Editing Area**: Design View is the WYSIWYG view Source View is the code view
- **View Toggle**: Choose the Design or Source View

The ASP.Net Environment

- **Solution Explorer**: Allows for viewing Site Folders and Pages
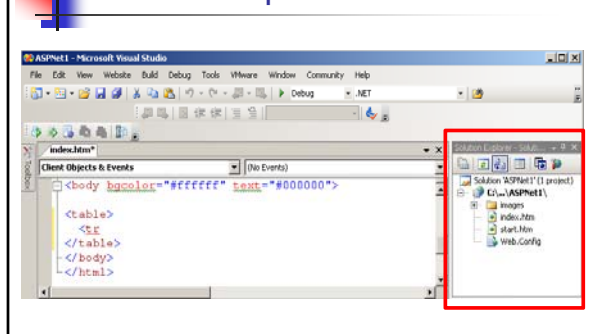- **Status Bar**: HTML tag hierarchy of selected element in Page Area

Setting Up a Project in ASP.Net

- 1. Create a Project folder on your computer as we have done all semester
- 2. Copy any other existing files needed to the Project folder
- Always begin a page with the start.htm file
- 5. Create an Images folder inside the Project folder to hold project images
- 6. Copy any needed images to the Images folder

Opening a Website

- Use the File Menu->Open->Website and choose your project folder.
- The website folders and files will be shown in the Solution Explorer dialog
- Click on a file to open it for modification
- You can drag files or folders or delete them via the Solution Explorer
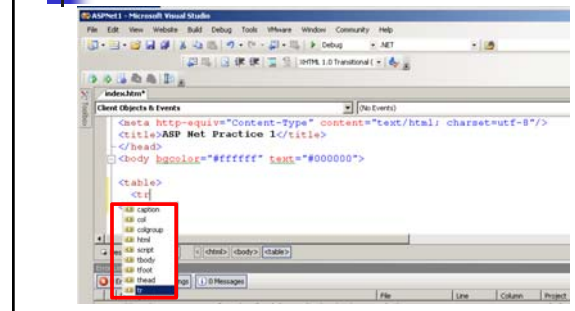
Solution Explorer

IntelliSense

- The Visual Studio integrated development environment supports IntelliSense in the Code View
- IntelliSense generates an automated autocomplete pop up list as the user begins to type characters of an HTML tag, attribute, or value
- The user can click on the item in the list and complete their element.

2

IntelliSense = Productivity

- IntelliSense speeds up software development by reducing the amount of keyboard input required.
- It also allows less reference to external documentation as documentation on many functions appears with the function name.
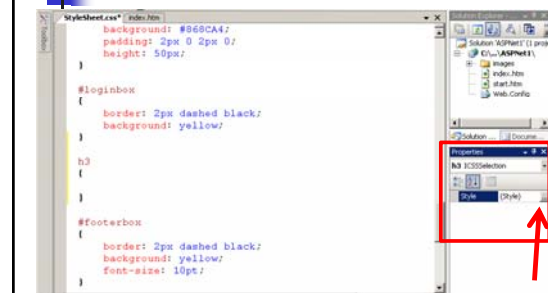- Think of it as just-in-time documentation.

Intellisense – Pop Up List
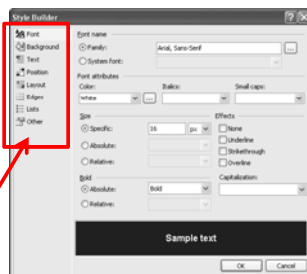

Using the CSS Style Editor

- ASP.Net makes use of a CSS Style Editor to help you in creating either your inline styles or styles in your external stylesheet
- The CSS Style Editor can be opened as you begin the style by going to the Properties dialog and clicking on the Style … to open the editor
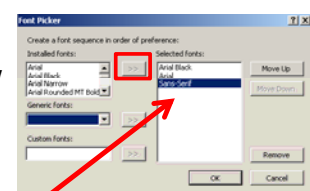
Opening the CSS Style Editor

The CSS Style Editor

- Click on the Style in the Properties dialog to open the Style Editor
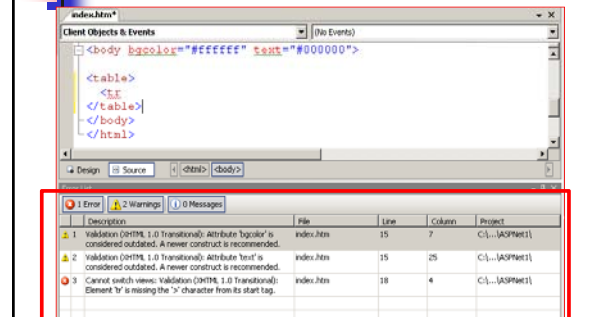- You can select a category of style

Example: font-family

- Choose the Font category
- Expand the Family … to open the Font Picker
- Add font families with the >>
- Usually end with the generic font

Automatic Validation

- ASP.Net provides built-in validation of your code
- The DOCTYPE tag in your source code is used to determine the validation standard
- A list of warnings and errors is generated and listed in the Error List
- If the Error List is not displayed, choose it from the View menu

Error List from Auto Validation

Final Comment

- There are many different web development environments that allow for management of complex web sites, creation of templates and full support of CSS
- The reason ASP.Net was chosen for this course is that this software is already licensed by the institution and students continuing in IS or IT will be using Visual Studio and ASP.Net in future courses.
- Hope you will enjoy the additional environment support and capability of this environment