

an old geezer running visual studio for the first time

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- *From:* "TB" <tbpostbox-googlegroups@xxxxxxxxxx>
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Hi all:

If you think that the following comments are absolute amateurish, then please bear with me, or simply skip this thread.

A couple of months back I made the decision to initiate a gradual upgrade of my web programming skills from Classic ASP / VBS to ASP.NET / VB.NET.

While the study of the language differences and all the new features in .NET has so far not been a traumatic experience, I am a bit shell-shocked after installing and running for the first time Visual Studio .Net (2003 edition).

Until now I have programmed everything in the old-fashioned way, i.e. with a bare minimum of tools: a simple editor for coding, a bit of Frontpage for page layout, and my browser to see the results when running the page against a local instance of IIS.

I have done quite a bit web programming, developing anything from yellow pages to accounting programs.

But when I ran VS.NET for the first time, I simply didn't know where to start.

The program appears to be a sort of Swiss-knife approach to programming, eliminating the need for external apps. During the past couple of years I have developed my own little collection of helpers which I use during development.

VS.NET creates files for "project mangement". My project management normally consists notes and diagrams. My reusable code (subs and functions) is kept in separate files, which I either reference to or cut/paste – depending on the situation.

I normally use a GUI tool (Frontpage for example) to generate a page layout. In VS.NET I am met with the question whether I want the designed to be grid-based or flow-based.

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Finally, I discovered that VS.NET saves code and html in different files. I am used to keeping everything together, grouping functions, subs etc above the <head> tag, and then insert code snippets between <% %> tags. This approach seems to be frowned upon by VS.NET.

Am I an old-fashioned guy? No, because I have made the decision to move to .NET, although a bit late perhaps. But I would like to find a book, a tutorial, anything that can teach this old geezer to use a new toy which apparently could improve my productivity.

Any advice / comments from people who may or may not have been through the same process would be most welcome.

Thanks

TB

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