

Ajax Textbox Watermark Control in ASP.NET 2.0

Microsoft's new Ajax Extensions 1.0 comes with a few basic controls for performing common Ajax tasks. When it comes to implementing more advanced Ajax techniques and interfaces, a new package named the Ajax Control Toolkit has been released to developers to use freely in their applications.

This Ajax Control Toolkit is a powerful collection of Ajax controls that can greatly enhance the Ajax capabilities of your ASP.NET applications. Best of all most of them are plug n play; you just simply drag them onto your web forms and work with them interactively in the Visual Studio designer.

In this tutorial we will look at one of the controls featured in this library, the TextboxWatermark extender control. Extender controls are a new concept in Ajax development whereby an existing ASP.NET control is 'extended' by another control and grants it additional properties to use.

We will review the Ajax Control Toolkit installation and then build a simple one page application based on the new Control Toolkit Visual Studio project template type. We will build a simple input form with several textboxes and demonstrate how the textbox watermark control works.

Note: Visual Studio 2005 or Visual Web Developer is required for this tutorial. No code will be required so both VB and C# developers are welcome

Ajax Setup

Before we get started on the application you'll need to download and install the Ajax Extensions for ASP.NET 2.0 at this location:

<http://ajax.asp.net/downloads>

Download and install the package following the installation wizard directions. When you're finished you will have a new type of project template available in Visual Studio called ASP.NET Ajax-Enabled Web Application.

We're not quite done yet. This download will only add 4 basic Ajax controls to Visual Studio, what we need is the new Control Toolkit library which includes several new Ajax controls.

Again using the link provided above download the ASP.NET Ajax Control Toolkit, located just below the Ajax Extensions download. Extract the downloaded zip file to a location of your choice, and then navigate to the AjaxControlExtender folder created by the zip file.

Within that folder is a file called AjaxControlExtended.vsi which is a Visual Studio template add-in file, double click it to run and you will now have the ability to create a ready-to-go ASP.NET application with all the required plumbing and references for the Ajax Control Toolkit.

Once you've run the .vsi file open up Visual Studio and create a new project of type AJAX Control Toolkit Web Site. Name the new project "TextboxWatermark" and choose either VB or C#, either one is fine for this tutorial.

Your create project dialogue should now include the new type of project as illustrated below:

Thanks for your interest in the "Ajax Textbox Watermark Control in ASP.NET 2.0" article by Kevin Koch. To purchase the full article [click here](#)