

TRY IT OUT Working with Server Controls

In this exercise, you add a `TextBox`, a `Label`, and a `Button` control to a page. When you request the page in the browser, these server controls are transformed into HTML, which is then sent to the client. By looking at the final HTML for the page in the browser, you'll see how the HTML is completely different from the initial ASP.NET markup.

1. Open the Planet Wrox project in Visual Web Developer.
2. In the `Demos` folder in the Solution Explorer, create a new Web Form called `ControlsDemo.aspx`. Choose your programming language and make sure the Web Form uses Code Behind.
3. Switch to Design View. From the Toolbox, drag a `TextBox`, a `Button`, and a `Label` control onto the design surface within the dashed lines of the `<div>` tag that was added for you when you created the page.

Type the text **Your name** in front of the `TextBox` and add a line break between the `Button` and the `Label` by positioning your cursor between the two controls in Design View and then pressing Enter. If you're having trouble positioning the cursor between the controls, place it *after* the `Label` control and then press the left arrow key twice. The first time you press it, the `Label` will be selected; the second time, the cursor is placed between the two controls, enabling you to press Enter. Your Design View should now look like Figure 4-1.

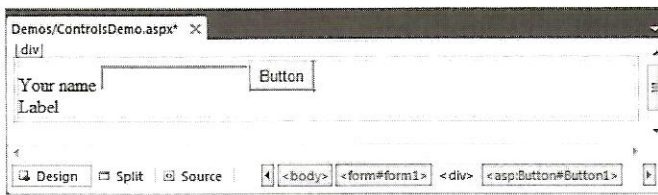


FIGURE 4-1

4. Right-click the **Button** and choose **Properties** to open up the **Properties Grid** for the control. Pressing **F4** after selecting the **Button** does the same thing. The window that appears, shown in Figure 4-2, enables you to change the properties for the control, which in turn influence the way the control behaves at runtime.

5. Set the control's **Text** property to **Submit Information** and set its **ID** (which you'll find all the way down at the bottom of the list wrapped in parentheses) to **SubmitButton**.

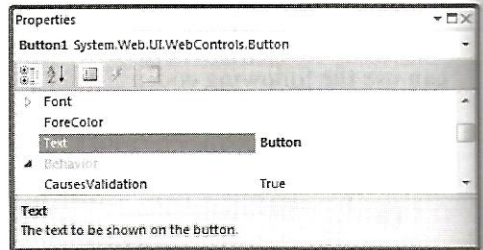


FIGURE 4-2

6. Change the **ID** of the **TextBox** to **YourName** using the **Properties Grid**.
7. Clear the **Text** property of the **Label** using the **Properties Grid**. You can right-click the property's label in the grid and choose **Reset**, or you can manually remove the text. You can leave its **ID** set to **Label1**.
8. Still in **Design View**, double-click the button to have **VWD** add some code to the **Code Behind** of the page that will be fired when the button is clicked in the browser. Add the bolded line of code to the code block that **VWD** inserted for you:

VB.NET

```
Protected Sub SubmitButton_Click(ByVal sender As Object,
    ByVal e As System.EventArgs) Handles SubmitButton.Click
    Label1.Text = "Your name is " & YourName.Text
End Sub
```

C#

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

Note that the **VB.NET** example doesn't need an underscore here to split the code over two lines. In previous versions of **VB.NET** the underscore was required to split this code over two lines.

9. Save the changes to the page and then open it in the browser by pressing **Ctrl+F5**. When it appears in the browser, don't click the button yet, but open up the source of the page by right-clicking the

page in the browser and choosing View Source or View Page Source. You should see the following HTML code (I changed the formatting slightly so the HTML fits on the page):

```
<div>
  Your name <input name="YourName" type="text" id="YourName" />
  <input type="submit" name="SubmitButton" value="Submit Information"
           id="SubmitButton" />

  <br />
  <span id="Label1"></span>
</div>
```

10. Switch back to your browser, fill in your name in the text box, and click the button. When the page is done reloading, open up the source for the page in the browser again using the browser's right-click menu. The code should now look like this:

```
<div>
  Your name <input name="YourName" type="text" value="Imar" id="YourName" />
  <input type="submit" name="SubmitButton" value="Submit Information"
           id="SubmitButton" />

  <br />
  <span id="Label1">Your name is Imar</span>
</div>
```

Note that the two bold lines have changed, and now show the name you entered in the text box. You can ignore the other HTML in the page for now.