

[This is an update to Pages 259-262 regarding the ASP.NET Silverlight control download and usage.]

Embedding Silverlight in ASP.NET Pages

Microsoft makes available server controls that help you insert rich media such as Silverlight into your ASP.NET pages. If you're confused about where to find the latest version of these controls, you're in good company! Pre-release versions have appeared with various Community Technical Previews (CTP), ASP.NET Futures, and ASP.NET Extensions. The code is now (at this hour, anyway) part of the Silverlight 2 Software Development Kit, a free download. This section helps you locate the controls and install them in the Visual Web Developer 2008 Express Toolbox.

Downloading and installing the Silverlight and MediaPlayer controls

You need to download the full Silverlight SDK even though you only need a small part of it for use in ASP.NET page. Follow these steps to locate the required file and install it on your computer:

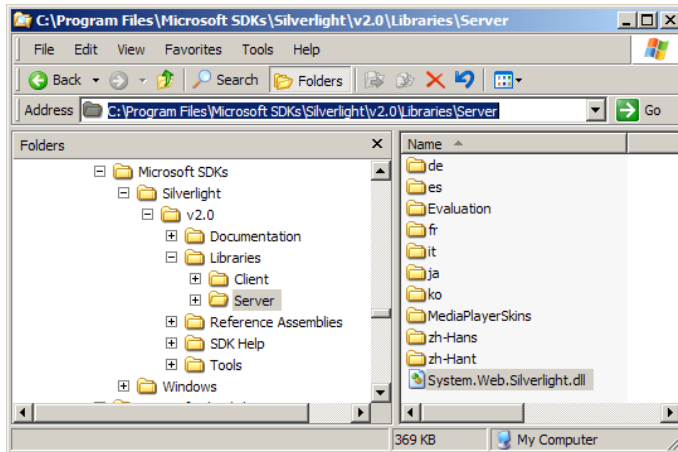
1. Browse to <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/>.
2. In the Search box, enter **Silverlight 2 Software Development Kit** and click Go.
3. From the list of results, download the latest version of the SDK to a temporary directory on your hard drive.
4. Using Windows Explorer, double-click the downloaded file (probably named `silverlight_sdk.exe`) and follow the installation steps to install the complete contents of the SDK.

Adding the Silverlight control to the Express Toolbox

One of the limitations of the Express version of VWD 2008 is that it doesn't support automated installation of controls into the Toolbox. So, if you're using the freebie version, follow these steps to do the installation manually:

1. In Visual Web Developer 2008 Express, create a new file-based Web site called **silverlightsite**. (File → New Web Site → ASP.NET Web Site → c:\silverlightsite → OK)
2. Open `default.aspx` in Design view.
3. Open the Toolbox. (View → Toolbox)
4. Right-click in a blank area of the Toolbox and, from the context menu, click Add Tab.
5. In the new tab, type Silverlight for the tab name.
6. As shown in Figure 1, use Windows Explorer to locate `System.Web.Silverlight.dll` (look in `C:\Program Files\Microsoft SDKs\Silverlight\v2.0\Libraries\Server`).

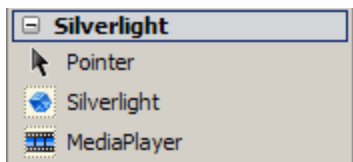
Figure 1 - Locating System.Web.Silverlight.dll



7. Drag System.Web.Silverlight.dll and drop it into the Silverlight tab in the Toolbox.

You should now have two controls named Silverlight and MediaPlayer under the Silverlight tab as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 - Silverlight and MediaPlayer controls



Hosting Silverlight with the ASP.NET Silverlight control

The Silverlight control automates the process of generating script to display the Silverlight plug-in. Follow these steps to build a page that hosts Silverlight:

1. Add an ASP.NET AJAX Web form named slxaml.aspx to the project you created in the preceding section. (The Silverlight control requires the AJAX Script Manager.)
2. Add a text file named textxml.xml to your project (File → New Files → Text Files → Add).
3. Add the following markup to textxml.xml:

```
<Canvas
xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/client/2007">
  <TextBlock Canvas.Left="0" Canvas.Top="0"
  FontFamily="Comic Sans MS" FontSize="25">
    http://www.kencox.ca/
  </TextBlock.Foreground>
  <LinearGradientBrush StartPoint="0,0" EndPoint="1,1">
    <GradientStop Color="Red" Offset="0.0" />
    <GradientStop Color="Orange" Offset="0.2" />
    <GradientStop Color="Yellow" Offset="0.4" />
    <GradientStop Color="Green" Offset="0.6" />
    <GradientStop Color="Blue" Offset="0.8" />
  </LinearGradientBrush>
</Canvas>
```

```

        <GradientStop Color="Violet" Offset="1.0" />
    </LinearGradientBrush>
</TextBlock.Foreground>
<TextBlock.RenderTransform>
    <ScaleTransform ScaleY="3.0" />
</TextBlock.RenderTransform>
</TextBlock>
</Canvas>

```

4. In Design view, from the Silverlight category of the Toolbox, drag the ASP.NET Silverlight control and drop it on the design surface of slxaml.aspx.
5. In the Silverlight's control's Properties window (F4), configure the properties as shown in the following table:

Property	Value
BackColor	235, 235, 235
BorderColor	Black
BorderStyle	Dotted
BorderWidth	5px
Height	100px
Source	~/textxaml.xaml
Width	300px

6. Browse to slxaml.aspx.

As you see in Figure 3, the Silverlight control generates the required script to display the XAML. To confirm that the page is using Silverlight, right-click on the colourful content. You should see the Silverlight configuration option.

Figure 3 - Silverlight using the ASP.NET 3.5 Silverlight server control

