Windows Phone

Expression Blend

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Session 4.0

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Course Schedule

- Session 1 – Tuesday, August 23, 2011
  - Building Windows Phone Apps with Visual Studio 2010
  - Silverlight on Windows Phone—Introduction
  - Silverlight on Windows Phone—Advanced
  - **Using Expression to Build Windows Phone Interfaces**
  - Windows Phone Fast Application Switching
  - Windows Phone Multi-tasking & Background Tasks
  - Using Windows Phone Resources (Bing Maps, Camera, etc.)

- Session 2 – Wednesday, August 24, 2011
  - Application Data Storage on Windows Phone
  - Using Networks with Windows Phone
  - Tiles & Notifications on Windows Phone
  - XNA for Windows Phone
  - Selling a Windows Phone Application

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Topics

- UI Design with Expression Blend

- Creating Animations

- Design Time Data

- Custom Control Templates

- Prototyping with Sketchflow

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UI Design with Expression Blend

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METRO Principles

- Clean, light, open

- Content not chrome

- Emotion thru motion

- Great typography

- Honest

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Microsoft Expression Blend

- Expression Blend for Windows Phone is used to design User Interface Experiences
  - You can build amazing experiences relatively easy
  - Has a learning curve, especially for developers
    - The tool is powerful but use it 'wisely' for Windows Phone UI design
    - The tool of choice for transitions / animations
    - Has great support for showing / testing data driven UI elements
- Can be used in combination with Visual Studio 2010
  - Uses the same Windows Phone Emulator to test experiences
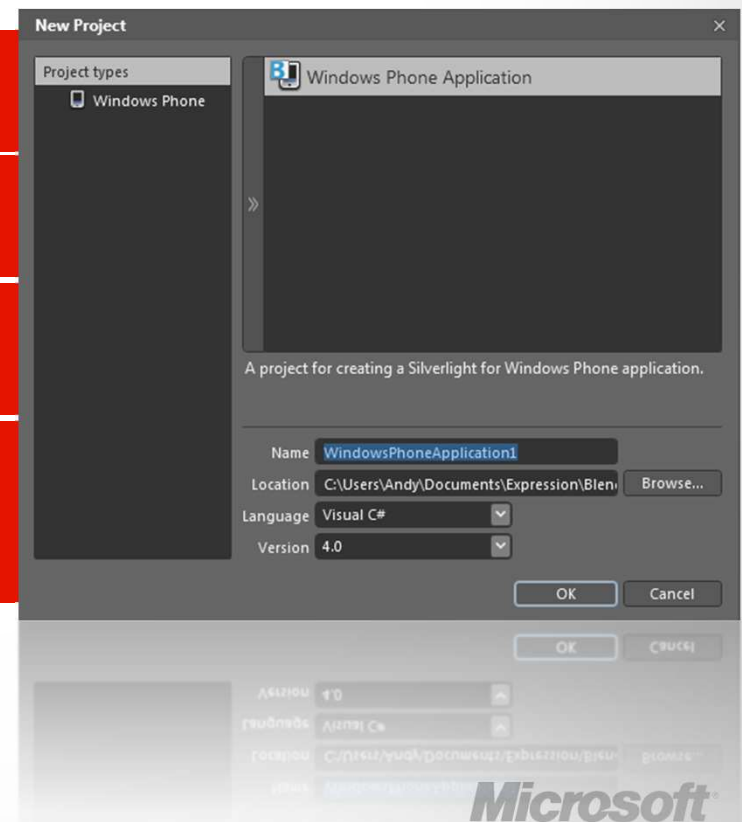
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Which comes first . . .

the chicken or the egg?

Expression Blend
Design tool for user experience (UX) engineer

Visual Studio
IDE for software engineer

Both can be used to develop UI for Windows Phone

Both tools can work on the same project files
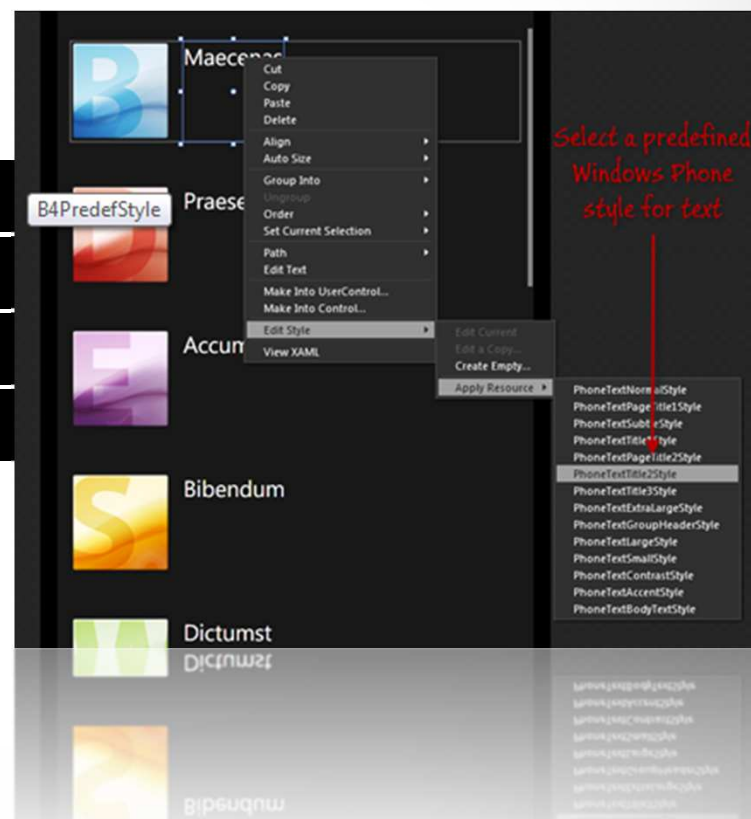Even at the same time

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Expression Blend Features

Easily apply Windows Phone Styles

Create custom styles

Create and test animations

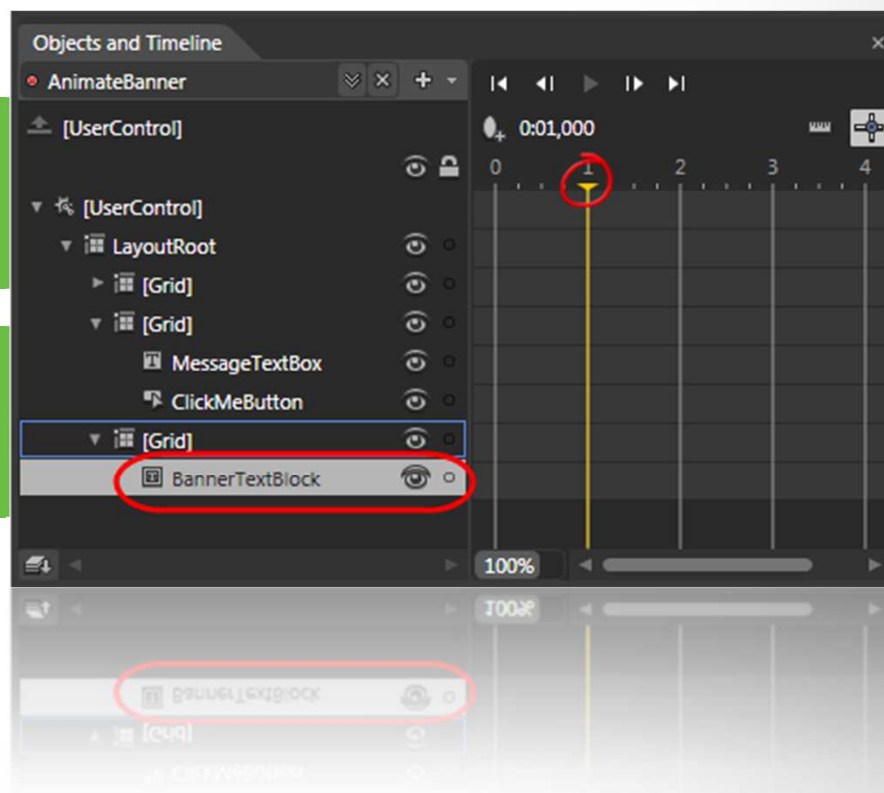Create custom controls

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Animations

Creating Animations

In an animation, you change one or more properties of a control over a time duration

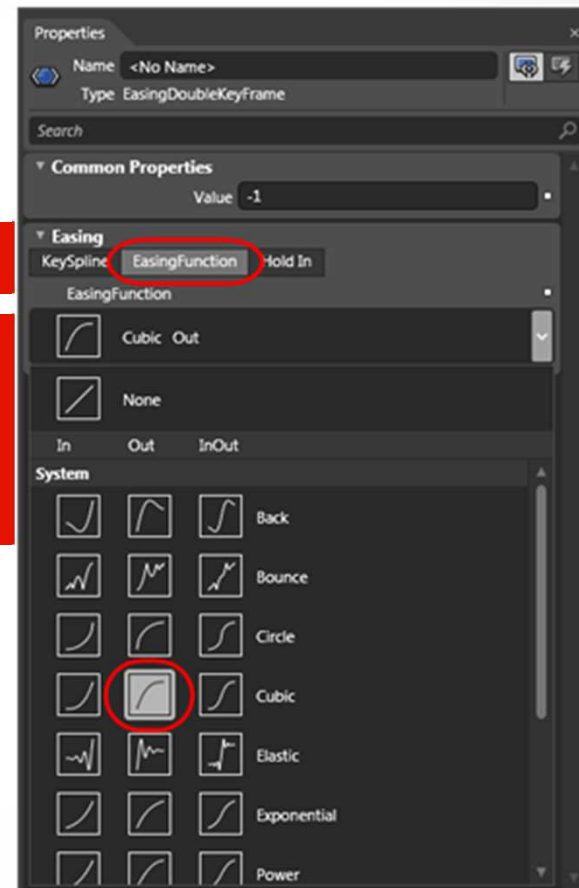Blend allows you to create and test animations graphically

Easing Functions

Properties change linearly by default

More realistic animations can be created by applying an easing function
        For example, start slowly, then speed up in the
        middle, and gradually come to a halt
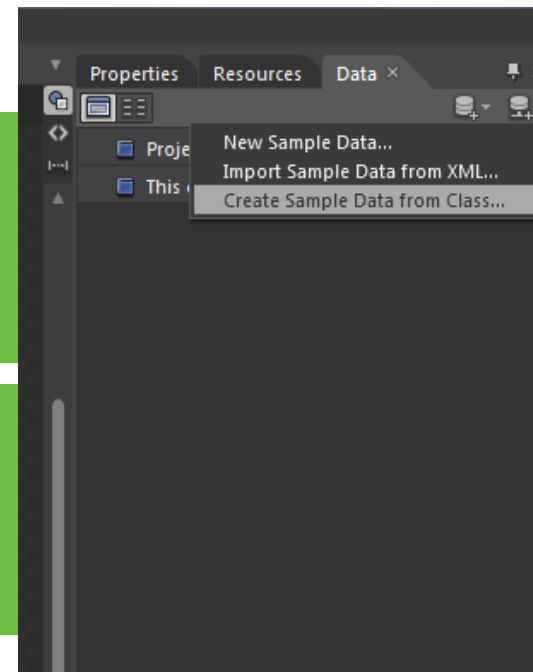
Windows Phone

Demo

Demo Animations

Design Time Data

Generating Design-time Data

Design-time data is essential for designers to get the full benefits of WYSIWYG designing
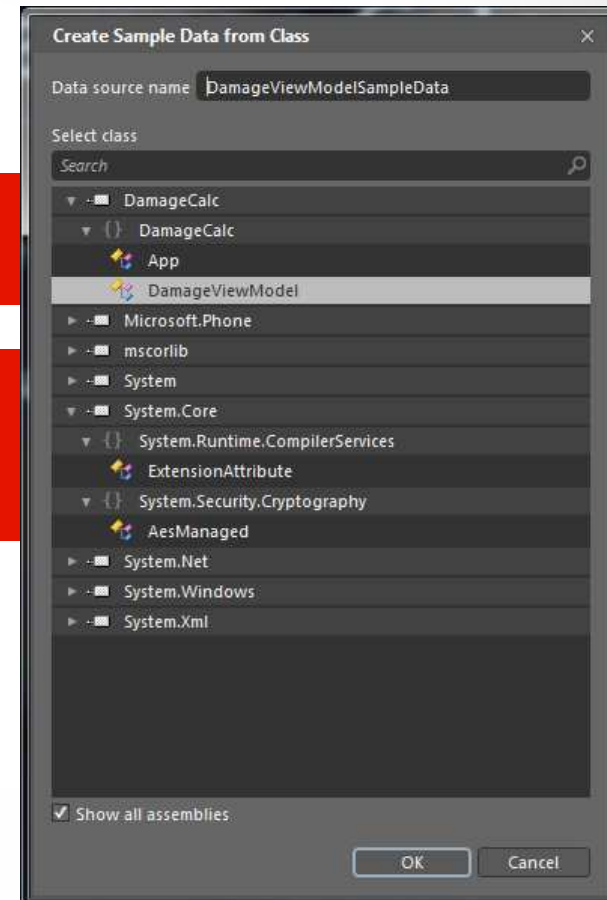
Blend allows you to create sample data, to import it from XML or generate it from an existing class

Creating Sample Data from Class

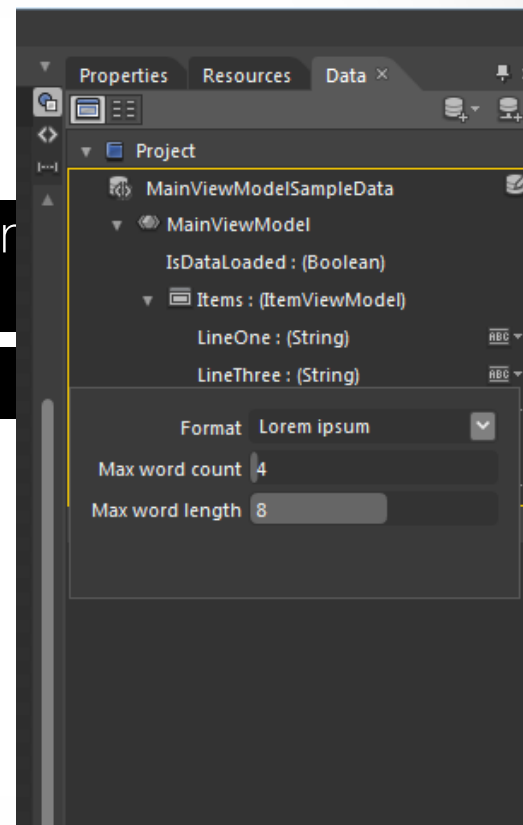Easiest way is to define your data class in Visual Studio

Use 'Create Sample Data from Class' feature in Expression Blend to generate the design-time data

Edit Design-time Data Format & Values

Easily edit the number of words Expression Blend generates for each string field
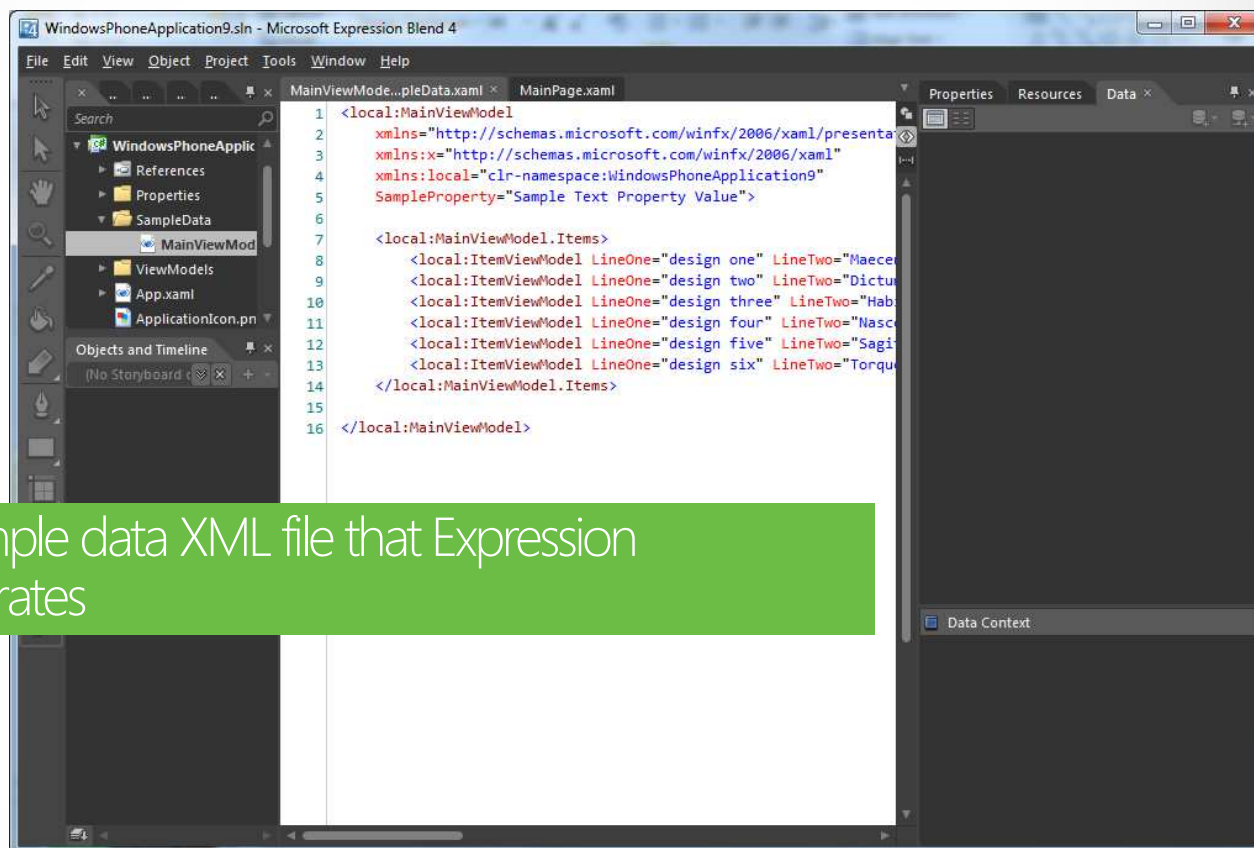
Edit the maximum length of each word

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Edit Design-time Data Format & Values

Edit the sample data XML file that Expression Blend generates

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Demo Design-time Data

Custom Control Templates

Custom Control Templates

Blend is an ideal tool for creating custom control layouts

Visually edit
- Control layout
- Visual states
- State transitions

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Demo

Designing Custom Control Templates

Review

- Expression Blend provides tools that are focused on creating a rich UI

- Visual Studio and Expression Blend work on the exact same project files, easing co-operation between developers and designers

- Expression Blend makes it easy to create animations

- You can create design-time data to help with layout design

- Expression Blend makes it easy to customize control templates

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