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Windows Phone

An Introduction to Silverlight

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Session 2.0

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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

- Silverlight Overview
- The Metro Design Style
- Silverlight Components
- Creating a Silverlight Application
- Silverlight and XAML
- Introduction to Silverlight Layout
- Components and Events

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Software and Design

- It is a sad fact that most programmers are not very good at graphic design
  - Although some are (lucky people)
- Also, most designers do not program much

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The Metro design style

- The Windows Phone team have taken a lot of trouble over the look and feel of the phone
- They have created a design style, "Metro" to express this
- Programs on the phone should reflect this style

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Silverlight and Metro

- To make life easier for us the Metro style is "baked in" to the Windows developer tools
- The default appearance, behaviour and fonts of the user elements all match the style
- If you want to find out more about Metro on phone you can read the "User Experience Design Guidelines"

http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh202915.aspx

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Separation of Tasks

- One way to get good looking programs is to separate the graphical design aspects from the programming
  - The designer can work on the look and feel of the application
  - The programmer can implement the required behaviours
- Silverlight is designed to support this way of working

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Tools for the Job: Graphical Design

- A Silverlight designer can use the "Expression Blend" to specify the appearance of the user interface
  - A version of Blend for the phone is supplied as part of the phone SDK

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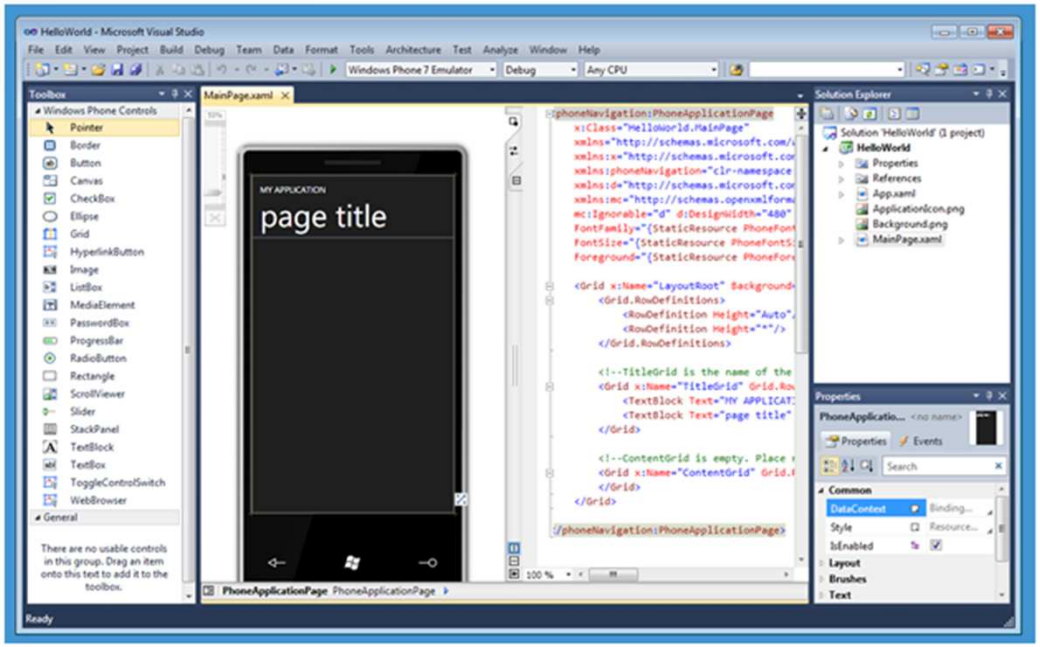
Tools for the Job: Code Creation



- A Developer can take the user interface design and use Visual Studio build the program to make it work
  - Visual Studio provides a design environment but it is not as advanced as Expression Blend

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Design Style and Programming

- As programmers we probably start of just worrying about making the program work
  - This is a very good place to start
- But in modern systems the "look and feel" of the user interface is very important
  - No matter how good the code is, if the program is hard to use it will not be popular
- You should pay careful attention to the user interface when making phone programs

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Silverlight and Us

- We are starting with the Silverlight designer in Visual Studio
- This can be used to create a good quality user interface that adheres to the Metro principles
- If you know any Graphic Designers it is worth getting them on your development team when you make a Marketplace application
  - They can make your programs much more impressive
  - Ensure their input extends to the icon for the application and the Marketplace description and screenshots

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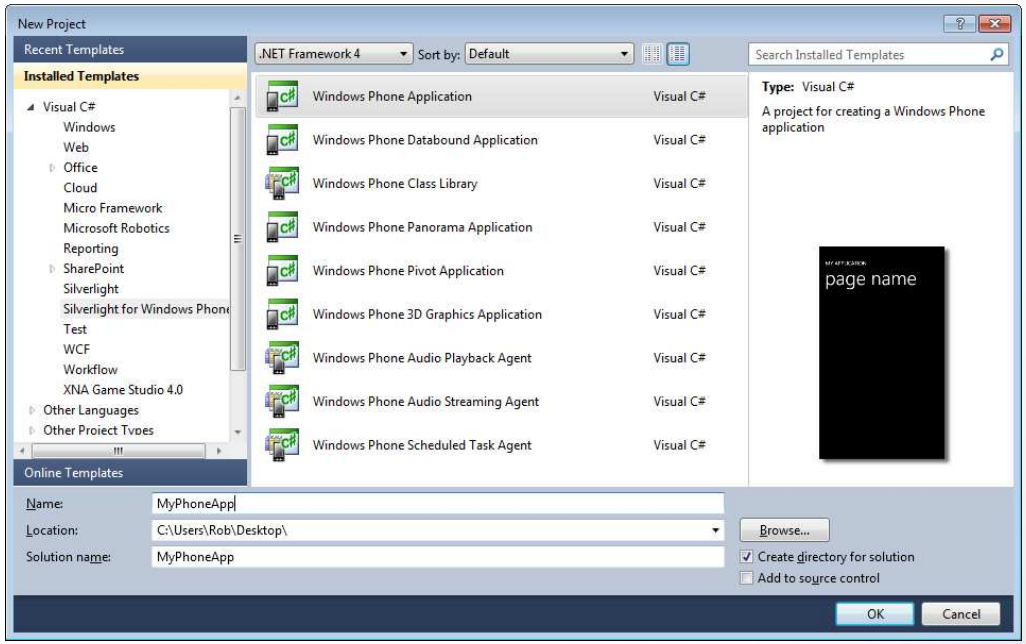
Metro Templates and Components

- Metro provides a set of project templates
- Each of them maps onto a particular style of application



Application Templates

- There are other application templates that you can use
- "Pivot" application
  - User can "pivot" between different screens by flicking left and right
- "Panorama" application
  - A single panoramic background with pages of controls that the user can pan between

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Application Types

- Three application types provide quite different user experiences
- Select the one that you feel is the most appropriate

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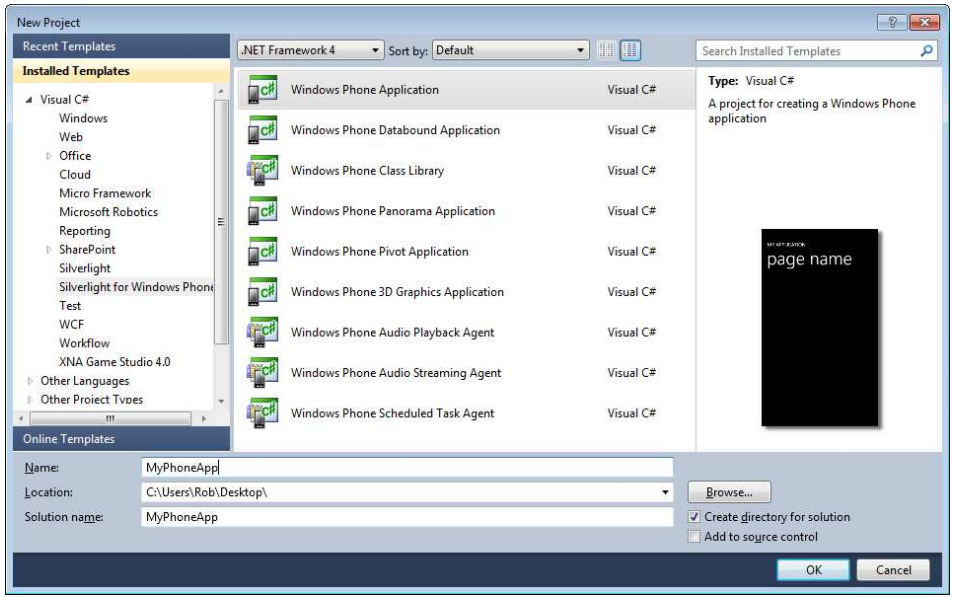
Metro Templates and Components



- This is the template for a standard application
- This is a single page, although you can add others if required

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The Silverlight Adding Machine

- This is a very simple calculator
  - All it can do is add two numbers
- The user types the numbers into the text boxes and presses the equals button
- The answer is displayed at the bottom of the screen

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Silverlight and Objects

- Silverlight is implemented using objects to represent the elements on a User Interface
- Each of the items on the screen of the application shown is graphical rendering of a software object

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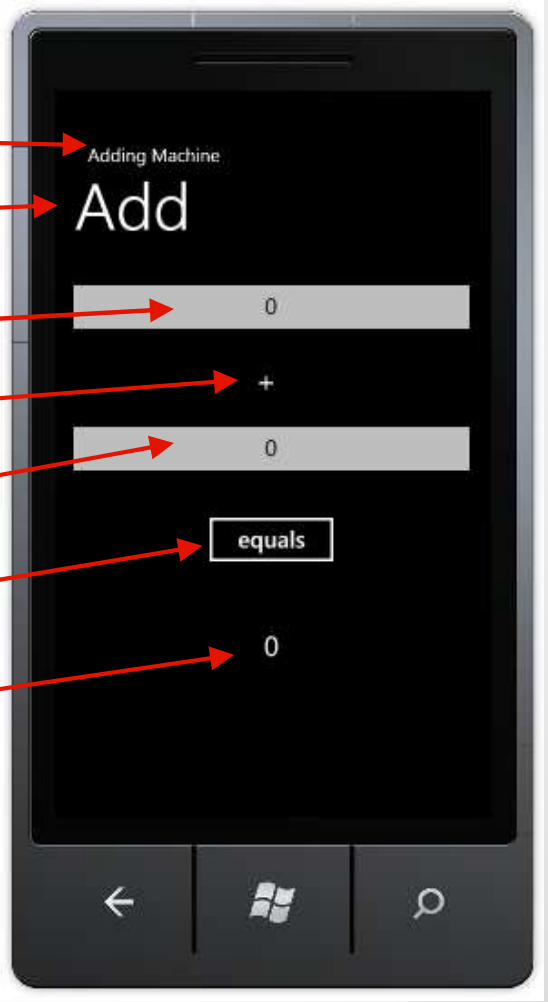
Silverlight Display Elements

- Application title
- Page title
- First number
- Plus text
- Second number
- Equals button
- Result text



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Display Element Data

- Each of the elements contains data elements that define how it appears on the screen
  - Position on the screen
  - Height and width
  - Font colour and size etc..
- These values are used by Silverlight when the display is drawn
- If these value are changed by the program the appearance of the element will change

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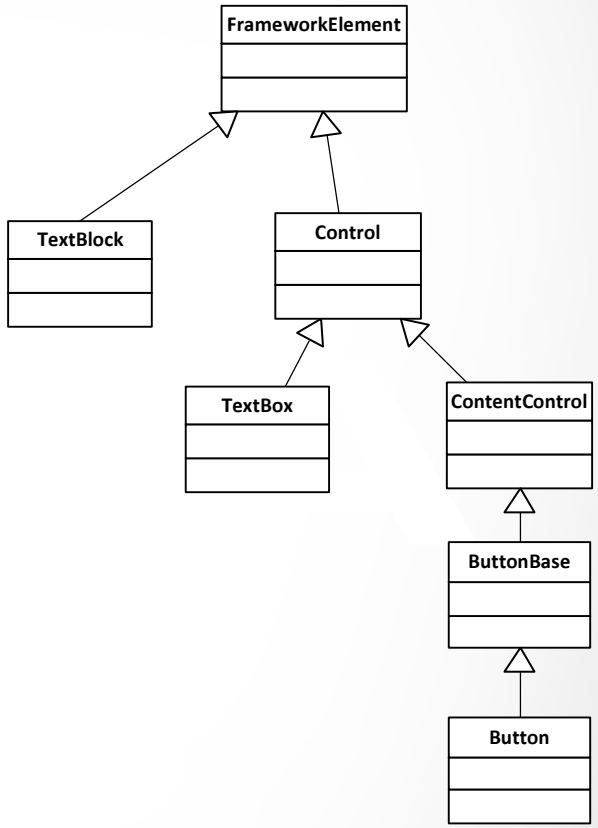
Silverlight Element Class Hierarchy

- The Silverlight class hierarchy is quite complex
- Everything is based on the FrameworkElement class which contains the fundamental properties of all elements
- You can derive your own components if you wish



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Elements in AddingMachine

- The adding machine actually contains three different types of Silverlight display element
- `TextBox`
  - Used to receive user input from the keyboard
- `TextBlock`
  - Used to display messages to the user
- `Button`
  - Used to cause events in the application

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Elements and XAML

```
<Grid x:Name="ContentPanel" Grid.Row="1" Margin="12,0,12,0">
    <TextBox Height="72" HorizontalAlignment="Left"
          Margin="8,19,0,0" Name="firstNumberTextBox"
          Text="0" VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="460"
          TextAlignment="Center" />
 . . .
    <Button Content="equals" Height="72"
            HorizontalAlignment="Left"
            Margin="158,275,0,0" Name="equalsButton"
            VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="160"
            Click="equalsButton_Click" />
 . . .
</Grid>
```

- XAML is the markup language that describes the Silverlight UI components

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Grid Container Element

```
<Grid x:Name="ContentPanel" Grid.Row="1" Margin="12,0,12,0">
    <TextBox Height="72" HorizontalAlignment="Left"
          Margin="8,19,0,0" Name="firstNumberTextBox"
          Text="0" VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="460"
          TextAlignment="Center" />
 . . .
    <Button Content="equals" Height="72"
          HorizontalAlignment="Left"
          Margin="158,275,0,0" Name="equalsButton"
          VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="160"
          Click="equalsButton_Click" />
 . . .
</Grid>
```

- `Grid` is a container into which you position display elements

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TextBox Element

```
<Grid x:Name="ContentPanel" Grid.Row="1" Margin="12,0,12,0">
    <TextBox Height="72" HorizontalAlignment="Left"
          Margin="8,19,0,0" Name="firstNumberTextBox"
          Text="0" VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="460"
          TextAlignment="Center" />
 . . .
    <Button Content="equals" Height="72"
            HorizontalAlignment="Left"
            Margin="158,275,0,0" Name="equalsButton"
            VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="160"
            Click="equalsButton_Click" />
 . . .
</Grid>
```

- `TextBox` is used for text entry
- `TextBlock` can be used for text display

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Button Element

```
<Grid x:Name="ContentPanel" Grid.Row="1" Margin="12,0,12,0">
    <TextBox Height="72" HorizontalAlignment="Left"
          Margin="8,19,0,0" Name="firstNumberTextBox"
          Text="0" VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="460"
          TextAlignment="Center" />
 . . .
    <Button Content="equals" Height="72"
          HorizontalAlignment="Left"
          Margin="158,275,0,0" Name="equalsButton"
          VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="160"
          Click="equalsButton_Click" />
 . . .
</Grid>
```

- `Button` is used for user actions and generates events when activated

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Button Element

```
<Grid x:Name="ContentPanel" Grid.Row="1" Margin="12,0,12,0">
    <TextBox Height="72" HorizontalAlignment="Left"
          Margin="8,19,0,0" Name="firstNumberTextBox"
          Text="0" VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="460"
          TextAlignment="Center" />
 . . .
    <Button Content="equals" Height="72"
            HorizontalAlignment="Left"
            Margin="158,275,0,0" Name="equalsButton"
            VerticalAlignment="Top" Width="160"
            Click="equalsButton_Click" />
 . . .
</Grid>
```

- `Click` is the button clicked event which is bound to the method specified

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Button Click Event Handler

```
private void equalsButton_Click(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e)
{
    float v1 = float.Parse(firstNumberTextBox.Text);
    float v2 = float.Parse(secondNumberTextBox.Text);

    float result = v1 + v2;

    resultTextBlock.Text = result.ToString();
}
```

- The event hander for the button takes the values out of the textboxes, parses them and then calculates and displays the result

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Demo

Demo 1: The Silverlight Adding Machine

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Phone UI Design – Keyboard Use

- It is best if the user can still press the equals button when the keyboard is displayed
- This means the equals button should be moved up the screen

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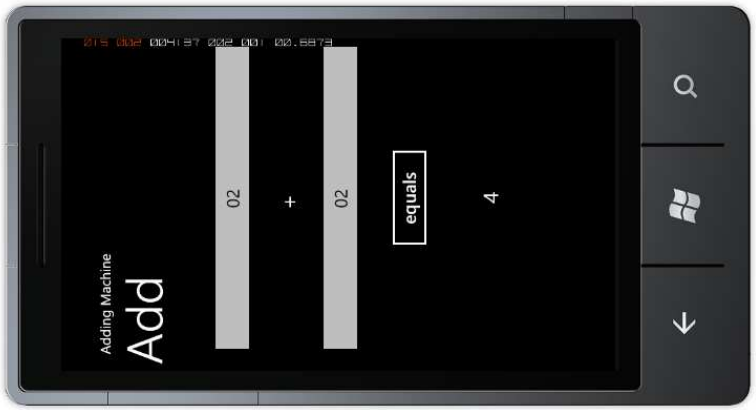
Phone UI Design – Orientation



- This application does not work in landscape mode at the moment
- Not all applications do, or need to
- You can configure applications to support portrait or landscape

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Selecting Orientations

```
SupportedOrientations="Portrait"
```

```
SupportedOrientations="PortraitOrLandscape"
```

- A XAML property for the phone application page lets you select the orientation options available
- Your application can bind to an event which is fired when the orientation changes

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Using a StackPanel

```
<Grid x:Name="ContentPanel" Grid.Row="1" Margin="12,0,12,0">
    <StackPanel>
        <TextBox Height="72" HorizontalAlignment="Center" .../>
        <TextBlock Height="56" HorizontalAlignment="Center" .../>
        <TextBox Height="72" HorizontalAlignment="Center" .../>
        <Button Content="equals" Height="72" ...>
        <TextBlock Height="46" HorizontalAlignment="Center" .../>
    </StackPanel>
</Grid>
```

- To automatically handle orientation change we can use a `StackPanel` container that will stack the display components

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Demo

Demo 2: Orientation Handling

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Error Handling

- The present version of the program does not handle errors at all
- If the user enters stupid values these throw an exception which we presently don't catch

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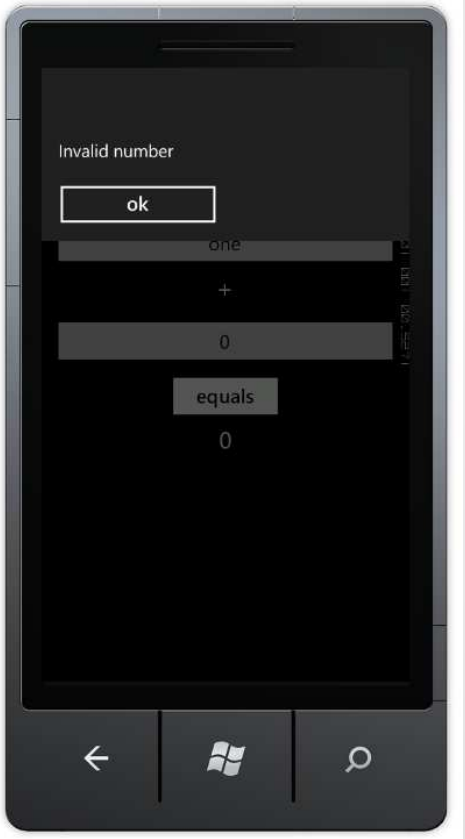
Handling Errors

```
try
{
  v1 = float.Parse(firstNumberTextBox.Text);
  v2 = float.Parse(secondNumberTextBox.Text);
}
catch
{
    MessageBox.Show("Invalid number");
    return;
}
```



- A program can catch errors as on the desktop
- There is also a `MessageBox` mechanism as well

Configuring the Input Scope

```
<TextBox InputScope="Number" ...
```

- If all you want from the user is a number it is dangerous to allow them to enter text as well
- You can add to the XAML to specify that the keyboard only accepts numbers

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Demo

Demo 3: Complete Adding Machine

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Review

- Windows Phone applications use Silverlight to express the design of their user interface
  - The design is expressed in a XAML text file that identifies and configures display elements
  - Elements can also be manipulated as code objects
- There are a set of Silverlight templates for applications and elements based on the Metro design

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