

Using the WPFToolkit.dll – Additional Controls for Windows WPF GUI

Microsoft has created and made available the “WPFToolkit.dll” which includes additional WPF GUI controls, including the “DataGrid” control. To install and use the WPFToolkit.dll follow the steps provided below:

1. Go to <http://wpf.codeplex.com/Release/ProjectReleases.aspx?ReleaseId=25047> and follow the instructions there to install the WPFToolkit.dll to the “...\Program Files\WPF Toolkit\” subdirectory of the programmer’s machine. Note that the above link is for the 03/2009 version of the WPFToolkit, so be sure to check for subsequent versions which should be listed in the “Releases” window on the same page. Microsoft is actively developing the WPFToolkit.
2. Open Visual Studio 2008 and use File > New > Project > Visual C# > Windows > WPF Application to create a new WPF application.
3. In Visual Studio 2008 use the Solution Explorer to add a reference to the wpftoolkit.dll.
 - a. Right click the References branch of the new WPF project
 - b. Select “Add Reference...”
 - c. Browse to the location of the WPFToolkit.dll file
 - d. Select the wpftoolkit.dll file and click the “OK” button
4. Add “using Microsoft.Windows.Controls” to the top of the “...xaml.cs” file of the new WPF project. For example:

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Text;
using System.Windows;
using System.Windows.Controls;
using System.Windows.Data;
using System.Windows.Documents;
using System.Windows.Input;
using System.Windows.Media;
using System.Windows.Media.Imaging;
using System.Windows.Navigation;
using System.Windows.Shapes;
using Microsoft.Windows.Controls;
namespace WPF_GUI
{
    /// <summary>
    /// Interaction logic for Window1.xaml
```

```

    /// </summary>
    public partial class Window1 : Window
    {
        public Window1()
        {
            InitializeComponent();
        }
    }
}

```

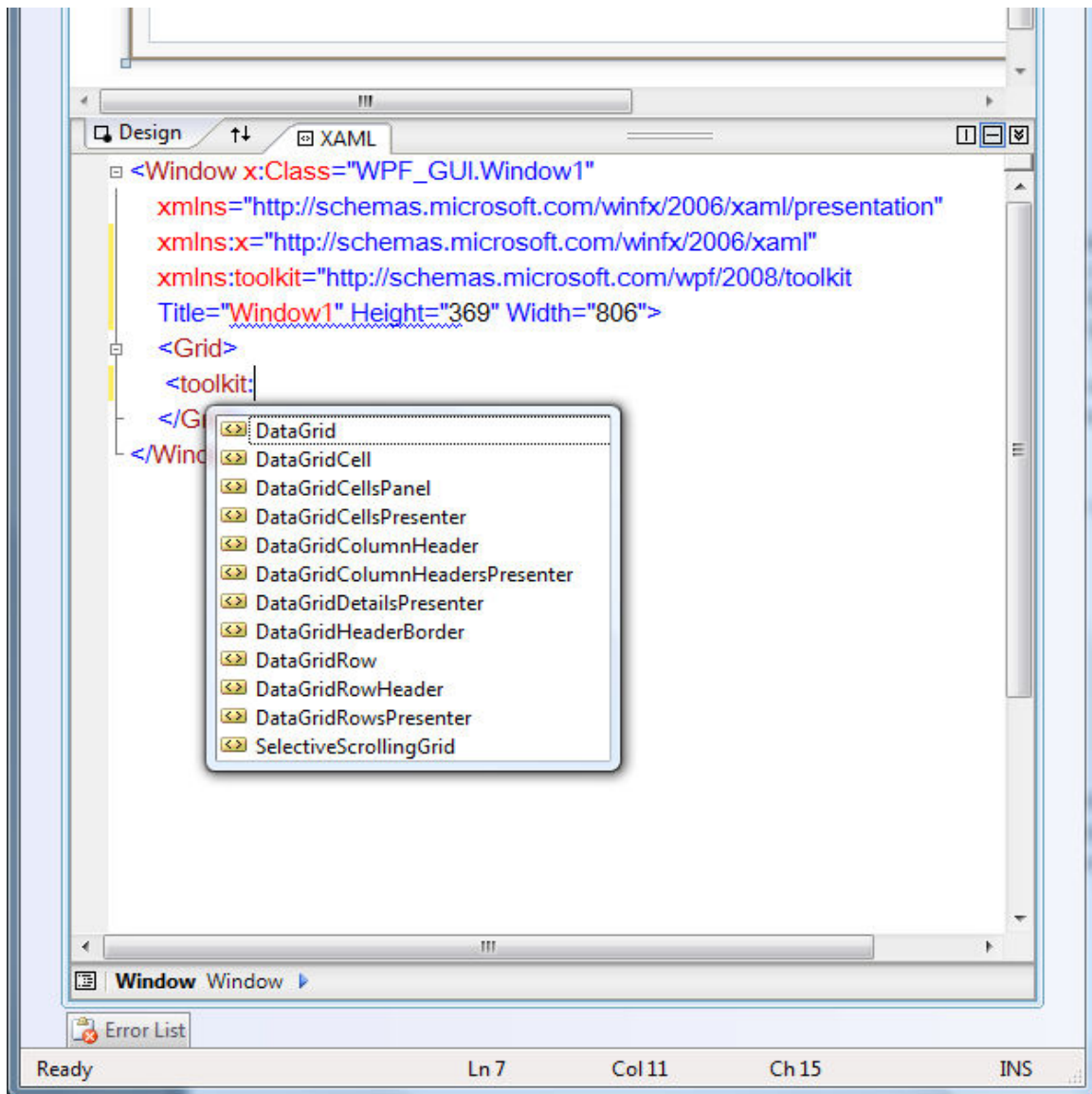
5. Add "xmlns:toolkit=<http://schemas.microsoft.com/wpf/2008/toolkit>" to the other "xmlns" namespace specifications at the top of the "...xaml" file for the new WPF project. The text "toolkit" may be modified to any desired text, but whatever text is selected, it must be consistently used throughout the WPF project. For example:

```

<Window x:Class="WPF_GUI.Window1"
    xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
    xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml"
    xmlns:toolkit="http://schemas.microsoft.com/wpf/2008/toolkit"
    Title="Window1" Height="369" Width="806">
    <Grid>
        ...
    </Grid>
</Window>

```

6. When entering XAML code directly into the "...xaml" file, use the "toolkit:" prefix. For example:



7. When the “toolkit:” prefix is used, the additional controls available in the wpftoolkit.dll are listed in Intellisense.
8. To learn more about the features of the WPFToolkit “DataGrid” control:
 - <http://wpf.codeplex.com/Wiki/View.aspx?title=Tips%20%26%20Tricks> for “DataGrid” tips and tricks.
 - <http://windowsclient.net/wpf/wpf35/wpf-35sp1-toolkit-datagrid-feature-walkthrough.aspx> for a ‘walkthrough’ of the “DataGrid” control.
 - <http://www.codeproject.com/KB/WPF/WPFDataGrid.aspx> for a “DataGrid” control filled from an SQL Server database.
 - <http://blogs.msdn.com/jaimer/archive/2009/01/20/styling-microsoft-s-wpf-datagrid.aspx> for “DataGrid” styling tips.
 - <http://dotnet.org.za/rudi/archive/2008/08/12/the-wpf-datagrid-is-finally-here.aspx> for a short blog about the initial release (in 2008) of the “DataGrid” control.
 - <http://blogs.msdn.com/vinsibal/archive/2008/08/11/net-3-5-sp1-and-wpf-datagrid-ctp-is-out-now.aspx> for a detailed blog about the “DataGrid” control.