

# Now!

# Build a Web Site

Microsoft

# Visual Web Developer 2005

# Express Edition

# 立即构建网站

## Jim Buyens

na Edition

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光華圖書公司

**Microsoft®**

# ***Build a Web Site* Now!**

Microsoft®

**Visual Web Developer**  
Express Edition

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# Introduction

```
If backgroundImages.Count = 0  
    LoadDefaultBackgroundImages (*)  
End If  
If endReadOnlyProperty SearchOnlinePart (*) As SearchOnlinePart  
    SearchOnlinePart = SearchOnlinePart (*)  
End If
```

Congratulations on your interest in Microsoft Visual Web Developer 2005 Express Edition. This exciting new software brings two of Microsoft's most powerful technologies—ASP.NET 2.0 and Visual Studio 2005—within reach of anyone who creates Web sites.

Visual Web Developer is a fully functional subset of Visual Studio 2005 suitable for creating and maintaining a wide range of Web sites over time. It's certainly not a crippled or limited time demo version. Instead, it's a key Microsoft initiative for bringing the power of Visual Studio and ASP.NET not only to professional programmers, but to hobbyists and entrepreneurs as well.

## Who Is This Book For?

This book is primarily for people who've already designed and deployed a Web site or two, but found the process or the tools limiting. For example, they may have found features such as these difficult to implement:

- Reliable, reusable, and active page templates and page segments.
- Easy-to-use dynamic menus, expandable tree views, or breadcrumbs.
- Fast, flexible, and easy ways of working with databases.
- Controlled access to portions of a site, with or without self-registration.

ASP.NET 2.0 has built-in controls that provide these features and yet, in many cases, require no program code at all.

What's more, you can add and configure these controls entirely through Visual Web Developer's graphical interface. Visual Web Developer, like Visual Studio, has world class editors for graphical design and for working with code of all kinds. Its features for working with HTML, CSS, and XML are no less than its power for working with sophisticated program code.

If this is the kind of power you crave, or if you're ready to advance from legacy ASP to ASP.NET and need a place to get started, this is the book for you.

## How This Book Is Organized

The book consists of sixteen chapters plus two bonus chapters on the companion Web site. (See "Bonus Material" below.) Although each chapter describes a specific technology or feature, the exercises do build on skills and results from earlier in the book. As a result, you should plan on reading the material sequentially.

## Bonus Material

Two additional chapters, Chapter 17, *Controlling Access to Your Site* and Chapter 18, *Displaying Web Parts*, are provided on the companion Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/mspress/companion/0-7356-2212-4/>.

## **Conventions and Features in This Book**

This book presents information using conventions designed to make the information readable and easy to follow. Before you start the book, read the following list, which explains conventions you'll see throughout the book and points out helpful features in the book that you might want to use.

### **Conventions**

- Each exercise is a series of tasks. Each task is presented as a series of numbered steps (1, 2, and so on). Each exercise is preceded by a procedural heading that lets you know what you will accomplish in the exercise.
- Notes labeled "Tip" provide additional information or alternative methods for completing a step successfully.
- Notes labeled "Caution" alert you to information you need to check before continuing.
- Text that you type or items you select or click appear in bold.
- Menu commands, dialog box titles, and other user interface elements appear with each word capitalized.
- A plus sign (+) between two key names means that you must press those keys at the same time. For example, "Press Alt+Tab" means that you hold down the Alt key while you press the Tab key.

### **Other Features**

- Shaded sidebars throughout the book provide more in-depth information about the content. The sidebars might contain background information, design tips, or features related to the information being discussed.
- Each chapter ends with an In Summary... section that briefly reviews what you learned in the current chapter and previews what the next chapter will present.

## System Requirements

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You'll need the following hardware and software to complete the exercises in this book:

- Microsoft Windows XP with Service Pack 2, Microsoft Windows Server 2003 with Service Pack 1, or Microsoft Windows 2000 with Service Pack 4
- Microsoft Visual Web Developer 2005 Express Edition
- PC with a Pentium III-class processor, 600 MHz Recommended: 1 GHz
- 128 MB RAM (256 MB or more recommended)
- 16.4 MB hard disk space for sample files
- Video (800 x 600 or higher resolution) monitor with at least 256 colors (1024 x 768 High Color 16-bit recommended)
- CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive
- Microsoft Mouse or compatible pointing device

You'll also need administrator access to your computer to configure SQL Server 2005 Express.

## Obtaining the Sample Web Site

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To obtain a sample Web site incorporating the examples, browse the book's companion content page at the following address:

<http://www.microsoft.com/mspress/companion/0-7356-2212-4/>

To download and install this site, follow the procedure titled, "To Obtain And Install the Sample Files For This Book," in Chapter 1.

## Running the Exercises and Sample Web Site

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ASP.NET is a technology that runs primarily on a Web sever. You'll need a Web server to test and run the examples in each chapter, and of course the completed sample Web site.

Fortunately, Visual Web Developer comes with its own integrated Development Web Server. Both the exercises and the completed sample Web site presume you'll be using this facility. Therefore, there's no need to install or access a full copy of Internet Information Server (IIS).

### NOTE

The CD-ROM packaged in the back of this book contains the Visual Web Developer 2005 Express Edition software needed to complete the exercises in this book.

### NOTE

Visual Web Developer's built-in Web server is accessible only from the local computer. Any server that delivers the finished Web site will need a full copy of IIS.

## NOTE

Although you can develop Web sites using SQL Server 2005 Express Edition, you, your IT department, or your host will need a full copy of SQL Server for delivering the site to visitors.

The exercises in Chapters 13 through 16 (and Chapters 17 and 18 on the companion site) require that SQL Server 2005 Express Edition (or SQL Server 2005) be installed on the same computer as Visual Web Developer. If you install your software from the Companion CD, this will be the default. Because the exercises and sample Web site use a new SQL Server 2005 feature called *user instancing*, no special security configuration is necessary.

## Removing the Sample Web Site

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To remove the sample Web site from your computer, follow these steps:

- 1** In Control Panel, open **Add Or Remove Programs**.
- 2** From the list of Currently Installed Programs, select **Microsoft Visual Web Developer 2005 Express Edition: Build A Web Site Now!**
- 3** Click **Remove**.
- 4** Follow any further instructions that appear.

## Prerelease Software

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This book was reviewed and tested against the August 2005 Community Technical Preview (CTP) of Visual Studio 2005. The August CTP was the last preview before the final release of Visual Studio 2005. This book is expected to be fully compatible with the final release of Visual Studio 2005. If there are any changes or corrections for this book, they'll be collected and added to a Microsoft Knowledge Base article. See the "Support for this Book" section in this Introduction for more information.

## **Technology Updates**

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As technologies related to this book are updated, links to additional information will be added to the Microsoft Press Technology Updates Web page. Visit this page periodically for updates on Visual Studio 2005 and other technologies.

*<http://www.microsoft.com/mspress/updates/>*

## **Support for This Book**

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this book and the companion content. As corrections or changes are collected, they'll be added to a Microsoft Knowledge Base article. To view the list of known corrections for this book, visit the following article:

*<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/905041>*

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*<http://www.microsoft.com/learning/support/books/>*

## **Questions and Comments**

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# About the Author

## **Jim Buyens**

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Jim Buyens has been professionally involved with the World Wide Web since its inception, including roles as a server administrator, Web master, content developer, system developer, and system architect. He has many years of experience in the telecommunications industry, and is also an acclaimed Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP) who contributes extensively to the Microsoft Online FrontPage Communities.

Jim received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Purdue University in 1971 and a Master of Business Administration from Arizona State University in 1992. When not enhancing the Web or writing books, he enjoys traveling and attending professional sports events—especially NHL hockey. He resides with his family in Phoenix.

Other books by Jim Buyens include:

- Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services Inside Out, March, 2005, Microsoft Press
- Microsoft Office FrontPage Version 2003 Inside Out, August, 2003, Microsoft Press
- Faster Smarter Beginning Programming, November, 2002, Microsoft Press
- Web Database Development Step by Step .NET Edition, June, 2002, Microsoft Press

- Troubleshooting Microsoft FrontPage 2002, May, 2002, Microsoft Press
- Microsoft FrontPage Version 2002 Inside Out, May, 2001, Microsoft Press
- Web Database Development Step by Step, June, 2000, Microsoft Press
- Running Microsoft FrontPage 2000, June, 1999, Microsoft Press
- Stupid Web Tricks, July, 1998, Microsoft Press
- Running Microsoft FrontPage 98, October, 1997, Microsoft Press
- Building Net Sites with Windows NT—An Internet Services Handbook, July 1996, Addison-Wesley Developers Press

## **Dedication**

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This book is dedicated to the homeless mentally-ill persons of America. Why do we lavish health care dollars on victims of other, less debilitating illnesses while condemning these unfortunates to the streets and gutters?

# Contents

```
If backgroundImages.Count = 0  
    .LoadFromFile(BackgroundImages())  
EndIf  
Friend ReadOnly Property SearchOnlinePart() As SearchOnlinePart
```

## Chapter 1

### *Introducing Microsoft Visual Web Developer 2005 Express Edition*

<b>What to Expect From This Book</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Deciding Whether Visual Web Developer is the Product for You</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>What You'll Need for Testing</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Choosing a Provider for Your Public Web Site</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Dealing with ISO Image Files</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Approaching the User Interface</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>8</b>

## Chapter 2

### *Presenting the ASP.NET 2.0 Programming Model*

<b>Following a Web Page Through ASP.NET 2.0</b>	<b>13</b>
A Hierarchy of Controls	14
Dealing with Events	16
Reviewing the Page Life Cycle	18
<b>Categorizing ASP.NET Server Controls</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>20</b>

## Chapter 3

<b>Creating a New Web Site</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Choosing Where to Put the Working Copy of Your Site</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Creating an Empty Web Site</b>	<b>25</b>
Creating a File System Web Site	26
Creating a Local IIS Web Site	27
Creating a Remote IIS Web Site	29
Creating an FTP-Accessible Web Site	31

## Chapter 4

<b>Opening an Existing Web Site</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Opening a Recently-Used Web Site</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Opening an Arbitrary Web Site</b>	<b>37</b>
Opening a File System Web Site	37
Opening a Local IIS Web Site	38
Opening an FTP-Accessible Web Site	39
Opening a Remote Web Site	40

## Chapter 5

<b>Copying Your Web Site</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Specifying the Source and Remote Web Sites</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Selecting and Copying Files</b>	<b>47</b>

**What do you think of this book?  
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<i>Chapter 6</i>	
<b>Creating and Modifying Web Pages</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Working with Web Page Views</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Adding Controls</b>	<b>54</b>
Adding Controls from the Toolbox	54
Adding Tables and Layers from the Menu Bar	57
Adding Controls from Solution Explorer	57
<b>Setting Control Properties</b>	<b>58</b>
Setting Properties with the Properties Window	58
Setting Properties with the Mouse	61
Setting Properties with Smart Tags	63
Setting Properties with the Format Menu	63
Setting Properties with Toolbars	64
<b>Adding or Modifying Hyperlinks</b>	<b>65</b>
<hr/>	
<i>Chapter 7</i>	
<b>Working with Source Code</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Using the Text Editor</b>	<b>68</b>
Using Outlining	69
Using Split View	71
Using Go To, Bookmarks, and the Task List	72
Making Sense of IntelliSense	73
Detecting Syntax Errors	76
Finding and Replacing Text	77
Formatting Source Code	80
Locating More Editing Commands	82
<b>Storing, Compiling, and Publishing Program Code</b>	<b>82</b>

<i>Chapter 8</i>	
<b>Creating and Using Web User Controls</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Creating and Designing Web User Controls</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Adding Web User Controls to a Page</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Using Web User Controls Effectively</b>	<b>90</b>
Understanding Web User Control Tags	90
Using CSS Styles in Web User Controls	91
Adjusting Relative URLs	91
Coding Attributes for Web User Controls	92
<hr/>	

<i>Chapter 9</i>	
<b>Using Master Pages to Centralize Page Layout</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Creating a Master Page</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Applying Master Pages to Content Pages</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Using Master Pages Effectively</b>	<b>103</b>
Looking Inside Master Pages	104
Modifying Existing Pages to Use Master Pages	104
Adjusting Relative URLs	106
Modifying Header Information	106
<hr/>	

<i>Chapter 10</i>	
<b>Using Cascading Style Sheets</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Formatting Page Elements Individually</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Using Named Styles Across Several Pages</b>	<b>109</b>
Creating a New Style Sheet File	109
Creating Style Sheet Rules	109
Adding Properties to Style Sheet Rules	112
Using Shared Styles in Your Web Pages	113

<hr/>		<hr/>	
<i>Chapter 11</i>		<i>Chapter 15</i>	
<i>Controlling Appearance with ASP.NET Themes</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>Maintaining Database Information</i>	<i>165</i>
<b>Creating ASP.NET Themes</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>Using a <i>GridView</i> Control to Update and Delete Records</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Adding Skins to an ASP.NET Theme</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>Using a <i>DetailsView</i> Control to Add Records</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Adding CSS Style Sheets to an ASP.NET Theme</b>	<b>119</b>	<hr/>	
<b>Applying Themes to Pages and Sites</b>	<b>120</b>	<i>Chapter 16</i>	
<hr/>		<i>Publishing Your Database</i>	
<i>Chapter 12</i>		<b>Copying a SQL Server Database</b>	<b>174</b>
<i>Linking the Pages in Your Site Automatically</i>	<i>125</i>	<b>Understanding and Connecting to SQL Server</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Creating a Site Map for Your Web Site</b>	<b>126</b>	Using Connection Strings	177
<b>Creating Drop-Down and Fly-Out Menus</b>	<b>131</b>	Sharing a Single Copy of SQL Server	182
<b>Creating Tree View Menus</b>	<b>133</b>	Administering Shared SQL Servers	182
<b>Providing Breadcrumbs</b>	<b>134</b>	Server Instances	182
<hr/>		User Instances	183
<i>Chapter 13</i>		Attaching Database Files	184
<i>Creating and Connecting to Databases</i>	<i>137</i>	Understanding Logins	184
<b>Administering Data Access</b>	<b>138</b>	How Visual Web Developer Uses SQL Server	185
<b>Connecting to an Existing Database</b>	<b>138</b>		
<b>Creating a New Database</b>	<b>142</b>		
<b>Adding and Modifying Database Tables</b>	<b>143</b>		
<b>Viewing and Updating Database Table Content</b>	<b>146</b>		
<hr/>			
<i>Chapter 14</i>			
<i>Displaying Database Information</i>	<i>149</i>		
<b>Using Data Sources</b>	<b>150</b>		
<b>Configuring Data Sources</b>	<b>151</b>		
<b>Displaying Database Information</b>	<b>155</b>		
<b>Configuring a <i>GridView</i> Control</b>	<b>157</b>		

# Chapter 1

## Introducing Microsoft Visual Web Developer 2005 Express Edition

***What to Expect  
from This Book, 2***

***Deciding Whether Visual  
Web Developer is the  
Product for You, 3***

***What You'll Need  
for Testing, 4***

***Choosing a Provider for  
Your Public Web Site, 5***

***Dealing with  
ISO Image Files, 7***

***Approaching the User  
Interface, 8***

Congratulations on your interest in Microsoft Visual Web Developer Express Edition. This incredible software makes it very easy for hobbyists, enthusiasts, and non-professional Web developers to start using Microsoft ASP.NET 2.0, the world's premier technology for creating and running Web sites.

Does the idea of using ASP.NET scare you? Well, with the arrival of ASP.NET 2.0, it needn't. Although release 2.0 has many enhancements targeted primarily at professional programmers, it also provides simple and elegant ways of implementing some of the most challenging yet popular features on the Web—without requiring a single line of program code! For example, you can:

- Create dynamic drop-down or fly-out menus.
- Surround the variable content on each page with dynamic content from a so-called *master page*.
- Code a site map once and then use it to create menus and breadcrumb trails on each page.
- Query, create, update, and delete database records.
- Close portions of your site except to registered visitors.
- Let individual visitors customize the way they view your site. This includes not only the site's visual appearance but also—to the extent you want—the layout and content of specific pages.



Although none of this requires any program code, it does require adding some special XML tags to your Web pages. But even here, Microsoft keeps things simple. With Visual Web Developer you can implement many ASP.NET features (generally the most popular ones) in pure graphical design view. That means no looking at HTML, no looking at obscure XML tags, and certainly no looking at program code.

Of course, if you want to look at (or even write!) HTML code, XML code, or program code, Visual Web Developer provides great ways of doing just that. Because it's based on Microsoft Visual Studio® 2005—the premier environment for professional programmers—Visual Web Developer Express comes with the largest, most powerful, and easiest-to-use selection of code editors you're likely to find anywhere. And yes, if you start a project in Visual Web Developer, you can continue it in products like Microsoft Visual Basic® .NET Standard Edition, Microsoft C# Standard Edition, or any of the full Visual Studio products.

## What to Expect From This Book

This book assumes you're already familiar with the basic workings of the World Wide Web and with some typical Windows applications such as Microsoft Office. For example, it assumes you know how to create ordinary ("flat") HTML pages and link them into a Web site.

Even though Visual Web Developer is a subset of Visual Studio 2005 (a sophisticated programming tool) the book also assumes that you *don't* want to write your own HTML, XML, or program code. Instead, the book explains how to get professional ASP.NET 2.0 results using only the graphical Web page editor.

If you *do* want to write your own code, rest assured that the book *will* show you how to view and modify the code that the graphical interface creates. The details of any code you write, however, will be up to you. If you want to learn about the Visual Basic .NET, C#, or J# programming languages, about ASP.NET, or about the .NET framework in general, you'll need to find a separate book on the topic you want, or explore the online information at <http://msdn.microsoft.com>.

Finally, the book will concentrate on using features new to ASP.NET 2.0. Presumably, these are the features that attracted you to Visual Web Developer in the first place. As to the older features, the procedures for using them are about the same as for the newer ones. Once you understand using the new features, using the older ones should be fairly intuitive.

## Deciding Whether Visual Web Developer is the Product for You

Microsoft designed Visual Web Developer specifically for non-professional programmers who want to develop Web sites that use the features of ASP.NET 2.0. If this is your situation, Visual Web Developer is the product for you.

Of course, no one product can be best for all people, and in all situations. Here are some scenarios where other products might be a better choice:

- In theory, you could use Visual Web Developer to create Web sites that don't use any ASP.NET features. That is, you could use it strictly as an HTML editor. This, however, forgoes the strong points of the product. If all you want is an HTML editor, you might prefer a simpler product dedicated to that task.
- In theory, you could also use Visual Web Developer to create ASP.NET 1.1 Web sites. This, however, would be difficult because Visual Web Developer won't stop you from using the new features in ASP.NET 2.0. If you need to build Web sites that use ASP.NET 1.1, you'll probably find it easier to use Microsoft Visual Studio 2003 or Microsoft ASP.NET Web Matrix.
- Visual Web Developer can't create Windows desktop applications. If you need to create Windows applications, obtain the 2005 Express Edition of Visual Basic, C#, C++, or J#, graduate to the Standard version of those languages, or invest in a full version of Visual Studio.

### Further Reading

*To learn more about ASP.NET 2.0, C#, Visual Basic .NET, or SQL Server™ Express, consider these books from Microsoft Press®:*

- *Microsoft Visual C#® 2005 Express Edition: Build a Program Now!*, by Patrice Pelland
- *Microsoft ASP.NET 2.0 Programming Step By Step*, by George Shepherd
- *Microsoft Visual Basic 2005 Step by Step*, by Michael Halvorson
- *Microsoft Visual C# 2005 Step by Step*, by John Sharp
- *Developing Database Applications with Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Step by Step*, by Jackie Goldstein

- Professional and expert programmers are likely to need the high-end tools and features that full versions of Visual Studio provide. For example, Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 Professional Edition can create many more kinds of software, and Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 Team System has special features that support teams of software developers working on the same project.

## What You'll Need for Testing

Although it creates HTML, CSS, and JavaScript code that runs on the browser, ASP.NET is primarily a server-side technology. It:

1. Reads Web pages and other files from the Web server's file system.
2. Runs program code to access server-based resources and modify the current Web page.
3. Sends the modified Web page to the visitor.

As a result, to test an ASP.NET page you really need a Web server. If you have Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS, Microsoft's premier Web server) and ASP.NET 2.0 installed on your PC, you can certainly use those resources for testing. But if you don't, Visual Web Developer will use its own built-in mini-Web server. Visual Web Developer starts this Web server the first time you browse or debug a page, and stops it when you quit Visual Web Developer.

Visual Web Developer fully supports one and only one type of database: Microsoft SQL Server. If the prospect of using SQL Server seems daunting, consider these facts:

- Visual Web Developer has full built-in graphical support for creating, viewing, modifying, and deleting SQL Server databases, tables, and fields. As a result, you can perform these tasks without using external programs such as Microsoft SQL Enterprise Manager or Microsoft Access.
- You don't need to buy a copy of SQL Server for your own PC. SQL Server 2005 Express Edition is perfectly sufficient for developing your Web site, and it's a free download.

- Microsoft has made SQL Server databases as easy to upload as Access databases. The entire SQL Server database resides in one file (with a .dbf filename extension) that you can upload to your hosting provider. In many cases, simply browsing your Web site will then *attach* your database (that, is make it available) to the copy of SQL Server that services your site. Providers who don't support this feature can initially attach the database for you.

## Choosing a Provider for Your Public Web Site

Although Visual Web Developer includes its own Web server, and although SQL Server 2005 Express is perfectly adequate for development and testing, your production Web site will need full copies of:

- Microsoft Windows® 2000 Server or Microsoft Windows Server™ 2003.
- IIS.
- ASP.NET 2.0.
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000 or Microsoft SQL Server 2005.

If your current hosting provider can't supply all these capabilities, you'll probably need to find a new provider. One place to look for a new provider is the Hosters Providing ASP.NET page at:

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/asp.net/info/hosters/default.aspx>

The following sites may also be useful when searching for an ASP.NET 2.0 hosting provider:

- Locate a Web Presence Provider (Microsoft FrontPage®)  
<http://www.microsoft.com/office/frontpage/prodinfo/partner/wpp.asp>
- Windows Host List (Automation Tools, LLC)  
<http://www.windowshostlist.com/hostlist.aspx>
- Web Hosting Resource and Directory (Affinity Internet Inc.)  
<http://www.tophosts.com/>

### **What about ASP.NET Web Matrix?**

*ASP.NET Web Matrix is an unsupported tool that Microsoft released to help evaluators, hobbyists, and enthusiasts get started building ASP.NET 1.0 and 1.1 applications. It has no direct relationship to any Visual Studio product.*

*Visual Web Developer, by contrast, is a direct member of the Visual Studio 2005 family. As a result, much of the support, attention, and advice you find for Visual Studio will apply to Visual Web Developer as well.*

*During development, Microsoft integrated many of the lessons learned, feedback, and top features from ASP.NET Web Matrix into Visual Web Developer.*