

State Management

Introduction

- The HTTP protocol is stateless. We need to use complementary state management techniques.

The ASP.NET View State

- The ASP.NET runtime environment automatically embeds a hidden form field (named `__VIEWSTATE`) that flows between the web browser and the server.
- The `System.Web.UI.Page Init` event handler is responsible for reading the incoming values in the `__VIEWSTATE` field and populating the appropriate member variables on the server side. In addition, just before the reply is sent back to the client the `__VIEWSTATE` data is used to repopulate the form's widgets.

The ASP.NET View State

- The page directive includes the `EnableViewState` attribute. Its default value is `true`. If we assign it with `false` then the view state mechanism won't work.

```
<%@ Page Title="" EnableViewState="false" Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true"  
CodeBehind="WebForm1.aspx.cs" Inherits="WebApplication20.WebForm1" %>
```

The ASP.NET View State

- The `System.Web.UI.Control` base class includes the definition of `ViewState`, a protected property that enables us to access a `System.Web.UI.StateBag` object that represents the data contained within the `__VIEWSTATE`.

The ASP.NET View State

- The `System.Web.UI.Control` base class defines the `ViewState` property.
- When referring this property we shall get access to a `System.Web.UI.StateBag` object that represents the data contained within the `__VIEWSTATE` field.



The ASP.NET View State

```
<%@ Page Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true" CodeBehind="WebForm1.aspx.cs"
Inherits="WebApplication24.WebForm1" %>

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

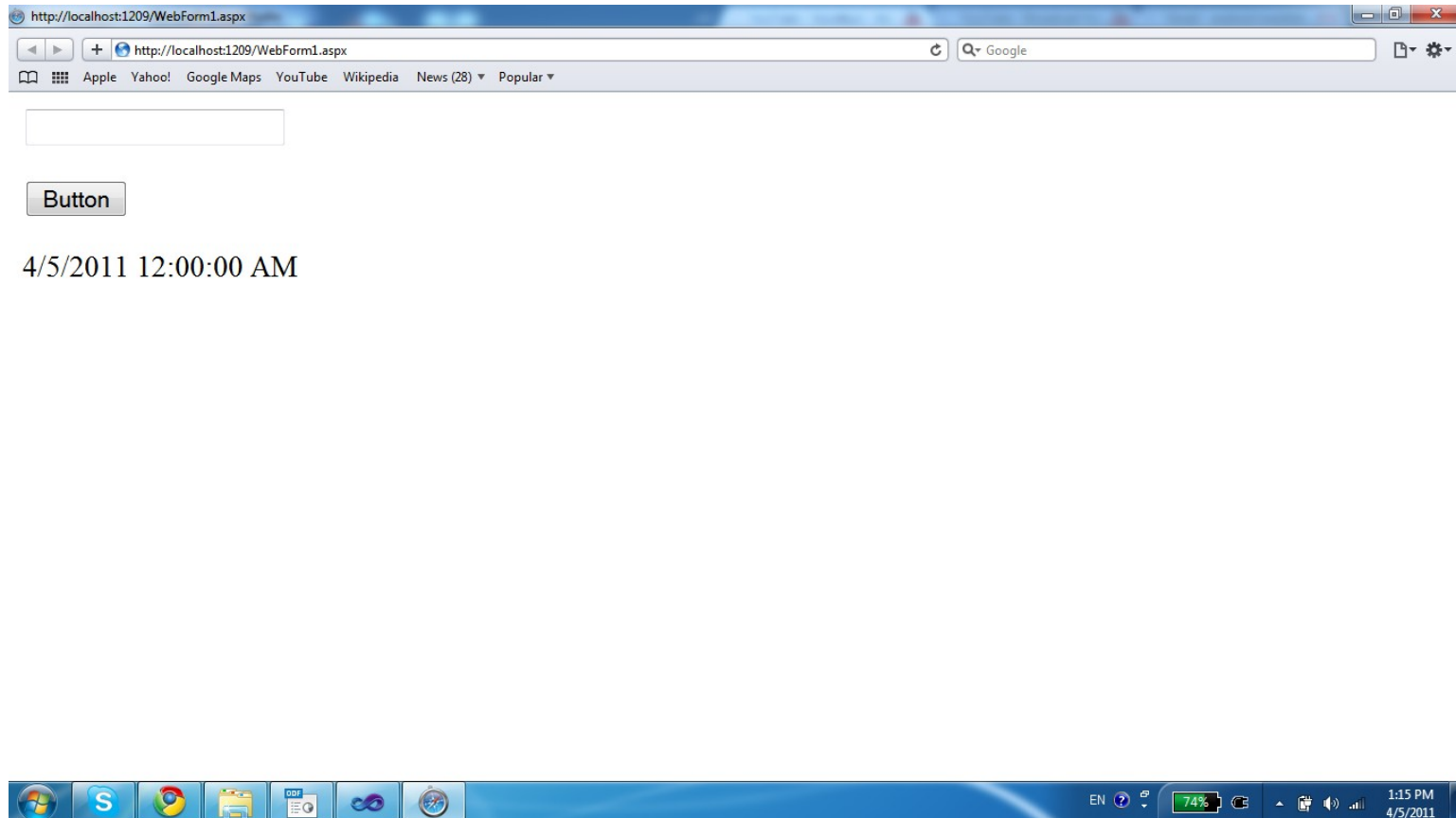
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head runat="server">
    <title></title>
</head>
    <body>
        <form id="form1" runat="server">
            <div>
                <asp:TextBox ID="TextBox1" runat="server"></asp:TextBox>
                <p />
                <asp:Button ID="Button1" runat="server" Text="Button" />
                <p />
                <asp:Label ID="Label1" runat="server" Text="Label"></asp:Label>
            </div>
        </form>
    </body>
</html>
```

The ASP.NET View State

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Web;
using System.Web.UI;
using System.Web.UI.WebControls;

namespace WebApplication24
{
    public partial class WebForm1 : System.Web.UI.Page
    {
        protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            if (ViewState["CreationTimeStamp"] == null)
            {
                ViewState["CreationTimeStamp"] = DateTime.Today.ToString();
            }
            Label1.Text = (string)ViewState["CreationTimeStamp"];
        }
    }
}
```


The ASP.NET View State



The Global.asax File

- We can easily add this file into our ASP.NET web application. The purpose of this file is to specify run-time behavior for our web application. Implementing our code within this file we will get event handlers that allow you to interact with the application and the session levels.
- The auto generated code includes the definition of the `Global` class, that extends `System.Web.HttpApplication`.

The Global.asax File

```
namespace WebApplication20
{
    public class Global : System.Web.HttpApplication
    {
        protected void Application_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
        }

        protected void Session_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
        }

        protected void Application_BeginRequest(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
        }

        protected void Application_AuthenticateRequest(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
        }
    }
}
```

The Global.asax File

```
protected void Application_Error(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}

protected void Session_End(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}

protected void Application_End(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}
}
```

Last Chance Exception Handler

- We can implement the `Application_Error()` function in order to set a last chance exception handler.
- This function will handle errors that weren't handled elsewhere. This function is the last place to handle an exception.
- We can get information about the exception that took place by accessing the `System.Exception` property.



Last Chance Exception Handler

```
<%@ Page Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true" CodeBehind="WebForm1.aspx.cs"
Inherits="WebApplication25.WebForm1" %>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
```

```
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
```

```
<head runat="server">
```

```
<title></title>
```

```
</head>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<form id="form1" runat="server">
```

```
<div>
```

```
<asp:TextBox ID="TextBox1" runat="server"></asp:TextBox>
```

```
<asp:Label ID="Label1" runat="server" Text="/"></asp:Label>
```

```
<asp:TextBox ID="TextBox2" runat="server"></asp:TextBox>
```

```
<asp:Label ID="Label2" runat="server" Text="="></asp:Label>
```

```
<asp:Label ID="Label3" runat="server" Text="..."></asp:Label>
```

```
<p />
```

```
<asp:Button ID="Calculate" runat="server" Text="Calculate"
onclick="Calculate_Click" />
```

```
</div>
```

```
</form>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

Last Chance Exception Handler

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Web;
using System.Web.UI;
using System.Web.UI.WebControls;

namespace WebApplication25
{
    public partial class WebForm1 : System.Web.UI.Page
    {
        protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            throw (new ArgumentNullException());
        }

        protected void Calculate_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            double result = double.Parse(TextBox1.Text) /
                double.Parse(TextBox2.Text);
            Label3.Text = result.ToString();
        }
    }
}
```

Last Chance Exception Handler

```
namespace WebApplication25
{
    public class Global : System.Web.HttpApplication
    {
        protected void Application_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
        }

        protected void Session_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
        }

        protected void Application_BeginRequest(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
        }

        protected void Application_AuthenticateRequest(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
        }
    }
}
```

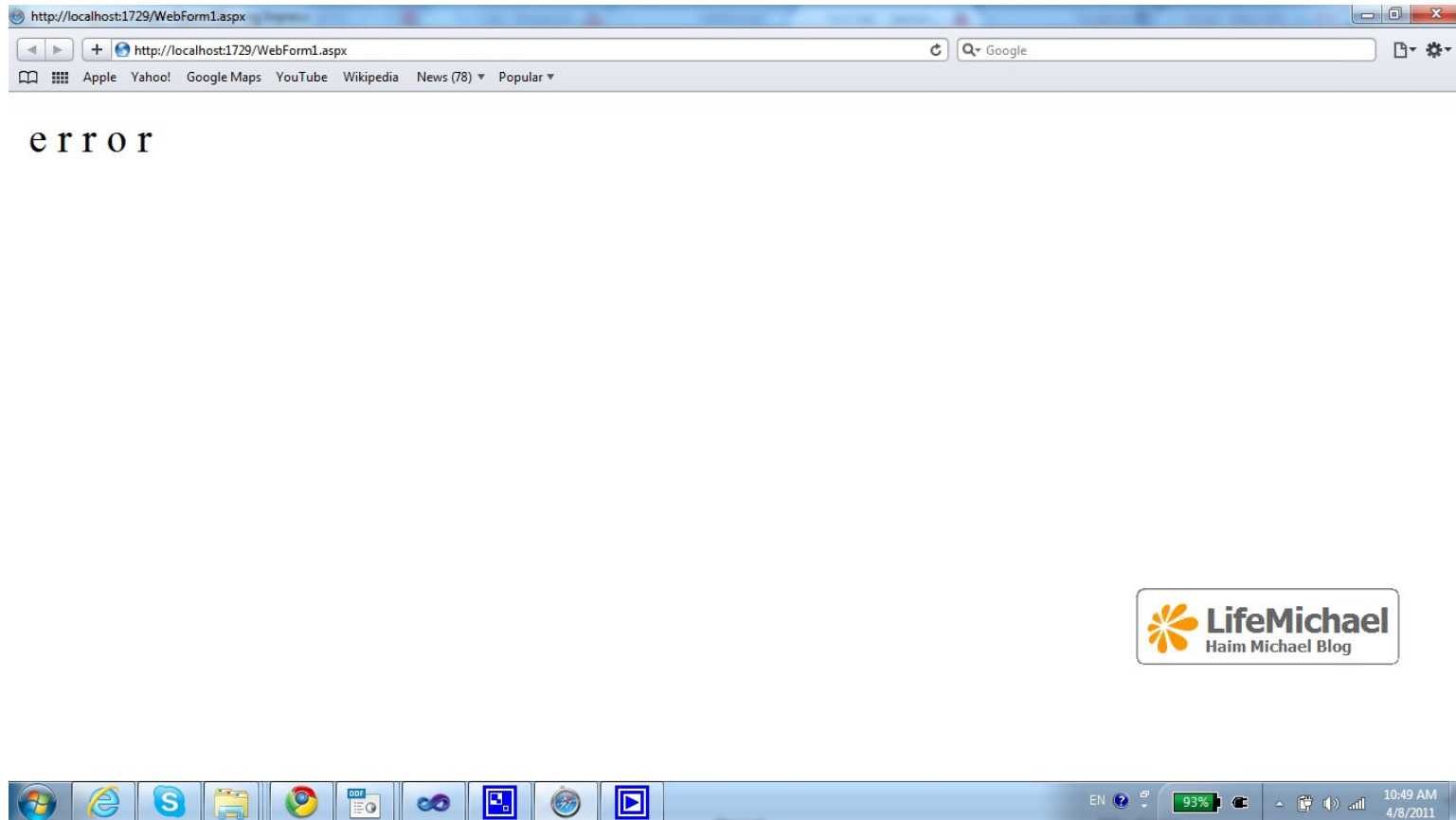

Last Chance Exception Handler

```
protected void Application_Error(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    System.Web.UI.Page page = System.Web.HttpContext.Current.Handler
        as System.Web.UI.Page;
    ((Label)page.FindControl("Label13")).Text =
        Server.GetLastError().ToString();
    Server.ClearError();
}

protected void Session_End(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}

protected void Application_End(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}
}
```

Last Chance Exception Handler



The `HttpApplication` Class

- This class includes the definition for important members worth knowing.
- The `Application` property returns a reference for an `HttpApplicationState` object, we can use for maintaining application level data.
- The `Request` property returns a reference for an `HttpRequest` object that represents the HTTP request.
- The `Response` property returns a reference for an `HttpResponse` object that represents the HTTP response.

The `HttpApplication` Class

- The `Server` property returns a reference for an `HttpServerUtility` object, we can use for maintaining server level data.
- The `Session` property returns a reference for an `HttpSessionState` object that represents the current session. We can use this object for maintaining session level data.

Maintaining Session Data

- Each one of the users has his own session data. Each user's session data represents the ongoing interaction with a web application.
- The `HttpSessionState` type allows us to maintain stateful data for a specific user. Each `HttpSessionState` object holds the session data of a specific user. The `HttpSessionState` includes the definition for a simple indexer we can use for setting and getting session data.

Maintaining Session Data

- The code we place within the `Global.asax` file allows us to intercept the beginning and the ending of every session by adding our code into the `Session_Start()` and the `Session_End()` events methods.
- We can modify the `Session_Start()` method in order to create per user data items.
- We can modify the `Session_End()` method in order to perform any work that needs to be done (e.g. freeing none managed resources) when the session ends.

Maintaining Session Data

- Similarly to application level data, when managing session level data we can hold any `System.Object` derived type.

```
public void Session_Start(Object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    Session["cart"] = new ShoppingCart();
}
```

```
public void Session_End(Object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    //saving shopping cart data to database
    Session.RemoveAll();
}
```

Maintaining Session Data

- The `Page.Session` property allows us to maintain session data in between each request the user send to the server.



Maintaining Session Data

```
<%@ Page Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true" CodeBehind="WebForm1.aspx.cs"
Inherits="WebApplication23.WebForm1" %>

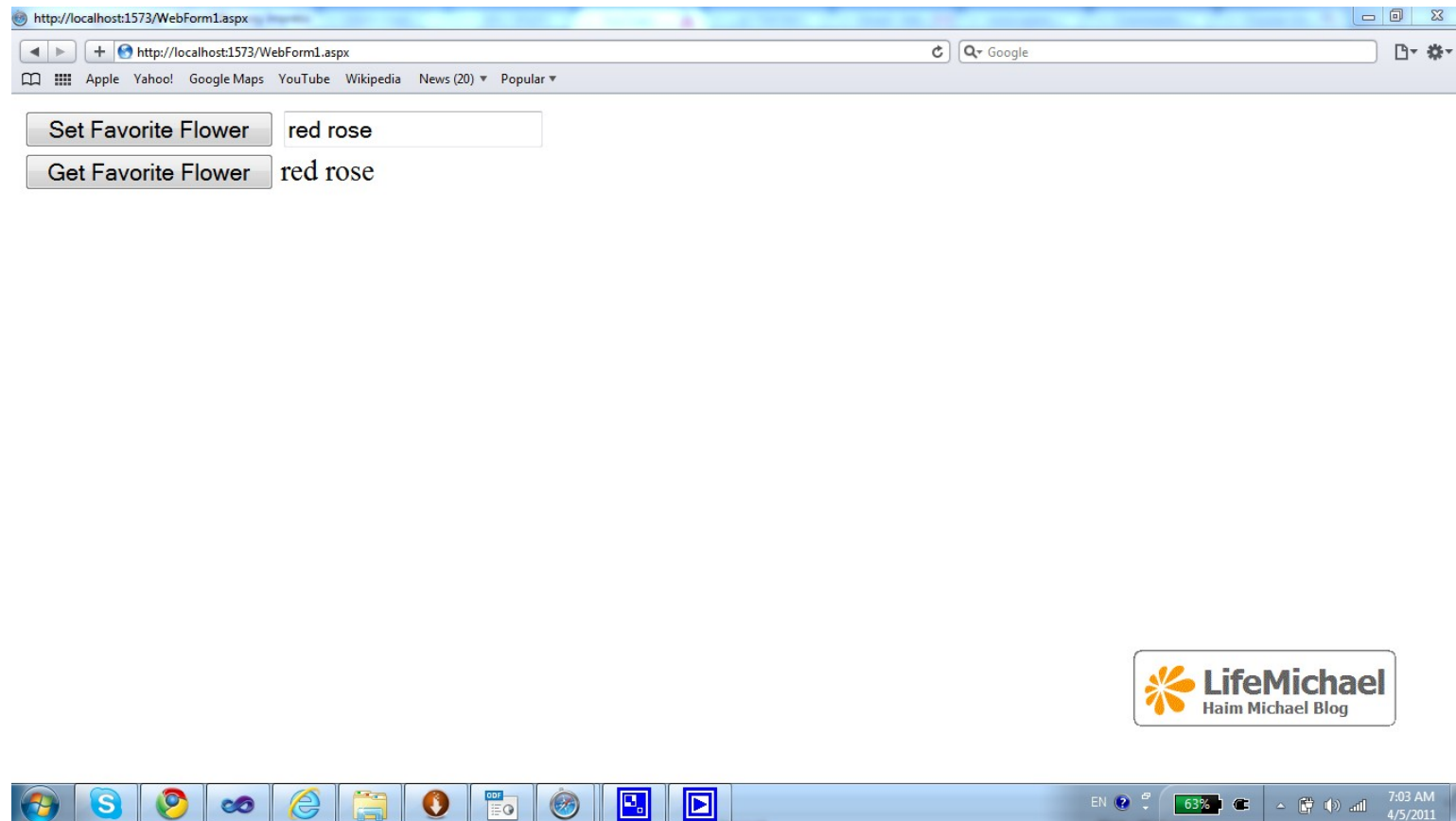
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head runat="server">
    <title></title>
</head>
<body>
    <form id="form1" runat="server">
        <div>
            <asp:Button ID="Button1" runat="server" Text="Set Favorite Flower"
                onclick="Button1_Click" Width="135px" />
            <asp:TextBox ID="TextBox1" runat="server" />
        </div>
        <div>
            <asp:Button ID="Button2" runat="server" Text="Get Favorite Flower"
                onclick="Button2_Click" Width="135px" />
            <asp:Label ID="Label1" runat="server" Text="Label"></asp:Label>
        </div>
    </form>
</body>
</html>
```

Maintaining Session Data

```
namespace WebApplication23
{
    public partial class WebForm1 : System.Web.UI.Page
    {
        //private string favorite = "rose";
        protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            //this.Label1.Text = favorite;
            this.Label1.Text = (String)Session["flower"];
        }
        protected void Button1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            //favorite = this.TextBox1.Text;
            Session["flower"] = this.TextBox1.Text;
        }
        protected void Button2_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            //Label1.Text = favorite;
            Label1.Text = (String)Session["flower"];
        }
    }
}
```

Maintaining Session Data



Maintaining Application Data

- We can access the `HttpApplicationState` object from within the scope of our page code behind. Referring the `Application` property returns a reference for the `HttpApplicationState` object that represents our web application.



Maintaining Application Data

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Web;
using System.Web.Security;
using System.Web.SessionState;

namespace WebApplication26
{
    public class CurrenciesData
    {
        public double Usd = 3.5;
        public double Euro = 4.9;
        public double Gbp = 5.9;
    }
    public class Global : System.Web.HttpApplication
    {

        protected void Application_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            Application["currencies"] = new CurrenciesData();
        }
    }
}
```

Maintaining Application Data

```
protected void Session_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}
```

```
protected void Application_BeginRequest(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}
```

```
protected void Application_AuthenticateRequest(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}
```

```
protected void Application_Error(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}
```

```
protected void Session_End(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}
```

```
protected void Application_End(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}
```

```
}
```

```
}
```

Maintaining Application Data

```
<%@ Page Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true" CodeBehind="WebForm1.aspx.cs"
Inherits="WebApplication26.WebForm1" %>

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head runat="server">
    <title></title>
</head>
<body>
    <form id="form1" runat="server">
        <div>
            USD exchange rate is <asp:Label ID="Label1"
                runat="server" Text="Label"></asp:Label>
        </div>
    </form>
</body>
</html>
```



Maintaining Application Data

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Web;
using System.Web.UI;
using System.Web.UI.WebControls;

namespace WebApplication26
{
    public partial class WebForm1 : System.Web.UI.Page
    {
        protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            this.Label1.Text =
                ((CurrenciesData)Application["currencies"]).Usd.ToString();
        }
    }
}
```


Maintaining Application Data

```
<%@ Page Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true" CodeBehind="WebForm2.aspx.cs"
Inherits="WebApplication26.WebForm2" %>

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

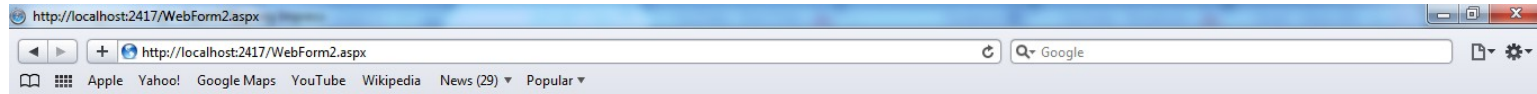
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head runat="server">
    <title></title>
</head>
<body>
    <form id="form1" runat="server">
        <div>
            EURO exchange rate is <asp:Label ID="Label1" runat="server"
                Text="Label"></asp:Label>
        </div>
    </form>
</body>
</html>
```

Maintaining Application Data

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Web;
using System.Web.UI;
using System.Web.UI.WebControls;

namespace WebApplication26
{
    public partial class WebForm2 : System.Web.UI.Page
    {
        protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            Label1.Text =
                ((CurrenciesData)Application["currencies"]).Euro.ToString();
        }
    }
}
```

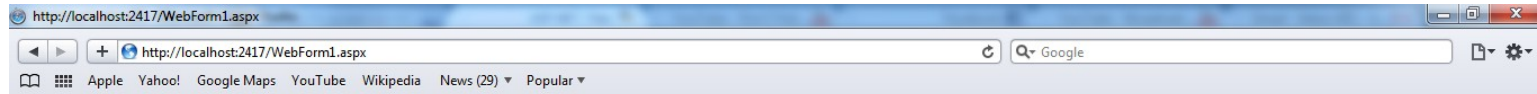
Maintaining Application Data



EURO exchange rate is 4.9



Maintaining Application Data



USD exchange rate is 3.5



Maintaining Application Data

- When setting more than one application variable at the same time we should consider to lock on the `Application` object in order to prevent data corruption.

```
//safely accessing application data
Application.Lock();
Application["inventory"] = new Inventory();
Applicaition["tariff"] = new Tariff();
...
Application.Unlock();
```

Application Cache

- When we need to keep application data for no longer than a limited period of time we can avoid the usage of the `HttpApplicationState` object. We can use the `System.Web.Caching.Cache` object instead.
- Interacting with the `Cache` object is similar to the way we interact with the `HttpApplicationState` object.
- We can access the `Cache` object using the `HttpContext.Cache` property.

Application Cache

- The auto generated `Global` class extends the `System.Web.HttpApplication` class. The later extends `HttpContext`. Therefore, within the scope of `Global.asax` we can access the cache using the `Context` property.
- Within the scope of a page we can access the cache using the `Cache` property.

...

```
System.Web.Caching.Cache cache = Context.Cache;  
cache["backgroundmusic"] = "airsupply";
```

...

Application Cache

- When calling the Add function on our cach object we can easily specify its expiration.

```
public Object Add(  
    string key,  
    Object value,  
    CacheDependency dependencies,  
    DateTime absoluteExpiration,  
    TimeSpan slidingExpiration,  
    CacheItemPriority priority,  
    CacheItemRemovedCallback onRemoveCallback  
)
```


Cookies

- The `System.Web.HttpCookie` class on the server side represents the cookie that is eventually created in the client web browser.
- In order to create a new cookie on the client end we should instantiate `System.Web.HttpCookie` and add the new created object to the collection accessed through the `Response.Cookies` property.

Cookies

- In order to persist the cookie data back to the client hard drive make sure to explicitly set an expiration date using the `HttpCookies.Expires` property. Unless we explicitly set an expiration date the cookie will be deleted when the user shut down the browser.
- We can access all cookies that came along together with the request by referring the `Request.Cookies` collection.

The Session State Server

- We can instruct the ASP.NET runtime environment to host the session state *.dll in a separated process known as the ASP.NET session state server (aspnet_state.exe).
- This separated process can be executed on a separated server. When executing it on a separated server we should update the Web.Config configuration file.
- We can configure this server to keep all session data saved in a database.

Sample

- The following sample presents a simple possible code you can use for getting some inspiration when developing a web store. It is a proof of concept sample only. There are many parts we can improve. For the sake of simplicity and for the sake of keeping this sample as short as possible I chose to code the simplest sample I had in mind.



Sample

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Web;
using System.Web.Security;
using System.Web.SessionState;
```

The Global Class

```
namespace SimpleWebStore
{
    public class Global : System.Web.HttpApplication
    {
        protected void Application_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            Application["tariff"] = new Tariff();
        }

        protected void Session_Start(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            Session["cart"] = new ShoppingCart();
        }
    }
}
```

Sample

```
protected void Application_BeginRequest(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}

protected void Application_AuthenticateRequest(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}

protected void Application_Error(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}

protected void Session_End(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    //saving shopping cart data to the database
}

protected void Application_End(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
}
}
```

Sample

```
using System;  
using System.Linq;  
using System.Web;  
using System.Collections.Generic;
```

The Tariff, ShoppingCart, ShoppingCartLine and Product Classes

```
namespace SimpleWebStore  
{  
    public class Tariff  
    {  
        private IDictionary<int, double> prices =  
            new Dictionary<int, double>();  
        public double this[int id]  
        {  
            get  
            {  
                return prices[id];  
            }  
            set  
            {  
                prices[id] = value;  
            }  
        }  
    }  
}
```

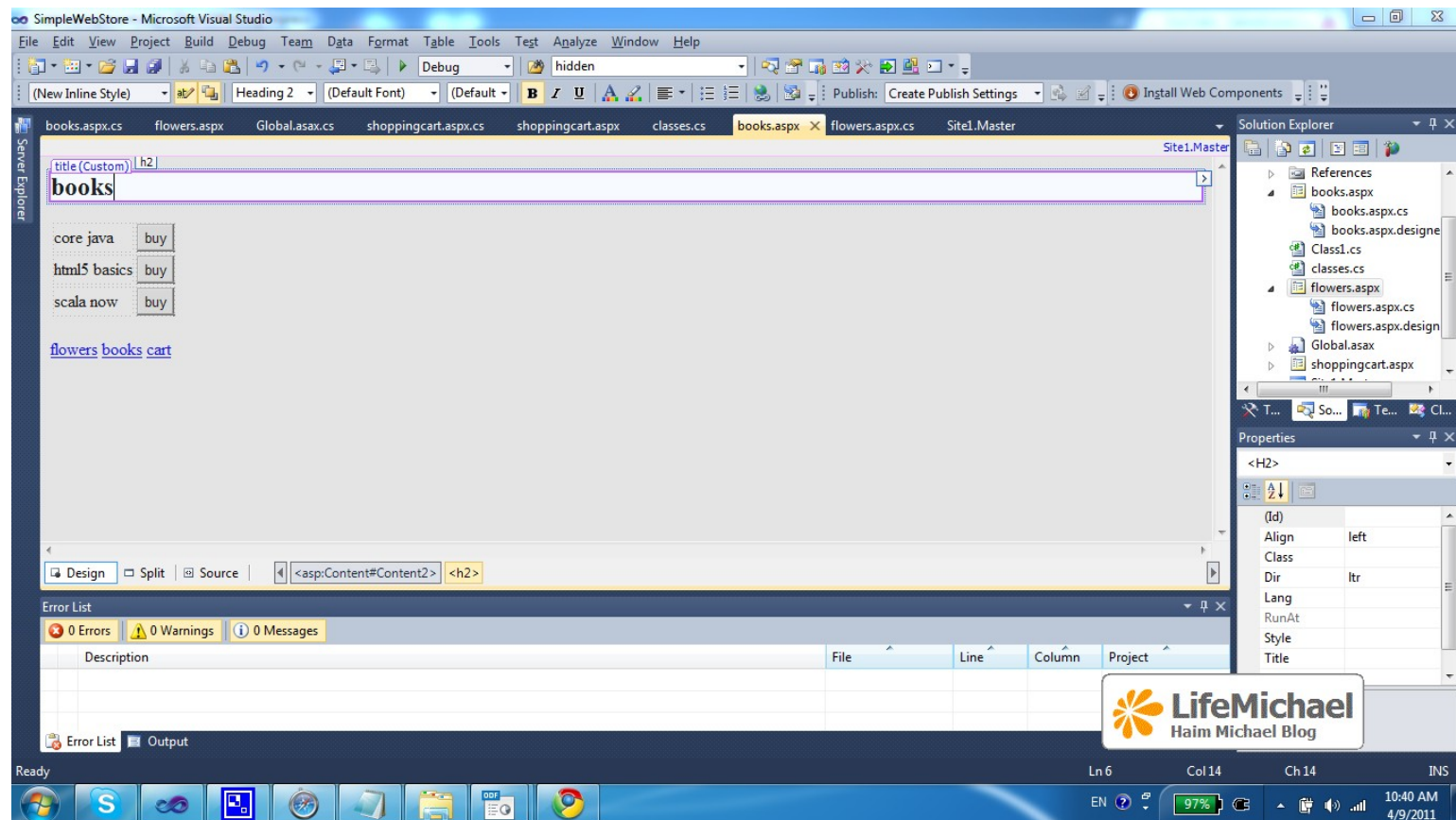
Sample

```
public class ShoppingCart
{
    public IDictionary<int, ShoppingCartLine> Lines =
        new Dictionary<int, ShoppingCartLine>();
    public void Add(Product product)
    {
        if (!Lines.Keys.Contains(product.Id))
        {
            Lines.Add(product.Id, new ShoppingCartLine(product, 1));
        }
        else
        {
            ShoppingCartLine line = Lines[product.Id];
            line.Quantity += 1;
        }
    }
}
```


Sample

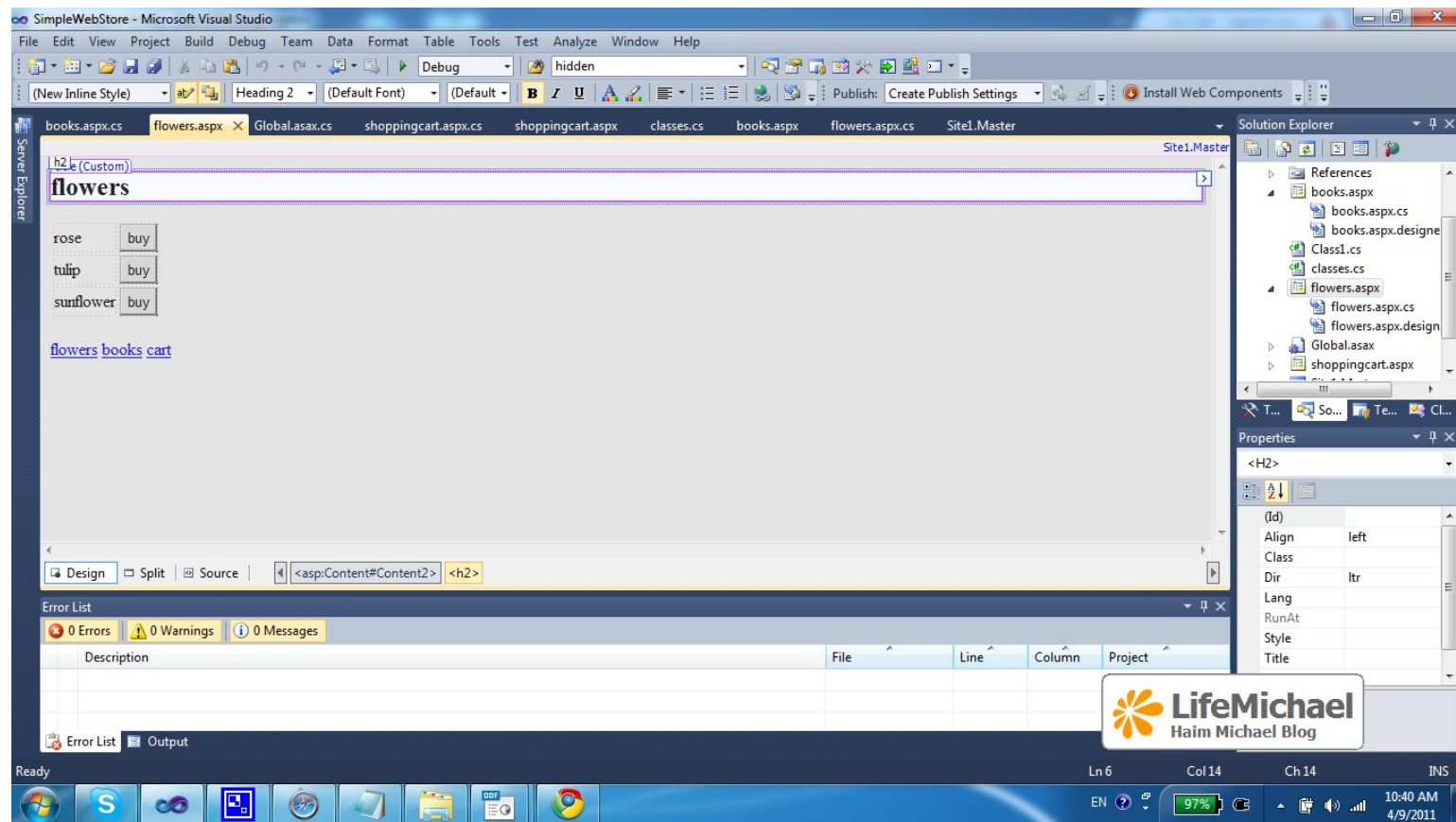
```
public class ShoppingCartLine
{
    public Product Product { get; set; }
    public int Quantity { get; set; }
    public ShoppingCartLine(Product prod, int quant)
    {
        Product = prod;
        Quantity = quant;
    }
}
public class Product
{
    public string Name { get; set; }
    public double Price { get; set; }
    public int Id { get; set; }
    public Product(string nameVal, double priceVal, int idVal)
    {
        Name = nameVal;
        Price = priceVal;
        Id = idVal;
    }
}
}
```

Sample



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Sample



Sample

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Web;
using System.Web.UI;
using System.Web.UI.WebControls;
```

The flowers.aspx and books.aspx Code Behind

```
namespace SimpleWebStore
{
    public partial class flowers : System.Web.UI.Page
    {
        protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
        }
        protected void Button1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            ((ShoppingCart)Session["cart"]).Add(new Product("rose", 2.45, 1));
        }
        protected void Button2_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
        {
            ((ShoppingCart)Session["cart"]).Add(new Product("tulip", 1.85, 2));
        }
    }
}
```

Sample

```
protected void Button3_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    ((ShoppingCart)Session["cart"]).Add(new Product("sunflower", 4.45, 3));
}

protected void Button1_Click1(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    ((ShoppingCart)Session["cart"]).Add(new Product("core java", 42.45, 4));
}

protected void Button2_Click1(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    ((ShoppingCart)Session["cart"]).Add(new Product("html5 basics", 32.45, 5));
}

protected void Button3_Click1(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    ((ShoppingCart)Session["cart"]).Add(new Product("scala now", 72.25, 6));
}
}
```

Sample

The flowers.aspx Code

```
<%@ Page Title="" Language="C#"
MasterPageFile="~/Site1.Master"
AutoEventWireup="true" CodeBehind="flowers.aspx.cs"
Inherits="SimpleWebStore.flowers" %>

<asp:Content ID="Content1" ContentPlaceHolderID="head" runat="server">
    flowers for sale
</asp:Content>

<asp:Content ID="Content2" ContentPlaceHolderID="title" runat="server">
    <h2>flowers</h2>
</asp:Content>

<asp:Content ID="Content3" ContentPlaceHolderID="product1" runat="server">
    <tr><td><asp:Label ID="Label1" runat="server" Text="rose" /></td>
    <td><asp:Button ID="Button1" runat="server" Text="buy"
        onclick="Button1_Click" /></td></tr>
</asp:Content>
```

Sample

```
<asp:Content ID="Content4" ContentPlaceHolderID="product2" runat="server">
  <tr><td><asp:Label ID="Label2" runat="server" Text="tulip" /></td>
  <td><asp:Button ID="Button2" runat="server" Text="buy"
    onclick="Button2_Click" /></td></tr>
</asp:Content>
```

```
<asp:Content ID="Content5" ContentPlaceHolderID="product3" runat="server">
  <tr><td><asp:Label ID="Label3" runat="server" Text="sunflower" /></td>
  <td><asp:Button ID="Button3" runat="server" Text="buy"
    onclick="Button3_Click" /></td></tr>
</asp:Content>
```

Sample

The books.aspx Code

```
<%@ Page Title="" Language="C#" MasterPageFile="~/Site1.Master"
AutoEventWireup="true" CodeBehind="flowers.aspx.cs"
Inherits="SimpleWebStore.flowers" %>

<asp:Content ID="Content1" ContentPlaceHolderID="head" runat="server">
    flowers for sale
</asp:Content>

<asp:Content ID="Content2" ContentPlaceHolderID="title" runat="server">
    <h2>books</h2>
</asp:Content>
```


Sample

```
<asp:Content ID="Content3" ContentPlaceHolderID="product1" runat="server">
    <tr><td><asp:Label ID="Label1" runat="server" Text="core java" /></td>
    <td><asp:Button ID="Button1" runat="server" Text="buy"
        onclick="Button1_Click1" /></td></tr>
</asp:Content>

<asp:Content ID="Content4" ContentPlaceHolderID="product2" runat="server">
    <tr><td><asp:Label ID="Label2" runat="server" Text="html5 basics" /></td>
    <td><asp:Button ID="Button2" runat="server" Text="buy"
        onclick="Button2_Click1" /></td></tr>
</asp:Content>

<asp:Content ID="Content5" ContentPlaceHolderID="product3" runat="server">
    <tr><td><asp:Label ID="Label3" runat="server" Text="scala now" /></td>
    <td><asp:Button ID="Button3" runat="server" Text="buy"
        onclick="Button3_Click1" /></td></tr>
</asp:Content>
```

Sample

The Site1.Master Code

```
<%@ Master Language="C#" AutoEventWireup="true" CodeBehind="Site1.master.cs"
Inherits="SimpleWebStore.Site1" %>

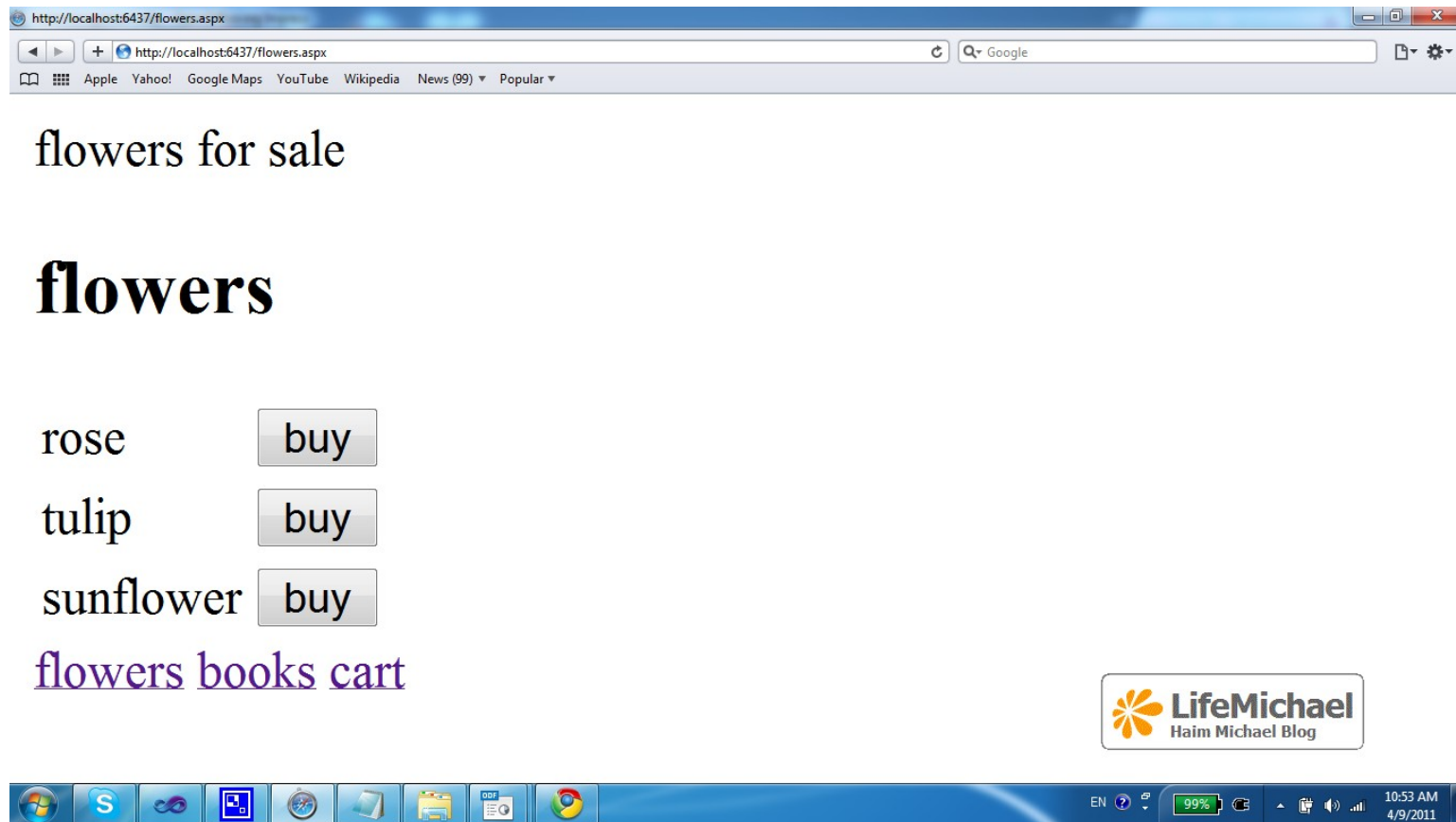
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head runat="server">
    <title></title>
    <asp:ContentPlaceHolder ID="head" runat="server">
    </asp:ContentPlaceHolder>
</head>
```

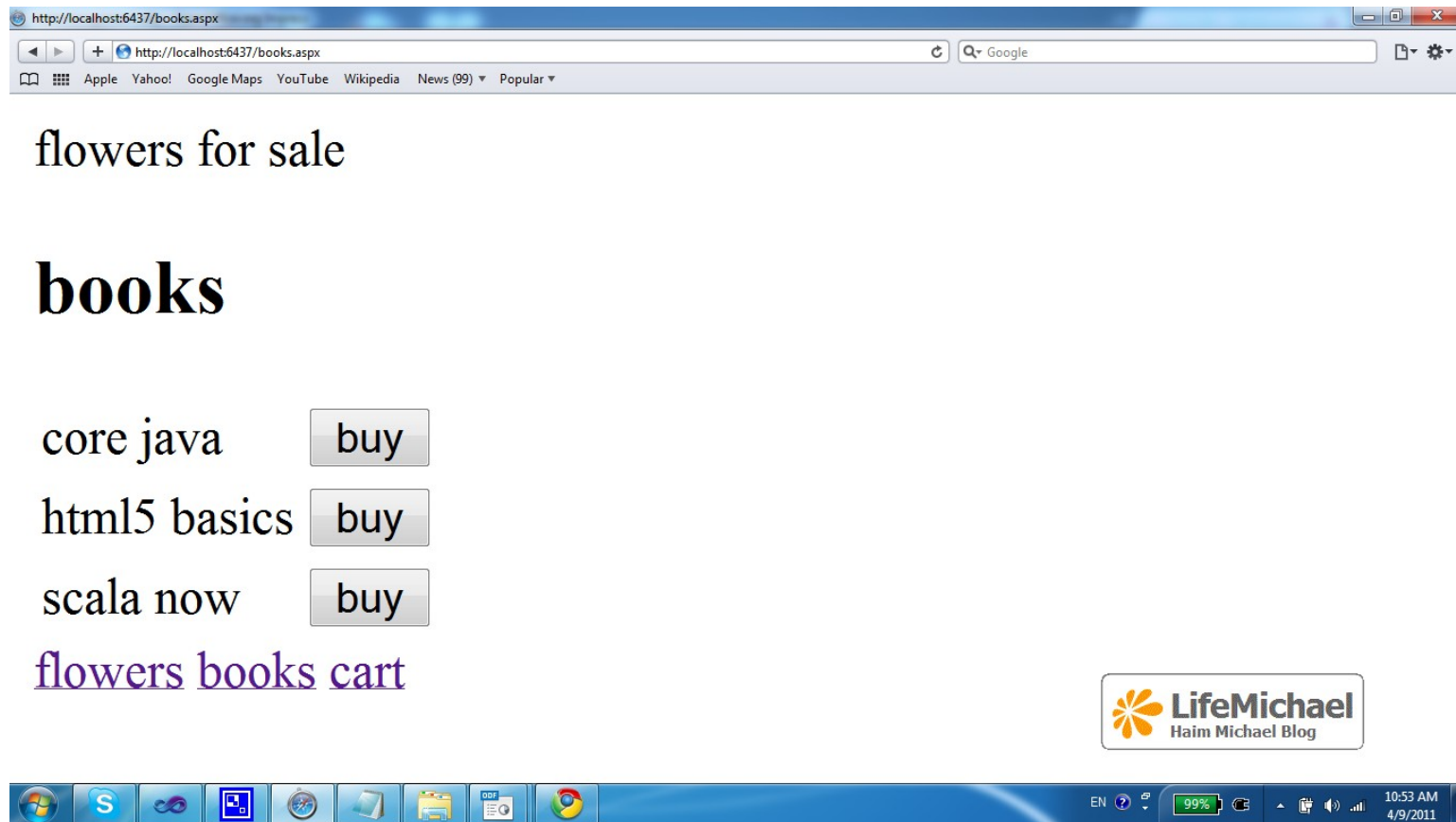
Sample

```
<body>
  <form id="form1" runat="server">
    <div>
      <asp:ContentPlaceholder ID="title" runat="server">
      </asp:ContentPlaceholder>
      <table>
        <asp:ContentPlaceholder ID="product1" runat="server">
        </asp:ContentPlaceholder>
        <asp:ContentPlaceholder ID="product2" runat="server">
        </asp:ContentPlaceholder>
        <asp:ContentPlaceholder ID="product3" runat="server">
        </asp:ContentPlaceholder>
      </table>
    </div>
  </form>
  <a href="flowers.aspx">flowers</a>
  <a href="books.aspx">books</a>
  <a href="shoppingcart.aspx">cart</a>
</body>
</html>
```

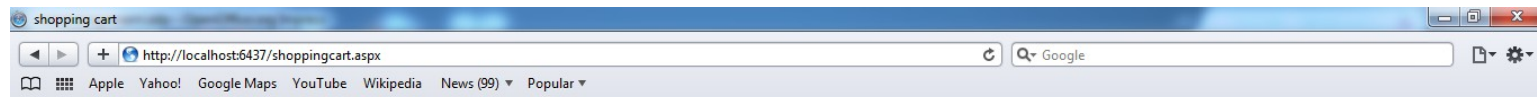
Sample



Sample



Sample



name	price	quantity	total
core java	42.45	1	42.45
html5 basics	32.45	1	32.45
tulip	1.85	2	3.7

Total is 78.6

[flowers](#) [books](#) [cart](#)

