CHAPTER 1

XAML For Windows 8: Read Me First

Writing Programs With XAML

It is the intention of this book to get to the heart of the matter—and not waste your time—so I will not review the history of XAML (pronounced “zamel,” It rhymes with “camel”), nor the theory of XAML, nor will I tell you why XAML is a great markup language. Instead I will turn immediately to writing programs for Windows 8 using XAML. While XAML is also the markup language for WPF, Silverlight, Windows Phone, and other technologies, this book focuses on XAML for Windows 8 and assumes that you have already installed Windows 8 and Visual C#. Note that it does not matter which version of Visual Studio/Visual C# you are using.

Note Even if you have not programmed in C# before, you should be able to follow all of the examples in this book, though this is not a primer on C#. If you prefer, you may want to keep a C# primer on your desk for easy reference. I recommend Introducing C# by Adam Freeman (Apress) or Learning C# 3.0 by Jesse Liberty and Brian MacDonald (O’Reilly).

Creating Your First XAML Application

Open Visual Studio and select New Project. In the New Project dialog, look in the left pane and expand Templates ➤ Visual C# ➤ Windows Store. This is how you will create every program in this book. In the right hand pane, select Blank App (XAML). Give the application a name and click OK, as shown in Figure 1-1.
When your application opens, double-click MainPage.xaml in the Solution Explorer (which will appear as a pane on the right side of your workspace). MainPage.xaml is where you'll work for most of this book. What you are looking at is XAML, the default XAML that Visual Studio puts into the MainPage of your application.

```xml
<Page
    x:Class="YourFirstXAMLApplication.MainPage"
    IsTabStop="false"
    xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
    xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml"
    xmlns:local="using:YourFirstXAMLApplication"
    xmlns:d="http://schemas.microsoft.com/expression/blend/2008"
    mc:Ignorable="d">
    <Grid Background="{StaticResource ApplicationPageBackgroundThemeBrush}"></Grid>
</Page>
```

The first element is of type Page and it represents the page itself. On line 2, the class for this page (MainPage) is identified, complete with its full namespace (see the “XML Namespaces” sidebar). Because

---

**Figure 1-1. Visual Studio’s New Project dialog**

When your application opens, double-click MainPage.xaml in the Solution Explorer (which will appear as a pane on the right side of your workspace). MainPage.xaml is where you'll work for most of this book. What you are looking at is XAML, the default XAML that Visual Studio puts into the MainPage of your application.

```xml
<Page
    x:Class="YourFirstXAMLApplication.MainPage"
    IsTabStop="false"
    xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml/presentation"
    xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml"
    xmlns:local="using:YourFirstXAMLApplication"
    xmlns:d="http://schemas.microsoft.com/expression/blend/2008"
    mc:Ignorable="d">
    <Grid Background="{StaticResource ApplicationPageBackgroundThemeBrush}">
    </Grid>
</Page>
```

The first element is of type Page and it represents the page itself. On line 2, the class for this page (MainPage) is identified, complete with its full namespace (see the “XML Namespaces” sidebar). Because