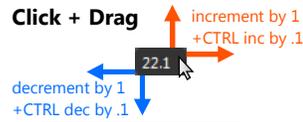


# Developer's Guide to Expression Blend

**Ctrl** THESE ARE THE KEYS TO USING BLEND SUCCESSFULLY  
**Alt** IF YOU DON'T USE THEM,  
**Shift** TOMMY WILL HIT YOU OVER THE HEAD WITH A TACK HAMMER



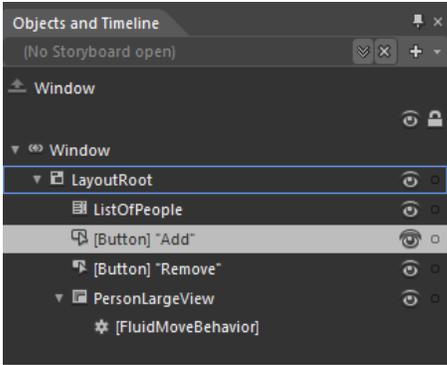
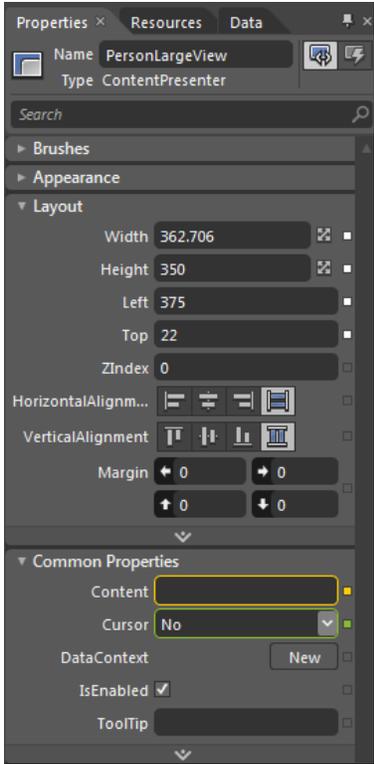
	<b>Selection</b>	<b>V</b> Selects a control on the Artboard and allows you to move its location, also shows adorners for resizing the control
	<b>Direct Selection</b>	<b>A</b> You should be hitting this a lot, it lets you select a control on the designer by clicking on it
	<b>Pan</b>	<b>H</b> Pans the artboard, double click to center currently selected control
	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>Z</b> Hold CTRL to select control (temporarily acts like selection tool) Drag to highlight a specific area of the screen, double click to zoom to actual size (use mouse wheel + control instead)
	<b>Camera Orbit</b>	<b>O</b> Dumb 3D Stuff
	<b>Eye Dropper</b>	<b>I</b> Clicking on a control with the eyedropper enabled will copy most of the properties to the currently selected control
	<b>Paint Bucket</b>	<b>F</b> Shouldn't really need this
	<b>Gradient</b>	<b>G</b> You are a developer, right? Do my eyesight a favor and don't play with gradients
	<b>Pen</b>	See the gradient tool
	<b>Rectangle</b>	Double click to insert a rectangle into currently selected control. Hold click or right click to change to Ellipse or Line
	<b>Layout Panels</b>	Double click to insert a panel into currently selected control. Hold click or right click to change panel type
	<b>Text</b>	Double click to insert a text control into currently selected control. Hold click or right click to change text control type
	<b>Controls</b>	Double click to insert a control into currently selected control. Hold click or right click to change control type
	<b>Assets</b>	Need a special control that isn't above? Click me!



- Search will filter visible properties
- - click for advanced options - lets you reset value, pick bindings, create resources, etc
- is set to a binding
- is set to resource



So I had some whitespace, why not fill it with something funny?



- **Shift + Click** = select all controls between current selection and control you clicked on
- **Control + Click** = add control to selection
- **Control + Drag Control** = duplicate control and place inside the container it is dropped on
- **Blue outline** is the active container - double clicking on a control in the tools panel will add that control to the active container
- **Gray highlight** is active control
- **Toggling Eye Icon** hides the element in blend only
- **Toggling Lock Icon** prevents you from making any changes to the control's properties
- **Name your elements!**

## Additional Resources

- **Ben Fry's PhD Dissertation** - <http://benfry.com/phd/>  
Really easy to read (unlike Tufte)
- **Adobe's Color Scheme Picker** - <http://kuler.adobe.com>  
Go to "Create"
- **Reasonably Priced WPF Themes** - <http://wpfreakystyley.com>
- **Blend Help** - unlike most help applications, blend has awesome docs  
Hit "F1" to view Blend's Help
- **Video Tutorials** - Blend is big + complicated, watch lots of videos!  
<http://windowspresentationfoundation.com/Tutorials/BlendIDE/>  
 General IDE walkthrough  
<http://live.visitmix.com/MIX10/Sessions/CL55>  
 Talks about behaviors  
<http://expression.microsoft.com/en-us/cc188684.aspx>  
 Lots of different videos

## Random Pointers

- **In order to get Blend to act like every other graphic editor (Photoshop, Paint.Net, etc):**  
 Go to Tools > Options > Artboard > Zoom by using = Ctrl + Mouse Wheel
- **Buy a Widescreen Monitor** - you need the extra width for the artboard!!!
- **When resizing a control, hold CTRL to keep the same aspect ratio**
- **When resizing a path, hold SHIFT to keep the same aspect ratio**
- **When drawing a line, or moving a line segment, hold shift to keep angle at 15 degree increments**
- **You can save the arrangement of your tabs by going to:**  
 Window > Save as New Workspace
- **You can switch workspaces by going to**  
 Window > Workspaces > (pick a named workspace)
- **You can hide all tabs to maximize Artboard by hitting TAB**  
 Will not work if the cursor is currently editing text
- **Learn about the visual state manager and about behaviors!**

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