

# **ColorPicker – An ASP.NET 2.0 Custom Web Server Control**

## **By William Severance, WESNet Designs**

### **Introduction**

ColorPicker was designed for use in ASP.NET 2.0 applications whenever a means of selecting a color from a web safe palette of colors was necessary. ColorPicker makes use of the excellent Javascript library code written by Matt Kruse and available for free use from his website Matt Kruse's Javascript Toolbox found at <http://www.javascripttoolbox.com> or at <http://www.mattkruse.com>. Because the control makes use of several of the new methods of the ClientScript manager including the embedding of the external Javascript code file in the compiled assembly, ColorPicker requires ASP.NET 2.0.

### **Installation**

To install and use ColorPicker in applications developed in Visual Studio 2005, simply unzip the distribution file ColorPicker.zip into the folder where you normally keep custom web server controls then with the Toolbox window displayed, right click over the desired Toolbox tab, select Choose Items from the pop-up context menu, click the Browse button, then navigate to the folder into which you unzipped the ColorPicker files. Select the assembly ColorPicker.dll in the \bin\Release folder and click OK. ColorPicker will then be added to your VS 2005 toolbox so that it may simply be dragged onto the web form being designed. Only the ColorPicker.dll assembly needs to be included in your web application project or website project's \bin folder. Because the external ColorPicker2.js Javascript file has been embedded in the compiled assembly, it does not have to be included with your application project.

### **Features**

The following are a few of the features included in ColorPicker:

- The control's textbox and color sample cell can be rendered either in Flow or Table LayoutMode. Flow mode which renders as a DIV containing three SPANs is recommended for most applications but is less styleable while Table mode allows a richer display including background color, an outer border, and various options for the color sample cell's edge properties.
- Color values may be typed into the color value textbox using either hex representation (#FF0033) or a known color name. The color sample cell will display the newly entered color as soon as the user tabs out of the color value textbox. The entered color value is validated client-side. Entry of an unknown color name will cause a pop-up error box to be displayed.
- Color values may also be selected by clicking on the color sample. This will pop-up a table of web safe colors. As the mouse pointer is dragged across the table's cells, a color sample cell in the lower left of the color table will display the cell's color while a color value cell in the lower right of the color table will display the hex color value. Clicking on the desired

color cell will close the table and update both the color value textbox and the color sample cell.

- The AutoPostBack property of the control may be set to True to cause a postback to occur whenever the color is changed either by entry of a new color value in the textbox or by clicking on a new color in the pop-up color table. A ColorChanged event will be raised by the control on postback if the color value has changed.
- Your ASP.NET application may set and get the control's color value (a known color name or hex color value) by using the Value property.
- Multiple instances of the ColorPicker on a web page are permissible and retain their color selection (including the sample color and value in the pop-up color table) across postbacks.

## **Properties**

The following public properties are implemented (in addition to those inherited by all WebControls):

AutoPostBack	Set to True to force the control to postback following a change of color value either by way of the color value textbox or selection of a cell in the pop-up color table. Default = False.
ColorCellBorderColor	Sets or Gets the color (System.Drawing.Color) of the border around the clickable color sample cell. Default = Color.Black.
ColorCellBorderWidth	Sets or Gets the width (System.Web.UI.WebControls.Unit) of the border around the clickable color sample cell. Default = 1px.
ColorCellBorderStyle	Sets or Gets the style (System.Web.UI.WebControls.BorderStyle) of the border around the clickable color sample cell. BorderStyles such as Ridge, Outset, Inset will be displayed only in Table LayoutMode and only in certain browsers. Default = Solid.
ColorCellCssClass	Sets or Gets the CssClass (String) associated with the clickable color sample cell.
ColorCellHeight	Sets or Gets the height (System.Web.UI.WebControls.Unit) of the clickable color sample cell. Default = 20px.
ColorCellWidth	Sets or Gets the width (System.Web.UI.WebControls.Unit) of the clickable color sample cell. Default = 20px.
CellPadding	Sets or Gets the CellPadding (Integer). Although this will have some effect in Flow LayoutMode, it is primarily included for use in Table LayoutMode. Default = 2.

CellSpacing	Sets or Gets the CellSpacing (Integer). Although this will affect the spacing between the color value textbox and the color sample cell in Flow LayoutMode, it is primarily included for use in Table LayoutMode. Default = 3.
LayoutMode	Selects either Flow (a DIV with three SPAN's) or Table rendering. Use Flow mode for most applications as it will allow the control to be placed in-line. Use Table for more styling options including background and outside borders. Default = Flow.
Value	Sets or Gets the color value (String). Either a known color name (i.e. 'red') or hex value (#FF0000) may be used. Setting the Value in code will cause the color sample cell to be updated. An empty string or the color name 'transparent' represents the color value Color.Transparent.
ValueBoxCssClass	Sets or Gets the CssClass (String) associated with the color value textbox. Default = ""
ValueBoxWidth	Sets or Gets the width (System.Web.UI.WebControls.Unit) of the color value textbox. Default = 60px.
ValueBoxMaxLength	Sets or Gets the number of characters (Integer) that the color value textbox will accept. Default = 20.

## **Events**

ColorPicker defines only one public event:

Public Event ColorChanged (ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As System.EventArgs)

The ColorChanged event is raised on postback whenever the selected color value has been changed either by way of the color value textbox or by clicking on a cell in the color table.

## **Disclaimer**

Because this custom control was developed primarily for my own use and is being distributed as a free web control, it is provided "AS IS" with no warranties of any kind or support. The entire risk arising out of the use or performance of the software is your own.

## **Contact Information**

Comments, suggestions, and bug reports may be directed to [imagemaker@wesnetdesigns.com](mailto:imagemaker@wesnetdesigns.com) or as posts in the WESNet WebControls Forum at <http://www.wesnetdesigns.com>.