

1  **MASTER PAGES**  
CST272—ASP.NET

2  **Master Pages (Page 1)**

- Master Page—a site-wide template
  - The developer can create a consistent layout throughout an entire website
  - Somewhat similar to a called function (procedure)
  - Anytime the master page file is updated, all content pages that “inherit” from it reflect the change
- Content Page—the Web form (.aspx) document that implements the master page
  - When users request the content pages, they merge with the master page to produce output that combines the layout of the master page and the content page

3  **Master Pages (Page 2)**

- The master page contains:
  - Basic HTML organizational markup tags (<html>, <head>, and <body>)
    - These tags are removed from within the Web forms that implement the master page
  - Content elements that are common to all pages
    - Company name/logo, navigation panes, copyright/privacy, etc. information, ...
  - Two (or more) ContentPlaceHolder Web controls, one in <head> section, and one or more in <body>
    - Holds the place in master page template for customized content entered into the individual web pages

4  **Creating Master Pages (Page 1)**

- To create a new master page:
  - From the menu bar select Add New Item→Master Page (creates a file with extension “.master”)
  - Note the two default asp:ContentPlaceHolder controls, one in the <head> section and one in the <body>
  - Insert additional ContentPlaceHolders from the “Standard” group in Toolbox if needed
  - The master page starts with a <%@ Master %> directive line
- Design sitewide template around ContentPlaceHolders using a mix of HTML and ASP.NET Web controls

5  **Creating Master Pages (Page 2)**




- Master pages may include ASP.NET Web controls
- These controls and their events are recognized and can be manipulated in the source code portion of the master page
- Additionally VB code can be included “behind” the master page, so that it executes for all content pages that inherit the master page

13  **Creating the Content Page (Page 1)**

- To create content page to inherit from a Master Page:
  - Add New Item→Web Form and check “on” (✓) “Select Master Page”
  - Click <Add> button which displays the “Select a Master Page” dialog window

14  **Creating the Content Page (Page 2)**

- The initial elements in the page are:
  - A Title attribute in the <%@ Page %> directive (value assigned is implemented as the HTML <title> tag)
  - A MasterPageFile attribute also in the <%@ Page %> directive (names the master page from which this content page inherits its template elements)
  - Two asp:Content controls (the ContentPlaceHolderID attribute names the ContentPlaceHolder in the master page to which the Content control links)

- The master page's template (sitewide) content is grayed out/uneditable
- 15  **Creating the Content Page (Page 3)**
  - The Web form's content which includes a mix of HTML and ASP.NET Web controls is inserted into the Content placeholders
  - When displayed the URL of the page is that of the content page (not the master page)
- 21  **Converting an Existing Web Form to Inherit from a Master Page (Page 1)**
  - An existing Web form can be modified to inherit from a master page
    - Actually it is much easier to implement the master page when the Web form is first created
  - Insert a MasterPageFile= attribute to the <%@ Page %> directive
    - When the assignment operator (=) is typed, Intellisense displays a list of the project's available Master Pages
- 22  **Converting an Existing Web Form to Inherit from a Master Page (Page 2)**
  - Delete all other content from the Web form
    - Paste it temporarily into some other storage document
  - Create individual asp:Content controls for each of the asp:ContentPlaceHolder controls in master page
  - Paste the viewable HTML and Web controls only back into the Content controls