

PowerBuilder 11 .NET Web Form deployment feature

With PowerBuilder 11 you can deploy PowerBuilder applications as ASP.NET 2.0 Web Form applications. The Web Form format provides broad-based access to new and existing PowerBuilder applications. There are no distribution costs associated with this format and no client-side installation requirements other than a standard IE Web browser and an Internet connection. Web Form applications are also very easy to upgrade.

You create a .NET Web Form project using the .NET Web Form Application wizard. The wizard creates a project object that lets you deploy the application to an IIS server. Application users can run the application by entering its URL in the address window of a Web browser. You can test the deployed Web application from the PowerBuilder UI by selecting Run Project from the Project painter menu or by selecting the Run Project button in the Project painter PainterBar.

PowerBuilder supports two look-and-feel styles for Web Form applications, a classic Web style and a classic Windows style. Most PowerBuilder features, including basic DataWindow functionality, embedded SQL, file operations, and external functions, are supported in Web Form applications. Features that are not appropriate for Web deployment, such as drag-and-drop, are not supported.

When deploying an application, PowerBuilder reports all unsupported features used by the application in the Output window. The Web Form format is mainly suitable for query, data transaction, and reporting applications that have low-to-moderate complexity. You might need to adjust existing applications, modifying the PowerScript code to minimize the use of unsupported functionality and to facilitate the transformation of PBL files into .NET assemblies.

The PowerBuilder .NET Web Form feature does not require knowledge of C# or .NET assembly language. You can leverage your existing PowerBuilder skills and experience to build and deploy applications to the ASP.NET environment with relative ease, transforming new and existing client-server applications into widely accessible Web Form versions.