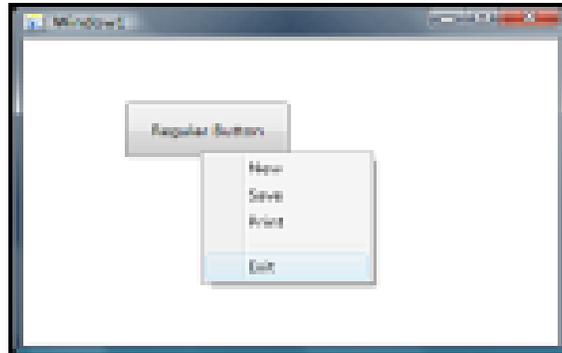


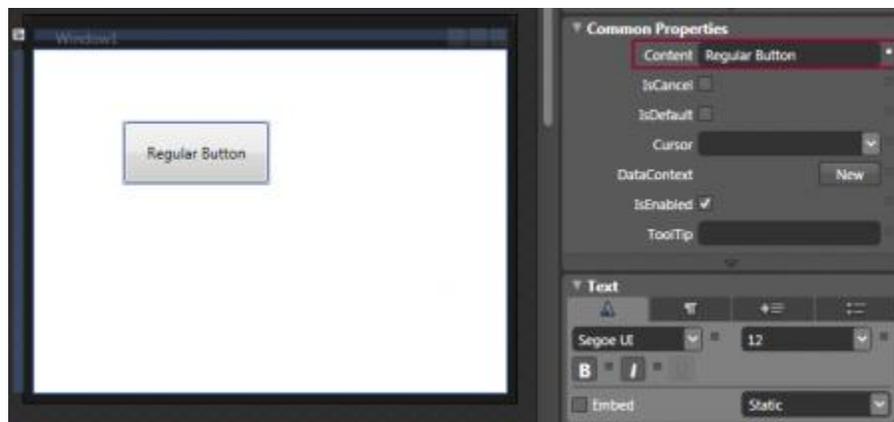
HOW TO Enable and show context menu on left click in WPF?



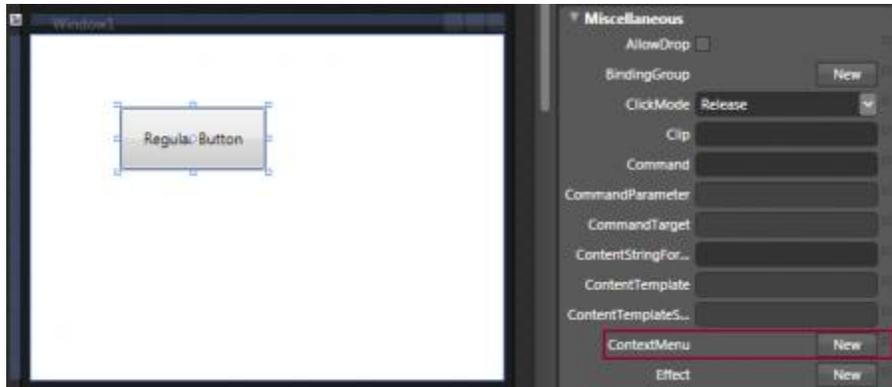
Context menus are usually being shown when user uses right mouse button to click on control. Try right clicking on windows desktop and you will see context menu. But sometimes while designing user interactions you want context menu to appear on regular, left-click. Here is how...

As always, I will suppose that you are using Expression Blend 2 SP 1 and Visual Studio 2008 and we will use C# code as programming logic in this case (tough there will be only two lines of code involved).

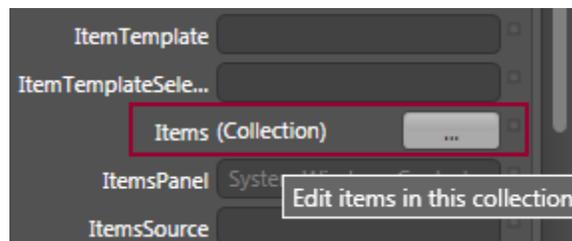
First, let's create regular button. Click on **Button** tool in Blend and draw button on workspace. Under **Common Properties** group find **Content** property and set it to "**Regular Button**". You should get something like on following picture.



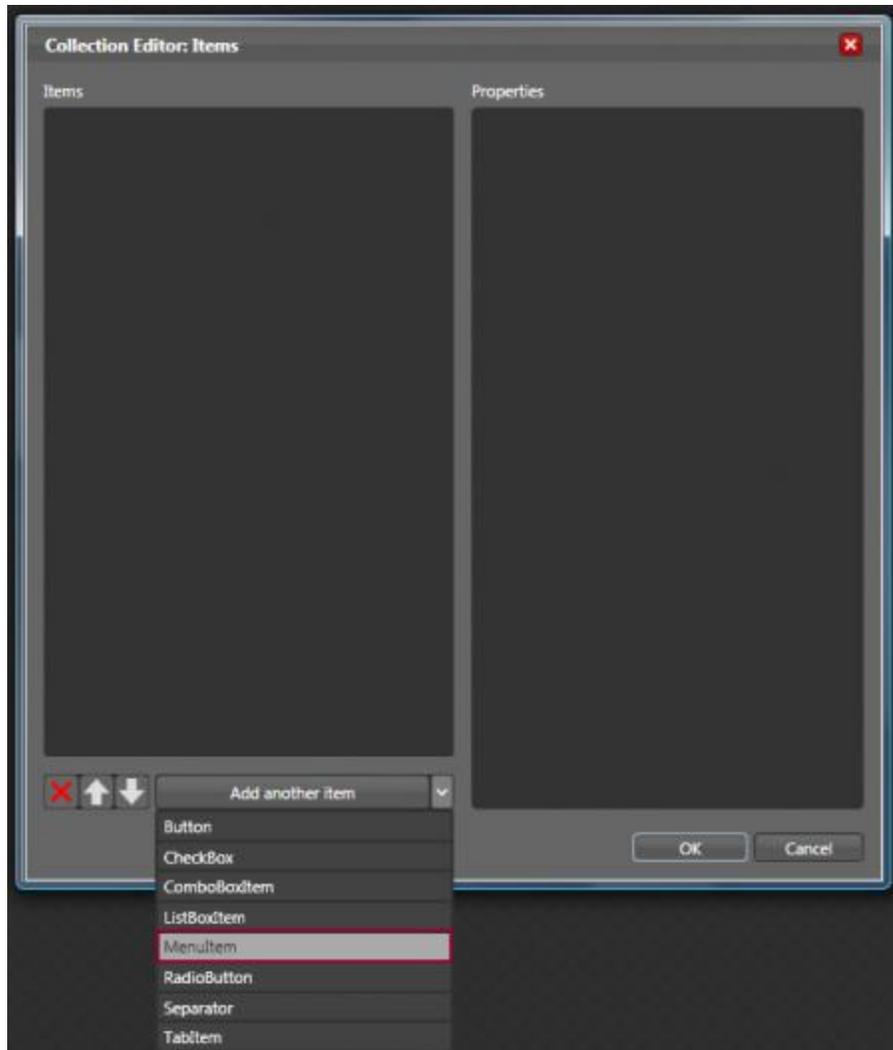
Now will selected button scroll down in **Properties** pane until you get to **Miscellaneous** group. Locate **ContextMenu** label and click on **New** button.



Group will expand and then you should locate the **Items (Collection)** label and click on “...” button.

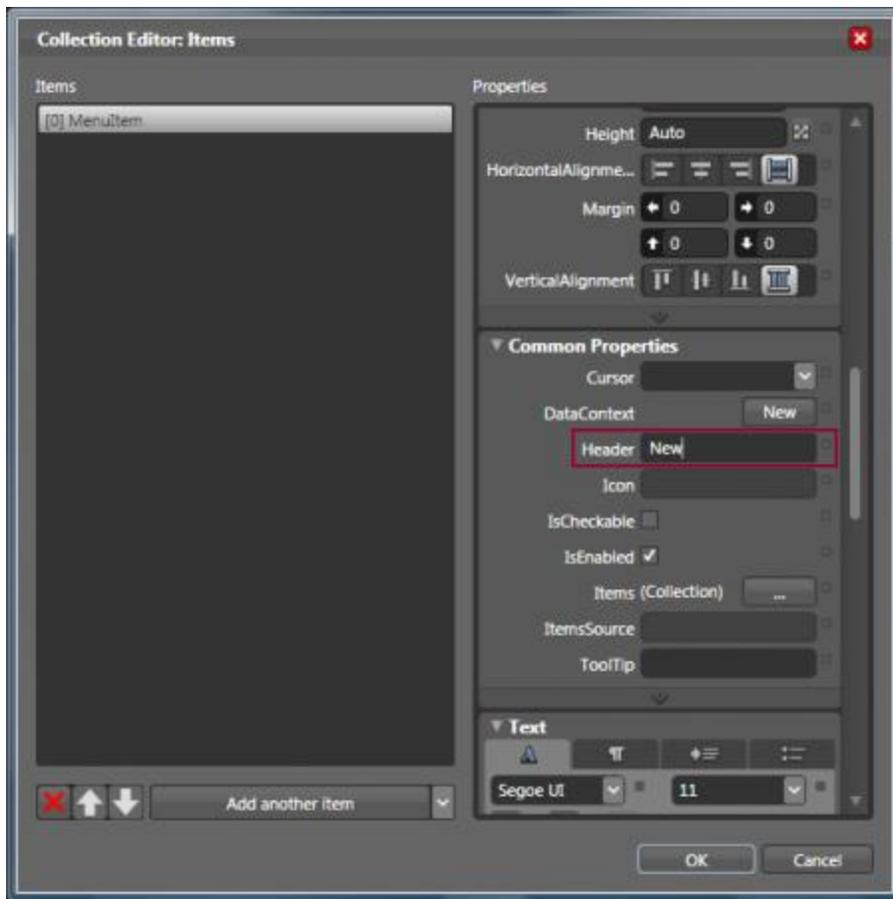


Collection Editor for Context menu items will appear. In this editor you can specify exactly what kind of items you want to have in your context menu.



Let's keep it simple for now and just click on drop-down menu and pick **MenuItem**. Now, on the right side of the interface you will see properties related to your MenuItem.

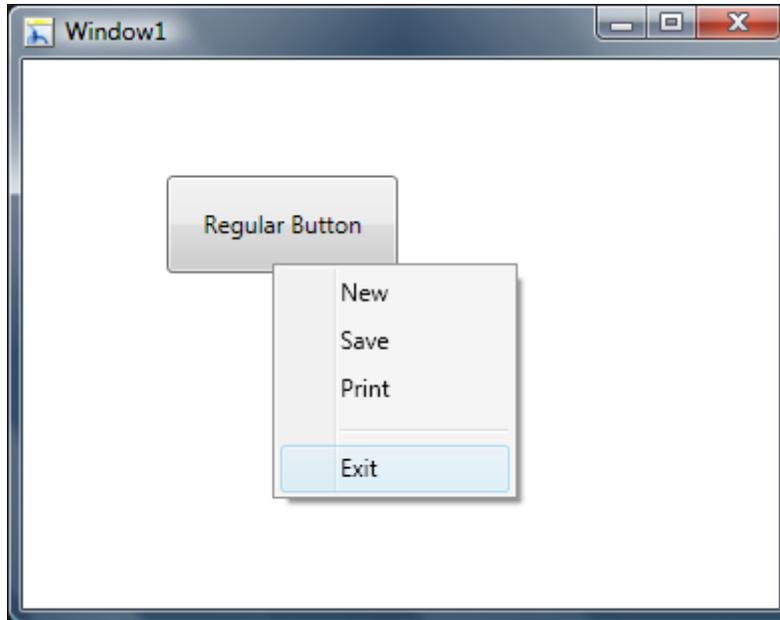
Navigate to **Common Properties** group and under **Header** field enter "New". That content will be shown as an item in your context menu.



Press ENTER and repeat the procedure to add more items. Consider adding **Separator** item (from same drop-down menu you used to add **MenuItem**) to make your menu appear better organized. Note that Separator does not have any header-like properties.

When you are done click on **OK** to close **Collection Editor**.

Hit F5 to start your application. Right-click on your button and you will see something similar to image bellow. Of course actual appearance of your menu will be different – depending on organization of your items.



Up to now we haven't discovered anything too complicated. We've created simple context menu that is being shown when you right-click on button control.

How to make context menu to appear when you left-click (normal click) on button or some other control? I am going to show you that right away.

Before proceeding, let's take a look at XAML code right now to see how context menu is defined in XAML.

Click on **XAML** or **Split** tab on the right side of your Blend workspace and investigate code. It should look somewhat like this:

```
10     <Grid x:Name="LayoutRoot">
11         <Button Margin="72,58,0,0" Content="Regular Button"
12             <Button.ContextMenu>
13                 <ContextMenu>
14                     <MenuItem Header="New"/>
15                     <MenuItem Header="Save"/>
16                     <MenuItem Header="Print"/>
17                     <Separator/>
18                     <MenuItem Header="Exit"/>
19                 </ContextMenu>
20             </Button.ContextMenu>
21         </Button>
22     </Grid>
```

You can see that XAML structure of context menu is fairly simple and understandable so you can add more items directly within code (it is probably faster than using the procedure described in the beginning of this document).

Anyhow, we will add assign name to this context menu. So, I will change line 13 in my case to look like this:

```

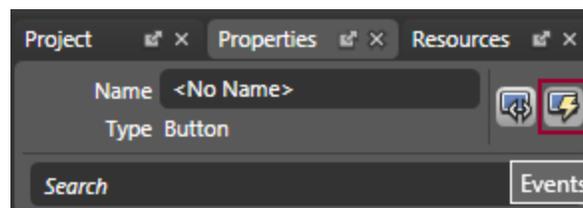
12         <Button.ContextMenu>
13         <ContextMenu x:Name="LeftClickMenu">
14             <MenuItem Header="New"/>
15             <MenuItem Header="Save"/>
16             <MenuItem Header="Print"/>
17             <Separator/>
18             <MenuItem Header="Exit"/>
19         </ContextMenu>
20     </Button.ContextMenu>

```

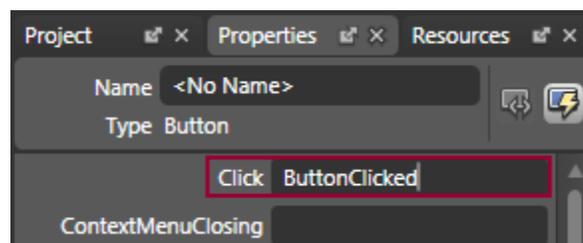
As you can see I've just added **x:Name = "LeftClickMenu"** to assign name to my context menu.

Now let's go into a code for some more fun...

Select your button on design surface and under **Properties** tab find **Events** command (marked on picture bellow):



Click on it and from the list of events navigate to **Click**. Type **"ButtonClicked"** or some other name you want for this.



Now hit Enter on your keyboard and Visual Studio will start leading you right to the location where we will add our code.

Type these two lines:

```

LeftClickMenu.PlacementTarget = this;
LeftClickMenu.IsOpen = true;

```

So your code will look like this:

```

private void ButtonClicked(object sender, RoutedEventArgs e)
{
    LeftClickMenu.PlacementTarget = this;
    LeftClickMenu.IsOpen = true;
}

```

Save your changes and hit F5 to start application. Left-click on your button and there it is – you have just enabled context menu on left click in WPF application using the Expression Blend and just two lines of C# code. Simple as that...

Feel free to download source code but also note that code is given here for demonstration purposes and that I and/or my employer cannot be held for any consequences of your usage of this code. Use it on your own responsibility.