Collapsing and Expanding a Panel from JavaScript

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Overview

The CollapsiblePanel control in the ASP.NET AJAX Control Toolkit extends a panel and provides it with the capability to collapse its contents and expand it again. These two actions can also be triggered from custom JavaScript code.

Steps

First of all, create a new ASP.NET page and include the **ScriptManager** within the one **<form>** element. This loads the ASP.NET AJAX library which is required by the Control Toolkit:

```
<asp:ScriptManager ID="asm" runat="server" />
```

Then, create a panel with some text so that the collapse/expand effect can be seen:

```
<asp:Panel ID="Panel1" CssClass="panelClass" runat="server">
  ASP.NET AJAX is a free framework for quickly creating a new
   generation of more efficient,
  more interactive and highly-personalized Web experiences that
   work across all the
  most popular browsers.<br />
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  more interactive and highly-personalized Web experiences that
   work across all the
  most popular browsers.<br />
</asp:Panel>
```

As you can see, the panel references a CSS class which is shown here (and basically defines a background color and the panel's width):

```
<style type="text/css">
  .panelClass {background-color: lime; width: 300px;}
</style>
```

The **CollapsiblePanelExtender** control requires the **TargetControlID** attribute so that the toolkit knows which panel to collapse or expand upon request:

```
<ajaxToolkit:CollapsiblePanelExtender ID="cpe" runat="server"
   TargetControlID="Panel1" />
```

Unfortunately, the extender currently does not expose a specific API for collapsing or expanding the panel, but some undocumented methods will do. First of all, add three HTML buttons to the page which will then trigger the client-side JavaScript to collapse or expand the panel's contents:

```
<input type="button" id="Button1" runat="server" value="Open"
   onclick="doOpen();" />
<input type="button" id="Button2" runat="server" value="Close"
   onclick="doClose();" />
<input type="button" id="Button3" runat="server" value="Toggle"
   onclick="doToggle();" />
```

In the client-side JavaScript code (started with **<script type="text/javascript">**), the **$find()** method needs to be used to access the **CollapsiblePanelExtender**. **$find("cpe")** will return a reference to it. From there on, specific methods will solve the task at hand.

The method for opening (expanding) the panel is called **_doOpen()**; the following code implements the **doOpen()** function called when the first button is clicked:

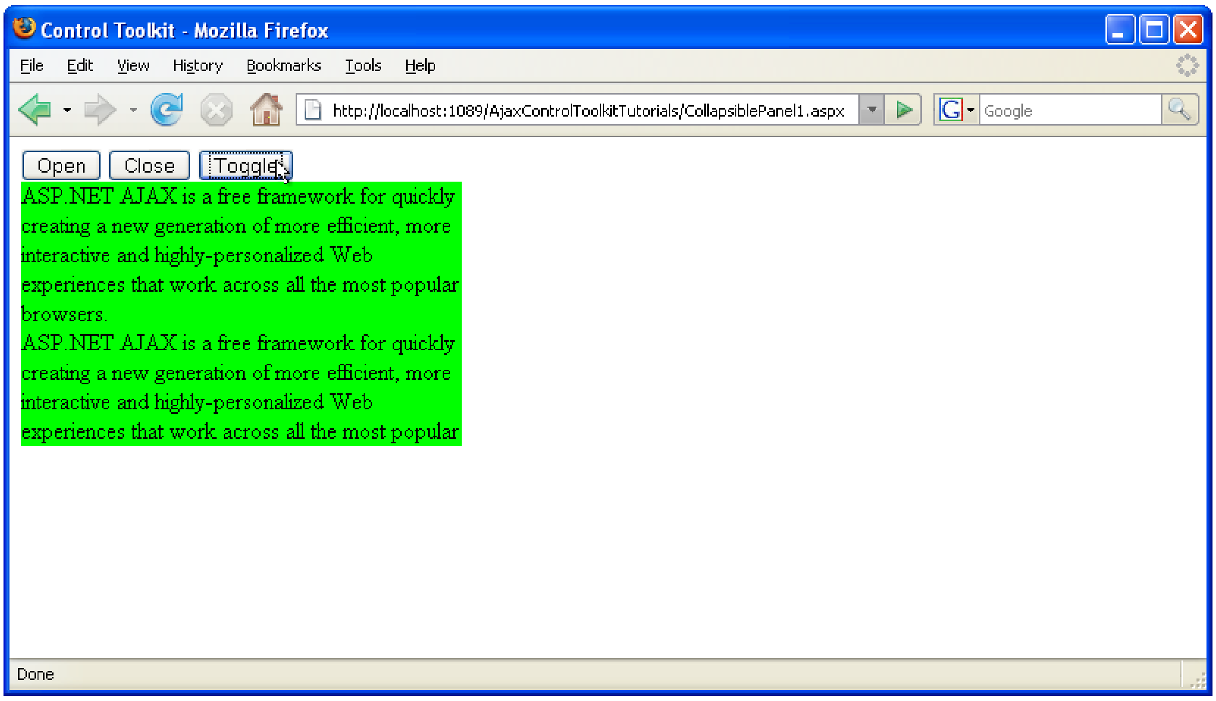
```
function doOpen()
{
  $find("cpe")._doOpen();
}
```

For closing, or collapsing the panel, the **_doClose()** method needs to be executed. So when the user clicks on the second button, the following JavaScript code is called:

```
function doClose()
{
  $find("cpe")._doClose();
}
```

The third button toggles the state of the panel: from collapsed to expanded, and vice versa. The **CollapsiblePanelExtender** exposes the **toggle()** method which does exactly that: reverses the state of the panel. However there is also another approach (which is internally used by the **toggle()** method): The **get_Collapsed()** method of the **CollapsiblePanelExtender()** tells us whether the panel is collapsed or not. Depending on the return value of this function, the panel is then either expanded (**_doOpen()** method) or collapsed (**_doClose()**) method:

```
function doToggle()
{
  var cpe = $find("cpe");
  //cpe._toggle();
  if (cpe.get_Collapsed())
  {
    cpe._doOpen();
  } else
  {
    cpe._doClose();
  }
}
```


Control Toolkit - Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
http://localhost:1089/AjaxControlToolkitTutorials/CollapsiblePanel1.aspx
Google
Open
Close
Toggle
Done

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The third button changes the state of the panel: from collapsed to expanded and back