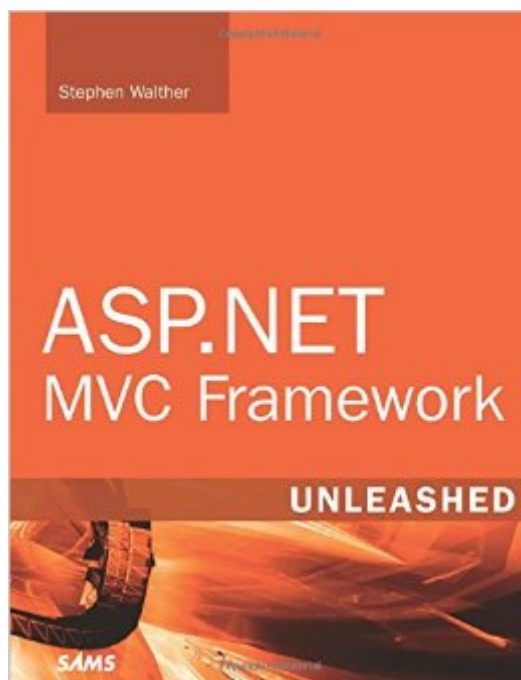


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ASP.NET MVC Framework Unleashed



Synopsis

In this book, world-renowned ASP.NET expert and member of the Microsoft ASP.NET team Stephen Walther shows experienced developers how to use Microsoft's new ASP.NET MVC Framework to build web applications that are more powerful, flexible, testable, manageable, scalable, and extensible. Writing for professional programmers, Walther explains the crucial concepts that make the Model-View-Controller (MVC) development paradigm work so well and shows exactly how to apply them with the ASP.NET MVC Framework. From controllers and actions to views and models, Walther demonstrates how to apply each ASP.NET MVC Framework feature in real-world projects. In Part II, you'll walk step-by-step through building a full-fledged ASP.NET MVC blog application that implements capabilities ranging from data access to validation. Through this case study, you'll learn how to build ASP.NET MVC applications using test-driven development processes that enable rapid feedback, greater productivity, and better quality. Throughout, Walther presents extensive code examples, reflecting his unsurpassed experience as an ASP.NET instructor, a leading commercial developer, and now as a member of Microsoft's ASP.NET development team. Understand how to:

- Build enterprise-scale web applications far more rapidly and effectively
- Develop web applications that are easier to maintain and extend over time
- Gain unprecedented control over the appearance of your website or application
- Expose intuitive URLs that are friendlier to search engines and users alike
- Create ASP.NET MVC models that contain all your application's business, validation, and data access logic
- Make the most of HTML helpers, model binders, action filters, routing, and authentication
- Efficiently deploy your ASP.NET MVC applications
- Use the lightweight JQuery JavaScript library to easily find and manipulate HTML elements
- Create ASP.NET MVC applications using unit test and mock object framework

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Customer Reviews

Disclosure: I do not own this book, but the review is based on reading the first 4 chapters from my Safari subscription. This book is a really, really great starting point for learning ASP .NET MVC. An important caveat is that you need to do the NERD DINNER tutorial first before ANYTHING! I'm real particular about my learning style and had baulked at the mere 10 reviews the book had received, but really, don't let that dissuade. This is a great book and the author breaks things down into easy to understand chunks. I will say that he isn't as detailed as the Nerddinner tutorial in explaining the Visual Studio features for adding Views & Controllers, but the description's for doing so should suffice. Some people may not like that the code examples are in both C# & VB .NET; however, I don't mind this. It certainly adds to the size of the book, but I haven't found many books going through this stuff and showing VB .NET code, so that can only be a plus. Another gotcha is the book uses the Entity Framework for data access. I don't mind this since I haven't had exposure to it, but I think that might turn off some people. To be perfectly honest, I don't think there's a book that explains the basics of ASP .NET MVC in conjunction with NHibernate or ORM's outside of LINQ to SQL or Entity Framework. I did look at ASP.Net MVC in Action on Safari and I can tell you that it is definitely not a starter book; however, if you want exposure to using third party frameworks with ASP .NET MVC, that might be your book. Okay after making it to about chapter 19, I've come back to this review and bumped it down to 4 stars. My main bother here is that there isn't a published errata and there needs to be one. Thankfully, this doesn't come into play until Chapter's 17 & 19. The mistake made in both chapters is they start using classes without A) defining the code for the class b) without mentioning the class anywhere outside of a code example that assumes their prior creation C) a & b. This isn't a huge deal, just download the book code and know that you will have to copy the code for the following classes: UnleashedBlog.Models.BlogEntry (Chapter 17) UnleashedBlog.Models.BlogServiceBase (Chapter 19) UnleashedBlog.Tests.Factories.ControllerFactory (Chapter 19) The last 2 really ticked me off because there is absolutely zero mention of their creation until they are magically used in code. Despite this, they aren't complicated classes and you can still understand what they are doing without the book having to elaborate. Despite it all, I still recommend this book. I've gone through

most of the chapters at this point and have found it a really good jumping off point for learning ASP.NET MVC.

I own asp.net mvc in action as well as this book but I have to say this is much more organised in terms of flow and explanation. Small pieces of code to illustrate each concept works great for me. On contrary, asp.net mvc in action talks of a code camp app and might not be the first book you want to read since you might get lost if you are new to MVC. Nothing against asp.net mvc in action since it is a good book as well but you will grasp much more if you read this first and then dive into "in action".

I've always been a fan of Stephen Walther's [...]Unleashed book (arguably one of the most popular[...]books ever) and his latest [...]Unleashed book doesn't disappoint. As with his previous book, Stephen takes the time to walk through a lot of nice details that other books tend to skip over such as creating data repository classes and interfaces, integrating data repositories into controllers, tips and tricks that can be used during unit testing, building custom HTML helper classes, [...]using caching, adding jQuery into the mix, plus much more. If you're interested in a book written by someone who really understands how to explain technology and who knows the [...]framework inside and out then I'd highly recommend getting this book. Stephen Walther knows his stuff and explains the technology in a way that's easy to digest. Code samples are provided in both C# and Visual Basic.

This book gets many things right. First of all, it is organized in such a way that you get the material in a logical flow that allows building upon the previous material effectively. Second, although I am a C# guy now, I spent many years in the VB world, and I appreciate that the author includes code listings in both languages. (Oddly enough I switched to C# originally because I wanted to use MVC and there were no good books with VB listings...) Most important, after going through each concept thoroughly, the author concludes with building a working application using test-driven development and dependency injection. He doesn't go down the side path many other books do, where there is too much focus on the third-party testing and mocking tools and not enough on the core material. Instead there is just enough to let you do the examples using dependency injection and the native MS Test tool. The book is as much a good grounding in TDD and DI as it is in MVC. I own pretty much every book on MVC since the pattern first became popular, and this is the best by far. If I had any complain it would be that the author uses the ASPX view engine rather than Razor, which I

prefer.

This is an OK ASP.NET MVC book. The structure of the book is that first Stephen describes various features of the ASP.NET MVC framework with shorter code examples and then in the later 6 chapters of the book we are building a larger blog application. I think the idea of first describing the ASP.NET MVC features in shorter code examples and then later employing them in a larger app is good. It makes it easier to understand. All the way through the book Stephen is consistently testing his code with Visual Studio Unit Testing, so it's cool that you also get an introduction to this practice. When we are building the blog app in the second part of the book, Stephen is practicing Test Driven Development. He starts each chapter with some user stories (Use cases) which he wants to implement. The initial tests he then also generates from the user stories. So it's also cool to get an introduction to TDD. Stephen is an OK teacher. I think it's cool how he ties use cases, to tests to coding. The picture Stephen is painting is simple and clear. One drawback to the book is that Stephen is using some projects (RouteDebugger and MvcFakes) for test and debugging, which he doesn't explain the code of. It maybe falls outside the scope of the book, but I think I would have liked to understand how the codes of these projects worked. The book is a rather quick and light read. If you pick this book up to get introduced to the ASP.NET MVC framework you will be OK.

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