



Beginning

ASP.NET MVC 1.0

Simone Chiaretta, Keyvan Nayyeri



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ASP.NET MVC 1.0**

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Simone Chiaretta
Keyvan Nayyeri



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For my wife, Daniela, and for the friends who supported me.

—Simone Chiaretta

For all Iranians around the world.

—Keyvan Nayyeri

About the Author

Simone Chiaretta (Milan, Italy) is a software architect and developer who enjoys sharing his development experience and more than 10 years' worth of knowledge on Web development with ASP.NET and other Web technologies.

He is currently working as a senior solution developer for Avanade, an international consulting company jointly owned by Accenture and Microsoft. Before working for Avanade, he worked for eight years as a Web developer and all-round developer for Esperia, a Web agency based in Milan, Italy, where he developed a CMS that still powers the AC Milan Web site. Then he decided to go to the place that is farthest from Milan: Wellington, New Zealand, where he worked for one year as chief software architect for Calcium Software Ltd.

He is a Microsoft MVP in ASP.NET, and he has been involved in many open source projects, but now he focuses only on SubText to try to take it to the next level. He is also an active member of the Italian .NET User Group, cofounder of the UGIALT.NET user group, the Italian chapter of the ALT.NET movement, and a frequent speaker for community events throughout Italy.

Simone loves sharing his thoughts and knowledge on his blog at <http://codeclimber.net.nz> and, if you can read Italian, also at <http://blogs.ugidotnet.org/piyo>.

When not working or playing with technology, Simone tries to spend time with his wife, Daniela, climbing various kind of walls: ice-climbing, free-climbing, and alpine and mountain climbing. Additionally, he just started training to take part in triathlons.

Keyvan Nayyeri (Tehran, Iran) is a software architect and developer who has a bachelor of science degree in applied mathematics. He was born in Kermanshah, Kurdistan, in 1984.

Keyvan's main focus is on Microsoft development technologies and their related technologies. He's also experienced in practices and enjoys them very much. Keyvan has a serious passion for community activities and open source software. As a result, he is an author for some famous .NET communities and has published various articles and tutorials on them. He is also a team leader and developer of some famous .NET open source projects, where he tries to learn many things through writing code for special purposes. Keyvan also has received a number of awards and recognition from Microsoft, its partners, and online communities. Some major highlights include Microsoft VSX Insider and Telligent Community Server MVP.

Before writing this book, Keyvan worked on other Wrox titles as an author and technical editor, including *Professional Visual Studio Extensibility* (ISBN: 978-0-470-23084-8), *Professional Community Server* (ISBN: 978-0-470-10828-4), and *Professional Visual Studio 2008* (ISBN: 978-0-470-22988-0).

You can check out his blog, which contains his thoughts about technical and personal views, at <http://www.nayyeri.net>.

About the Technical Editors

Eilon Lipton: Starting out with Turbo Pascal and assembly language, Eilon used to work on underground “demo” graphics animations while in high school. He graduated from Boston University in 2002 with a dual degree in Computer Science and Math. In the past six years, Eilon has worked at Microsoft on the ASP.NET team on data source controls, control designers, and the UpdatePanel control. Eilon is currently a senior development lead and works on the ASP.NET MVC framework.

Ivan Porto Carrero is a freelance consultant on .NET and Ruby. He has six years of experience with C# and three years with Ruby. Ivan has been developing Web sites with Castle/Monorail for three years and has contributed to the Castle project and various JavaScript libraries. Ivan also contributed the XSLT View engine in the mvcontrib project. Ivan’s background is primarily on the Internet, where he has been active for the biggest part of the last 10 years. Ivan is also active in the community and started the .NET user group chapter in New Plymouth, New Zealand. Later he started an architect’s lunch meeting in Wellington, New Zealand before moving back to Belgium.

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Besides that, we should thank the editorial group for the book. Katie Mohr (Acquisitions Editor) helped us to get started and address all the problems that rose during the long process of writing. Kelly Talbot and Sydney Jones (Development Editors) did a great job copyediting our material and improving the language while they took care of schedules and communications between authors and other editors. Eilon Lipton and Ivan Porto Carrero (Technical Editors) helped us catch our technical flaws and add helpful content to our chapters, so they have had an important influence on the quality of the book.

We should thank all these editors for their hard work and close collaboration on this book. Most of the content was being written for early builds of ASP.NET MVC, and we had to apply major changes as we moved on in several stages. It took a lot of time and effort from both us and these editors to keep up with the latest changes given our tight schedule, and our busy personal and career lives.

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We also received great acclaim from the community, which pushed us forward and encouraged us to work on this book in difficult circumstances. We are proud of this community and proud to have such friends.

We also want to thank some individuals who, with their suggestions, helped us make the book better: Gian Maria Ricci, for his help and suggestions about unit testing concepts; Roberto Valenti, for pairing with us for the sample about Test Driven Development; Nate Kohari for reviewing the parts related to Ninject, the DI/IoC framework he wrote, and its integration with ASP.NET MVC; Louis DeJardin, for helping out with the Spark alternative view engine; and Andrew Peters, who helped with NHaml, the view engine he wrote.

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Foreword

In 2007 I was visiting the Redmond campus for a conference and happened to be walking the halls of building 42 when I ran into Scott Guthrie, corporate VP of the .NET Developer Platform (he was General Manager at the time). He is probably better known by his alias, ScottGu, or by his nickname, “The Gu”. He was rushing off to a meeting but asked me to swing by his office later as he had something “interesting” to show me. If you know Scott, you know when he has something interesting to show, it’s going to be good.

That interesting thing of course was the nascent design of ASP.NET MVC. As he started drawing the conventions and code patterns in use for this new framework, my only response was, “I want to work on that.” Though it wasn’t intended to be a recruiting pitch (as far as I know), it was the best one I’ve ever received. I ended up moving to Microsoft to be a part of this product.

What excites me about ASP.NET MVC? In many ways it represents a lot of firsts for Microsoft in its approach to product design. We’ve released previews early and often complete with source code which allowed modifications very early in the process. In doing so, we’ve received unprecedented amounts of feedback from the community and even made significant design improvements in response. Increased transparency and community involvement was a key goal of this project.

ASP.NET MVC is also the first product from Microsoft to include a third party open source library, jQuery “in the box”. This is a great JavaScript library widely regarded in the community and is a great complement to the Microsoft Ajax libraries.

And the source code for ASP.NET MVC is itself licensed under the Ms-PL license, an OSI certified license, something I’m particularly happy about as an open source community member and someone who sees the benefit in increased openness.

Of course, it’s not just the nature of the project that excites me about ASP.NET MVC, it’s the code and tooling itself. ASP.NET MVC really focuses on solid principles such as Separation of Concerns to provide a framework that is extremely extensible and testable. While it’s possible to change the source as you see fit, our goal was to make sure that the framework was open for extension without needing to change the source.

Of course, the most fun part of this project has been the vibrant community that has arisen around ASP.NET MVC. These developers are extremely passionate about their craft and really keep us on our toes. Keyvan and Simone are two of these community members who have channeled their passion and enthusiasm for the framework into this book. In this book, they’ve written about the basics of software development using ASP.NET MVC as the backdrop for learning how to build web applications. I hope you enjoy the book and share in their passion for building web applications. Happy coding!

Phil Haack
Senior Program Manager, Microsoft Corporation

