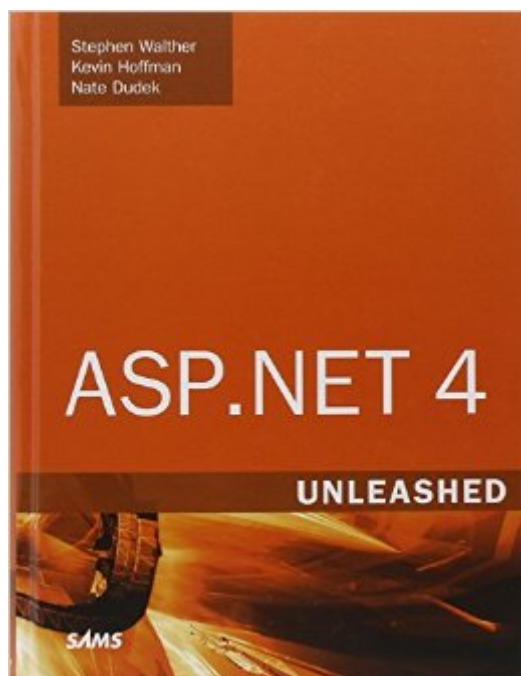


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# ASP.NET 4 Unleashed



## Synopsis

The most comprehensive book on Microsoft's new ASP.NET 4, *ASP.NET 4 Unleashed* covers all facets of ASP.NET development. Led by Microsoft ASP.NET program manager Stephen Walther, an expert author team thoroughly covers the entire platform. The authors first introduce the ASP.NET Framework's basic controls and show how to create common site-wide layouts and styles. Next, they cover all aspects of accessing, presenting, organizing, and editing data. You'll find thorough and practical sections on building custom components and controls, providing effective site navigation, securing sites and applications, and much more. This book presents hundreds of realistic code examples, reflecting the authors' unsurpassed experience with ASP.NET both inside and outside Microsoft.

- Build interactive Web Forms, validate form data, and upload files
- Provide interactive calendars, wizards, site maps, and other valuable features
- Design efficient, maintainable sites with Master Pages and Themes
- Build data-driven applications with database controls, ADO.NET data access components, QueryExtender, LINQ to SQL, and WCF Data Services
- Generate charts on the fly with the new Chart Control
- Extend ASP.NET with custom controls and reusable components
- Create site registration and authentication systems that store membership data in SQL Server or Active Directory
- Use URL Routing to build dynamism, flexibility, readability, and SEO-friendliness into your URLs
- Improve performance and scalability with caching and preloading
- Maintain state with cookies, cookieless session state, and profiles
- Localize, configure, package, and deploy ASP.NET applications
- Use the ASP.NET MVC Framework to improve agility, testability, speed to market, and extensibility
- Retrofit existing ASP.NET applications with Ajax and build pure client-side Ajax web applications
- Construct a complete ASP.NET 4 website from start to finish

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have been working with ASP since the initial beta came out back in 1997. As anyone can attest, working with ASP was both exciting and extremely frustrating. ASP.NET changed all that. From one release to another, Microsoft has continued to improve upon its flagship product for developing Web Pages. What once was a hair pulling experience, has now become a more rewarding adventure. With the new Visual Studio 2010 and ASP.NET 4, Microsoft has once again raised the bar on things you can do with a web page. Trying to get a handle on all of the changes can be a daunting task. Not to belittle Microsoft, but their documentation this go around is probably the worst that ever came out of Redmond. But thanks to books like ASP.NET 4 Unleashed, that is no longer an insurmountable hurdle. What Kevin Hoffman and Nate Dudek have done to Stephen Walther's book is fantastic. Continuing in the same vein, they run through the every part of ASP.NET programming. From the base controls that mirror their HTML counterparts, to the more rich controls that really bring life to your applications, this book details it all. One of the things I liked best was that they not only gave an example of how to use a control, but they gave you an explanation as to WHY you would use the control. With data access being so much a part of a web sites life these days, they devote over 380 pages to extracting data from a data source and displaying it on within your site. With great examples of GridView, DetailView, FormView, Repeater, ListView and even the Chart Controls, you will have your site displaying data and looking sharp in no time. I personally appreciated the section on Themes. For whatever reason, I never delved into using themes on my site and the documentation I had was rather nebulous so I just pretended it wasn't there. Their coverage of the topic has me itching to update my site and really put some nice polish on it. Chapter 17 covers building your own components. How often have you thought "I could do that better" or found that you are putting the same set of controls on page after page? With this chapter, you will be well equipped to start writing your own controls to save you all of that time and headache. Not to be just about ASP.NET and its controls, the book also covers LINQ and URL Routing. Other topics they cover are WCF Data Services, ASP.NET MVC, Navigation Controls and Security. Honestly, if there is something you want to know about ASP.NET, it's in this book. Even at 1781 pages of content, there are some topics that I would have liked to have seen covered in more detail. For

instance, I would like to have seen a deeper look into Security and the process of writing my own Membership provider. But even with that being said, they had to draw the line somewhere or this book would have required a forklift to move (it's pretty sizable as it is). If you're new to ASP.NET or you really want to know all that ASP.NET can do for you, then this book has it all. It will definitely get you started in everything that's available and have you putting together a site in no time. For coverage, it's going to be hard to beat.

Part I - Building ASP.NET Pages (232 pages)  
Part II - Designing ASP.NET Websites (100 pages)  
Part III - Performing Data Access (384 pages)  
Part IV - Building Components (290 pages)  
Part V - Site Navigation (136 pages)  
Part VI - Security (116 pages)  
Part VII - Building ASP.Net Applications (312 pages)  
Part VIII - Custom Control Building (98 pages)  
Part IX - ASP.NET Ajax (110 pages)

One other thing I should point out. The examples in the book are in C#, while this shouldn't be a drawback to VB.NET developers, I know it can be frustrating to some when the translation to VB isn't always one to one. One thing to keep in mind, is that with .NET 4.0, Microsoft has done more to make VB.NET and C# more compatible so that the differences are even more minor than before.

I read this book recently from the perspective of an experienced .NET developer who hasn't done much web application development for a while. I found it to be an excellent resource on ASP.NET, but I suspect that it might be a bit overwhelming for the novice. For the intermediate to advanced developer however, it's an invaluable reference. The subject matter is addressed in a sensible manner, with good explanations and examples. The order in which areas of ASP.NET are covered works well, moving from basic to more complex topics. I would recommend either reading this from cover to cover, or just dipping into it as a reference - both are useful. The reader is initially given a good introduction to the ASP .NET framework and how it works, moving to an explanation of some of the basic controls and how they should be used. The explanations and examples were good, and this section would probably be sufficient for a web developer to get up and running with the framework. Next, the authors mainly talk about centralised presentation - following on from part 1 this would probably be enough to get a web developer working on a real project in conjunction with a software engineer. The next section talks in detail about the basic mechanisms for consuming and displaying data; I particularly liked the thorough treatment of the GridView control. By the time you've finished with this section you'll be in a position to develop simple web applications that are consistently styled and able to retrieve and persist non-volatile data. Having said this, the book is structured more as a reference with examples, so IMO a novice may need to spend a bit of time on these sections playing around with the examples to gain a firm understanding of the

concepts. Experienced .NET developers can skip over the coverage of component building in section 4, less experienced developers should probably use this section as a jumping-off point for more research on building n-tier applications in .NET. Having said this, it does cover the basics - so even a novice should be able to gain value from this section. The following detail on more advanced data access is excellent. The rest of the book is fairly advanced, and provides a comprehensive reference guide to other areas of ASP .NET, including scalability (via caching), an introduction to the MVC framework, security and deployment. This is definitely a book that will be staying within arm's reach for the next .NET web application project that I work on, and I would definitely recommend it to other developers - it is the most thorough and well structured ASP .NET reference I've come across.

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