

## Re: URGENT: Application\_Start – doesn't fire

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet/2005-03/0055.html>

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**From:** Gordon Smith (*GS\_at\_NoSpam.net*)

**Date:** 02/28/05

Date: Sun, 27 Feb 2005 21:47:31 -0800

<< you will need to attach a debugger to the worker process on the server to find out exactly what is going on>>

Okay, how do I do that? I have VS.NET 2003, am accessing the Web server across the Internet, and have full administrative access to the Web Server (which is Windows Server 2003/IIS6, with all current patches/updates).

Since last post, I have a number of new observations but no solution. I simply need more information \*from the server itself\* about what's going on.

The Web.config for the app in question includes these:

```
<customErrors mode="RemoteOnly" defaultRedirect="GenericError.htm" />
(this is the page I keep getting in the client)
```

In an effort to get more info, I switched from this...

```
<customErrors mode="RemoteOnly" defaultRedirect="GenericError.htm" />
```

to this...

```
<configuration>
  <system.web>
    <customErrors mode="Off"/>
  </system.web>
</configuration>
```

But kept getting the error page telling me to change the entry in Web.config to the latter (which I had in fact done). It behaves as if the application did not restart – because it treated the <customErrors mode> setting as if it were still <customErrors mode="RemoteOnly" defaultRedirect="GenericError.htm" />

I also switched Web.config from this:

```
<compilation
  defaultLanguage="c#"
  debug="false"
/>
```

to this:

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```
<compilation
  defaultLanguage="c#"
  debug="true"
/>
```

But the site behaves as if the changes were never made (and yes, I saved the changes to Web.config).

I had originally created the new Web site via a script –so I manually created a brand new Web site on the server (and modified the host headers in IIS so that the old URL would resolve to the new/test Web site) and copied all of the files into it from the site having the problem this thread is all about. The new site came up without an exception (and I got the e-mail sent from Application\_Start) – BUT ONLY the very first time I accessed the application from a client. After the first time, I got the exceptions and related behavior as described in my previous postings. It seems that no matter what I do, the application will not restart. I have stopped and restarted the Web Site, it's Application pool, (created a new App pool just for this app), and even rebooted the server – but still no dice. I have commented out all of my application\_start logic, Session\_start logic – but still no change in behavior. It's as if the Web site simply ignores ANY changes I make once the exception is encountered for the first time.

I'm pretty confused at this point. How can I get the Web server itself to tell me more about the exception?

Thanks!

"Alvin Bruney [Microsoft MVP]" <www.lulu.com/owc> wrote in message news:%23x0TMwSHFHA.3472@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...

> *in your application start handler, send an email to yourself*  
> *using the system.web.mail functionality. run the app and see if you get an*  
> *email.*

>

> *if you don't get an email, you will need to attach a debugger to the*  
> *worker process on the server to find out exactly what is going on.*

>

> --

> *Regards*

> *Alvin Bruney*

> *[Shameless Author Plug]*

> *The Microsoft Office Web Components Black Book with .NET*

> *available at www.lulu.com/owc*

> -----

>

>

> "Gordon Smith" <GS@NoSpam.net> wrote in message

> news:OEJ638RHFHA.1096@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...

>> *Thanks Alvin.*

>>

>> *A couple of things.*

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>> I have a version installed right now that has *\*all\** of the  
>> Application\_Start and all of the Session\_Start logic (just to ensure that  
>> something wasn't interacting with the new/current Session) commented  
>> out – thereby eliminating the possibility of logic problems, AFAIK.  
>>  
>> Since last post I have rebooted the server. Still no dice.  
>>  
>> << Nope, asp.net is not responsible for serving htm files by default.>>  
>> Right... that's why I put an default.html file in. I thought that would  
>> tell me if there was a problem with the Web site (independent of ASP.NET)  
>> or if there was something going on with ASP.NET. So, unless I'm mistaken,  
>> I think I have narrowed it down to "something with ASP.NET or with my  
>> application logic" and not a problem with the Web site, itself or IIS –  
>> because the default.html file was served just fine, but the simple  
>> default.aspx was not.  
>>  
>> At this point I'm thinking about killing the site and recreating it from  
>> scratch... but I hate to do that because even if the problem – whatever  
>> it was – goes away, I don't have the opportunity to know what went wrong.  
>>  
>>  
>> "Alvin Bruney [Microsoft MVP]" <www.lulu.com/owc> wrote in message  
>> news:OMqIrwRHFHA.3156@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...  
>>> >So that tells me it's something about asp.net.  
>>> Nope, asp.net is not responsible for serving htm files by default.  
>>>  
>>> Your application start is firing correctly because you can request a  
>>> page. Your logic and steps you have taken does not indicate a problem  
>>> with your application\_start handler. Rather, the problem seems to be  
>>> with the code that fires inside the application\_start handler. Try  
>>> re-writing with some error handling code first to see what gives.  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> --  
>>> Regards  
>>> Alvin Bruney  
>>> [Shameless Author Plug]  
>>> The Microsoft Office Web Components Black Book with .NET  
>>> available at www.lulu.com/owc  
>>> -----  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> "Gordon Smith" <GS@NoSpam.net> wrote in message  
>>> news:%23H76KFRHFHA.3912@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...  
>>>> One more observation:  
>>>> When I have a simple default.htm – that page gets served just fine on  
>>>> the first request. When I have a simple default.aspx – it chokes. So  
>>>> that tells me it's something about asp.net.  
>>>>  
>>>> Still needing ideas here... thanks.  
>>>>

>>>>  
>>>> "Gordon Smith" <GS@NoSpam.net> wrote in message  
>>>> news:%23mPIXRQHFHA.3612@TK2MSFTNGP09.phx.gbl...  
>>>>> I have four (4) ASP.NET Web applications/Web sites on a IIS/6 – Windows  
>>>>> Server 2003 production server. 3 of them work fine. I just installed  
>>>>> the 4th one and it's Application\_Start event is not firing.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> I have double-checked everything (and rechecked) and I haven't found  
>>>>> anything that would explain why the Application is not starting.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Here is what I have done so far to troubleshoot this:  
>>>>>  
>>>>> In IIS Manager I have ensured that there is a unique Application name  
>>>>> in the Home Directory tab of the Properties for the Web site in  
>>>>> question. I have verified that the home directory path is specified  
>>>>> correctly. All other properties in IIS have identical values to the  
>>>>> other sites that do work corectly (or have site-specific values that  
>>>>> make sense). I have stopped and started the Web site via IIS Manager.  
>>>>> I have verified correct content in Web.config (which is virtually  
>>>>> identical to the other site's Web.config files). I have saved changes  
>>>>> to Web.config in an effort to get the application to restart. I have  
>>>>> recompiled and reinstalled the dll.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> I have verified that this particular Web app is in fact online and  
>>>>> functioning to some extent. This particular Web application connects  
>>>>> to a database (per settings in Web.config). I have verified that the  
>>>>> application is, in fact, connecting to the database because I was able  
>>>>> to log in (and the credentials are verified against a table in the  
>>>>> database). Furthermore, the Web site will serve up pages. I put in a  
>>>>> simple "hello world!" default.aspx which is served correctly. I also  
>>>>> put in my standard default.aspx which hits the database (and verified  
>>>>> that it hit the database when the page was requested). I will note  
>>>>> that whenever \*any\* page is first requested that I get a general HTTP  
>>>>> exception – but on the second request the page is served as expected.  
>>>>> So, this Web site is online and "mostly" available. The whole problem  
>>>>> is that Application\_Start does not fire – which is a big problem  
>>>>> because that's when I load important variables into the Application  
>>>>> state.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> FWIW: Toward fixing this I created a new application pool via IIS  
>>>>> Manager and placed the Web application into it (and stopped/restarted  
>>>>> the Web site)... still no dice.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Any ideas for troubleshooting this? I really need Application\_Start to  
>>>>> fire.  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Thanks!  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>>

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>>  
>  
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