

Re: Problems Handling Errors Correctly

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- *From:* "Doug Semler" <dougsemler@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 16 Sep 2007 20:24:03 -0400
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"Jonathan Wood" <jwood@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:Ocbnj7L%23HHA.1416@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Peter,

I agree that the .NET docs can be overly sparse in some cases. Many, even. But as with your observation about the .NET Framework itself, to some extent this is a consequence of the sheer size of the Framework. One hopes that over time, the documentation will get filled in, but it's not hard to see why some things may have been considered lower priority and receive a basic "template" documentation rather than a fully useful description.

Makes me wonder if the existing documentation is based on the <summary> tags in the source code. That would explain why they seem to be terse and very slow to get updated.

The class documentation is (mostly) generated from code comments – I don't remember the web site off hand but Google "SandCastle help generator" and you'll find a utility that turns the xml file generated from the code comments into MSDN style documentation (it is a public version of Microsoft's tool they use to generate alot of the class documentation)

My experience has been that possible exceptions are well-documented within the method (I can't think of any properties that throw exceptions off the top of my head, but I would expect any that do to follow the same pattern). Specifically, the docs include a section immediately after the "Return Value" section enumerating possible exceptions.

If that is the case, and it's complete, that would be great. If it's not the case, or it's incomplete, or it leaves out exceptions that could be thrown my methods called from the method, that would really be a drag.

It's pretty complete (exception documentation, that is) in my experience. Every once in a while you'll get an exception that's thrown from deep in the stack that doesn't seem intuitive, but for me it's usually when I'm

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dealing with remoting or xml stuff. I would think that requiring any framework the size of .NET to document all possible Exceptions that could be thrown from calls to subfunctions is next to impossible (and I think MSDN's documentation had even stated in the past at least that the <exception> doc tag should document exceptions thrown directly from the function itself and not those from sub functions.

—

Doug Semler, MCPD

a.a. #705, BAAWA. EAC Guardian of the Horn of the IPU (pbuhh).

The answer is 42; DNRC o—

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