

Re: ASP.NET

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From: Jim Cheshire (*contactme_at_www.jimcoaddins.com*)

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Hi Linda,

ASP.NET is a technology that allows Web site developers (and in this sense, we're talking about Web programmers) to create applications that use a Web browser for the front-end interface. You will see many places where ASP.NET is described as a technology that allows you to create Web sites that access databases. That's only a very small part of the technology, and it is a complete misnomer to call ASP.NET a database technology. Database access is only one of an almost infinite number of uses for ASP.NET.

For example, on my church's Web site, we offer online access to the church roster. Naturally, we don't want member names and addresses available to the general public, so I use ASP.NET to implement a username and password login to the site. There is quite a bit of programming logic that is involved in doing that because when you log in, it also determines what "role" you belong in. The interface of the site changes depending upon who you are. For example, if you are an Administrator, you have links that will let you edit information on users, etc. All of that is done with ASP.NET.

In a more generic sense, ASP.NET is simply programming code that runs on a Web server and is executed by a request from a user using a Web browser. What that ASP.NET code can do once that request is made is almost endless! You can build an application like eBay or Amazon, or you can build a simple photo gallery for your family members.

ASP.NET and FrontPage 2003 are very well integrated, but not completely just yet. FrontPage 2003 recognizes ASP.NET pages (.aspx pages.) It also recognizes ASP.NET "server controls" which are compartmentalized controls that provide some specific functionality. For example, when you create a Database Results page in FrontPage and choose ASP.NET as your technology, FrontPage uses an ASP.NET DataGrid control to display the data. You can then control many different properties of that grid so that it displays just the way you want. All of that is done with ASP.NET.

ASP.NET is a huge technology, and the number of things that people are doing with it is enormous! I work with ASP.NET developers every day, and I never cease to be amazed at what people are doing with the technology. However,

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if you have no programming experience, diving in to the waters of ASP.NET might be quite a plunge! A good book on beginning ASP.NET might be a good investment.

Hope that helps.

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"Linda W." <lindawal28@aol.com> wrote in message
news:%23Ht%2348X7DHA.2392@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...

> I have just discovered ASP.NET and after spending one whole day on it, I'm
> trying to figure why MS offers it. I hate to sound so uninformed but just
> who exactly is the target audience for this: programmers, designers,
> software developers?

>

> I downloaded the Web Matrix Project and have been playing with it. I found
> the Toolbox and some information about "Object Oriented Programming" but
> that's all. I have heard about (but know nothing about) Visual Studio and
> how difficult it is to use. Ditto for The Web Matrix Project. It won't
even

> fit totally on my 17" monitor (almost). I spent another hour this morning
at

> the asp.net site and just wandered around aimlessly.

>

> Where does ASP.NET fit in with FrontPage? Can the two be combined so that
> one compliments the other?

>

> Sign me,

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> Very, very confused

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