

## Re: Exam 70–315: Developing Web Applications with Visual C#.NET

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**From:** Flip (*[remove]*)

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> *I'm currently preparing for the exam 70–315. I'm using the Self-paced*  
Good for you! :>

> *I find it rather difficult.*

I'm an old VB (MCSD) who moved to java(SCJP)/j2ee who's now coming back to MS, C#! :> I'm reading another web applications book (by O'Reilly) and no, it's not a trivial matter. :< But to be honest, the alternative (j2ee) is very textual/code based and very tedious! :<<<< I can't emphasize that too much. :< Just think, the only way java can claim they can run anywhere is to not base their deliverables on binary code, but on text which can be easily transported to any OS. But there in lies their biggest problem. Administrating anything in java is VERY time consuming. :< Administrating Tomcat (3.x, 4.x) I know had no GUI interface, you either had to get a third party tool, or dive into the xmls.

I've taken three years to learn/install new OSs (XP and RH linux, not 100% necessary but to run a website on my old computer, w2k just wouldn't work on it ;<), a new IDE (JBuilder), database connectivity (JDBC), a new RDBMS (MySQL), new db tools (MySQL has text based tools and rudimentary admin and query tools :<), the java language (SDK), the j2ee framework. And that's not to mention understanding the j2ee server (Tomcat, Resin, JBoss, and finally WebLogic on the two new OSs).

Let's just say in the MS world we're blessed with tools that "just work" and they work well together! I was amazed when I moved from VB to java to find very little was automagically connected like it was in the MS world. Some people fault MS for that, and then there are people making products and money, oh and most importantly, having FUN! :>

Since coming back to MS, I've actually had FUN coding on my own time. Java/j2ee was a frustrating exercise in perseverance! I knew if I just tried harder it would eventually work, and it did, eventually. But what I can do in one week with j2ee, I can do in ONE night with c#/.NET! That was installing the IDE, RDBMS, creating tables, adding data, installing patches

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for IDE and RDBMS, creating website, creating webpage to view/edit the data.  
I can't do that NOW with 3yrs of j2ee experience in a week with as robust a  
UI that VisualStudio helps me do!

All this long verbage to say, keep it up. You do Notes (arg :< not my  
favourite app either :< but that's personal opinion :>), so you know  
looping, variable assignment, method calling, etc. You understand the  
constructs, you can do it.

> *I wonder if it is realistic to take the examen without actually have  
> practical experience with Visual C#.NET.*

MS has been accused in the past about this. People have complained it was  
possible to "book study" for the exams and write them without having written  
one line of code. :< They want to move away from that and have people  
certified who have real life experiences with the tools. Therefore, I would  
suggest giving yourself six months to just play with the VisualStudio, have  
fun with it. Use your books, the MS books are great! But I wouldn't put  
pressure on yourself to pass the exams in the next 3/4 months.

I'm not saying you won't pass in 3/4 months, but you'll feel much more  
confident about your skills and passing the exams if you play with it a bit  
more. Also, once you get the certification, when you goto an interview, you  
can again, confidently show you know your stuff! :>

Good luck! :>