Foreword

ASP.NET IS NOW USED DAILY by more than 2 million professional developers worldwide. It runs some of the most successful Web sites and applications in the world, including the most heavily visited site on the Web today: MySpace.com (which now handles more than 1.5 billion page views each day using ASP.NET 2.0). Every day thousands of new developers begin learning ASP.NET for the first time—supported by an incredible developer community of books, blogs, user groups, forums, and developer Web sites.

Our goal with ASP.NET 2.0 is to enable developers to build rich Web applications faster than ever before. We spent thousands of hours talking with developers and looking at existing applications to identify the common features, patterns, and code that Web developers build over and over today. We then worked to componentize and build these features into ASP.NET.

For example, ASP.NET 2.0 now includes built-in support for Membership (username/password credential storage) and Role Management services out of the box. Master Pages enables flexible page UI inheritance and reuse across sites. The new Profile Personalization service enables quick storage and retrieval of user settings and preferences—facilitating rich customization with minimal code. The Site Navigation system enables developers to quickly build menus and link structures. And the new Web Parts framework enables rich portal-style layout and end-user drag/drop features that would otherwise require writing tens of thousands of lines of code.

Included with all of these great infrastructure features are more than 40 new ASP.NET server controls in V2.0 that enable powerful declarative support for data access, security, wizard navigation, menus, tree-views, portals, and more. In addition to these great features is the new AJAX support we are enabling with ASP.NET 2.0 using the new "Atlas" framework. This enables ASP.NET 2.0 developers to easily add dynamic UI functionality to their applications and build richer and more dynamic user experiences that work with all modern browsers.

Together these rich features enable developers to complete Web projects that used to take days or weeks in a fraction of the time, and deliver outstanding value to customers.

This book provides an excellent guide to learning and mastering all the great functionality that ASP.NET 2.0 provides. Fritz and Keith are ASP.NET experts, and share their experiences and insights throughout the book. They will help teach you how to fully leverage ASP.NET and build robust Web applications faster and better than ever before.

Enjoy!

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