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Asynchronous Programming using ASP.NET Web API by James Andy

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Want your web application to be scalable, robust and responsive? Read on! The key is to create and code an ASP.NET Web API controller that engages in asynchronous parallel communication with multiple Web APIs, all this without server congestion or blockage of any threads on the server. Be it client side or server side, asynchronous programming has proven to be a challenge for offshore ASP.NET development and it has been relegated to being a job only for dedicated ASP.NET developers. Here, we introduce you to the Task model that marks a definite twist in dealing with more than one asynchronous parallel requests. We promise it will be a lot simpler when you create the API Controller using either Visual Studio 10 or 11.

We take an example of a dynamic web application that requests and procures data from Digg and Delicious RSS sources. The sequence of operations or processes is explained below:

API Controller deals with a query process using a single token.

Digg and Delicious are in turn questioned by the API Controller for stories related to the query token.

Responses from both the sites are bound into a composite form and sent as a unified response back to the client.

Where asynchronous programming comes in is to develop parallel queries to Digg and Delicious, thereby never burdening the threads on the server and optimizing network utilization.

The response to the client is simple and is the equivalent of a collection of stories.

What you need for creating the controller: dual helper processes for processing requests to Digg and Delicious respectively and then the coding of the actual controller to unify them.

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James Andy is technical writer and specialized in software development technologies. He has past five years experience of technical content writing, his strong area is Microsoft .net development technologies.

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