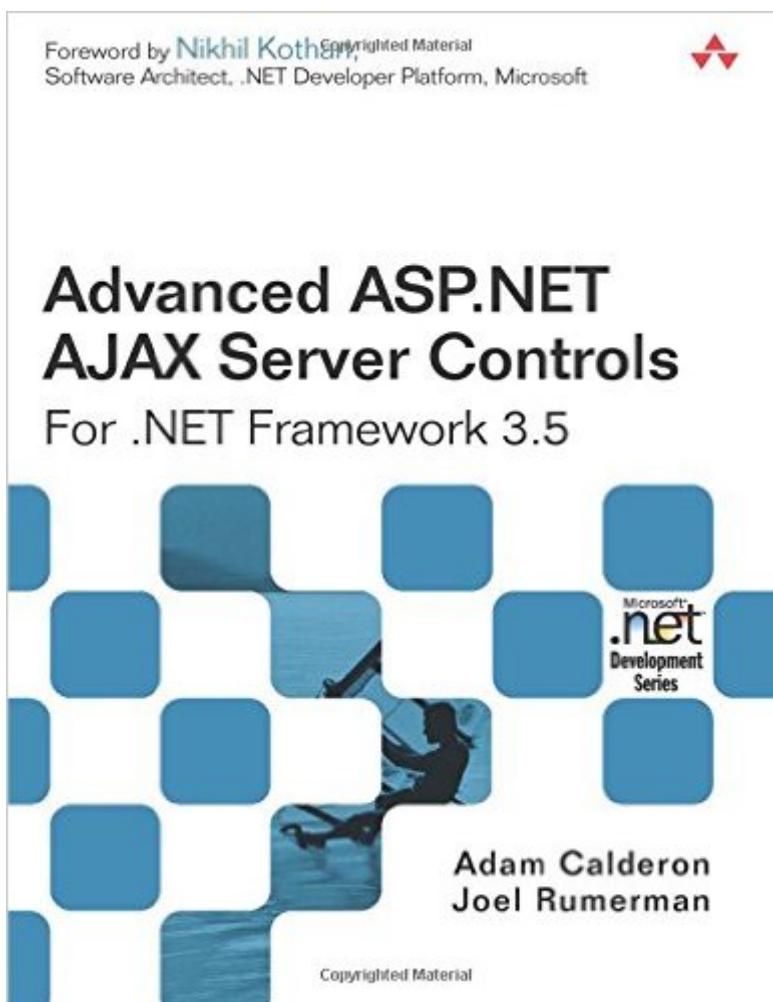


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Advanced ASP.NET AJAX Server Controls For .NET Framework 3.5



Synopsis

Microsoft .NET Development Series  Supported by the leaders and principal authorities of core Microsoft technologies, this series has an author pool that combines some of the most insightful authors in the industry with the lead software architects and developers at Microsoft and the developer community at large.  Don Box Architect, Microsoft  John Montgomery Principal Group Program Manager, Developer Division, Microsoft  Brad Abrams Group Program Manager, Microsoft  ASP.NET AJAX server controls can encapsulate even the most powerful AJAX functionality, helping you build more elegant, maintainable, and scalable applications. This is the first comprehensive, code-rich guide to custom ASP.NET AJAX server controls for experienced ASP.NET developers. Unlike other books on ASP.NET AJAX, this book focuses solely on server control development and reflects the significant improvements in ASP.NET 3.5 AJAX and the latest Visual Studio 2008 features for streamlining AJAX development.  Adam Calderon and  Joel Rumerman first review the core Microsoft AJAX Library and JavaScript techniques needed to support a rich client-side experience. Next, they build upon these techniques showing how to create distributable AJAX-enabled controls that include rich browser-independent JavaScript client-side functionality. The authors thoroughly explain both the JavaScript and .NET aspects of control development and how these two distinct environments come together to provide a foundation for building a rich user experience using ASP.NET AJAX.  Create object-oriented cross-browser JavaScript that supports .NET style classes, interfaces, inheritance, and method overloading. Work with components, behaviors, and controls, and learn how they relate to DOM elements.  Learn Sys.Application and the part it plays in object creation, initialization, and events in the Microsoft AJAX Library.  Build Extender and Script controls that provide integrated script generation for their corresponding client-side counterparts.  Localize ASP.NET AJAX controls including client script.  Discover ASP.NET AJAX client and server communication architecture and the new support for Windows Communication Foundation (WCF).  Understand ASP.NET AJAX Application Services.  Create custom Application Services.  Design controls for a partial postback environment.  Understand the AJAX Control Toolkit architecture and the many features it provides.  Develop highly interactive controls using the AJAX Control Toolkit. 

architecture and build controls that utilize the toolkit Â Foreword xxv Preface xxvii
Acknowledgments xxv About the Authors xxix Â Part I: Client Code Chapter 1: Programming with JavaScript 3 Chapter 2: Microsoft AJAX Library Programming 51 Part II: Controls Chapter 3: Components 121 Chapter 4: Sys.Application 169 Chapter 5: Adding Client Capabilities to Server Controls 207 Chapter 6: ASP.NET AJAX Localization 255 Chapter 7: Control Development in a Partial Postback Environment 317 Part III: Communication Chapter 8: ASP.NET AJAX Communication Architecture 371 Chapter 9: Application Services 425 Part IV: AJAX Control Toolkit Chapter 10: ASP.NET AJAX Control Toolkit Architecture 481 Chapter 11: Adding Client Capabilities to Server Controls Using the ASP.NET AJAX Control Toolkit 513 Appendixes Appendix A: JavaScript in Visual Studio 2008 547 Appendix B: Validating Method Parameters 555 Appendix C: ASP.NET Handlers and Modules 559 Appendix D: Client Error Handling Code 569 Â Index 577 Â

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Customer Reviews

This is a fine resource for ASP.NET developers who want to build high performance, data-driven Web applications with a richer user interface. The introduction of ASP.NET AJAX 2.0 extensions caught many of us off-guard. We were suddenly thrown into intensive JavaScript programming on a Microsoft platform. Faced with a major learning curve, many of us fled to the convenience of the UpdatePanel control as a stepping stone. There's no getting around it, it's going to take effort to get to the next level of AJAX capabilities using Microsoft's library. This book takes you into that journey -

but not necessarily by the most direct route. The first third of the book feels more like a solid ASP.NET AJAX reference than a "how-to-do-it" tutorial. The early chapters cover the library's types, namespaces, and classes in depth. It just seemed too early and too dry to be dealing with the nitty-gritty of the platform. In my view, the book should start at Chapter Five. That's where you really make use of client-side functionality by adding it to server-based controls. As the authors point out, the AJAX library extensions help you overcome inconsistencies among browsers. You learn practical steps such as adding script resources, configuring ScriptManager, and getting into extender controls. The book leads you through the creation of an Image control extender that loops through a series of images at runtime. It's in this hands-on chapter that you really start to grasp the concepts. There's a substantial chapter of localization in ASP.NET AJAX. If you're taking on a translation, it would certainly be worth the price of the book. At the outset, I referred to the UpdatePanel. It could be called the "lazy developer's AJAX control".

Advanced ASP.NET AJAX Server Controls provides you with unique in-depth coverage of AJAX framework. The book is quite different to any other AJAX book on the market. Most AJAX books start with UpdatePanel as a primary mean for developing AJAX-enabled Web pages. This book doesn't cover UpdatePanel at all. UpdatePanel is excellent tool if you are looking for a quick way how to update content of your Web pages without doing full post back. Unfortunately simplicity of UpdatePanel takes a price. Web pages with many UpdatePanels tend to be too large and too slow. Also, UpdatePanel is just a fragment of whole ASP.NET AJAX story. This book gives you the complete story. The book starts with discussion about JavaScript as a backbone of the AJAX framework. First four chapters cover OOP aspects of JavaScript, AJAX extensions to JS language and extremely important component, behavior and control 'classes' that provide all client functionality to AJAX framework. In chapter 5 you finally enter into .NET world. You learn about extenders, controls, localization support and usage of AJAX in partial postback environment (using UpdatePanel). Next two chapters are all about communication. You learn how JavaScript portions of web controls can communicate with Web services (page methods, WCF, ASMX services) and how to extend your controls with authentication role and profile functionality. Last two chapters provide great intro into AJAX Toolkit as a simpler way how to create AJAX-enabled controls. The greatest thing about the book is writing style. It is simple enough to understand even for those ones who have little experience with AJAX or ASP.NET. I'm not ASP.NET developer, but still everything in the book was clear to me. All you need to know is basics of ASP.

I started programming on the internet with Internet Explorer 2.0 on a Mac Performa using notepad, and then using Claris Home Page. I was using the AJAX technologies well before 2000. It is interesting to see how engrained into our browser development they have become. A few years later I started developing Windows Form applications, which move into the Smart Client context, and now RIA using WPF and Silverlight. I have gotten my hands dirty with browser applications a few times since 2002, but I try to avoid them like the plague. I am a firm believer that the browser is being abused, would love to develop every day without it, but have found that is still not possible today when targeting home users and environments you do not control. That is not the case with our project, we should be using WPF, but those in charge do not care. Why all the useless blather? Because I want you to know I have absolutely zero interest in ASP.NET AJAX, but I have to get up to speed on it because it is being forced on our team. That said, this book sucks, because it is written so well I cannot put it down. These guys zero in on ASP.NET AJAX Server Controls, but they take the time to go in-depth on all the technologies that ASP.NET AJAX Server Controls interact with. Including JavaScript, JSON, HTTP Handlers, the ASP.NET AJAX Extensions, the ASP.NET AJAX Toolkit, REST, and WCF. This book has given me a new perspective on the present day browser environment that will make this next project enjoyable. If you are getting started with ASP.NET AJAX I highly recommend this book. It digs into the guts of ASP.NET AJAX and will give the inside story on how the ASP.NET AJAX Controls are working and how to build high quality controls yourself.

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