Beginning ASP.NET E-Commerce In C#: From Novice To Professional (Expert's Voice In .NET)
Synopsis

With the incarnations of ASP.NET 3.5 and SQL Server 2008, programming dynamic data-driven web sites with Microsoft technologies has become easier and much more efficient than ever before. Fewer mouse clicks and fewer lines of code can now enable more powerful features and the tools you need—Visual Web Developer and SQL Server 2008 Express Edition—are free. In Beginning ASP.NET E-Commerce in C#: From Novice to Professional, you'll learn how to best use the free development tools offered by Microsoft to build an online product catalog. You will gain an intimate understanding of every piece of code you write. This understanding will enable you to build your own powerful and flexible web sites efficiently and rapidly with ASP.NET 3.5. Build a complete site, including a shopping cart, checkout, product searching, product recommendations, control panel, customer accounts, order processing, and much, much more. Explore new challenges and theoretical concepts, which are carefully analyzed and explained throughout the book, with each feature you add to the web site. Learn to handle payments by integrating PayPal and DataCash into your site. What you'll learn Use Microsoft's Express products to build an online product catalog Add payment processing with PayPal and DataCash Expand your site's product listing through web services Implement an order pipeline Take advantage of search engine optimization techniques to publicize your site Who this book is for Developers wanting to build professional e-commerce sites using .NET technologies.

Book Information

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Among the many ASP.NET books out now, very few actually go through and help readers how to create large-scale web applications. There are plenty of reference books available explaining how to use the many ASP.NET controls and C# language techniques showing you snippets of code but that's about it. In the job market today, people need to understand how to put together (from start to finish) a usable web application that can be used in the "real-world". This book (as its previous ASP.NET 2.0 version) explains to its readers how to create from scratch a web application using techniques that you would see in a real-world application. Of course it is a limited database, but it is something that you can build upon and use many of the techniques in other similar web applications. The book first starts in explaining the database structure (The Balloon Shop) and how 3-tier architecture works in a web application today. The presentation tier, the business tier and the data tier. All these "tiers" are just objects that you create in ASP.NET and C#. The presentation tier would be your web forms (controls and such), your business tier would be all the code (defined in classes) that will interact with the presentation tier and the data tier will be your database and any remaining functions. This is the real web applications work and the author explains it very well. VS 2008 and SQL Server 2008 Express is used so you don't have to spend any money on other tools (free from Microsoft) and the author goes through all the database tables while explaining database basics such as tables, keys, SQL statements and stored procedures. A very nice database intro. The author then goes into detail explaining all the classes (explaining how to create classes and why they are useful) that will be used in the application. Other real-world issues in developing web applications are discussed like performance, error handling, error pages, administrations issues, interacting with 3rd party components, etc. After you read this book, you should be well versed in developing a pretty sophisticated ASP.NET 3.5 web application. I highly recommend this book.

First, the book is a great book as far as showing you how to do website design. Each chapter builds on the rest of the book. However, there have been problems with the url-rewrite section. Ever since I added that to my sample site it has stopped working properly. My *.css file could not be found, picture urls did not work and more recently my full text search.asp also does not work on pages other than page 1 of a category site. It took me over a month of on again off again trying to get it to work for me to find out about how to fix this problem by adding another url rewrite to my web config file. The authors just seem to skip this part of the code. It is not in their code either so I start to wonder if they ever tried their code before being finished with the book. It has been impossible to contact them about this problem and on Christians web site their are no errata available to view or
able to be published. The site on [...] is completely useless and I have never received a response from it or the authors about my questions. This attitude that they have is beyond me.

This is a good book if you need to learn how to create a "poor mans " website. The book actually isn't bad, but you'll need to have some experience with programming because it is not a beginning book, even though the title states that it is. It's not that the material in the book is hard, its actually really easy. However, the book is LOADED with errors. I'm on chapter 12 so far and already have over 100 errors written down that I had to correct to get things working correctly. I found many errors where classes in the style sheet were left out. You have some elements reference CSS classes that he doesn't even tell you how to create, so you have to guess what the content of that class should be in order to get your website to match the images in the book. There are several errors in the SQL code. The SQL code is all over the place, in the tables he uses NVARCHAR for the data type but in some of the stored procedures he uses VARCHAR. Some places he sets the max length of database columns to 1000 and in another spot he uses MAX on the same column. There are several places where code that has no use at all is in the functions, i.e. There are several spots where variables are declared but never even used in the program. I'm still giving it three stars because I am learning a lot of new things from the book, but I'm just thankful that I have 13 years of programming experience to fall back on, because I'm fixing error after error. This book is basically, a copy and paste version of his PHP book. In a lot of places you can put the books next to each other and they are word for word the same, even the same grammar errors in the exact same spot. The only thing I ask is that next time he actually review and test the code before pasting it into the book, and have someone edit the book for general errors.

Would absolutely recommend this book for Novice-and-up developers. Minor errors (differences in book and sample code) and fun puzzles along the way, but if you have some development and data background, very simple to work around. After all, that is what makes software development fun. I can’t thank the authors enough for publishing this book (especially on Kindle!!)

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