

Getting Started with the .NET Application Platform

This document is intended to provide a set of useful links to web-based resources for .NET Framework developers. It will be updated to keep track of site changes or new offerings.

General Information

- *Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN)*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com>
The main entry-point for web-based developer information at Microsoft.
- *Microsoft .NET Technologies*
<http://www.microsoft.com/net>
A business-orientated site that describes the overall .NET vision.

Best Practices for Architectural Development

- *.NET Architecture Centre*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/architecture/default.aspx>
The home page on MSDN for architectural practices.
- *Application Architecture for .NET: Designing Applications and Services*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/dnbda/html/distapp.asp>
Comprehensive architectural design white paper (166 pages) that provides guidance for the design of applications and services built on the .NET Framework. Describes the major technology and design decision points, explains how security, exception management and data communication influence component design, and explores physical deployment patterns.
- *.NET Data Access Architectural Guide*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/dnbda/html/daag.asp>
This 65-page whitepaper describes how to use the .NET Framework to building the data access tier of an n-tier application. Coverage of connection management, error handling, performance, transactions and data paging.
- *Building Secure ASP.NET Applications: Authentication, Authorisation and Secure Communication*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/dnnetsec/html/secnetlpMSDN.asp>
Also available as a book through MS Press, this guide should be on the desk of every ASP.NET web developer! It provides a practical, scenario-based approach to the issues that need to be considered in building a secure web application.
- *Software Design Patterns*
<http://www.dofactory.com/patterns/Patterns.aspx>
An interpretation in C# of the classic Gang of Four design patterns, including the Factory, Singleton, Façade and Observer.

Sample End-to-End Applications

- *ASP.NET Source Projects (including IBuySpy Portal / IBuySpy Store)*
<http://www.asp.net/Default.aspx?tabindex=7&tabid=41>
A reference implementation of several ASP.NET projects, including an ecommerce site and a knowledge portal, ideal for customizing and extending.
- *.NET PetShop*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/dnbda/html/bdasamppet.asp>
A .NET implementation of the J2EE PetStore reference application.

ASP.NET Web Development

- *ASP.NET Community*
<http://asp.net>
The main community site for web developers, including a directory of web controls that you can deploy within your own application.
- *How-To Encyclopedia*
<http://www.asp.net/Modules/MoreArticles.aspx?tabindex=0&mid=64>
Several hundred how-to articles that describe how to use ASP.NET to accomplish specific tasks. New articles are added daily.

Upgrading Visual Basic 6.0 Applications to Visual Basic .NET

- *Visual Basic 6.0 Code Advisor*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/vbasic/downloads/codeadvisor/default.asp>
Downloadable tool that scans your existing VB6 projects and makes recommendations to ease your migration from VB6 to VB.NET.
- *Upgrading from VB6 to VB.NET*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/vbasic/techinfo/articles/upgrade/default.asp>
A comprehensive site of whitepapers and documentation covering the language and technology changes that separate VB6 from VB.NET.

Microsoft-Sponsored Developer Community Sites

- *GotDotNet*
<http://www.gotdotnet.com>
The premier community site for Microsoft developers, containing code samples, whitepapers, walkthroughs, forums, and shared development workspaces. Monitored by UK Systems Engineers and the .NET Product Group, but primarily designed for peer-to-peer interaction.
- *Microsoft Developer Community*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/community/>
A portal to community offerings, including newsgroups, webcasts, and online developer chats.
- *Windows Forms*
<http://www.windowsforms.net>
For Windows Forms developers – forums, how-to samples and other stuff.
- *C# Community*
<http://www.csharp.net>
C# language innovations and discussions on the use of the language.

Third-Party User Groups

- *VBUG*
<http://www.vbug.co.uk>
Formerly the Visual Basic User Group, providing regional user groups, training and other

UK-based ASP.NET Hosting Companies

NB These companies are not officially endorsed by Microsoft; they are provided here for your convenience only.

- *Netcetera*
<http://www.inetc.net>
- *WWWServer*
<http://wwwserver.co.uk>
- *DotNet Hosting*
<http://www.dotnet-webhosting.com>
- *Hosting UK*
<http://www.hostinguk.net>

Developer Events and Webcasts

- *UK Developer Events*
<http://www.microsoft.com/uk/msdn/events/events.asp>
New events and seminars are posted here on a regular basis, hosted geographically across the UK.
- *The .NET Show*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/theshow>
A regular web-based television programme that covers new technologies and developer products from Microsoft.
- *Online Seminars*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/training/seminars>
Online webcasts covering different varieties of .NET technology.

Magazines & Journals

- *MSDN Flash*
<http://www.microsoft.com/uk/msdn/subscriptions/register.asp>
Free biweekly email newsletter providing news and updates on .NET technologies and UK-focused event information. Make sure you sign up to find out about forthcoming events and activities.
- *MSDN Magazine*
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/msdnmag/default.aspx>
Microsoft system journal on .NET technologies
- *VSJ*
<http://www.vsj.co.uk/dotnet/>
Third-party publication covering .NET development amongst other technologies.

Support, Training and Certification

- *Free and Chargeable Support Options*
<http://www.microsoft.com/uk/visualstudio/support/default.asp>
Information on free and fee-based assisted support options.
- *UK Developer Training Site*
<http://www.microsoft.com/uk/skills/started/developer/training.aspx>
Details of the CTEC (Microsoft Certified Training and Education Centres) within the UK that offer developer training.
- *MCAD Certification*
<http://www.microsoft.com/uk/mcad>
The Microsoft Certified Application Developer certification provides validation of .NET skills development.

.NET Case Studies

Visual Studio .NET

- Find out how companies and organizations are using .NET to develop solutions that meet their business needs.
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio/productinfo/casestudies/>
- Visual Studio .NET specific case studies
<http://www.microsoft.com/resources/casestudies/search.asp?ProTaxID=1287>

Rapid Economic Justifications

- Rapid Economic Justifications (REJ) are part of a drive to provide quantifiable benefits to the business from IT investments, so that IT Managers can show in hard numbers what kind of a return they can expect on their IT investment. REJ information on companies that have gained benefits from using .NET include:
 - Nationwide Building Society
<http://www.microsoft.com/resources/casestudies/CaseStudy.asp?CaseStudyID=11711>
 - Marks & Spencer
<http://www.microsoft.com/resources/casestudies/CaseStudy.asp?CaseStudyID=12376>