



# Routing

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.NET

ASP.NET Core **controllers** use Routing middleware to match the URLs of incoming requests and map them to **actions**. Route templates are:

- defined in startup code or attributes,
- describe how URL paths are matched to actions, and
- are used to generate URLs for links.

Actions are either conventionally routed or attribute routed.

# Controllers

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/controllers/actions?view=aspnetcore-5.0>

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A **Controller** is a class used to define and group a set of **Action** methods. **Controllers** logically group similar **Actions** together. This allows routing, caching, and authorization to be applied collectively.

Within the **Model-View-Controller** or **REST** pattern, a **Controller** is responsible for the initial processing of a request and instantiation of a **Model**. Business decisions should be performed within the **Model** layer.

To be classified as a **Controller**, at least one of these conditions is true:

- The class name is suffixed with **Controller**.
- The class inherits from a class whose name is suffixed with **Controller**.
- The **[Controller]** attribute is applied to the class.

**Controller** classes reside in the project's root-level **Controllers** directory and inherit from **Controller** or **ControllerBase** classes.

```
using System.Threading.Tasks;
using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Mvc;
using Microsoft.Extensions.Logging;
using MvcProjectStarter.Models;

namespace MvcProjectStarter.Controllers
{
    public class HomeController : Controller
    {
        private readonly ILogger<HomeController>

        public HomeController(ILogger<HomeContro
        {
```

# Action Methods

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/controllers/actions?view=aspnetcore-5.0#defining-actions>

- An **Action** method is a method in a **Controller** that handles requests.
- All public methods in a **Controller** (except those with the **[NonAction]** attribute) are **Actions**.
- Parameters on **Actions** are bound to request data and are validated using **ModelBinding**.
- **Model validation** occurs for everything that's **Model-Bound**.
- The **ModelState.IsValid** method indicates whether **ModelBinding** and **validation** succeeded.
- **Action** methods should contain logic for mapping a request to a business concern.
- Business concerns should typically be represented as services that the **Controller** accesses through **Dependency Injection**.
- **Actions** can return anything, but usually return an **ActionResult** or **Task<ActionResult>** (for async methods).

```
namespace MvcProjectStarter.Controllers
{
    public class SongsController : Controller
    {
        private readonly MvcSongContext _context;

        public SongsController(MvcSongContext context)
        {
            _context = context;
        }

        // GET: Songs
        public async Task<ActionResult> Index()
        {
            return View(await _context.Song.ToListAsync());
        }

        // GET: Songs/Details/5
        public async Task<ActionResult> Details(int? id)
        {
            if (id == null)
            {
                return NotFound();
            }

            var song = await _context.Song
                .FirstOrDefaultAsync(m => m.id == id);
            if (song == null)
            {
                return NotFound();
            }

            return View(song);
        }
    }
}
```

# Model Binding

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/models/model-binding?view=aspnetcore-5.0>

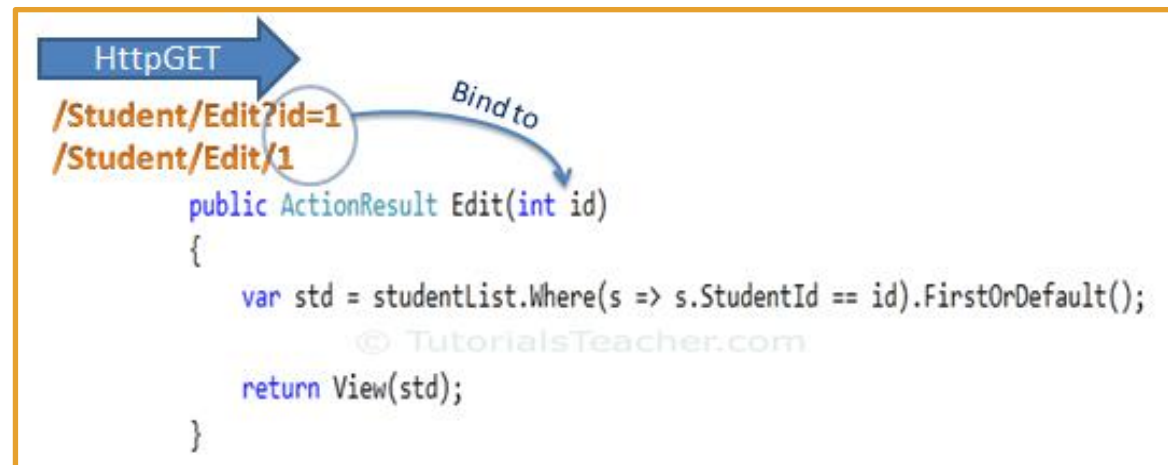
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**Controllers** and **Action** methods work with data that comes from HTTP requests. (Ex. **POST**ed form fields provide values for the properties of the **model**.)

Writing code to retrieve each of these values and convert them from strings to .NET **types** would be tedious and error-prone. **ModelBinding** automates this process.

The **ModelBinding** system:

- Retrieves data from various sources such as route data, form fields, and query strings.
- Provides the data to **Controllers** in **Action** method parameters and public **Properties**.
- Converts **string** data to .NET types.
- Updates Properties of complex types.





# Model Binding

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/models/model-binding?view=aspnetcore-5.0>

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In this example, *ModelBinding* goes through the following steps for the request at the bottom.

1. The routing system selects the correct *action* method.
2. It needs the first parameter of **GetByID (id)** and looks through the HTTP request.
3. It finds id = "2" in the route data.
4. The system converts string "2" into integer 2.
5. It finds the next parameter of **GetByID(dogsOnly)**.
6. The system finds "DogsOnly=true" in the query string. Name matching is not case-sensitive.
7. The system converts the string **"true"** to a boolean true.

Suppose you have the following action method:

C#

```
[HttpGet("{id}")]  
public ActionResult<Pet> GetById(int id, bool dogsOnly)
```

And the app receives a request with this URL:

```
http://contoso.com/api/pets/2?DogsOnly=true
```

# Different Controller Helper (Action) Methods

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/controllers/actions?view=aspnetcore-5.0#controller-helper-methods>

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The ***Controller*** provides access to three categories of helper methods.

<u>an empty response body</u>	<u>a non-empty response body with a predefined content type</u>	<u>a non-empty response body formatted in a content type negotiated with the client</u>
HTTP Status Code (ex. <b>BadRequest()</b> , <b>NotFound()</b> , and <b>Ok()</b> ;)	<b>View()</b> which uses a <b><i>Model</i></b> to render HTML. (ex. <b>Return View(Customer)</b> ;)	This category is better known as <b>Content Negotiation</b> . <b><i>Content negotiation</i></b> applies whenever an <b><i>action</i></b> returns an <b>ActionResult</b> type or something other than an <b>IActionResult</b> . (Ex. <b>BadRequest()</b> , <b>CreatedAtRoute()</b> ;, and <b>Ok()</b> ;)
<b>Redirect</b> - returns a redirect to an action or destination ( <b>Redirect()</b> , <b>LocalRedirect()</b> , <b>RedirectToAction()</b> , or <b>RedirectToRoute()</b> ;) .	<b>Formatted Response</b> - JSON or a similar data exchange format to represent an object, (ex. <b>Json(customer)</b> ;)	

# Conventional Routing

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/controllers/routing?view=aspnetcore-5.0#cr>

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**Startup.Configure()** typically has code similar to the following when using conventional routing.

Inside the call to **UseEndpoints()**, **.MapControllerRoute()** is used to create a route. This single route is named “**default**”. **/Home/Index/<args>** being the default route used when a request arrives to the base URL.

```
app.UseEndpoints(endpoints =>
{
    endpoints.MapControllerRoute(
        name: "default",
        pattern: "{controller=Home}/{action=Index}/{id?}");
});
```



# Conventional Routing

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/controllers/routing?view=aspnetcore-5.0#set-up-conventional-route>  
<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/controllers/routing?view=aspnetcore-5.0#multiple-conventional-routes>

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The route template (in **Startup.cs**)

**"{controller=Home}/{action=Index}/{id?}"**  
matches a URL path like  
**/Products/Details/5.**

The route template *tokenizes* (extracts) the route values:

- Controller = Products,
- Action = Details,
- id = 5

This results in a match if the app has a ***Controller*** named ProductsController and an ***Action*** called Details. The *id* value is optional due to the **?**.

```
app.UseEndpoints(endpoints =>
{
    endpoints.MapControllerRoute(
        name: "default",
        pattern: "{controller=Home}/{action=Index}/{id?}");
});
```

```
app.UseEndpoints(endpoints =>
{
    endpoints.MapControllerRoute(name: "blog",
        pattern: "blog/{*article}",
        defaults: new { controller = "Blog", action = "Article" });
    endpoints.MapControllerRoute(name: "default",
        pattern: "{controller=Home}/{action=Index}/{id?}");
});
```

# Attribute Routing – REST API's

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/controllers/routing?view=aspnetcore-5.0#attribute-routing-for-rest-apis>

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*RESTful APIs* should use *Attribute Routing* to model the app's functionality as a set of resources where operations are represented by *HTTP verbs*.

*Attribute Routing* uses sets of *Attributes* on each *Controller Action* to map *Actions* directly to route templates. The following `Startup.Configure()` code is typical for a *RESTful API*. `.MapControllers()` is called inside `UseEndpoints()` to map attribute routed controllers.

```
app.UseEndpoints(endpoints =>
{
    endpoints.MapControllers();
});
```

# Attribute Routing – REST API's

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/controllers/routing?view=aspnetcore-5.0#attribute-routing-for-rest-apis>

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*HomeController* matches a set of URLs similar to how the default *conventional* routing matches a *Controller Action* to **{controller=Home}/{action=Index}/{id?}**.

*Conventional Routing* handles routes more succinctly, but *Attribute Routing* allows (and requires) precise control over which route templates apply to each *Action*.

With *Attribute Routing*, the *Controller* name and *Action* names no longer play a role in which *Action* is matched.

```
public class MyDemoController : Controller
{
    [Route("")]
    [Route("Home")]
    [Route("Home/Index")]
    [Route("Home/Index/{id?}")]
    public IActionResult MyIndex(int? id)
    {
        return ControllerContext.MyDisplayRouteInfo(id);
    }

    [Route("Home/About")]
    [Route("Home/About/{id?}")]
    public IActionResult MyAbout(int? id)
    {
        return ControllerContext.MyDisplayRouteInfo(id);
    }
}
```

# Attribute Routing - HTTP Verb Templates

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/mvc/controllers/routing?view=aspnetcore-5.0#http-verb-templates>

ASP.NET Core provides these *HTTP verb* attributes: `[HttpGet]`, `[HttpPost]`, `[HttpPut]`, `[HttpDelete]`, `[HttpHead]`, `[HttpPatch]`.

The `GetProduct()` *Action* method includes the `"{id}"` template, therefore 'id' is appended to the `"api/[controller]"` attribute template above the *Controller*, so `GetProduct()` template is `"api/test2/{id}"`.

Therefore, `GetProduct(string id)` can match *GET* requests of the form:

- `/api/test2/{any string}`.

```
[Route("api/[controller]")]
[ApiController]
public class Test2Controller : ControllerBase
{
    [HttpGet] // GET /api/test2
    public IActionResult ListProducts()
    {
        return ControllerContext.MyDisplayRouteInfo();
    }

    [HttpGet("{id}")] // GET /api/test2/xyz
    public IActionResult GetProduct(string id)
    {
        return ControllerContext.MyDisplayRouteInfo(id);
    }

    [HttpGet("int/{id:int}")] // GET /api/test2/int/3
    public IActionResult GetIntProduct(int id)
    {
        return ControllerContext.MyDisplayRouteInfo(id);
    }

    [HttpGet("int2/{id}")] // GET /api/test2/int2/3
    public IActionResult GetInt2Product(int id)
    {
        return ControllerContext.MyDisplayRouteInfo(id);
    }
}
```