Combining and minimizing assets

If your web page includes many CSS and/or JavaScript files, the page will open very slowly because the browser sends a large number of HTTP requests to download each file in separated threads. To reduce the number of requests and connections, we can combine and compress multiple CSS/JavaScript files into one or very few files in production mode, and then include these compressed files on the page instead of the original ones.

Getting ready

• Create a new yii2-app-basic application using the Composer package manager, as described in the official guide at [http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guide-start-insta]lation.html](http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guide-start-installation.html)

• Download the compiler. j ar file from <https://developers.google.com/closure/compiler/>

• Download the yuicompressor.jar file from [https://githiih.rom/yni/ynirompressor/releases](https://github.com/yui/yuicompressor/releases)

• Download and install the Java Runtime Environment (JRE) from <http://www.java.com>

How to do it...

Follow these steps to combine and minimize assets:

1. Open the source HTML code of the index page of your application. Check whether it is similar to the following structure:

< ! DOCTYPE html>

<html lang="en-US">

<head>

<title>My Yii Application</title>

<link href="/assets/9b3b2888/css/bootstrap.css" rel="stylesheet">

<link href="/css/site.css" rel="stylesheet">

</head>

<body>

<script src="/assets/25f82b8a/jquery.js"></script>

<script src="/assets/f4307424/yii.js"></script>

<script src="/assets/9b3b2888/js/bootstrap.js"></script>

</body>

</html>

The page includes three JavaScript files.

2. Open the config/console. php file and add the @webroot and @web alias definitions:

<?php

Yii::setAlias('@webroot', DIR . '/../web');

Yii::setAlias('@web', '/');

3. Open a console and run the following command: yii asset/template assets.php

4. Open the generated assets. php file and configure it as follows:

<?php return [