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| --- | --- |
|  | Software Design Specification |
| 5/7/2013 | Graduate Capstone |

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# 1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide description regarding the architecture and other design aspects of the system. The document will be used by the development team to develop the functionality. Clients can also use this to verify the agreed upon functionality.

## 1.1 Intended Audience

The document is intended for individuals of a medium-high technical or business background.

## 1.2 References

* <http://web.cs.dal.ca/~hawkey/3130/SDS_outline.doc>
* <http://www.cs.utah.edu/~jamesj/ayb2005/docs/SDS_v2.htm>
* <http://www.se.rit.edu/~vdkrit/design/VDK-RIT_SDS.doc>

## 1.3 Revision History

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Date | Reason For Change | Version |
| Andy Bottom | 04/28/2013 | Started compiling all architecture diagrams into this document | 0.1 |
| Andy Bottom | 05/07/2013 | Completed the finishing touches on this document | 1.0 |
| Andy Bottom | 05/21/2013 | Updated and added additional design decision including PCLs and caching | 1.1 |

# 2 System Overview

## 2.1 Section Overview

This section is used for explanations on generically high-level overview of the entire system. This includes information regarding arts of this system.

## 2.2 General Constraints

@SEE: The Software Requirement Specification

## 2.3 Data Design

@SEE: The Database Design Document for further analysis of the Data and Database Design.

## 2.4 Actors

The actors are the main endpoints that utilize the functionality of the system.

### 2.4.1 Phone

The phones are the phone applications which the Users interact with to use the systems features.

### 2.4.2 Admin Website

The admin website is what the administrators interact with to manage the data in the system.

### 2.4.3 Database

The database holds the information for the system and gets used by the other actors. All interactions with the database happen via the Web Services.

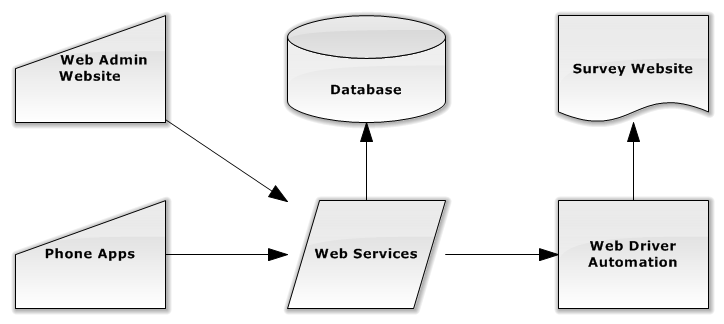
### 2.4.4 Web Services

The Web Services is the way that both the Phone and Admin Website performs common logic and obtains the data. The Web Services acts as our data access layer for both the client applications to be able to get data from the database. The Web Services also acts as the kickoff for the Automation Web Driver process.

### 2.4.5 Survey Website

The Survey website is a pre-existing website that the company uses for the Satisfaction Surveys. Typically these websites are created by a company that offers to create these types of surveys and the origin company uses their services for this reason. It is important to note that the Company Survey Website is completely independent from our system and code base. The only interaction we have with the website is that it is the endpoint that is our Web Driver uses to perform the form automation on..

## 2.5 Domain Model



## 2.6 Goals and Guidelines

* A Large emphasis is put on convenience of the entire project. The goal is to provide an easier and more convenient way to take the surveys.
* Convenience will be done via very good Usability of the Phone Application.

# 3 Architecture Design

## 3.1 Section Overview

The following section explains the architectural designs of the major system in the project.

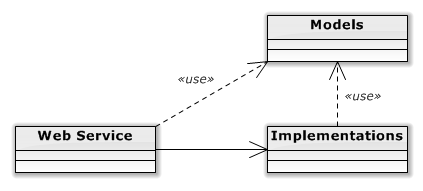
## 3.2 Architectural Strategies

* Object Oriented Design is always the forefront of any application that I develop for. The idea of being able to get the most flexibility and reuse out of my code is always a goal that I strive for.
* The use of a DAL is implemented with the web services so that I can keep separation between the user devices and the rest of the system. It also provides reuse of all data calls.
* The automated process is also located inside the web services layer to keep abstraction between the devices and the process.
* The Web Admin site is a very object oriented approach and follows very closely along the lines of the database. The Web Admin is a Content Management System for the project.
* In the phone applications, we will create a PCL that will be referenced by the apps to incorporate a large reuse of the backend page logic.

## 3.3 System Architecture

### 3.3.1 Web Services

#### 3.3.1.1 High-Level Class Diagram

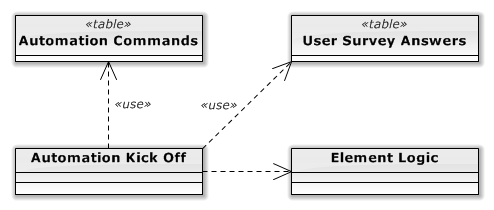


#### 3.3.1.2 Class Diagram

@TODO: Implemented during start of Construction Phase

### 3.3.2 Automation Process

#### 3.3.2.1 High-Level Class Diagram

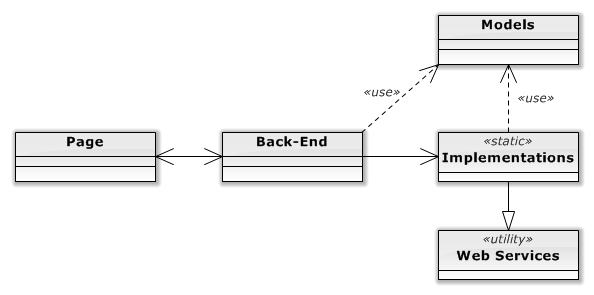


#### 3.3.2.2 Class Diagram

@TODO: Implemented during start of Construction Phase

### 3.3.3 Admin CMS

#### 3.3.3.1 High-Level Diagram



#### 3.3.3.2 Class Diagram

@TODO: Implemented during start of Construction Phase

### 3.3.4 Phone Application

### 3.3.4.1 High Level Data Pattern

@TODO: MVVM Diagram

## 3.4 Detailed System Design

@TODO

# 4 User Interface Design

## 4.1 Section Overview

This section is used as a guide for designing the user interface for both the Admin CMS and the Phone Application

## 4.2 Interface Design Rules

@TODO: Implemented during the start of the Construction Phase. Part of one of the iterations.

## 4.3 GUI Components

@TODO: Implemented during the start of the Construction Phase. Part of one of the iterations.

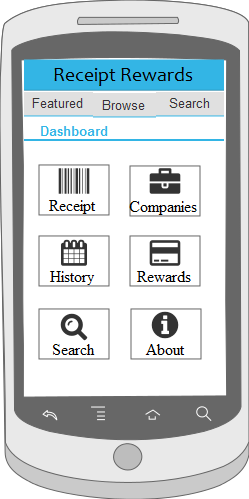
## 4.4 Detailed Description

@TODO: Implemented during the start of the Construction Phase.

## 4.5 Prototypes and Wireframes

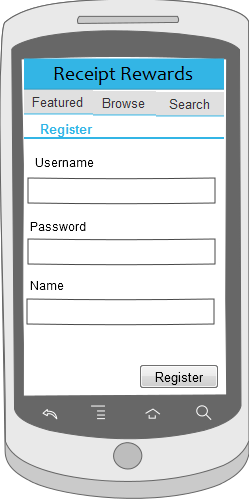
### 4.5.1 Phone Application

#### 4.5.1.1 Dashboard / Main Menu



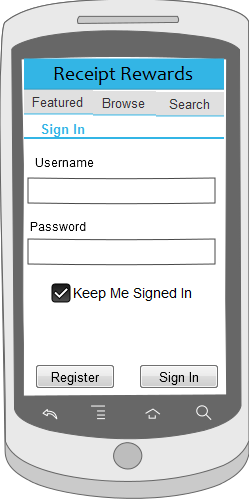
This is the dashboard or main menu page. From here, the use will be able to get to all the functionality of the system.

#### 4.5.1.2 Register Page



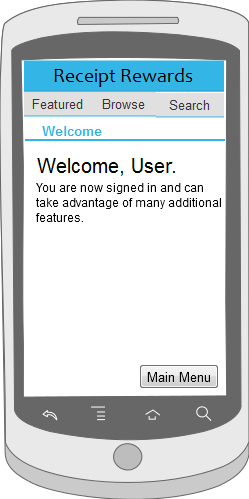
This is a register page so that an anonymous user can register and create a user account for them.

#### 4.5.1.3 Login Page



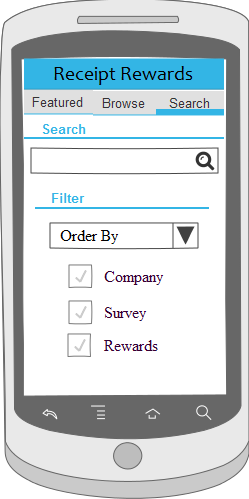
The login page provides the functionality for the user to be able to login to their user account.

#### 4.5.1.4 Login Welcome



A welcome page for the user.

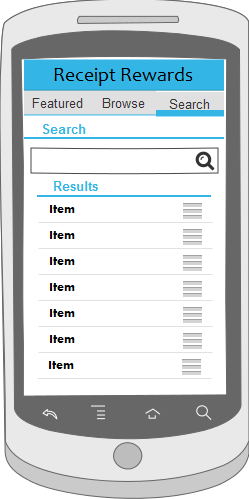
#### 4.5.1.5 Search



The search gives the user a search box and advanced options to be able to search for companies and surveys.

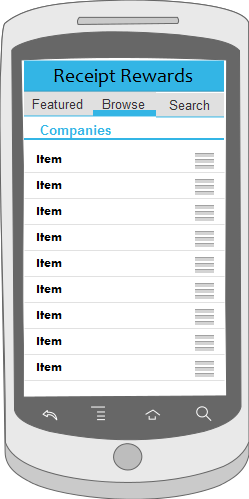
Upon searching, it will display the search result page.

#### 4.5.1.6 Search Results



This is the search results page. The result will be of companies and surveys. They can select an item and go to either the Company Page or the Survey Page.

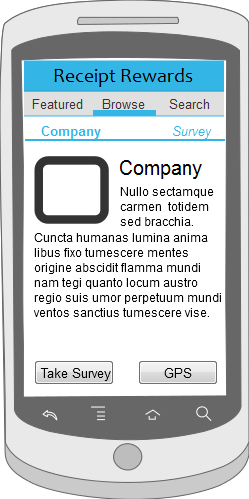
#### 4.5.1.7 Company List



The company list page is used to display a list of all the companies to the user.

From here, a user can select a company to view which will display the company page to the user.

#### 4.5.1.8 Company Page



The company page is the page which displays all the information about a company to the user.

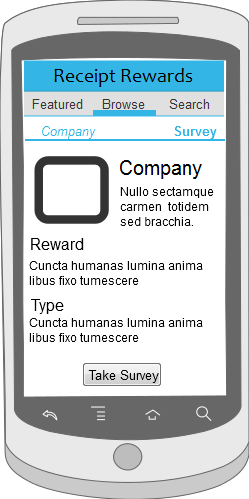
From this page, a user can also navigate the survey corresponding to that company.

#### 4.5.1.9 Featured Company Page



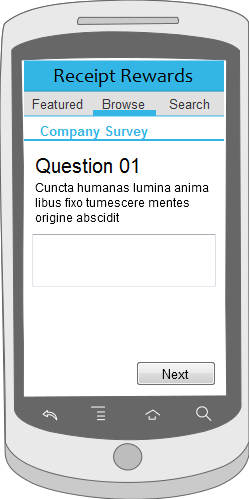
The featured company page is a place in the application where a company can pay to be listed in a special section. Kind of like a advertising spot for companies.

#### 4.5.1.10 Survey Page



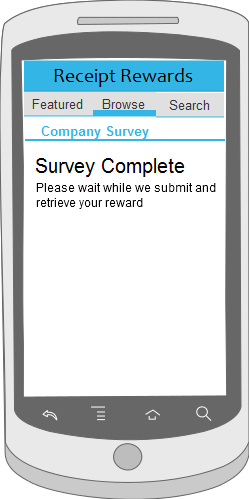
Survey page provides information regarding the survey and what the reward will be. From here, they can click take survey to move on to filling out the survey.

#### 4.5.1.11 Survey



This is the page where they are actually taking the survey and the first question is displayed. They go through these screens until they finish.

#### 4.5.1.12 Survey Complete



Once they finish taking the survey the will see the complete page. It is also on this page where they will receive information about how to get their reward.

# 5 Design decisions and tradeoffs

In this section, in-depth explanations containing reasoning for choices made in regard to the implementation and design of the system are explained. The options, pros and cons and overall choice and reason will be explained.

## 5.1 Web Services

Since web services are a vital part of our application, it was needed to be decided as to which time of web services would be implemented in the system. The choices were SOAP and RESTful. Below are a brief description of each and the choice made.

### 5.1.1 SOAP

Soap was the first type of web service created. I also have had experience with SOAP through an internship, so I already know the concept and how to implement them. The main part of SOAP is that it uses XML formatting and is relatively stricter in handling data and formatting. SOAP also tends to be more secure and is a better choice when using very highly sensitive data. Unfortunately, the data in our system will not be immensely sensitive.

### 5.1.2 RESTful

After researching more about Web Services, I came upon RESTful. It seemed to me that currently, that RESTful web services seemed to be the more trendy design choice for Web Services. I thought it would be a good idea to gain experience and learn how to implement them. The conceptual flow of RESTful is extremely similar to the SOAP Web Services. The advantages for RESTful are that the data can be sent in as XML or as JSON. Also, the formatting of the system of RESTful tends to be simpler and more flexible. This causes the downside of it being less secure and not a good choice for handling highly sensitive data. Fortunately there are still other ways several designs to help make RESTful web services.. Also, one last note, which was more of a deciding factor, is that the ability to handle the data as JSON would be advantageous for mobile development because JSON is less labor intensive in compiling and parsing than the XML.

### 5.1.3 Decision

After weighing the pros and cons, it was decided that RESTful Web Services would the best fit for the less labor intensive fashion of dealing with JSON and that RESTful seems to be the go to choice in the future.

## 5.2 Mobile Cross-Platform Development

There was a need to develop the phone application to be cross-platform. When proposed with this problem there are relatively two directions you can take. You can implement a Web Wrapper Application or use a framework to develop the application, such as Xamarin. Below I discuss the advantages of each and the choice made.

### 5.2.1 Hybrid App

A hybrid app is essential a fake app. By this I mean is that it is an application that is written with HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Essentially it is a mobile website that is then “wrapped” inside a phone application so it can be “installed” on a phone. But it isn’t interpretive like a native app, but instead uses the browser rendering technology to display. The advantage of this is that Hybrid Apps are highly multi-platform friendly as it uses Web Standards and not the phone to render. The disadvantage of this is that it doesn’t utilize the true functionality of a phone to the extent that native apps can. Also, another major disadvantage is that the UI of the app doesn’t look native. To explain further, each smartphone OS has its own unique look. Apple has the glossy rounded look where as Windows Phone has it’s Metro look. A hybrid app that is developed for both of the platforms will function properly, but the User Experience of the app is very different than what the user is used to and it is evident that the application was not created for that OS. It basically doesn’t fit in.

### 5.2.2 Xamarin

The other option is to create a Native Application. Unfortunately, all the OS use a different programming language to develop a application. This realization makes it impossible to create an application that is cross-platform. There would be no reuse of code and the developers would be stuck maintaining 3 separate code bases. This is why a use of a third-party framework can be used to create an application for all three OS but in the same language. The standout option that I selected was Xamarin.

Xamarin is a Framework that allows developers to create a .Net Native Application. The framework will then compile the application to a Native App of all the OS. The advantage of having the native app is that you can utilize a very large potential of the phone’s functionality and also, the applications will be displayed using Native UI elements of the OS, thus the applications will feel very natural to the user. By using Xamarin, the UI and the Back-end Logic can be separated. By implementing in this fashion, the only customized code that needs to be developed in the UI for each operating system. The Logic on the backend will can all be reused between all OS. The disadvantage is that you will need to purchase a license to utilize Xamarin.

### 5.2.3 Choice

After weighing all the options, I decided to go with Xamarin to develop cross-platform Native Applications. The ability to have a native experience for the user is important and the ability to achieve this with a high percentage of code-reuse is undeniably beneficial.

## 5.3 Mobile Cross-Platform Design Pattern

### 5.3.1 Model View View-Model (MVVM)

I initially was going to develop the apps following the MVVM pattern. To implement it this way, I found a framework which is very similar to Xamarin called MVVM Cross (MVX) which allows the user to user the MVX libraries and have a core library which could very very easily have large code reuse for all mobile operating systems. At the beginning of my phone development process, I looked very strongly into the possibility of using MVX as my framework and it looked like it would be possible. However, tricky aspect of my app would be the need to have a dynamic form displayed for the surveys. I looked at it at all angles and determined that where MVX is currently with their version 3 release, it does not have the correct capabilities yet to successfully implement all aspects of my application, thus the design decision to continue with the Xamarin Framework was made. However, I have immensely high hopes and expectations that MVX will be a great choice for app development in the future.

### 5.3.2 Portable Class Library (PCL)

A portable class library is essential a package of classes that will be used by all OS versions of the project and will contain all the unified functionality of the system. Unfortunately, at this moment, PCLs aren’t supported by Xamarin directly, (but will be in the near future), so instead, I will be making the PCL package, and just copy the package into each project. Inside of the PCL, will be business logic, data access object for accessing the database (phone, and the remote) and a service access layer (for automation and remote database.) Models will also be defined in the PCL.

## 5.4 Caching

Since there will be a very heavy dependence on the web services in my application, the need to keep the web services performing very quickly and effectively will be vital. So we will help to lessen the load that actually be hitting the web services by implementing caching layers for content that is requested often.

### 5.4.1 Reverse Proxy

The purpose of a reverse proxy is to essentially have this proxy on our server side and have all the requests feed through it. By doing this, the one client will request from the web services and cache the content. Thus if 5 people request to see a list of companies, the first person will go through the reverse proxy and then hit the web services, the remaining four will call to the reverse proxy, but since the content would be cached after the first time, the web services will not be hit, and the cached content will be returned. Again, this won’t be used for Admin Content, or for Updated of information. But mostly will be implemented for the most utilized calls to the system.

### 5.4.2 Phone Caching

There is no phone caching done with our phone application. The only caching that is done is the default caching of each operating system.

## 5.5 Database Access

The next decision was how the phone applications will access the database on the server. After researching, it has been advised by many that for security and performance reasons, having the application directly make a connection to a database is not a good idea.

### 5.1 Data Access Layer through Web Services

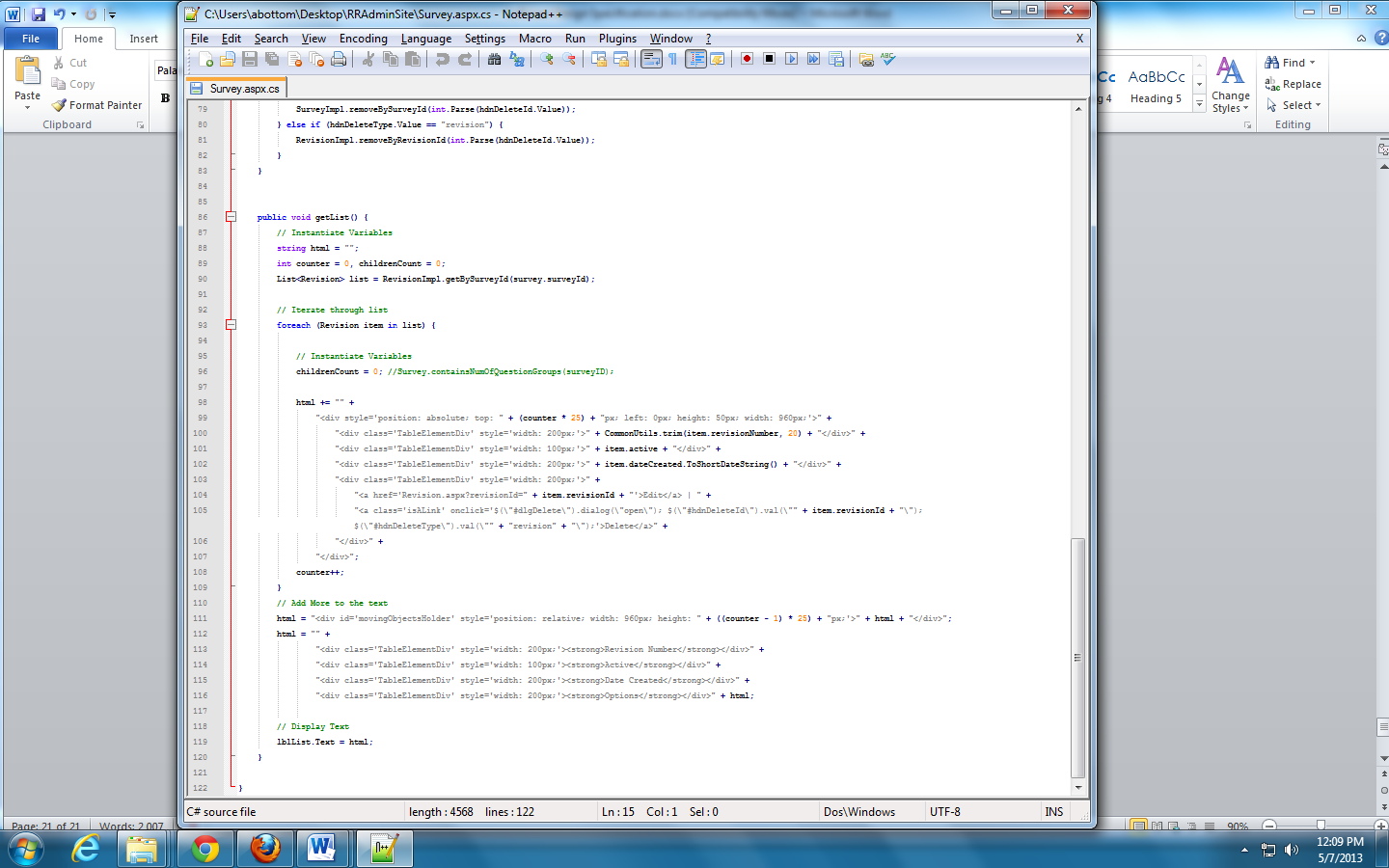
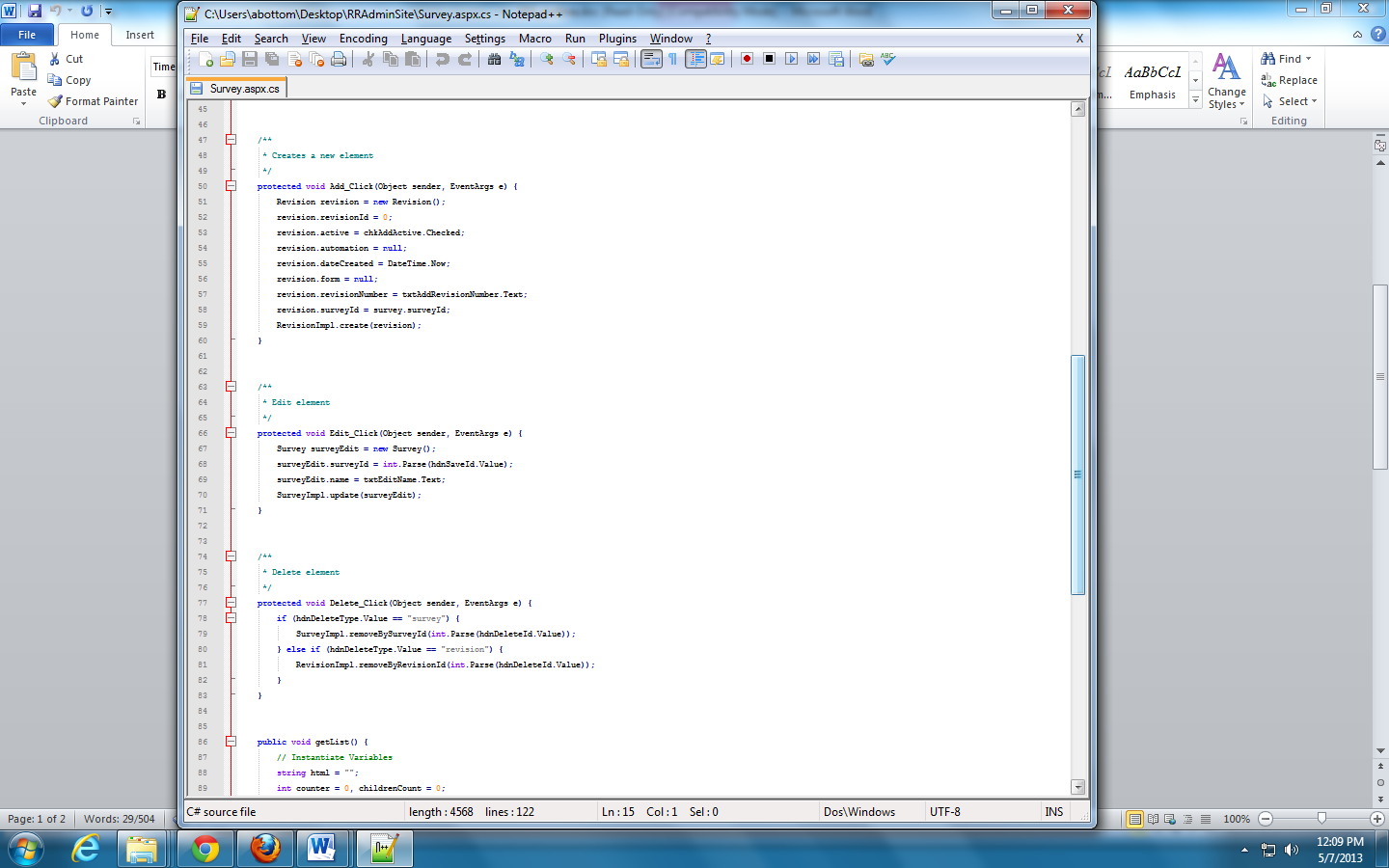
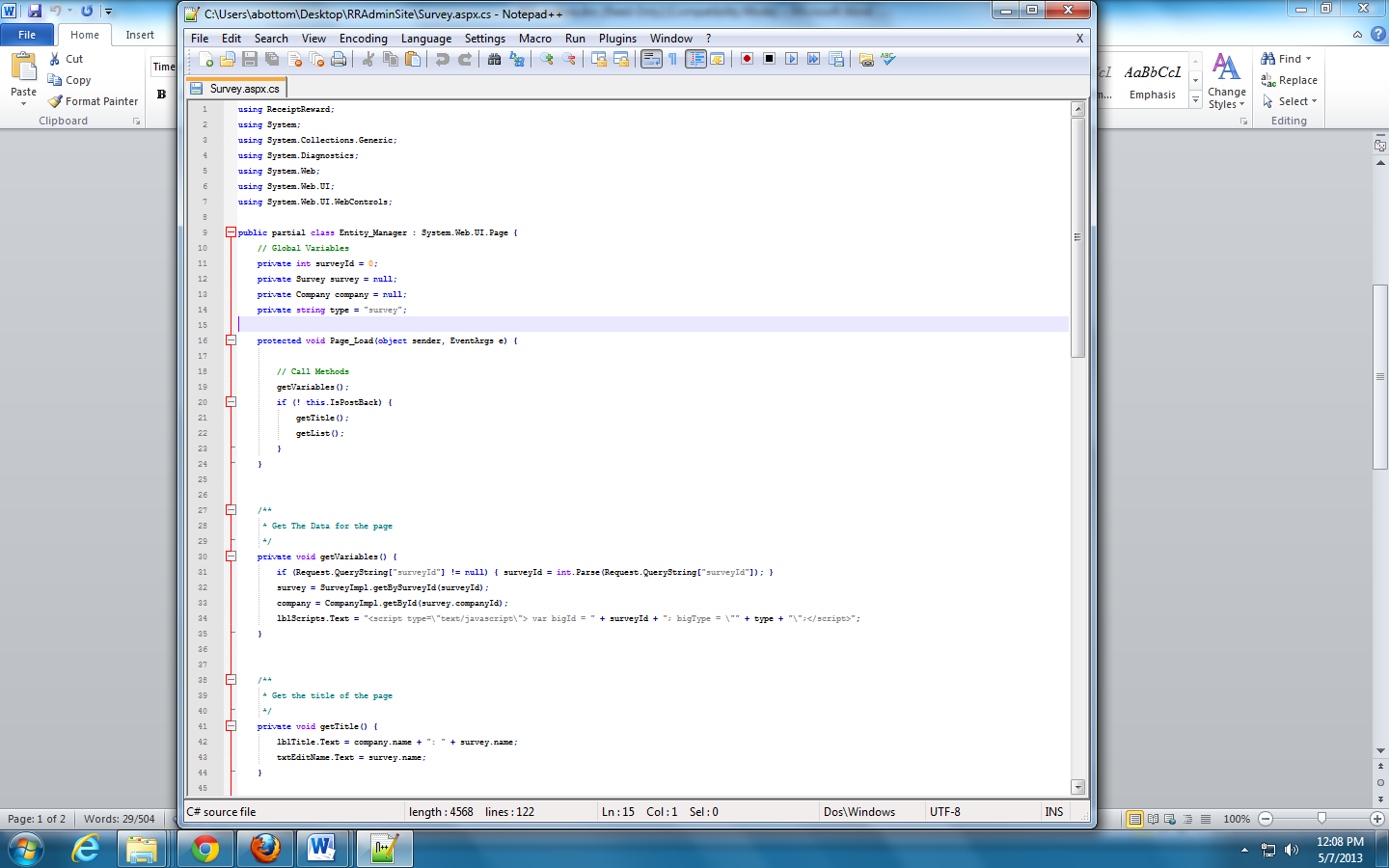
We will be implementing a Data Access Layer through which all database calls are made. This way the database side will be separated from the rest of the code bases. To access the data layer, it will be hooked up to web services that can be called and depending on the request parameters, can perform any CRUD functionality. This way the Admin CMS and the phone applications can all get to the database in a way that is secure and reused.

# 6 Pseudocode for System

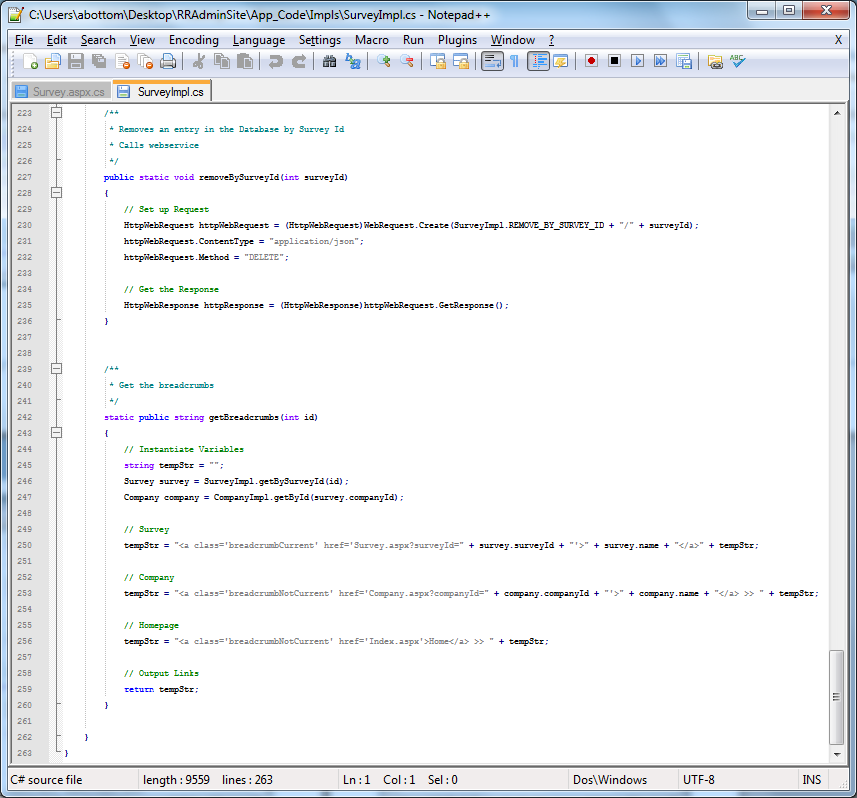
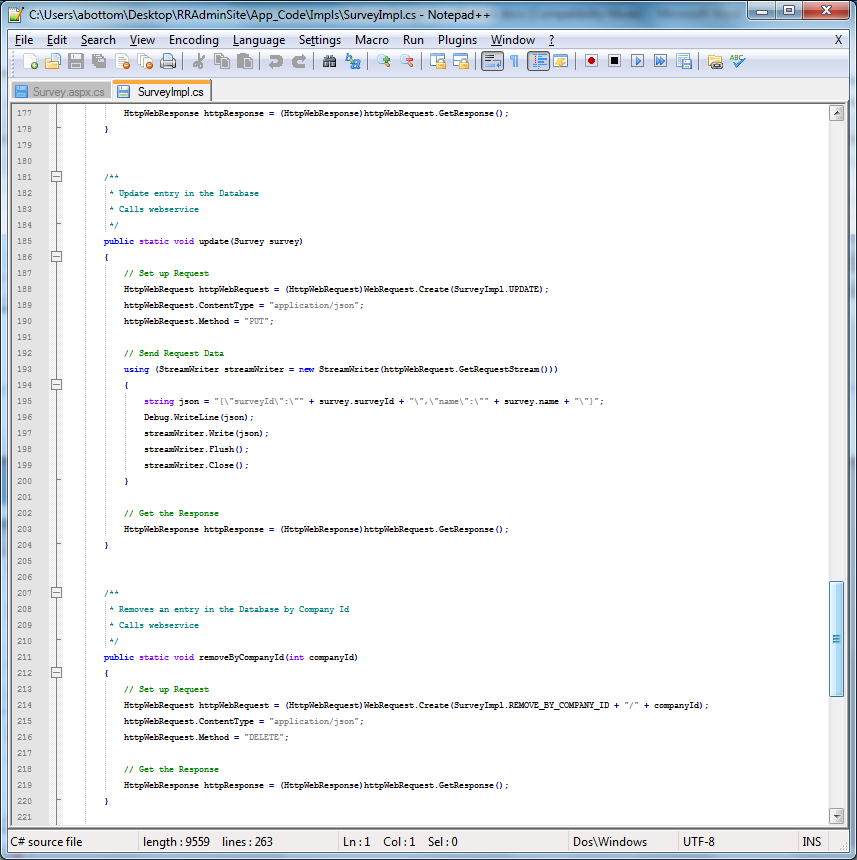
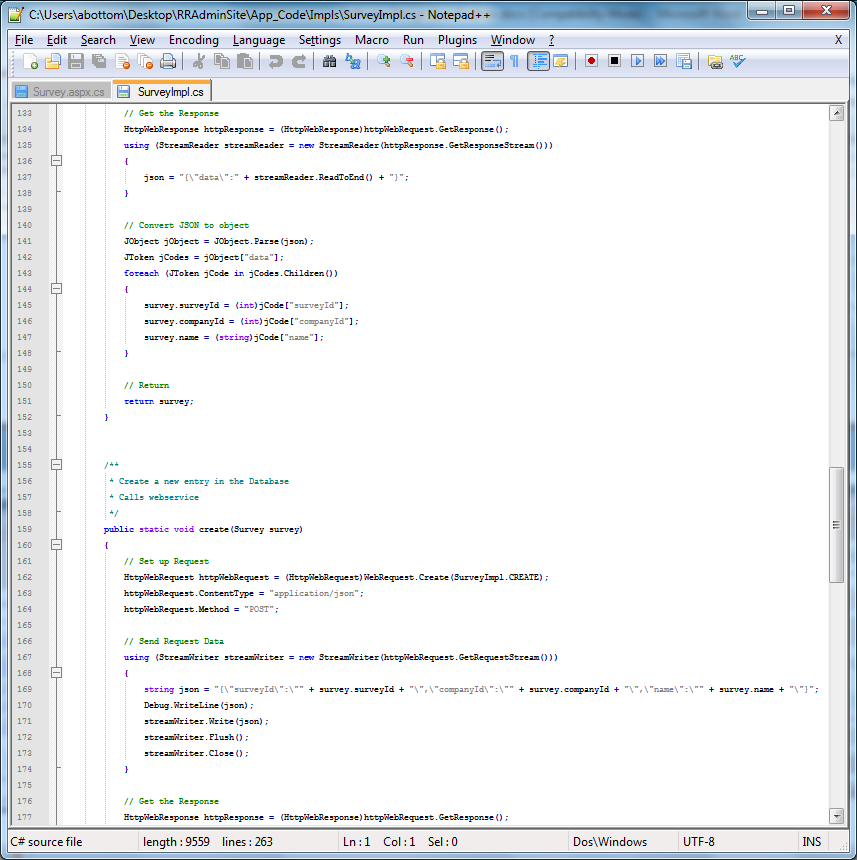
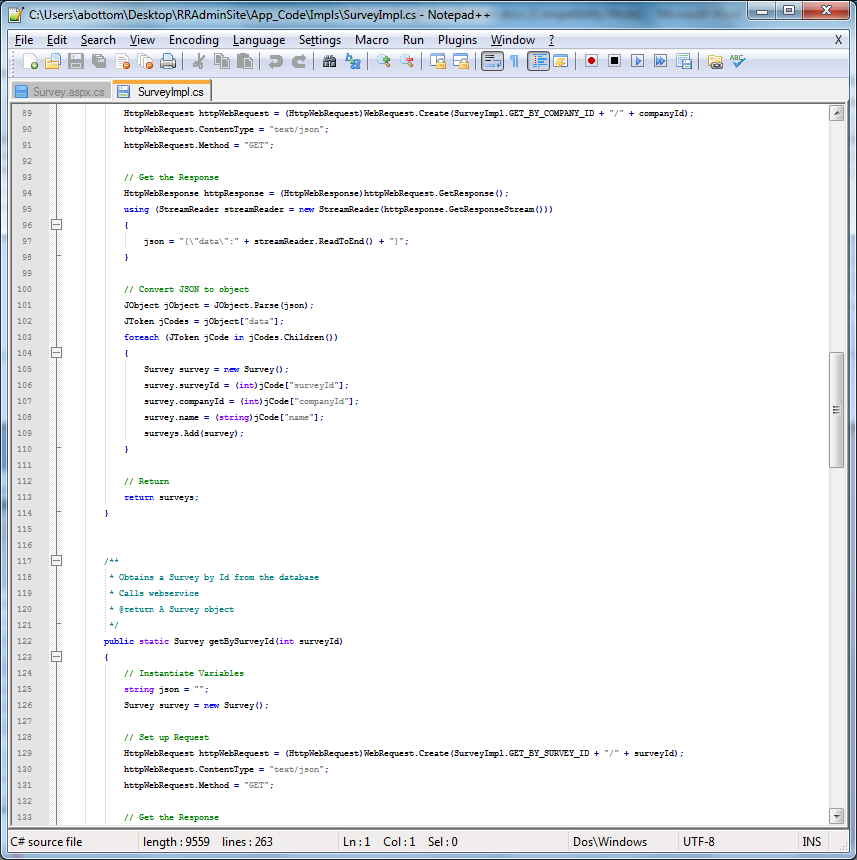
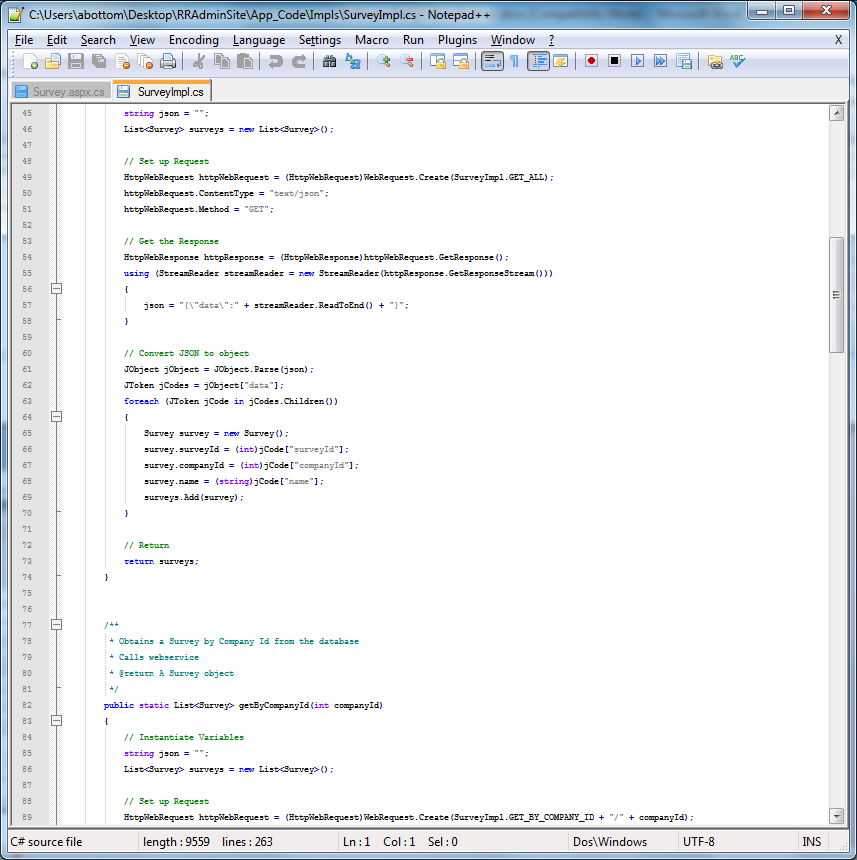
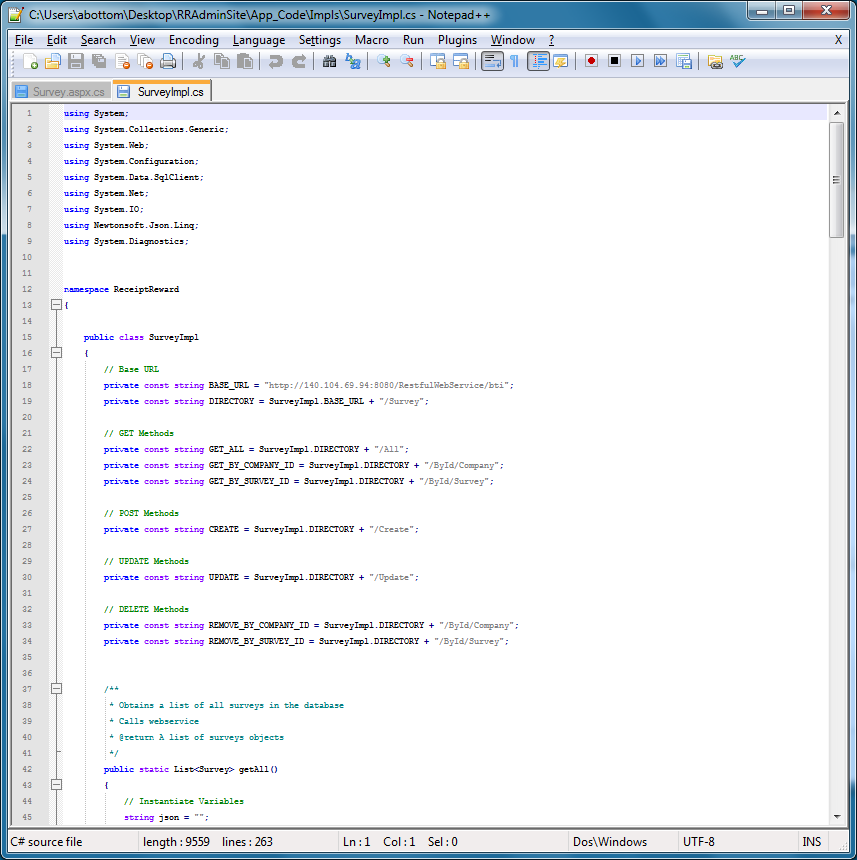
Below are template files to be used to view the syntax and design to be followed in files of a similar nature.

## 6.1 Admin CMS

### 6.1.1 Element Manager Page (Back-End)

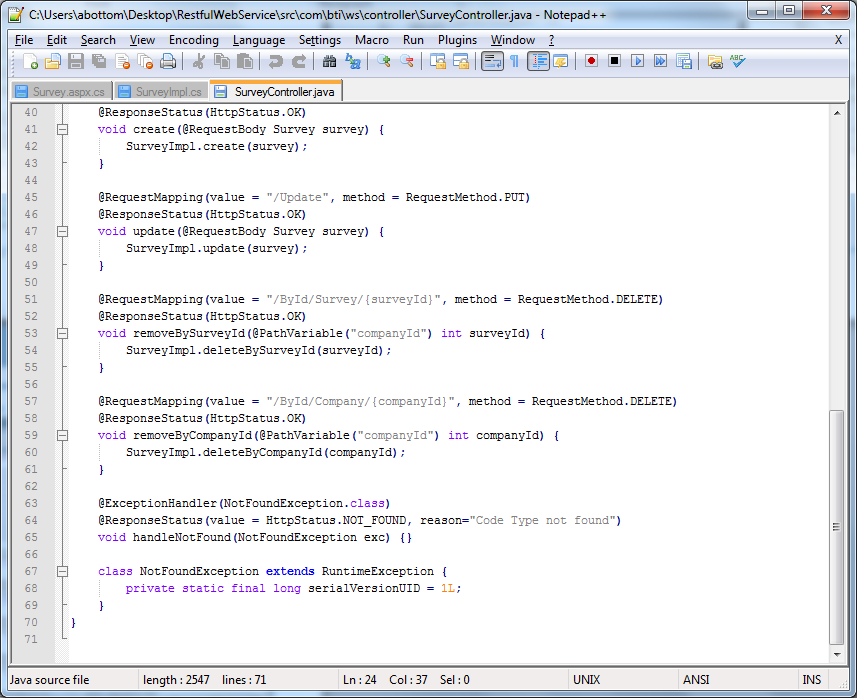
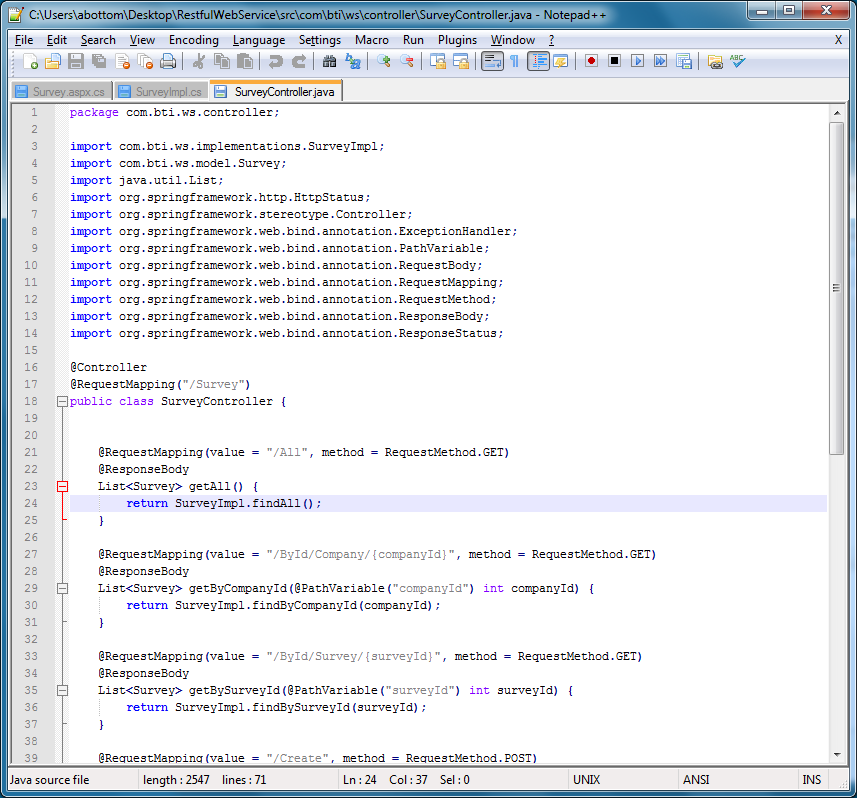


### 6.1.2 Element Implementation



## 6.2 Web Services

### 6.2.1 Service



### 6.2.2 Implementation

