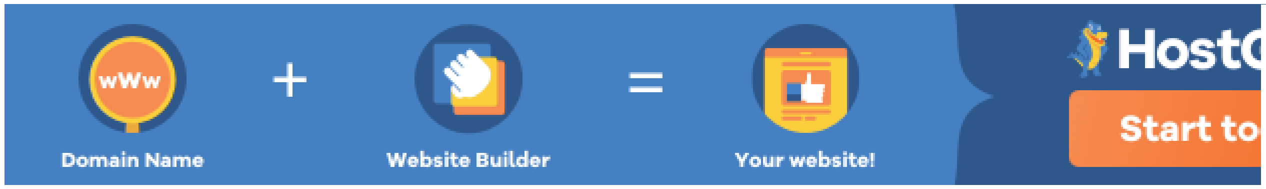

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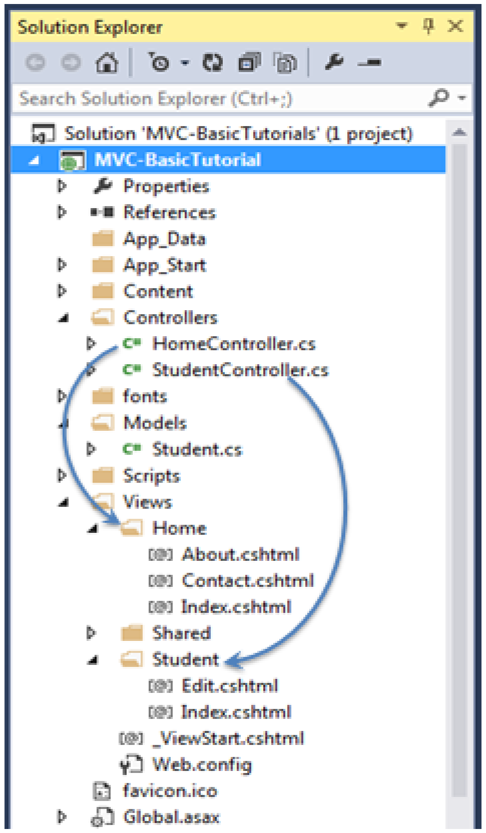
View in ASP.NET MVC

In this section, you will learn about the View in ASP.NET MVC framework.

View is a user interface. View displays data from the model to the user and also enables them to modify the data.

ASP.NET MVC views are stored in **Views** folder. Different action methods of a single controller class can render different views, so the Views folder contains a separate folder for each controller with the same name as controller, in order to accommodate multiple views. For example, views, which will be rendered from any of the action methods of HomeController, resides in Views > Home folder. In the same way, views which will be rendered from StudentController, will resides in Views > Student folder as shown below.



View folders for Controllers

Note:

Shared folder contains views, layouts or partial views which will be shared among multiple views.

Razor View Engine

Microsoft introduced the Razor view engine and packaged with MVC 3. You can write a mix of html tags and server side code in razor view. Razor uses @ character for server side code instead of traditional <% %>. You can use C# or Visual Basic syntax to write server side code inside razor view. Razor view engine maximize the speed of writing code by minimizing the number of characters and keystrokes required when writing a view. Razor views files have .cshtml or vbhtml extension.

ASP.NET MVC supports following types of view files:

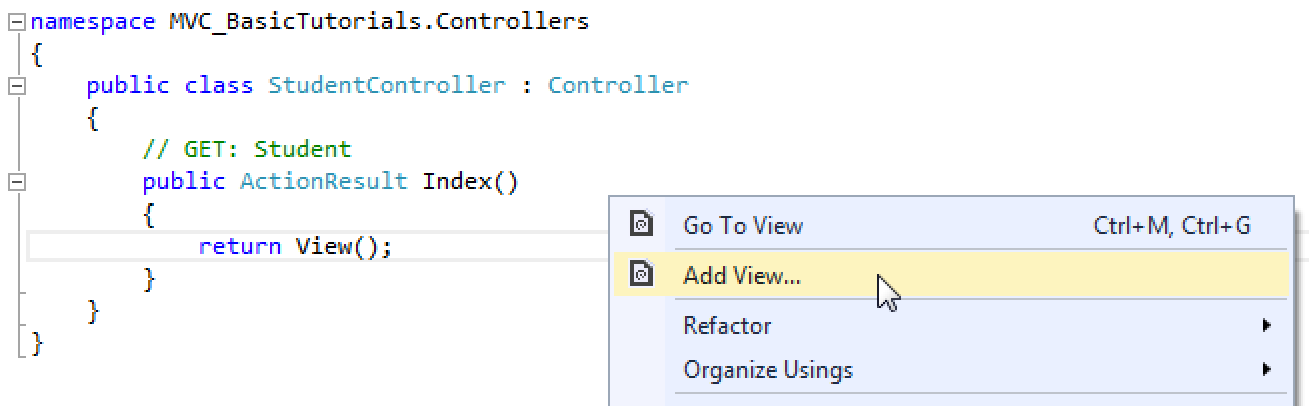
View file extension	Description
.cshtml	C# Razor view. Supports C# with html tags.
.vbhtml	Visual Basic Razor view. Supports Visual Basic with html tags.
.aspx	ASP.Net web form
.ascx	ASP.NET web control

Learn Razor syntax in the next section. Let's see how to create a new view using Visual Studio 2013 for Web with MVC 5.

Create New View

We have already created StudentController and Student model in the previous section. Now, let's create a Student view and understand how to use model into view.

We will create a view, which will be rendered from Index method of StudentContoller. So, open a StudentController class -> right click inside Index method -> click **Add View..**

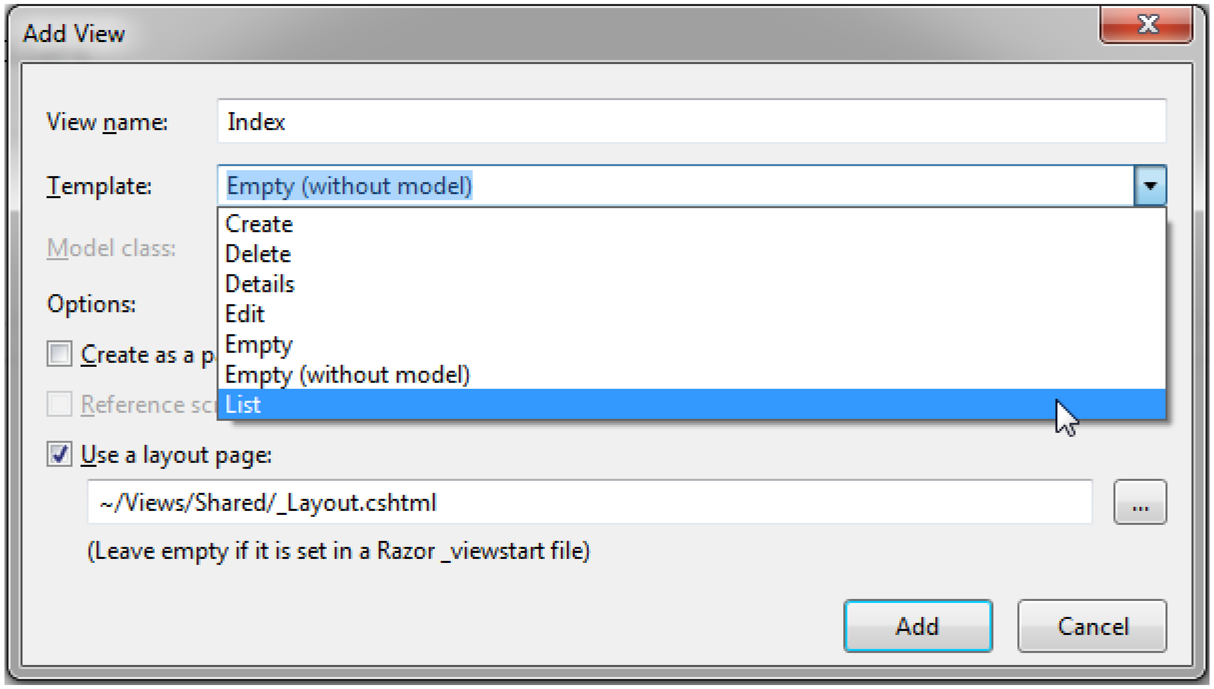


```
namespace MVC_BasicTutorials.Controllers
{
    public class StudentController : Controller
    {
        // GET: Student
        public ActionResult Index()
        {
            return View();
        }
    }
}
```

Create a View

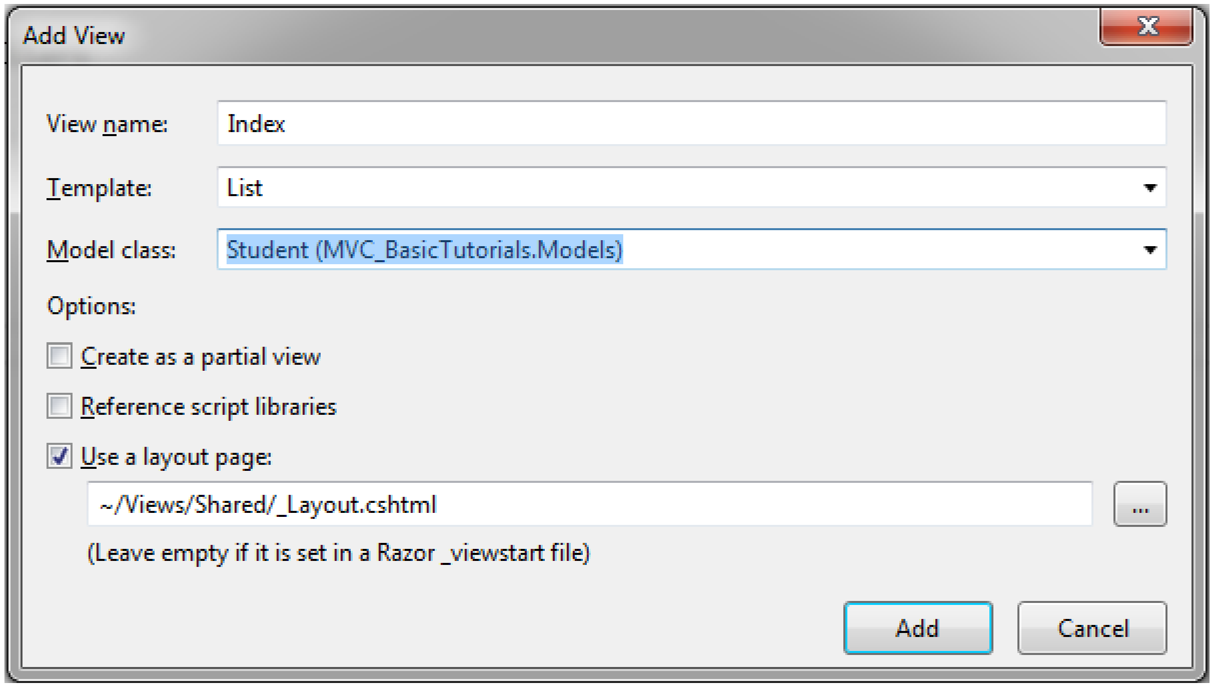
In the Add View dialogue box, keep the view name as Index. It's good practice to keep the view name the same as the action method name so that you don't have to specify view name explicitly in the action method while returning the view.

Select the scaffolding template. Template dropdown will show default templates available for Create, Delete, Details, Edit, List or Empty view. Select "List" template because we want to show list of students in the view.



View

Now, select Student from the Model class dropdrown. Model class dropdown automatically displays the name of all the classes in the Model folder. We have already created Student Model class in the previous section, so it would be included in the dropdown.


Add View

View name: Index

Template: List

Model class: Student (MVC_BasicTutorials.Models)

Options:

☐ Create as a partial view

☐ Reference script libraries

☑ Use a layout page:

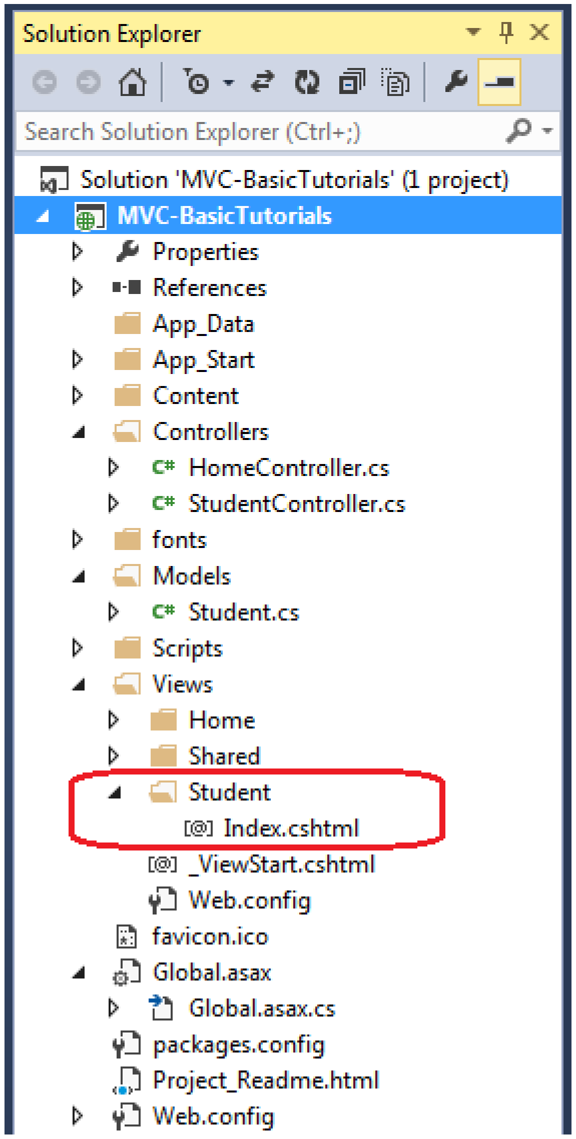
~/Views/Shared/_Layout.cshtml

(Leave empty if it is set in a Razor _viewstart file)

View

Check "Use a layout page" checkbox and select _Layout.cshtml page for this view and then click **Add** button. We will see later what is layout page but for now think it like a master page in MVC.

This will create Index view under View -> Student folder as shown below:



```
Solution 'MVC-BasicTutorials' (1 project)
MVC-BasicTutorials
    Properties
    References
    App_Data
    App_Start
    Content
    Controllers
        HomeController.cs
        StudentController.cs
    fonts
    Models
        Student.cs
    Scripts
    Views
        Home
        Shared
        Student
            Index.cshtml
        _ViewStart.cshtml
        Web.config
    favicon.ico
    Global.asax
        Global.asax.cs
    packages.config
    Project_Readme.html
    Web.config
```

View

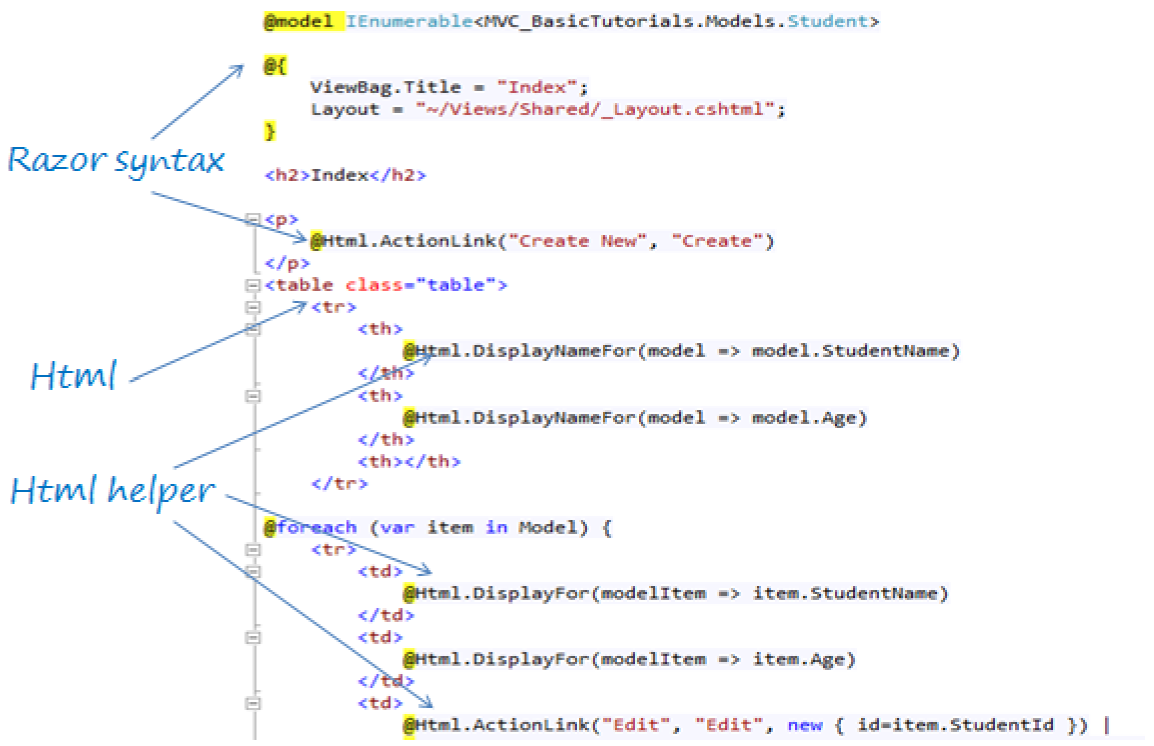
The following code snippet shows an Index.cshtml created above.

Views\Student\Index.cshtml:

```
@model IEnumerable<MVC_BasicTutorials.Models.Student>
```

```
@{
    ViewBag.Title = "Index";
    Layout = "~/Views/Shared/_Layout.cshtml";
}

<h2>Index</h2>

<p>
    @Html.ActionLink("Create New", "Create")
</p>
<table class="table">
    <tr>
        <th>
            @Html.DisplayNameFor(model => model.StudentName)
        </th>
        <th>
            @Html.DisplayNameFor(model => model.Age)
        </th>
        <th></th>
    </tr>

@foreach (var item in Model) {
    <tr>
        <td>
            @Html.DisplayFor(modelItem => item.StudentName)
        </td>
        <td>
            @Html.DisplayFor(modelItem => item.Age)
        </td>
        <td>
            @Html.ActionLink("Edit", "Edit", new { id=item.StudentId }) |
            @Html.ActionLink("Details", "Details", new { id=item.StudentId  }) |
            @Html.ActionLink("Delete", "Delete", new { id = item.StudentId })
        </td>
    </tr>
}

</table>
```

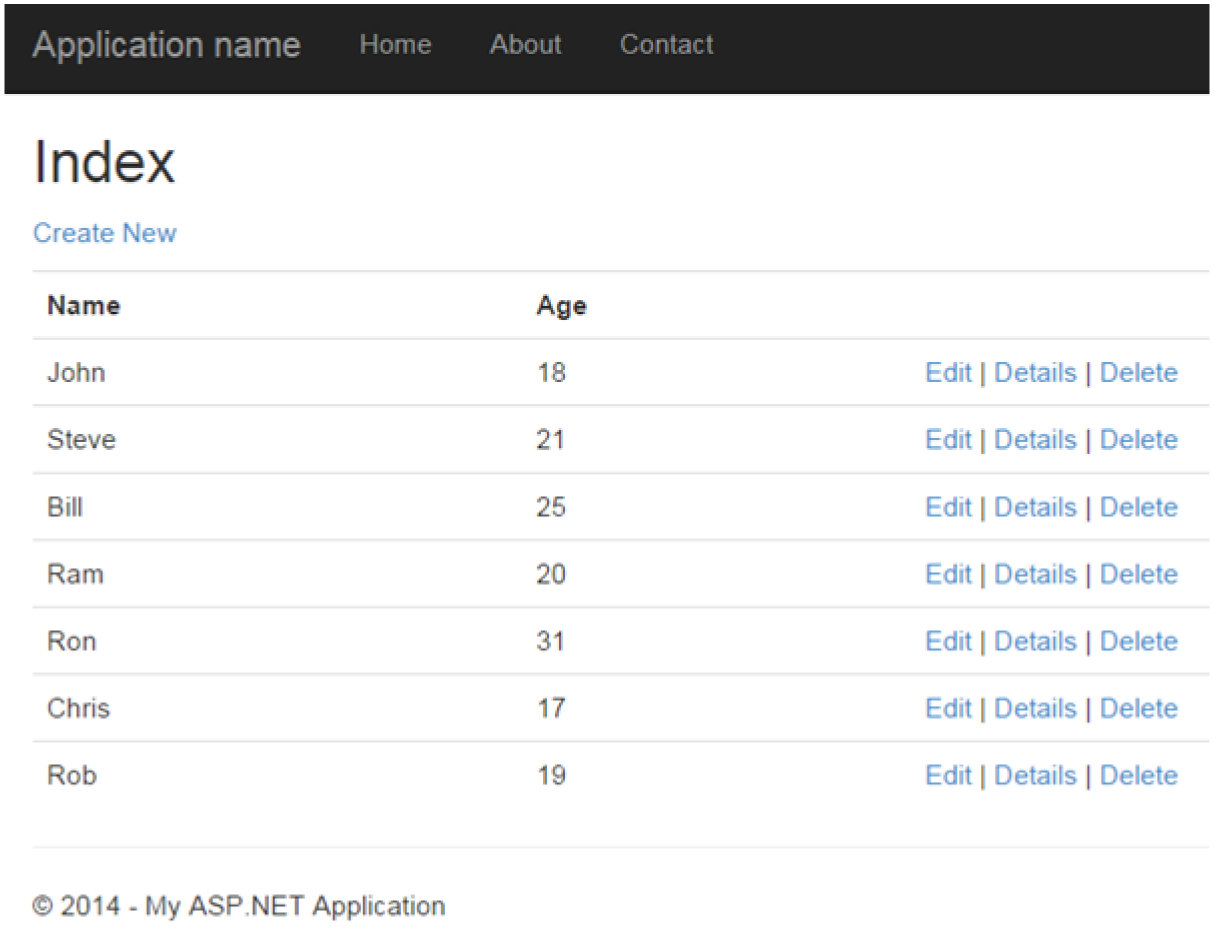
As you can see in the above Index view, it contains both Html and razor codes. Inline razor expression starts with @ symbol. @Html is a helper class to generate html controls. You will learn razor syntax and html helpers in the coming sections.



```
@model IEnumerable<MVC_BasicTutorials.Models.Student>

@{
    ViewBag.Title = "Index";
    Layout = "~/Views/Shared/_Layout.cshtml";
}

<h2>Index</h2>

<p>
    @Html.ActionLink("Create New", "Create")
</p>
<table class="table">
    <tr>
        <th>
            @Html.DisplayNameFor(model => model.StudentName)
        </th>
        <th>
            @Html.DisplayNameFor(model => model.Age)
        </th>
        <th></th>
    </tr>

@foreach (var item in Model) {
    <tr>
        <td>
            @Html.DisplayFor(modelItem => item.StudentName)
        </td>
        <td>
            @Html.DisplayFor(modelItem => item.Age)
        </td>
        <td>
            @Html.ActionLink("Edit", "Edit", new { id=item.StudentId }) |
```

Index.cshtml

The above Index view would look like below.



Index

Create New

Name	Age	
John	18	Edit | Details | Delete
Steve	21	Edit | Details | Delete
Bill	25	Edit | Details | Delete
Ram	20	Edit | Details | Delete
Ron	31	Edit | Details | Delete
Chris	17	Edit | Details | Delete
Rob	19	Edit | Details | Delete

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Index View

Note:

Every view in the ASP.NET MVC is derived from WebViewPage class included in System.Web.Mvc namespace.

Points to Remember :

1) View is a User Interface which displays data and handles user interaction.

2) Views folder contains separate folder for each controller.

3) ASP.NET MVC supports Razor view engine in addition to traditional .aspx engine.

4) Razor view files has .cshtml or .vbhtml extension.

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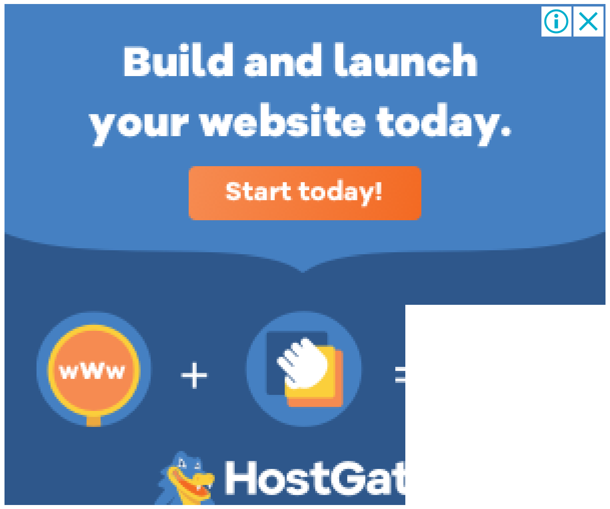

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