

How to add Web API to an existing ASP.NET MVC (5) Web Application project?

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- Assuming you forgot to tick the Web API checkbox (add it to the project) when making a new MVC (5) project, what do you need to do add Web API and get it working?

There are a bunch of migration questions, but none seemed to have the complete and up-to-date steps for adding Web API to an MVC 5 project and it seems to have changed from some of the old answers.

[Add Web API to MVC 4](#)

[Adding GlobalConfiguration.Configure\(WebApiConfig.Register\) MVC 4](#)

c#

asp.net

asp.net-mvc

asp.net-web-api

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edited May 23 '17 at 12:02



Community ♦

1 1

asked Sep 26 '14 at 19:51



lko

5,380 7 30 53

1 Answer

**Update the MVC project**

237

Use **Nuget** to get the newest Web API.

Project - Right click -
Manage Nuget
Packages - Search
for Web API
(Microsoft ASP.NET
Web API ...) and
install it to your MVC
project.

Then you still need to
get **Web API routing**
to work. From
[Microsoft's
Configuring ASP.NET
Web API 2](#)

*Add WebApiConfig.cs
to the App_Start/
folder*

```
using System.Web.Http;

namespace WebApplicati
{
    public static clas
    {
        public static
        {
            // TODO: A

            // Web API
            config.Map
```

```

    });

    // WebAPI when
    // Setup json
    var formatter
    formatter.Seri
    new Newton
    }
}
}

```

If you have an MVC Project it will have **Global.asax.cs**, add the new routes. [Order of the Global.asax.cs routes is critical](#). Note there are outdated examples which use `WebApiConfig.Register`

Add this line to Global.asax.cs:

```

GlobalConfiguration.C
onfigure(WebApiConfig.
Register);

```

```

protected void Applica
{
    // Default stuff
    AreaRegistration.R

    // Manually instal
    GlobalConfiguratio
    //WebApiConfig.Reg

    // Default stuff
    FilterConfig.Regis
    RouteConfig.Regist
    BundleConfig.Regis
}

```

WebAPI Help

To get the (very) [helpful WebAPI help pages](#), install WebAPI.HelpPage. See <http://channel9.msdn.com/Events/Build/2014/3-644> (~42 minutes

Nuget Console:

Install-Package

Microsoft.AspNet.WebAp

i.HelpPage

To verify WebAPI is working:

To the controllers
folder -> Add new
item -> Web API
Controller Class.

```
public class TestContr
{
    //public TestContr

    // GET api/<contrc
    public IEnumerable
    {
        return new str
    }

    // GET api/<contrc
    public string Get(
    {
        return "value"
    }
    //...
}
```

Now you can test in
IE/FF/Chrome as
usual, or in the
JavaScript consoles
for non-get testing.

(With just the
controller in the URL
it will call the GET()
action in the new Web
API Controller, it's
automatically mapped
to methods/actions
depending on the
REST e.g.
PUT/POST/GET/DEL
ETE. You don't need
to call them by action
like in MVC) The URL

Alternatively use jQuery to query the controller. Run the project, Open the console (F12 in IE) and try run an Ajax query. (Check your PORT & CONTROLLERNAME)

```
$.get( "http://localhost:PORT/ControllerName/Get data r" );
```

[Side note: There are some pros/cons to consider when combining MVC and Web API in a project](#)

WebAPI Help verification:

http://localhost:PORT/help

edited May 23 '17 at 12:10



Community ♦

1 1

answered Sep 26 '14 at 19:51



lko

5,380 7 30 53

@lko i ve done everything that you wrote on the code but i ve an error when i run it . it gives me an error – [ninjaXnado](#) Dec 15 '14 at 13:20

- 1 Try searching for the error message. These steps were essentially what was required in the general case. – [lko](#) Jan 5 '15 at

routes is critical" +1

– [Jim Aho](#) Sep 29 '15 at 20:01

I couldn't understand how to test if I added Web API correctly? What exactly should I write to the browser? I wrote `http://localhost:12345/api/Get/5` but I got an error. – [jason](#) Dec 12 '15 at 11:36

- 2 I was using the "old way" calling `WebApiConfig.Register(GlobalConfiguration.Configuration);` and I could no longer debug. I would start debugging and it would never reach my controller functions. I changed to the "new way" `GlobalConfiguration.Configure(WebApiConfig.Register);` and the problem was fixed. – [D. Kermott](#) May 18 '16 at 21:52
-

