## Contents

About the Author	xi
Chapter 1 Debugging Introduction	1
Identifying the Problem	
Think Before You Leap	2
Was It Worth It?	2
Improving Debugging Skills	3
What .NET Adds to Debugging	4
No More Memory Problems	5
Language Independence	5
Remote Debugging and Cross-Machine Debugging	7
Detach from Process	8
ASP.NET	
Still More to Come	9
Chapter 2 Quickies: Six Pieces	
of Debugging Advice	11
1) Never Ignore a Bug That Occurs Early in a Test	
to Investigate a Bug That Occurs Later	12
2) Never Forget the Goal Is to Make the Program Work—	
Fixing the Bug Is the Means, Not the End	15
When Goals Are Dependent on Subgoals, Which Are Dependent	
on Even More Subgoals	17
When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Look for an Easier Way	17
3) When Something Works One Way but Fails	
in a Different Way, Focus on the Differences	18
Focus on the Differences	19
When Something Works One Way	20
4) Never Assume the Problem Is a Bug in the Hardware,	
API, or OS Without Reasonable Proof	21
The Burden of Proof	
5) Keep a Few Test Computers on Which Debugging Tools	
Are NEVER Installed—No Exceptions. Period	24
Verifying Your Code Works on a Non-Developer Environment	
Ensuring Your Product Can Be Debugged at	
a Customer Site	28
Giving Your Team Practice in Other Forms of Debugging	

6) Step Over All New Code in the Debugger As Soon As	
You Finish Writing It	29
Forgetting to Fill In the Details of a Function	
Discovering Your Error Handling Code Was Hiding a Serious Proble Changing Code As a Test but Accidentally Checking	m 30
That Code In Anyway	31
Missing a Chance for an Optimization	32
The Bottom Line	34
Highlights	34
Chapter 3 Always Have a Plan	35
Brute-Force Debugging	35
Three Guesses	
Still Don't Believe Me? I'll Prove It to You	
Set Up a Test Case	41
Guessing Wisely	41
Ever Seen Something Like This Bug Before?	41
The Cell Phone Problem	43
When You Assume, You Make an Ass out of "U" and "Me"	43
Gather Information—Things Are Working Until WHEN?	46
Reasoning About Implementation Details	49
Drilling Deeper into the Problem	53
The Payoff—What Was the Source of All This Trouble?	55
Highlights	56
Chapter 4 Assertion Debugging	59
What Are Asserts?	59
The Problems with Message Boxes	60
Using Asserts to Launch the Debugger	61
"But I Always Test My Code, So Why Do I Need Asserts?" .	63
Finding the Point of Failure	
Side Benefits of Asserting	66
.NET's Debug and Trace Classes	68
Using Asserts Aggressively	
Asserting Performance Bottlenecks	
Don't Assert Legal Cases	75

When Asserts Can't Be Easily Used  Asserts with Windows Services  Asserts with ASP.NET Pages and Web Services	76
Asserts with Remote Objects	
Customizing Asserts with a TraceListener	80
When the Customized Assert Fires	82
Using Customized Asserts in a Service	84
Highlights	85
Chapter 5 Debugging with Logs	87
Printf Debugging	87
Program Logs	
What Information Should Be in the Logs?	
Making Logs Readable	
.NET's Support for Logging	100
Listeners and Switches in .NET	
XML Config Files	
Windows Event Logs	
Highlights	111
Chapter 6 ASP.NET and SQL Debugging	113
ASP.NET and the Debugger	114
Attaching the Debugger	
Remote Debugging	
Detaching the Debugger	
Logging with ASP.NET	
ASP.NET Tracing Data	
Enabling ASP.NET Tracing	
Debugging SQL Stored Procedures	
Stepping Into Stored Procedures Directly	
Debugging Stored Procedures in Your Application	
Remote SQL Debugging	
Highlights	139

Chapter 7	Debugging	Remote	Customer	Sites	141
Why Is It S	o Hard to Debu	ıg a Remo	te Custome	r Issue?	141
Configura	ition Issues				143
You Must	Try to Reproduce	the Bug			145
"Why Are Yo	u Asking Me Al	ll These	Questions?		
	't You Just Fi				146
	Customer Expects				
Why the O	Customer Can't Ge	et That			147
Automated D	iagnostic Util	lities			147
Automati	cally Gathering th	e Data			148
	ecisions About the				
_	Tools Let You	_	-		
	te the Bug				151
	e Bug with Your O				
_	ontrol of the User'	-			
_	rd Bugs, Let D	-			
	Tech Support Pi				153
Each Invo	olved Person Filter	s Out More	e Information		153
	elopers Should Sa				
	Build with Moi				
	fy Whether It (				155
	ty				
	Access				
	Works				
	SecurityException				
_	ns Are Granted or				
			<del>-</del>		
птупттупсэ	•••••	••••••	•••••	••••••	103
Chapter 8	Multithrea	ided Deb	ougging		167
-					
	tithreading? .				
	eads in the De				
,	ommon Threadir	_			
	ditions				
	s				
	1				
Debugging T	hreading Probl	lems			180
	g Race Condition				
	g Deadlocks				
	hts About Thre				
Highlights					197

Chapter 9 Defect Tracking Programs	199
Why Do You Need Defect Tracking Software?	200 201
What Is a Defect Tracking Program?	
Development Workflows	
Common Problems with Workflows	206
Enforcing a Workflow	
Handling Bounce-Backs in the Workflow	209
Searching and Reporting	209
Duplicate PRs	210
Searching Past Bugs for Clues About the Present	211
Reporting on PRs	
Communicating with Teammates	216
Collaborating with Other Developers	
Collaborating with Testers	
Collaborating with Tech Support	
Know Your Tools	221
Highlights	221
Chapter 10 Source Control Debugging	223
Introduction to Source Control	224
Using Visual SourceSafe	225
Allow Developers to Work Together	
See a History of All Changes	
Fetch a Particular Version or Branch a Copy	
Protect Against Accidental Deletion of Files	
Debugging with SourceSafe	
Debugging with Change Histories	
Bug Fixing with Branch Management	
Learn to Love SourceSafe	
Highlights	249
Epilogue	251
Index	253