

05 | Customizing Views

Changing the Outlook on Views

- How Views are Found
- Views and Models
- Razor Syntax
- HtmlHelper
- Layouts

How Views are Found

Finding Views

- Views reside in the Views folder
- Subfolders
 - Name of the controller
 - Shared

View Resolution in Action

```
public class AlbumController : Controller
{
    public ActionResult Index()
    {
        return View();
    }
}
```

1. Look for a view named Index in a folder named Album
2. Look for a view named Index in a folder named Shared
3. Error

View Resolution in Action Again

```
public class AlbumController : Controller
{
    public ActionResult Index()
    {
        return View("Default");
    }
}
```

1. Look for a view named Default in a folder named Album
2. Look for a view named Default in a folder named Shared
3. Error

Views and Models

Views and Models

- Views have a `Model` property
- Type is set by `@model` declaration
- Note the CaSiNg
- Advanced note
 - Views do not need to have a typed model
 - Useful for creating dynamic views

Razor Syntax

Razor Syntax

- @ indicates server-side code
- MVC runtime determines meaning of @ based on context
 - `` generates appropriate HTML
 - Use @@ for @

HtmlHelper

HtmlHelper

- Helps generate HTML
- Uses attributes on model
 - Display names
 - Formatting
 - Input elements

HtmlHelper and Lambdas

`@Html.DisplayFor(model => model.Name)`

- MVC uses reflection
 - Reflection isn't evil!
- Helper methods need the property, not the value
 - `@Html.DisplayFor(Model.Name)` would pass the value of Name
- Consider `@Html.DisplayFor(m => m.Name)` for easier reading

Displaying Data

- `DisplayNameFor`
 - `DisplayName` attribute
 - `Display` attribute, `Name` property
- `DisplayFor`
 - Uses `DisplayFormat` (if applicable)

Creating Forms

- `HtmlHelper.BeginForm()`
- Why not just use a form element?
 - URLs can always change
- Parameters
 - Action name
 - Controller name
 - Form method
 - `Get`
 - `Post`

Accepting Input

- `LabelFor`
 - Creates a label element
 - Useful for touch
- `InputFor`
 - Creates input element
 - Uses HTML5 based on `DataType` attribute

Validation

- `ValidationMessageFor`
 - Display error message next to text box
- `ValidationSummary`
 - Display all error messages in one location

Layouts

| My Music Store | | |
|---|---|---|
| New This Week! Deleted Smiths Singles Original - <u>not rereleased</u> - Frank Zappa Albums | Welcome! Feel free to look around. All records are available for sale. | Popular Items The Three EPs <i>The Beta Band</i> I Just Called to Say I Love You <i>Stevie Wonder</i> FAQs Q: Do you have soul? A: That all depends. |

Organization and Consistency

- Use layouts to ensure consistent page structure
- Layout methods
 - `RenderBody()`
 - Renders anything in a view not in a section
 - `RenderSection(name, required)`
 - Allow views to add specific sections
 - Scripts
 - Banners
 - Sidebars
 - Use `@section name` to create section in view
 - Note the casing

