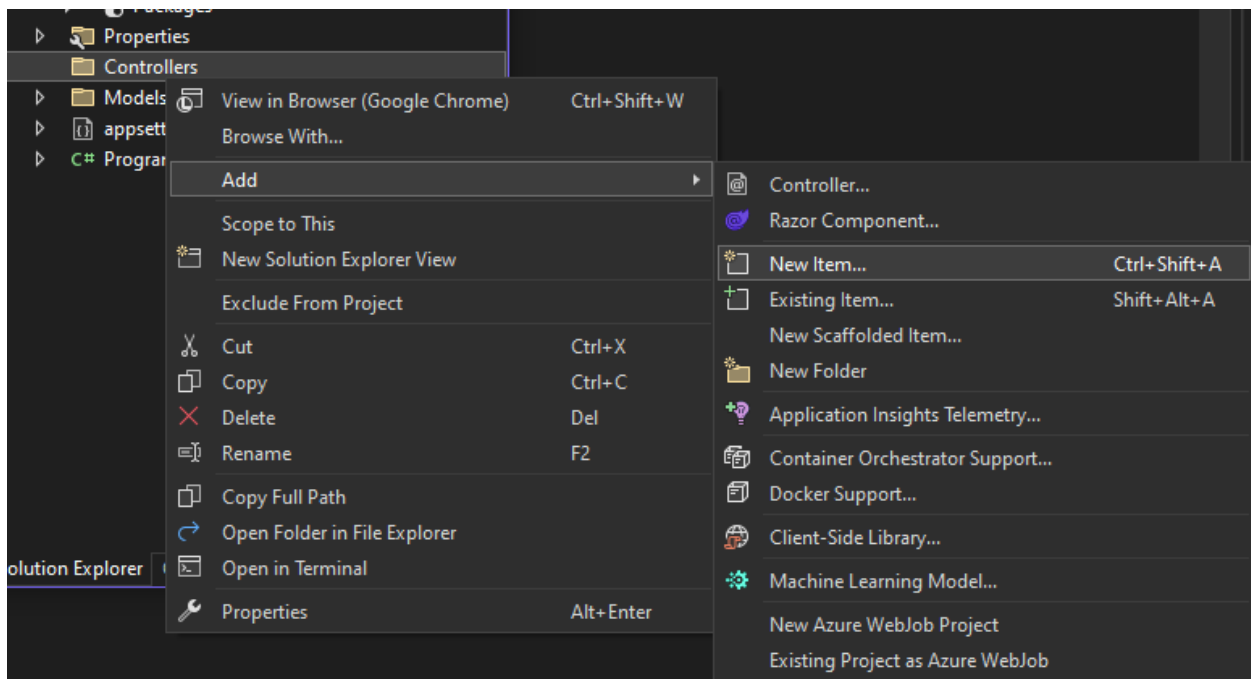# Controllers

Within an API project, **controller** classes contain the code that defines the API. We generally have one controller class for each topic or model in the API.

Within each controller class we add a method for each API **endpoint**. An endpoint is a combination of HTTP method and URL path. e.g. GET /Employees, POST /api/Products. There are many more details on this below, but here's an example:
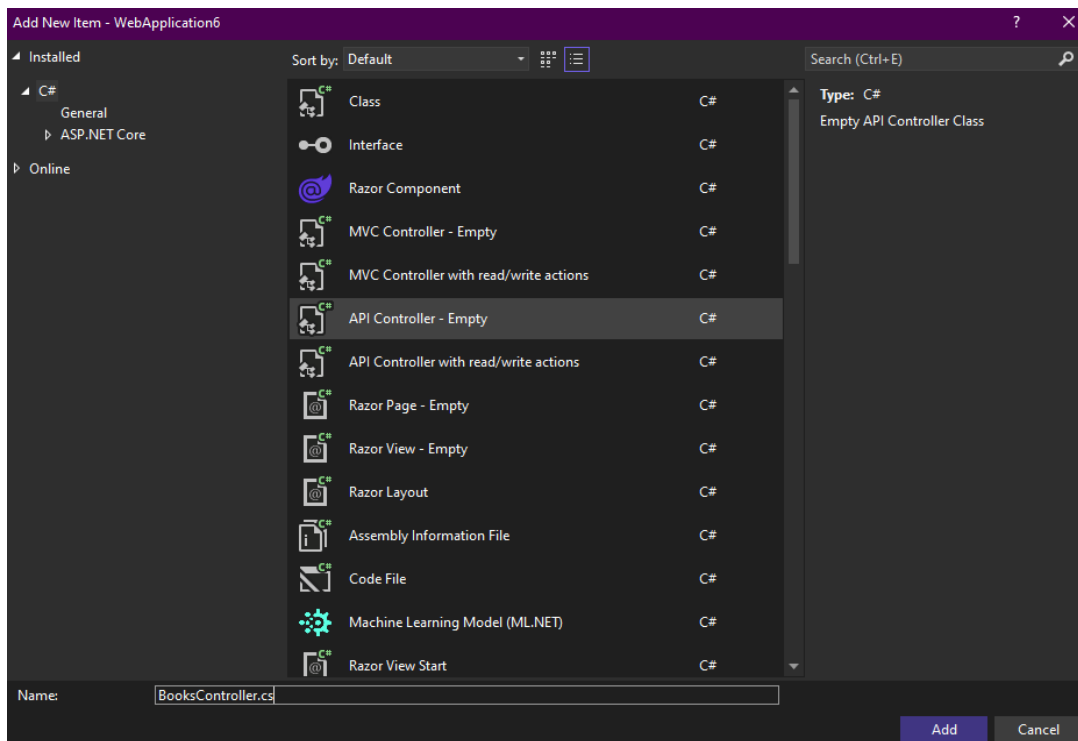
```
[HttpGet("hello")]
public IActionResult SayHi()
{
    return Ok("Hello World!");
}
```

To create a controller...

Right-click the Controllers Folder and click **New Item**. (It may also work for you to pick "Controller...".)

Choose the type **API Controller - Empty**. Choose a name ending with "Controller.cs".

Once generated, it should look like the following. (If methods are generated. It's OK to delete them)

```
namespace ApiDemo1.Controllers
{
    [Route("api/[controller]")]
    [ApiController]
    public class BooksController : ControllerBase
    {
    }
}
```

Run the project

Once you've got some controller methods added, click to start the project. Your API application just keeps running until you stop it.

Whenever you make changes, either Hot Reload or Restart Application to apply them to the running application.