

Module 04

Developing ASP.NET MVC 5 Controllers

Contents:

Module Overview	04-1
Lesson 1: Writing Controllers and Actions	04-2
Lesson 2: Writing Action Filters	04-13
Lab: Developing ASP.NET MVC 5 Controllers	04-17
Module Review and Takeaways	04-24

Module Overview

MVC controllers respond to browser requests, create model objects, and pass them to views for rendering and displaying in the web browser. If required, controllers can also perform other actions, such as saving model class changes to the database. Controllers are central to MVC applications. You need to understand the functioning of controllers to be able to create the right model objects, manipulate them, and pass them to the right views.

To maximize the re-use of code in controllers, you must know how to program action filters. You can use action filters to run code before or after every action in your web application, on every action in a controller, or on other combinations of controller actions.

Objectives

After completing this module, you will be able to:

- Add a controller to a web application that responds to user actions specified in the project design.
- Write code in action filters that runs before or after a controller action.

Lesson 1

Writing Controllers and Actions

A controller is a .NET Framework class that inherits from the **System.Web.Mvc.Controller** base class. Controllers respond to user requests. Within a controller class, you create actions to respond to user requests. Actions are methods within a controller that return an **ActionResult** object. The **ActionResult** object is often a view that displays a response to the user request; however, it can also yield other types of results. To process incoming user requests, manage user input and interactions, and implement relevant application logic, you need to know how to create controllers and actions. You must also know how to create parameters in action code blocks and pass objects to actions.

Lesson Objectives

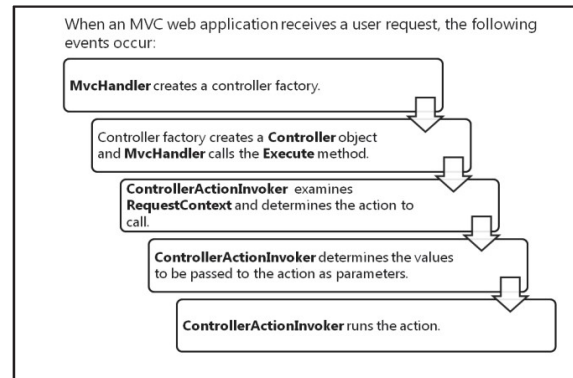
After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe how a controller responds to user actions in an MVC 5 web application.
- Write controller actions to respond to web browser requests, create model classes, and call views.
- Explain how to use parameters passed in a browser request to a controller action and use them to change the action result.
- Explain how to pass information to views that have model classes.
- Create a controller and actions.
- Describe controller factories.

Responding to User Requests

When an MVC web application receives a request from a web browser, the following events happen in sequence:

1. An **MvcHandler** object creates a controller factory. The controller factory is the object that instantiates a controller to respond to the request. Usually, this factory is a **DefaultControllerFactory** object, but you can create a custom controller factory, if necessary. The **MvcHandler** object chooses the controller factory based on the **RequestContext** object, which has information about the request that the user made.
2. The controller factory creates a **Controller** object, and the **MvcHandler** calls the **Execute** method in that controller.
3. The **ControllerActionInvoker** examines the **RequestContext** object and determines the action to call in the **Controller** object.
4. The **ControllerActionInvoker** uses a model binder to determine the values to be passed to the action as parameters.
5. The **ControllerActionInvoker** runs the action. Often, the action creates a new instance of a model class, perhaps by querying the database with the parameters that the invoker passed to it. This model object is passed to a view, to display results to the user. Action methods can do many other things



such as rendering views and partial views, redirecting to other websites, displaying snippets of content, or displaying other files.



Note: The routing engine determines which controller and action receives a request. Routing is not covered in this section.

The User Request

Users of web browsers make requests either by typing a URL into the Address bar of the browser, or by clicking a link to some address within your website. Such links can either be within your website, in which case you can control how they are rendered, or from an external website. Whether the request originates from within the website or from an external website, it can include information that controller actions can use as parameters. Consider the following examples:

- `http://www.adventureworks.com/`: This URL is the home page of the website and specifies no further information.
- `http://www.adventureworks.com/photo`: This URL specifies an extra value, **photo**. By default, the **MvcHandler** interprets this as the name of a controller.
- `http://www.adventureworks.com/photo/index`: This URL specifies a second value, **index**. By default, the **MvcHandler** interprets this as the name of an action within the controller.
- `http://www.adventureworks.com/photo/display/1`: This URL specifies a third value, **1**. By default, the **ControllerActionInvoker** interprets this as a parameter to pass to the action method.
- `http://www.adventureworks.com/photo/display?id=1`: This URL includes a query string, **id=1**. The model binder examines the **Display** actions in the **Photo** controller. If it finds an action with a parameter called **id**, it calls that action and passes **1** as a parameter.



Note: You can modify the preceding logic in several ways. For example, you can create routes that interpret the preceding URLs differently. The examples are true when only the default route exists.

Let us consider that a user requests a controller called **photo**, by typing the URL in the Address bar of a web browser. By default, the MVC **DefaultControllerFactory**, names this controller class as **PhotoController**. You should keep to this convention when you create and name controllers. Otherwise, you will receive unexpected 404 errors and controllers will not work as intended. If you create a custom controller factory, you can define your own naming convention for controller classes.

The Microsoft Visual Studio project templates include a folder named **Controllers**. This is a good location to create your controllers. Microsoft Visual Studio places controllers in the **projectname.Controllers** namespace, by default.

The following example shows the code in an MVC controller class called, **PhotoController**. The controller has a single action called **Index**, which returns a list of **Photo** items from the Entity Framework context.

A Simple Controller Class

```
public class PhotoController : Controller
{
    private ContextDB context = new ContextDB();
    public ActionResult Index ()
    {
        return View("Index", context.Photos.ToList());
    }
}
```

Question: What is the convention that you should follow while creating controllers?

Writing Controller Actions

Controllers encapsulate user interaction logic for an MVC web application. You specify this logic by writing actions. An action is a method within the controller class. The code you write within an action method determines how the controller responds to the request, and the model class and view that MVC uses to display a webpage in the browser.



Note: When you add a new controller to an MVC application, Visual Studio presents scaffolding options to help you create action methods and associated views. For example, if you specify a model class and Entity Framework context class, Visual Studio can create scaffold index and details, and create, edit, and delete action methods in your new controller. You can use these as a starting point for your code. As you become more experienced with action methods, you may prefer to select the **Empty MVC Controller** template and write your own methods without scaffold code.

- Writing a Controller action includes:
 - Creating a Simple Details Action
 - Using GET and POST HTTP Verbs in Actions
 - Creating Action Result Classes
 - Creating Child Actions
- Sample controller action


```
public ActionResult First () {
    Photo firstPhoto = context.Photos.ToList()[0];
    if (firstPhoto != null) {
        return View("Details", firstPhoto);
    } else {
        return HttpNotFound();
    }
}
```

Controller actions are public methods that return an **ActionResult** object. Alternatively, actions can return objects of many other classes that derive from the **ActionResult** class. For example, you can write code for a controller with an **Index** action to obtain all **Photo** objects and pass them to the **Index** view.

When you want to display a specific model object, you must obtain the correct instance from the database. The following code shows how to display the first **Photo** object.

A Details Action

```
public ActionResult First ()
{
    Photo firstPhoto = context.Photos.ToList()[0];
    if (firstPhoto != null)
    {
        return View("Details", firstPhoto);
    }
    else
    {
        return HttpNotFound();
    }
}
```

Some user actions are in two parts. For example, to create a new **Photo**, a user can make an HTTP GET request to the following URL: <http://www.adventureworks.com/photo/create>.

The following code shows an action that responds to a GET request, to display a new photo form.

A Create Action for the GET Request

```
public ActionResult Create ()
{
    Photo newPhoto = new Photo();
    return View("Create", newPhoto)
}
```

The **Create** view displays a form where users can fill photo details, such as the title, description, and so on. When a user clicks the **Submit** button, the web browser makes an HTTP POST request.

The following action method responds to a POST request. Note that the method name is the same, but the `[HttpPost]` annotation is used to specify that this action responds to the HTTP POST verb.

A Create Action for the POST Request

```
[HttpPost]
public ActionResult Create (Photo photo)
{
    if (ModelState.IsValid)
    {
        context.Photos.Add(photo);
        context.SaveChanges();
        return RedirectToAction("Index");
    }
    else
    {
        return View("Create", photo);
    }
}
```

Note that the **ModelState.IsValid** property is used to check whether the user has submitted valid data. You can specify data validation by using validation data annotations in the model class. If the data is valid, the model object is added and saved. Otherwise, the application displays the **Create** view again, so that the user can correct the invalid data.



Note: For the preceding code to work, the **Create** view must contain a form that uses the **POST** method.

Possible Return Classes

Action methods are usually defined with the **ActionResult** class as the return type. **ActionResult** is a base class, and you can use a range of derived classes to return different responses to the web browser.

Controller actions usually return a view and pass a model class to it, for display. You can create an action that calls the **View()** helper, and creates and returns a **ViewResult** object. The **View()** helper is available when you derive from the base **Controller** class.

Alternatively, you can return an HTTP error. For example, you can create an action such that if a **Photo** object is not found, the code creates a 404 not found error by using the **HttpNotFound()** helper.

Sometimes, you may want to return a file from an action method. For example, let us consider that in a **Photo** model, the image file is stored as a byte array in the database. To display this byte array as an image on a webpage, the action must return it as a .jpeg file, which can be used for the **src** attribute of an **** HTML tag. To return files, you can use the **File()** helper to return a **FileContentResult** object. You can use this technique in the **GetImage** action.

Other possible action results include:

- *PartialViewResult*. You can use this action to generate a section of an HTML page, but not a complete HTML page. Partial views can be re-used in many views throughout a web application.
- *RedirectToRouteResult*. You can use this action result to redirect the web browser to another action method or another route.
- *RedirectResult*. You can use this action result to redirect to a specific URL, either inside your web application or to an external location.

- *ContentResult*. You can use this action result to return text to the web browser. You can return plain text, XML, a comma-separated table, or other text formats. This text can be rendered in the web browser or parsed with client-side code.

Child Actions

When an action returns a complete view, MVC sends a new complete webpage to the web browser for display. Sometimes, you may want to call an action from within a view, to return a piece of content for display within a webpage. A child action is an action method that can return a small piece of content in this manner. The **FileContentResult** is often a good example of a child action, because the image returned usually forms part of a webpage. Partial views also support child actions.

To declare an action method as a child action, you can use the **[ChildActionOnly]** annotation. This annotation ensures that the action method can be called only from within a view by using the **Html.Action()** helper. Using this method, you can prevent a user from calling the child action directly by typing the correct URL into the Address bar.

Question: What are the various **ActionResult** return types that you can write as code while creating a controller?

Using Parameters

When users request webpages, they often specify information other than the name of the webpage itself. For example, when they request a product details page, they may specify the name or catalog number of the product to display. Such extra information is referred to as parameters. You must understand how to determine in code what parameters the user sent in their request.

The **ControllerActionInvoker** and the **DefaultModelBinder** classes obtain parameters from a user request and pass them to action methods. The **DefaultModelBinder** can locate parameters in a posted form, the routing values, the query string, or in the posted files. If the model binder finds a parameter in the action method that matches the name and type of a parameter from the request, the action method is called and the parameter is passed from the request. This arrangement enables you to obtain and use parameters in your actions. For example, if a user requests the URL <http://www.adventureworks.com/photo/getphotobytitle/?title=myfirstphoto>, you can easily obtain title values in your action method.

The following example code shows how to determine the value of the title parameter in a controller action.

Using a Query String Parameter

```
public ActionResult GetPhotoByTitle (string title)
{
    var query = from p in context.Photos
                where p.Title == title
                select p;
    Photo requestedPhoto = (Photo)query.FirstOrDefault();
    if (requestedPhoto != null)
    {
        return View("Details", requestedPhoto);
    }
}
```

The **DefaultModelBinder** obtains the **Title** parameter from the query string and passes it to the title parameter of the **GetPhotoByTitle** method, because the names match.

<http://www.adventureworks.com/photo/getphotobytitle?title=myfirstphoto>

DefaultModelBinder


```
public ActionResult GetPhotoByTitle (string title)
{
    var query = from p in context.Photos
                where p.Title == title
                select p;
    Photo requestedPhoto = (Photo)query.FirstOrDefault();
    return View("Details", requestedPhoto);
}
```

```

else
{
    return HttpNotFound();
}
}

```

Note that the action method code uses the parameter **title** to formulate a LINQ to Entities query. In this case, the query searches for a **Photo** with the specified **Title**. Parameters in action methods are frequently used in this manner.

 **Note:** The example works if the **DefaultModelBinder** passes parameters. If you create a custom model binder in your application, you must ensure that it passes parameters in the correct manner. Otherwise, the action method cannot access the parameters that the user specified in the request.

Question: How does **DefaultModelBinder** pass parameters?

Passing Information to Views

You can pass a model object, such as a **Photo**, from the action method to the view by using the **View()** helper method. This is a frequently-used method to pass information from a controller action to a view. This is because this method adheres closely to the Model-View-Controller pattern, in which each view renders the properties found in the model class, which the view receives from the controller. You should use this approach wherever possible.

However, in some cases, you may want to augment the information in the model class with some extra values. For example, you may want to send a title, which needs to be inserted in the page header, to the view. Furthermore, some views do not use model classes. The home page of a website, for example, often does not have a specific model class. To help in these situations, you can use two other methods to provide extra data: **ViewBag** and **ViewData**.

- To pass information to views that have model classes, you can use the:
 - **View() helper** method: To pass information from a controller action to a view
- To pass information to views that do not have model classes, you can use the:
 - **ViewBag** property : To dynamically add objects of any type
 - **ViewData Dictionary** property: Used in MVC 2 to add extra data to views. Available in MVC 4 for backward compatibility

Using The ViewBag

The **ViewBag** is a dynamic object that is part of the base controller class. Because it is a dynamic object, you can add properties that are of any type to it, in the action method. In the view, you can use the **ViewBag** object to obtain the values added in the action.

You can add properties to the **ViewBag** object in the action method as illustrated in the following lines of code.

Adding Properties to the ViewBag Object

```

ViewBag.Message = "This text is not in the model object";
ViewBag.ServerTime = DateTime.Now;

```

To obtain and use the same properties in a view, you can use the following Razor code.

Using ViewBag Properties

```
<p>
    The message of the day is: @ViewBag.Message
</p>
<p>
    The time on the server is: @ViewBag.ServerTime.ToString()
</p>
```

Using The ViewData Dictionary

The **ViewBag** object was added to MVC in version 3. In the earlier versions, you could pass extra data to views by using the **ViewData** dictionary. This feature is still available in MVC 5 for backward compatibility and for developers who prefer to use dictionary objects. In fact, **ViewBag** is a dynamic wrapper above the **ViewData** dictionary. This means that you could save a value in a controller action by using **ViewBag** and read the same value back out by using **ViewData**.

In action methods, you can add data to the **ViewData** dictionary by using key/value pairs as the following lines of code illustrate.

Adding Data to the ViewData

```
ViewData["Message"] = " This text is not in the model object"
ViewData["ServerTime"] = DateTime.Now;
```

To obtain and use the same values in a view, you can use the following Razor code.

Using ViewData Values

```
<p>
    The message of the day is: @ViewData["Message"]
</p>
<p>
    The time on the server is: @((DateTime)ViewData["ServerTime"])
</p>
```

In the examples, note that you can cast any **ViewData** values other than strings.

Question: Do **ViewBag** and **ViewData** serve different purposes?

Demonstration: How to Create a Controller

In this demonstration, you will see how to create a controller and write common actions in the controller.



Note: At the end of this demonstration, the application will not include views. Therefore, the application cannot display webpages.

Demonstration Steps

1. In the Solution Explorer pane of the **OperasWebSite - Microsoft Visual Studio** window, right-click **Controllers**, point to **Add**, and then click **Controller**.
2. In the **Controller Name** box of the **Add Controller** dialog box, type **OperaController**.
3. In the **Template** box, click **Empty MVC controller**, and then click **Add**.
4. In the **OperaController.cs** code window, locate the following code.

```
using System.Web.Mvc;
```


5. Place the mouse cursor at the end of the `System.Web.Mvc` namespace, press Enter, and then type the following code.

```
using System.Data.Entity;
using OperasWebSite.Models;
```

6. In the **OperaController** class code block, press Enter, type the following code, and then press Enter.

```
private OperasDB contextDB =
    new OperasDB();
```

7. In the **Index** action code block, select the following code.

```
return View();
```

8. Replace the selected code with the following code.

```
return View("Index",
    contextDB.Operas.ToList());
```

9. Place the mouse cursor at the end of the **Index** action code block, press Enter, and then type the following code.

```
public ActionResult Details (int id)
{
}
```

10. In the **Details** action code block, type the following code.

```
Opera opera =
    contextDB.Operas.Find(id);
if (opera != null)
{
    return View("Details", opera);
}
else
{
    return HttpNotFound();
}
```

11. Place the mouse cursor at the end of the **Details** action code block, press Enter twice, and then type the following code.

```
public ActionResult Create ()
{
}
```

12. In the **Create** action code block, type the following code.

```
Opera newOpera = new Opera();
return View("Create", newOpera);
```

13. Place the mouse cursor at the end of the **Create** action code block, press Enter twice, and then type the following code.

```
[HttpPost]
public ActionResult Create
    (Opera newOpera)
{
}
```

14. Place the mouse cursor in the **Create** action code block with the HTTP verb **POST**, and then type the following code.

```
if (ModelState.IsValid)
{
    contextDB.Operas.Add(newOpera);
    contextDB.SaveChanges();
    return
        RedirectToAction("Index");
}
else
{
    return View("Create", newOpera);
}
```

15. On the **FILE** menu of the **OperasWebSite - Microsoft Visual Studio** window, click **Save Controllers\OperaControllers.cs**.
16. In the **OperasWebSite - Microsoft Visual Studio** window, click the **Close** button.



Note: The message, "Save changes to the following items?" is displayed.

17. In the Microsoft Visual Studio dialog box, note that the message, "Save changes to the following items?" is displayed, and then click Yes.

What Are Controller Factories?

A controller factory is an MVC component that instantiates the controller classes that you create. For example, when a user requests a list of **Photo** model objects, a controller factory should create an instance of the **PhotoController** class. An action invoker then calls one of the action methods in that class, and a model binder passes parameters to it.

The MVC framework includes a built-in **DefaultControllerFactory** class that is suitable for most web applications. However, you must understand how **DefaultControllerFactory**

determines the controller class that it needs to create. Occasionally, you may need to create a custom controller factory to implement your own controller creation logic.

- Controller factories instantiate the controllers that you create
- You can create a controller factory by:
 - Using the built-in **DefaultControllerFactory** class
 - Creating a custom controller factory for modifying the criteria for selecting controllers or for providing support for testing
 - You need to register custom controller factory by using the **ControllerBuilder** class in the **Global.asax** file

How the DefaultControllerFactory Class Locates a Controller Class

The **DefaultControllerFactory** class identifies controller classes by using the following criteria:

- The class scope must be **public**.
- The class must not be marked as **abstract**.
- The class must not take generic parameters.
- The class must have a name that ends with **Controller**.
- The class must implement the **IController** interface.

When the MVC web application starts, **DefaultControllerFactory** creates a list of all the classes in the application that satisfy these criteria. This list helps to create the correct controller rapidly. To write a controller, you must ensure that all the above mentioned criteria are implemented. Usually, you meet the **IController** interface criterion by inheriting from the base **Controller** class.

By default, the **DefaultControllerFactory** mandates all controller classes to end with the word **Controller**. For example, following this convention, for the **Photo** model class, you would create a controller called **PhotoController**.

Creating a Custom Controller Factory

Occasionally, you might want to implement a custom controller factory. There are two common reasons for doing this:

- *To modify the criteria for selecting controllers.* The criteria described earlier are suitable for most web applications, but sometimes, you may want to change them. For example, you may not want to name controllers with **Controller** at the end, or you may want to add extra criteria of your own.
- *To support direct injection for testing.* Direct injection is a programming technique that lets you specify classes at run time, instead of specifying classes when writing code. This is helpful for unit testing because you can inject a test class with mock data, instead of real data. The **DefaultControllerFactory** class does not support direct injection.

The following code shows how to create a custom controller factory by implementing the **IControllerFactory** interface.

A Custom Controller Factory

```
public class AdWorksControllerFactory : IControllerFactory
{
    public IController CreateController (RequestContext requestContext, string
ControllerName)
    {
        Type targetType = null;
        if (ControllerName == "Photo")
        {
            targetType = typeof(PhotoController);
        }
        else
        {
            targetType = typeof(GeneralPurposeController);
        }
        return targetType == null ? null :
(IController)Activator.CreateInstance(targetType);
    }
    public SessionStateBehavior GetControllerSessionBehavior(RequestContext
requestContext,
string controllerName)
    {
        return SessionStateBehavior.Default;
    }
    public void ReleaseController(IController controller)
    {
        IDisposable disposable = controller as IDisposable;
        if (disposable != null)
        {
            disposable.Dispose();
        }
    }
}
```

You must implement the **CreateController**, **GetControllerSessionBehavior**, and **ReleaseController** methods for any custom controller factory you create.

For example, if the controller name passed to a controller factory is “Photo”, then the **PhotoController** is used. Otherwise, the **GeneralPurposeController** is used. The logic in a real custom controller should be more sophisticated than in this example. However the example illustrates the minimal required code to create a custom controller factory.

Registering a Custom Controller Factory

Even if you create a custom controller factory in your application, MVC will still use the **DefaultControllerFactory** class, unless you register your custom factory.

You register a custom controller factory by using the **ControllerBuilder** class in the **Global.asax** file, as the following lines of code show.

Registering a Custom Controller Factory

```
protected void Application_Start()
{
    ControllerBuilder.Current.SetControllerFactory(new AdWorksControllerFactory());
}
```

Question: Can you create a controller that does not end with “Controller”?

Lesson 2

Writing Action Filters

In some situations, you may need to run code before or after controller actions run. Before a user runs any action that modifies data, you might want to run the code that checks the details of the user account. If you add such code to the actions themselves, you will have to duplicate the code in all the actions where you want the code to run. Action filters provide a convenient way to avoid code duplication. You need to know how to create and use action filters in your web application, and when to use them.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe action filters.
- Create action filters.
- Determine when to use action filters.

What Are Filters?

The MVC programming model enforces the separation of concerns. For example, the business logic in model classes is separate from the input logic in controllers and the user interface logic in views. Each model class is also clearly distinct from other model classes. However, there are scenarios where requirements may be relevant to many parts of your application and cut across logical boundaries. For example, authorization must be done for many sensitive actions and controllers, regardless of the model and views that they return. These types of requirements are known as cross-cutting concerns. Some common examples of cross-cutting concerns include authorization, logging, and caching.

Some requirements cut across logical boundaries are called cross-cutting concerns. Examples include:

- Authorization
- Logging
- Caching

There are four different types of filters:

- Authorization filters run before any other filter and before the code in the action method
- Action filters run before and after the code in the action method
- Result filters run before and after a result is returned from an action method
- Exception filters run only if the action method or another filter throws an exception

Filters

Filters are MVC classes that you can use to manage cross-cutting concerns in your web application. You can apply a filter to a controller action by annotating the action method with the appropriate attribute. For example, an action annotated with the **[Authorize]** attribute, can be run only by authenticated users. You can also apply a filter to every action in a controller by annotating the controller class with the attribute.

Filter Types

There are four types of filters that you can use in MVC. These filters run at slightly different stages in the request process.

Filter Type	Interface	Default Class	Description
Authorization	IAuthorizationFilter	AuthorizeAttribute	Runs before any other filter and before the code in the action method. Used to check a user's access rights for the action.

Filter Type	Interface	Default Class	Description
Action	IActionFilter	ActionFilterAttribute	Runs before and after the code in the action method.
Result	IResultFilter	ActionFilterAttribute	Runs before and after a result is returned from an action method.
Exception	IExceptionFilter	HandleErrorAttribute	Runs only if the action method or another filter throws an exception. Used to handle errors.

Question: Which filter type will you use for the following actions?

1. Intercepting an error
2. Modifying a result
3. Authorizing users
4. Inspecting a returned value

Creating and Using Action Filters

If you have a cross-cutting concern in your web application, you can implement it by creating a custom action filter or a custom result filter. You can create custom filters by implementing the **IActionFilter** interface or the **IResultFilter** interface. However, the **ActionFilterAttribute** base class implements both the **IActionFilter** and **IResultFilter** interfaces for you. By deriving your filter from the **ActionFilterAttribute** class, you can create a single filter that can run code both before and after the action runs, and both before and after the result is returned.

Sample Action Filter


```
public class SimpleActionFilter : ActionFilterAttribute {
    public override void OnActionExecuting(
        ActionExecutingContext filterContext) {
        Debug.WriteLine("This Event Fired: OnActionExecuting");
    }
    public override void OnActionExecuted(
        ActionExecutedContext filterContext) {
        Debug.WriteLine("This Event Fired: OnActionExecuted");
    }
}
```

The following code shows how an action filter is used to write text to the Visual Studio Output window in the order in which the **IActionFilter** and **IResultFilter** events run. Place this code in a class file within your web application.

A Simple Custom Action Filter

```
public class SimpleActionFilter : ActionFilterAttribute
{
    public override void OnActionExecuting(ActionExecutingContext filterContext)
    {
        Debug.WriteLine("This Event Fired: OnActionExecuting");
    }
    public override void OnActionExecuted(ActionExecutedContext filterContext)
    {
        Debug.WriteLine("This Event Fired: OnActionExecuted");
    }
    public override void OnResultExecuting(ResultExecutingContext filterContext)
    {
        Debug.WriteLine("This Event Fired: OnResultExecuting");
    }
    public override void OnResultExecuted(ResultExecutedContext filterContext)
    {
        Debug.WriteLine("This Event Fired: OnResultExecuted");
    }
}
```

```
}
}
```

 **Note:** You can also create a custom authorization filter by implementing the **IAuthorizationFilter** interface. However, the default **AuthorizeAttribute** implementation is highly useful and satisfies almost all authentication requirements. You should be careful when overriding the default security code in MVC or any other programming model. If you do so without a full understanding of the implications, you can introduce security vulnerabilities that a malicious user can exploit.

Using a Custom Action Filter

After you have created a custom action filter, you can apply it to any action method or class in your web application by annotating the method or class with the action filter name.

In the following lines of code, the **SimpleActionFilter** is applied to the **Index** action of the **Photo** controller.

Using A Custom Action Filter

```
public class PhotoController : Controller
{
    ContextDB contextDB = new ContextDB();
    [SimpleActionFilter]
    public ActionResult Index()
    {
        return View("Index", contextDB.Photos.ToList());
    }
}
```

Question: What are the advantages of custom action filters?

Discussion: Action Filter Scenarios

Consider the following scenarios. In each case, discuss with the rest of the class whether the scenario requires a custom filter, or can be solved with a built-in filter type, or cannot be solved with filters.

1. You are writing a photo sharing application and you want to enable each user to discuss photos, cameras, lenses, and other photography equipment with other users whom they have marked as their friends. Other users should be prevented from seeing these discussions.
2. You want to ensure that when MVC calls the **GetImage** action method, the ID in the query string is passed as a parameter.
3. You are writing a photo sharing application and you want to prevent unauthenticated users from adding comments to a photo.
4. You want to prevent malicious users from intercepting the credentials entered by users in the logon form for your web application. You want to ensure that the credentials are encrypted.

Discuss the following scenarios:

- A photo sharing application with discussion amongst friends
- Passing correct parameters to the **GetImage** method
- Preventing unauthenticated users from adding comments to a photo
- Preventing malicious users from intercepting credentials