Developing Cross-Platform Web Apps With Blazor

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 - o Add notes to your copy of the presentation, if required
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Module 2: Overview

Module Overview

Why Do We Need a .Net Single Page App (SPA) Framework?

- The evolution of JavaScript in the recent years resulted in an ever more complex build process and byzantine build systems
- With JavaScript it seems the simpler the programming model gets, the more complex the build system and tooling becomes
- This isn't just about 'language' either. JavaScript's insane build systems required for all major frameworks these days is a house of cards that seems to break anytime you step away for more than a few days. Other platforms have skinned that cat in other and potentially more efficient ways that are easier and more integrated without the brittleness that seems to come part and parcel for JavaScript development

"Rick Strahl"

Module 2: Overview

Section 1: WebAssembly

Lesson: WebAssembly Fundamentals

What Is Webassembly?

WebAssembly is a new type of code that can be run in modern web browsers — it is a low-level assembly-like language with a compact binary format that runs with near-native performance and provides languages such as C/C++ and Rust with a compilation target so that they can run on the web. It is also designed to run alongside JavaScript, allowing both to work together

"MDN"

What Is Webassembly?

A Virtual Machine For The Web

Again.

How Is It Different Than Java?

Separate VM

Clunky

No Dom Integration

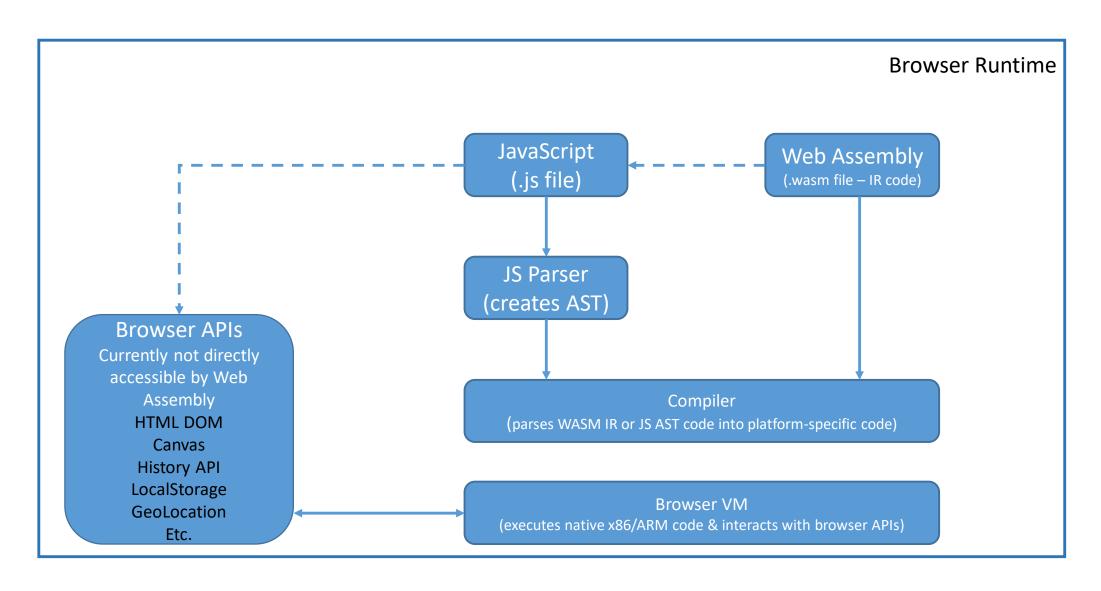
What Is Different This Time?

Exposes Internal Browser VM

Cross-Browser Support

JS Bindings

Re-Assembling The Web



Let's Break That Down...

Low-level Assembly-like Language

Compact Binary Format

Near-native Performance

Web Assembly Goals

Fast, Efficient, Portable

Readable, Debuggable

Keep Secure

Don't Break The Web

Demo: Unity3D

Module 2: Overview

Section 2: Blazor

Lesson: Getting Started

WebAssembly and Mono

- Mono is an open source implementation of the .NET CLI specification, meaning that Mono is a platform for running .NET assemblies
- Mono is written in C++. This is important because you can compile C++ to WebAssembly
- The Mono team decided to try to compile Mono to WebAssembly, which they did successfully which in turn gave the birth to Blazor

Approaches For Compiling Mono To WebAssembly

- .Net team considered two approaches:
 - Take the .NET code and compile it together with the Mono runtime into one big WASM application.
 This approach takes a lot of time because you need to take several steps to compile everything into WASM, which is not so practical for day-to-day development
 - The second approach takes the Mono runtime, compiles it into WASM, and this runs in the browser where it will execute .NET Intermediate Language just like normal .NET does. This has a big advantage as you can simply run .NET assemblies without having to compile them first into WASM. <u>This is the approach currently taken by Blazor</u>. The <u>disadvantage of this is that it needs to download a lot of .NET assemblies</u>. This <u>can be solved by using Tree Shaking algorithms</u>, which removes all unused code from assemblies

Blazor History



NDC Demo In 2017



Lots Of Interest...



Moved To ASP.Net's Github As Official Experiment Jan 2018

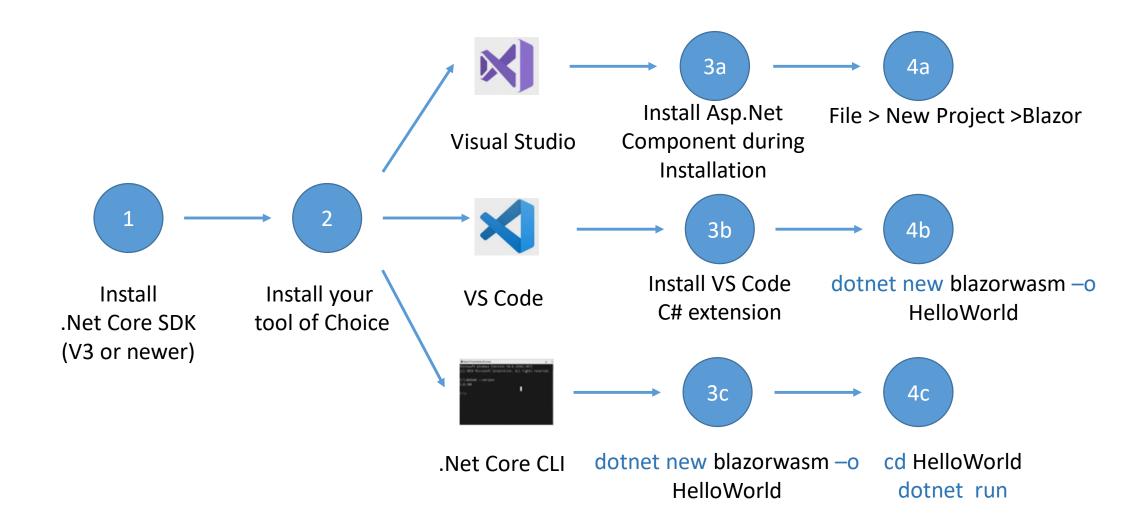


Server Side Blazor Components Shipped With .NET 3.0

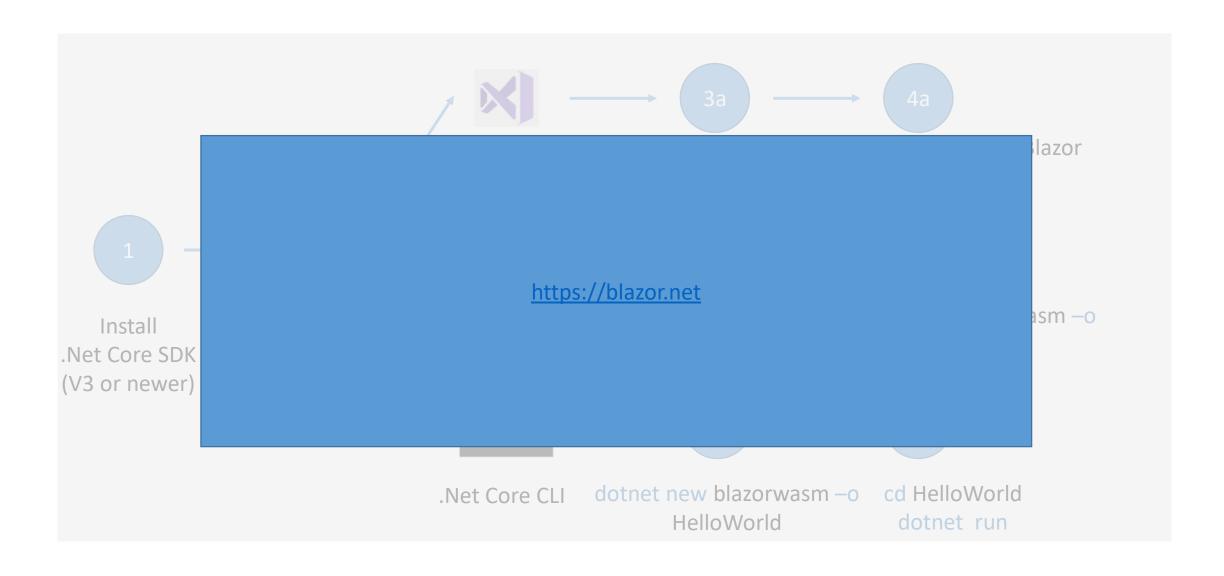


Client Side Blazor Shipping After .NET 3.0

Blazor Development Environment Options



Blazor Development Environment Options



Why Use Blazor?

WebAssembly is supported by all major browsers

Use C# For
Interactive Web
Applications

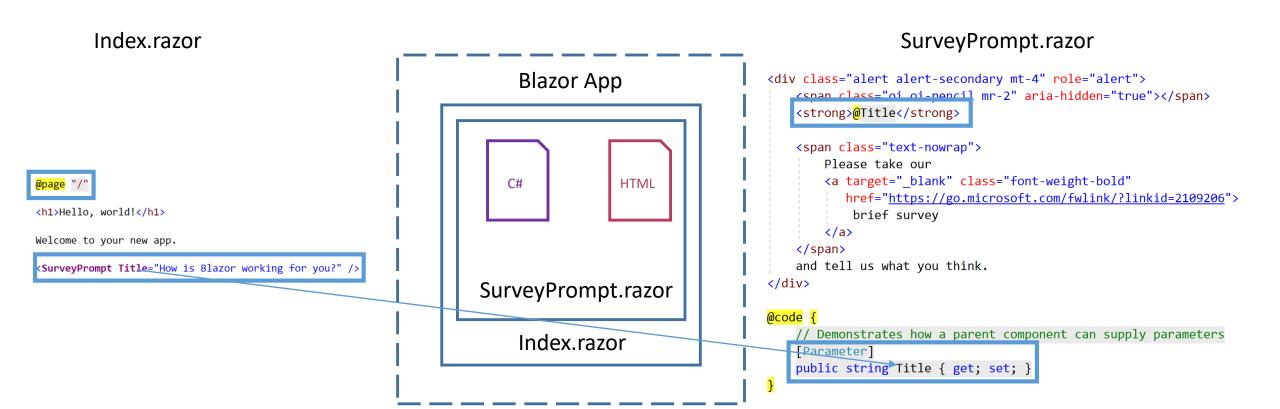
Reuse Existing Libraries Performance Is

Near Native

174

Tooling And Debugging

What Is Blazor?

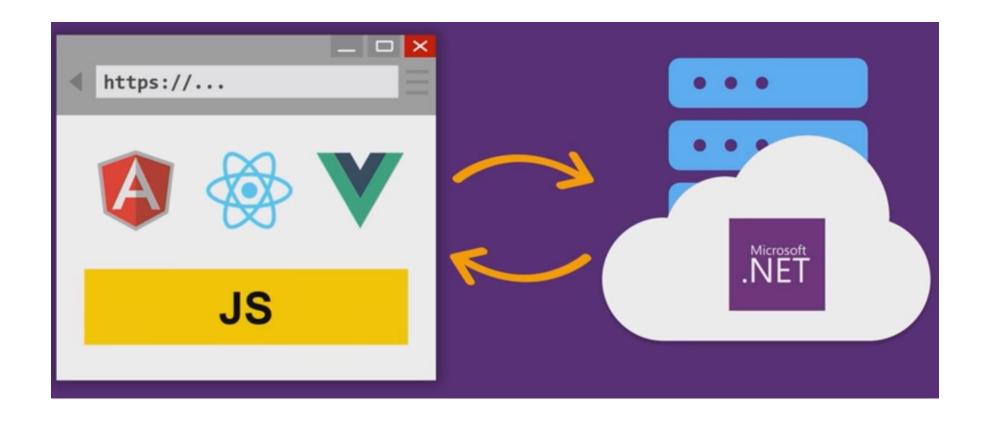


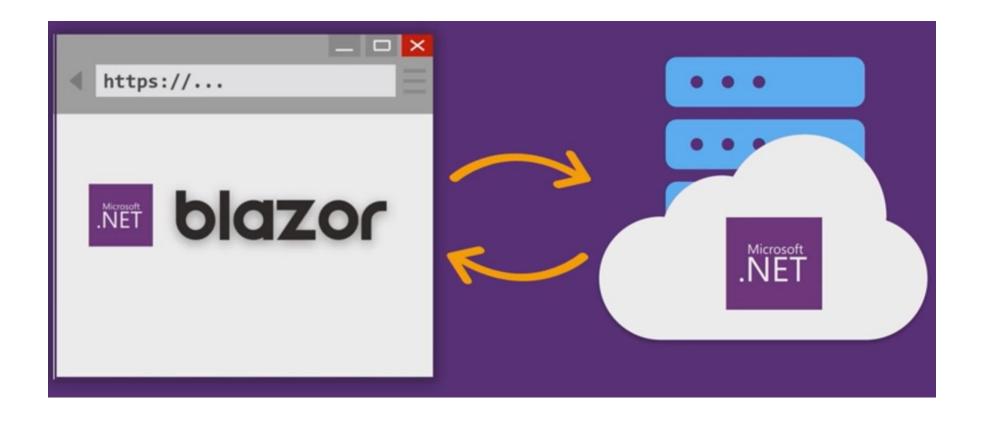
Demo: A Quick Hello World

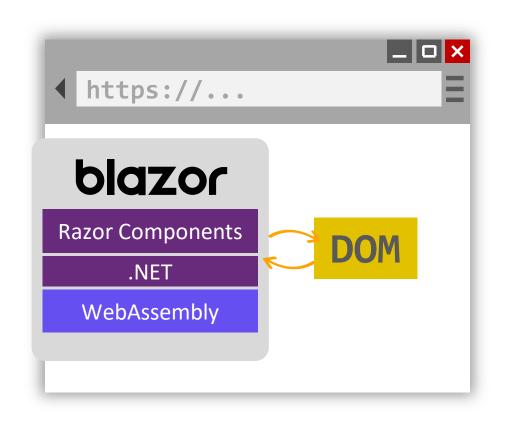
Module 2: Overview

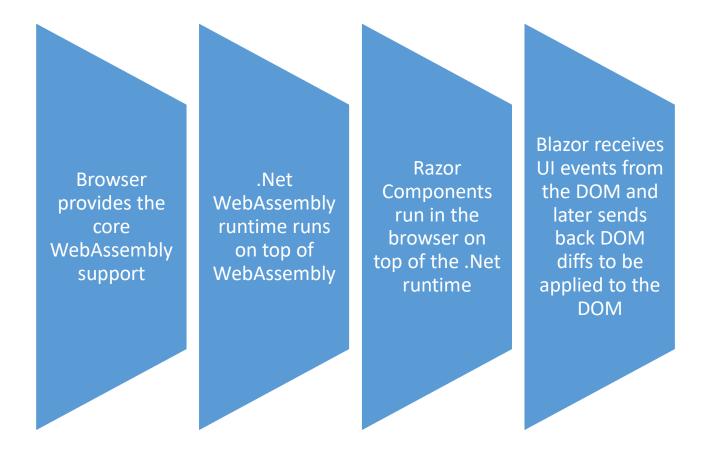
Section 2: Blazor

Lesson: Hosting Models









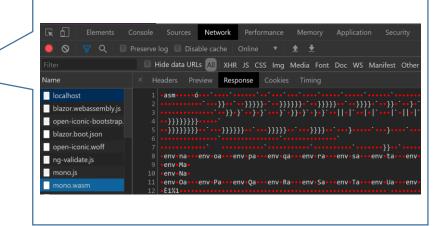
Microsoft.AspNet.dll System.dll BlazorApp.dll

Blazor App

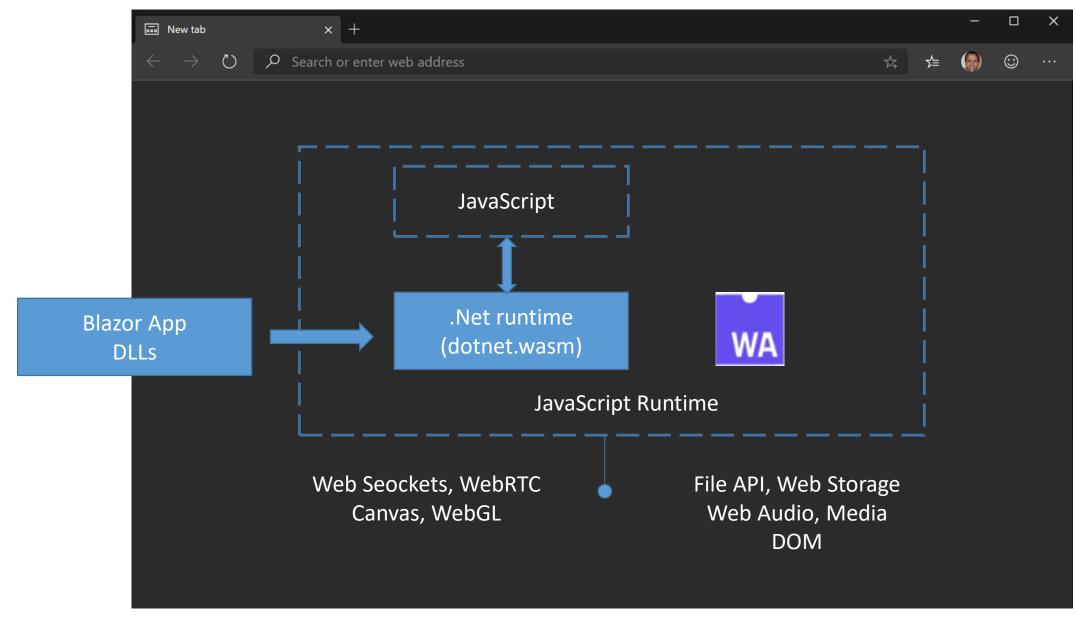
.Net Standard Libraries

.Net Runtime (.wasm)

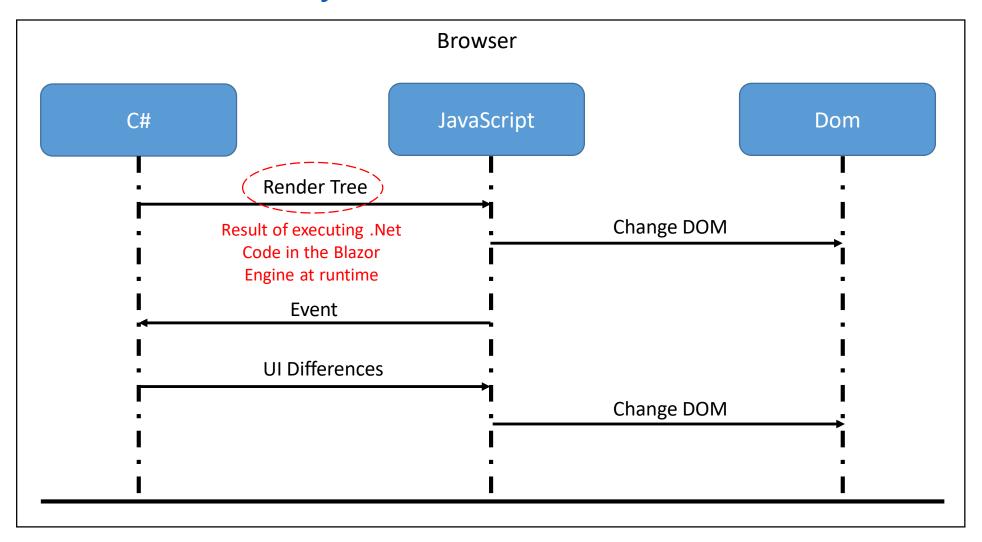




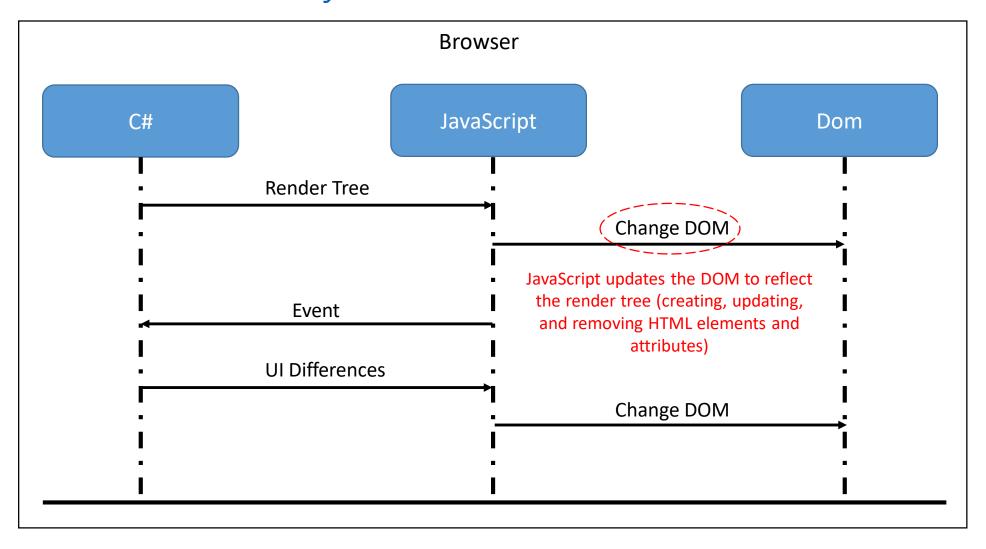
Blazor WebAssembly SandBox



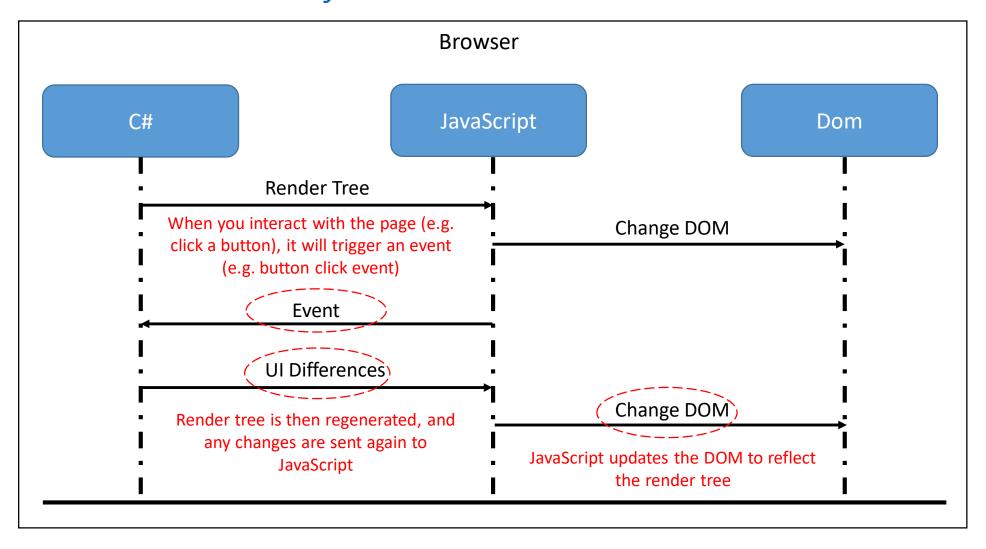
Blazor WebAssembly DOM Generation Process



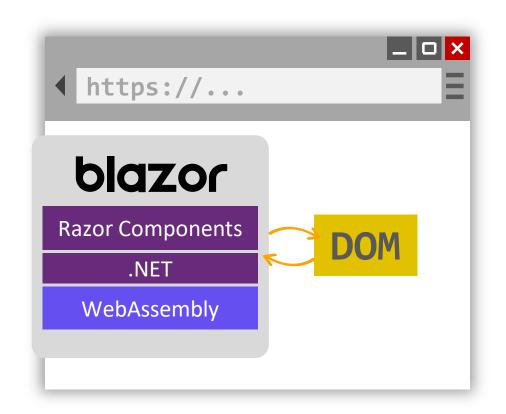
Blazor WebAssembly DOM Generation Process



Blazor WebAssembly DOM Generation Process



Hosting Blazor WebAssembly





Azure CDN

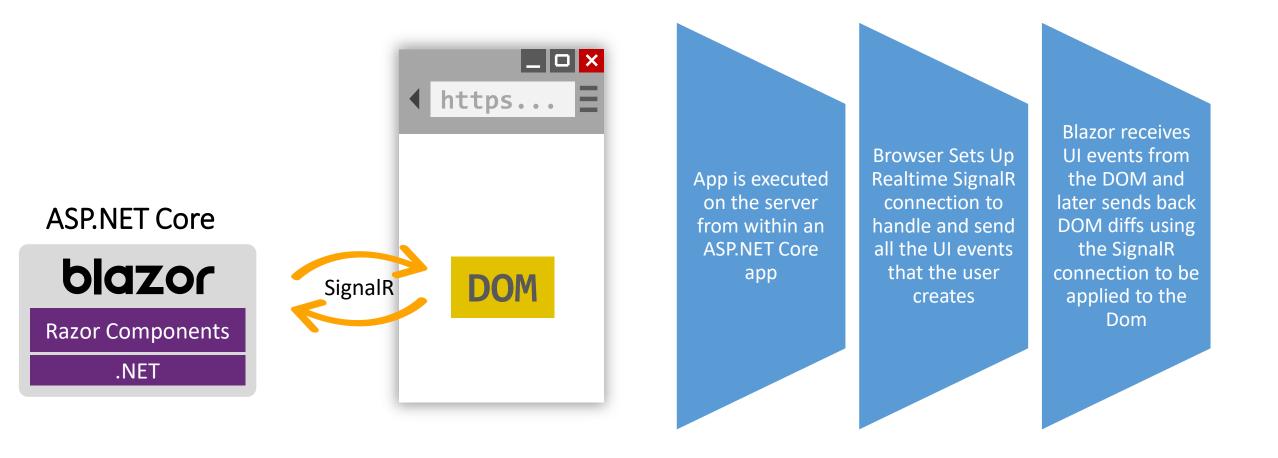


Azure App Service

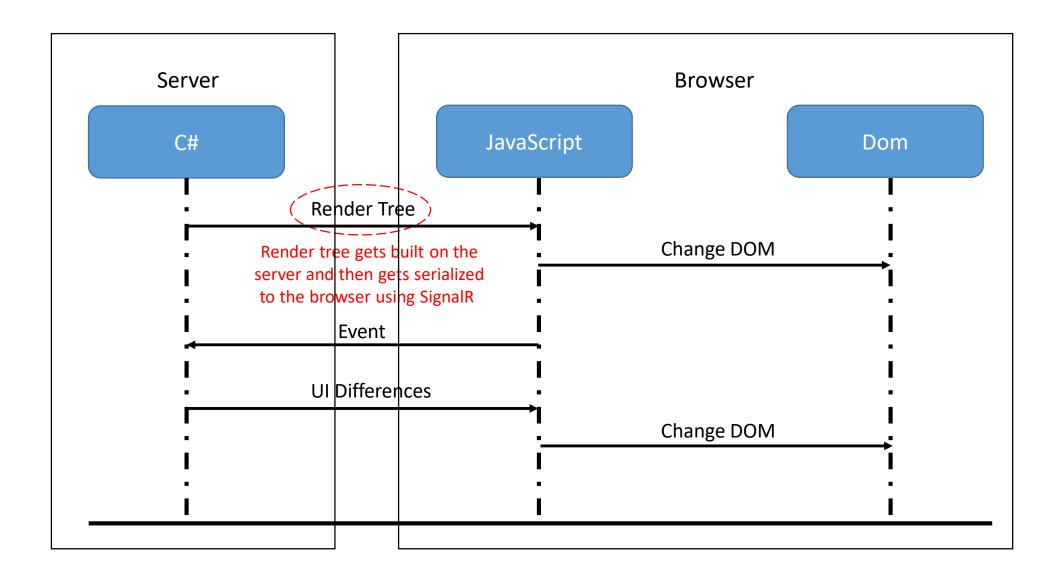


Azure Storage Static Website

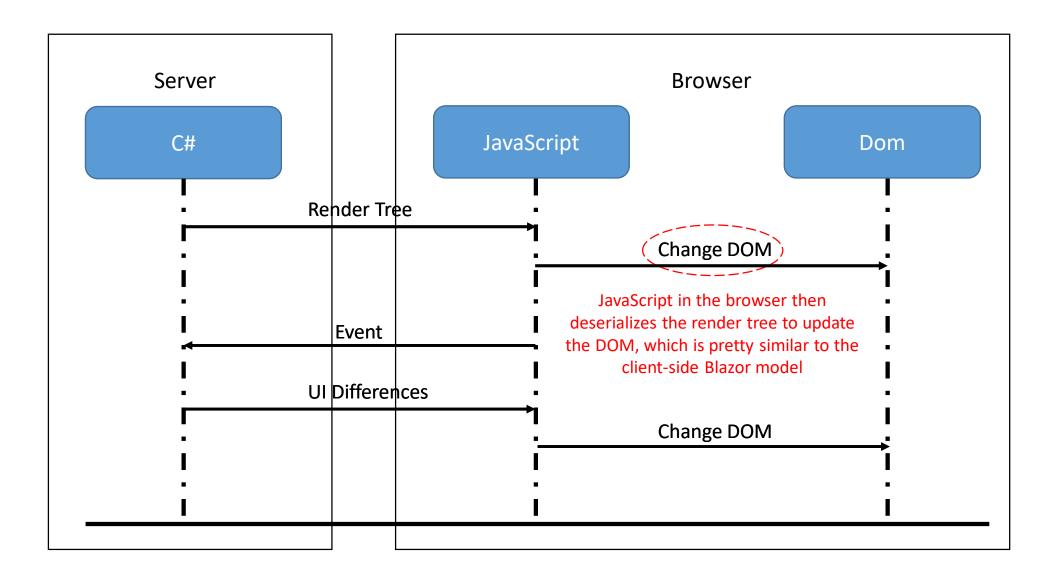
Server-Side Blazor – Released With .Net Core 3



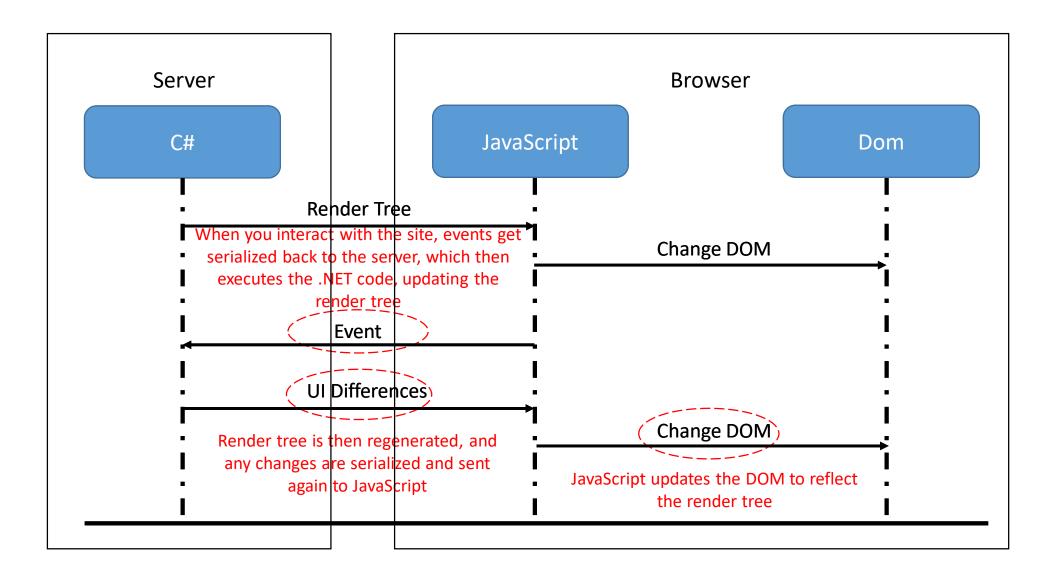
Server-Side Blazor DOM Generation Process



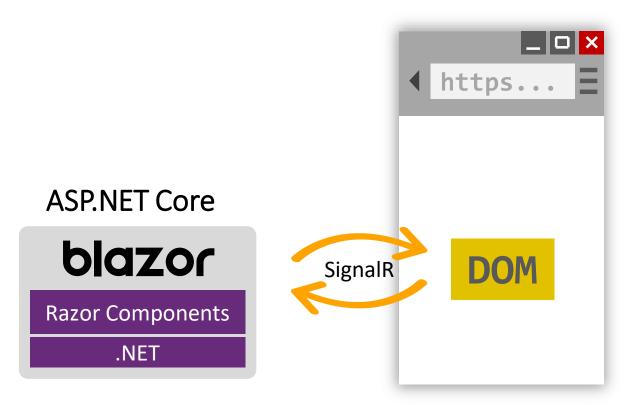
Server-Side Blazor DOM Generation Process



Server-Side Blazor DOM Generation Process



Hosting Server-Side Blazor







Azure App Service

Blazor WebAssembly Vs Blazor Server

Blazor WebAssembly

- Pros:
 - True SPA, full interactivity
 - Near Native Performance
 - Utilize client resources
 - No server needed
 - Can work offline
- Cons:
 - Restricted to the capabilities of the browser
 - Larger download size
 - Requires WebAssembly
 - Client-side secrets

Blazor Server

- Pros:
 - Smaller download size, faster load time
 - Running on fully featured .NET runtime
 - Code never leaves the server, Server side secrets
- Cons:
 - Latency
 - No offline support
 - Consumes more server resources

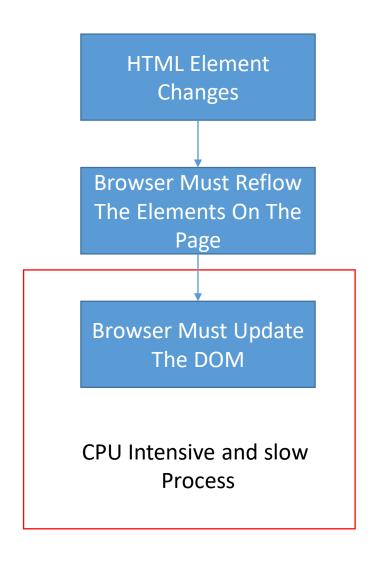
Which Hosting Model To Use When?

	Blazor WebAssembly	Blazor Server
Need near native experience		
Need to connect to Server- Side resources		
Using Older Browsers		
Offline Support		
You don't want to run an Asp.Net Core Server		
You want to create a fast, interactive web app with C#		

Demo: Hosting Models

Manipulating DOM Elements From Blazor

- Blazor is specifically designed to provide a convenient and efficient way to update the UI without having to issue individual calls to mutate individual DOM elements
- Blazor runs a diffing algorithm to work out the minimal set of changes to apply and runs them in a batch. This will be far more performant than crossing the interop boundary separately for each element update, and potentially interleaving DOM mutations with repaints, etc. Most modern SPA frameworks are built around an architecture similar to this
- Blazor still does allow you to directly reach DOM elements if you want via its JS interop APIs, but you should only do that for exceptional custom things, not for routine UI rendering



Virtual DOM

 An in-memory representation of the elements that will make up the HTML page. This data creates a tree of HTML elements as if they had been specified by an HTML mark-up page. Blazor components create this Virtual DOM in its Razor views via a virtual method named BuildRenderTree. For example, the BuildRenderTree for the standard Pages/Index.razor page looks like this

```
protected override void BuildRenderTree(Microsoft.AspNetCore.Components.Rendering.RenderTreeBuilder builder)
{
   builder.AddMarkupContent(0, "<h1>Hello, world!</h1>\r\n\r\nWelcome to your new app.\r\n\r\n");
   builder.OpenComponent<MyFirstBlazorApp.Client.Shared.SurveyPrompt>(1);
   builder.AddAttribute(2, "Title", "How is Blazor working for you?");
   builder.CloseComponent();
}
```

Virtual DOM

- o Building a data tree that represents the view to be rendered has two significant benefits:
 - Attribute values of those virtual HTML elements can be updated many times in code during a complex update process without the browser having to re-render and reflow its view until after the process has finished
 - Render trees can be created by comparing two trees and building a new tree that is the difference between the two. This allows us to utilize an Incremental DOM approach

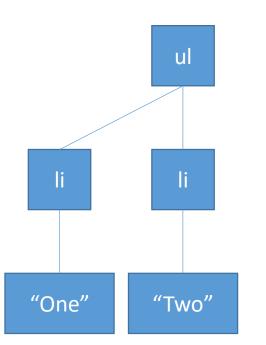
Incremental DOM

- Incremental DOM is a technique that minimizes the amount of work needed to update the elements in a browser's view
- o Being able to create a diff tree gives us the ability to represent changes to the view using the smallest number of changes possible required to update the DOM. This saves time when changing the display (so the user-experience is better), and in Server-Side Blazor apps it means fewer bytes over the network making a Blazor app more useable on slow networks or very remote locations

Example – Adding a new list item

The current Virtual DOM for the view in the browser consists of a list with two items

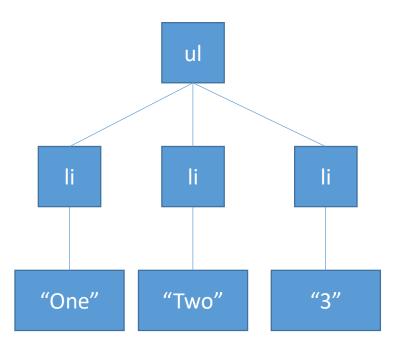
Virtual DOM 1



Example – Adding a new list item

The app adds a new item to the list. Blazor represents this in a new Virtual DOM

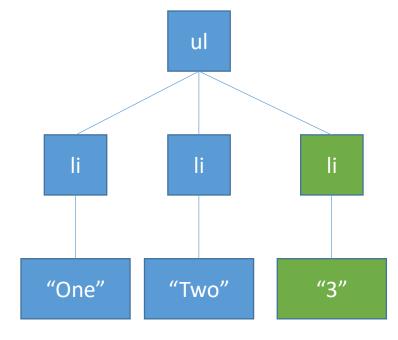
Virtual DOM 2



Example – Adding a new list item

The following differential tree is determined to be the fewest number of changes required. In this case, one new and one new text element "3"

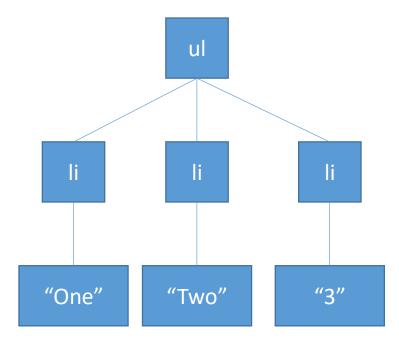
Differential Tree



Example – Adding a new list item

The differential render tree is then used to update the actual HTML DOM in the browser

Actual DOM



Module 2: Overview

Section 2: Blazor

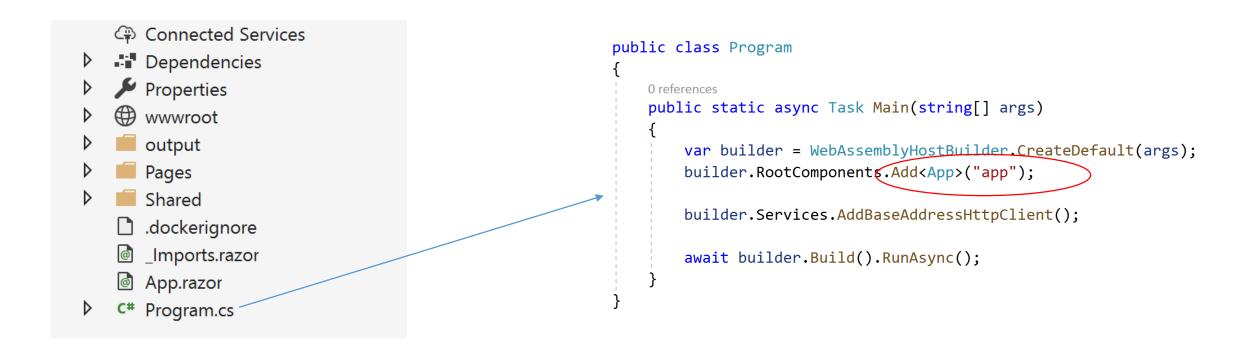
Lesson: Bootstrap Process

This script will install Blazor by downloading mono.wasm and your assemblies
 <script src="_framework/blazor.webassembly.js"></script>

```
Solution 'MyFirstBlazorApp' (1 of 1 project)
MyFirstBlazorApp
  Connected Services
  Dependencies
   Properties
  🧰 sample-data
     index.html
     Pages
   Shared
   _Imports.razor
   App.razor
   C# Program.cs
   C# Startup.cs
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <meta charset="utf-8" />
   <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width" />
    <title>MyFirstBlazorApp</title>
   <base href="/" />
   <link href="css/bootstrap/bootstrap.min.css" rel="stylesheet" />
   <link href="css/site.css" rel="stylesheet" />
</head>
<body>
    <app>Loading...</app>
    <div id="blazor-error-ui">
        An unhandled error has occurred.
        <a href="" class="reload">Reload</a>
        <a class="dismiss">X</a>
    </div>
  <<script src=" framework/blazor.webassembly.js"></script>
</body>
</html>
```

- The bootstrapping happens in the main method in the Program.cs file which loads the root component (App)
- It also associates App component with the app element inside index.html
- A Blazor component uses a custom tag like <app>, and the Blazor runtime replaces the tag with the component's markup, which is normal HTML recognized by the browser



 index.html file includes the <app> element. This is similar to the behavior of other SPA frameworks like Angular where you have the root component that bootstraps the whole application at runtime

```
Connected Services
Dependencies
Properties
(#) www.root
    sample-data
  index.html
  Pages
 Shared
  Imports.razor
App.razor
C# Program.cs
C# Startup.cs
```

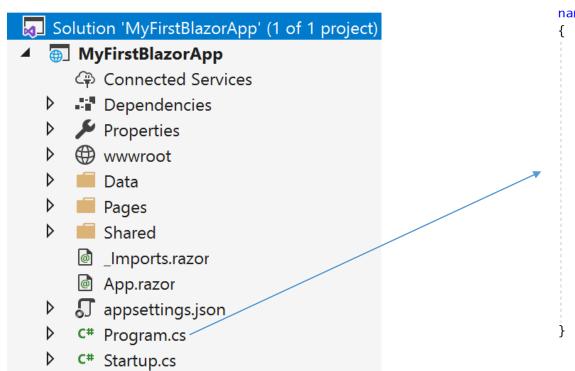
```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <meta charset="utf-8" />
   <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width" />
    <title>MyFirstBlazorApp</title>
   <base href="/" />
   <link href="css/bootstrap/bootstrap.min.css" rel="stylesheet" />
   <link href="css/site.css" rel="stylesheet" />
</head>
    <app>Loading...</app>
   <div id="blazor-error-ui">
        An unhandled error has occurred.
        <a href="" class="reload">Reload</a>
        <a class="dismiss">X</a>
    </div>
   <script src=" framework/blazor.webassembly.js"></script>
</body>
</html>
```

- The app component is responsible for installing the router
- The router is responsible for loading a Blazor component depending on the URI in the browser
 - For example, if you browse to the / URI, the router will look for a component with a matching @page directive

Name			Status	Туре	Initiator
localhost			200	document	Other
lazor.boot.json			200	fetch	<u>blazor.webassembly.js:1</u>
mono.wasm	Mono Runtime		200	fetch	mono.js:1
open-iconic.woff	JavaScript part of Blazor		200	font	Other
blazor.webassembly.js	JavaScript part of Blazor and Mono		200	script	<u>(index)</u>
ng-validate.js			200	script	content-script.js:24
mono.js			200	script	<u>blazor.webassembly.js:1</u>
bootstrap.min.css	■ bootstrap.min.css		200	stylesheet	(index)
site.css			200	stylesheet	(index)
open-iconic-bootstrap.min.css			200	stylesheet	(index)
				_	
■ DockerizedClientSideBlazor.dll	App DLL (IL)		304	xhr	blazor.webassembly.js:1
Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authorization.dll			304	xhr	<u>blazor.webassembly.js:1</u>
■ Microsoft.AspNetCore.Blazor.dll			304	xhr	blazor.webassembly.js:1
■ Microsoft.AspNetCore.Blazor.HttpClient.dll			304	xhr	blazor.webassembly.js:1
■ Microsoft.AspNetCore.Components.dll	F	ramework	304	xhr	blazor.webassembly.js:1
■ Microsoft.AspNetCore.Components.Forms.c		DLLs (IL)	304	xhr	blazor.webassembly.js:1
■ Microsoft.AspNetCore.Components.Web.dll		304	xhr	<u>blazor.webassembly.js:1</u>	
■ Microsoft.AspNetCore.Metadata.dll		304	xhr	<u>blazor.webassembly.js:1</u>	
Microsoft.Bcl.AsyncInterfaces.dll			304	xhr	<u>blazor.webassembly.js:1</u>
Microsoft. Extensions. Dependency Injection. A	Abstractions.dll		304	xhr	<u>blazor.webassembly.js:1</u>

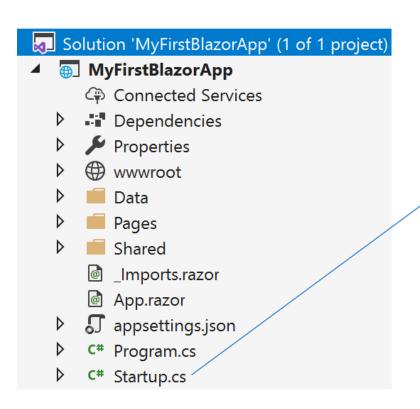
Server Side Blazor Bootstrap Process

 With the Blazor Server Side hosting model, the app is executed on the server from within an ASP.NET Core app



Server Side Blazor Bootstrap Process

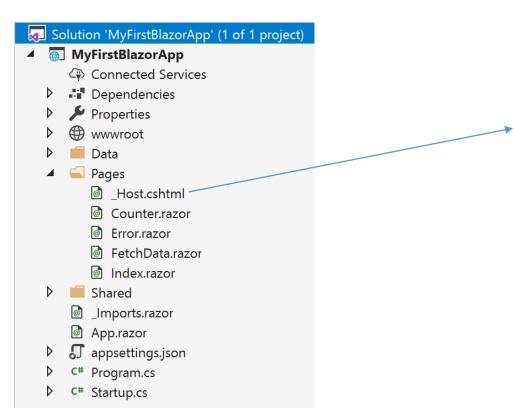
- The ASP.NET Core app references the app's Startup class to add:
 - Server-side services
 - The app to the request handling pipeline



```
public class Startup
   public Startup(IConfiguration configuration)
       Configuration = configuration;
   public IConfiguration Configuration { get; }
   // This method gets called by the runtime. Use this method to add services to the container.
   // For more information on how to configure your application, visit https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=398940
   public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
        services.AddRazorPages():
       services.AddServerSideBlazor();
        services.AddSingletondeacherForecastService>();
   // This method gets called by the runtime. Use this method to configure the HTTP request pipeline.
    public void Configure(IApplicationBuilder app, IWebHostEnvironment env)
        if (env.IsDevelopment())
           app.UseDeveloperExceptionPage();
           app.UseExceptionHandler("/Error");
           // The default HSTS value is 30 days. You may want to change this for production scenarios, see https://aka.ms/aspnetcore-hsts
           app.UseHsts();
        app.UseHttpsRedirection();
        app.UseStaticFiles();
        app.UseRouting();
        app.UseEndpoints(endpoints =>
            endpoints.MapBlazorHub();
           endpoints.MapFallbackToPage("/ Host")
```

Server Side Blazor Bootstrap Process

- The blazor.server.js script establishes the client connection
 - It's the app's responsibility to persist and restore app state as required (for example, in the event of a lost network connection)
 - Its served from an embedded resource in the ASP.NET Core shared framework



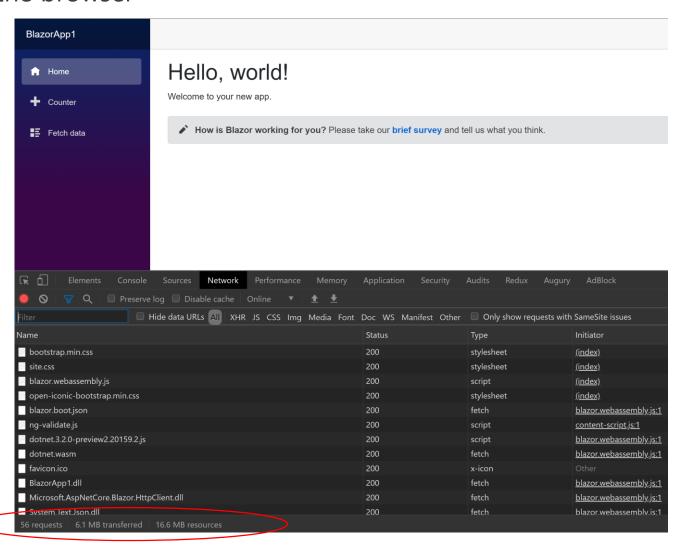
```
@page "/"
 @namespace MyFirstBlazorApp.Pages
 @addTagHelper *, Microsoft.AspNetCore.Mvc.TagHelpers
     Layout = null;
 <!DOCTYPE html>
⊟<html lang="en">
⊢ <head>
     <meta charset="utf-8" />
     <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0" />
     <title>MyFirstBlazorApp</title>
     <base href="~/" />
     <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/bootstrap/bootstrap.min.css" />
     <link href="css/site.css" rel="stylesheet" />
 </head>
⊑́<body>
         <component type="typeof(App)" render-mode="ServerPrerendered" />
     </app>
     <div id="blazor-error-ui">
         <environment include="Staging,Production">
             An error has occurred. This application may no longer respond until reloaded.
         </environment>
         <environment include="Development">
             An unhandled exception has occurred. See browser dev tools for details.
         </environment>
         <a href="" class="reload">Reload</a>
         <a class="dismiss">X</a>
     </div>

⟨script src="_framework/blazor.server.js"></script>
 </body>
 </html>
```

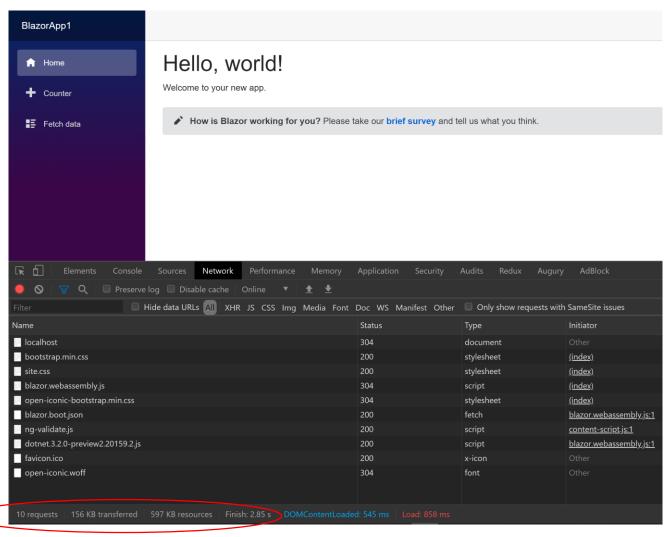
Server-Side Blazor Bootstrap Process

Name		Status	Туре	Initiator
_blazor?id=YnCsREhSf6KsB10zQFE3KA		101	websocket	<u>blazor.server.js:1</u>
localhost		200	document	Other
blazor.server.js	Establishes the client	304	script	<u>(index)</u>
open-iconic-bootstrap.min.css	connection	304	stylesheet	(index)
negotiate		200	xhr	blazor.server.js:1
open-iconic.woff		304	font	(index)
ng-validate.js		200	script	content-script.js:24
favicon.ico		200	x-icon	Other
blazor?id=okjLrGzL-287yDDpN1t-UQ		101	websocket	blazor.server.js:1
negotiate		200	xhr	blazor.server.js:1

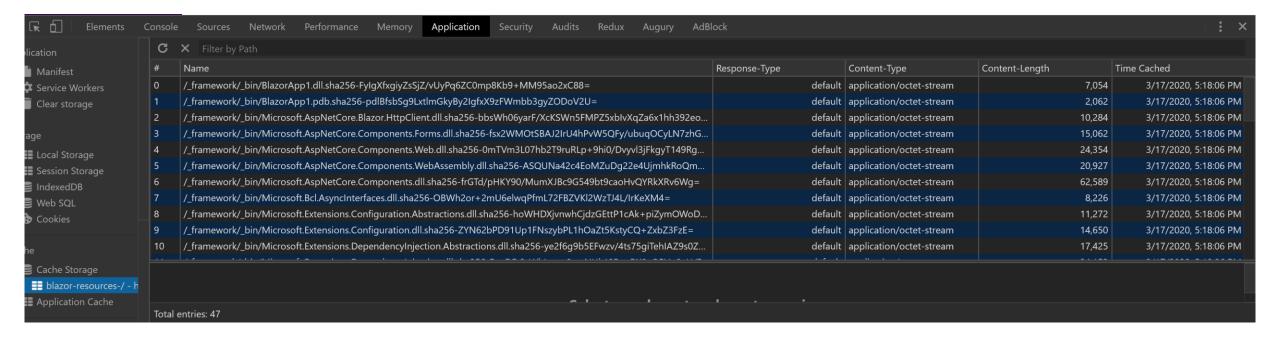
 Initial Blazor WebAssembly app size is large as it has to download the application and framework dlls to the browser



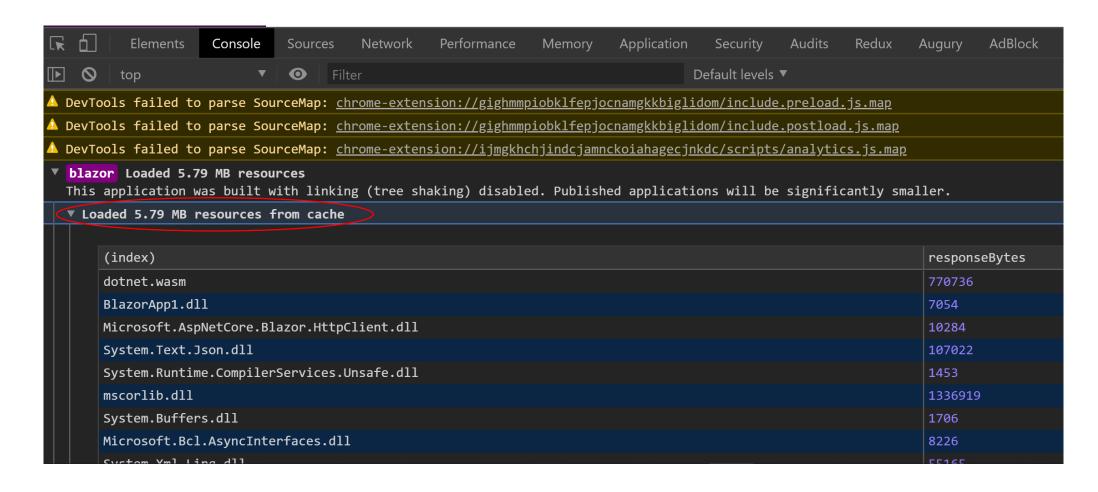
• If you look at the network trace of what's being downloaded for a Blazor WebAssembly app after it's initially loaded you will notice that the size is extremely smaller



- When a Blazor WebAssembly app is initially loaded, the runtime and framework files are now stored in the browser cache storage
- When the app loads, it first uses the contents of the *blazor.boot.json* to check if it already has all of the runtime and framework files it needs in the cache. If it does, then no additional network requests are necessary



 You can still see what the true size of the app is during development by checking the browser console



- What about invalidating the cache?
 - The cache is based on hashes of all of the files, which are then recorded in the blazor.boot.json file
 when the app is built. If any of the files change, the hashes should change and the cache will get
 invalidated

Detecting Unsupported Browsers

• What happens when you load a Blazor WebAssembly application Under older browsers?



Demo: Detecting Unsupported Browsers

Blazor Roadmap

• Roadmap

Module Summary

- In this module, you learned about:
 - WebAssembly
 - Blazor Hosting Models
 - Blazor Bootstrap Process
 - Blazor WebAssembly Framework Caching





References

• Microsoft Docs

Microsoft