ASP.NET MVC Course

Section 1: Getting Started

MVC Architectural Pattern

- Model View Controller
- Widely adopted as an architecture for web applications
- Better separation of concerns

Model

- Application data and behavior in terms of its problem domain
- Independent of the UI
- · A class that includes the application data and rules
- Independent of persistence (can be stored in any databases)

View

• HTML markup displayed to users

Controller

• Responsible for handling HTTP requests

Router

• Selects the right controller to handle the request

Action

• A method in a controller responsible for handling a request

NuGet

- A package manager similar to NPM and Bower
- Used to manage dependencies of app
- Used to upgrade existing dependencies when newer versions are available

Plugins

- Productivity Power Tools
- Web Essentials
- ReSharper

Shortcuts

- ctrl + F5 -> Start without debugging
- F2 -> rename selected
- ctrl + m + m -> collapse selected code block / html tag
- Alt + Enter -> access ReSharper shortcuts
- F9 -> Add breakpoint
- F5 -> Start with debugging
- Shift + F5 -> Quit debugging

- Ctrl + w -> Select code block
- Ctrl + Shift + w -> Deselect code block

Snippets

- prop -> public TYPE Type { get; set; }
- ctor -> create constructor
- mvcaction4 -> create action template

Files

- App_Start -> BundleConfig.cs
 - o Defines various bundles and client side assets
- App_Start -> FilterConfig.cs
 - o Handles global filters

C# Syntax

- Add ? after argument data type to make it nullable:
 - public void functionName(int? intVar){}
- Write c# code within a .cshtml file by prefixing with an @
- 0 is the default value for numeric properties
- (byte) varName -> Cast variable as a byte

Function	Definition
Enumerable.Any()	Determines whether a sequence contains any elements.
Enumerable.SingleOrDefault()	Returns the only element of a sequence that satisfies a specified condition or a default value if no such element exists; this method throws an exception if more than one element satisfies the condition.

URL Encoded Characters

Character	Encoded
backspace	%08
tab	%09
linefeed	%0A
creturn	%0D
space	%20
!	%21
··	%22
#	%23
\$	%24
%	%25
&	%26

•	%27
(%28
)	%29
*	%2A
+	%2B
,	%2C
-	%2D
	%2E
1	%2F

IEnumerable, ICollection, List

Interface	Scenario
lEnumerable	You only want to iterate over the elements in a collection
IEnumerable< T >	You only need read-only access to that collection
Collection	You want to modify the collection or you care about its size
Collection< T >	
IList	You want to modify the collection and you care about the ordering and / positioning of elements in that collection
IList <t></t>	
List	Since in object oriented design you want to depend on abstractions instead of implementations, you should never have a member of your own implementations with the concrete type List/List.

Examples

A request to /customers/delete/1 by convention is handled by:

CustomersController.Delete(int id)

Conventions

- Name partial views with an _ prefix
- Name ViewModels with a ViewModel suffix
- EntityFramework recognizes foreign key convention [MODEL NAME]Id
- Name DbContext s with a _ prefix

Misc

- ASP.NET uses bootstrap by default as its front end framew ork
- ullet Use bootswatch.com for bootstrap templates
- Navigation Properties allow for navigating between / linking multiple model types and objects together

Course Layout

- ASP.NET MVC Fundamentals
- Entity Framew ork (Code-first)
- Forms
- Validation
- Build RESTful Services
- Client-side Development
- Authentication and Authorization
- Performance Optimization
- Building a Feature Systematically
- Deployment

Section 2: ASP.NET MVC Fundamentals

Action Results

```
namespace Vidly.Controllers
{
    public class MoviesController : Controller
    {
        // GET: Movies
        public ActionResult Random()
        {
            var movie = new Movie() { Name = "Shrek!" };
            return View(movie);
        }
    }
}
```

• Actions performed within controller methods in response to HTTP requests

Туре	Helper Method
View Result	View()
PartialView Result	PartialView()
ContentResult	Content()
RedirectResult	Redirect()
RedirectToRouteResult	RedirectToAction()
JsonResult	Json()
FileResult	File()
HttpNotFoundResult	<pre>HttpNotFound()</pre>
EmptyResult	HttpNotFound()

Action Parameters

• Parameter passed to controller from request can be linked to a controller action with the same name

Parameter Sources

- In the URL: /movies/edit/1
- In the query string: /movies/edit?id=1
- In the form data: id=1

Convention-based Routing

- routes.MapRoute() order matters, so specify from most-to-least granular
- routes.MapRoute([Route Name], [URL Pattern], [Defaults])

```
routes.MapRoute(
   "MoviesByReleaseDate",
   "movies/released/{year}/{month}",
   new { controller = "Movies", action = "ByReleaseDate" }
);
```

Limiting Route Parameters

```
routes.MapRoute(
   "MoviesByReleaseDate",
   "movies/released/{year}/{month}",
   new { controller = "Movies", action = "ByReleaseDate" },
   new { year = @"\d{4}", month = @"\d{2}"}
);
```

• Fourth argument to MapRoute is for parameter constraints

Attribute Routing

- Activate Attribute Routes in RouteConfig.cs:
 - routes.MapMvcAttributeRoutes();
- Add route template to controller: [Route("movies/released/{year}/{month:regex(\\d{2}):range(1, 12)}")]
 - Apply a constraint using :

Constraints

- min
- max
- minlength
- maxlength
- int
- float
- guid

Passing Data to Views

- Avoid using ViewData or ViewBag when possible
- Use controller's view method: return view(data)

View Models

• Used to import and access multiple models within one view

Razor Views

- Can use <text></text> tags to render markup with no enclosing tags
- Use @{} to write C# code blocks within views
- Add comments with:

@* comment text on multiple lines *@

Partial Views

- Not only for re-using markup, but also for breaking up large views into manageable chunks
- Access partials with <code>@Html.Partial("_PartialName")</code>
- Unless specified, model passed to parent view will be passed to partial view
 - o To specify, pass a second parameter to <code>@Html.Partial()</code>

Section 3: Working with Data

Entity Framework

- Object Relational Mapper (O/RM)
- Maps data from Relational DB into usable objects
- DbContext -> Class representing Database
- DbSet -> Classes representing tables

LINQ

- Used to query DbSet s and automatically generate sqL queries to DB on runtime
- Entity Framew ork keeps track of add / modify / deletes on DbSet and automatically generates sqL queries reflecting changes

Workflows

- Database First
- Code First

DbFirst vs CodeFirst

DbFirst

[Domain Classes] <-- [Entity Framework] <-- [Database]

CodeFirst

[Domain Classes] --> [Entity Framew ork] --> [Database]

- Increases productivity
- Full versioning of database
- Much easier to build an integration test db

CodeFirst Myths

Does not give you full control over the Database

Code-first Migrations

Package Manager Console Commands

- enable-migrations
- add-migration [MIGRATION MODEL NAME]

- add-migration [MIGRATION MODEL NAME] force
 - Overw rite last migration
 - o Treat like git commits for Db model
- update-database
 - o Run migration and generate database
- Allows for a consistent, trackable way to version database through migrations

Changing the Model

- Aim for small migrations
 - o Many developers struggle with code-first development because they push 'atomic commits' that are far too large

Seeding the Database

- In code-first workflow, data should not be added to DB directly, but through migrations
- Exception is for arbitrary test data that serves no integral function in app
- Sql("INSERT INTO ...")

Overriding Conventions

• Use DataAnnotations to override property requirements:

public class Customer { public int Id { get; set; } [Required] //DataAnnotation [StringLength(255)] //DataAnnotation

```
public string Name { get; set; } public bool IsSubscribedToNewsletter { get; set; } public MembershipType MembershipType
{ get; set; } // Navigation property public byte MembershipTypeId { get; set; } }
```

• Requires using System.ComponentModel.DataAnnotations;

Data Annotations

- [Display(Name = "[DISPLAY TEXT]")]
- [Required]
- [StringLength(255)]
- [Range(1, 10)]
- [Compare(["OtherProperty"])]
- [Phone]
- [EmailAddress]
- [Url]
- [RegularExpression("...")]
- Used for both server-side and client-side validation

Querying Objects

• Controllers must have access to DbContext:

```
private ApplicationDbContext _context;

public CustomersController()
{
    _context = new ApplicationDbContext();
}</code>

• Remember to dispose of DbContext when done:

protected override void Dispose(bool disposing)
{
    _context.Dispose();
```

```
    var customers = _context.Customers;
    Entity Framework does NOT immediately query database after this line
    DB query occurs when iterating over customers
    Use var customers = _context.Customers.ToList(); to execute db query
```

LINQ Extension Methods

```
    _context.Movies.Where(m => m.GenreId == 1)
    _context.Movies.Single(m => m.Id == 1);
    _context.Movies.SingleOrDefault(m => m.Id == 1);
    _context.Movies.ToList();
```

Eager Loading

- When a DbSet is joined with another, Entity framework does not query linked DbSet by default -- solve with Eager Loading
- _context.Movies.Include(m => m.Genre);
- Requires using System.Data.Entity;

Section 4: Building Forms

Create Form

HTML Helper Methods

- Html.BeginForm
- Html.LabelFor
- Html.TextBoxFor
 - o Inherits constraints from model (e.g. StringLength, Required)
- Html.CheckBoxFor
- Html.DropDownListFor
- Html.HiddenFor
- Html.Hidden
- Html.ValidationMessageFor
- Html.ValidationSummary()
- Html.AntiForgeryToken()

Form Dropdowns

```
<div class="form-group">
   @Html.LabelFor(m => m.Customer.MembershipTypeId, "MembershipType")
   @Html.DropDownListFor(m => m.Customer.MembershipTypeId, new SelectList(Model.MembershipTypes, "Id", "MembershipTypeTit
</div>
```

Model Binding

• Use [HttpPost] before an action to handle POST requests

```
[HttpPost]
  public ActionResult Create(Customer customer)
  {
    ...
}
```

Saving Data

```
_context.Customers.Add(customer);
_context.SaveChanges();
```

- Changes to _context do not modify database until .SaveChanges()
- When .SaveChanges() is called, SQL statements for all modifications to _context are generated and DB is modified

Edit Form

Microsoft Suggests

```
var customerInDb = _context.Customers.Single(c => c.Id == customer.Id);
TryUpdateModel(customerInDb);
```

- Issues with this approach:
 - o Security vulnerabilities. What if user should not have permission to update All customer attributes?

Microsoft Workaround

```
var customerInDb = _context.Customers.Single(c => c.Id == customer.Id);
TryUpdateModel(customerInDb, "", new string[]{ "Name", "Email" });
```

- Why this is worse
 - If attribute name changes, code breaks

Best Solution

```
customerInDb.Name = customer.Name;
customerInDb.Birthdate = customer.Birthdate;
customerInDb.MembershipTypeId = customer.MembershipTypeId;
customerInDb.IsSubscribedToNewsletter = customer.IsSubscribedToNewsletter;
```

- Can be done automatically with AutoMapper
 - o Maps property names of source and target and maps them by convention
 - o Mapper.Map(customer, customerInDb)

Addressing Security Risk

- Can create a dto class (Data Transfer Object) with only 'update-safe' properties:
 - O UpdateCustomerDto

Section 5: Validation

Adding Validation

- ASP.NET MVC uses Data Annotations to validate Action Parameters
- Use ModelState object to gain access to validation data

Steps

1. Add Data Annotations to entities:

[Required]

- 2. Use ModelState.IsValid to verify validity of form data
- 3. Add validation messages to form:

@Html.ValidationMessageFor(m => m.Customer.Name)

Custom Validation Error Message

- Has default messages based on Data Annotations
- Can be overwritten:

```
[Required(ErrorMessage = "Please enter customer's name.")]
```

Custom Validation

1. Add a validation model

```
public class Min18YearsIfAMember : ValidationAttribute { protected override ValidationResult IsValid(object value,
ValidationContext validationContext) { if(valid) return ValidationResult.Success; else return new
ValidationResult("error message") }
```

2. Add validation model as Data Annotation

```
[Min18YearsIfAMember] public DateTime? Birthdate { get; set; }
```

Validation Summary

- Html.ValidationSummary()
- Displays summary of validation errors

Client-side Validation

Benefits

- Immediate feedback
- No waste of server-side resources
- Not enabled by default in ASP.NET applications

- Must enable jquery.validate scripts
- ASP.NET Razor recognizes default Data Annotations, NOT customones

```
@section scripts {
@Scripts.Render("~/bundles/jqueryval")}
```

Anti-forgery Tokens

CSRF

- Cross-site Request Forgery
- Forged request to different web domain on behalf of user

Html.AntiForgeryToken()

- Creates a token stored in form and user cookies (encrypted) and compares the two when POST request is made
- Means user must be on form page to access hidden token field
- Add [ValidateAntiForgeryToken] attribute to action along with Html.AntiForgeryToken() in views

Section 6: Building RESTful Services with ASP.NET Web API

• Razor Engine generates markup on server-side and sends markup to client

Benefits of generating markup on client

- Less server resources (improve scalability)
- Less bandwidth (improves performance)
- Support for a broad range of clients

RESTful Convention

1. Create an ApiController:

```
public class CustomersController : ApiController
{
    // GET /api/customers
    public IHttpActionResult GetCustomers() {}

// POST /api/customers
[HttpPost]
public IHttpActionResult CreateCustomer(CustomerDto customer) {}

// PUT /api/customers/{id}
[HttpPut]
public IHttpActionResult UpdateCustomer(int id, CustomerDto customer) {}

// DELETE /api/customers/{id}
[HttpDelete]
public IHttpActionResult DeleteCustomer(int id) {}
}</code>
```

Api Actions with Post prefix are automatically configured to handle POST routes

• How ever, avoid this convention when possible and stick to [HttpPost] decoration

Data Transfer Objects

- APIs shouldn't send or receive domain objects
 - o As these objects change and grow with the application, chances of breaking APIs increase
 - o With direct access to domain objects, hackers can modify properties they should not have access to
- DTOs allow for decoupling domain objects

AutoMapper

- Maps properties between source and destination models based on property names (convention-based mapping tool)
- Install through Package Manager Console: install-package automapper
- 2. Create Dtos folter and Dto
- 3. Add Mapping Profile class to App_Start
- $\textbf{4. Initialize mapper during application startup in } \textbf{Application_Start()} \textbf{ function within } \textbf{Global.asax.cs}:$

```
Mapper.Initialize(c => c.AddProfile<MappingProfile>());
```

5. To map objects:

```
var customerDto = Mapper.Map<Customer, CustomerDto>(customer);
Or map to existing object:
Mapper.Map(customer, customerDto)
```

To Ignore properties when mapping:

```
Mapper.CreateMap<Movie, MovieDto>().ForMember(m => m.Id, opt => opt.Ignore());
```

Using Camel Notation

In App_Start/WebApiConfig.cs:
 var settings = config.Formatters.JsonFormatter.SerializerSettings; settings.ContractResolver = new
 CamelCasePropertyNamesContractResolver(); settings.Formatting = Formatting.Indented;

IHttpActionResults

Allows for improved control over Http Responses (e.g., Sending a 201 Created status code)

ApiController Helper Methods

- NotFound()
- 0k()
- Created()
- Unauthorized()
- BadRequest()

Section 7: Client-side Development

Calling an API Using jQuery

Bootbox

• An abstraction over Bootstrap

DataTables Plugin

• A jQuery plugin for paginating, sorting, and filtering table data

DataTables - Zero Configuration

\$("#customers").DataTable();

DataTables with AJAX Source

```
$("#customers").DataTable({
                ajax: {
                    url: "/api/customers",
                    dataSrc: ""
                },
                columns: [
                    {
                        data: "name",
                        render: (data, type, customer) => ("<a href='/customers/edit/" +</pre>
                            customer.id +
                            customer.name +
                             "</a>")
                    },
                    {
                        data: "name",
                    },
                        data: "id",
                        render: (data) => ("<button class='btn-link js-delete' data-customer-id=" + data + ">Delete</butto
            });
```

Hierarchical Data

```
1. Create DTO for referenced domain model:
```

```
public class MembershipTypeDto { public byte Id { get; set; } public string MembershipTypeTitle { get; set; } }
```

2. Update Mapping Profile:

```
Mapper.CreateMap<MembershipType, MembershipTypeDto>();
```

3. Update ControllerAPI to include referenced model:

```
using System.Data.Entity;
var customerDtos = _context.Customers .Include(c => c.MembershipType) .ToList() .Select(Mapper.Map<Customer,</pre>
```

CustomerDto>);

DataTables: Removing Records

```
var table = $(...).DataTable(...);
table.row($(this).parents("tr")).remove().draw();
```

Single Page Applications

Benefits

- Smoother
- Faster

Section 8: Authentication and Authorization

• Done using ASP.NET Identity Framework

Authentication Options

- No Authentication
- Individual User Accounts
- Organizational Accounts
- Windows Authentication

ASP.Net Identity

Domains

- IdentityUser
- Role

Api / Service

- UserManager
- RoleManager
- SignInManager
- ...

Persistence

- UserStore
- RoleStore

Restricting Access

```
[Authorize] // Action Attribute / Filter
public ActionResult Index()
{
    ...
}
```

- Can be applied to entire controller, or globally not just actions
- Use [AllowAnonymous] on a controller or action to override higher-level filters

Seeding Users and Roles

• Best Practice: Name user roles after actual permissions (i.e. CanManageMovies not StoreManager)

Creating a Manager Role

1. Create a new RoleStore

```
var roleStore = new RoleStore<IdentityRole>(new ApplicationDbContext());
```

2. Create a new RoleManager for that RoleStore:

```
var roleManager = new RoleManager<IdentityRole>(roleStore);
```

3. Create a new Role within that RoleManager:

```
await roleManager.CreateAsync(new IdentityRole("CanManageMovies"));
```

4. Add New user to that Role

```
await UserManager.AddToRoleAsync(user.Id, "CanManageMovies");
```

Seeding a DB with Guest and Admin Roles

- 1. Create a new migration called SeedUsers or some variation
- 2. Run the following queries:
 - o Insert Guest user in AspNetUsers table
 - o Insert Admin user AspNetUsers table
 - o Insert Admin / Manager Role AspNetRoles table
 - o Link Admin user and Role in AspNetUserRoles table
- Avoid using the seed method of the configuration class to seed new users:
 - o This requires running update-database on production, as this is how seed method is called
 - o This requires changing connection string in <code>Web.config</code> , w hich is risky

Working with Roles

 To prevent large nest of if / else blocks in views for tool access, often best practice is to create new views based on user roles:

```
if (User.IsInRole("CanManageMovies"))
    return View("List");
return View("readOnlyList");
```

- Apply [Authorize(Roles = "ROLE NAME")] to actions to override global filters and remedy security holes
- Apply filters.Add(new AuthorizeAttribute()); to FilterConfig.cs to declaratively require authorization globally

User Filter Data Annotations

- [Authorized]
- [Authorize]
- [Authorize(Roles = "ROLE NAME")]
- [AllowAnonymous]

Adding Profile Data

1. Update IdentityUser model with new property

```
[Required] [StringLength(255)] public string DrivingLicense { get; set; }
```

2. Add migration, since a domain model w as modified:

add-migration AddDriverLicenseToApplicationUser

3. Update databse

Update-Database

4. Update View Model to include new property:

```
[Required] public string DrivingLicense { get; set; }
```

5. Add new property to form view:

"K139K

6. Ensure domain object includes new property:

```
var user = new ApplicationUser { UserName = model.Email, Email = model.Email, DrivingLicense = model.DrivingLicense };
```

OAuth

Open Authorization

Under the Hood

```
[App] -- {key, secret} --> [Google OAuth]

[App] <-- {authorization="" token}="" --="" [google="" oauth]="" [app]="" {token,="" key,="" secret}=""> [Google OAuth]

[App] <-- {access token} -- [Google OAuth]
```

Using Social Logins

- Enable SSL (for secure communication)
- Register App with OAuth Service (Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc...)
- 1. Enable SSL within project
 - o Project Properties -> SSL Enabled = True
 - o Properties -> Web -> Project Url = [SSL URL]
- $2. \ \mathsf{Add} \ \mathsf{filters.Add(new} \ \mathsf{RequireHttpsAttribute())}; \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{FilterConfig}$
 - o Requires HTTPS connections
- 3. Register app with external Authentication provider to get a key/secret
- 4. In App Start/Startup.Auth.cs , remove comment for the corresponding providers and add key/secret

Section 9: Authentication and Authorization

Premature optimization is the root of all evils

- ~ Donald Knuth
- Optimize only when necessary
- Otherwise, development and maintenance costs increase with little to no benefit

Three-tier Architecture

Data

SQL Server

Application

IIS

Client

Browser

• Usually, performance optimization has the greatest observable gain on the Data Tier

Mosh's Optimization Rules

- Do not sacrifice maintainability of code to premature optimization
- Be realistic and think like an "engineer"
- Be pragmatic and ensure your efforts have observable results and give value

Data Tier

Schema and Queries

Schema Issues

- Include Primary Keys
- Foreign Keys / Relationships
- Index columns that are used for filtering records in queries
- Avoid EAV Pattern
 - o EAV Entity Attribute Value
 - o No O/RMs
 - o Long, tedious queries (must be written manually since no O/RMs)
 - Very slow

Optimizing Queries

- Use Execution Plan in SQL Server
- Create a "read" database (cors)
 - o A separate DB optimized for reading data
- Use caching
 - o Run query and store results in memory

Glimpse

- install-package glimpse.mvc5
- install-package glimpse.ef6
- Adds /glimpse.axd endpoint to application
- Only accessible locally
- Used to monitor activity on web application
 - o SQL Queries executed
 - AJAX requests made
 - o ...
- Avoid Lazy Loading when possible
 - o Opposite of Eager Loading
 - Done by adding virtual to model properties: public virtual MembershipType MembershipType { get; set; }
 - o Loads object only if one or more navigation properties of an object are touched
 - o Should be avoided, as data sent to client should be known ahead of time
 - Lazy loading sends multiple round-trips to DB
 - o Causes N + 1 issue

Output Cache

- Used for caching HTML
- Add [OutputCache] action filter above action or controller:

```
[OutputCache(Duration = 50, Location = OutputCacheLocation.Server, VaryByParam = "genre")]
  public ActionResult Index()
{
    return View();
}
```

- Caches the view served by the Index action for 50 seconds
- · Caches on the server, not client
- Stores separate cache based on action parameter (in this case, the query string genre)

Downside of Caching

- May display 'stale' data to customers
- [OutputCache(Duration = 0, VaryByParam = "*", NoStore = true)]
 - o Disables caching rendered HTML on a given action

Data Caching

• Should be limited to actions that are responsible for displaying data, not modifying it

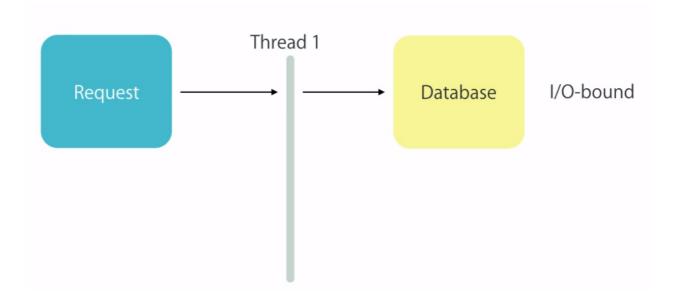
```
if (MemoryCache.Default["Genres"] == null)
{
    MemoryCache.Default["Genres"] = _context.Genres.ToList();
}
var genres = MemoryCache.Default["Genres"] as IEnumerable<Genre>;
```

- Avoid caching until significant performance profiling has been performed
 - o Increases memory consumption of application
 - o Increases complexity at architectural and code level

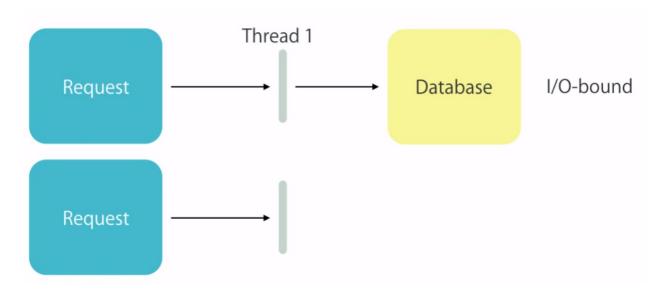
Async

- Async does not necessarily improve the performance of an application
 - Using async functions frees the thread to process new requests, but does not modify the time necessary for the initial request
- Provides better scalability, not performance
 - o (when used with SQL Cluster, NoSQL, SQL Azure vs a single instance of SQL Server)

Non-Async:



Async:



Release Builds

- Sw itch to release build mode to compile application quicker for deployment
 - o Slightly smaller / faster assemblies

Disabling Session

- Session A piece of memory in the web server allocated to each user
- More users, more memory required on web server
- Kills scalability
- Scalable w eb apps should be stateless

Client Tier

Optimization

- DTO
- JS

- CSS
- Image

Section 10: Building a Feature End-to-End Systematically

- Gather Use Case from Client
- Determine Inputs / Outputs
- Implement in Front End and Back End