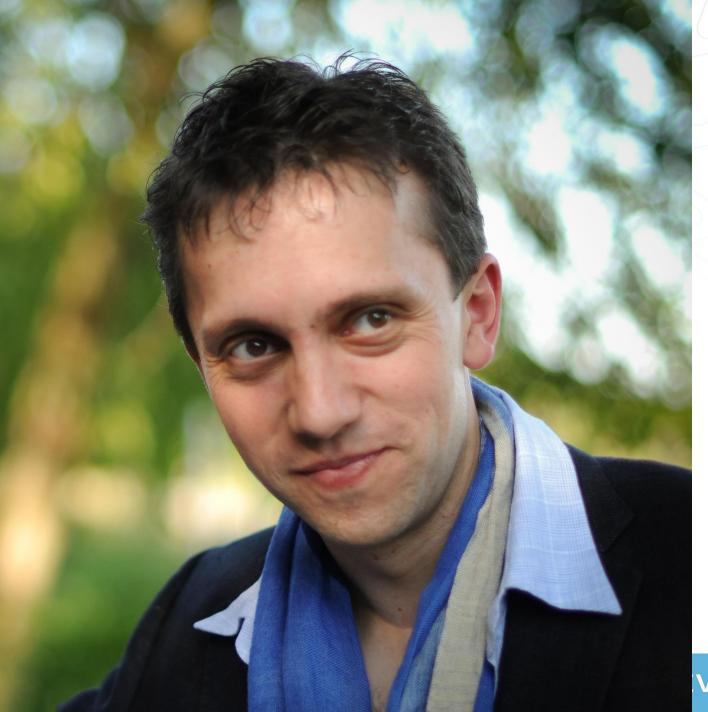


# Building a RESTful API with ASP.NET Core Web API



Gill Cleeren
Mobile Architect
Snowball





Gill Cleeren
Microsoft MVP & RD
Solution Architect

@gillcleeren www.snowball.be gill@snowball.be

VCONNECTIONS.COM





Xamarin, HTML5, WPF, social and Windows development

http://gicl.me/mypscourses

#### COVERED TOPICS

- ► ASP.NET Core & ASP.NET Core API
- ► Creating an API from scratch
- ▶ Dependency injection
- ▶ Entity Framework Core
- ► Logging
- ► Content Negotiation
- ▶ Tooling
- ▶ And much more!



# WHY DO WE NEED API'S IN THE FIRST PLACE?









# HELLO ASP.NET CORE





"ASP.NET Core is a new open-source and cross-platform framework for building modern cloud based internet connected applications, such as web apps, IoT apps and mobile backends."

source: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core

# ASP.NET CORE

- ▶ Built on top of .NET Core
- ▶ Cross-platform
  - ▶ Windows, Mac & Linux
- ▶ Not tied to original .NET framework



# WHAT DOES ASP.NET CORE BRING US?

- Unification between MVC and Web API
- ▶ Dependency Injection
- ▶ Modular HTTP request pipeline
- ▶ Based on NuGet
- ▶ Cloud-ready
- ▶ IIS or self-host

- ▶ Open source
- ▶ Cross-platform
- ▶ New tooling
- ► Better integration of client-side frameworks
- ► Command-line support



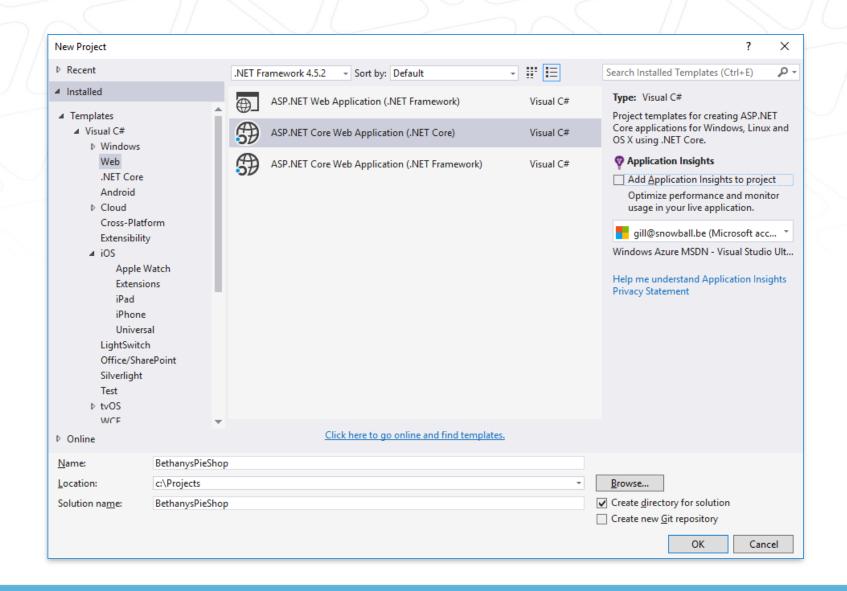
#### MAIN NEW FEATURES IN ASP.NET CORE

- ► Startup class
- ▶ Dependency Injection
- ▶ Middleware
- ▶ New type of configuration
- ▶ Hosting
- ▶ Identity

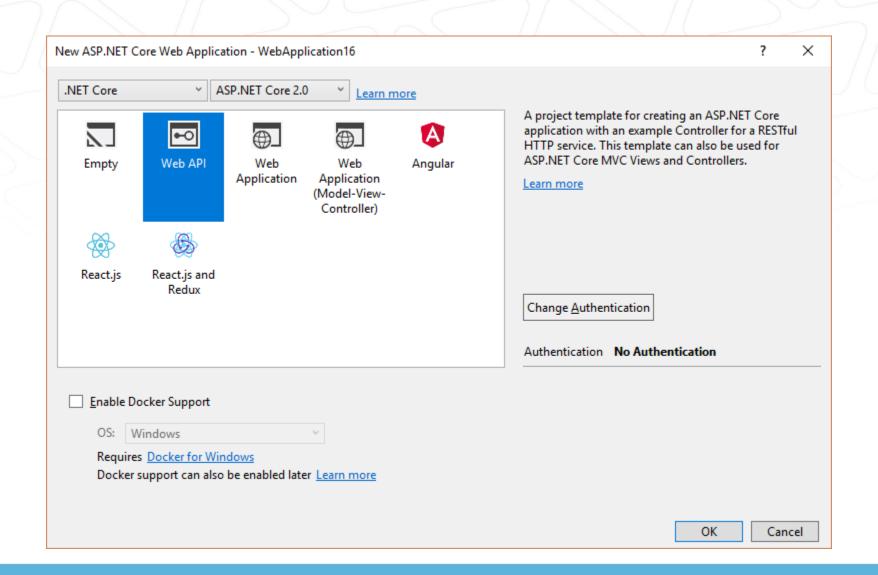


FILE → NEW PROJECT





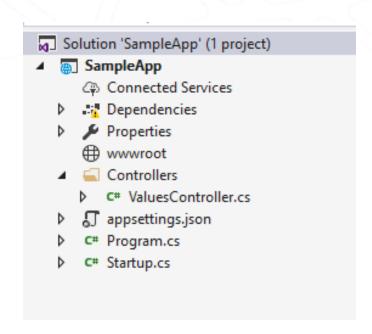






### PROJECT STRUCTURE

- ► Important things to note
  - Dependencies
  - wwwroot
  - ▶ json files
    - bower.json (MVC only)
    - ▶ appsettings.json
  - Program.cs
  - ► Startup.cs
  - Regular folders
    - ▶ Controllers
    - Views (MVC only)





# WWWROOT (MVC)

```
▶ #-■ Microsoft.VisualStudio.Web.BrowserLink (1.1.2)
 Microsoft.NETCore.App
Properties
 images
  🗸 🚄 js
   ▶ ☐ site.js
 🔺 🚄 lib
   b ootstrap
   ▶ iii jquery
   iquery-validation-unobtrusive
    favicon.ico
Controllers
Views
▶ ■ appsettings.json
```



# DEPENDENCIES

Solution 'SampleApp' (1 project)

SampleApp

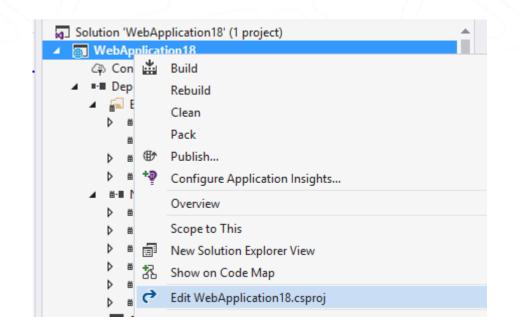
Connected Services

Analyzers
Analyzers
Amicrosoft.AspNetCore.All (2.0.0)

SDK
Properties



## MANAGING DEPENDENCIES: CSPROJ FILE





#### MANAGING DEPENDENCIES: CSPROJ FILE



# DEMO

File → New Project



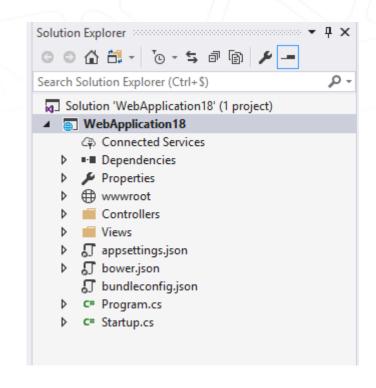
#### BASE CONCEPTS IN ASP. NET CORE

- ► An ASP.NET Core app is a console app that creates a web server in its Main method
  - ► MVC will get added soon!



#### STARTUP CLASS

- ► The UseStartup method on WebHostBuilder specifies the Startup class for your app
  - Use to define request handing pipeline and services for the app are configured
- ► Contains 2 important methods
  - ► Configure: used to configure the middleware in the request pipeline
  - ► ConfigureServices: defines services that we'll be using in the app
    - ► MVC, EF, Logging...





#### STARTUP CONSTRUCTOR IN STARTUP CLASS



#### STARTUP CLASS

▶ Note: this is dependency injection at work

```
public class Startup
{
    public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
    {
      }

    public void Configure(IApplicationBuilder app)
    {
      }
}
```



#### SERVICES IN ASP. NET CORE MVC

- ▶ Service is a component for usage in an application
- ► Are injected and made available through DI
  - ▶ ASP.NET Core comes with built-in DI container
  - ▶ Can be replaced if needed
- ▶ Supports more loosely-coupled architecture
- ► Components are available throughout the application using this container
- ▶ Typically, things like logging are injected this way



## CONFIGURESERVICES

```
// This method gets called by the runtime. Use this method to add services to the container.
0 references | 0 exceptions
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    // Add framework services.
    services.AddMvc();
}
```



#### CONFIGURESERVICES

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
    // Add framework services.
    services.AddDbContext<ApplicationDbContext>(options =>
        options.UseSqlServer(Configuration.GetConnectionString("DefaultConnection")));
    services.AddIdentity<ApplicationUser, IdentityRole>()
        .AddEntityFrameworkStores<ApplicationDbContext>()
        .AddDefaultTokenProviders();
    services.AddMvc();
    // Add application services.
    services.AddTransient<IEmailSender, AuthMessageSender>();
    services.AddTransient<ISmsSender, AuthMessageSender>();
```

#### MIDDLEWARE

- ▶ Request pipeline gets composed using middleware
- ► ASP.NET Core middleware performs asynchronous logic on an HttpContext and then either invokes the next middleware in the sequence or terminates the request directly
- ▶ Typically used by adding a reference to a NuGet package
- ► Followed by calling UseXXX() on IApplicationBuilding in the Configure method



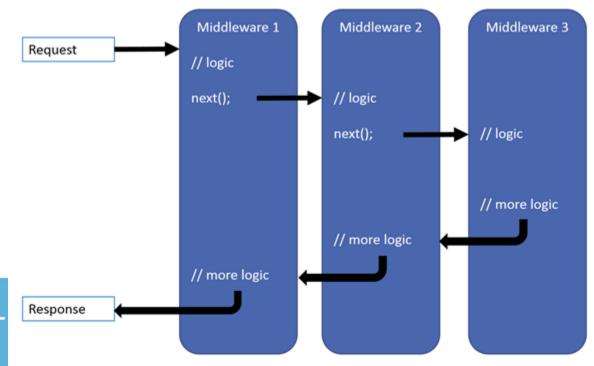
## MIDDLEWARE

- ▶ ASP.NET Core comes with lots of built-in middleware
  - ► Static file support
  - ► Routing
  - ► Authentication
  - ► MVC...
- ▶ You can also write your own middleware



# REQUEST PIPELINE

- ▶ Requests are passed from delegate to delegate
- ▶ Can be short-circuited
  - ► Static files (MVC)
  - Keeps load on server lower





# CONFIGURE

- ► Ex: UseMvc
  - ► Adds routing
  - Configures MVC as default handler
- ▶ Parameters are injected using DI

```
// This method gets called by the runtime. Use this method to configure the HTTP request pipeline.
0 references | 0 exceptions
public void Configure(IApplicationBuilder app, IHostingEnvironment env)
{
    if (env.IsDevelopment())
    {
        app.UseDeveloperExceptionPage();
    }
    app.UseMvc();
```



#### ORDERING MIDDLEWARE COMPONENTS

Order in which they are added will decide how they are called!

 Critical for security, performance and even functionality

- ▶ Default order
  - Exception/error handling
  - ► Static file server
  - ► Authentication
  - ► MVC



## THE STARTUP OF THE APPLICATION

ConfigureServices method Ready for requests Application starting Configure method Startup class Pipeline is created



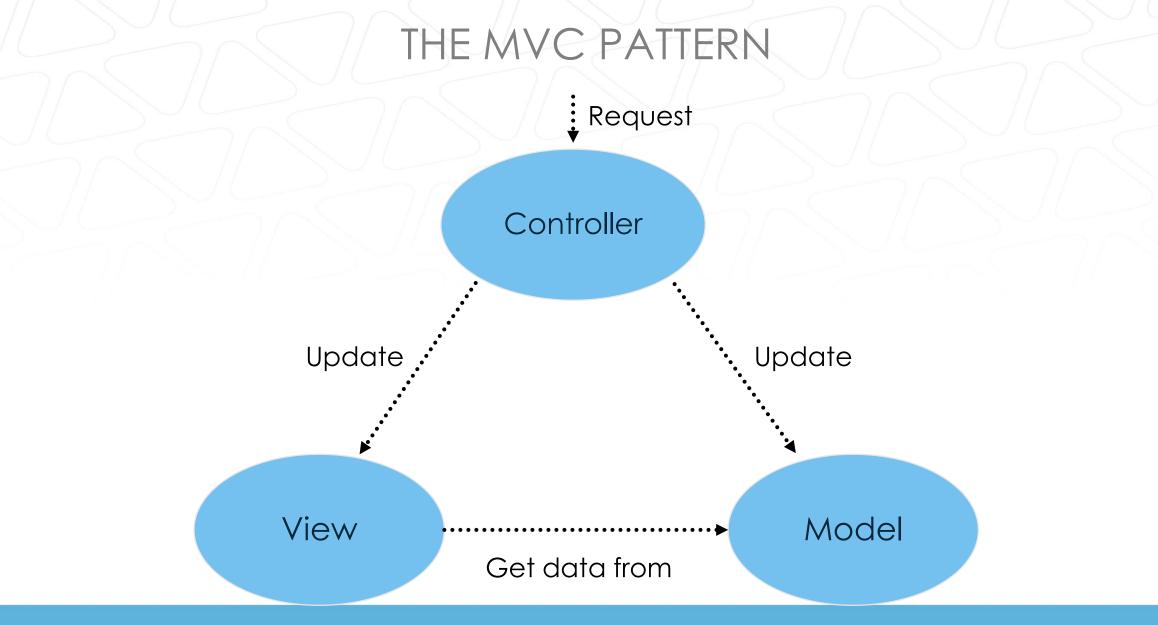
# DEMO

Application configuration

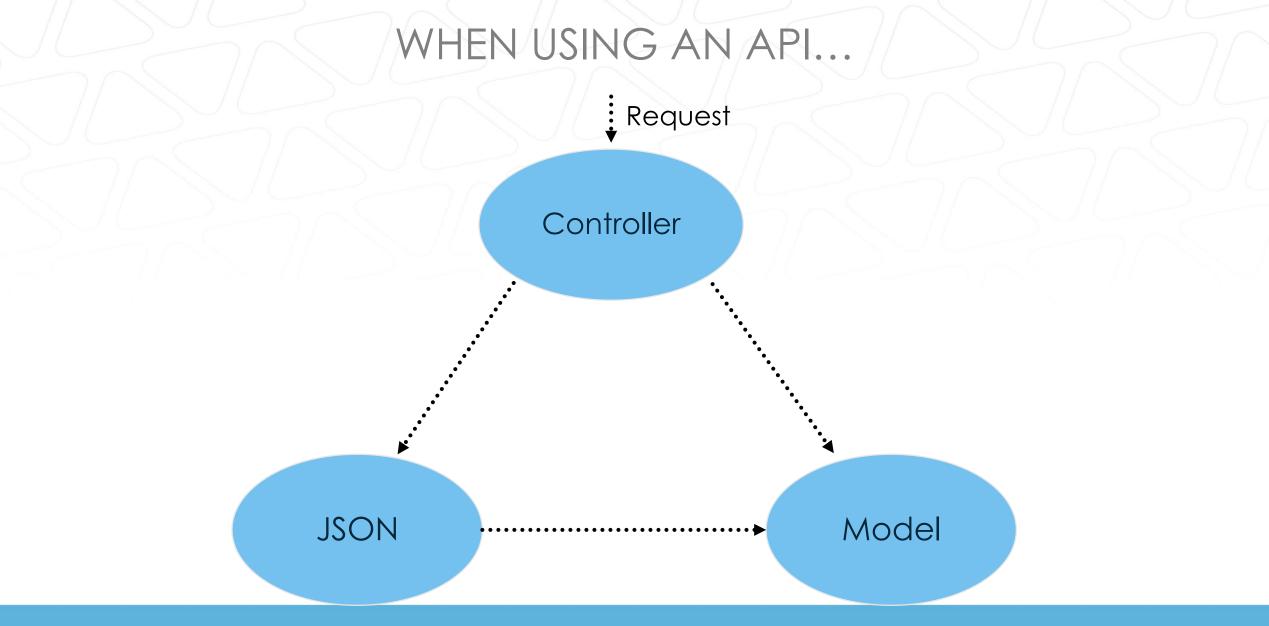


# CREATING AN API WITH ASP.NET CORE WEB API











#### CREATING AN API CONTROLLER

- ► API controller == MVC controller that gives access to data without HTML
- ▶ Data delivery is most often done using REST
  - Representational State Transfer
- ▶ REST is based on HTTP verbs and URLs/resources
  - ▶ HTTP verb specifies what we want to do
  - ▶ Resource represent what we want to use, which objects
  - Format is JSON (preferred) or XML



#### A VERY SIMPLE CONTROLLER

- ▶ Similar to controllers in plain ASP.NET Core MVC
- ▶ Base ApiController is no more
  - ▶ All is now in one class: Controller
  - ▶ You can (and should) now have mixed classes

```
public class PieController : Controller
{
    ...
}
```

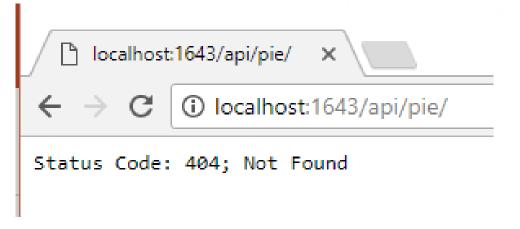


#### A VERY SIMPLE ACTION METHOD

```
public class PieController : Controller
{
  public JsonResult Get()
  {
    var pies = new List<Pie>()
    {
        ...
    };
    return new JsonResult(pies);
  }
}
```



# AND THE RESULT IS...





WE'LL NEED SOME ROUTING...



#### ROUTING

- ▶ Routing will allow us to match the request to the action method on the Controller
- ▶ 2 options exist
  - Convention-based routing
    - Useful for MVC applications
    - ▶ Similar to "old" model
  - Attribute-based routing
    - ► More natural fit for APIs



#### WORKING WITH THE ROUTE

- ► Convention is starting the route with api, followed by name of the controller
  - ▶ Can be reached using /api/pie

```
[Route("api/[controller]")]
1 reference
public class PieController : Controller
{
```



#### HTTP METHODS

- ▶ Routes are combined with HTTP methods
  - ▶ Used to indicate which action we want to do
  - ▶ Each will have a result, a payload
  - ▶ Response code is used to report on the outcome of the operation



# HTTP METHODS

Verb	Method	Result
GET	/api/pie	Gets collection of all pies
GET	/api/pie/1	Gets specific pie
POST	/api/pie	Contains data to create a new pie instance, will return saved data
PUT	/api/pie	Contains changed data to update an existing pie instance
DELETE	/api/pie/1	Deletes certain pie



#### THE RESULT: JSON

```
"pieId": 1,
"name": "Strawberry Pie".
"description": "Icing carrot cake jelly-o cheesecake. Sweet roll marzipan marshmallow toffee brownie brownie candy tootsi-
   roll. Chocolate cake gingerbread tootsie roll oat cake pie chocolate bar cookie dragée brownie. Lollipop cotton candy
    cake bear claw oat cake. Dragée candy canes dessert tart. Marzipan dragée gummies lollipop jujubes chocolate bar cando
    canes. Icing gingerbread chupa chups cotton candy cookie sweet icing bonbon gummies. Gummies lollipop brownie biscuit
    danish chocolate cake. Danish powder cookie macaroon chocolate donut tart. Carrot cake dragée croissant lemon drops
    liquorice lemon drops cookie lollipop toffee. Carrot cake carrot cake liquorice sugar plum topping bonbon pie muffin
   jujubes. Jelly pastry wafer tart caramels bear claw. Tiramisu tart pie cake danish lemon drops. Brownie cupcake dragé:
   gummies.",
"price": 15.95.
"imageUrl": "https://gillcleerenpluralsight.blob.core.windows.net/files/strawberrypie.jpg"
"pieId": 2,
"name": "Cheese cake",
"description": "Icing carrot cake jelly-o cheesecake. Sweet roll marzipan marshmallow toffee brownie brownie candy tootsi-
    roll. Chocolate cake gingerbread tootsie roll oat cake pie chocolate bar cookie dragée brownie. Lollipop cotton candy
    cake bear claw oat cake. Dragée candy canes dessert tart. Marzipan dragée gummies lollipop jujubes chocolate bar cando
   canes. Icing gingerbread chupa chups cotton candy cookie sweet icing bonbon gummies. Gummies lollipop brownie biscuit
    danish chocolate cake. Danish powder cookie macaroon chocolate donut tart. Carrot cake dragée croissant lemon drops
    liquorice lemon drops cookie lollinon toffee. Carrot cake carrot cake liquorice sugar plum topping hopbon nie muffin
```



# DEMO

Creating a simple API

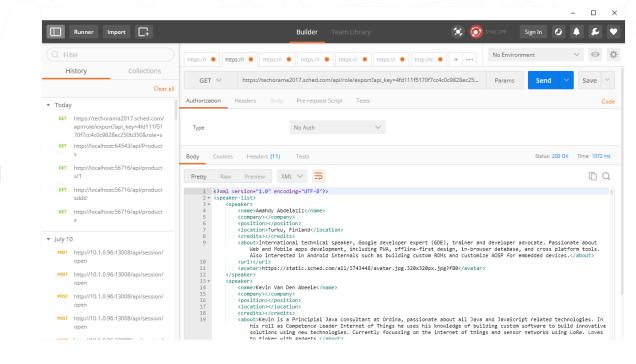


#### TESTING AND USING YOUR CONTROLLERS



#### TESTING YOUR CONTROLLERS

- ▶ Different options
  - ▶ Fiddler
  - ▶ PostMan
  - ▶ Swashbuckle
    - NuGet package that will add API description page and allow for testing





# DEMO

Testing the API using Postman



#### USING DEPENDENCY INJECTION AND REPOSITORIES

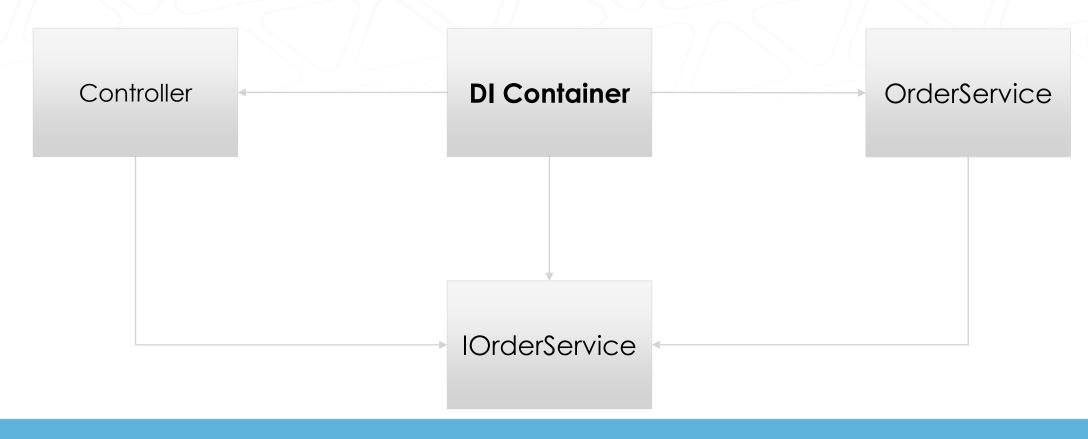


#### DEPENDENCY INJECTION

- ▶ Type of inversion of control (IoC)
- ► Another class is responsible for obtaining the required dependency
- ► Results in more loose coupling
  - ► Container handles instantiation as well as lifetime of objects
- ▶ Built-in into ASP.NET Core
  - Can be replaced with other container if needed



# DEPENDENCY INJECTION





#### REGISTERING DEPENDENCIES

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
   services.AddSingleton<ISomethingService, SomethingService>();

   // Add framework services.
   services.AddMvc();
}
```



#### REGISTERING DEPENDENCIES

- ▶ AddSingleton
- ▶ AddTransient
- ► AddScoped



#### DEPENDENCY INJECTION IN CONTROLLER

► Constructor injection: adds dependencies into constructor parameters

```
public class PieController : Controller
{
  private readonly ISomethingService _something;

  public PieController(ISomethingService something)
  {
    _something = something;
  }
}
```



44

USE A **REPOSITORY** TO SEPARATE THE LOGIC THAT RETRIEVES THE DATA AND MAPS IT TO THE ENTITY MODEL FROM THE BUSINESS LOGIC THAT ACTS ON THE MODEL. THE BUSINESS LOGIC SHOULD BE AGNOSTIC TO THE TYPE OF DATA THAT COMPRISES THE DATA SOURCE LAYER





#### THE REPOSITORY

```
public class PieRepository : IPieRepository
 private List<Pie> _pies;
  public PieRepository()
   _pies = new List<Pie>()
      };
  public IEnumerable<Pie> Pies => _pies;
```



#### REGISTERING THE REPOSITORY

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
   services.AddSingleton<IPieRepository, PieRepository>();
}
```



### DEMO

Adding a Repository and Dependency Injection



#### ADDING MORE FUNCTIONALITY ON THE CONTROLLER



#### ACTION METHODS

Action methods need to be declared with attribute that specifies the HTTP method

```
[HttpGet]
0 references | 0 requests | 0 exceptions
public IEnumerable<Pie> Get() => pieRepository.Pies;
```

- Available attributes
  - HttpGet
  - ▶ HttpPost
  - ▶ HttpPut
  - HttpDelete
  - ▶ HttpPatch
  - HttpHead
  - AcceptVerbs: for multiple verbs on one method



#### ACTION METHODS

▶ We can pass values (routing fragment)

```
[HttpGet("{id}")]
0 references | 0 requests | 0 exceptions
public Pie Get(int id)
{
    return pieRepository.GetPieById(id);
}
```

- ► Can be reached by combining the route with the parameter
  - /api/pie/{id}
- ▶ Routes in general don't contain an action segment
  - Action name isn't part of the URL to reach an action method
  - ▶ HTTP method is used to differentiate between them



#### **ACTION RESULTS**

- ► API action methods don't rely on ViewResult
  - ▶ Instead, return data

```
[HttpGet]
0 references | 0 requests | 0 exceptions
public IEnumerable<Pie> Get() => pieRepository.Pies;
```

- ▶ MVC will make sure they get returned in a correct format
  - ▶ By default JSON
  - ▶ It's possible to change this, even from the client
    - ► Media Type formatting is applied here



#### STATUS CODES

- ▶ Status code are part of the response from the API
- ▶ Used for information:
  - ► Whether or not the request succeeded
  - ▶ Why did it fail



#### STATUS CODES

- ► MVC is good at knowing what to return
  - ▶ If we return null, it'll return 204 No Content
- We can override this by returning a different IActionResult
  - ▶ NotFound leads to 404
  - Ok just sends the object to the client and returns 200

```
[HttpPost]
0 references | ★ 4 requests | ★ 1 exception
public Pie Post([FromBody] Pie pie) =>
    pieRepository.AddPie(new Pie
    {
        Name = pie.Name,
        Description = pie.Description,
        ImageUrl = pie.ImageUrl,
        Price = pie.Price
    });
```



#### MOST IMPORTANT STATUS CODES

▶ 20X: Success

▶ 200: OK

▶ 201: Created

▶ 204: No content

▶ 40X: Client error

▶ 400: Bad request

▶ 403: Forbidden

▶ 404: Not found

▶ 50X: Server error

▶ 500: Internal server error



# DEMO

Completing the Controller and repository



#### ADDING ENTITY FRAMEWORK CORE







# ENTITY FRAMEWORK CORE

- ► ORM
- ► Lightweight
- ▶ Cross-platform
- ▶ Open source
- ▶ Works with several databases
- ► Code-first



# DEMO

Adding Entity Framework Core



# LOGGING



# LOGGING IN ASP.NET CORE

- ▶ Built-in into ASP.NET Core
- ► Available as middleware
  - ► lLogger
  - ▶ Provider-based model
  - ▶ External providers can be added if needed



# BUILT-IN PROVIDERS

- ▶ Console
- ▶ Debug
- ► EventSource
- ► EventLog
- ► Azure
- **...**





Logging



# CONTENT FORMATTING



# CONTENT FORMATTING

- ▶ MVC has to work out which data format it should return
  - ▶ Basically, which encoding to use
- ▶ Can be influenced by the client request
- ► Content format depends on
  - ► Format(s) accepted by client
  - Format(s) that can be produced
  - Content policy specified by the action
  - Type returned by the action
- Can be hard to figure out
  - ▶ In most cases, the default will do



## DEFAULT CONTENT POLICY

- ► Easiest situation: client and action method define no restrictions on the format that can be used
  - ▶ If method returns string, string is returned to client, content-type header is set to text/plain
  - All other data types are returned as JSON, content-type is set to application/json
- Strings aren't returned as JSON because of possible issues
  - ▶ Double quoted strings: ""Hello world""
  - ► An int is simply returned as "2"



# DEMO

Default content policy



# CONTENT NEGOTIATION

- ► Clients will typically include an Accept header
  - Specifies possible accepted formats (MIME types)
- ▶ Browser will send
  - Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,\*/\*;q=0.8
  - ▶ Prefers HTML and XHTML, can accept XML and Webp
  - Q indicated preference (xml is less preferred)
  - \*/\* indicated that all will work
    - ▶ But only for 0.8



### CHANGING THE ACCEPT HEADER

- ▶ If we ask the API for XML...
  - ▶ Headers Accept="application/xml"
- ▶ We'll get back json... (Thank you MVC)

► MVC doesn't know about XML at this point



## XML PLEASE

▶ Requires extra package to be included

```
<PackageReference Include="Microsoft.AspNetCore.Mvc.Formatters.Xml" Version="1.0.3" />
```

► And as always, some configuration change in the Startup class

```
O references
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services) {
    services.AddSingleton<IRepository, MemoryRepository>();
    services.AddMvc().AddXmlDataContractSerializerFormatters();
}
```



# DEMO

Adding support for XML



### OVERRIDING THE ACTION DATA FORMAT

- We can specify the data format on the action method itself
  - ▶ Produces is filter
  - Changes the content type
  - Argument is the returned data format

```
[HttpGet("object/{format?}")]
[Produces("application/json", "application/xml")]
0 references | 0 requests | 0 exceptions
public Pie GetObject() => new Pie
{
    Price = 10,
    Name = "Cherry Pie",
    Description = "A great pie",
    ImageUrl = "https://gillcleerenpluralsight.blob.core.windows.net/files/pumpkinpie.jpg"
```



# PASSING THE DATA FORMAT USING THE ROUTE OR THE QUERY STRING

- ► ACCEPT header can't always be controlled from client
- ▶ Data format can therefore also be specified through route or query string to reach an action
- ▶ We can define a shorthand in the Startup class
  - xml can now be used to refer to application/xml



# PASSING THE DATA FORMAT USING THE ROUTE OR THE QUERY STRING

- ▶ On the action, we now need to add the FormatFilter
- ▶ Upon receiving the shorthand (xml), the mapped type from the Startup is retrieved
- ▶ Route can now also include the format (optional)
  - ▶ If combined with Produces and other type is requested, 404 is returned



```
[HttpGet("object/{format?}")]
[FormatFilter]
[Produces("application/json", "application/xml")]
0 references | 0 requests | 0 exceptions
public Pie GetObject() => new Pie
{
```

### REAL CONTENT NEGOTIATION

- ▶ RespectBrowserAcceptHeader: if true, accept header will be fully respected
- ▶ ReturnHttpNotAcceptable: if no format can be found, 406 - Not Acceptable is returned

```
// Add framework services.
services.AddMvc()
    .AddXmlDataContractSerializerFormatters()
    .AddMvcOptions(opts => {
        opts.FormatterMappings.SetMediaTypeMappingForFormat("xml",
            new MediaTypeHeaderValue("application/xml"));
        opts.RespectBrowserAcceptHeader = true;
        opts.ReturnHttpNotAcceptable = true;
   });
```



# DEMO

Content Negotiation



# VERSIONING THE API



# VERSIONING AN API

- ▶ Something that's often forgotten by developers...
- Versioning is required
  - ▶ Clients evolve, API needs to follow as well
  - ▶ Old versions often still required
- ▶ Many ways exist
  - ▶ URI versioning
  - ▶ Header versioning
  - ► Accept-headers versioning
  - **...**



# VERSIONING AN API

- ▶ Open-source package
  - ▶ microsoft.aspnetcore.mvc.versioning
- ► Supports
  - ► ASP.NET Web API
  - ▶ ASP.NET Web API with oData
  - ► ASP.NET Core
- ► Added using
  - services.AddApiVersioning();



# VERSIONING USING QUERYSTRING PARAMETER VERSIONING

```
namespace My.Services.V1
    [ApiVersion("1.0")]
    public class HelloWorldController : Controller
        public string Get() => "Hello world v1.0!";
namespace My.Services.V2
    [ApiVersion("2.0")]
    public class HelloWorldController : Controller
        public string Get() => "Hello world v2.0!";
```



## VERSIONING USING URL PATH SEGMENT

```
[ApiVersion("1.0")]
[Route("api/v{version:apiVersion}/[controller]")]
public class HelloWorldController : Controller {
   public string Get() => "Hello world!";
[ApiVersion("2.0")]
[ApiVersion("3.0")]
[Route("api/v{version:apiVersion}/helloworld")]
public class HelloWorld2Controller : Controller {
    [HttpGet]
    public string Get() => "Hello world v2!";
    [HttpGet, MapToApiVersion( "3.0" )]
    public string GetV3() => "Hello world v3!";
```



# VERSIONING USING HEADER

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    services.AddMvc();
    services.AddApiVersioning(o => o.ApiVersionReader = new HeaderApiVersionReader("api-version"));
}
```



# DEMO

Versioning the API

# DEPLOYING THE API



# DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS

- ► Azure
- ► IIS
- ▶ Docker
- ► Linux



# DEPLOYING TO AZURE

- ► Account via portal.azure.com
- ► Create an Azure App Service
  - ► SQL Server database if using a DB
- ▶ Visual Studio Publish from Solution Explorer



# DEMO

Deploying the API to an Azure App Service



# SUMMARY











# Building a RESTful API with ASP.NET Core Web API



Gill Cleeren
Mobile Architect
Snowball

