# Dependency injection in ASP.NET Core

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ASP.NET Core supports the dependency injection (DI) software design pattern, which is a technique for achieving Inversion of Control (IoC) between classes and their dependencies.

For more information specific to dependency injection within MVC controllers, see Dependency injection into controllers in ASP.NET Core.

For information on using dependency injection in applications other than web apps, see Dependency injection in .NET.

For more information on dependency injection of options, see Options pattern in ASP.NET Core.

This topic provides information on dependency injection in ASP.NET Core. The primary documentation on using dependency injection is contained in Dependency injection in

View or download sample code (how to download)

# Overview of dependency injection

A *dependency* is an object that another object depends on. Examine the following MyDependency class with a WriteMessage method that other classes depend on:

```
public class MyDependency
{
    public void WriteMessage(string message)
    {
        Console.WriteLine($"MyDependency.WriteMessage called. Message:
{message}");
    }
}
```

A class can create an instance of the MyDependency class to make use of its WriteMessage method. In the following example, the MyDependency class is a dependency of the IndexModel class:

```
public class IndexModel : PageModel
{
    private readonly MyDependency _dependency = new MyDependency();

    public void OnGet()
    {
        _dependency.WriteMessage("IndexModel.OnGet created this message.");
    }
}
```

The class creates and directly depends on the MyDependency class. Code dependencies, such as in the previous example, are problematic and should be avoided for the following reasons:

• To replace MyDependency with a different implementation, the IndexModel class must be modified.

- If MyDependency has dependencies, they must also be configured by the IndexModel class. In a large project with multiple classes depending on MyDependency, the configuration code becomes scattered across the app.
- This implementation is difficult to unit test. The app should use a mock or stub MyDependency class, which isn't possible with this approach.

Dependency injection addresses these problems through:

- The use of an interface or base class to abstract the dependency implementation.
- Registration of the dependency in a service container. ASP.NET Core provides a builtin service container, IServiceProvider. Services are typically registered in the app's Startup.ConfigureServices method.
- *Injection* of the service into the constructor of the class where it's used. The framework takes on the responsibility of creating an instance of the dependency and disposing of it when it's no longer needed.

In the sample app, the IMyDependency interface defines the WriteMessage method:

```
public interface IMyDependency
{
    void WriteMessage(string message);
}
```

This interface is implemented by a concrete type, MyDependency:

```
C#

public class MyDependency : IMyDependency
{
    public void WriteMessage(string message)
    {
        Console.WriteLine($"MyDependency.WriteMessage Message:
{message}");
    }
}
```

The sample app registers the IMyDependency service with the concrete type MyDependency. The AddScoped method registers the service with a scoped lifetime, the lifetime of a single request. Service lifetimes are described later in this topic.

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    services.AddScoped<IMyDependency, MyDependency>();
    services.AddRazorPages();
}
```

In the sample app, the IMyDependency service is requested and used to call the WriteMessage method:

```
public class Index2Model : PageModel
{
    private readonly IMyDependency _myDependency;

    public Index2Model(IMyDependency myDependency)
    {
        _myDependency = myDependency;
    }

    public void OnGet()
    {
        _myDependency.WriteMessage("Index2Model.OnGet");
    }
}
```

By using the DI pattern, the controller:

- Doesn't use the concrete type MyDependency, only the IMyDependency interface it implements. That makes it easy to change the implementation that the controller uses without modifying the controller.
- Doesn't create an instance of MyDependency, it's created by the DI container.

The implementation of the IMyDependency interface can be improved by using the built-in logging API:

```
C#

public class MyDependency2 : IMyDependency
{
    private readonly ILogger<MyDependency2> _logger;

public MyDependency2(ILogger<MyDependency2> logger)
{
```

```
_logger = logger;
}

public void WriteMessage(string message)
{
    _logger.LogInformation( $"MyDependency2.WriteMessage Message:
{message}");
}
```

The updated ConfigureServices method registers the new IMyDependency implementation:

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    services.AddScoped<IMyDependency, MyDependency2>();
    services.AddRazorPages();
}
```

MyDependency2 depends on ILogger<TCategoryName>, which it requests in the constructor. ILogger<TCategoryName> is a framework-provided service.

It's not unusual to use dependency injection in a chained fashion. Each requested dependency in turn requests its own dependencies. The container resolves the dependencies in the graph and returns the fully resolved service. The collective set of dependencies that must be resolved is typically referred to as a *dependency tree*, *dependency graph*, or *object graph*.

The container resolves <code>ILogger<TCategoryName></code> by taking advantage of (generic) open types, eliminating the need to register every (generic) constructed type.

In dependency injection terminology, a service:

- Is typically an object that provides a service to other objects, such as the IMyDependency service.
- Is not related to a web service, although the service may use a web service.

The framework provides a robust logging system. The IMyDependency implementations shown in the preceding examples were written to demonstrate basic DI, not to implement logging. Most apps shouldn't need to write loggers. The following code demonstrates

using the default logging, which doesn't require any services to be registered in

ConfigureServices:

```
C#

public class AboutModel : PageModel
{
    private readonly ILogger _logger;

    public AboutModel(ILogger<AboutModel> logger)
    {
        _logger = logger;
    }

    public string Message { get; set; }

    public void OnGet()
    {
        Message = $"About page visited at
{DateTime.UtcNow.ToLongTimeString()}";
        _logger.LogInformation(Message);
    }
}
```

Using the preceding code, there is no need to update ConfigureServices, because logging is provided by the framework.

# Services injected into Startup

Services can be injected into the Startup constructor and the Startup.Configure method.

Only the following services can be injected into the Startup constructor when using the Generic Host (IHostBuilder):

- IWebHostEnvironment
- IHostEnvironment
- IConfiguration

Any service registered with the DI container can be injected into the Startup.Configure method:

```
public void Configure(IApplicationBuilder app, ILogger<Startup> logger)
{
    ...
}
```

For more information, see App startup in ASP.NET Core and Access configuration in Startup.

# Register groups of services with extension methods

The ASP.NET Core framework uses a convention for registering a group of related services. The convention is to use a single Add{GROUP\_NAME} extension method to register all of the services required by a framework feature. For example, the AddControllers extension method registers the services required for MVC controllers.

The following code is generated by the Razor Pages template using individual user accounts and shows how to add additional services to the container using the extension methods AddDbContext and AddDefaultIdentity:

Consider the following ConfigureServices method, which registers services and configures options:

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    services.Configure<PositionOptions>(
        Configuration.GetSection(PositionOptions.Position));
```

Related groups of registrations can be moved to an extension method to register services. For example, the configuration services are added to the following class:

```
C#
                                                                     Copy C
using ConfigSample.Options;
using Microsoft. Extensions. Configuration;
namespace Microsoft. Extensions. Dependency Injection
    public static class MyConfigServiceCollectionExtensions
        public static IServiceCollection AddConfig(
             this IServiceCollection services, IConfiguration config)
        {
            services.Configure<PositionOptions>(
                config.GetSection(PositionOptions.Position));
            services.Configure<ColorOptions>(
                config.GetSection(ColorOptions.Color));
            return services;
        }
    }
}
```

The remaining services are registered in a similar class. The following ConfigureServices method uses the new extension methods to register the services:

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    services.AddConfig(Configuration)
        .AddMyDependencyGroup();
    services.AddRazorPages();
}
```

**Note:** Each services.Add{GROUP\_NAME} extension method adds and potentially configures services. For example, AddControllersWithViews adds the services MVC controllers with views require, and AddRazorPages adds the services Razor Pages requires. We recommended that apps follow this naming convention. Place extension methods in the Microsoft.Extensions.DependencyInjection namespace to encapsulate groups of service registrations.

## Service lifetimes

See Service lifetimes in Dependency injection in .NET

To use scoped services in middleware, use one of the following approaches:

- Inject the service into the middleware's Invoke or InvokeAsync method. Using constructor injection throws a runtime exception because it forces the scoped service to behave like a singleton. The sample in the Lifetime and registration options section demonstrates the InvokeAsync approach.
- Use Factory-based middleware. Middleware registered using this approach is activated per client request (connection), which allows scoped services to be injected into the middleware's InvokeAsync method.

For more information, see Write custom ASP.NET Core middleware.

# Service registration methods

See Service registration methods in Dependency injection in .NET

It's common to use multiple implementations when mocking types for testing.

Registering a service with only an implementation type is equivalent to registering that service with the same implementation and service type. This is why multiple implementations of a service cannot be registered using the methods that don't take an explicit service type. These methods can register multiple *instances* of a service, but they will all have the same *implementation* type.

Any of the above service registration methods can be used to register multiple service instances of the same service type. In the following example, AddSingleton is called twice with IMyDependency as the service type. The second call to AddSingleton overrides the previous one when resolved as IMyDependency and adds to the previous one when

multiple services are resolved via <code>IEnumerable<IMyDependency></code>. Services appear in the order they were registered when resolved via <code>IEnumerable<{SERVICE}></code>.

```
C#

services.AddSingleton<IMyDependency, MyDependency>();
services.AddSingleton<IMyDependency, DifferentDependency>();

public class MyService
{
    public MyService(IMyDependency myDependency,
        IEnumerable<IMyDependency> myDependencies)
    {
        Trace.Assert(myDependency is DifferentDependency);

        var dependencyArray = myDependencies.ToArray();
        Trace.Assert(dependencyArray[0] is MyDependency);
        Trace.Assert(dependencyArray[1] is DifferentDependency);
    }
}
```

# Constructor injection behavior

See Constructor injection behavior in Dependency injection in .NET

# **Entity Framework contexts**

By default, Entity Framework contexts are added to the service container using the scoped lifetime because web app database operations are normally scoped to the client request. To use a different lifetime, specify the lifetime by using an AddDbContext overload. Services of a given lifetime shouldn't use a database context with a lifetime that's shorter than the service's lifetime.

# Lifetime and registration options

To demonstrate the difference between service lifetimes and their registration options, consider the following interfaces that represent a task as an operation with an identifier, <code>operationId</code>. Depending on how the lifetime of an operation's service is configured for the following interfaces, the container provides either the same or different instances of the service when requested by a class:

```
public interface IOperation
{
    string OperationId { get; }
}

public interface IOperationTransient : IOperation { }
public interface IOperationScoped : IOperation { }
public interface IOperationSingleton : IOperation { }
```

The following Operation class implements all of the preceding interfaces. The Operation constructor generates a GUID and stores the last 4 characters in the OperationId property:

```
public class Operation : IOperationTransient, IOperationScoped, IOpera-
tionSingleton
{
    public Operation()
    {
        OperationId = Guid.NewGuid().ToString()[^4..];
    }
    public string OperationId { get; }
}
```

The Startup.ConfigureServices method creates multiple registrations of the Operation class according to the named lifetimes:

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    services.AddTransient<IOperationTransient, Operation>();
    services.AddScoped<IOperationScoped, Operation>();
    services.AddSingleton<IOperationSingleton, Operation>();
    services.AddRazorPages();
}
```

The sample app demonstrates object lifetimes both within and between requests. The IndexModel and the middleware request each kind of IOperation type and log the OperationId for each:

```
C#
                                                                    Copy
public class IndexModel : PageModel
    private readonly ILogger _logger;
    private readonly IOperationTransient _transientOperation;
    private readonly IOperationSingleton _singletonOperation;
    private readonly IOperationScoped _scopedOperation;
    public IndexModel(ILogger<IndexModel> logger,
                      IOperationTransient transientOperation,
                      IOperationScoped scopedOperation,
                      IOperationSingleton singletonOperation)
    F
        _logger = logger;
        _transientOperation = transientOperation;
        _scopedOperation
                           = scopedOperation;
        _singletonOperation = singletonOperation;
    }
    public void OnGet()
    {
        _logger.LogInformation("Transient: " +
_transientOperation.OperationId);
        _logger.LogInformation("Scoped: "
_scopedOperation.OperationId);
        _logger.LogInformation("Singleton: " +
_singletonOperation.OperationId);
    }
}
```

Similar to the IndexModel, the middleware resolves the same services:

```
_transientOperation = transientOperation;
        _singletonOperation = singletonOperation;
        _next = next;
    7
    public async Task InvokeAsync(HttpContext context,
        IOperationScoped scopedOperation)
    {
        _logger.LogInformation("Transient: " +
_transientOperation.OperationId);
        _logger.LogInformation("Scoped: "
scopedOperation.OperationId);
        _logger.LogInformation("Singleton: " +
_singletonOperation.OperationId);
        await _next(context);
    }
}
public static class MyMiddlewareExtensions
{
    public static IApplicationBuilder UseMyMiddleware(this IApplica-
tionBuilder builder)
        return builder.UseMiddleware<MyMiddleware>();
    }
}
```

Scoped services must be resolved in the InvokeAsync method:

The logger output shows:

- *Transient* objects are always different. The transient <code>OperationId</code> value is different in the <code>IndexModel</code> and in the middleware.
- Scoped objects are the same for each request but different across each request.
- Singleton objects are the same for every request.

To reduce the logging output, set "Logging:LogLevel:Microsoft:Error" in the appsettings.Development.json file:

```
JSON

{
    "MyKey": "MyKey from appsettings.Developement.json",
    "Logging": {
        "LogLevel": {
            "Default": "Information",
            "System": "Debug",
            "Microsoft": "Error"
        }
    }
}
```

### Call services from main

Create an IServiceScope with IServiceScopeFactory.CreateScope to resolve a scoped service within the app's scope. This approach is useful to access a scoped service at startup to run initialization tasks.

The following example shows how to access the scoped IMyDependency service and call its WriteMessage method in Program.Main:

```
C#

public class Program
{
    public static void Main(string[] args)
    {
       var host = CreateHostBuilder(args).Build();

      using (var serviceScope = host.Services.CreateScope())
      {
            var services = serviceScope.ServiceProvider;

            try
            {
                 var myDependency =
```

# Scope validation

See Constructor injection behavior in Dependency injection in .NET

For more information, see Scope validation.

# **Request Services**

The services available within an ASP.NET Core request are exposed through the HttpContext.RequestServices collection. When services are requested from inside of a request, the services and their dependencies are resolved from the RequestServices collection.

The framework creates a scope per request and RequestServices exposes the scoped service provider. All scoped services are valid for as long as the request is active.

#### ① Note

Prefer requesting dependencies as constructor parameters to resolving services from the RequestServices collection. This results in classes that are easier to test.

# Design services for dependency injection

When designing services for dependency injection:

- Avoid stateful, static classes and members. Avoid creating global state by designing apps to use singleton services instead.
- Avoid direct instantiation of dependent classes within services. Direct instantiation couples the code to a particular implementation.
- Make services small, well-factored, and easily tested.

If a class has a lot of injected dependencies, it might be a sign that the class has too many responsibilities and violates the Single Responsibility Principle (SRP). Attempt to refactor the class by moving some of its responsibilities into new classes. Keep in mind that Razor Pages page model classes and MVC controller classes should focus on UI concerns.

# Disposal of services

The container calls Dispose for the IDisposable types it creates. Services resolved from the container should never be disposed by the developer. If a type or factory is registered as a singleton, the container disposes the singleton automatically.

In the following example, the services are created by the service container and disposed automatically:

```
public class Service1 : IDisposable
{
   private bool _disposed;

   public void Write(string message)
   {
       Console.WriteLine($"Service1: {message}");
   }

   public void Dispose()
   {
       if (_disposed)
           return;

      Console.WriteLine("Service1.Dispose");
       _disposed = true;
   }
}
```

```
public class Service2 : IDisposable
    private bool _disposed;
    public void Write(string message)
        Console.WriteLine($"Service2: {message}");
    7
    public void Dispose()
        if (_disposed)
            return;
        Console.WriteLine("Service2.Dispose");
        _disposed = true;
}
public interface IService3
    public void Write(string message);
}
public class Service3 : IService3, IDisposable
{
    private bool _disposed;
    public Service3(string myKey)
        MyKey = myKey;
    public string MyKey { get; }
    public void Write(string message)
        Console.WriteLine($"Service3: {message}, MyKey = {MyKey}");
    }
    public void Dispose()
        if (_disposed)
            return;
        Console.WriteLine("Service3.Dispose");
        _disposed = true;
    }
}
```

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    services.AddScoped<Service1>();
    services.AddSingleton<Service2>();

    var myKey = Configuration["MyKey"];
    services.AddSingleton<IService3>(sp => new Service3(myKey));
    services.AddRazorPages();
}
```

```
C#
                                                                     Copy
public class IndexModel : PageModel
    private readonly Service1 _service1;
    private readonly Service2 _service2;
    private readonly IService3 _service3;
    public IndexModel(Service1 service1, Service2 service2, IService3
service3)
        _service1 = service1;
        _service2 = service2;
        _service3 = service3;
    }
    public void OnGet()
    {
        _service1.Write("IndexModel.OnGet");
        _service2.Write("IndexModel.OnGet");
        _service3.Write("IndexModel.OnGet");
    }
}
```

The debug console shows the following output after each refresh of the Index page:

```
Console

Service1: IndexModel.OnGet
Service2: IndexModel.OnGet
Service3: IndexModel.OnGet
Service1.Dispose
```

# Services not created by the service container

Consider the following code:

```
public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
{
    services.AddSingleton(new Service1());
    services.AddSingleton(new Service2());

    services.AddRazorPages();
}
```

In the preceding code:

- The service instances aren't created by the service container.
- The framework doesn't dispose of the services automatically.
- The developer is responsible for disposing the services.

# IDisposable guidance for Transient and shared instances

See IDisposable guidance for Transient and shared instance in Dependency injection in .NET

# Default service container replacement

See Default service container replacement in Dependency injection in .NET

### Recommendations

See Recommendations in Dependency injection in .NET

• Avoid using the *service locator pattern*. For example, don't invoke GetService to obtain a service instance when you can use DI instead:

#### Incorrect:



```
public class MyClass
{
    private readonly IOptionsMonitor<MyOptions> _optionsMonitor;

    public MyClass(IOptionsMonitor<MyOptions> optionsMonitor)
    {
        _optionsMonitor = optionsMonitor;
    }

    public void MyMethod()
    {
        var option = _optionsMonitor.CurrentValue.Option;
        ...
    }
}
```

- Another service locator variation to avoid is injecting a factory that resolves dependencies at runtime. Both of these practices mix Inversion of Control strategies.
- Avoid static access to HttpContext (for example, IHttpContextAccessor.HttpContext).
- Avoid calls to BuildServiceProvider in ConfigureServices. Calling

  BuildServiceProvider typically happens when the developer wants to resolve a

  service in ConfigureServices. For example, consider the case where the LoginPath
  is loaded from configuration. Avoid the following approach:

In the preceding image, selecting the green wavy line under services.BuildServiceProvider shows the following ASP0000 warning:

ASP0000 Calling 'BuildServiceProvider' from application code results in an additional copy of singleton services being created. Consider alternatives such as dependency injecting services as parameters to 'Configure'.

Calling BuildServiceProvider creates a second container, which can create torn singletons and cause references to object graphs across multiple containers.

A correct way to get LoginPath is to use the options pattern's built-in support for DI:

- Disposable transient services are captured by the container for disposal. This can turn into a memory leak if resolved from the top level container.
- Enable scope validation to make sure the app doesn't have singletons that capture scoped services. For more information, see Scope validation.

Like all sets of recommendations, you may encounter situations where ignoring a recommendation is required. Exceptions are rare, mostly special cases within the framework itself.

DI is an *alternative* to static/global object access patterns. You may not be able to realize the benefits of DI if you mix it with static object access.

# Recommended patterns for multi-tenancy in DI

Orchard Core is an application framework for building modular, multi-tenant applications on ASP.NET Core. For more information, see the Orchard Core Documentation.

See the Orchard Core samples for examples of how to build modular and multi-tenant apps using just the Orchard Core Framework without any of its CMS-specific features.

# Framework-provided services

The Startup.ConfigureServices method registers services that the app uses, including platform features, such as Entity Framework Core and ASP.NET Core MVC. Initially, the IServiceCollection provided to ConfigureServices has services defined by the framework depending on how the host was configured. For apps based on the ASP.NET Core templates, the framework registers more than 250 services.

The following table lists a small sample of these framework-registered services:

Service Type	Lifetime
Microsoft. AspNetCore. Hosting. Builder. I Application Builder Factory	Transient
HostApplicationLifetime	Singleton
WebHostEnvironment	Singleton
Microsoft.AspNetCore.Hosting.IStartup	Singleton
Microsoft. AspNetCore. Hosting. IStartup Filter	Transient
Microsoft.AspNetCore.Hosting.Server.IServer	Singleton
Microsoft. AspNetCore. Http. I HttpContextFactory	Transient
Microsoft. Extensions. Logging. I Logger < TCategory Name >	Singleton
Microsoft. Extensions. Logging. I Logger Factory	Singleton
Microsoft. Extensions. Object Pool. Object Pool Provider	Singleton
Microsoft. Extensions. Options. I Configure Options < TOptions >	Transient
Microsoft. Extensions. Options. I Options < TOptions >	Singleton

Service Type	Lifetime
System.Diagnostics.DiagnosticSource	Singleton
System.Diagnostics.DiagnosticListener	Singleton

### Additional resources

- Dependency injection into views in ASP.NET Core
- Dependency injection into controllers in ASP.NET Core
- Dependency injection in requirement handlers in ASP.NET Core
- ASP.NET Core Blazor dependency injection
- NDC Conference Patterns for DI app development
- App startup in ASP.NET Core
- Factory-based middleware activation in ASP.NET Core
- Four ways to dispose IDisposables in ASP.NET Core
- Writing Clean Code in ASP.NET Core with Dependency Injection (MSDN)
- Explicit Dependencies Principle
- Inversion of Control Containers and the Dependency Injection Pattern (Martin Fowler)
- How to register a service with multiple interfaces in ASP.NET Core DI

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