ASP.NET MVC 2 RTM Release Notes

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This document describes the release of ASP.NET MVC 2 for Visual Studio 2008 SP1. For a complete list of what has changed since ASP.NET MVC 1.0, see the document [What’s New in ASP.NET MVC 2](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=185038).

# Installation Notes

The ASP.NET MVC 2 RTM for Visual Studio 2008 SP1 can be downloaded from the following page:

<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=157074>

ASP.NET MVC 2 can be installed and can run side-by-side with ASP.NET MVC 1.0.

Note   Because Visual Studio 2008 and Visual Studio 2010 RC share a component of ASP.NET MVC 2, installing the ASP.NET MVC 2 RTM release on a computer where Visual Studio 2010 RC is also installed is not supported.

# Documentation

Documentation for ASP.NET MVC 2, which includes tutorials, technology overviews, code samples, and API reference, is available on the MSDN Web site. A good starting point is the topic [ASP.NET Model View Controller (MVC)](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=159758) (<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=159758>). Tutorials and other information about ASP.NET MVC are also available on the [ASP.NET Web site](http://www.asp.net/mvc/) (<http://www.asp.net/mvc/>).

# Support

Feel free to post questions about working with this release to the [ASP.NET MVC forum](http://forums.asp.net/1146.aspx), where members of the ASP.NET community are frequently able to provide informal support.

# Upgrading an ASP.NET MVC 1.0 Project to ASP.NET MVC 2

ASP.NET MVC 2 can be installed side by side with ASP.NET MVC 1.0 on the same server, which gives application developers flexibility in choosing when to upgrade an ASP.NET MVC 1.0 application to ASP.NET MVC 2. To upgrade an existing ASP.NET MVC 1.0 application, see the document [Upgrading an ASP.NET MVC 1.0 Application to ASP.NET MVC 2](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=185459).

# New Features in RTM

The following features are new since the RC release of ASP.NET MVC 2.

## Templated Helpers Allow You to Specify Extra View Data

ASP.NET MVC 2 now includes new overloads of the EditorFor and DisplayFor methods. These overloads contain a parameter that accepts an anonymous object that can be used to provide extra view data. The view data provided in this parameter is merged with any existing view data that is passed to the template.

## Other Improvements

The following changes have been made to existing types and members for the ASP.NET MVC 2 RTM release.

* The UrlParmater.Optional property can be used to work around problems when binding to a model that contains an ID property when the property is absent in a form post. For more detail, see the entry [ASP.NET MVC 2 Optional URL Parameters](http://haacked.com/archive/2010/02/12/asp-net-mvc-2-optional-url-parameters.aspx) on Phil Haack’s blog.

# Bug Fixes

The following bugs have been fixed in the ASP.NET MVC 2 RTM release.

* Fixed a bug that caused Internet Explorer versions 6, 7, and 8 (in compatibility mode) to hang when client validation is used in certain scenarios.

# Breaking Changes

The following changes might cause errors in existing ASP.NET MVC 1.0 applications.

## Changes in ASP.NET MVC 2 RTM

No new breaking changes were introduced by the ASP.NET MVC 2 RTM release.

## Changes in ASP.NET MVC 2 Release Candidate 2

Every property for model objects that use IDataErrorInfo to perform validation is validated, regardless of whether a new value was set. In ASP.NET MVC 1.0, only properties that had new values set would be validated. In ASP.NET MVC 2, the Error property of IDataErrorInfo is called only if all the property validators were successful.

## Changes in ASP.NET MVC 2 Release Candidate 1

### IIS script mapping script is no longer available in the installer

The IIS script mapping script is a command-line script that is used to configure script maps for IIS 6 and for IIS 7 in Classic mode. The script-mapping script is not needed if you use the Visual Studio Development Server or if you use IIS 7 in Integrated mode. The scripts are available as a separate unsupported download on the [ASP.NET CodePlex site](http://aspnet.codeplex.com/).

### The Html.Substitute helper method in MVC Futures is no longer available

Due to changes in the rendering behavior of MVC view engines, the Html.Substitute helper method does not work and has been removed.

## Changes in ASP.NET MVC 2 Beta

### The IValueProvider interface replaces all uses of IDictionary<string, ValueProviderResult>

Every property or method argument that accepted IDictionary<string, ValueProviderResult> now accepts IValueProvider. This change affects only applications that include custom value providers or custom model binders.

Examples of properties and methods that are affected by this change include the following:

* The ValueProvider property of the ControllerBase and ModelBindingContext classes.
* The TryUpdateModel methods of the Controller class.

### New CSS classes were added in the Site.css file that are used to style validation messages.

The Site.css file in the ASP.NET MVC project templates has been updated to include new styles used by the validation functionality and by the templated helpers.

## Changes in ASP.NET MVC 2 Preview 2

### Helpers now return an MvcHtmlString object

In order to take advantage of the new HTML-encoding expression syntax in ASP.NET 4, the return type for HTML helpers is now MvcHtmlString instead of a string. If you use ASP.NET MVC 2 and the new helpers with ASP.NET 3.5, you will not be able to take advantage of the HTML-encoding syntax; the new syntax is available only when you run ASP.NET MVC 2 on ASP.NET 4.

### JsonResult now responds only to HTTP POST requests

In order to mitigate JSON hijacking attacks that have the potential for information disclosure, by default, the JsonResult class now responds only to HTTP POST requests. Ajax GET calls to action methods that return a JsonResult object should be changed to use POST instead. If necessary, you can override this behavior by setting the new JsonRequestBehavior property of JsonResult. For more information about the potential exploit, see the blog post [JSON Hijacking](http://haacked.com/archive/2009/06/25/json-hijacking.aspx) on Phil Haack’s blog.

### Model and ModelType property setters on ModelBindingContext are obsolete

A new settable ModelMetadata property has been added to the ModelBindingContext class. The new property encapsulates both the Model and the ModelType properties. Although the Model and ModelType properties are obsolete, for backward compatibility the property getters still work; they delegate to the ModelMetadata property to retrieve the value.

## Changes in ASP.NET MVC 2 Preview 1

### Changes to the DefaultControllerFactory class break custom controller factories that derive from it

The DefaultControllerFactory class was fixed by removing the RequestContext property. In place of this property, the request context instance is passed to the protected virtual GetControllerInstance and GetControllerType methods. This change affects custom controller factories that derive from DefaultControllerFactory.

Custom controller factories are often used to provide dependency injection for ASP.NET MVC applications. To update the custom controller factories to support ASP.NET MVC 2, change the method signature or signatures to match the new signatures, and use the request context parameter instead of the property.

### “Area” is a now a reserved route-value key

The string “area” in Route values now has special meaning in ASP.NET MVC, in the same way that “controller” and “action” do. One implication is that if HTML helpers are supplied with a route-value dictionary containing “area”, the helpers will no longer append “area” in the query string.

If you are using the Areas feature, make sure to not use {area} as part of your route URL.

# Known Issues

* **Visual Studio 2008 Installation:** After a successful install, some temporary files are left behind on your computer in a folder named C:\Temp\extNNNN, where NNNN is a random number. It is safe to delete this folder and its contents after installation is complete.
* **Visual Web Developer 2008 Express Installation:** If the default installation location of Visual Web Developer 2008 Express was changed during setup, you might have difficulty installing the tooling component of MVC when you use the .exe installer. You can work around this by extracting and running the .msi file from the .exe file that installs the Visual Web Developer components of MVC.
* **Unit test project does not contain reference to ASP.NET MVC 2 project:** If the Solution Explorer window is hidden in Visual Studio, when you create a new ASP.NET MVC 2 Web application project and you select the option Yes, create a unit test project in the Create Unit Test Project dialog box, the unit test project is created but does not have a reference to the associated ASP.NET MVC 2 project. When you build the solution, Visual Studio will display compilation errors and the unit tests will not run.

There are two workarounds. The first workaround is to make sure that the Solution Explorer is displayed when you create a new ASP.NET MVC 2 Web application project. If you prefer to keep Solution Explorer hidden, the second workaround is to manually add a project reference from the unit test project to the ASP.NET MVC 2 project.

# Disclaimer

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