**How to: Determine How ASP.NET Web Pages Were Invoked**

This page is specific to

**Microsoft Visual Studio 2008/.NET Framework 3.5**

Other versions are also available for the following:

[Microsoft Visual Studio 2005/.NET Framework 2.0](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms178141(VS.80).aspx)

[.NET Framework 3.0](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms178141(VS.85).aspx)

[Microsoft Visual Studio 2010/.NET Framework 4.0](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms178141(VS.100).aspx)

It is often useful to know how an ASP.NET Web page was invoked: whether by an original request (an HTTP GET), a postback (an HTTP POST), a cross-page post from another page (an HTTP POST), or a transfer from another page using the [Transfer](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.httpserverutility.transfer.aspx) method or using a callback from the browser. The [Page](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.aspx) class exposes a set of properties that you can use to determine how a page was invoked.

**To determine how an ASP.NET Web page was invoked**

* Examine the values of the following [Page](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.aspx) class properties, and then refer the table to determine how the page was invoked:
  + [IsPostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.ispostback.aspx)
  + [PreviousPage](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.previouspage.aspx)
  + [IsCrossPagePostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscrosspagepostback.aspx)
  + [IsCallback](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscallback.aspx)

The following table lists ways in which a page can be invoked and the corresponding [Page](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.aspx) property values.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Invocation method** | **Property values** |
| Original request | * + [IsPostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.ispostback.aspx) is set to **false**.   + [PreviousPage](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.previouspage.aspx) is set to **null** (**Nothing** in Visual Basic).   + [IsCallback](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscallback.aspx) is set to **false**. |
| Postback | * + [IsPostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.ispostback.aspx) is set to **true**.   + [PreviousPage](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.previouspage.aspx) is set to **null** (**Nothing** in Visual Basic).   + [IsCallback](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscallback.aspx) is set to **false**. |
| Cross-page posting | * + [IsPostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.ispostback.aspx) is set to **false**.   + [PreviousPage](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.previouspage.aspx) references the source page.   + [IsCrossPagePostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscrosspagepostback.aspx) is set to **true**.   + [IsCallback](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscallback.aspx) is set to **false**. |
| Server transfer | * + [IsPostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.ispostback.aspx) is set to **false**.   + [PreviousPage](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.previouspage.aspx) references the source page.   + [IsCrossPagePostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscrosspagepostback.aspx) that is referenced in the [PreviousPage](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.previouspage.aspx) is set to **false**.   + [IsCallback](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscallback.aspx) is set to **false**. |
| Callback | * + [IsPostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.ispostback.aspx) is set to **false**.   + [PreviousPage](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.previouspage.aspx) is set to **null** (**Nothing** in Visual Basic).   + [IsCallback](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscallback.aspx) is set to **true**. |
| **Note:** Be sure you test the [IsCrossPagePostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscrosspagepostback.aspx) property of the page that is referenced in [PreviousPage](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.previouspage.aspx). The [IsCrossPagePostBack](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.web.ui.page.iscrosspagepostback.aspx) property of the current page always returns **false**. | |