Similarities and differences between ASP.NET Web Forms and ASP.NET MVC

**Differences**

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| ASP.NET Web Forms | ASP.NET MVC |
| ASP.NET Web Forms use Page controller pattern approach for rendering layout. In this approach, every page has its own controller, i.e., code-behind file that processes the request. | ASP.NET MVC uses Front Controller approach. That approach means a common controller for all pages processes the requests. |
| No separation of concerns. As we discussed that every page (*.aspx*) has its own controller (code behind i.e. *aspx.cs/.vb* file), so both are tightly coupled. | Very clean separation of concerns. View and Controller are neatly separate. |
| Because of this coupled behavior, automated testing is really difficult. | Testability is a key feature in ASP.NET MVC. Test driven development is quite simple using this approach. |
| In order to achieve stateful behavior, viewstate is used. Purpose was to give developers the same experience of a typical WinForms application. | ASP.NET MVC approach is stateless as that of the web. So there is no concept of viewstate. |
| Statefulness has a lots of problem for web environment in case of excessively large viewstate. Large viewstate means increase in page size. | As controller and view are not dependent and also no viewstate concept in ASP.NET MVC, so output is very clean. |

## Similarities

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| Similarities between ASP.NET Web Forms and ASP.NET MVC |
| They both share API's related to http and user authentication |
| Have the same startup events in Global.asax. |
| Both can be developed through the same IDE and use the same NuGet packages for development. |