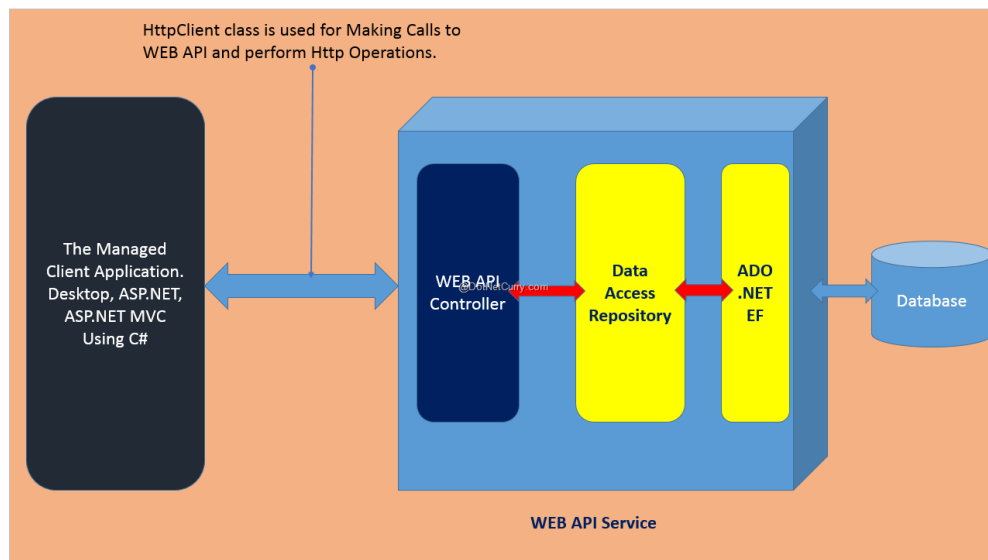


Consuming a Web API Asynchronously in ASP.NET MVC or WPF: <http://www.dotnetcurry.com/aspnet/1192/aspnet-web-api-async-calls-mvc-wpf>

**MVC\_ClientWebAPI & APIService:** Creates both the service and the MVC Client for consumption (*Painful and very complete*)

One of the benefits of using ASP.NET Web API over WCF services is that the client does not need to consume a proxy in order to make a call to Web API service. This facilitates decoupling between the client and the Web API service.

The following diagram explains the architecture of calling Web API using a Client Application.



The above diagram explains the basic arrangement of a Web API Service and the client application.

- The API Service communicates with Database for writing and reading data and uses ADO.NET EntityFramework to communicate with the database.
- The Data Access Repository, decouples the ADO.NET EntityFramework from the ApiController class, using the simple implementation of the repository pattern, implemented using Unity.WebApi framework.
- The WEB API Controller class calls the Data Access Repository for performing Read/Write operations.
- The Managed Client Application, uses HttpClient class for performing an asynchronous calls to the Web API.

## HttpClient

This is the base class used for making an asynchronous calls to the remote service repository using its URL. This class is present under the **System.Net.Http** namespace and provide methods like GetAsync (), PostAsync (), PutAsync () and DeleteAsync ().

## The Implementation

**Step 1:** Open Visual Studio and **create a Blank solution**, name this solution as 'MVC\_ClientWebAPI'.

In this solution, **add a new ASP.NET Web API Project** of the name **APIService** and click OK.

This will create a Web API project with the necessary folders for Models, Controllers, App\_Start, App\_Data, etc.

**Step 2:** In the App\_Data folder, **add a new Sql Server database** of name 'Application.mdf'.

In this database add the EmployeeInfo table using the following script.

```
CREATE TABLE [dbo].[EmployeeInfo] (  
    [EmpNo] INT IDENTITY (1, 1) NOT NULL,  
    [EmpName] VARCHAR (50) NOT NULL,  
    [DeptName] VARCHAR (50) NOT NULL,  
    [Designation] VARCHAR (50) NOT NULL,  
    [Salary] DECIMAL (18) NOT NULL,  
    PRIMARY KEY CLUSTERED ([EmpNo] ASC)  
);
```

In this table add the sample data as shown in the following script

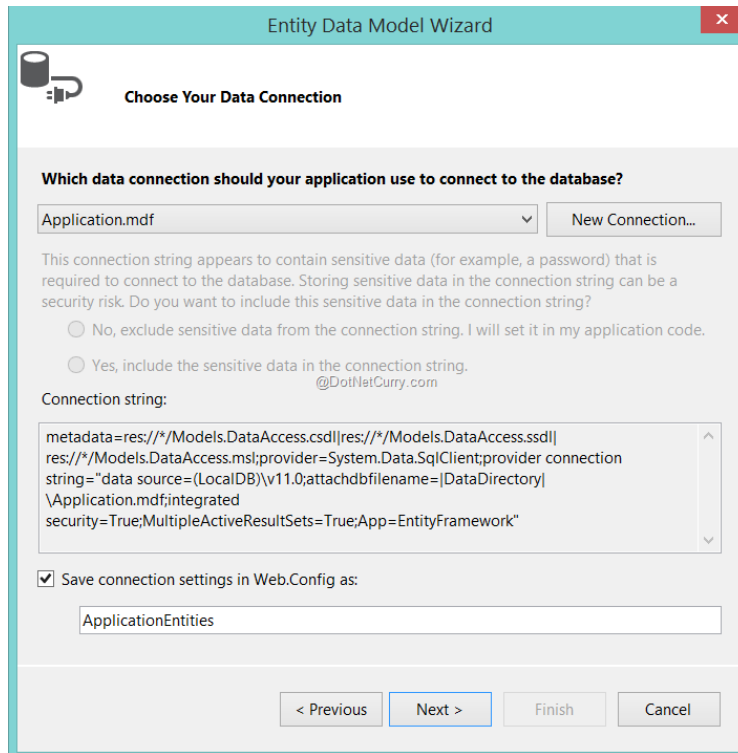
```
INSERT INTO [dbo].[EmployeeInfo] ([EmpNo], [EmpName], [DeptName], [Designation],  
[Salary]) VALUES (1, N'MS', N'MS IT Services', N'Director', CAST(780000 AS Decimal(18,  
0)))
```

```
INSERT INTO [dbo].[EmployeeInfo] ([EmpNo], [EmpName], [DeptName], [Designation],  
[Salary]) VALUES (2, N'LS', N'Administration', N'Manager', CAST(1556000 AS Decimal(18,  
0)))
```

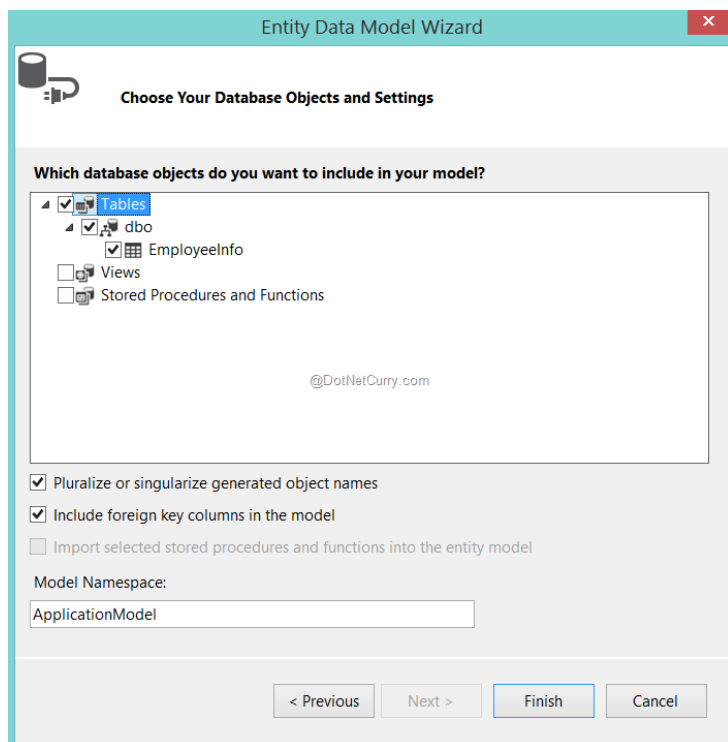
```
INSERT INTO [dbo].[EmployeeInfo] ([EmpNo], [EmpName], [DeptName], [Designation],  
[Salary]) VALUES (3, N'TS', N'Administration', N'Dy. Manager', CAST(45000 AS  
Decimal(18, 0)))
```

**Step 3:** In the Models folder add a new ADO.NET EF. Name this EF as **DataAccess**. This will start a Wizard. In this wizard, select the **EF Designer from Database**,

(Note: Since the article uses VS2013 with Update 4, the EF wizard shows **EF Designer from Database**, else the option may be **Generate from Database**). The wizard selects **Application.mdf**, as shown in the following image:



In the next step of the wizard, select EmployeeInfo table as shown in the following image:



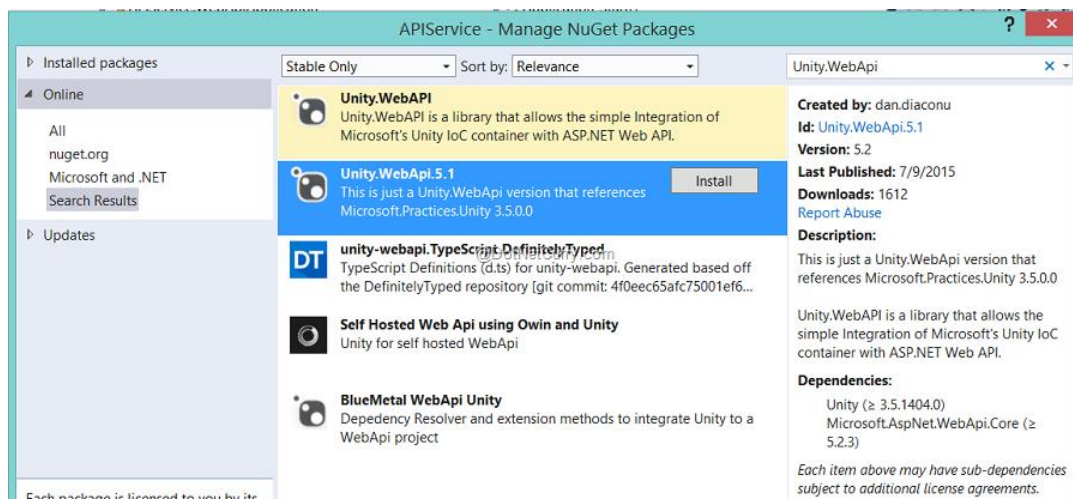
After completion of this wizard, the table mapping will be generated. This creates EmployeeInfo class and ApplicationEntities class in the Models folder.

### ----->Build the project.

**Step 4:** Since we will be using a simple Repository pattern to decouple the Web API Controller class from the ADO.NET EF, we need Unity framework for dependency injection for the Web API using constructor injection.

To implement this, in the project add **Unity.WebApi.5.1** (or whatever version is latest) NuGet package using the Package Manager window.

To implement this, right-click on the project and select **Manage NuGet Packages**. From the NuGet Packages window, select Unity.WebApi.5.1 as shown in the following image:



Click on the **install** button. This will add **Unity.WebApi** reference in the project references. The App\_Start folder will be added with the **UnityConfig.cs** file with **UnityConfig** class in it. We will modify this class in the coming steps.

**Step 5:** We need to create a separate class to implement the data access logic.

- In the project, add a new folder of name 'DataAccessRepository'.
- In this folder, add a new interface file with the code as shown as following:

```
public interface IDataAccessRepository<TEntity, in TPrimaryKey> where TEntity : class
{
    IEnumerable<TEntity> Get();
    TEntity Get(TPrimaryKey id);
    void Post(TEntity entity);
    void Put(TPrimaryKey id, TEntity entity);
    void Delete(TPrimaryKey id);
}
```

This generic interface contains methods for Get, Post, Put and Delete operations. This interface is typed to the following parameters:

- TEntity: This is the class type, represents the entity class used during Read/Write operations.
- TPrimaryKey: This is an input parameter used during Reading of specific record and deleting it.

**Step 5:** In the **DataAccessRepository** folder, add a new class of **clsDataAccessRepository** with the following code:

```
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using APIService.Models;

using Microsoft.Practices.Unity;

namespace APIService.DataAccessRepository
{
    public class clsDataAccessRepository : IDataAccessRepository<EmployeeInfo, int>
    {
        //The dendency for the DbContext specified the current class.
        [Dependency]
```

```
public ApplicationEntities ctx { get; set; }
```

```
//Get all Employees
```

```
public IEnumerable<EmployeeInfo> Get()
```

```
{
```

```
    return ctx.EmployeeInfoes.ToList();
```

```
}
```

```
//Get Specific Employee based on Id
```

```
public EmployeeInfo Get(int id)
```

```
{
```

```
    return ctx.EmployeeInfoes.Find(id);
```

```
}
```

```
//Create a new Employee
```

```
public void Post(EmployeeInfo entity)
```

```
{
```

```
    ctx.EmployeeInfoes.Add(entity);
```

```
    ctx.SaveChanges();
```

```
}
```

```
//Update Existing Employee
```

```
public void Put(int id, EmployeeInfo entity)
```

```
{
```

```
    var Emp = ctx.EmployeeInfoes.Find(id);
```

```
    if (Emp != null)
```

```
{
```

```
        Emp.EmpName = entity.EmpName;
```

```
        Emp.Salary = entity.Salary;
```

```
        Emp.DeptName = entity.DeptName;
```

```
        Emp.Designation = entity.Designation;
```

```
        ctx.SaveChanges();
```

```

    }
}

//Delete an Employee based on Id
public void Delete(int id)
{
    var Emp = ctx.EmployeeInfoes.Find(id);
    if (Emp != null)
    {
        ctx.EmployeeInfoes.Remove(Emp);
        ctx.SaveChanges();
    }
}
}
}
}
}

```

The above class code is specified with the **ApplicationEntities** DbContext injection using [Dependency] attribute on it. This eliminates need of creating instance using *new* keyword. The class contains methods for performing Read/Write operations using ADO.NET EF methods.

**Step 6:** To add the above code class in the Unity Container, we need to **change the UnityConfig class from the App\_Start folder** as shown in the following code:

```

public static class UnityConfig
{
    public static void RegisterComponents()
    {
        var container = new UnityContainer();

        container.RegisterType<IDataAccessRepository<EmployeeInfo,int>,
        clsDataAccessRepository>();

        GlobalConfiguration.Configuration.DependencyResolver = new
        UnityDependencyResolver(container);
    }
}

```

```
}
```

The **RegisterType ()** method accepts the interface and class for registering in the Unity container. The **UnityDependencyResolver** wraps the **container** object of the type **UnityContainer** in it. This resolves the dependencies registered inside the container. In our case, we have registered **IDataAccessRepository** interface and **clsDataAccessRepository** class.

Open **Global.asax**, and add the following line in it:

```
protected void Application_Start()
{
    AreaRegistration.RegisterAllAreas();
    UnityConfig.RegisterComponents();
    GlobalConfiguration.Configure(WebApiConfig.Register);
    FilterConfig.RegisterGlobalFilters(GlobalFilters.Filters);
    RouteConfig.RegisterRoutes(RouteTable.Routes);
    BundleConfig.RegisterBundles(BundleTable.Bundles);
}
```

The above line of code calls the **RegisterComponents ()** method in the **Application\_Start** event so that all dependency must be registered in the beginning of the application.

**Step 7:** In the Controllers, **add a new Empty Web API Controller** of the name **EmployeeInfoApiController**. In this controller, add the following code:

```
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Net;
using System.Web.Http;
using APIService.Models;
using APIService.DataAccessRepository;
using System.Web.Http.Description;

namespace APIService.Controllers
{
    public class EmployeeInfoApiController : ApiController
    {
        private IDataAccessRepository<EmployeeInfo, int> _repository;
```



```
//Inject the DataAccessRepository using Construction Injection
```

```
public EmployeeInfoApiController(IDataAccessRepository<EmployeeInfo, int> r)
{
    _repository = r;
}

public IEnumerable<EmployeeInfo> Get()
{
    return _repository.Get();
}
```

```
[ResponseType(typeof(EmployeeInfo))]
public IHttpActionResult Get(int id)
{
    return Ok (_repository.Get(id));
}
```

```
[ResponseType(typeof(EmployeeInfo))]
public IHttpActionResult Post(EmployeeInfo emp)
{
    _repository.Post(emp);
    return Ok(emp);
}
```

```
[ResponseType(typeof(void))]
public IHttpActionResult Put(int id ,EmployeeInfo emp)
{
    _repository.Put(id,emp);
    return StatusCode(HttpStatusCode.NoContent);
}
```

```

        [ResponseType(typeof(void))]
        public IHttpActionResult Delete(int id)
        {
            _repository.Delete(id);

            return StatusCode(HttpStatusCode.NoContent);
        }
    }
}

```

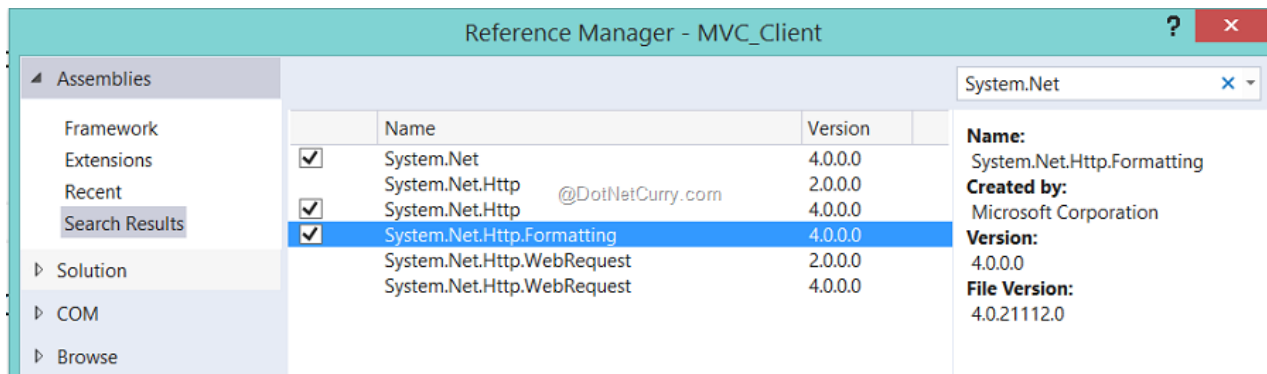
In the above controller, the `clsDataAccessRepository` object is injected using Constructor Injection. The controller contains methods for performing Http GET, POST, PUT and DELETE operations.

### Implementing the ASP.NET MVC Client Application

**Step 1:** In the same solution, add a new ASP.NET MVC application of name '**MVC\_Client**'.

You can also select Empty MVC application. If you select an empty mvc app, then in that case reference for **Json.NET** must be added explicitly using NuGet Package Manager. This is for JSON Serialization and Deserialization of the Entity object during Read/Write operation.

To make Http calls using C#, we need to add references for System.Net Http.



**Note:** The NuGet Package for Json.Net and references for System.Net.Http is not required if an ASP.NET MVC ready template is chosen.

**Step 2:** In this project in the Models folder add the following EmployeeInfo class.

```

public class EmployeeInfo
{
    public int EmpNo { get; set; }
    public string EmpName { get; set; }
    public decimal Salary { get; set; }
    public string DeptName { get; set; }
}

```

```
public string Designation { get; set; }  
}
```

This is the same class available on the API Service side. We need this for the Serialization and Deserialization during Read/Write operations.

**Step 3:** In the Controllers folder, add a new Empty MVC Controller of the name **EmployeeInfoController**. In this controller, add the following code:

```
using Newtonsoft.Json;
```

```
namespace MVC_Client.Controllers
```

```
{
```

```
public class EmployeeInfoController : Controller
```

```
{
```

```
HttpClient client;
```

```
//The URL of the WEB API Service
```

```
string url = "http://localhost:60143/api/EmployeeInfoAPI";
```

```
//The HttpClient Class, this will be used for performing
```

```
//HTTP Operations, GET, POST, PUT, DELETE
```

```
//Set the base address and the Header Formatter
```

```
public EmployeeInfoController()
```

```
{
```

```
client = new HttpClient();
```

```
client.BaseAddress = new Uri(url);
```

```
client.DefaultRequestHeaders.Accept.Clear();
```

```
client.DefaultRequestHeaders.Accept.Add(new  
MediaTypeWithQualityHeaderValue("application/json"));
```

```
}
```

```
// GET: EmployeeInfo
```

```
public async Task<ActionResult> Index()
```

```
{  
    HttpResponseMessage responseMessage = await client.GetAsync(url);  
    if (responseMessage.IsSuccessStatusCode)  
    {  
        var responseData = responseMessage.Content.ReadAsStringAsync().Result  
;  
  
        var Employees =  
JsonConvert.DeserializeObject<List<EmployeeInfo>>(responseData);  
  
        return View(Employees);  
    }  
    return View("Error");  
}  
  
public ActionResult Create()  
{  
    return View(new EmployeeInfo());  
}  
  
//The Post method  
[HttpPost]  
public async Task<ActionResult> Create(EmployeeInfo Emp)  
{  
  
    HttpResponseMessage responseMessage = await  
client.PostAsJsonAsync(url, Emp);  
    if (responseMessage.IsSuccessStatusCode)  
    {  
        return RedirectToAction("Index");  
    }  
}
```

```
        return RedirectToAction("Error");
    }

    public async Task<ActionResult> Edit(int id)
    {
        HttpResponseMessage responseMessage = await client.GetAsync(url+"/"+id);
        if (responseMessage.IsSuccessStatusCode)
        {
            var responseData = responseMessage.Content.ReadAsStringAsync().Result;

            var Employee =
            JsonConvert.DeserializeObject<EmployeeInfo>(responseData);

            return View(Employee);
        }
        return View("Error");
    }

    //The PUT Method
    [HttpPost]
    public async Task<ActionResult> Edit(int id, EmployeeInfo Emp)
    {
        HttpResponseMessage responseMessage = await client.PutAsJsonAsync(url+"/"+
+id, Emp);
        if (responseMessage.IsSuccessStatusCode)
        {
            return RedirectToAction("Index");
        }
        return RedirectToAction("Error");
    }
}
```

```
        public async Task<ActionResult> Delete(int id)
        {
            HttpResponseMessage responseMessage = await client.GetAsync(url + "/" +
id);
            if (responseMessage.IsSuccessStatusCode)
            {
                var responseData = responseMessage.Content.ReadAsStringAsync().Result;

                var Employee =
JsonConvert.DeserializeObject<EmployeeInfo>(responseData);

                return View(Employee);
            }
            return View("Error");
        }

        //The DELETE method
        [HttpPost]
        public async Task<ActionResult> Delete(int id, EmployeeInfo Emp)
        {
            HttpResponseMessage responseMessage =await client.DeleteAsync(url + "/" +
id);
            if (responseMessage.IsSuccessStatusCode)
            {
                return RedirectToAction("Index");
            }
            return RedirectToAction("Error");
        }
    }
}
```

}

The above controller class has the following features:

- The constructor of the class instantiates the **HttpClient** class. This instance is set with the properties like **BaseAddress**, this represents the remote Web API URL with which the Read/Write operations are performed.
- The **DefaultRequestHeaders** is set to accept the media type formatter for **json** data.
- The **Index ()** method uses the **GetAsync()** method to receive the HttpResponseMessage. Since the response message contains the Json string contents, this content can be read using **ReadAsStringAsync()** function.
- The string contents are DeSerialized to the List of Employees using **DeserializeObject ()** method of **JsonConvert** class. Since this call is asynchronous, the **Index()** method returns **Task<T>** object where **T** is **ActionResult**.
- Create() function with **HttpPost** uses **PostJsonAsAsync()** method to make the asynchronous post of the EmployeeInfo object to the Web API Service.
- Similarly Edit() method uses **PutAsJsonAsync()** method and Delete method uses **DeleteAsync()** methods for performing respective operations using Web API.

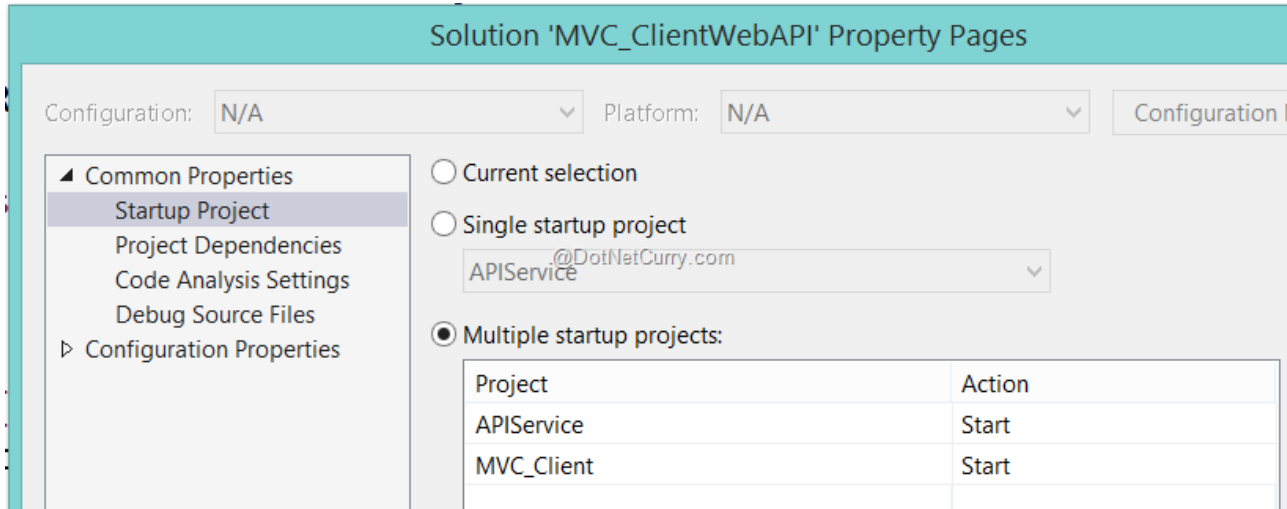
**Step 4:** To generate UI for the application, scaffold views from the Index, Create, Edit, Delete (all HttpGet) methods. This adds Index.cshtml, Create.cshtml, Edit.cshtml and Delete.cshtml in the EmployeeInfo folder of the Views folder.

**Step 5:** To run the Index.cshtml, change the RouteConfig class from RouteConfig.cs file of the App\_Start folder.

```
public class RouteConfig
{
    public static void RegisterRoutes(RouteCollection routes)
    {
        routes.IgnoreRoute("{resource}.axd/{*pathInfo}");

        routes.MapRoute(
            name: "Default",
            url: "{controller}/{action}/{id}",
            defaults: new { controller = "EmployeeInfo", action = "Index", id =
                UrlParameter.Optional }
        );
    }
}
```

**Step 6:** To run the API Service and MVC Client project, right-click on the solution and set the multiple startup project as shown in the following image:



Run the application, the Index view of the Employee will be displayed as shown below:

## Index

[Create New](#)

EmpNo	EmpName	Salary	DeptName	Designation	
1	MS	780000.00	Administration	Director	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>
2	LS	1556000.00	Administration	Manager	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>
3	TS	45000.00	Administration	Dy. Manager	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>

Click on the Create New link, and the Create View will be displayed. Enter the Employee data in it as shown in the following image:

## Create

### EmployeeInfo

EmpName VB

Salary 78000

DeptName HRD

Designation Manager

Create

Click on the 'Create' button, the control will be redirected to the Index view with the record added as shown in the following image.



## Index

[Create New](#)

EmpNo	EmpName	Salary	DeptName	Designation	
1	MS	780000.00	MS IT Services	Director	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>
2	LS	1556000.00	Administration	Manager	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>
3	TS	45000.00	Administration	Dy. Manager	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>
8	VB	78000.00	HRD	Manager	<a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>

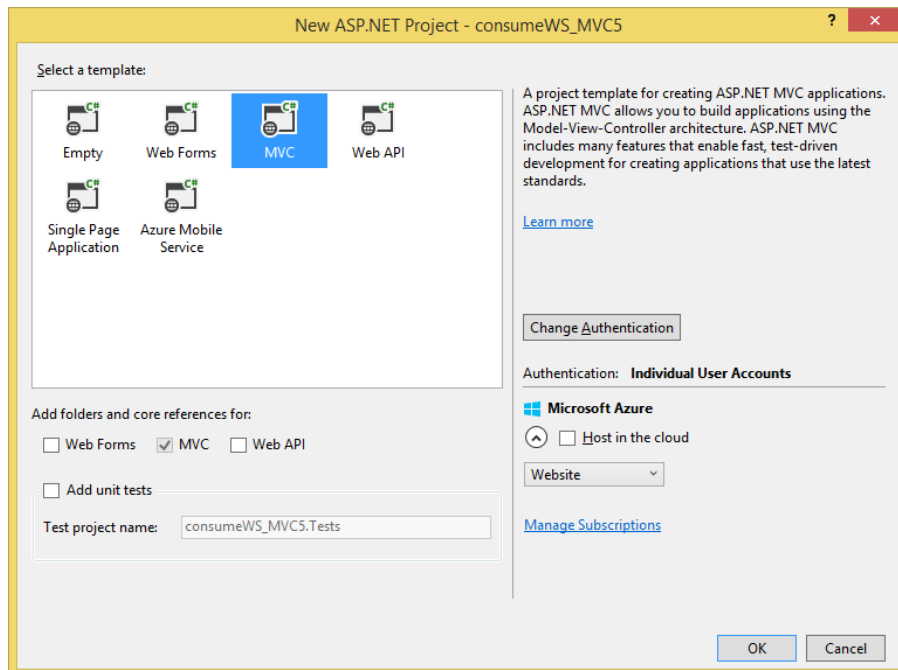
**Conclusion:** We saw how the HttpClient class provides useful methods to call an ASP.NET Web API service asynchronously from the managed clients like WPF or ASP.NET MVC.

End Painful Example...

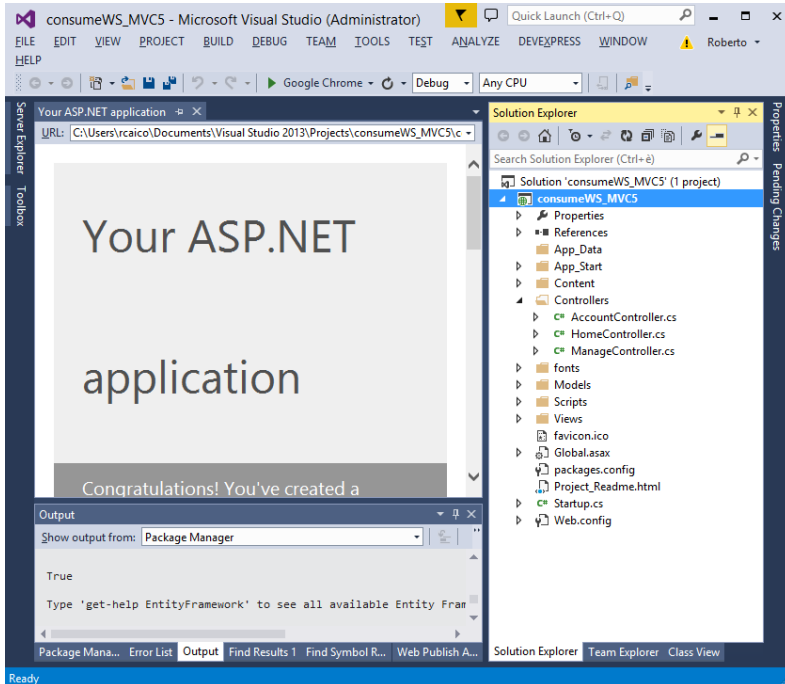
### Next Example (somewhat incomplete)

A RESTful Web Service, e.g. Web API service, and you want to create a new MVC application that consume this Web Service. I designed a simple way to achieve the goal.

From Visual Studio wizard create a new MVC 5 Project.

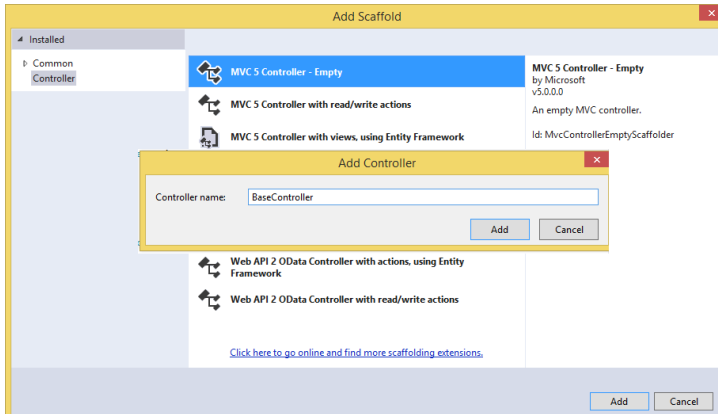


By default you'll find 3 standard controllers: Account, Manage and Home.



And all inherits from Controller.

Now create a new MVC 5 controller and name it: "BaseController".



Change the generalization of the other controllers and implement the BaseController. I have shown it in the following screenshot under Home Controller,

```

BaseController.cs  AccountController.cs  HomeController.cs*  Your ASP.NET application
consumeWS_MVC5    consumeWS_MVC5.Controllers.HomeController  Index()

using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Linq;
using System.Web;
using System.Web.Mvc;

namespace consumeWS_MVC5.Controllers
{
    public class HomeController : BaseController
    {
        public ActionResult Index()
        {
            return View();
        }

        public ActionResult About()
        {
            ViewBag.Message = "Your application description page.";

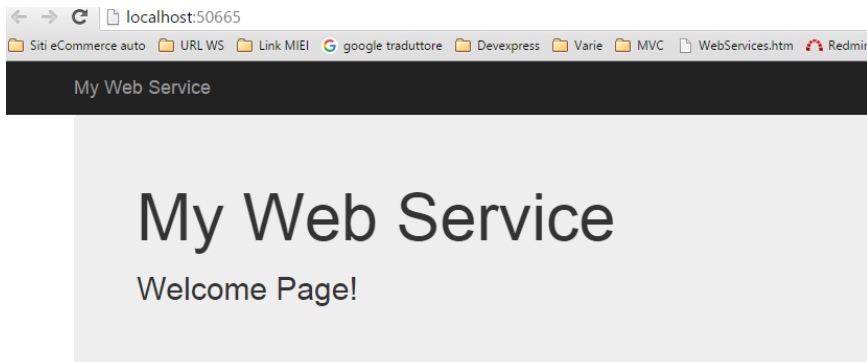
            return View();
        }

        public ActionResult Contact()
        {
            ViewBag.Message = "Your contact page.";

            return View();
        }
    }
}

```

Suppose now there exist a web API service,



And you want contact this for get your Business Object Info as :

- **Products Detail:** localhost:50665\api\Products
- **Orders Detail:** localhost:50665\api\Orders
- **Customers Detail:** localhost:50665\api\Customers
- **Invoice Detail:** localhost:50665\api\Document\GetInvoice?num=1

So, I think I found a very easy way,

I created Base Controller, a generic method (**GetWSObject**) for contacting the WebService from all Controller and returned my desired object as a dynamic object:

```

1. public async Task < T > GetWSObject < T > (string uriActionString)
2. {
3.     T returnValue =
4.         default (T);
5.     try

```

```
6.    {
7.        using(var client = new HttpClient())
8.        {
9.            client.BaseAddress = new Uri(@"http://localhost:50665/");
10.           client.DefaultRequestHeaders.Accept.Clear();
11.           client.DefaultRequestHeaders.Accept.Add(new MediaTypeWithQualityHead
returnValue("application/json"));
12.           HttpResponseMessage response = await client.GetAsync(uriActionString
);
13.           response.EnsureSuccessStatusCode();
14.           returnValue = JsonConvert.DeserializeObject < T > (((HttpResponseMes
sage) response).Content.ReadAsStringAsync().Result);
15.       }
16.       return returnValue;
17.   }
18.   catch (Exception e)
19.   {
20.       throw (e);
21.   }
22. }
```

The method takes the uriActionString as an input parameter and returns the result dynamically deserialized as my business model object .

So, for example, if you want to take the detail for Product with id=11 and show this in your MVC application in the HomeController (that implement the BaseController) you can create the following ActionResult:

```
1. public async Task < ActionResult > ViewProduct(int Id)
2. {
3.     ViewBag.Message = "Your products page.";
4.     Product product = new Product();
5.     string urlAction = String.Format("/api/Products/{0}", Id);
6.     product = await GetWSObject < Product > (urlAction);
7.     return View(product);
8. }
```

With 2 lines you get the result and you have a Product object to pass (e.g.) in your View as a viewmodel.

Obviously, with the same modalities you can contact any other method of the Web Service, from any other Controller; simply change the urlAction string and call the GetWSObject method passing the desired result object type (<Product>).

## References

1. Consuming a Web API Asynchronously in ASP.NET MVC or WPF:  
<http://www.dotnetcurry.com/aspnet/1192/aspnet-web-api-async-calls-mvc-wpf>
  - a. Both the Publishing API and MVC client
  - b. Completed Project: webapi-async-wpf-mvc: <https://github.com/dotnetcurry/webapi-async-wpf-mvc>
2. Consuming Web Services In ASP.NET MVC 5 Application: <http://www.c-sharpcorner.com/UploadFile/653eb2/consuming-web-services-in-Asp-Net-mvc-5-application/>
3. ANCIENT – Using XML : No client side - RESTful XHTML - RESTful Services With ASP.NET MVC:  
<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/magazine/dd943053.aspx>