

.NET App Dev Hands-On Lab

MVC Lab 5 – View Components, Tag Helpers

This lab walks you through creating a View Component and custom Tag Helpers. Before starting this lab, you must have completed MVC Lab 4.

Part 1: Adding the Menu View Component

Step 1: Update the Global Using Statements

- Add the following global using statements to the `GlobalUsings.cs` file in the `AutoLot.Mvc` project:

```
global using AutoLot.Models.Entities;  
global using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Mvc.ViewComponents;
```

Step 2: Create the View Component Server-Side Code

- Create a new folder named `ViewComponents` in the `AutoLot.Mvc` project and add a new class named `MenuViewComponent.cs`. Update the class to the following:

Note: Only implement the `Invoke` or the `InvokeAsync` method, not both

```
namespace AutoLot.Mvc.ViewComponents;  
public class MenuViewComponent(IMakeRepo makeRepo) : ViewComponent  
{  
    public async Task<IViewComponentResult> InvokeAsync()  
    {  
        return await Task.Run<IViewComponentResult>(() =>  
        {  
            var makes = makeRepo.GetAll().ToList();  
            if (!makes.Any())  
            {  
                return new ContentViewComponentResult("Unable to get the makes");  
            }  
            return View("MenuView", makes);  
        });  
    }  
}
```

Step 3: Update the `ViewImports.cshtml` File

- To use the `ViewComponent` as a Tag Helper, the assembly must be registered in the `_ViewImports.cshtml` file located in the `Views` folder. Add the following to the end of the file:

```
@addTagHelper *, AutoLot.Mvc
```

Step 4: Create the ViewComponent Partial View

- Add a new folder named Components under the Views\Shared folder. Add a new folder named Menu under the Components folder. Add a new partial view named MenuView.cshtml in the new folder.
- Update the code to match the following:

```
@model IEnumerable<Make>
<div class="dropdown-menu">
<a class="dropdown-item text-dark" asp-area="" asp-controller="Cars" asp-action="Index">All</a>

@foreach (var item in Model)
{
    <a class="dropdown-item text-dark" asp-controller="Cars" asp-action="ByMake" asp-route-
makeId="@item.Id" asp-route-makeName="@item.Name">@item.Name</a>
}
</div>
```

Step 5: Update the _Menu.cshtml Partial View

- Open the _Menu.cshtml file in Views\Shared\Partials folder and add the view component as a tag helper before each of the Privacy menu items:

```
<ul class="navbar-nav flex-grow-1">
<li class="nav-item dropdown">
    <a class="nav-link dropdown-toggle text-dark" data-toggle="dropdown">
        Inventory <i class="fa fa-car"></i>
    </a>
    <vc:menu/>
</li>
...
</ul>
```

Step 6: Stub out the Cars Controller

- Add a new class named `CarsController.cs` in the `Controllers` directory. Stub out the following methods on the controller:

```
namespace AutoLot.Mvc.Controllers;
[Route("[controller]/[action]")]
public class CarsController : Controller
{
    [Route("/[controller]")]
    [Route("/[controller]/[action]")]
    [HttpGet]
    public IActionResult Index() => View();
    [HttpGet("{makeId}/{makeName}")]
    public IActionResult ByMake(int makeId, string makeName)
    {
        return View();
    }
    [HttpGet("{id?}")]
    public IActionResult Details(int? id)
    {
        return View();
    }
    [HttpGet]
    public IActionResult Create()
    {
        return View();
    }
    [HttpGet]
    public IActionResult Edit(int? id)
    {
        return View();
    }
    [HttpGet]
    public IActionResult Delete(int? id)
    {
        return View();
    }
}
```

- **Note:** This controller will be completed in the next lab. The controller class and action methods are needed for the `MenuViewComponent` and the Tag Helpers. If you run the app now, you will see the drop-down menu of the makes, although none of the menu items take you to a working page because the views don't exist yet.

Part 2: Adding the Custom Tag Helpers

Step 1: Update the GlobalUsings.cs file

- Add the following to the GlobalUsings.cs file:

```
global using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Mvc.Routing;
global using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Razor.TagHelpers;
```

Step 2: Create the ItemLinkTagHelperBase

- Create a new folder in the AutoLot.Mvc project named TagHelpers and add another folder named Base under the TagHelpers folder. In the Base folder, add a new class named ItemLinkTagHelperBase.cs. Update the class to the following:

```
namespace AutoLot.Mvc.TagHelpers.Base;

public abstract class ItemLinkTagHelperBase(
    IActionContextAccessor contextAccessor,
    IUrlHelperFactory urlHelperFactory) : TagHelper
{
    protected readonly IUrlHelper UrlHelper
        = urlHelperFactory.GetUrlHelper(contextAccessor.ActionContext);
    private readonly string _controllerName
        = contextAccessor.ActionContext.ActionDescriptor.RouteValues["controller"];
    public int? ItemId { get; set; }
    protected string ActionName { get; set; }

    protected void BuildContent(
        TagHelperOutput output, string cssClassName, string displayText, string fontAwesomeName)
    {
        output.TagName = "a"; // Replaces <email> with <a> tag
        var target = (ItemId.HasValue)
            ? UrlHelper.Action(ActionName, _controllerName, new {id = ItemId})
            : UrlHelper.Action(ActionName, _controllerName);
        output.Attributes.SetAttribute("href", target);
        output.Attributes.Add("class", cssClassName);
        output.Content.AppendHtml($"{displayText} <i class=""fa-solid fa-{fontAwesomeName}""></i>");
    }
}
```

- Add the following to the GlobalUsings.cs file:

```
global using AutoLot.Mvc.TagHelpers;
global using AutoLot.Mvc.TagHelpers.Base;
```

Step 3: Create the ItemCreateTagHelper

- In the TagHelpers folder, add a new class named ItemCreateTagHelper.cs and update the code to match the following:

```
namespace AutoLot.Mvc.TagHelpers;

public class ItemCreateTagHelper : ItemLinkTagHelperBase
{
    public ItemCreateTagHelper(
        IActionContextAccessor contextAccessor,
        IUrlHelperFactory urlHelperFactory)
        : base(contextAccessor, urlHelperFactory)
    {
        ActionName = nameof(CarsController.Create);
    }
    public override void Process(TagHelperContext context, TagHelperOutput output)
    {
        BuildContent(output, "text-success", "Create New", "plus");
    }
}
```

Step 4: Create the ItemDeleteTagHelper

- In the TagHelpers folder, add a new class named ItemDeleteTagHelper.cs and update the class to the following:

```
namespace AutoLot.Mvc.TagHelpers;

public class ItemDeleteTagHelper : ItemLinkTagHelperBase
{
    public ItemDeleteTagHelper(
        IActionContextAccessor contextAccessor,
        IUrlHelperFactory urlHelperFactory)
        : base(contextAccessor, urlHelperFactory)
    {
        ActionName = nameof(CarsController.Delete);
    }
    public override void Process(TagHelperContext context, TagHelperOutput output)
    {
        BuildContent(output, "text-danger", "Delete", "trash");
    }
}
```

Step 5: Create the ItemDetailsTagHelper

- In the TagHelpers folder, add a new class named ItemDetailsTagHelper.cs and update the class to the following:

```
namespace AutoLot.Mvc.TagHelpers;

public class ItemDetailsTagHelper : ItemLinkTagHelperBase
{
    public ItemDetailsTagHelper(
        IActionContextAccessor contextAccessor,
        IUrlHelperFactory urlHelperFactory)
        : base(contextAccessor, urlHelperFactory)
    {
        ActionName = nameof(CarsController.Details);
    }
    public override void Process(TagHelperContext context, TagHelperOutput output)
    {
        BuildContent(output, "text-info", "Details", "info-circle");
    }
}
```

Step 6: Create the ItemEditTagHelper

- In the TagHelpers folder, add a new class named ItemEditTagHelper.cs and update the class to the following:

```
namespace AutoLot.Mvc.TagHelpers;

public class ItemEditTagHelper : ItemLinkTagHelperBase
{
    public ItemEditTagHelper(
        IActionContextAccessor contextAccessor,
        IUrlHelperFactory urlHelperFactory)
        : base(contextAccessor, urlHelperFactory)
    {
        ActionName = nameof(CarsController.Edit);
    }
    public override void Process(TagHelperContext context, TagHelperOutput output)
    {
        BuildContent(output, "text-warning", "Edit", "edit");
    }
}
```

Step 7: Create the List Items TagHelper

- In the TagHelpers folder, add a new class named `ItemListTagHelper.cs` and update the code to the following:

```
namespace AutoLot.Mvc.TagHelpers;

public class ItemListTagHelper : ItemLinkTagHelperBase
{
    public ItemListTagHelper(
        IActionContextAccessor contextAccessor, IUrlHelperFactory urlHelperFactory)
        : base(contextAccessor, urlHelperFactory)
    {
        ActionName = nameof(CarsController.Index);
    }
    public override void Process(TagHelperContext context, TagHelperOutput output)
    {
        BuildContent(output, "text-default", "Back to List", "list");
    }
}
```

Summary

The lab created the Menu view component and the custom tag helpers.

Next steps

In the next part of this tutorial series, you will build the `BaseCrudController` and complete the `CarsController`.