

Back-end Interview Exercise

- Follow the directions below to build an Asp.Net Web API service
- Create a `README.md` that explains how to run the project
- Check all of the above into a new public repository in GitHub
- Email the repo link to your HR contact!

Problem

At PeopleNet we're all about the transportation industry. For this exercise we would like to help route a truck from point A to point B on a fictional "map".

Your web service should expose a single endpoint on port 8080. It should be a POST method that accepts our "map" as its body. The endpoint should be `/solveMaze`. It should return a JSON response that contains an integer property `steps` that represents the number of steps to get from A to B. Additionally, it should return a string `solution`, similar to the input, with an additional character, `@`, representing the solution path. The POST body will be a string representing the maze, that contains the following types of characters:

- `.` represents an open road
- `#` represents a blocked road
- `A` represents the starting point
- `B` represents the destination point

Anything outside the bounds of the array should be considered a wall. In addition, you may only move in horizontal or vertical directions. Diagonal movements are not allowed.

Example input maze:

```
#####  
#A...#...#  
#.#.##.##  
#.#.##.##  
#.#....#B#  
#.#.##.##  
#....#...#  
#####
```

Example visualization of the solution, using @ to represent the correct path.

```
#####  
#A@@.#...#  
#.#@##.##  
#.#@##.##  
#.#@@@@#B#  
#.#.##@##  
#...#@@@#  
#####
```

For the above sample, the web service should return:

```
{  
  "steps": 14,  
  "solution": "#####  
               #A@@.#...#  
               #.#@##.##  
               #.#@##.##  
               #.#@@@@#B#  
               #.#.##@##  
               #...#@@@#  
               #####"  
}
```

Goal

Your solution should be able to solve the included mazes `maze1.txt` (pictured above), `maze2.txt`, and `maze3.txt` correctly. Each maze solution should run in under a minute on reasonable hardware.