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MSDN Article Query

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TENTATIVE TITLE

Unifying client side logging with server side logging

BLURB

Logging allows you to see what goes on inside a live application. In modern web sites, a request is handled by both server side code and JavaScript code on the client. This article explains how to integrate client side and server side logging, to gain a unified view of the life of your application.

DESCRIPTION

Live applications suffer from exceptions and unexpected user behaviour. Logging is one way to gain insight into what goes on inside your application.

Server side logging packages such as Log4Net, NLog and Elmah are long established. But most modern web applications are coded as much on the client as on the server.

Because a bug on the server can lead to an exception on the client, you need a unified view in a single log on what happens inside the entire application, whether client side or server side.

This hands on article discusses how to create such a logging solution. It addresses these issues:

* Logging on the client, shipping the log data to the server, and handing it to your server side logging package for storage.
* Minimizing bandwidth and server load, by only shipping relevant log data. Techniques include suppressing near duplicates, and only logging for problem browsers such as IE8.
* Grouping log entries that belong to the same request using request ids, and sorting them in the order in which they were generated using client side and server side timestamps.
* Generating additional information for exceptions beyond a stack trace. Tracing method calls and key variables and storing this log data on the client, only sending it to the server when an exception actually happens.
* Configuring client side loggers on the server.

The article will show how to solve these issues with a number of libraries and technologies, including JSNLog, Stacktrace.js, Common.Logging and TypeScript, the language used to implement JSNLog.

TAKEAWAYS

You will be able to create an integrated logging infrastructure that allows you to get a unified view of what goes on inside your application on both the server and the client.

SCOPE

* Logging

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

* C#
* JavaScript / TypeScript

TECHNOLOGIES DISCUSSED

* Common.Logging
* NLog / Log4Net / Elmah
* JSNLog
* Stacktrace.js

BIO

Matt Perdeck has over 8 years experience architecting and implementing .NET based high performance web sites, including Ticketek, the largest ticketing web site in Australia.

He is the author of the book "ASP.NET Performance Secrets", numerous articles, and 5 open source projects.

He has worked in The Netherlands, Slovakia and Thailand. He is currently employed at Readify, a high profile software consultancy in Sydney, Australia.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Blog  
<http://mattperdeck.com/>

Articles on codeproject.com  
<http://www.codeproject.com/script/Articles/MemberArticles.aspx?amid=4332264>

Author of "ASP.NET Site Performance Secrets", published by Packt Publishing  
<http://www.amazon.com/ASP-NET-Site-Performance-Secrets-Perdeck/dp/1849690685>

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TARGET AUDIENCE

Architects and developers creating complex web sites with significant client side code.