

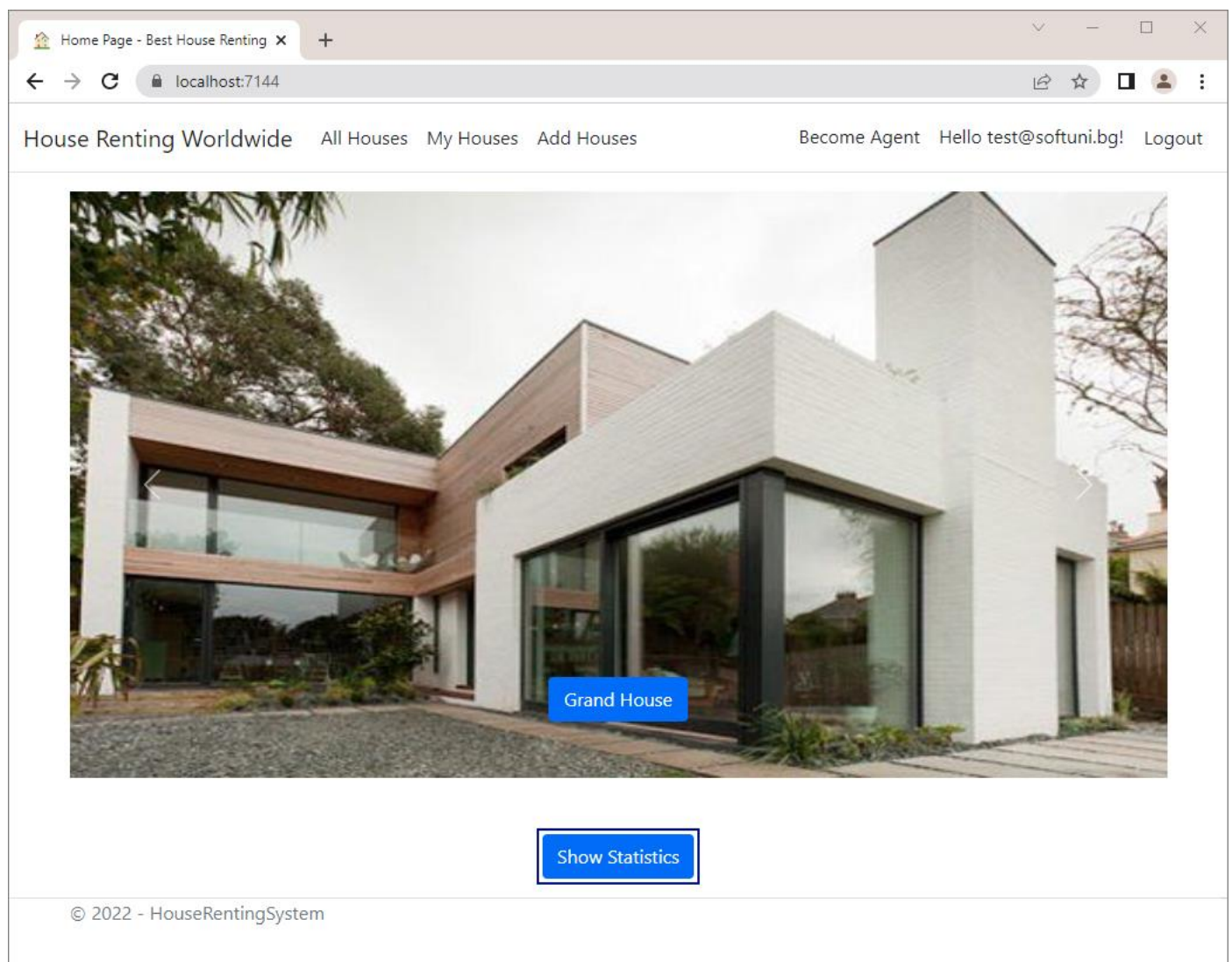
Workshop: Security and Web API

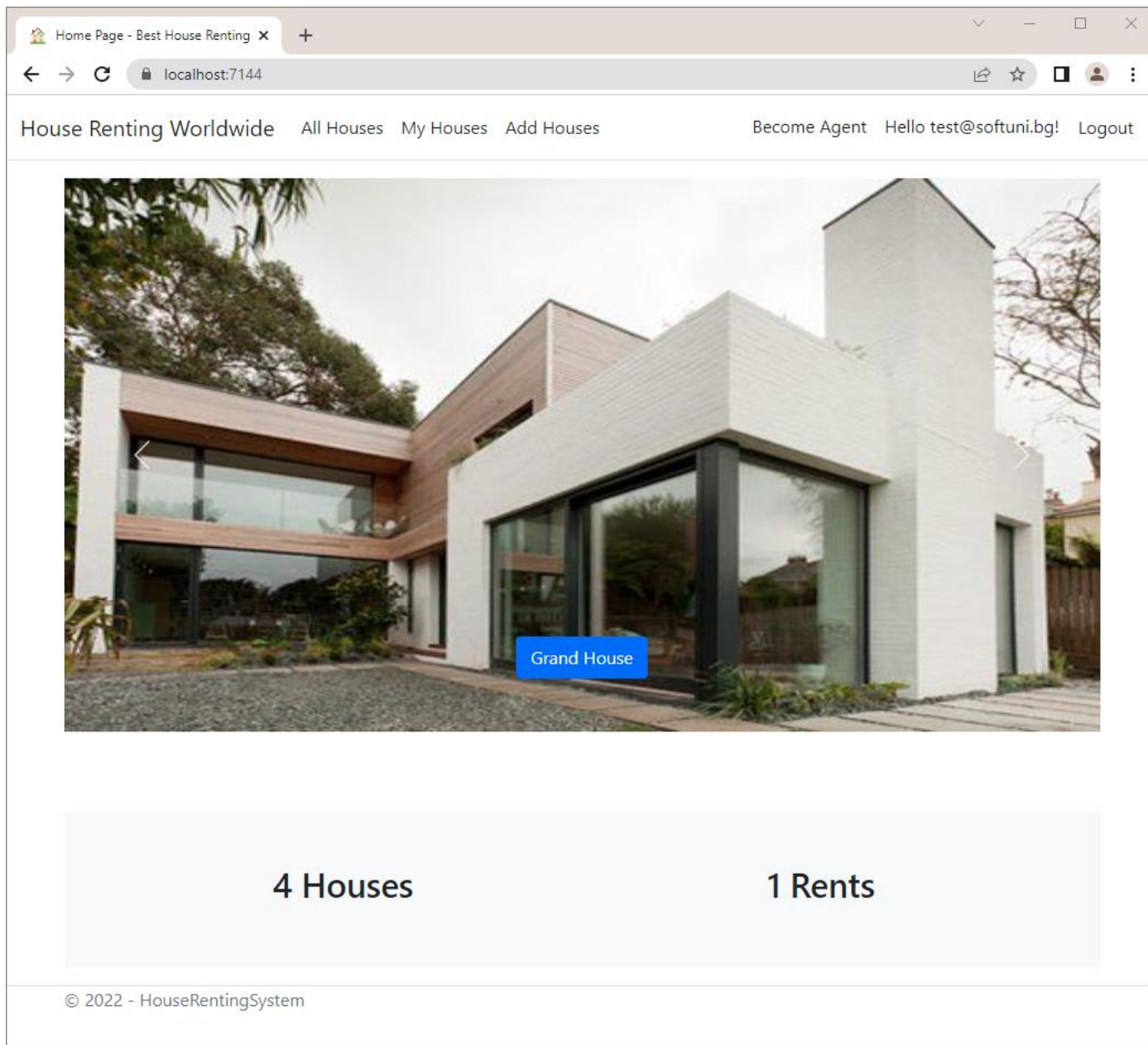
Workshop for the ["ASP.NET Advanced" course @ SoftUni](#)

The **"House Renting System" ASP.NET Core MVC App** is a Web application for **house renting**. **Users** can look at **all houses** with their **details**, **rent a house** and look at **their rented houses**. They can also **become Agents**. **Agents** can **add houses**, see their **details** and **edit** and **delete** only **houses they added**. The **Admin** has **all privileges** of **Users** and **Agents** and can see **all registrations** in the app and **all made rents**.

1. Create Web API

In this task, we want to **display statistics of houses and rents** in the bottom of the **"Home"** page. The page should have a **[Show Statistics]** button. When the **button is clicked**, the **total houses and total rents counts will be displayed**. It should look like this:





To do this, our view will use **JavaScript code** to send a **"GET" request**, which will **invoke an API controller method**. The **controller method** will use a **service to return the counts to the controller**, which will pass them to the **view**.

Start by **creating a service for the statistics**. Create the **IStatisticsService interface** in folder **"/Contracts/Statistic"** and the **StatisticService class** in folder **"/Services/Statistic"**.

They will have a **single method to return a model with total counts** from the database. Create the **StatisticServiceModel** in folder **"/Models/Statistic"** and **add properties** to it:

```
public class StatisticServiceModel
{
    1 reference
    public int TotalHouses { get; set; }

    1 reference
    public int TotalRents { get; set; }
}
```

Define and implement the service method, which returns a **StatisticServiceModel**:

```

public interface IStatisticService
{
    0 references
    StatisticServiceModel Total();
}

public class StatisticService : IStatisticService
{
    private readonly HouseRentingDbContext _data;

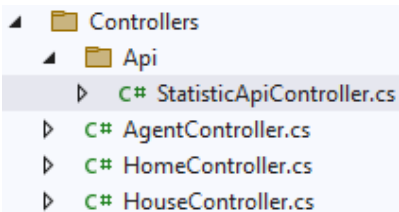
    0 references
    public StatisticService(HouseRentingDbContext data)
    {
        _data = data;
    }

    1 reference
    public StatisticServiceModel Total()
    {
        var totalHouses = _data.Houses.Count();
        var totalRents = _data
            .Houses
            .Where(h => h.RenterId != null)
            .Count();

        return new StatisticServiceModel
        {
            TotalHouses = totalHouses,
            TotalRents = totalRents
        };
    }
}

```

Now create the **StatisticsApiController** class in folder **"/Controllers/Api"**. This will be the **API controller** class, which will use the **service** to **return responses on HTTP requests**:



```

public class StatisticApiController : Controller
{
}

```

To make the **StatisticApiController** class work as an **API controller**, it should inherit the **ControllerBase** class and have the **[ApiController]** and **[Route]** attributes:

```

[ApiController]
[Route("api/statistic")]
0 references
public class StatisticApiController : ControllerBase
{
}

```

Note that we have **set the controller route** to be **"api/statistic"**. This means that the **controller and its methods** will be **invoked on an HTTP request** to <https://localhost:44342/api/statistic>.

The **controller class** should use the **statistic interface** and should have a **single method** to return a **StatisticServiceModel** on a **"GET" request**. Do it like this:

```

[ApiController]
[Route("api/statistic")]
1 reference
public class StatisticApiController : ControllerBase
{
    private readonly IStatisticService _statistics;

    0 references
    public StatisticApiController(IStatisticService statistics)
    {
        _statistics = statistics;
    }

    [HttpGet]
    0 references
    public StatisticServiceModel GetStatistic()
    {
        return _statistics.Total();
    }
}

```

Don't forget that you should **add the service** in **Program.cs** class to use it:

```
builder.Services.AddTransient<IStatisticService, StatisticService>();
```

Finally, we should modify the **Index.cshtml** view to send a "GET" request to "api/statistic" and **display the returned data**. To do this, we will create a `<div>` and use a **JavaScript** function to **fill it with data**. Add the following code to the end of **Index.cshtml** it like this:

```

Index.cshtml  ↗ ✕
<div class="mb-5"></div>

<div class="row">
    <div class="col-12 text-center">
        <button class="btn btn-primary" id="statistics-button">Show Statistics</button>
    </div>
</div>

<div class="mt-4 p-5 bg-light d-none" id="statistics">
    <div class="row">
        <h2 class="col-md-6 text-center" id="total-houses"></h2>
        <h2 class="col-md-6 text-center" id="total-rents"></h2>
    </div>
</div>

@section Scripts {
    <script>
        $('#statistics-button').on('click', ev => {
            $.get('/api/statistics', (data) => {
                $('#total-houses').text(data.totalHouses + " Houses");
                $('#total-rents').text(data.totalRents + " Rents");
                $('#statistics').removeClass('d-none');
                $('#statistics-button').hide();
            });
        });
    </script>
}

```

Now try out the **statistic functionality** in the browser. You should see the **total houses and rents count** when you **click** on the **[Show statistics]** button. Make sure everything works as expected.

2. Secure the App Against CSRF

Anti-forgery tokens are a security mechanism to defend against **cross-site request forgery (CSRF) attacks**. The **AutoValidateAntiforgeryTokenAttribute** is a **global MVC filter** to automatically validate all appropriate action methods.

Now, we will **add a filter** to protect our app against **CSRF attacks**, **enhance URLs** that access the **"Details"** page and **inject and use services in views**.

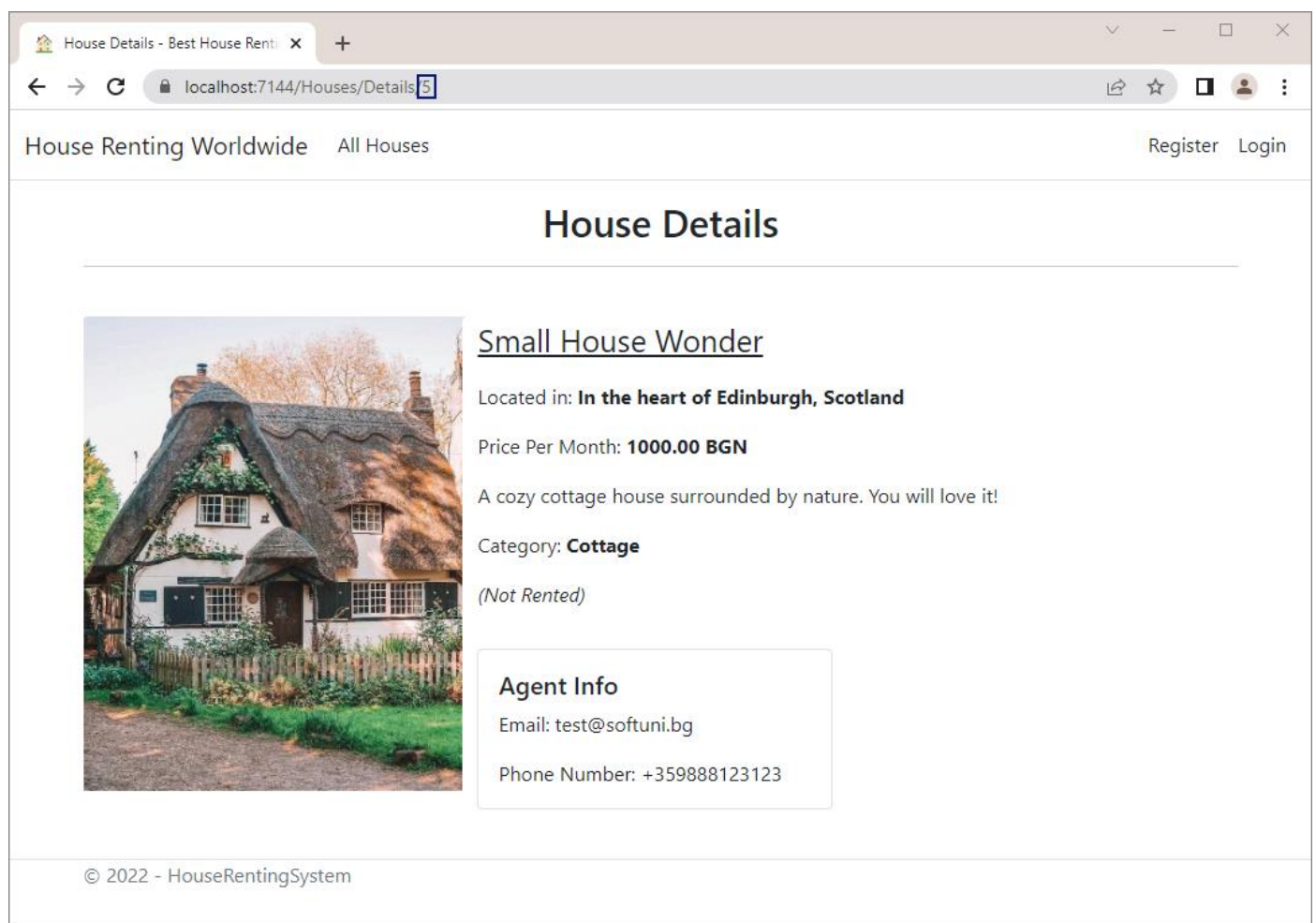
Go to the **Program.cs** of your app and **add the filter** to the **AddControllersWithViews(...)** method like this:

```
builder.Services.AddControllersWithViews(options =>
{
    options.Filters.Add<AutoValidateAntiforgeryTokenAttribute>();
});
```

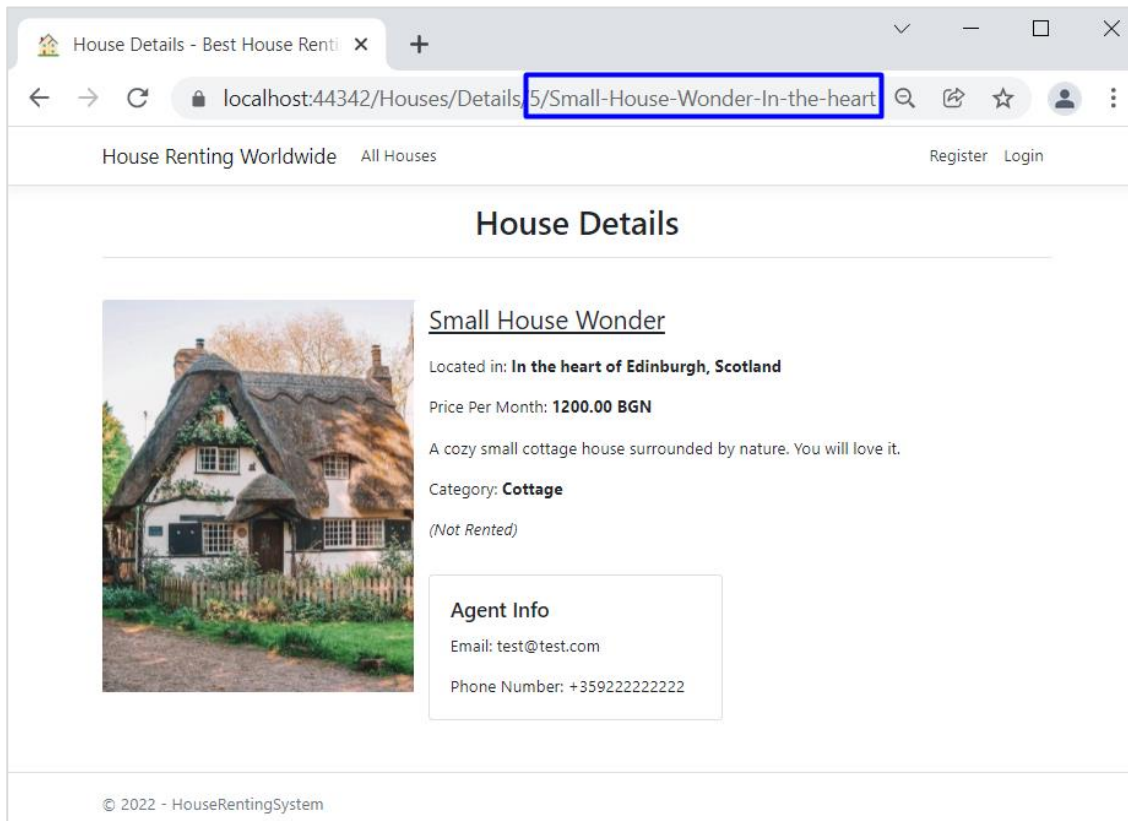
Now you are **secure against CSRF attacks**.

3. Protect URLs

Our task now is to **modify the URLs** of the **"Details"** page to be **more secure** and, at the same time, more **SEO-friendly**. The reason for this change is that now everyone can **easily reach our pages** only by **changing the house id parameter** in the **URL**:



In this way, we are **not protected** from someone **stealing the information** through a **foreach**. To prevent this, we will add some **house information** (the **house title** and **part of the address**) to the **URL** like this:



To do this, we should **modify our routes to include the information in the URL** and the **"Details" page** for a house to be accessed on **"/House/Details/{id}/{information}"**. When we click on a **[Details] button**, we will **include this information**. Then, when we access the **"Details" page**, the **information will be checked**. If it is **missing or different**, a **BadRequest** will be returned.

Start by **creating a custom controller route** to include the house information. Go to the **Program class** and add the following code:

```
app.UseEndpoints(endpoints =>
{
    endpoints.MapControllerRoute(
        name: "House Details",
        pattern: "/House/Details/{id}/{information}",
        defaults: new { Controller = "House", Action = "Details" });

    endpoints.MapDefaultControllerRoute();
    endpoints.MapRazorPages();
});
```

Because of this **endpoint**, now our **Details(int id)** method in the **HouseController** accepts an **additional parameter with information**. Before we **modify the method**, however, let's **create a method**, which will generate the **information string**.

As this is a **web-related job**, even though it will use service models, we will create an **extension class** called **ModelExtensions** in folder **"/Infrastructure"**:

```
Infrastructure
├── ClaimsPrincipalExtensions.cs
├── HouseSorting.cs
└── ModelExtensions.cs

public static class ModelExtensions
{
}
}
```

The class will have an **extension method for getting the house information**. We will need this method for **several models** (**HouseServiceModel**, **HouseIndexServiceModel**, etc.), but we **don't want to write methods for each**

one of them. For this reason, we will create an interface with the properties for the information and other classes will implement that interface.

Create the `IHouseModel` interface in the "Contracts" folder and define properties for title and address:

```
public interface IHouseModel
{
    0 references
    public string Title { get; }

    0 references
    public string Address { get; }
}
```

Go back to the `ModelExtensions` class and add a method for getting the house information. In it, we should get the title and the first three words of the address. They should be joined by a hyphen "-" and should not contain any other symbols, except for letters, digits and hyphens. Write the class like this:

```
public static class ModelExtensions
{
    0 references
    public static string GetInformation(this IHouseModel house)
    {
        return house.Title.Replace(" ", "-") + "-" + GetAddress(house.Address);
    }

    1 reference
    private static string GetAddress(string address)
    {
        address = String.Join("-", address.Split(" ").Take(3));
        return Regex.Replace(address, @"^[^a-zA-Z0-9\-]", string.Empty);
    }
}
```

Now modify the [Details] buttons in the views to add the house information to the URL when they send a request. We should do this in the "_HousePartial.cshtml" and "Index.cshtml" views. They accept and pass a `HouseServiceModel` and a `HouseIndexServiceModel`. To use the extension method we created, these two model classes should implement the `IHouseModel` interface:

```
public class HouseServiceModel : IHouseModel
{
}

public class HouseIndexServiceModel : IHouseModel
{
}
```

Note that we should add an `Address` property to the `HouseIndexServiceModel` to implement the interface. Don't forget to assign a value to the property in the `LastThreeHouses()` method of the `HouseService` class:

```
public async Task<IEnumerable<HouseIndexServiceModel>> LastThreeHouses()
{
    return _data
        .Houses
        .OrderByDescending(c => c.Id)
        .Select(c => new HouseIndexServiceModel
        {
            Id = c.Id,
            Title = c.Title,
            ImageUrl = c.ImageUrl,
            Address = c.Address
        })
        .Take(3);
}
```

Now you can **modify the views** to **send the information** when making requests. First, go to the **"_ViewImports.cshtml"** view and add the **ModelExtensions** class namespace to use its method:

```
@using HouseRentingSystem.Infrastructure;
```

Go to the **"_HousePartial.cshtml"** view and add the house information as a route parameter:

```
<div class="col-md-4">
    <div class="card mb-3">
        
        <div class="card-body text-center">
            <h4>@Model.Title</h4>
            <h6>Address: <b>@Model.Address</b></h6>
            <h6>
                Price Per Month:
                <b>@String.Format("{0:f2}", Model.PricePerMonth) BGN</b>
            </h6>
            <h6>@((Model.IsRented ? "Rented" : "Not Rented"))</h6>
            <br />
            <a asp-controller="House" asp-action="Details" asp-route-id="@Model.Id"
                asp-route-information="@Model.GetInformation()" class="btn btn-success">Details</a>
        </div>
    </div>
</div>
```

Do the same with the **[Details]** button in the **"Index.cshtml"** view:

```
<div id="carouselExampleControls" class="carousel slide" data-bs-ride="carousel">
    <div class="carousel-inner">
        @for (int i = 0; i < houses.Count(); i++)
        {
            var house = houses[i];
            <div class="carousel-item @(i == 0 ? "active" : string.Empty)">
                
                <div class="carousel-caption d-none d-md-block">
                    <h5>
                        <a class="btn btn-primary" asp-controller="House" asp-action="Details"
                            asp-route-id="@house.Id"
                            asp-route-information="@house.GetInformation()"> @house.Title</a>
                    </h5>
                </div>
            </div>
        }
    </div>
</div>
```

Note that here we are **not protected from unescaped characters** (to do this, we should **decode** and **encode** the URL). However, we won't do this here, so you can **do it on your own**, if you want.

Now we should modify the **Details(int id)** method in the **HouseController** to **accept the information string** and **check if it is correct**. Do it like this:


```

public async Task<IActionResult> Details(int id, string information)
{
    if(await _houses.Exists(id) == false)
    {
        return BadRequest();
    }

    var houseModel = await _houses.HouseDetailsById(id);

    if (information != houseModel.GetInformation())
    {
        return BadRequest();
    }

    return View(houseModel);
}

```

Also, we should add the information as a parameter when we redirect to the "Details" page. Do this in the `Add(HouseFormModel model)` and `Edit(int id, HouseFormModel model)` methods:

```

[HttpPost]
0 references
public async Task<IActionResult> Add(HouseFormModel model)
{
    if (await _agents.ExistsById(User.Id()) == false) ...

    if (await _houses.CategoryExists(model.CategoryId) == false) ...

    if (!ModelState.IsValid) ...

    var agentId = await _agents.GetAgentId(User.Id());

    var newHouseId = await _houses.Create(model.Title, model.Address,
        model.Description, model.ImageUrl, model.PricePerMonth,
        model.CategoryId, agentId);

    return RedirectToAction(nameof(Details),
        new { id = newHouseId, information = model.GetInformation() });
}

```

[HttpPost]

0 references

```
public async Task<IActionResult> Edit(int id, HouseFormModel house)
{
    if (await _houses.Exists(id) == false) ...

    if (await _houses.HasAgentWithId(id, User.Id()) == false) ...

    if (await _houses.CategoryExists(house.CategoryId) == false) ...

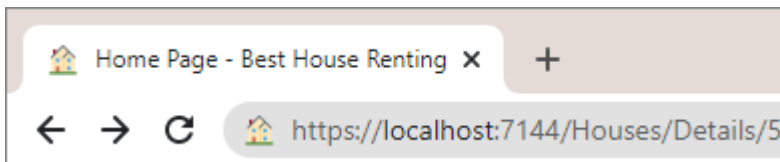
    if (!ModelState.IsValid) ...

    _houses.Edit(id, house.Title, house.Address, house.Description,
        house.ImageUrl, house.PricePerMonth, house.CategoryId);

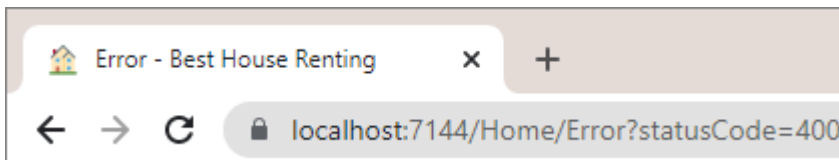
    return RedirectToAction(nameof(Details), new { id = id,
        information = house.GetInformation() });
}
```

Note that the **HouseFormModel** should also **implement** the **IHouseModel** interface for this to work.

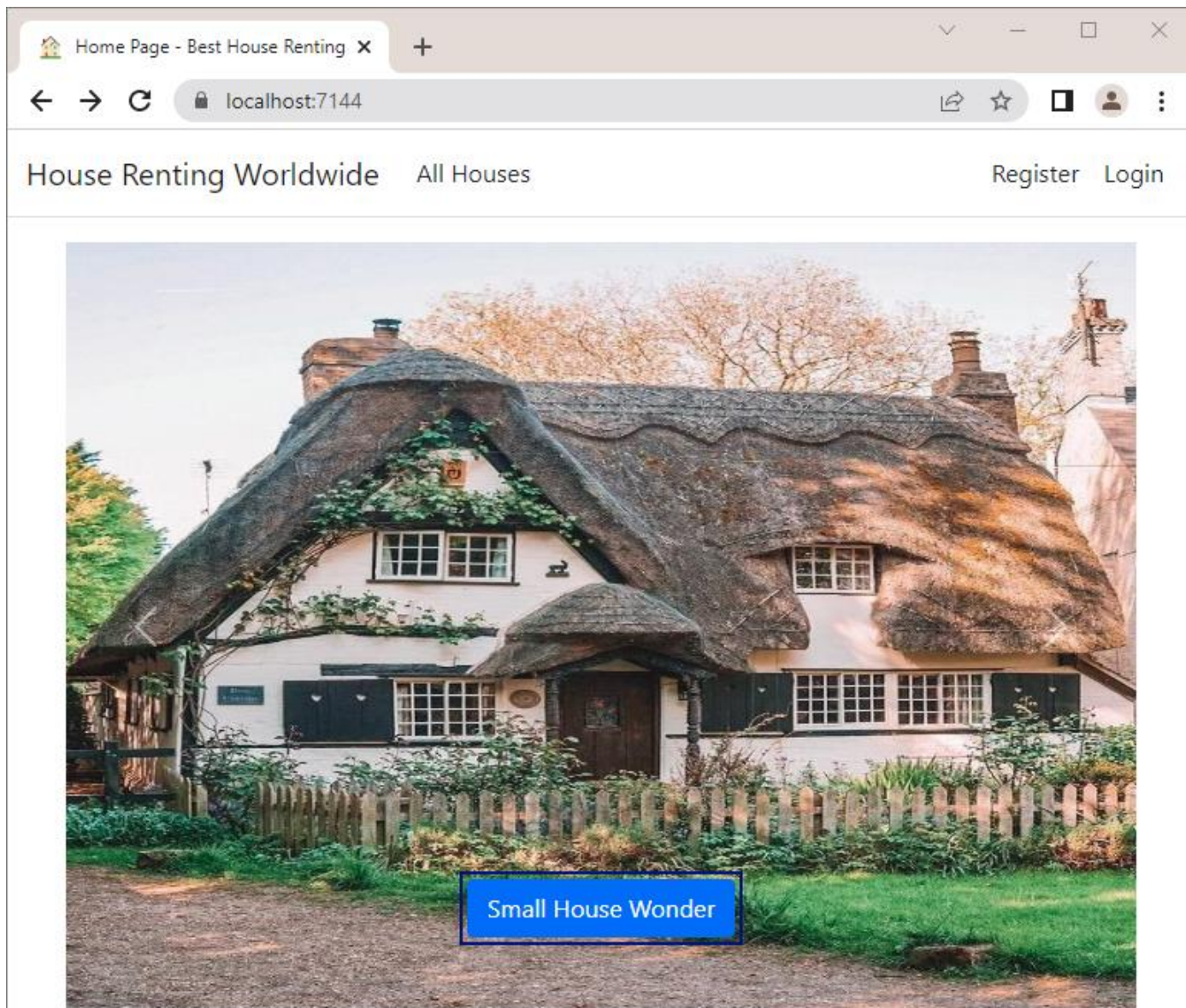
At last, try out the **URLs in the browser**. If you try to **access** the **"Details"** page with only an **id**, you should see the **"400 Bad Request"** error page:



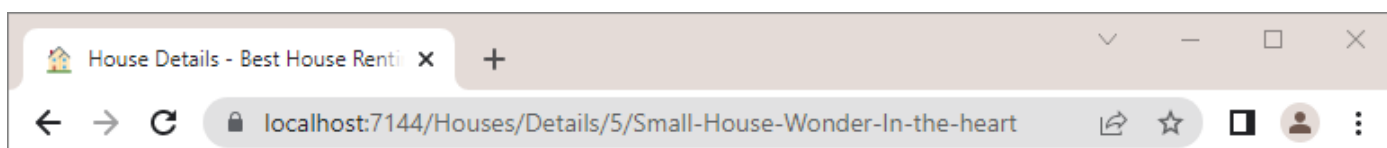
→



However, if you **click** on the **[Details]** button of **any house on any page**, you should see the **house "Details"** page and the **URL** should **contain the house information**:



→



You should be correctly **redirected** to the "**Details**" page after **adding or editing a house**. Try it out, as well.

4. Inject Services in Views

In this task, we will see how to **inject services in views**, so that we can **use service methods**. We want to do this, so that we can **show different buttons**, depending on whether the **user is an agent or not**, whether the user is **the agent of the current house**, etc.

To do this, we should first **add the service classes namespaces** to the "**_ViewImports.cshtml**" view:

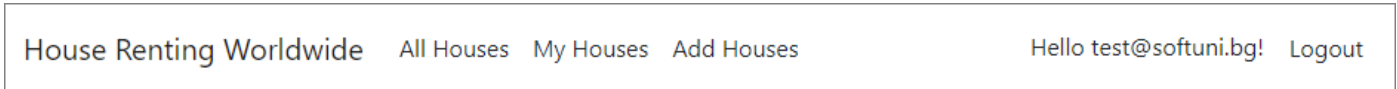
```
@using HouseRentingSystem.Services.Agent;
@using HouseRentingSystem.Contracts.Agent;
```

Step 1: Modify the _Layout.cshtml and _LoginPartial.cshtml Views

Let's start by modifying the **navigation bar views**. Until now, we showed all buttons, no matter if the current user is an agent or not. We will change that now – when the **user is not an agent**, they should see **all buttons for logged-in users**, except for the **[Add House]** one:



When the **user has become an agent**, they should **not see the [Become Agent] button** anymore, but should **see the [Add House]** one:



To **modify** when the **[Add House] button is displayed or not**, we should go to the **"_Layout.cshtml" view** and **inject the IAgentService**, as we want to use its **ExistsById(string userId)** method. Do it like this:

`_Layout.cshtml`  
@inject IAgentService agents

Then, **use the service methods** to check whether the **current user is an agent**. If **they are**, display the **[Add House] button**:

```
<div class="navbar-collapse collapse d-sm-inline-flex justify-content-between">
  <ul class="navbar-nav flex-grow-1">
    <li class="nav-item">
      <a class="nav-link text-dark" asp-area="" asp-controller="House" asp-action="All">All Houses</a>
    </li>
    @if (User.Identity.IsAuthenticated)
    {
      <li class="nav-item">
        @if (await agents.ExistsById(User.Id()))
        {
          <li class="nav-item">
            <a class="nav-link text-dark" asp-area=""
              asp-controller="House" asp-action="Add">Add Houses</a>
          </li>
        }
      </li>
    }
  </ul>
  <partial name="_LoginPartial" />
</div>
```

Try out if the **button is visible to agents and non-agents** in the browser.

Now let's do the same thing with the **[Become Agent] button** of the **navigation bar**. To **modify** when it is **displayed**, go to the **"_LoginPartial.cshtml" view** and **modify** it like this:

_LoginPartial.cshtml

```
@using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Identity
@inject SignInManager<IdentityUser> SignInManager
@inject UserManager<IdentityUser> UserManager
@inject IAgentService agents

<ul class="navbar-nav">
    @if (SignInManager.IsSignedIn(User))
    {
        @if (await agents.ExistsById(User.Id()) == false)
        {
            <li class="nav-item">
                <a class="nav-link text-dark"
                    asp-controller="Agent"
                    asp-action="Become">Become Agent</a>
            </li>
        }
        <li class="nav-item">...
        <li class="nav-item">...
    }
    else ...
</ul>
```

Try out the [Become Agent] button in the browser, too.

Step 2: Modify the _HousePartial.cshtml View

Now we will modify the "_HousePartial.cshtml" view, so that the "All Houses" and "My Houses" pages show the **correct buttons** in different cases.

A **non-agent user** should see the [Details] and [Rent] buttons of houses, which are **not rented**. If they **rent a house**, they should see the [Details] and [Leave] buttons. If **another user rented a given house**, the current user should only see the [Details] button of the house.

Examine the above cases on the page below. The **current user has rented the second house** and **the third one is rented by another user**. The **first one is not rented**:

All Houses - Best House Renting

+

localhost:7144/Houses/All

☆

House Renting Worldwide

All Houses

My Houses

Become Agent

Hello test2@softuni.bg!

Logout

All Houses

Category

Search by text

Sorting

All


...

Newest

Search

<<

>>




Small House Wonder

Address: In the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland

Price Per Month: 1000.00 BGN (Not Rented)

Details

Rent




Grand House

Address: Boyana Neighbourhood, Sofia, Bulgaria

Price Per Month: 2000.00 BGN (Rented)

Details

Leave



Family House Comfort

Address: Near the Sea Garden in Burgas, Bulgaria

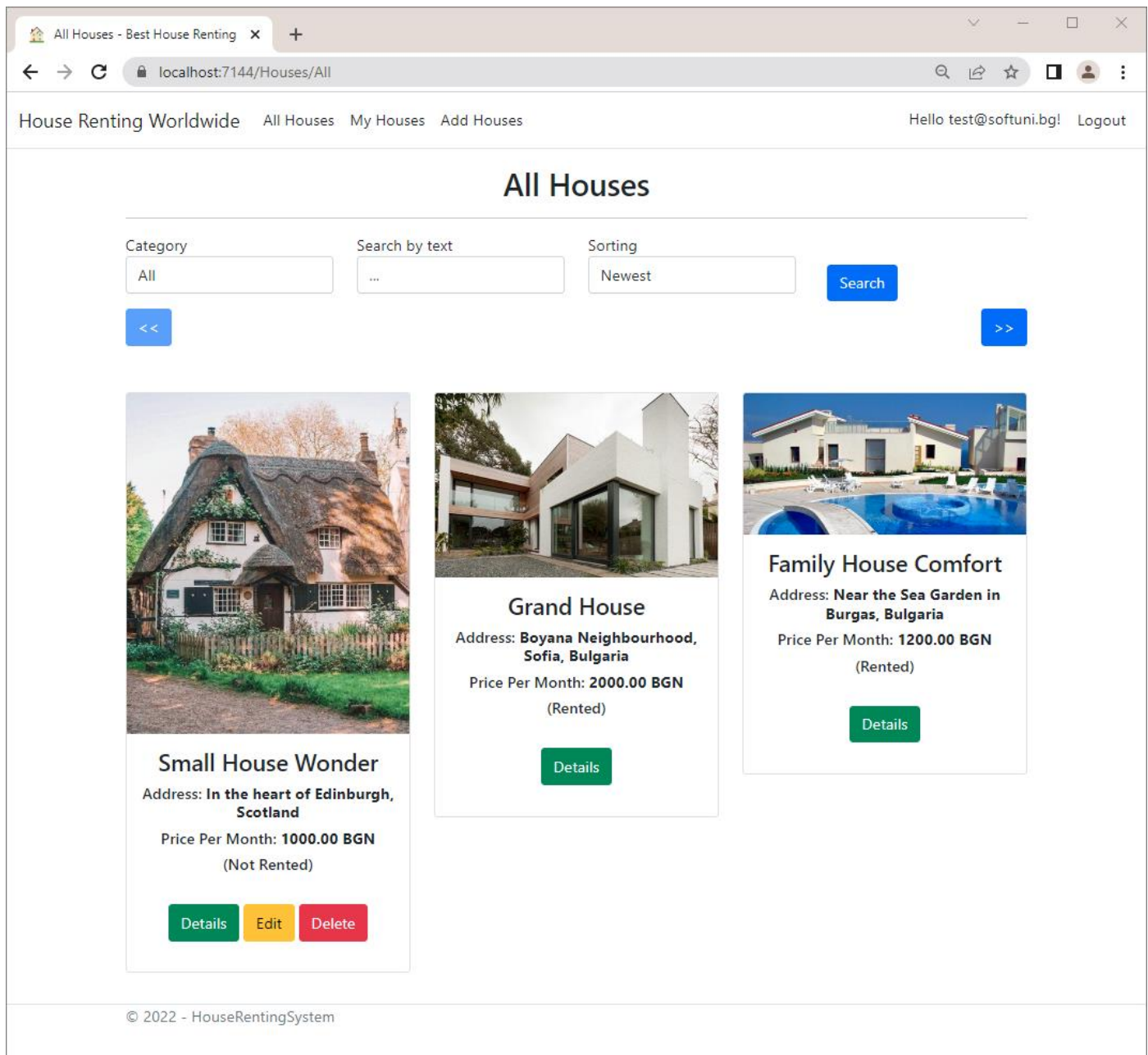
Price Per Month: 1200.00 BGN (Rented)

Details

© 2022 - HouseRentingSystem

If the **user is an agent**, they should see the **[Details]**, **[Edit]** and **[Delete]** buttons on houses they created. On other agents' houses, they should see only the **[Details]** button.

In the example page below, the **current user has created only the first house**:



To change the buttons on the "All Houses" page, go to the "_HousePartial.cshtml" view and modify it. Inject the **IHouseService** and the **IAgentService**, as you will need them. Make the needed changes to the view, so that buttons are displayed correctly. At the end, the view should look like this:

```

_HousePartial.cshtml
@model HouseServiceModel
@inject IHouseService houses
@inject IAgentService agents

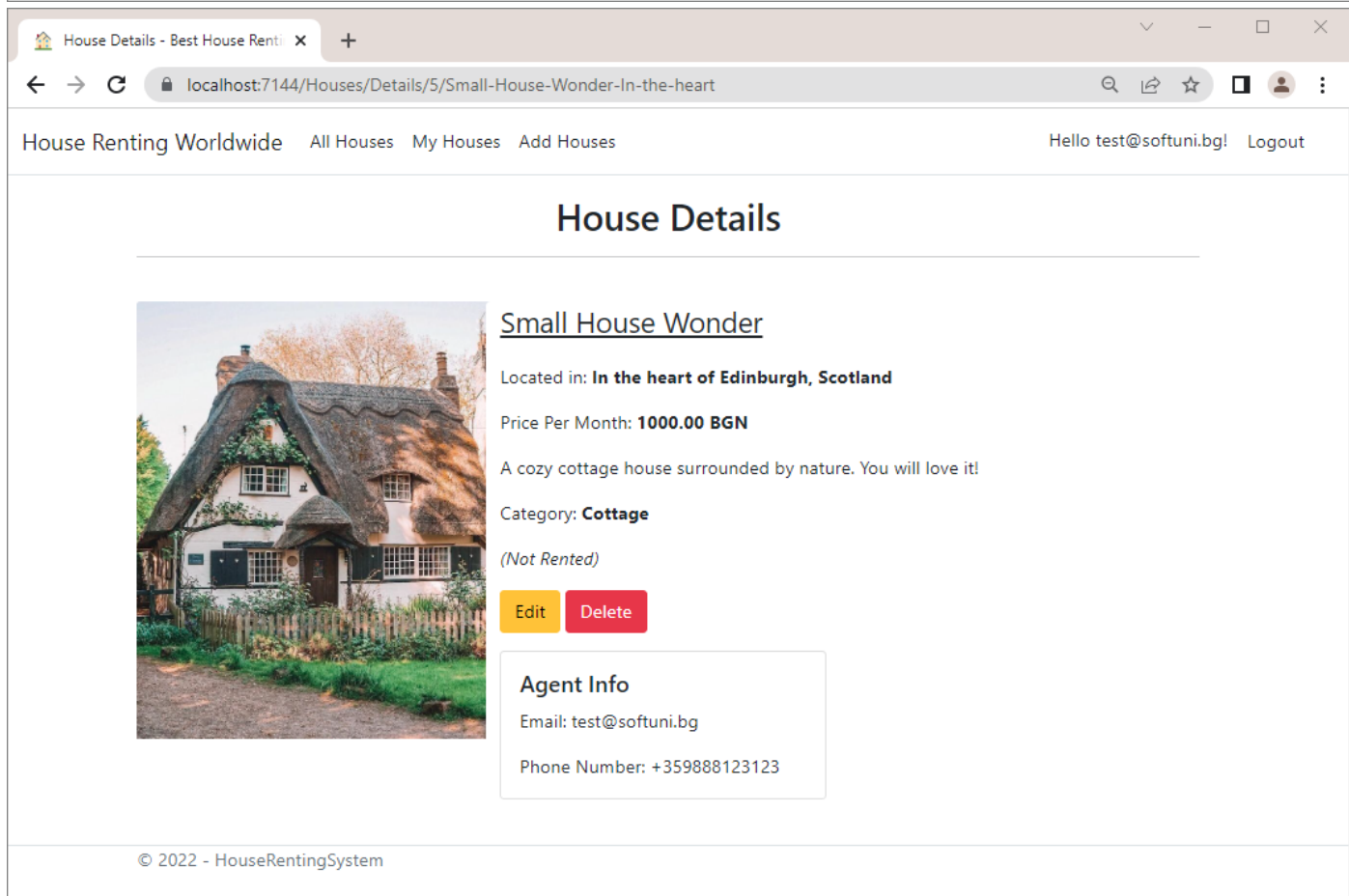
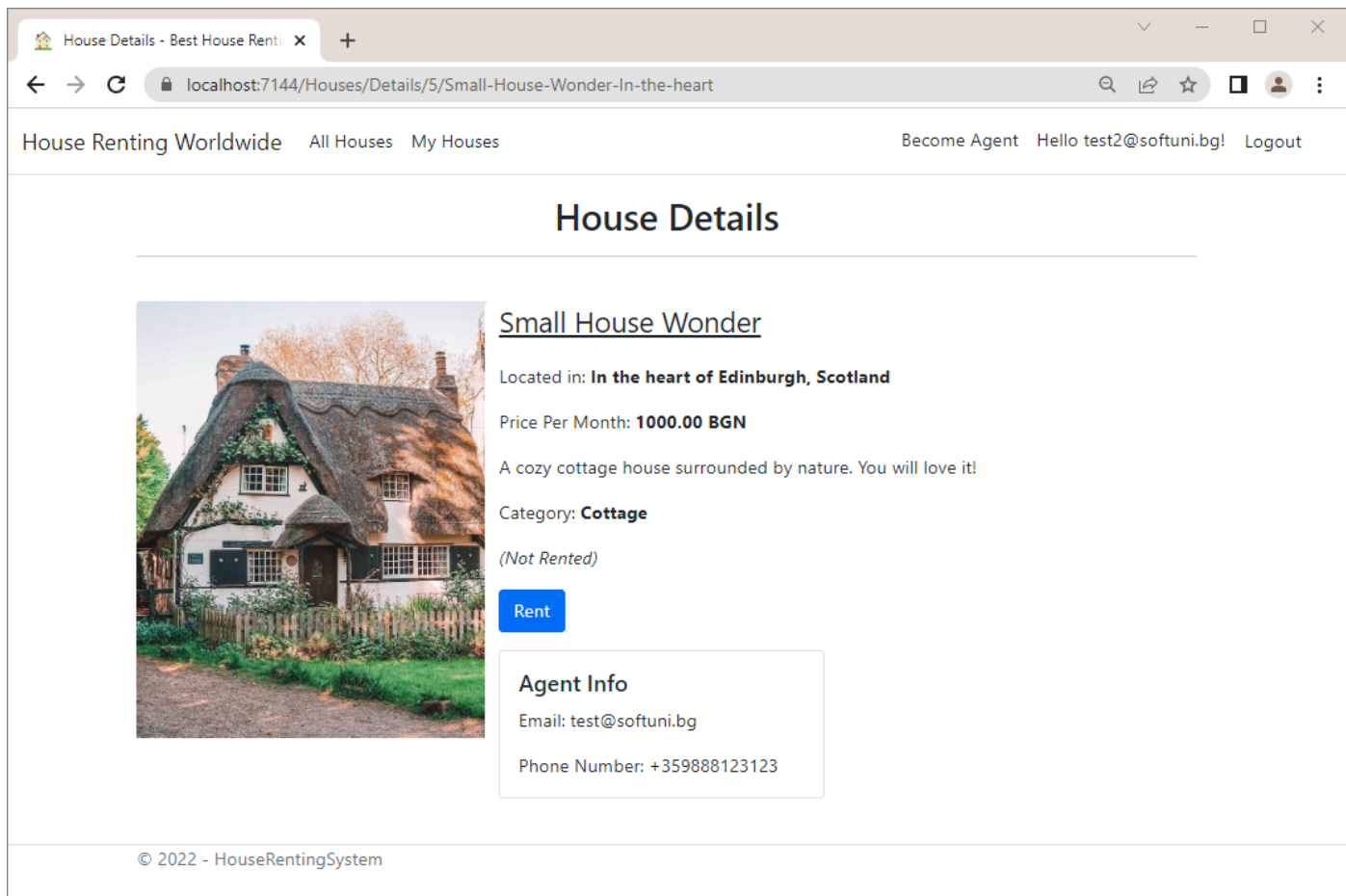
<div class="col-md-4">
    <div class="card mb-3">
        
        <div class="card-body text-center">
            <h4>@Model.Title</h4>
            <h6>Address: <b>@Model.Address</b></h6>
            <h6>...</h6>
            <h6>@((Model.IsRented ? "Rented" : "Not Rented"))</h6>
            <br />
            <a asp-controller="House" asp-action="Details" asp-route-id="@Model.Id"
              asp-asp-route-information="@Model.GetInformation()" class="btn btn-success">Details</a>
            @if (User.Identity.IsAuthenticated)
            {
                @if (await houses.HasAgentWithId(Model.Id, User.Id()))
                {
                    <a asp-controller="House" asp-action="Edit" asp-route-id="@Model.Id"
                      class="btn btn-warning">Edit</a>
                    <a asp-controller="House" asp-action="Delete" asp-route-id="@Model.Id"
                      class="btn btn-danger">Delete</a>
                }
                <p></p>
                @if (!Model.IsRented && await agents.ExistsById(User.Id()) == false )
                {
                    <form class="input-group-sm" asp-controller="House"
                      asp-action="Rent" asp-route-id="@Model.Id" method="post">
                        <input class="btn btn-primary" type="submit" value="Rent" />
                    </form>
                }
                @else if (await houses.IsRentedByUserWithId(Model.Id, User.Id()))
                {
                    <form asp-controller="House" asp-action="Leave"
                      asp-route-id="@Model.Id" method="post">
                        <input class="btn btn-primary" type="submit" value="Leave" />
                    </form>
                }
            }
        </div>
    </div>
</div>

```

Now look if the **correct buttons** are displayed on the "All Houses" and "My Houses" pages in the browser. Make sure the **buttons** are displayed as shown on the screenshots above.

Step 3: Modify the Details.cshtml View

The **Details.cshtml** view holds the HTML for the "Details" page. The page should **display the buttons** for the **current house**, depending on the **user**. It has **the same logic** as of the "All Houses" and "My Houses" pages. It should look like this in the **different cases**:



You already know how you should **modify the view**. When done, it should look like this:

```

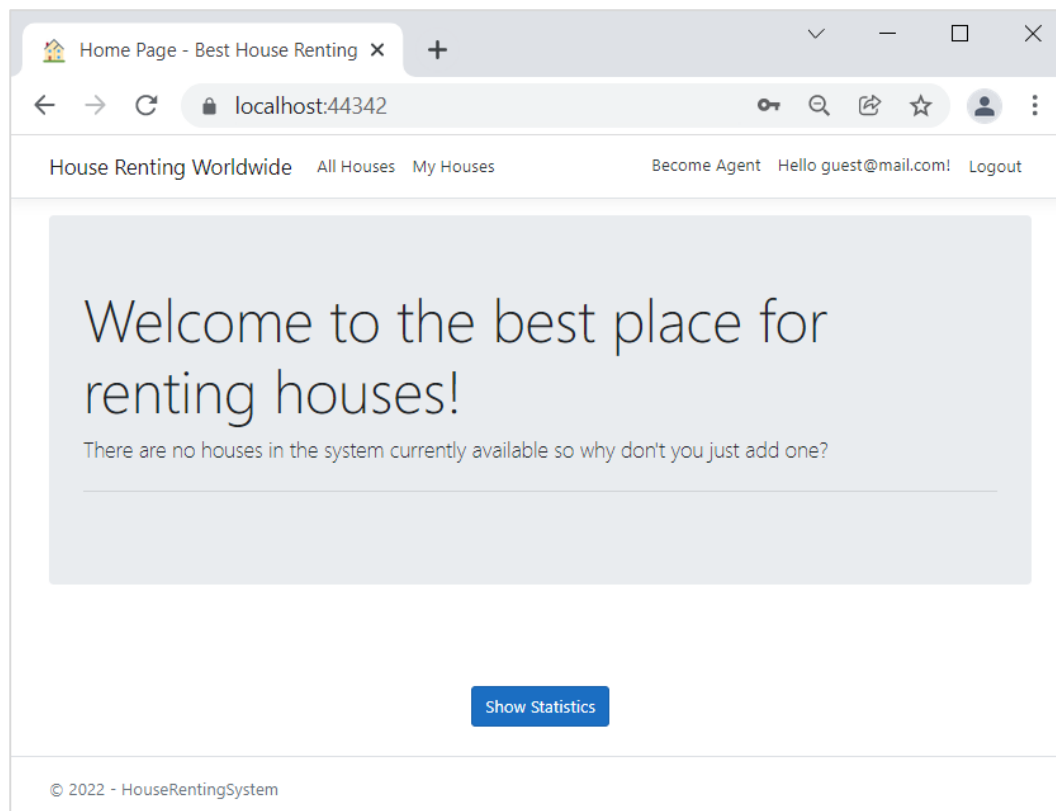
<div class="form-inline">
  @if (User.Identity.IsAuthenticated)
  {
    @if (await houses.HasAgentWithId(Model.Id, User.Id()))
    {
      <a class="btn btn-warning" asp-controller="House" asp-action="Edit"
        asp-route-id="@Model.Id">Edit</a>
      <a class="ml-2 btn btn-danger" asp-controller="House" asp-action="Delete"
        asp-route-id="@Model.Id">Delete</a>
    }
    @if (!Model.IsRented && await agents.ExistsById(User.Id()) == false)
    {
      <form class="ml-2" asp-controller="House"
        asp-action="Rent" asp-route-id="@Model.Id" method="post">
        <input class="btn btn-primary" type="submit" value="Rent" />
      </form>
    }
    else if (await houses.IsRentedByUserWithId(Model.Id, User.Id()))
    {
      <form class="ml-2" asp-controller="House" asp-action="Leave"
        asp-route-id="@Model.Id" method="post">
        <input class="btn btn-primary" type="submit" value="Leave" />
      </form>
    }
  }
</div>

```

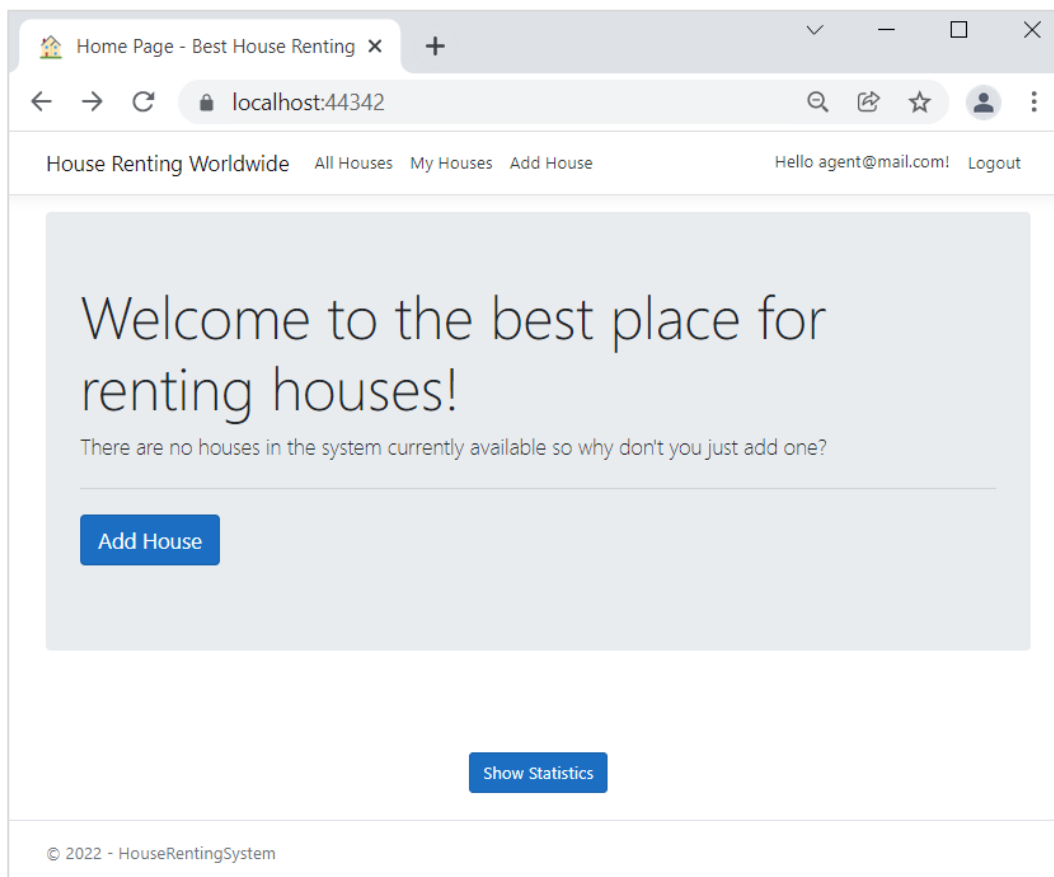
Step 4: Modify the Index.cshtml View

On the last step you should only restrict the [Add House] button to be visible only to agents, when there are no houses to be displayed on the "Home" page.

When the user is **not logged-in** or **not an agent**, the button should not be visible:



When the **user is logged-in and is an agent**, the **"Home"** page should be the following:



Do this by **injecting and using a service method**:

```
Index.cshtml ↗ ✕
@model IEnumerable<HouseIndexServiceModel>
@inject IAgentService agents

@{
    ViewData["Title"] = "Home Page";
    var houses = Model.ToList();
}

@if (!houses.Any())
{
    <div class="mt-4 p-5 bg-light">
        <h1 class="display-4">Welcome to the best place for renting houses!</h1>
        <p class="lead">
            There are no houses in the system currently available
            so why don't you just add one?
        </p>
        <hr class="my-4">
        <p class="lead">
            @if (User.Identity.IsAuthenticated && await agents.ExistsById(User.Id()))
            {
                <a asp-controller="House" asp-action="Add" class="btn btn-primary btn-lg"
                role="button">Add House</a>
            }
        </p>
    </div>
}
```

Run the app and make sure that **all buttons** are **displayed correctly on all pages**.