MVC3 = >> return EmptyResult() When it's a good idea to return this?

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when it's a good idea to return "EmptyResult()" from a Controller

asp.net-mvc-3

asked Mar 27 '11 at 20:27

SF Developer
2,508   12   49   96

7 Answers

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You would basically use it to signify that you are not doing anything with an action's result.

From MSDN:

> Represents a result that does nothing, such as a controller action method that returns nothing.

I have personally used on actions defined in an `AsyncController` , so if you have for instance an async action like:

```
public void SendMailAsync() { }
```

Basically an action in an `AsnycController` , you'll need a xxxCompleted action as well (by convention)

```
public virtual ActionResult SendMailCompleted
{
    // do whatever

    return new EmptyResult();
}
```

edited Mar 28 '11 at 15:05   answered Mar 27 '11 at 20:40

spv
12.2k   12   52   88

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1   That's an interesting and very proper way of using it. — Gup3rSuR4c Mar 27 '11 at 23:02

1) Is there a 'best practice' way to call an 'Async method'? **2)** How do you 'handle' the 'return EmptyResult()' response so that it get 'disregarded' in cases like the SendMailAsync() ? — SF Developer Mar 29 '11 at 17:44 ✏

@Filu - **1)** The very little I know about `AsyncController` I got from here and here. **2)** The best way to 'handle' an `EmptyResult` is *do nothing with it* ;) Seriously, just ignore you're even getting a result. If you can't ignore it, it means you probably need a normal result. — spv Mar 29 '11 at 20:12

in regards to answer to 2) Assuming there is an application that has menu items with hide/show toggle buttons on them: What if you wanted to send off a flag value to the db saying to hide a selected menu item, for instance? Will the EmptyResult return type reload the whole view as blank? — PAULDAWG Feb 18 '13 at 23:44

1   @PAULDAWG - It depends on how you call that action. If you were using a normal `ActionLink` (or a simple link tag) then yes, you would get a blank page on your browser. If, on the other hand, you're using an ajax call, then no. — spv Jun 14 '13 at 7:49

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I've used it when creating RESTful web services. When doing a POST or DELETE operation, for example, the HTTP status code can convey enough info in itself.

answered Mar 27 '11 at 20:30

dommer
16.1k   7   58   113

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1   Oh I see ...good point — SF Developer Mar 28 '11 at 2:53

14   you can use Httpstatuscoderesult instead of emptyresult for that — Mulki Sep 23 '11 at 16:12

@Mulki has a good point, especially since you'll have to set the 204 yourself manually anyway. `HttpStatusCodeResult` (or your own class derived from it) is clearer. — Jon Hanna Dec 10 '14 at 16:50

When the ajax performs an action that doesn't need reflection/confirmation on the UI.

301k 39 511 586   **1,764** 10 20

2 But if I return Empty ...doesn't the page become blank?? Or when it's an Ajax call, the result empty means ..nothing happens on the client ? – SF Developer Mar 28 '11 at 2:47

It depends on what you do with the empty result, if you painted the page to nothing, it would blank it, but I would recomend against it. So if I understand you right, you're correct. – Jake Kalstad Mar 28 '11 at 15:37

I'm assuming its the same as doing `return (null)` in the action. It could be useful at times. I've used it to `Response.Write` info to the output while debugging, but didn't need the remainder of the view rendered.

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When you use it, you'll get a blank white page with nothing on it, unless you output something of your own.

answered Mar 27 '11 at 20:30

Gup3rSuR4c
5,356 9 51 105

Cool ...thanks. – SF Developer Mar 28 '11 at 2:52

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for example: You can return empty result with status 401.

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answered Mar 27 '11 at 20:29

Andrei Andrushkevich
9,129 4 25 42

1 But would you return a 401 TEXT page that tells users ...not authorized ? – SF Developer Mar 28 '11 at 2:52

1 all moder browser have self error page for all status – Andrei Andrushkevich Mar 28 '11 at 10:23

3 Also you have `HttpStatusCodeResult(401)` to do that – kpull1 Aug 9 '13 at 11:53

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2   return StatusCode(StatusCodes.Status204NoContent);

▼   This will return a `StatusCodeResult` with the appropriate HTTP status code **204 No Content**.

edited Jun 11 '18 at 23:00   answered Jun 11 '18 at 22:53

silkfire
14.3k   8   55   75

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1   The EmptyResult is a class in MVC which does not return anything, like Void method .

EmptyResult is used when you want to execute logic written inside the controller action method but does not want any result back to the view then EmptyResult return type is very important . It does not require to add the view.

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answered Feb 7 '17 at 6:12

KamalDeep
182   1   3