

IActionResult vs IActionResult



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I'm creating an API using .NET Core 2 to provide data for many applications developed in different technologies. I'm currently returning `IActionResult` from my methods. I've been studying what the best option is to return the data and saw some examples using `IHttpActionResult`. Now I don't know which type is the best to return.



What is the difference between `IHttpActionResult` and `IActionResult` ?



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asp.net-core

edited Jul 23 '18 at 15:12



vzwick

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asked Jul 23 '18 at 14:02



Alberto

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- 1 "IActionResult is the new abstraction that should be used in your actions. Since Web API and MVC frameworks have been unified in ASP.NET Core, various IActionResult implementations can handle both traditional API scenarios.". Check [forums.asp.net/t/...](#) and [dotnetcurry.com/aspnet-mvc/1149/...](#) – Afonso Jul 23 '18 at 14:04
- 3 Actually, since 2.1, you should use `ActionResult<T>` instead of `IActionResult` [docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/web-api/...](#) – p3tch Jul 23 '18 at 14:19
@p3tch thx. I didnt know that – Alberto Jul 23 '18 at 14:29
- 2 To be clear. There's no specific recommendation one way or another for `IActionResult` vs. `ActionResult<T>`. You may certainly choose to use `ActionResult<T>`, but it's not required. – Chris Pratt Jul 23 '18 at 14:32

2 Answers



`IHttpActionResult` is for ASP.NET Web Api, while `IActionResult` is for ASP.NET Core. There's no such thing as "Web Api" in ASP.NET Core. It's all iust "Core". However. some people still refer to creating an ASP.NET Core API as a "Web Api". which adds to the

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Thanks. So can I get so excited about using IActionResult because it's good practice? – [Alberto](#) Jul 23 '18 at 14:31

It's just a common and clean way to use IActionResult since it allows you to return all results which implements IActionResult. – [Giovanni Terlingen](#) Jul 23 '18 at 14:38

Not sure I understand, but you should always use either IActionResult or ActionResult<T>, as opposed to return specific types like JsonResult or even specific result types, like JsonResult. – [Chris Pratt](#) Jul 23 '18 at 14:40

2 Even Microsoft themselves sometimes refer to an ASP.NET Core Web API. e.g. [here](#) and [here](#). – [Kirk Larkin](#) Jul 23 '18 at 15:32

Yeah. I think they do it as a way to transition people who are familiar only with ASP.NET Web Api, but it ends up just confusing everything. There's no practical difference in Core, and when you search for "Web Api", you just end up getting a bunch of wrong, outdated information. – [Chris Pratt](#) Jul 23 '18 at 16:14

It depends on what version of ASP.NET you are going to use. That can either be the .NET Core version or the traditional one.

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As mentioned by Chris you can only use IActionResult in ASP.NET Core :

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/web-api/action-return-types?view=aspnetcore-2.1#iactionresult-type>

I'm creating an API

Well, if you are using the traditional ASP.NET - instead of .NET Core you are fine with using IActionResult : <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/web-api/overview/getting-started-with-aspnet-web-api/action-results>, otherwise stick with IActionResult.

edited Jul 23 '18 at 14:19

answered Jul 23 '18 at 14:13



[Giovanni Terlingen](#)

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I'm using .net core 2 – [Alberto](#) Jul 23 '18 at 14:26

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