

# Correct return type from web API

▲ I am creating a c# .net core 2.2 web API for my next project. My question is when returning data should I return the object or `ActionResult OK(returnObject)` ?

1

▼ The reason I ask is I am using swagger and swagger studio to create my models for an Angular front end. If I return an `ActionResult` from the API the returned view models are not detailed in the `swagger.json` file so I would have to code these in the angular application. If I return whatever object is created the model is created in the `swagger.json`.



What practice should I follow to return data from an API in this case?

c#

swagger-ui

asp.net-core-2.2

edited Dec 31 '18 at 13:32



CRAGIN

10.2k 2 34 73

asked Dec 31 '18 at 12:19



Carl Leatherbarrow

38 4

The [docs](#) cover this well. – Kirk Larkin Dec 31 '18 at 13:10

## 2 Answers

▲ You do want to return `ActionResult(object)` but you are not quite done.

3

▼ Annotate your controller with the `ProducesAttribute` and annotate your method with the `ProducesResponseTypeAttribute` :

```
[Produces("application/json")]
public class SomethingController
{
    [ProducesResponseType(typeof(YourObject)) (int)HttpStatusCode.OK]
    // ...
}
```

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This allows Swagger UI to know what to expect and document it appropriately. Shown above is for a synchronous method; it works for asynchronous as well.

answered Dec 31 '18 at 13:29

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▲ You can return - Specific Type - IActionResult - ActionResult

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▼ For more details, please refer MSDN article at : <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/web-api/action-return-types?view=aspnetcore-2.2>

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answered Dec 31 '18 at 12:25

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