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| Difference | MVC Controller | WebAPI Controller |
| BaseType | MVC controllers inherited from Controller | API controllers in ASP.NET Core inherit from ControllerBase and add the [ApiController] attribute. |
| ReturnType | Return View | Return Serialized Data |
| URL Pattern | The MVC controller shows URL examples matching the default route pattern of “{controller}/{action}/{id}” | The Web API controller shows URL examples matching it’s default route pattern of “api/{controller}/{id}” |
| DerivedFrom | System.Web.MVC | System.Web.Http |