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The internet, and technology in general, has always been a very fast-moving industry since its inception. Changes always seem to come hard and fast, and what was once the dominant technology stack, in a few years, becomes ancient and obsolete. ASP.NET has now been released for almost 20 years and in that time, it has gone through tremendous changes and updates, including a full modernized rebuild of the framework.

ASP.NET was first released alongside the .NET framework by Microsoft in early 2002. ASP.NET was the successor to the old Active Server Pages technology used by Microsoft since the 90s. The original release added many features and improvements over the old ASP tech, including a Common Language Runtime (which allowed developers to build using any .NET Framework language that they chose), full support for Object-Oriented programming, better type safety, easier integration of DLL class libraries, and much more.

The next big release came only 3 years later in 2005, with the release of ASP.NET 2.0. It added many new features including better navigation controls, support for 64-bit processors, the introduction of generic types, support for static classes, and much more. The 2.0 release was Microsoft's first big step forward and sign of things to come, things like MVC, page life cycles, XML, and AJAX. It was released alongside Visual Studio 2005 and SQL Server 2005.

The following year ASP.NET 3.0 was released. This new version added several new XML-based frameworks to ASP.NET. It was the first release of Windows Presentation Foundation, a .NET Framework subsystem for UI elements. Additionally, included in this release were the Windows Communication Foundation, Windows Workflow Foundation, and Windows CardSpace. 3.0 would prove to be a very important release with some of the technologies introduced, except for CardSpace, becoming commonly adopted by .NET developers and some are still supported to this day.

Another year later ASP.NET 3.5 was released at the end of 2007. This version added new Data Controls, included ASP.NET AJAX as part of the framework (It has previously been available as a standalone package since version 2.0), the addition of the LINQ querying functions. Although these were all very important additions, there was one unrelated event that happened that year that would have probably the biggest impact on the future of ASP.NET. That event was the release of the very first iPhone in the Summer of 2007. Although at the time it didn't make a huge splash, it would end up being the beginning of a new age of the Internet and technology that would have a huge effect on not just ASP.NET, but society as a whole.

After 2007 ASP.NET would begin to take a new direction. In 2008 ASP.NET MVC was released as a standalone framework to complement the existing WebForms and WPF frameworks that already existed within ASP.NET. It was a Microsoft implementation of the MVC design principles of web development. While it was not adopted by everybody, it still had a large group of support, and Microsoft maintained that both frameworks were compatible and could cater to different strengths and weaknesses. MVC was a new technology using a different architectural style, while WinForms was a mature framework with many experienced developers and lots of support already available. Nonetheless MVC would prove to be the way forward with support continuing to this day.

The ASP.NET ecosystem would continue to grow and mature for several years; however it had reached the limits of what it could do, and yet there were still some shortcomings preventing further growth. The answer to this was a complete rebuild of the framework with modern goals and architecture in mind. In 2014 David Fowler of Microsoft announced that a new version of ASP.NET was being developed with the goals of being cross-platform, asynchronous, having new CLI tools, and overall a better development experience. In 2014 there was another big change that happened at Microsoft that would have a large impact on the future of ASP.NET. Satya Nadella was named the new CEO of Microsoft, and under her leadership Microsoft would begin to adopt open source philosophy into its core business. This same year, Microsoft open-sourced the source of its .NET framework, a huge shock to all given Microsoft's previous litigation and vitriol aimed at Open Source software.

ASP.NET Core would finally release in Summer 2016, fully cross-platform and open-source. New features were a no-compiler experience, the code would be continuously recompiled without the need to ever run a compilation command, modular tools distributed using the Nuget Package Manager, a new cloud-ready configuration system, built-in support for dependency injection, and much more. Version 2.0, released in 2017, introduced Razor Pages. ASP.NET Core and open source software has proven to be the new way forward for Microsoft and is now on ASP.NET Core version 3.1 LTS, with dozens and dozens of Microsoft products open-sourced in the past few years. I see this trend continuing and I have personally used many of the open-source technologies Microsoft has released. I especially love the Windows Subsystem for Linux that was released a few years ago and I use it very often. I look forward to using .NET Core on projects in the future.

*ASP.NET Core And History Of Microsoft Web Stack.* [https://www.c-](https://www.c-sharpcorner.com/article/asp-net-core-and-history-of-microsoft-web-stack/)

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