# Writing Cleaner Markup with Tag Helpers



**Alex Wolf** 

www.alexwolfthoughts.com



#### To-Do List



**Introducing Tag Helpers** 

Demo: Writing Your First Tag Helpers

**Demo: Managing Resources with Tag** 

Helpers

**Demo: Preparing the Order Form** 

**Demo: Building Forms with Tag Helpers** 

**Demo: Form Validation with Tag Helpers** 

**Demo: Comparing HTML Helpers and Tag** 

Helpers



# Introducing Tag Helpers



```
<% foreach(var item in Model)</pre>
{ %>
   <%= item.Name %>
@foreach(var item in Model)
   @item.Name
```

 ▲ Legacy ASPX View Engine syntax could look and feel messy

■ Razor improved on this syntax through smarter transitions between markup



```
<div class="form">
@using(Html.BeginForm("NewClient", "Client", FormMethod.Post))
{
    @Html.TextBoxFor(x => x.Name, null, new { @class = "form-control", data_id = 5 })
}
</div>
```

### The Problem with HTML Helpers

Still look and feel like server side code

Verbose and difficult to read for non-MVC developers



## The Benefits of Tag Helpers

Lightweight attribute syntax that looks and feels like HTML



# Tag Helper Output Results

Tag Helper	Output
<input asp-for="FirstName"/>	<input name="FirstName" type="text"/>
<li><li>k asp-href-include="~/css/*.css"&gt;</li></li>	<pre><link href="/css/styles1.css"/> <link href="/css/styles2.css"/> <link href="/css/styles3.css"/></pre>



# Types of Helpers

#### **Utility Helpers**

HTML Helpers	Tag Helpers
Html.ActionLink	asp-controller asp-action
No Equivalent	asp-src-include asp-href-include
No Equivalent`	environment





Getting comfortable with Tag Helpers

Creating navigation links with Tag Helpers





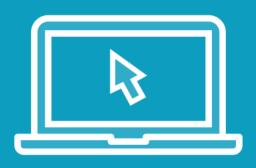
Managing CSS and JavaScript resources with Tag Helpers





Preparing the project to work with additional Tag Helpers





**Building forms with Tag Helpers** 

Handling complex Model properties with Tag Helpers





Implementing form validation using Tag Helpers

Working with Model Validation Attributes





Comparing a complete form built with HTML Helpers and Tag Helpers



## Summary



Tag Helpers provide an alternative to HTML Helpers for generating markup within Views

Tag Helpers can be attached to HTML elements to extend or replace their markup

Utility Helpers assist with common tasks, while Form Helpers generate MVC friendly inputs

Visual Studio offers powerful integration with Tag Helpers

Tag Helper syntax is much closer to traditional HTML, which makes Views easier to read and work with

