

Writing Cleaner Markup with Tag Helpers



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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)
{ %>
    <p><%= item.Name %></p>
<% } %>
```

- ◀ Legacy ASPX View Engine syntax could look and feel messy

```
@foreach(var item in Model)
{
    <p>@item.Name</p>
}
```

- ◀ 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



```
<div class="form">  
<form asp-controller="NewClient" asp-action="Client" method="post">  
    <input asp-for="Name" type="text" class="form-control" data-id="5">  
</form>  
</div>
```

The Benefits of Tag Helpers

Lightweight attribute syntax that looks and feels like HTML



Tag Helper Output Results

Tag Helper	Output
<code><input asp-for="FirstName" /></code>	<code><input type="text" name="FirstName"></code>
<code><link asp-href-include="~/css/*.css"></code>	<code><link href="/css/styles1.css"></code> <code><link href="/css/styles2.css"></code> <code><link href="/css/styles3.css"></code>



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



Demo



Getting comfortable with Tag Helpers

Creating navigation links with Tag Helpers



Demo



Managing CSS and JavaScript resources with Tag Helpers



Demo



Preparing the project to work with additional Tag Helpers



Demo



Building forms with Tag Helpers

Handling complex Model properties with
Tag Helpers



Demo



Implementing form validation using Tag Helpers

Working with Model Validation Attributes



Demo



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

