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Introducing Really Simple Syndication in ASP.NET

By Balaji

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Really Simple Syndication (RSS) is an XML standard for declaring content entries for small content feeds. The RSS format has gained popularity over the years due to its simplicity. The XML file formatted according to the RSS specification is either found as a physical file or is obtained via a Web site that handles the request and sends the content over the Internet to the client. The RSS format is as given below

The XML format for RSS declares that the XML must have a root element of , which identifies the document. This is shown in the following sample snippet. The element contains one element and then many elements that hold the element.

Most of the elements declared by the RSS specification are optional. However, some elements need to be declared to make the code functional.

The element should contain the following children:

- Item (at least 1)
- Title
- Link
- Description

The tag should contain the following children:

- Title
- Link
- Description

Each RSS channel can contain up to 15 items and is easily parsed using Perl or other open source software. After you complete the creation and validation of your RSS text file, register it at the various aggregators. Now, any website can grab and display your feed regularly, driving traffic your way.

Update your RSS file, and all the external sites that subscribe to your feed will be automatically updated.

RSS can not only display your news on websites and headline viewers but also display data in products and services like PDAs, mobile phones, email ticklers, and voice updates. RSS also enables you to automate email newsletters easily. In addition, affiliate networks and partners of like-minded

sites can access each other's RSS feeds and automatically display the new stories from the other sites in the network, which as a whole drives more traffic. Plenty of RSS aggregators are available that automatically grab RSS files from the content providers and present the news in a many ways.

To access online version of the above article, go to <http://www.dotnet-guide.com/rss.html>

Visit <http://www.dotnet-guide.com> for a complete introduction to .NET framework. Learn about ASP.NET, VB.NET, C# and other related technologies.

Advantages in migrating from ASP to ASP.NET

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ASP to ASP.NET migration can be done by just changing the extension from .asp to .aspx. But before transporting or migrate an .asp file to .aspx, you might think twice the necessity of changing the file. The first advantage is that ASP.NET applications can handle two to three times the request per second as compared to ASP applications. This will certainly increase the performance of ASP.NET applications. The second advantage will be that all the processes are monitored by ASP.NET runtime so that if any one process leaks, a new process can be created in its place. This will help ASP.NET applications to be continuously available to manage requests.

The third and the biggest advantage is the productivity time for an application. The in-built server controls and event handling helps developers to easily create applications. Moreover, the code behind feature in ASP.NET applications separates the design page with the code page. The compiled execution makes the ASP.NET applications much faster than ASP and the output caching feature eliminate the need to query the database each time the request is made.

You can migrate from ASP application to ASP.NET application in two ways: Horizontal migration and Vertical migration. In Horizontal application, one complete tier of the code has to be replaced. In Vertical application, you have to modify every piece of the application through all n-tiers. You can also migrate to ASP.NET application by just changing the file extension. But this requires the VBScript to be changed to VB.NET. In case, you do not want to integrate an ASP application to ASP.NET, you can run both the application on the same server. They both have completely different processing engines.

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Thus, ASP to ASP.NET migration means complete object-oriented programming structure, easy maintenance, reusable code, automatic documentation from reverse engineering, ASP.NET controls, and multiple-language debugger.

To access online version of the above article, go to <http://www.dotnet-guide.com/migration.html>

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