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Exam Ref 70-486: Developing ASP.NET MVC 4 Web Applications



Synopsis

Prepare for Microsoft Exam 70-486 and help demonstrate your real-world mastery of developing ASP.NET MVC-based solutions. Designed for experienced developers ready to advance their status, Exam Ref focuses on the critical-thinking and decision-making acumen needed for success at the Microsoft Specialist level. Focus on the expertise measured by these objectives: Design the application architecture Design the user experience Develop the user experience Troubleshoot and debug web applications Design and implement security This Microsoft Exam Ref: Organizes its coverage by exam objectives. Features strategic, what-if scenarios to challenge you. Includes a 15% exam discount from Microsoft. (Limited time offer)

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Customer Reviews

I have been preparing for this exam on my own for several weeks now, using online resources. I scheduled the exam and then realized that this book was released yesterday (my exam was today). I purchased the kindle version and read through as much as I could, focusing on the chapters that I had the least experience with. I passed the exam without being able to completely read or do any of the practice questions, which I have done on previous exams. I would recommend utilizing the practice questions and activities in the book. This book seemed to be an excellent resource for studying for this exam but is not all inclusive. I would start with this book and then expand your studying with resources online. I have compiled a list of resources by topic here: [...]

I delayed my review of the book until I took the 70-486 exam. I just took the exam, passed, and feel strongly that I could not have done it without the help of this book serving as a guide. I also believe that I would not have passed if I had relied solely on this book. I used this book in conjunction with Pro ASP.NET 4 from Apress and also supplemented with Pluralsight videos to fill in gaps with how things worked together.

This book covers the objectives for the Microsoft 70-486: Development ASP.NET MVC 4 Web Applications certification. Books like this can be difficult to review, particularly if you don't plan to take the exam so you have nothing against which to measure the criteria. However, as the author points out "...this book takes a high-level approach, building on your knowledge of lower-level web application development and extending it into application design." Like most Microsoft Exam Ref books, this one broke core objectives directly from the exam into chapters. The first chapter focused on the objectives 1.1 to 1.7, which is centered on the design of MVC 4 applications. Much of this text surrounded the theoretical and practical design of an application, and didn't go into any details on using MVC 4. Chapter 2 covers objectives 2.1 to 2.5, focusing on designing the user experience. This included coverage of CSS, HTML, JavaScript in DOM manipulation, AJAX, layout and cross-browser compatibility techniques. I found parts of this chapter very helpful in practical, every day web development and some of the standards and techniques applied are applicable to all facets of web development, not just necessarily within MVC 4. Mr. Penberthy then tackles the objectives 3.1 to 3.6, which cover topics in developing the user experience. The information within this chapter I found to be much more pragmatic than the previous chapter covering design. Topics included SEO optimization, semantic markup, globalization, and using models, views and controllers together to control application binding and behaviors. The last objective covers bundling, minification and data compression. Next came objectives 4.1 to 4.4 on testing, debugging and deployment scenarios. There's also an objective covering debugging Windows Azure applications. The last chapter (objectives 5.1 to 5.5) included coverage on topics related to designing and implementing security. Like chapter 3, the information here was pragmatic with more demonstrations of working inside of IIS and implementing code within the various authentication providers. The biggest pro in the book for me seemed to be the objective review provided at the end of each objective, which helps reinforce the content and act as a moderate benchmark for self-testing. If you're looking for a straight-forward, succinct guide to accomplishing exam objectives my opinion is this book will probably help you understand the basic design and development exam objectives for the MVC 4

framework. However, I've found no single book can prepare you for a Microsoft certification exam, and this book is no exception. You should use other adjunct materials, and you will need to have some experience developing web applications and using the MVC Framework. This book is not for novice developers or web developers who are trying to learn MVC from the ground up.* Note: the distributor provided me a free copy of the e-book in return for a review. However, my opinions and rating of the book are based solely on my experiences as a professional developer.

Exam Ref 70-486: Developing ASP.NET MVC 4 Web Applications is written by William Penberthy and published by Microsoft Press. As the title implies, its purpose is to assist the reader in attaining a Microsoft certification in MVC 4. It is very similar to other titles in Microsoft's Exam Ref series. This book is approximately 350 pages, and has a very structured layout. Chapters consist of core fundamental concepts, in the order that one would build a real-world application: Designing Application Architecture Designing the User Experience Developing the User Experience Troubleshooting and Debugging Designing and Implementing Security Each of these chapters is divided into several different objectives, and concludes with a summary and review. Throughout the book, there are several useful tips to keep in mind when taking the exam. It is important to note that this book's intended audience is developers who have had prior experience developing MVC applications (an exam reference is not the same thing as a Step-by-Step manual!). It has an extremely high-level approach, and focuses on understanding MVC concepts, not writing code. There are code samples, but not as many as one might expect. Despite the concept-over-code focus, Exam Ref 70-486 is very thorough. Concepts are discussed in detail, and include many things developers skip or forget altogether. This is evident in Chapter 1, where ideas like separation of concern, scalability, distributed applications (including the role of Windows Azure), client-side vs. server-side processing, hybrid applications, and caching strategies are discussed; Chapter 4, which reviews the importance of debugging and testing (including unit testing, and mocks using the Fakes assembly); and Chapter 5, which talks about designing and implementing security. Penberthy is an experienced software consultant and teacher. His writing style is simple, straightforward, and easy to read. This as the excellent organization of this book, made it a pleasure to read, and helped identify areas that I needed to give extra attention to. Conclusion: Neophytes to MVC should pass on this book, and get an introductory manual. But for experienced MVC developers, Exam Ref 70-486: Developing ASP.NET MVC 4 Web Applications will prove to be a valuable resource. (Originally published by the Denver Visual Studio User Group)

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