

Instructor's Summary for

Murach's ASP.NET 3.5 Web Programming with VB 2008

This summary is intended to introduce you to the components of our Instructor's CD and to help you get started using them. At the least, we recommend that you read the topics under "What's on the Instructor's CD," because they not only describe the components but also our underlying instructional philosophy.

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What's on the Instructor's CD

As we see it, the Instructor's CD for *Murach's ASP.NET 3.5 Web Programming with VB 2008* contains a starting set of instructional materials that by themselves will help any corporate trainer or college instructor run an effective course. Those materials include the applications in the book, instructional objectives, test banks, solutions for the exercises in the book, projects, project solutions, and PowerPoint slides. A summary of these materials follows.

Book applications

So you can demonstrate the applications that are presented in the book, the Instructor's CD includes those applications, plus the Access and SQL Server databases that they require. The easiest way for your students to get these applications and databases is to download them from our web site.

Objectives

Since we believe that instructional objectives should be the start of any educational methodology, we provide a set of objectives for each chapter in the book. We prepared these objectives based on the principles presented by Robert F. Mager in his classic book, *Preparing Instructional Objectives*. As a result, our objectives describe the skills that your trainees or students should be able to do when they complete a chapter, and you should be able to test whether they can do those skills.

Beyond that, we've tried to make sure that each objective describes a skill that a professional programmer should be able to do. This gives our objectives a real-world context that you usually won't find in the objectives for other books. So, if your trainees or students can do what the objectives state when the course is over, you can be sure that they have learned the skills that they will actually need on the job.

If you review the objectives for one of the chapters, you'll see that the first objectives for each chapter are what we refer to as *applied objectives*. These ask the students to apply what they've learned as they develop ASP.NET applications. These of course are the critical objectives of a programming course, and they are best tested by having the trainees or students do projects like the ones that we provide.

After the applied objectives for each chapter, you'll find what we refer to as *knowledge objectives*. These objectives define skills like identifying, describing, and explaining the required concepts, terms, and procedures. These objectives determine whether your students are able to talk intelligently about the topics that are presented. And these objectives can be tested by the test banks that we provide.

To help you get the most from the instructional objectives, we have included them at the start of the PowerPoint slides for each chapter. As we see it, if you can convince your students that they only need to be able to do the skills that are described by the objectives, their study becomes far more focused and efficient.

Test banks

To test comprehension, the Instructor's CD includes one test bank for each chapter in the book. We developed these test banks in ExamView (which is a terrific product), and we provide them on the CD in three different formats: ExamView, Rich Text (RTF), and Blackboard.

As you would expect, each test bank provides questions that are designed to test the skills that are described by the objectives for that chapter, and each test question is designed to test the skill described by one objective. This keeps the promise to the students that they will only be expected to do the skills that are described by the objectives.

In our test banks, we use only completion and multiple-choice test questions because they have the highest validity. To us, that means that the trainees or students who get the best scores are also the ones with the best knowledge and skills. In contrast, matching and true/false questions have low validity, so we don't use them.

Besides matching our questions to the objectives, we use this guideline to check the validity of each question: *An expert in the field should be able to get the right answer.* This guideline eliminates questions that test the knowledge of trivial details that no one should be expected to remember. This guideline also forces us to focus on questions that test the concepts and skills that are required on the job.

Exercise solutions

To help your students get started with Visual Studio 2008 and ASP.NET 3.5, the book provides exercises at the ends of the first four chapters. The exercises for chapter 1 guide the student through the process of running ASP.NET applications from outside Visual Studio. The exercises for chapters 2 and 3 guide the student through the process of using Visual Studio 2008 to design, code, and test the applications that are presented in those chapters. And the exercises for chapter 4 guide the student through the process of using the debugging features of Visual Studio 2008.

The Instructor's CD provides the solutions to these exercises. That way, you can present them in class, and you can compare them to your students' solutions.

Projects

To test your students' ability to develop web pages on their own, our Instructor's CD provides a series of projects that are all part of the development of a Technical Support application. In general, each project asks the students to develop one web page that requires the skills that are presented in the related chapter or chapters. This is a true test of a student's ability to do the skills that are described in the applied objectives.

To make the projects as useful as possible, we've tried to keep each one short enough so it can be done in an hour or two. That way, you can use selected projects as tests that are done in computer lab. That of course is the only sure way to see whether your students can do the applied objectives for this book. You can also combine two or more of the short projects as part of a larger project that the students do on their own.

Projects database

The projects require a TechSupport database, and we provide that database as both Access and SQL Server files. We also provide batch files for attaching, detaching, and restoring the SQL Server database.

If your students are going to use the SQL Server database on their own PCs, you can distribute the required files to them by distributing the TechSupport.exe file that's on the Instructor's CD. When a student double-clicks on this file in the Windows Explorer, it installs the files in the correct directories and attaches the database. This is explained in "How to prepare for using the TechSupport database" in the project descriptions.

Project solutions

All of the solutions to the projects are included on the Instructor's CD so you can present them in class or compare them with your students' solutions.

PowerPoint slides

Because our book uses the paired-pages method of presentation, all of the critical information is presented in the figures. Then, the PowerPoint slides present abridged versions of that information. That includes all of the diagrams, tables, and code that you may want to review in class. As a result, these slides make it easy for you to review any of the skills that your students have difficulty with. In addition, the slides for each chapter start with the instructional objectives, so you can review them in class.

If you want to modify any of the PowerPoint slides, you should know that we prepared them by copying the Word text from our figures into PowerPoint. As a result, you can't use PowerPoint to modify the text in the normal way. Instead, you need to double-click on the text for a slide to open it up in Word, make modifications to the text in Word, and click outside the text to return to PowerPoint. If you try this, though, you'll see that it's an easy process. You can also use PowerPoint in the normal way to add slides, delete slides, or add your own presentation notes to the slides.

About the student download

To help your students get the most from our book, our web site lets your students download the files that they're going to need. Please note, however, that you don't have to download these items from our web site because they will be installed along with the other materials that are on the Instructor's CD.

The contents of the student download

The student download for this book provides (1) the source code for all of the book applications, (2) Access and SQL Server Express versions of the Halloween database used in these applications, (3) files that the students can use to work with the SQL Server Express database, and (4) the starting points and solutions for the exercises in the book. To install these files, the student can refer to appendix A in the book.

How to get started

To get started with the instructional materials, you need to install the files on the CD onto your PC. Then, you need to prepare your PC for using the book applications, exercise solutions, and project solutions. The topics that follow describe these procedures and the directories and files that get installed.

How to install the files and directories of the CD

From the root directory of the Instructor's CD, double-click on the file named `Install.exe` and respond to the dialog boxes that follow. This will install the directories and files of the Instructor's CD onto your C drive in a directory structure that starts with `C:\Murach\ASP.NET 3.5 VB\Instructors`.

The directories and files that get installed on your PC

C:\Murach\ASP.NET 3.5 VB\Instructors\...	Contents
Instructor's summary.doc	This Word document.
Book applications	Subdirectories that contain the applications presented in this book, along with the required SQL Server database and files for attaching and restoring the database and for granting ASP.NET access to the database.
Objectives.doc	A Word document that contains all of the instructional objectives.
Test banks	ExamView, RTF, and Blackboard subdirectories that contain one test bank for each chapter in the book in their respective formats.
Exercise starts	A subdirectory that contains the starting application that's required for exercise 1-2 and an image file that's required for exercise 2-1.
Exercise solutions	Subdirectories that contain our solutions for the exercises.
Projects.doc	A Word document that contains the descriptions for all of the projects in the book, including complete information about the required database.
Project solutions	Subdirectories that contain our solutions for the projects, along with the required SQL Server database and files for attaching and restoring the database and for granting ASP.NET access to the database.
Slides	One PowerPoint file for each chapter.
TechSupport.exe	An executable file that you can distribute to your students that will install and attach the SQL Server version of the TechSupport database that's used by the projects on their PCs. (The Access version of this database can be found in the <code>App_Data</code> folder of each project solution.)

How to open the applications

After you prepare your PC for running the downloaded applications, you can open most of them in Visual Studio using the `File→Open Web Site` command. The exception is the web control library for chapter 28. Because a web control library is a type of Windows project, you open it using the `File→Open Project` command.

How to prepare your PC for using the SQL Server databases

If you're going to use the SQL Server databases that come with this CD on your own PC, you'll need to attach the databases to SQL Server Express. If you're using Windows XP, you'll also need to grant ASP.NET access to these databases. To do that, you can use a procedure similar to the one in figure A-6 of appendix A in the book. The bat and sql files you'll use will be in different locations, however, as indicated in the table of directories and files presented earlier in this document. If you want to use the databases that come with this CD on your school's server, you'll have to use a similar procedure to attach the databases to that server and grant ASP.NET access to these databases. Or, if you have access to SQL Server Management Studio, you can use this tool to perform the necessary functions using a visual interface.

How to prepare for running the applications

Many of the downloaded applications require some additional preparation before they can be run. Here is a brief summary:

- If an application doesn't include a page named `Default.aspx`, you'll need to set the starting page for the application before you can run it.
- If an application uses one of the databases provided with the Instructor's Guide and the database is attached to a server that isn't on your own PC, you'll need to change the connection string so that it's appropriate for your database before you run the application.
- The application for chapter 19 uses SSL, so it requires IIS and a digital secure certificate. If IIS isn't installed on your system, you can use the information in figure A-2 (Windows XP) or A-3 (Windows Vista) of appendix A to install it. Then, if you don't have a digital secure certificate, you can use the information presented in chapter 19 to obtain and install a trial or self-signed certificate. Once you do that, you'll be able to run the application.

How to restore the original SQL Server databases

If you run the applications provided on this CD to demonstrate them to your students, you may at some point want to restore the original data. To make that easy to do, we've provided you with two copies of the database files. The ones that you'll attach to SQL Server Express are in the Database subdirectory of the appropriate directory. For example, the files for the Halloween database used in the book are located in the `C:\Murach\ASP.NET 3.5 VB\Instructors\Book applications\Database` subdirectory. The other copies are in the Database backup subdirectory of that same directory.

You can use one of two techniques to restore the original database files. First, if you have access to SQL Server Management Studio, you can use it to detach the modified database. Then, you can copy the database files that contain the original data over the files that contain the modified data. Finally, you can use Management Studio to attach the database again.

If you don't have access to Management Studio, you can use the batch files provided on this CD to restore the original files. You'll find these batch files, named `db_restore.bat`, in the Database subdirectory of the appropriate directory. To execute one of these batch files, just double-click on it. Then, it will run a SQL Server script that detaches the database from SQL Server. Next, it will copy the original files over the modified files. Finally, it will run a SQL Server script that reattaches the database.

Any comments?

If you have any comments about our book or its instructional materials, we would be delighted to hear from you. Just e-mail us at the addresses below. But whether or not we hear from you, we want to thank you for your interest in our products.

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