

Preface

A *ASP.NET Database Programming Weekend Crash Course™* introduces the reader to ASP.NET database programming in one weekend: 30 sessions of a half hour each, for 15 hours stretching from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening. At the end of each section of the book, you'll get a chance to test your knowledge before continuing. Good luck!

Who Should Read This Book

This book is for people who want to learn to write ASP.NET applications in order to access and manipulate data in a Web environment. This book assumes that you have a basic understanding of Web development, including experience with Visual Basic or Visual Basic Scripting in developing ASP-based applications. The book's focus is on ASP.NET and ADO.NET as a suite of components used in data-driven Web application development. It includes a CD-ROM with ASP.NET editor software and sample code mentioned in the text.

Organization and Presentation

We've organized the book into 30 sessions, each requiring approximately 30 minutes. We divide the sessions as follows:

- **Friday evening.** Sessions 1 through 4. Reading time: 2 hours.
- **Saturday morning.** Sessions 5 through 10. Reading time: 3 hours
- **Saturday afternoon.** Sessions 11 through 16. Reading time: 3 hours.
- **Saturday evening.** Sessions 17 through 20. Reading time: 2 hours.
- **Sunday morning.** Sessions 21 through 26. Reading time: 3 hours.
- **Sunday afternoon.** Sessions 27 through 30. Reading time: 2 hours.

At the end of each session, we present questions designed to check your progress. The text is sprinkled with icons designed to catch your attention.



The “minutes to go” icons mark your progress in the session.



The Tip icons offer suggestions on style and mention shortcuts that can save programming effort.



The Note icons highlight incidental or technical information that clarifies and expands upon the discussion.



The CD-ROM icon refers to material furnished on the book’s CD. Use it to find electronic versions of programs and software elements mentioned in the text.

Contacting the Authors

We can’t guarantee we will solve all of your ASP.NET database programming problems in this book, but we promise to take a look at your questions and see if we can help. If you get stuck, you can contact us at the following e-mail address:

`tony_and_jason@hotmail.com`

Acknowledgments

Tony: First, I would like to acknowledge my wife, Marie, who has been extremely patient and has provided tremendous support throughout the course of this project. A lot of new life changes and accomplishments are hitting us this year, including our first child, Brad, and of course the publication of this book. I’d like to thank Jason Butler, my co-author, for making this opportunity available and being a solid source of support in its development.

Jason: I would like to dedicate this book to two people: my mother, who has always inspired me to be the best person I can, and Donna, without whose patience, support, and encouragement this book would never have been completed.

There are also a few people whom I would like to thank for their support throughout this project. First, I would like to thank the PwC-eArmyU team, especially Chrystyna, Chris, FJ, Mark, Volodya, PV, Julie, Travis, and Michael. They truly are some of the finest people with whom I have had the privilege to work. I would also like to thank my fathers, Steve and Al, for their unwavering support.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Tony Caudill, my co-author, for being a great friend and mentor.

Tony and Jason: We would both like to thank PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and Hungry Minds for providing the financial and motivational support to accomplish this task while supporting an extensive consulting practice.

Health and Peace . . .