

In This Issue

- **Wally McClure's new Ajax book released**
- **Infamous ASP.NET Podcast pushes forward, gets visual**
- **Wally talks about accessibility issues with ASP.NET**

Seeing is Believing

By Luci Harrell

It was about this time last year that Wallace "Wally" McClure and Paul Glavich decided to launch and host the official ASP.NET Podcast. The beginning of November saw the very first show.

It was a stage setter. ASP.NET Podcast listeners could expect expert interviews and technical discussions. Its home, at aspnetpodcast.com, would serve to compliment each downloadable airing with show notes, plenty of code examples and screen shots.

Almost twelve months later, all of these effective elements still exist... plus more. With a slight shift in format, Wally has been hosting some of the more recent ASP.NET Podcast shows via video webcast.

Using video webcasting, Wally's ASP.NET knowledge comes to life in an interactive way. Driven in presentation style, Wally is able to flip between programs and code examples, recording everything on the desktop along the way. This effective method allows him to not only tell, but *show* the processes of working with code examples and shortcut hints and strategies to get effective results.

If you haven't already, I urge you to check out the ever-evolving ASP.NET Podcast.

See Podcast on Page 2

Accessibility with ASP.NET

By Wallace "Wally" McClure

I have found that the following items are important accessibility issues/settings, from a development standpoint, when building an ASP.NET application:

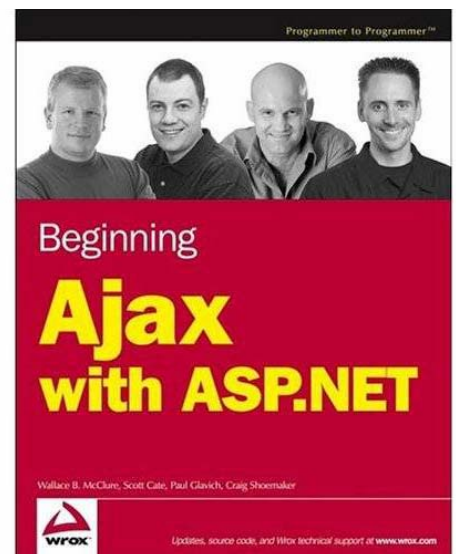
- **Gridview**
 - UseAccessibleHeader property. This property causes the output of the gridview to have a <th> as opposed to a <td> for the header. I am not sure if it does anything else.
 - Summary attribute. The Summary attribute does not currently exist on the gridview as any type of property that I have been able to find. This can be added through the Control.Attribute.Add() method.

See ASP.NET on Page 2

What do you know about AJAX?

By Luci Harrell

Web application development... that's what this is all about. The name of the game is AJAX, and Wally McClure has a new co-authored book out this fall that will show you exactly how it's done. It's called *Beginning Ajax with ASP.NET*.



See AJAX on Page 2

ASP.NET

- **Label**
 - AssociatedControlId property. This property causes the server side control to output the "For" attribute and to output the value as the client side Id of the server side associated control.
- **Images or other non-technical elements**
 - Alt attribute. Client side images need to have some type of "Alt" attribute that can be set on the client side.
 - LongDesc attribute. I don't use the longdesc attribute; however, I have read about it in various documents
- **Manually created table**
 - I don't use manually create tables much in ASP.NET. I did in Classic ASP, but didn't everyone? In a table with X rows and Y columns, column data falls under the headers. There are situations where that type of layout doesn't work and there may be a need to associate two columns of the table with the same header information.

Why is this of interest to me? I feel that it is good to provide support to users of screen readers. I have never seen anything as exciting as a user being able to access an application when they have been so frustrated in the past.

Podcast

Some recent video webcast shows of interest include:

- [Show #60](#), the Microsoft Atlas UpdatePanel,
- [Show #65](#), Microsoft Atlas Integration with ASP.NET Services,
- [Show #72](#), Basic Microsoft AJAX Library Features, and
- [Show #75](#), Building Section 508 Compatible Applications with ASP.NET.

AJAX

For a precise explanation and summary, I turn the book over. The back cover offers the following summary for all of you prospective buyers:

"Ajax has the power to revolutionize the way web-based applications are designed. This book provides you with a

thorough working knowledge of what Ajax has to offer and how to take full advantage of it in your application development.

Following an exploration of how Ajax works with .NET, you'll get acquainted with DHTML, the role of JavaScript and the Document Object Model, and the XMLHttpRequest Object, which is the foundation of Ajax. Then you will examine the Ajax-type features built into ASP.NET and explore the Ajax.NET Professional Library in detail. Finally, you will explore client scripting as well as building and using controls with Microsoft's Atlas. With an entire chapter devoted to debugging, you will have all you need to use this cutting-edge technology.

What you will learn from this book

- What you can do with the open source Ajax.NET Professional Library
- How to use the corresponding functionality, Asynchronous Client Script Callbacks, that comes with ASP.NET 2.0
- Techniques for using the XMLHttpRequest Object to communicate between the client web browser and the server
- An overview of XML, XSLT, and other ways to send data between client and server
- How to integrate Microsoft's Atlas with many of the services available in ASP.NET 2.0

Who this book is for

This book is for programmers who use ASP.NET and are just starting to use Ajax technologies to create more responsive, modern applications.

Wrox Beginning guides are crafted to make learning programming languages and technologies easier than you think, providing a structured, tutorial format that will guide you through all the techniques involved." Indianapolis: Wiley Publishing (2006).

Wally teamed up with fellow ASP.NET experts Scott Cate, Paul Glavich and Craig Shoemaker for *Beginning Ajax with ASP.NET*. To get your hands on a copy, check out the book's page at [Amazon](#).

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