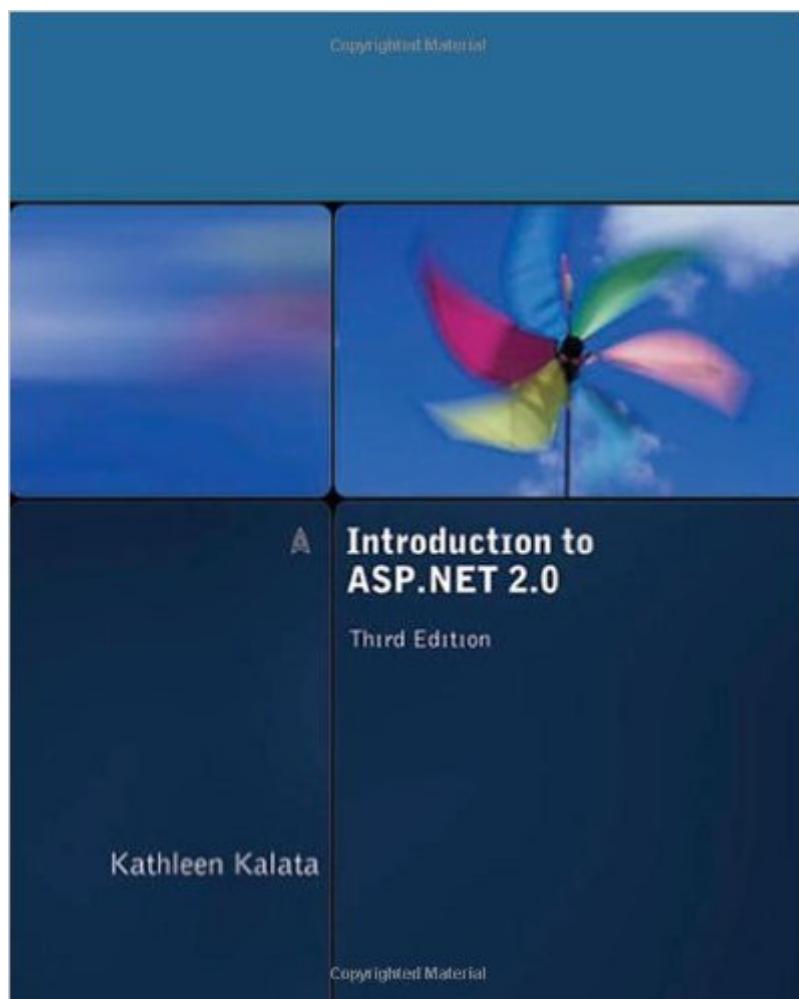


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# Introduction To ASP.NET 2.0



## **Synopsis**

A revision of the highly successful second edition, *Introduction to ASP.NET*, Third Edition offers even more ASP.NET development knowledge. It will familiarize the user with ways to create dynamic web applications using server-side programming technologies. A well-rounded Internet programmer needs to be able to integrate server technologies to produce web applications that not only interact with visitors, but also integrate other computer applications. Students will design and maintain interactive and dynamic Web applications within the Visual Studio 2005 environment.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This text was required for my ASP.Net course. While I am a well rounded individual with a vast knowledge of programming, I had never done web based programming. So I was excited to take up on a new set of tools to improve my already vast library of computer knowledge. This book is more for people who have already been in the field of web programming and want to take their knowledge to a different level. TO me as a student using the book, there are many questions left un-answered. the author is not very clear on many topics. ALSO she leaves you with "hints" that are not fully explained. While I first approached this class as if it were a single new programming language, I quickly learned how wrong I was to take that approach. You must approach this subject as a full project of different tools. Technically you are learning to put various tools together to make a single project. The book does not explain that in the first two chapters. So you are left wondering "WHAT IS ASP.NET REALLY?"...While there are various practice projects and Hands on projects that are

helpful, you will be hopelessly lost if you do not know how to use the XHTML validator (@ [...] This tool is needed to be sure you are doing your work with the standards that are current. The book recommends you use the validator, but does not give any tips on how to use it (thank goodness for the internet! You can find user groups for help!) While I have only gotten as far as chapter 5 as I write this, to date the book has proven to be more confusing and reads like "Quantum Physics" to quote a classmate. I have ordered a supplement ASP.NET book to help me get through the course better.

This book was used as part of an instructor-led course, and from a student's perspective, I cannot recommend this book. First, the intended audience is for a person with "No prior knowledge of programming...". This is really not the case. If you are new to programming in general and ASP in particular, then you will struggle through this book. The author has 17 years of experience, which includes "online course development". Having taken several online courses in programming languages (C++, Java, and VB), books in general explain what the programming code is doing and why. This is not the case with Introduction to ASP.net 2.0. The author uses screen shots for code examples that are very small, and the majority of the program "snippets" are a mix of HTML, CSS, XML, and XSL, all lumped together. In order to understand a concept, you have to wade through lines of code that are not fully explained. What you see in the book is a small screen shot that contains lines of code, and from that you copy that section of code into your program. Keep in mind that what you are shown in the book comes from a screen shot of Microsoft Visual Web Developer. The code is color-coded in Web Developer, but in the book, the screen shots are black and white. The text you are trying to copy from is often washed out, which increases the difficulty of trying to type the code examples. After entering the code, you are instructed to run the webpage in a browser. After a few chapters of this, you realize you are just typing in code (which ranges from 2 lines to half a page) and I never felt like I was getting anything out of doing that. The code you dutifully type in will be in the middle of a huge section of code. Your little addition somehow makes the webpage work.

I had to buy this book for an online class. It is literally THE worst tech book I've ever read. I have a knack and penchant for breezing through technical material and soaking it up like a sponge. I've taught myself, out of books, everything from C++ to XML, PHP to TCP/IP, Final Cut Pro to Dreamweaver in no time flat. I have yet to earn anything less than an A in any of my computer science courses. But now I've met my match. This book fails on a number of levels. First, if you are

not already well familiar with the .NET framework, its purpose, organization and implementation, then be prepared to read some other book before you start this one. This book almost seems to be written as a quick reminder for someone who already knew ASP.NET, but needs a refresher on what controls and methods are available. The book is full of long paragraphs with chains of terms that mean nothing to the novice and are not illustrated well enough with examples or diagrams. There is no thorough discussion about the power and functions of the various classes and where they fit into the grand design of .NET. There is also basically NO discussion about classic ASP, its syntax, and how to recognize it within the .NET code. To make matters worse, this book is full of mistakes and unspecified details. On the project assignments at the end of chapters, this leads to many wasted hours trying to infer the meaning of the instructions, or trying to figure out what step is missing or just plain incorrect. The projects seem to be designed to take around 10 minutes each. In my class, we have to do 2-3 of these each week. I usually end up spending at least a couple hours, sometimes more like 8 hours, solely because the directions are too murky and the text is terrible to begin with.

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