



Beginning

# Ajax with ASP.NET

Wallace B. McClure, Scott Cate, Paul Glavich, Craig Shoemaker



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For my wife, Ronda, my two children, Kirsten and Bradley, and the rest of my family.

—Wallace B. McClure

My contribution to this project is dedicated to my newborn son, Cameron. I'd like to thank Michael Schwarz both for authoring the Ajax.NET Professional library and for his research assistance, as well as all of the myKB.com staff, who were very helpful and supportive of this project. Special thanks go to Lorin Thwaites, who helped me with research and provided several great ideas for my chapters.

—Scott Cate

To my wonderful wife Michele for her enduring love and patience; my three children, Kristy, Marc, and Elizabeth, for being so lovable and great people; my two grandchildren, Olivia and William, for just being themselves; my loving parents for all their support; and everyone else I have met on the way to getting where I am, good or bad, thank you for helping me get here.

—Paul Glavich

I dedicate this work first to God, then my Peachy, TyRy, Zachy-zoo, and baby Jacob—who started to make his appearance as I write this text.

—Craig Shoemaker

For Michelle, for putting up with me longer than anybody should have to do so.

—Steven A. Smith

## About the Authors

**Wallace B. “Wally” McClure** graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. He continued his education there, receiving a master’s degree in the same field in 1991. Since that time, he has done consulting and development for such organizations as The United States Department of Education, Coca-Cola, Bechtel National, Magnatron, and Lucent Technologies, among others. Products and services have included work with ASP, ADO, XML, and SQL Server, as well as numerous applications in the Microsoft .NET Framework. Wally has been working with the .NET Framework since the summer of 2000. Wally McClure specializes in building applications that have large numbers of users and large amounts of data. He is a Microsoft MVP and an ASPInsider, and a partner in Scalable Development, Inc. You can read Wally’s blog at <http://weblogs.asp.net/wallym>. Wally and coauthor Paul Glavich also co-host the ASP.NET Podcast. You can listen to it at [www.aspnetpodcast.com](http://www.aspnetpodcast.com). In addition, Wally travels around the southeast United States doing user group talks and sessions at various CodeCamps.

When not working or playing with technology, Wally tries to spend time with his wife Ronda and their two children, Kirsten and Bradley. Occasionally, Wally plays golf and on July 30, 2005, broke par on a real golf course for the first time in his life. If he hadn’t been there, he would not have believed it.

**Scott Cate** is the President of myKB.com, Inc., in Scottsdale, Arizona. myKB.com, Inc., is a technology company specializing in commercial ASP.NET applications. His product line includes myKB.com (knowledge base software), kbAlertz.com (Microsoft knowledge base notifications), and EasySearchASP.net (a plug-gable search engine for ASP.NET sites). Scott also runs AZGroups.com (Arizona .NET user groups), one of the largest and most active user group communities in the country, and is a member of ASPInsiders.com, a group devoted to giving early feedback to the Microsoft ASP.NET team. In addition, Scott has coauthored the novel *Surveillance*, which can be found at <http://surveillance-the-novel.com>.

**Paul Glavich** is currently an ASP.NET MVP and works as a senior technical consultant for Readify. He has over 15 years of industry experience ranging from PICK, C, C++, Delphi, and Visual Basic 3/4/5/6 to his current specialty in .NET C++ with C#, COM+, and ASP.NET. Paul has been developing in .NET technologies since .NET was first in beta and was technical architect for one of the world’s first Internet banking solutions using .NET technology. Paul can be seen on various .NET related newsgroups, has presented at the Sydney .NET user group ([www.sdnug.org](http://www.sdnug.org)) and is also a board member of ASPInsiders ([www.aspinsiders.com](http://www.aspinsiders.com)). He has also written some technical articles that can be seen on community sites, such as ASPAlliance.com ([www.aspalliance.com](http://www.aspalliance.com)).

On a more personal note, Paul is married with three children and two grandkids, and holds a third degree black belt in budo-jitsu.

**Craig Shoemaker** can’t sit still. As the host of the Polymorphic Podcast ([polymorphicpodcast.com](http://polymorphicpodcast.com)), Craig teaches on topics as timely as software architecture and as cutting edge as the latest Ajax technologies. Whether he’s writing for *CoDe Magazine*, ASPAlliance, or DotNetJunkies or speaking at local user groups, Southern California Code Camp, or VSLive!, Craig loves to share his passion for the art and science for software development. Craig is also a full-time software engineer for Microsoft Certified Partner PDSA, Inc. ([pdsa.com](http://pdsa.com)) in Tustin, California.

## About the Technical Editor

**Steven A. Smith** is president of ASPAlliance.com and DevAdvice.com. He is a Microsoft regional developer, a Microsoft ASP.NET MVP, and an ASPInsiders board member. He is an International .NET Association (INETA) Speaker Bureau member, and author of two books on ASP.NET. Steve is also an Army engineer officer and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he spent 6 months locating and neutralizing munitions in 2004. He lives in Kent, Ohio, with his wife and business partner, Michelle, and their daughter, Ilyana. When he is not attached to a computer, Steve enjoys spending time with his family hiking, biking, and playing games.

# Acknowledgments

It is truly interesting how writing projects get started and how ideas turn into books. I had seen the hidden frame trick for years (at least 1998), but I always felt that it was too hard to set up and keep running, so I just dismissed it in general. I saw my first formal Ajax application in the early part of 2003, though it wasn't called Ajax then. The application ran in Internet Explorer only and used the MSXML component. I remember sitting down with the person who had written it as we tried to debug the JavaScript that was necessary to get everything to work. Though it was only Windows/IE and debugging was very hard, I could see the potential of this type of development. I always kept it in the back of my mind. With the release of Google Suggest, Google Maps, and several other web sites and with Jesse James Garrett's essay on Ajax, where the coined term became public, Ajax has really taken off as far as developer mind-share. As I watched March 2005 turn into April 2005 and then into June 2005, I wondered if I was missing an opportunity for a writing project on a killer technology. I started working with the Ajax library for ASP.NET in June 2005, and I wondered if the topic of Ajax on ASP.NET had enough meat to write about. With Scott Guthrie's announcement of Atlas near the end of June 2005, I knew that Ajax was something that I wanted to be involved with. I spoke with Bob Elliott of Wiley on the Tuesday of Scott Guthrie's announcement and probably every day through July 2005 regarding Ajax and writing a book on Ajax with ASP.NET. From there, things took off. I started talking a lot about Ajax in some online lists at [aspadvice.com](http://aspadvice.com). Paul, Scott, and I immediately began talking about Ajax. Paul and I already worked together on the ASP.NET Podcast (at [www.aspnetpodcast.com](http://www.aspnetpodcast.com)), and the three of us already knew each other from the ASPInsider and Microsoft MVP groups to which we belong. Given Scott and Paul's existing knowledge, it was not hard to convince them to come on board and work on this book.

Personally, I would like to thank Bob Elliott for keeping me focused on what was going on and working with us to develop this book. Our thanks also go out to the editorial staff at Wiley. Their help keeping us on track as "life happened" was appreciated. The work of our technical editor, Steven A. Smith, was impressive, and his attention to detail was great. Many other people behind the scenes have worked hard on the book. By pulling this group together, Wiley created a team that was dedicated to creating the best possible book on Ajax on ASP.NET. For that, we are truly appreciative.

*~Wallace B. McClure and the author team*



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