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Create a minimal API with ASP.NET Core with CRUD functional

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

Contents

- We will use ASP.NET Core to create a Web/REST/HTTP API.
 - ASP.NET is a server-side framework for creating web pages and web contents.
- We will create a so-called "Minimal API with ASP.NET Core" and we will use the "ASP.NET Core Empty" template in Visual Studio.
- The API will have CRUD functionality
 - We will implement a minimal CRUD API that Create, Read, Update and Delete data in the Database.
 - We will use SQL Server as the Database system.
- We will use Visual Studio as the code editor.

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Introduction

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Introduction

- We can create Web/REST/HTTP APIs in Visual Studio and C# using the ASP.NET Web framework.
- This can be done in many ways, and Microsoft also continuously updates Visual Studio with new approaches and new templates.
- A new approach from Microsoft is called "Minimal API with ASP.NET Core" and you use the "ASP.NET Core Empty" template in Visual Studio.

Minimal APIs

- ASP.NET Core supports two approaches to creating APIs: a controller-based approach and minimal APIs.
- Minimal APIs are architected to create HTTP APIs with minimal dependencies.
- They're ideal for microservices and apps that want to include only the minimum files, features, and dependencies in ASP.NET Core.
- Basically, Minimal APIs is a new <u>simplified</u> approach for creating APIs with ASP.NET Core.
- This tutorial teaches the basics of building a minimal API with ASP.NET Core.

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/tutorials/min-web-api

ASP.NET

- ASP.NET is a framework for web development.
- You can use ASP.NET for creating Web Applications or Web/REST APIs.
- ASP.NET is based on .NET and C#.
- What is the difference between ASP.NET and .NET frameworks?
 - ASP.NET is specifically designed for web development, while the .NET framework covers a broader range of application types, including Windows desktop, mobile, and web applications.
- Homepage: <u>https://dotnet.microsoft.com/en-us/apps/aspnet</u>

API

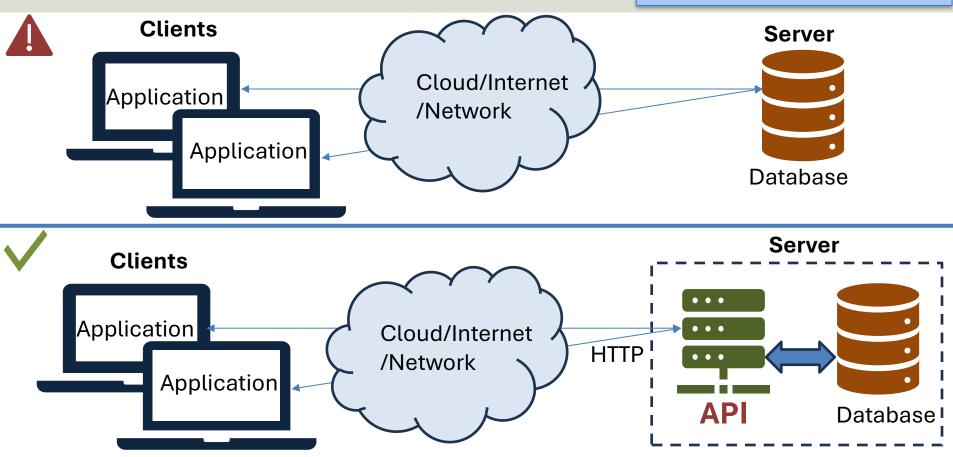
- Application Programming Interface (API).
- An API is a way for two or more computer programs or components to communicate with each other.
- It is a type of software interface that offers a service to other software.
- APIs come in many shapes, some examples are SOAP API, REST API, GraphQL API, etc.
- Most programming languages today have components/libraries that can be used both to create APIs and to consume APIs (using existing APIs).

Web API

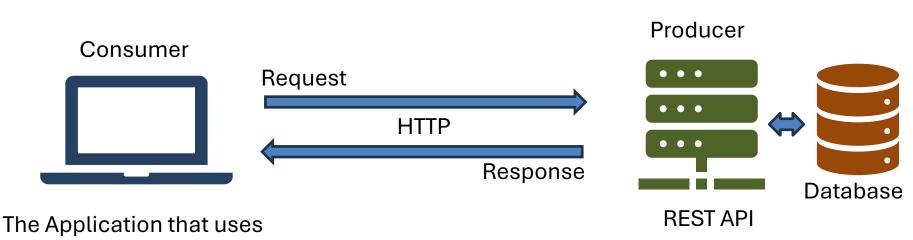
- We can create/use APIs for internal use inside an Application or between 2 or more Applications.
- Basically, an API can be just a Class with Methods that you use several places inside an Application or that you share between multiple Applications.
- A set of Stored Procedures in a Database can also be an API.
- When the Application that consume/use the API is on a local PC and the API itself is located on a Server, we can talk about so-called "Web APIs".
- Such Web APIs also very often perform CRUD operations against a Database located on the Web.
- Normally it is not allowed to connect directly to a Database located in the Cloud from a local computer unless you configure and give access to the IP addresses for those clients.
 CRUD: Create, Read, Update, Delete Data

Web/REST API

Normally it is not allowed to connect directly to a Database located in the Cloud from a local computer unless you configure and give access to the IP addresses for those clients.



REST API



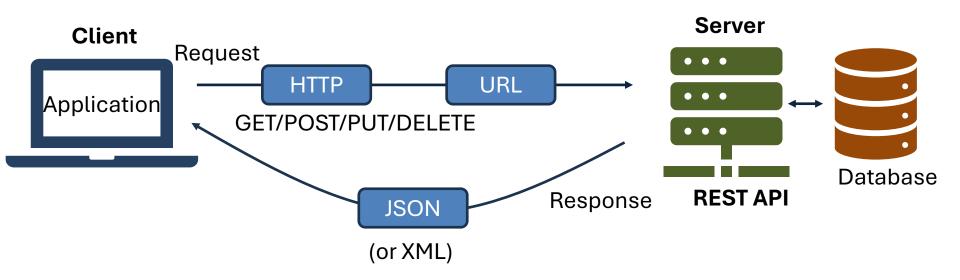
or consume the REST API.

HTTP/HTTPS

- HTTPS is not a separate protocol, but a combination of regular HTTP over an encrypted SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) or TLS (Transport Layer Security) connection.
- HTTP consists of different methods:
 - **GET** This method is used to retrieve information from the server.
 - POST This is used to send data to the server. Typically used to store data from a web page (an HTTML Form) to ,e.g., a database.
 - **PUT** This is used to update information on the server.
 - **DELETE** This is used to delete information on the server.
- You usually refer to these four methods as CRUD operations because they allow you to Create (POST), Read (GET), Update (PUT), and Delete (DELETE) resources, such as information in a database.

GET and POST are by far the most used of these HTTP methods

REST API



JSON

- When it comes to Web APIs and REST APIs JSON is the standard for the data format.
- Example:

```
{
  "Name": "John Wayne",
  "Work": "Actor",
  "Age": 52
  "Children": [
    "Lisa",
    "Thomas",
    "Knut"
]
}
```

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JSON

Why use an API?

- Normally it is not allowed to connect directly to a Database located in the Cloud from a local computer
 - unless you configure and give access to the IP addresses for those clients.
 - Typically, your IT Department don't allow that
- You can use the same API for multiple Applications, let say you have a Desktop App, an iPhone App and an Android App
 - All can use the same API
 - You save time and money by developing only once instead of specific code for each application.
- You want to expose data to externals services or persons, e.g., a Weather API that can be used by persons, external apps or services. Other examples: Hotel/plane reservations and ticket systems

API Summary

- "Web APIs", "REST APIs" or "HTTP APIs" are basically the same.
- It is more or less just different names for the same.
- They use the request/response model.
- They all communicate via Internet and use HTTP as communication protocol.
- And they use JSON (or sometimes XML) as Data Format.
- Very often they implement **CRUD** functionality.

API Test Tools

- Postman. Homepage: <u>https://www.postman.com</u>
- Insomnia. Homepage: <u>https://insomnia.rest</u>

References

- Tutorial: Create a minimal API with ASP.NET Core: <u>https://learn.microsoft.com/en-</u> us/aspnet/core/tutorials/min-web-api
- Build a web API with minimal API, ASP.NET Core, and .NET: <u>https://learn.microsoft.com/en-</u> gb/training/modules/build-web-api-minimal-api/
- Back-end Web Development with .NET for Beginners: <u>https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdo4fOcmZ0oW</u> <u>unQnm3WnZxJrseIw2zSAk</u>
- Use .http files in Visual Studio 2022: <u>https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/aspnet/core/test/http-files</u>

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Getting Started

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Visual Studio Template

You can use one of the following templates in Visual Studio:

AJ ASP.NET CORE EMPLY	C#
🥑 Blazor Server App	C#
🥑 Blazor Web App	C#
🗟 ASP.NET Core Web App (Razor Pages)	C#
React and ASP.NET Core	avaScript
Blank Node.js Web Application J	avaScript
🖻 Windows Forms App	C#
🗱 .NET MAUI App	C#
🖻 Windows Forms App (.NET Framework)	C#
Si Python Application	Python
🗊 MSTest Test Project	C#
🖾 NUnit Test Project	C#
🗊 Unit Test Project (.NET Framework)	C#
🎯 Blazor WebAssembly Standalone App	C#

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ASP.I	NET × Clear all					
All la	nguages • All platforms • All project types •					
	ASP.NET Core Web App (Razor Pages) A project template for creating an ASP.NET Core application with example ASP.NET Core Razor Pages content	Î				
- 0						
	C# Linux macOS Windows API Cloud Service Web	-				
Web API ASP.NET Core Web API (native AOT) A project template for creating a RESTful Web API using ASP.NET Core minimal APIs published as native AOT.						
	C# Linux macOS Windows API Cloud Service Web					
	Web ADT					
ASP.NET Core Empty An empty project template for creating an ASP.NET Core application. This template does not have any content in it.						
	C# Linux macOS Windows Cloud Service Web					
ASP.NET Core Web App (Model-View-Controller) A project template for creating an ASP.NET Core application with example ASP.NET Core MVC Views and Controllers. This template can also be used for RESTful HTTP services.						
	C# Linux macOS Windows Cloud Service Web					
		Ŧ				

Back

Next

Visual Studio Project

📫 File Edit View Project Build Debug Test Analyze Tools Extensions Window Help | A Search・ WebAPI

Endpoints Explorer - P × Program.cs	+ X	- Solution Explorer - + × 5
Ŭ ● WebAPI		
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Hello World

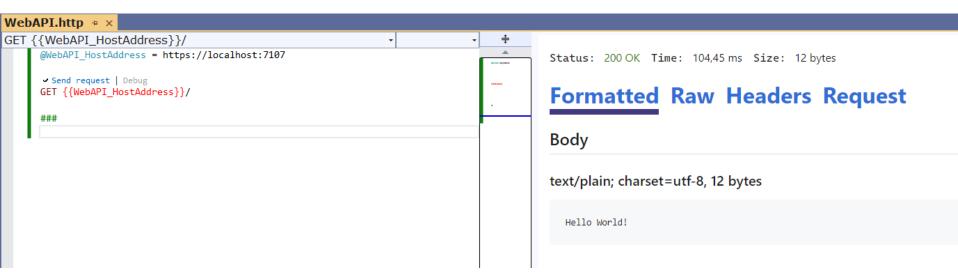
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	WebAPI	.
	{ <mark>a 1</mark>	<pre>var builder = WebApplication.CreateBuilder(args);</pre>
	2	<pre>var app = builder.Build();</pre>
	3	
	4 🝼	<pre>app.MapGet("/", () => "Hello World!");</pre>
	5	
	6	<pre>app.Run();</pre>

Endpoints Explorer

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						5 6	app.Run();

Test the API Endpoints

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CRUD Example

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CRUD API Example

- We will create a Web/REST/HTTP API with CRUD functionality.
 - Meaning we will Insert (Create), Read, Update and Delete data in a Database.
- We will start by creating a Database and Table using SQL Server and SQL Server Management Studio.
- Then we will create the ASP.NET/C# code for the Web API.
- We will test the API using the Endpoints Explorer in Visual Studio.

Tools

The following tools will be used in this example:

- SQL Server
 - SQL Server Management Studio
- Visual Studio
- ASP.NET
- C#

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Database

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CRUD and **Database**

- We will create an API with CRUD functionality
- We will implement a minimal CRUD API that Create, Read, Update and Delete data in the Database.
- We will use SQL Server as the Database system.

Database

CREATE TABLE [AUTHOR]

([AuthorId] [int] IDENTITY(1, 1) NOT [AuthorName] [varchar](50) NOT NULL [Address] [varchar](50) NULL, [Phone] [varchar](50) NULL, [PostCode] [varchar](50) NULL, [PostAddress] [varchar](50) NULL,		ARY KEY,
CREATE TABLE [BOOK]	[EMail] [varchar](50) NULL,	
()	
[BookId] [int] IDENTITY(1, 1) NOT [Title] [varchar](50) NOT NULL UN] [ISBN] [varchar](20) NOT NULL,		
[PublisherId] [int] NOT NULL F [AuthorId] [int] NOT NULL FORE	EATE TABLE [CATEGORY]	
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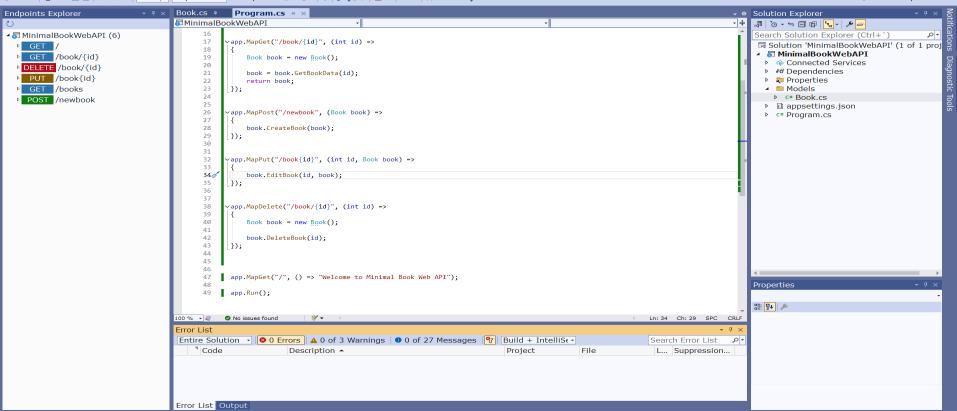
Visual Studio

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Visual Studio

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	3	using System.Collections.Generic;			
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	116	> public void EditBook(int bo	kId, Book book)		
	144				
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	172	[]			

GetBooks

```
public List<Book> GetBooks()
```

ł

```
List<Book> bookList = new List<Book>();
```

```
SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
string selectSQL = "select BookId, Title, Isbn, PublisherName, AuthorName, CategoryName from GetBookData";
con.Open();
SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(selectSQL, con);
SqlDataReader dr = cmd.ExecuteReader();
if (dr != null)
{
    while (dr.Read())
    {
        Book book = new Book();
        book.BookId = Convert.ToInt32(dr["BookId"]);
        book.Title = dr["Title"].ToString();
        book.Isbn = dr["ISBN"].ToString();
        book.PublisherName = dr["PublisherName"].ToString();
        book.AuthorName = dr["AuthorName"].ToString();
        book.CategoryName = dr["CategoryName"].ToString();
        bookList.Add(book);
    }
return bookList;
```

Books.cs

GetBookData

```
SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
string selectSQL = "select BookId, Title, Isbn, PublisherName, AuthorName, CategoryName from GetBookData where BookId = " +
                      bookId;
con.Open();
SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(selectSQL, con);
SqlDataReader dr = cmd.ExecuteReader();
Book book = new Book();
if (dr != null)
    while (dr.Read())
        book.BookId = Convert.ToInt32(dr["BookId"]);
        book.Title = dr["Title"].ToString();
        book.Isbn = dr["ISBN"].ToString();
        book.PublisherName = dr["PublisherName"].ToString();
        book.AuthorName = dr["AuthorName"].ToString();
```

Books.cs

```
book.CategoryName = dr["CategoryName"].ToString();
```

return book;

}

{

public Book GetBookData(int bookId)

ł

CreateBook

Books.cs

```
public void CreateBook(Book book)
    try
    ł
        using (SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString))
            SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand("CreateBook", con);
            cmd.CommandType = CommandType.StoredProcedure;
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@Title", book.Title));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@Isbn", book.Isbn));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@PublisherName", book.PublisherName));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@AuthorName", book.AuthorName));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@CategoryName", book.CategoryName));
            con.Open();
            cmd.ExecuteNonQuery();
            con.Close();
        }
    }
   catch (Exception ex)
        throw ex;
    }
```

EditBook

```
public void EditBook(int bookId, Book book)
{
    try
        using (SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString))
            SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand("UpdateBook", con);
            cmd.CommandType = CommandType.StoredProcedure;
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@BookId", bookId));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@Title", book.Title));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@Isbn", book.Isbn));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@PublisherName", book.PublisherName));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@AuthorName", book.AuthorName));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@CategoryName", book.CategoryName));
            con.Open();
            cmd.ExecuteNonQuery();
            con.Close();
    }
    catch (Exception ex)
       throw ex;
```

Books.cs

DeleteBook

Books.cs

```
public void DeleteBook(int bookId)
{
    try
    ł
        using (SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString))
        {
            SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand("DeleteBook", con);
            cmd.CommandType = CommandType.StoredProcedure;
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@BookId", bookId));
            con.Open();
            cmd.ExecuteNonQuery();
            con.Close();
        }
    catch (Exception ex)
        throw ex;
    }
```

}

Program.cs

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	<pre>3 var builder = WebApplication.CreateBuilder(args); 4 var app = builder.Build();</pre>
▶ PUT /book/{id}	5
DELETE /book/{id}	6 ∨app.MapGet("/books", () =>
GET /books	7 {
GET /books/{id}	<pre>8 List<book> bookList = new List<book>();</book></book></pre>
POST /newbook	9 Book book = new Book(); 10
,	10 11 bookList = book.GetBooks();
	12 return bookList;
	13 });
	14
	15 vapp.MapGet("/books/{id}", (int id) =>
	16 { 17 Book book = new Book();
	18
	<pre>19 book = book.GetBookData(id);</pre>
	20 return book;
	21 [});
	<pre>22 23 vapp.MapPost("/newbook", (Book book) =></pre>
	25 book.CreateBook(book);
	26
	27 return "Book has been created";
	28 }); 29 /
	30 vapp.MapPut("/book/{id}", (int id, Book book) =>
	31 {
	<pre>32 book.EditBook(id, book);</pre>
	33 return "Book has been updated";
	34 _}); 35
	<pre>36 vapp.MapDelete("/book/{id}", (int id) =></pre>
	37 {
	<pre>38 Book book = new Book();</pre>
	39
	40 book.DeleteBook(id); 41
	41 42 return "Book has been deleted";
	43 });
	44
	<pre>45 app.MapGet("/", () => "Welcome to Minimal Book Web API");</pre>
	46 47 app.Run():
	47 app.Run();

```
using MinimalBookWebAPI.Models;
```

```
var builder = WebApplication.CreateBuilder(args);
var app = builder.Build();
app.MapGet("/books", () =>
    List<Book> bookList = new List<Book>();
    Book book = new Book();
    bookList = book.GetBooks();
    return bookList;
});
app.MapGet("/books/{id}", (int id) =>
    Book book = new Book();
    book = book.GetBookData(id);
    return book;
});
app.MapPost("/newbook", (Book book) =>
{
    book.CreateBook(book);
    return "Book has been created";
});
app.MapPut("/book/{id}", (int id, Book book) =>
    book.EditBook(id, book);
    return "Book has been updated";
});
app.MapDelete("/book/{id}", (int id) =>
    Book book = new Book();
    book.DeleteBook(id);
    return "Book has been deleted";
});
app.MapGet("/", () => "Welcome to Minimal Book Web API");
app.Run();
```

Program.cs

Testing the API functions

- We will test the different API functions
- We can test the functions using the Endpoints Explorer in Visual Studio
- We can test it using the Web Browser
- We can also test it using an AI tool like Postman, etc.
- We can test it using different programming languages, like Python, etc.

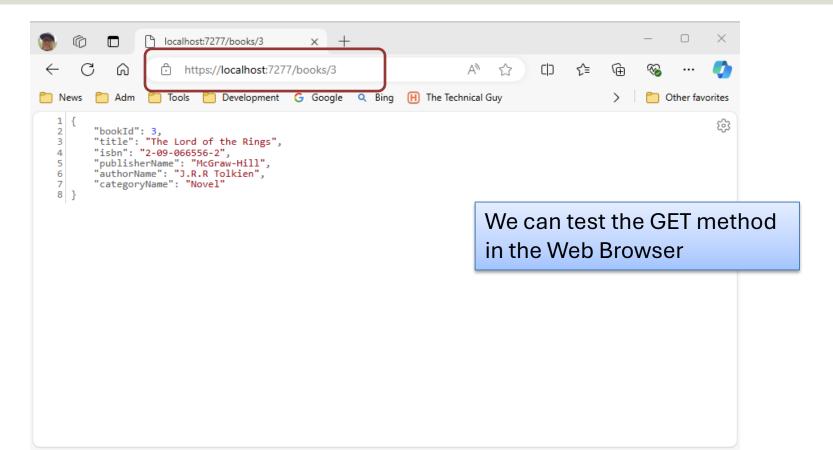
GET /books

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###				"authorName": "J.R.R Tolkien", "categoryName": "Novel"
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Send reques PUT {{Min: ###	st Debug iimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book{id}			<pre>"isbn": "12345678", "publisherName": "Wiley", "authorName": "Hans-Petter", "categoryName": "IoT" },</pre>
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###	We can test the method usin Endpoints Explorer in Visua	U		"isbn": "12345678", "publisherName": "Wiley", "authorName": "Hans-Petter", "categoryName": "Programming" }]

GET /books/{id}



GET /books/{id}

alAPI.http 🔹 🗙 Program.cs			
{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/books @MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress = https://localhost:7277	• env: <none> •</none>	÷	Status: 200 OK Time: 12,96 ms Size: 149 bytes
<pre>✓ Send request Debug GET {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/books</pre>		1) (1000 (100) (1000 (100) (10	Formatted Raw Headers Request
<pre>###</pre>			Body
<pre>####</pre>			application/json; charset=utf-8, 149 bytes
<pre>Send request Debug POST {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/newbook</pre>		*	{
###			"bookId": 3, "title": "The Lord of the Rings", "isbn": "2-09-066556-2",
<pre>Send request Debug PUT {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book{id}</pre>			"publisherName": "McGraw-Hill", "authorName": "J.R.R Tolkien",

###

We can test the method using the **Endpoints Explorer** in Visual Studio

POST / newbook

Program.cs MinimalAPI.http * ×		
<pre>DELETE {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book/6</pre>	env: <none> + env: - env: -</none>	Status: 200 OK Time: 82,67 ms Size: 21 bytes Formatted Raw Headers Request Body text/plain; charset=utf-8, 21 bytes Book has been created
<pre>### Send request Debug DELETE {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book/6 ###</pre>	We can test the method using the Endpoints Explorer in Visual Studio	

PUT /book/{id}

Program.cs MinimalAPI.http + ×		
DELETE {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book/6	• env: <none> • ÷</none>	
Send request Debug GET {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/books/3		Status: 200 OK Time: 7,47 ms Size: 21 bytes
###		Formatted Raw Headers Request
<pre>Send request Debug POST {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/newbook Content-Type: application/json</pre>	- Subary set in the start 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Body
<pre>~{ "Title" : "API Book", "Isbn" : "12345678",</pre>		text/plain; charset=utf-8, 21 bytes
"PublisherName" : "Wiley", "AuthorName" : "Knut Hamsun", "CategoryName" : "Science"		Book has been updated
J ###		
<pre> Send request Debug PUT {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book/8 Content-Type: application/json { "Title" : "API Book2", "Title" : "API Book2",</pre>		
"Isbn" : "5555555", "PublisherName" : "Wiley", "AuthorName" : "Knut Hamsun", "CategoryName" : "Science" }	We can test the met Endpoints Explorer	0

DELETE /book/{id}

MinimalPI.http* * × Program.cs		
DELETE {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book/6 • env: <none> @MinimalBookWebAPI HostAddress = https://localhost:7277</none>		
@MINIMAIBOOKWEDAPI_HOSTAddress = https://localnost:/2//	Status: 200 OK Time: 111,51 ms Size: 0 bytes	
Send request Debug		
GET {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/books	Formatted Raw Headers Request	
###		
Send request Debug	Body	
GET {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/books/3		
###	^{0 bytes}	ookId=6 has been deleted
Send request Debug		ookiu-o nas been ueleleu
POST {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/newbook	MinimalPI.http* * × Program.cs	
###		
Send request Debug		Status: 200 OK Time: 2,78 ms Size: 272 bytes
PUT {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book{id}		Formatted Raw Headers Request
###	GET {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/books	
***	###	
<pre> Send request Debug DELETE {{MinimalBookWebAPI HostAddress}}/book/6 </pre>	Send request Debug	Body
	GET {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/books/3	application/json; charset=utf-8, 272 bytes
пп	***	application/json, charset=utt-o, 272 bytes
	Send request Debug	r
	POST {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/newbook	{
	***	<pre>"bookId": 3, "title": "The Lord of the Rings",</pre>
	Send request Debug	"isbn": "2-09-066556-2",
We can test the method	<pre>PUT {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book{id}</pre>	"publisherName": "McGraw-Hill", "authorName": "J.R.R Tolkien",
	###	"categoryName": "Novel"
using the Endnainte	✓ Send request Debug	},
using the Endpoints	DELETE {{MinimalBookWebAPI_HostAddress}}/book/6	"bookId": 4,
	###	"title": "Arduino", "isbn": "12345678",
Explorer in Visual Studio		"publisherName": "Wiley",
		"authorName": "Hans-Petter", "categoryName": "IoT"
		}
		1

Summary

- We have created a so-called Minimal API in Visual Studio using ASP.NET Core and C#.
- The API has basic CRUD functionality that Create, Read, Update and Delete data in the SQL Server database.
- We tested the API methods using the Endpoint Explorer in Visual Studio.
- The code is very simplified for showing the basic principles of creating such a CRUD API.

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