

# ASP.NET 2.0 Interview Questions – (Intermediate)

## What is XHTML? Are ASP.NET Pages compliant with XHTML?

In simple words, XHTML is a stricter and cleaner version of HTML. XHTML stands for EXtensible Hypertext Markup Language and is a W3C Recommendation.

Yes, ASP.NET 2.0 Pages are XHTML compliant. However the freedom has been given to the user to include the appropriate document type declaration.

More info can be found at <http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/exc57y7e.aspx>

## Can I deploy the application without deploying the source code on the server?

Yes. You can obfuscate your code by using a new precompilation process called 'precompilation for deployment'. You can use the aspnet\_compiler.exe to precompile a site. This process builds each page in your web application into a single application DLL and some placeholder files. These files can then be deployed to the server.

You can also accomplish the same task using Visual Studio 2005 by using the Build->Publish menu.

## Does ViewState affect performance? What is the ideal size of a ViewState? How can you compress a viewstate?

ViewState stores the state of controls in HTML hidden fields. At times, this information can grow in size. This does affect the overall responsiveness of the page, thereby affecting performance. The ideal size of a viewstate should be not more than 25-30% of the page size.

ViewState can be compressed to almost 50% of its size. .NET also provides the **GZipStream** or **DeflateStream** to compress viewstate. Another option is explained by Scott Hanselmann over [here](#).

## How can you detect if a viewstate has been tampered?

By setting the EnableViewStateMac to true in the @Page directive. This attribute checks the encoded and encrypted viewstate for tampering.

## Can I use different programming languages in the same application?

Yes. Each page can be written with a different programming language in the same application. You can create a few pages in C# and a few in VB.NET.

## Can the App\_Code folder contain source code files in different programming languages?

No. All source code files kept in the root App\_Code folder must be in the same programming language.

Update: However, you can create two subfolders inside the App\_Code and then add both C# and VB.NET in the respective subfolders. You also have to add configuration settings in the web.config for this to work.

## How do you secure your connection string information?

By using the Protected Configuration feature.

## How do you secure your configuration files to be accessed remotely by unauthorized users?

ASP.NET configures IIS to deny access to any user that requests access to the Machine.config or Web.config files.

## How can I configure ASP.NET applications that are running on a remote machine?

You can use the Web Site Administration Tool to configure remote websites.

## How many web.config files can I have in an application?

You can keep multiple web.config files in an application. You can place a Web.config file inside a folder or wherever you need (apart from some exceptions) to override the configuration settings that are inherited from a configuration file located at a higher level in the hierarchy.

**I have created a configuration setting in my web.config and have kept it at the root level. How do I prevent it from being overridden by another web.config that appears lower in the hierarchy?**

By setting the element's Override attribute to false.

**What is the difference between Response.Write and Response.Output.Write?**

As quoted by Scott Hanselman, the short answer is that the latter gives you String.Format-style output and the former doesn't.

To get a detailed explanation, follow this [link](#).

**What is Cross Page Posting? How is it done?**

By default, ASP.NET submits a form to the same page. In cross-page posting, the form is submitted to a different page. This is done by setting the 'PostBackUrl' property of the button(that causes postback) to the desired page. In the code-behind of the page to which the form has been posted, use the 'FindControl' method of the 'PreviousPage' property to reference the data of the control in the first page.

**Can you change a Master Page dynamically at runtime? How?**

Yes. To change a master page, set the MasterPageFile property to point to the .master page during the PreInit page event.

**How do you apply Themes to an entire application?**

By specifying the theme in the web.config file.

Eg: <configuration>  
<system.web>  
<pages theme="BlueMoon" />  
</system.web>  
</configuration>

**How do you exclude an ASP.NET page from using Themes?**

To remove themes from your page, use the EnableTheming attribute of the Page directive.

**Your client complains that he has a large form that collects user input. He wants to break the form into sections, keeping the information in the forms related. Which control will you use?**

The ASP.NET Wizard Control.

*To learn more about this control, visit this [link](#).*

**Do webservice support data reader?**

No. However it does support a dataset.

**What is use of the AutoEventWireup attribute in the Page directive ?**

The AutoEventWireUp is a boolean attribute that allows automatic wireup of page events when this attribute is set to true on the page. It is set to True by default for a C# web form whereas it is set as False for VB.NET forms. Pages developed with Visual Studio .NET have this attribute set to false, and page events are individually tied to handlers.

**What happens when you change the web.config file at run time?**

ASP.NET invalidates the existing cache and assembles a new cache. Then ASP.NET automatically restarts the application to apply the changes.

**Can you programmatically access IIS configuration settings?**

Yes. You can use ADSI, WMI, or COM interfaces to configure IIS programmatically.

## How does Application Pools work in IIS 6.0?

As explained under the [IIS documentation](#), when you run IIS 6.0 in worker process isolation mode, you can separate different Web applications and Web sites into groups known as *application pools*. An *application pool* is a group of one or more URLs that are served by a worker process or set of worker processes. Any Web directory or virtual directory can be assigned to an application pool.

Every application within an application pool shares the same worker process. Because each worker process operates as a separate instance of the worker process executable, W3wp.exe, the worker process that services one application pool is separated from the worker process that services another. Each separate worker process provides a process boundary so that when an application is assigned to one application pool, problems in other application pools do not affect the application. This ensures that if a worker process fails, it does not affect the applications running in other application pools.

Use multiple application pools when you want to help ensure that applications and Web sites are confidential and secure. For example, an enterprise organization might place its human resources Web site and its finance Web site on the same server, but in different application pools. Likewise, an ISP that hosts Web sites and applications for competing companies might run each companys Web services on the same server, but in different application pools. Using different application pools to isolate applications helps prevent one customer from accessing, changing, or using confidential information from another customers site.

In HTTP.sys, an application pool is represented by a *request queue*, from which the user-mode worker processes that service an application pool collect the requests. Each pool can manage requests for one or more unique Web applications, which you assign to the application pool based on their URLs. Application pools, then, are essentially worker process configurations that service groups of namespaces.

Multiple application pools can operate at the same time. An application, as defined by its URL, can only be served by one application pool at any time. While one application pool is servicing a request, you cannot route the request to another application pool. However, you can assign applications to another application pool while the server is running.