

# Developer Reference

## Zodiac.NET Survey Engine Toolkit Release 1.1

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## Scope

This document was designed for the purpose of providing a reference for software engineers and developers wishing to develop and customize Zodiac.NET Survey Engine in their own projects and applications. It is recommended that the reader of this document have a reasonable grasp of Microsoft .NET technology, ASP.NET, XML and Client Scripting.

## Zodiac.NET Overview

Zodiac.NET is an ASP.NET web based survey and form engine component for Microsoft .NET written in pure managed C#. It helps .NET developers to integrate web-based surveys and questionnaires in ASP.NET projects using state of the art Microsoft ASP.NET. The engine provides several types of questions to fit the different needs of the survey makers.

The engine is customizable to provide better solutions and unified experience for your users. Using the web controls properties, events and styles, .NET developers are able to simply change, interact and integrate the engine with their existing code and applications.

Zodiac.NET combines XML and ASP.NET as core technologies for delivering its features. XML has already proved to be the right choice for building integrated components and libraries. In Zodiac.NET, the survey definition files and responses are fully represented as XML. Zodiac.NET doesn't use databases to store or retrieve the survey definition or responses which give easier setup experience with almost zero-footprint installation and setup.

## 1. Installation

Follow the following steps to use Zodiac.NET in .NET web projects. The steps are applicable for Visual Studio 2005/2008.

### 1.1 Include References

- i. Create a new ASP .NET Web Project.
- ii. Right click on the project in the Solution Explorer and click "Add Reference".
- iii. Browse the bin directory of Zodiac.NET downloaded software package and select the following assemblies:

MentorLogic.Common.dll  
MentorLogic.Engines.Zodiac.dll

- iv. Click OK. The two assemblies should be added to the bin directory of the web application.

## 1.2 Creating Folders

Create the following folders in your web project:

- **Surveys:** This folder will store the Surveys XML files that contain the full definition of the survey.
- **Responses:** This folder will store the user responses to survey. The responses will be saved as XML files.

Note: You can find a sample survey XML file in the following path:

```
<package_root>\Sample\ZodiacSample\surveys\sample.xml
```

## 1.3 Using Zodiac.NET Web Controls

Add the register tag at the top of your page to register the assembly.

```
<%@ Register Assembly="MentorLogic.Engines.Zodiac"  
Namespace="MentorLogic.Engines.Zodiac.Web" TagPrefix="Zodiac" %>
```

You can register the controls once in the application web.config as following:

```
<system.web>  
  <pages>  
    <controls>  
      <add assembly="MentorLogic.Engines.Zodiac"  
        namespace="MentorLogic.Engines.Zodiac.Web"  
        tagPrefix="Zodiac"></add>  
    </controls>  
  </pages>  
</system.web>
```

### 1.3.1 Survey Viewer Web Control

To view and render the survey to the end users, add the survey viewer user control to your page. The following is a sample definition for the web control:

```
<Zodiac:SurveyViewerWebControl ID="ucSurveyWebControl"  
  CssClass="bluesky"  
  XmlFilePath="<<XML_File_Path>>"  
  OutputFolder="<<Responses_Folder_Path>>"  
  runat="server">  
</Zodiac:SurveyViewerWebControl>
```

The following is a list of the available web control properties:

Property	Description
ID	The web control unique ID
XmlFilePath	The file path of the XML definition file.
Xml	The XML definition of the survey. Use this property to directly set the XML to the control without the need of using physical XML file.
OutputFolder	The folder path to save the user responses to the survey.
CssClass	The CSS class name to be applied to the survey viewer web control.
AuthType	The authentication method used to ensure that a single user cannot take the survey more than once. This can take values: None, Sessions, Cookies or All.
CurrentPageIndex	Gets the current active survey page index.
PagesCount	Gets the number of the survey pages.
NextButtonText	Gets or sets the Next button text. The default text is "Next".
PreviousButtonText	Gets or sets the Previous button text. The default text is "Previous".
FinishButtonText	Gets or sets the Finish button text. The default text is "Finish".
ResponsesCount	Gets or override the number of the survey responses. Use this property if you don't provide responses folder path to the control and you want the web control to check the survey quota to allow/prevent any more responses to the survey.
PreviewMode	Gets or sets if the viewer is in the preview mode or not. If true, the control will not collect any responses (i.e. no responses will be generated or saved). Use this property for adding preview functionality to your surveys.

The following is a list of the web control events:

Event	Description	Arguments
OnSurveyStart	This event is fired when the survey is started.	EventArgs: Standard event argument.
OnMoveNextClicked	This event is fired when the user clicks on the Next button.	SurveyPageArgs: This argument contains information about the new survey page that result after moving next.
OnMovePreviousClicked	This event is fired when the user clicks on the Previous button.	SurveyPageArgs: This argument contains information about the page that was the source of moving previous.
OnResponseReceived	This event is fired when a user has finished the survey and his response is ready to be saved.	SurveyResponseArgs: Contains the user response XML representation and the response ID.

NOTE: It's not required to use XML physical file to display the survey in the web control. You can simply set the XML definition of the survey direct to the control without providing any file paths.

This is useful in case that you prefer to store the XML file in other storage medium such as databases.

You don't have also to store the response XML in a physical path. You can make use of *OnResponseReceived* event to get the response XML and store it in your database.

### 1.3.2 Survey Builder Web Control

To provide a survey designer to your end users, add the survey builder user control to your web page. The following is a sample definition for the web control:

```
<Zodiac:SurveyBuilderWebControl
    ID="ucSurveyBuilderWebControl"
    runat="server"
    XmlFilePath="<<XML_File_Path>>"
    CssClass="bluesky"
    PreviewButtonVisible="false"
    CancelButtonVisible="true"
    CancelButtonUrl="http://www.mentor-logic.com"
    CancelButtonText="Cancel" />
```

The following is a list of the available web control properties:

Property	Description
ID	The web control unique ID.
XmlFilePath	Gets or sets a physical XML file path of the survey.
Xml	Gets or sets the survey XML definition direct to the control without specifying a physical file path.
CssClass	The CSS class of the web control.
PreviewButtonUrl	The URL of the survey preview page. This page will have the survey viewer web control.
PreviewButtonText	The text to be displayed in the Preview button.
PreviewButtonVisible	Specify if the preview button should be displayed or not.
CancelButtonUrl	The URL of the custom cancel page. This can be a relative URL or a full URL.
CancelButtonText	The text to be displayed in the Cancel button.
CancelButtonVisible	Specify if the Cancel button should be displayed or not.

The following is a list of the web control events:

Event	Description	Arguments
OnSaveSurvey	This event is fired when the survey is saved.	SurveyEventArgs: Survey event argument which contains the Survey object and the XML representation of the survey.

NOTE: It's not required to assign XML physical file path to the web control. You can simply set the XML definition of the survey direct to the control without providing any file paths.

This is useful in case that you prefer to store the XML file in a database or external storage medium.

### 1.3.3 Survey Response List Web Control

To view the survey responses list web control, add the survey response list web control to your page. The following is a sample definition for the web control:

```
<Zodiac:SurveyBuilderWebControl
    ID="ucSurveyBuilderWebControl"
    runat="server"
    CssClass="bluesky"
    PreviewButtonVisible="false"
    CancelButtonVisible="true"
    CancelButtonUrl="http://www.mentor-logic.com"
    CancelButtonText="Cancel" />
```

The following is a list of the control properties:

Property	Description
ID	The web control unique ID
CssClass	The CSS class name to be applied to the web control.
ResponsesFolderPath	The folder path to retrieve the responses XML files.
Responses	Gets or sets the Survey Responses. Use this property if you don't want to read the responses from XML file and instead you need to handle it manually.
ResponseLink	Gets or sets the response link format. The format should contain one parameter to replace it with response ID. Example: response.aspx?id={0} Use this property if you want to provide custom page to show the response details of each response.

### 1.3.4 Survey Report Web Control

To view the survey statistics, add the survey report web control to your web page. The following is a sample definition for the web control:

```
<Zodiac:ReportSurveyStatisticsServerControl
    ID="ucReport"
    runat="server"
    CssClass="bluesky"
    SurveyXmlFilePath="surveys\\sample.xml"
    ResponsesFolderPath="Responses"
    QuestionID="2" />
```

The following is a list of the control properties:

Property	Description
ID	The web control unique ID.
CssClass	The CSS class name to be applied to the web control.
SurveyXml FilePath	Gets or sets the survey XML definition file path.
ResponsesFolderPath	Gets or sets the survey responses folder path.
QuestionID	Gets or sets the question ID. If set, the web control will show the statistics only for this question.



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Contact:  
[support@mentor-logic.com](mailto:support@mentor-logic.com)  
[sales@mentor-logic.com](mailto:sales@mentor-logic.com)

(+202)(010-3786460)

10 HM Street, Haram, Giza  
Egypt 12111

<http://www.mentor-logic.com>