

How to Solve an Error Message "Validation of viewstate MAC failed"

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Usually we won't get "Validation of viewstate MAC failed" error in our site all the time. Normally the site works fine and doesn't throw any errors if you load the site and use it at a regular pace. The error only occurs when you load the page, leave it for a while, and then continue working on the page without reloading or refreshing it. I discovered this error because I opened the site, began using it, left for lunch, came back an hour later, and when I resumed using it and did anything that caused postback, it immediately threw the above error. Unfortunately in order to re-create the error, I have to wait a while, which is very inconvenient for testing/troubleshooting. After a few hours of research I found the solutions:

Error message:

Validation of viewstate MAC failed. If this application is hosted by a Web Farm or cluster, ensure that <machineKey> configuration specifies the same validationKey and validation algorithm. AutoGenerate cannot be used in a cluster.

Description: An unhandled exception occurred during the execution of the current web request. Please review the stack trace for more information about the error and where it originated in the code.

Exception Details: System.Web.HttpException: Validation of viewstate MAC failed. If this application is hosted by a Web Farm or cluster, ensure that <machineKey> configuration specifies the same validationKey and validation algorithm. AutoGenerate cannot be used in a cluster.

Solution:

Yet another very teasing issue ASP .Net developers face. Solution is pretty much simple.

Add following link in your web.config file.

```
<pages enableEventValidation="false" viewStateEncryptionMode="Never" />
```

Above line should be included within section.

OR

if you don't want this solution to be implemented on project level then you can add these attributes to the page (Top most line of HTML view) directive of the page which is creating issue.

That means you have to add `enableEventValidation="false"` `viewStateEncryptionMode="Never"` in page directive.