

Re: LIKE, CONTAINS and Full Text Indexing

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Date: Sun, 7 Mar 2004 12:05:36 -0500

Hi Michael:

"michael" <michael@hockstein.org> wrote in message
news:F60367A8-3ABC-47B4-BD66-8586BC57E0D9@microsoft.com...

> *I'm interested in searching a column of type text for specific words*
withing the field. I need the search to be rapid. Currently, I use a LIKE
predicate in the RowFilter of a DataView.

>

> *For best results, should I explore Full Text Indexing and using a CONTAINS*
predicate? Would it be best to execute this on the SQL Server rather than
from within my application's DataSet? Do I need Full Text Indexing to use
CONTAINS?

>

> *Michael*

That's really hard to tell without knowing more about the app. however, as
a general guideline I'd mention this. Full Text Indexing is not a trivial
feature of SQL Server. It's extremely powerful but it also needs to consume
some resources to accomplish this. As such, comparing something that runs
on a server, takes a fair amount of space to implement in most cases etc to
a method of a relatively small class running client side isn't exactly
apples to apples.

If what you need can be easily accomplished with a Like Statement, then full
text indexing probably isn't necessary. For instance, you wouldn't need it
to find all of the people who's last name begins with "O" in a LastName
column. If on the other hand your app is a legal app that searches bills
and proposed bills in Congress and you need to find everything document
dealing with Derivatives, then Like and a DataView probably aren't the way
to go.

In general, you want to pull over as little data as possible with ADo.NET
disconnected objects. And ideally you don't want to have to constantly fire
select statements. SQL Server's optimizer is a lot better sutied to big
heavy queries than a rowfilter. conversely, if you have 25 records and you
need to find a small subset making a trip back to the server is silly and
wasteful when a Rowfilter or datatable.select can do it for you.

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In a nutshell, it really depends on the total number of records, the record size and how much precision you need in your search.

Also, the Rowfilter can't use Contains so if you need that syntax, it won't get you there.

HTH,

Bill