

Re: Best Practices

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TibM,

Your question warrants an answer bigger than this newsgroup allows – entire books could be written about this, and you are right, there is a serious dearth of Oracle/ADO.NET books, though I have proposed writing one .. hey maybe one day.

Anyway,

> *What is the best way to write this in a VB.NET function/procedure?*

The bigger picture would be – how do architect your data driven application. The important facet to understand here is how microsoft recommends you should architect your application. How you need to abstract database from the middle tier, and where does the business logic reside (AHA !!!). Ideally first you should answer the follow question.

"Does my app need to scale?"

If it does, then you need to understand that databases scale using clustering/failover, but middletier's scale using stateless farms (web farms/network load balancing etc.). Then if your application should have neat segregation between database specific everything, versus what may qualify as a business object. Database could be `Select * from Customer`, but a business object representation should be `Customer.FirstName`. The front end – whatever it is – would then talk to the business object representation.

There is a **lot** more to it than above mentioned. The final design depends on your exact situation. By no means my above 20 words is a complete answer.

> *Should I use datasets or should I use datareaders?*

Combination of both. Datasets are disconnected, and datareaders are not – depends on what you need and where you need it.

> *Should I execute the select statements (the cursors) at the beginning of the function, or should I execute them in the "middle" of the function?*

you mean function in oracle? or VB.NET function? Well – if it's within Oracle, then follow Oracle's guidelines. If it is VB.NET, it doesn't matter as long as you close database connections soon as possible and open them as late as you can.

> *Do I use the same datareader for all the select statements (eg call ExecuteReader on the same datareader with different command object – or maybe the same command object with a different command string)?*

Try not to design an application that uses one DataReader that is connected all the time servicing multiple needs. That would prevent ADO.NET from doing connection pooling effectively. Even otherwise, you need stateless design. Thats a big no no. DataReaders