

Re: Northwind ReportsTo NULL ComboBox

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.adonet/2004-12/1318.html>

From: Diego Deberdt (*deberdtotdiego_at_pandora.be*)

Date: 12/24/04

Date: Fri, 24 Dec 2004 23:04:26 GMT

If all you want to do is show the user a list of Employees, then yes the problem is gone. But the ComboBox has to enable updating the contents of the database as well – and especially make it possible to insert NULL values for the ReportsTo field. Modifying the select query does not offer a solution there.

"Mary Chipman" <mchip@online.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:pa8ms09ft72amf53rvru0k5ufuc4qu4m36@4ax.com...

> Yes, it's a databinding issue, and when you create a SELECT query that
> does away with returning null values, the issue goes away, no?

>

> --Mary

>

> On Wed, 22 Dec 2004 17:47:56 GMT, "Diego Deberdt"

> <deberdtotdiego@pandora.be> wrote:

>

> > Thank you Mary, for your help.

> >

> > The problem I am struggling with however is related to DataBinding. I have

> > worked around the problem by not using databinding, but I'm still

wondering

> > how I might do it if I did use databinding, because that would require

less

> > coding.

> >

> > When I specify the Employees table in my dataset as the datasource, the

> > combobox shows all employees:

> > cb.datasource = ds

> > cb.datamember = "Employees"

> > cb.displaymember = "LastName"

> >

> > When I create a databinding for the SelectedValue property to the

ReportsTo

> > field, the combobox displays the appropriate name as I use the currency

> > manager object to scroll through the records of the Employees table:

> >

> > cb.databindings.add("SelectedValue", ds, "Employees.reportsTo")

> >
> > *This works fine, except for the case where the ReportsTo field is NULL. I*
> > *cannot add an item to the ComboBox that says 'Boss' or 'NULL' because*
> *when*
> > *the datasource property is set, you cannot add items. In the case where*
> > *ReportsTo is NULL, the combobox simply show the first employee in the*
> *list.*
> > *Obviously this is wrong. Also when updating the the field with the*
> *combobox*
> > *you cannot specify NULL.*
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > *"Mary Chipman" <mchip@online.microsoft.com> wrote in message*
> > *news:b95js090dvdgmg34e03vdl8mhehrds01hq@4ax.com...*
> > > *Using T-SQL is the best way to go about this, depending on what you*
> > > *want to see in the DataTable. The following SELECT uses the IsNull*
> > > *function to convert the null value in ReportsTo to 'Boss'. Note that*
> > > *you have to use explicit type conversions to convert to a string:*
> > >
> > > *select LastName, IsNull(Cast(ReportsTo AS varchar), 'Boss') from*
> > > *employees*
> > > *ORDER BY LastName*
> > >
> > > *The first few rows look like this:*
> > > *LastName*
> > > -----
> > > *Buchanan 2*
> > > *Callahan 2*
> > > *Davolio 2*
> > > *Dodsworth 5*
> > > *Fuller Boss*
> > > *King 5*
> > >
> > > *If you want to see the actual name instead of just the employeeID,*
> > > *this query uses a self-join to give you the name of the person the*
> > > *employee id refers to while using 'Boss' instead of null:*
> > >
> > > *SELECT Employees.FirstName + ' ' + Employees.LastName AS EmployeeName,*
> > > *IsNull(Cast(Employees2.FirstName + ' ' + Employees2.LastName AS*
> > > *varchar), 'Boss') AS ReportsToName*
> > > *FROM Employees LEFT JOIN Employees AS Employees2*
> > > *ON Employees.ReportsTo = Employees2.EmployeeID*
> > > *ORDER BY Employees.LastName*
> > >
> > > *The first few rows of the result set look like:*
> > > *EmployeeName ReportsToName*

> >> -----
> >> *Steven Buchanan Andrew Fuller*
> >> *Laura Callahan Andrew Fuller*
> >> *Nancy Davolio Andrew Fuller*
> >> *Anne Dodsworth Steven Buchanan*
> >> *Andrew Fuller Boss*
> >>
> >> --Mary
> >>
> >> *On Tue, 21 Dec 2004 22:27:58 GMT, "Diego Deberdt"*
> >> *<deberdt@pandora.be> wrote:*
> >>
> >> *>The select statement that is used by the DataAdapter for the Employees*
> >> *>database table simply reads all records: select * from Employees. The*
> >> *>Employees table in the DataSet is an exact copy of the records in the*
> >> *>database table.*
> >> >
> >> >
> >> *>"Mary Chipman" <mchip@online.microsoft.com> wrote in message*
> >> *>news:042hs0ts3cn4u63ocm7l693mrseko8va8j@4ax.com...*
> >> >> *What does the T-SQL in your query look like? That's probably where*
you
> >> >> *want to solve this problem.*
> >> >>
> >> >> --Mary
> >> >>
> >> >> *On Mon, 20 Dec 2004 23:13:17 GMT, "Diego Deberdt"*
> >> >> *<deberdt@pandora.be> wrote:*
> >> >>
> >> >> *>I'm trying to show the ReportsTo field of the Employees table in*
the
> >> >> *>Northwind database in a databound ComboBox. This works fine, except*
> >> *>for*
> >> *>the*
> >> >> *>case where ReportsTo is NULL. When ReportsTo is NULL the ComboBox*
> >> *>should*
> >> >> *>show an empty string, or whatever, but it shows the first item in*
the
> >> *>list.*
> >> >> *>I have tried catching the Format event to detect NULL values and*
> >> *>translate*
> >> >> *>them into something else, and the event actually gets called and I*
can
> >> >> *>detect the DBNull values, but two things are odd. The field*
> >> *>.DesiredType*
> >> *>is*
> >> >> *>always System.Object, while I'm expecting it to be of type Integer.*
> >> *>The*
> >> >> *>second thing is that setting e.Value does not seem to have any*
effect.
> >> >> *>Public Sub NULLToZero(ByVal sender As Object, ByVal e As*

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> >> >> >System.Windows.Forms.ConvertEventArgs)
> >> >> >
> >> >> >If e.Value Is DBNull.Value Then
> >> >> >
> >> >> >e.Value = 0
> >> >> >
> >> >> >End If
> >> >> >
> >> >> >End Sub
> >> >> >
> >> >>
> >> >
> >>
> >
>
```