

Serializing data set with de-normalized data

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I have a DataSet where some data items are actually objeey ot type string[].
If I output a schema using DataSet.WriteXmlSchema() using , I get:

```
<xs:element name="ItemName" msdata:DataType="System.String[], mscorlib,
Version=1.0.5000.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=b77a5c561934e089"
type="xs:string" minOccurs="0" />
```

Accessong these items works fine in code:

```
//C#
string[] results = (string[])row["ItemName"];
```

But when I try to use the DataSet.WriteXml() method to serialize the data,
the output does not contain the desired data:

```
<CustomerID>System.String[]</CustomerID>
```

Clearly the serializer is calling the item value's ToString() method intread
of recognizing that it is a string array and digging deeper. I think I
understand why; the proper way to structure such a DataSet is to normalize
it such that "multi-valued" items are stored in a separate table with a data
relation.

Yet, I have to deal with the DataSet I have. Is there any option for
overriding how certain items are serialized and deserialized? Or am I stuck
with writng my own serializer from scratch?

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◇ *From:* W.G. Ryan MVP
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