

Re: Inserting regional settings specific data into sql server

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.adonet/2006-02/msg00296.html>

- *From:* "Niketa Mahana" <NiketaMahana@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 10 Feb 2006 01:36:28 -0800
-

Hi Cor,

Firstly thank you ever so much for being so patient and so prompt. Bear with me for a bit more, according to you "All EU countries without the two English speaking use the format dd-MM-yy hh:mm:ss", but I beg to differ this is not the case take for eg Italy in regional settings if you checked out Italian (Italy) you will observe that the settings used are 10/02/2006 14.55.16, please try to insert this date in sql server it will BOMB. We have confirmed this on Italian XP as well. I am extremely aware of how `datetime.Parse`, `convert.ToDateTime` etc function since it has now been 4+ years that I have been working with dotnet. Please understand that requirements are such that dates are coming in such formats because we read a number of dates directly from the file system due to the nature of our product (I work with Siemens Information System and we are into telematics / GPS product development) hence I was thinking that once you get such a date it is a better idea to format it using the string format functions or a very very simple solution maybe to do a `use cultureinfo.invariantculture` on the date so that irrespective of format the date will get converted and inserted into the sql database. Sorry to bug the shorts off you but you now have context to my problem so you're stuck with it ;) Awaiting your response

"Cor Lighthert [MVP]" wrote:

Niketa,

I am sorry I cannot make it clear to you. I will try to do it a last time.
All EU countries without the two English speaking use the format dd-MM-yy hh:mm:ss
All English speaking countries (except the USA) use the format dd-MM-yy hh:mm:ss t (t = pm/am)
The USA which has no official language uses MM-dd-yy hh:mm:ss t
The ISO format as by instance official used by China as the datetime has a format yy-MM-dd hh:mm:ss

By using the parameters, while the program is in the right culture setting, than all those formats results using SQL parameters in the way the SQL server

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wants it. (Did you real look at the sample)

If somebody is using a format setting that is not equal to his own computer, than you can use probably the best in advance the `dateTime.parse` and/or `dateTime.parseExact` first in which you can tell what is the culture of that datetime string.

If somebody is using completely its own format than he/she is a person that should not be allowed to reach a keyboard.

I wrote already about the `InvariantCulture` from which you read in my opinion something as the `NeutralCulture`. It is an English Culture setting based on those slight differences in the English Culture. By instance will it accept 15 november and november 15 as it will be used in a long date patern.

<http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/4c5zdc6a.aspx>

I hope this helps,

Cor

"Niketa Mahana" <NiketaMahana@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> schreef in bericht <news:D2A12E19-BFD8-41B2-A443-40711754EEA4@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Hi Cor,
I love Italian food and the love for that too is dying after the problems we are having with our application in Italy but be that as it may -> Its this way, we create a file on our file system and we need to insert the file modification date into the database. The file modification date comes as per current regional settings , because we create an instance of this file and then pick up its modification date..now if the current regional settings are having some funny seperators then while inserting sql fails..so no use of calendar control..hence i asked about using `cultureInfo.InvariantCulture` on the modification date before inserting it. Any inputs? Ok can you confirm one thing does sql server only accept /for date seperator and : for time seperator or do other seperators work.

"Cor Ligthert [MVP]" wrote:

Niketa,

It was clear,

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Perhaps i am not clear in my problem , our application is culture specific in Italian regional settings say i make the date and time seperator a "." , now all dates–times being displayed are with . which is fine , but when i go ahead to save data in the date base i need to put these dates into strings

I have so often been in Italy that I could talk in that language (not write), however I have been now not been a long there, but I still love Italy, the Italian culture, Italians and Italianwoman. The culture setting from Italy is now exactly the same as mine even including the Euro.

As I tried to explain, you never should supply dates to your database as a string. You are as well not retrieving them as string.

The SQL/Access databases don't know anything about the decimal or whatever separator or addition as the English pm/am.

You should use parameters to supply whatever value to your database. In those parameters is automaticly set the right format confirming your culture setting.

See my sample, this is as well beside dates for every value, however the date gives mostly the most problems therefore is the sample with dates.

Cor

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, now all dates–times being displayed are with . which is fine , but when

i go ahead to save data in the date base i need to put these dates into strings

which concat into an sql query, at this point see the eg below

```
DateTime dtProblem =  
Convert.ToDateTime("02.02.2005  
06.05.22")
```

now the value of dtProblem is coming as 6/5/2022 which is WRONG it should

have been 2/2/2005, now if i go ahead and do an insert like insert into myTable(dtCol1)

```
values(convert(datetime,'02.02.2005  
06.05.22',120),
```

this Bombs on sql becuase sql does not understand the format.So to work around

it i came up with a solution

```
string strmyDate = "02.02.2005 06.05.22";  
strmyDate =  
strmyDate.ToString(CultureInfo.InvariantCulture);
```

now the str my date is formatted correctly for sql

```
insert into myTable(dtCol1)  
values(convert(datetime,strmyDate,120)
```

This works perfectly for all date time seperators even if the user decides

to use # as time seperator, what i need to understand is that sql datetime

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format 120 required yyyyMMdd and
CultureInfo.InvariantCulture formats
it
as
ddMMyyyy and yet teh query works fine
....WHYYYYY.Please help me out.

"Cor Ligthert [MVP]" wrote:

Niketa,

DateTime and Short Time
are not notated in SQL
server in any local
variant.

It is notated in ticks starting
at 1753 and 1900.

If you avoid giving
DateTimes as strings to the
SQL Sever, than you
will
not
have any problem.

Strings can be converted in
your program by the
commands.
CDate (Visual Basic)
DateTime.Parse
Convert.ToDateTime

To give the datetime
information to the server
you "should" use
parameters.
See this as most simple
sample.

<http://www.vb-tips.com/default.aspx?ID=886bba68-8a2f-4b99-8f66-7139b>

By the way InvariantCulture
is for inside the English
Language
culture.
The
most people in that use
September 11 as date while
the most countries

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use
11
September as date.

I hope this helps,

Cor