

# Re: MS Access DAO -> ADO.NET Migration

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.adonet/2006-11/msg00521.html>

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- *From:* "William \ (Bill) Vaughn" <[billvaRemoveThis@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:billvaRemoveThis@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 21 Nov 2006 09:18:14 -0800
- 

I'm checking with Peter about the zip file distribution. It was supposed to go out with the book.  
See >>> below

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William (Bill) Vaughn  
Author, Mentor, Consultant  
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Visit [www.hitchhikerguides.net](http://www.hitchhikerguides.net) to get more information on my latest book:  
Hitchhiker's Guide to Visual Studio and SQL Server (7th Edition)

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"Garry" <[garrygrolman@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:garrygrolman@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
<news:OtmlIgVDHHA.3676@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

EBook is interesting and certainly fills in a lot of 'hidden info' on the SSCE BUT, the zip file of the code in the ebook iz missing.

HowDoIGetIt????

The GUID seems such a HEAVY THINGY for lowly auto-increment need. It doesnt tell me anything about in what order the records were originally created and is very taxing to verbalise its content to someone over the phone. My usual records/DataRows have an auto-increment for the first column AND, possibly, a unique identifier that I generate per database and possibly, per table.

I agree. In SQL Server (the real one) there is a way to create

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a  
sequential GUID that solves the first problem, but not the second...

I turn your attention to a similar thingy with VB.NET where INI files are not supported directly because Microsoft wants us to use XML format files for this info. WHY make things more difficult. In VB6, they wanted us to use the registry instead of INI files and now they want us, developers, to use XML formatted files.

Remember the word KISS.

Of course. And, no MS seems to do what they think is best (in a kinda pedantic way).

The book was a pleasure to read after the gibberish that Microsoft 'puts out'. However, SQL Server Management Studio is nowhere to be found on my machines and the msi will not install, disappearing without a trace at the end of 'configuring' files. No message. Nothing. I feel that I am not alone in this and your book's content, in a large part, is based on this.

SSMS can be installed for free via the SQL Server Express Advanced Services SKU (with the toolkit) or via the Developer Edition. It does not come with the ordinary SQL Server Express SKU. I have not heard of other installation issues.

My basic inclinations are always to use code anyway. Something I learned from trying to use the Data Tools in the first edition of VB6 7 odd years ago.

Not a bad idea, but the tools can help. As I show in the book, using

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scripts for the DDL is possible and pragmatic.

My migration app works building a SSCE database file with imported data from scratch in code using a source MDB. But, only the tables and some data types which I do not use, may not be supported

The trick is to convert to "equivalent" types.

hth

Garry

"William (Bill) Vaughn" <billvaRemoveThis@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:enbeq\\$ADHHA.4280@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:enbeq$ADHHA.4280@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Frankly, (as I discuss in the book), I leaning away from Identity (autoincrement) columns for a number of reasons. While these are supported in SQLCe, there are situations where its SQL is too limited to permit proper management and importing data with pre-assigned Identity columns. I think that GUIDs (UniqueIdentifiers) make more sense for many of these databases. This approach also works better when replicating the database (which does not support Identity columns).

As far as getting VB to recognize the identity property of an Access/JET database, I'm at a loss--sorry.

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"Garry" <garrygrolman@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
news:eTKvxZ\$CHHA.3228@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Framework 2

SQLCE 3.1 (Newest available - I think)

VS2005 Service pack Beta

Bought the book before I read your email.

The database is now copied with all the Data fields and values BUT, the Primary key, AutoNumber is 'fudged' since in all my Access tables, the first field, usually fldItemID, is the primary key and is an autonumber.

In the code, I know which is the first field.

The vb code does not manage to detect those specific properties.

field.Properties("ISAUTOINCREMENT").Value always equals False and so does "KEYCOLUMN" even when I know that they are autonumber and PrimaryKey.

Any solution??

Garry

"William (Bill) Vaughn" <billvaRemoveThis@xxxxxxxx>  
wrote in message  
news:ON7skO\$CHHA.4620@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The SQLCe engine requires the 2.0 Framework. Do you have that installed? What version of Visual Studio and SQL Server is installed? I built database tables from scripts and wrote my own batch processor to run them. These are included in the EBook examples.

hth

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"Garry" <[garrygrolman@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:garrygrolman@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:O9uVYB8CHHA.3836@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:O9uVYB8CHHA.3836@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Bill,

Perhaps you have an answer to the post two lines up.

I have other problems concerning the actual updating of data from my accumulating DataTable but the basics of defining the tables with attendant columns in a new SSCE data base are still not completely solved. However, it does build the SSCE database, just some of the definitions are not included.

Also,  
SSEv31VSTools-ENU.exe with the SQL data management utilities will simply not install on my machine.

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Garry

"William (Bill) Vaughn"

<billvaRemoveThis@xxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

[news:u%23yx11zCHHA.4680@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:u%23yx11zCHHA.4680@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I also share  
your  
frustration  
with the  
Microsoft  
doc. You'll  
also find  
that  
Intellisense  
does not  
help either.  
That's  
because it  
leads you to  
think that  
specific  
types,  
methods,  
properties  
and events  
are exposed  
when they  
are  
not—you  
won't find  
out until  
runtime. To  
deal with  
this  
issue, I  
wrote my  
first EBook  
that walks  
through the  
entire  
namespace  
and  
documents  
how it  
really  
works. It's  
written for  
developers  
that

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are  
somewhat  
familiar  
with the  
SqlClient  
namespace  
and  
ADO.NET  
in  
general (and  
those that  
have read  
my  
Hitchhiker's  
Guide to  
Visual  
Studio and  
SQL Server  
book. This  
book is  
available at  
<http://www.hitchhikerguides.net/EBooks/Titles/5582.aspx>.

Incidentally,  
Microsoft  
chose to  
change the  
name from  
SQL Server  
Everywhere  
Edition to  
SQL Server  
2005  
Compact  
Edition  
about three  
weeks ago.  
This version  
of the  
SQLCe  
DBMS  
engine has  
been tuned  
to  
run in a  
Windows  
Forms  
environment.  
It's a fully  
relational  
database

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that supports a subset of the TSQL SQL syntax. It's easy to deploy (just copy 6 DLLs), is fully encryptable (so it's safer for data you take to the field) and has twice the capacity of JET (4GB). SQLCe is also designed to act as a Subscriber to a SQL Server-hosted Publication. This can make it even easier to construct a distributed architecture around SQLCe. MS is still doing work on the Visual Studio and SQL Server Enterprise Manager development tools but the EBook shows how to get around these limitations

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until the  
next SP or  
Orcas ships.

Early next  
year, I'll be  
publishing  
the next in  
my series of  
EBooks.  
This time  
on SQLCe  
Replication.  
I'm waiting  
for MS to  
finish work  
on  
a new  
replication  
scheme that  
promises to  
be easier to  
use than  
their  
current  
approaches.

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SQL Server  
(7th  
Edition)

---

"Garry"  
<[garrygrolman@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:garrygrolman@xxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote in  
message  
[news:%23SURfWtCHHA.4928@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23SURfWtCHHA.4928@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I  
had  
your  
problem  
basically  
and  
am  
working  
at  
the  
moment  
to  
transfer  
existing  
Access  
97  
databases,  
(with  
data),  
to  
SQL  
Server  
Everywhere,  
the  
new/old

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database  
referred  
to  
by  
William  
(Bill)  
Vaughn.  
He  
suggested  
to  
me  
that  
I  
use  
this  
new  
database  
for  
.NET  
2005  
development  
where  
the  
DataBase  
requirements  
are  
similar  
to  
what  
I  
had  
in  
a  
VB6/Access97  
desktop  
application.

I  
am  
working  
on  
an  
app  
to  
migrate  
the  
Access  
97  
database  
to  
the

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SSEv  
database  
and  
it  
is  
going  
relatively  
smoothly.  
Although,  
there  
are  
some  
problems  
as  
I  
have  
defined  
in  
a  
post  
a  
little  
above  
yours.

I  
do  
not  
expect  
to  
edit  
relationships  
within  
the  
predefined  
database  
OR  
re-define  
existing  
tables  
BUT,  
I  
have  
seen  
reference  
to  
code  
which  
can  
do  
this.

If  
you  
try  
to  
find  
code  
samples  
–  
do  
yourself  
a  
favor,  
use  
Google  
as  
William  
(Bill)  
Vaughn  
valiantly  
suggests.  
Microsoft  
help  
is,  
in  
many  
cases,  
gibberish,  
which  
will  
not  
solve  
your  
query  
and  
will  
just  
make  
you  
angry  
and  
frustrated.  
I  
wonder  
when  
Microsoft  
will  
catch  
on  
a  
construct

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a  
serious  
library  
of  
code  
samples  
instead  
of  
the  
meager  
offerings  
available.

If  
any  
of  
the  
Google  
search  
results  
take  
you  
to  
forums  
which  
require  
that  
you  
'join',  
be  
careful.  
Some  
of  
these  
forums  
even  
want  
you  
to  
pay  
to  
join  
without  
you  
knowing  
if  
a  
solution  
is  
actually  
available

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there.

Be  
careful  
about  
using  
Sponsored  
Links  
as  
these  
must  
have  
some  
financial  
incentives  
involved  
otherwise  
they  
would  
not  
be  
there.

It  
costs  
money  
to  
put  
a  
Sponsored  
Link  
on  
a  
Google  
Search  
result  
page.  
Every  
click  
means  
that  
money  
is  
earned  
by  
Google.

If  
you  
want  
to  
go

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down  
this  
route,  
use  
'Reply  
to  
Sender'  
as  
well  
as  
'Reply  
to  
group'  
and  
I  
will  
send  
you  
my  
code  
which  
is  
a  
near  
completed  
application  
in  
VB.NET.  
I  
do  
not  
want  
to  
post  
my  
email  
address  
here.

I  
need  
an  
exchange  
of  
info  
and  
opinions  
from  
another  
programmer  
who



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tables)  
I  
want  
to  
write  
a  
new  
version  
of  
the  
program  
in  
VB  
2005,  
and  
I  
want  
to  
use  
ADO.NET  
to  
access  
the  
data.  
Are  
there  
ways  
of  
changing  
the  
indexes  
or  
relationships  
of  
the  
MS  
Access  
database  
using  
ADO.NET?  
Or  
do  
I  
still  
need  
to  
use  
DAO  
to  
perform  
these

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operations?

As  
a  
side  
note,  
with  
a  
few  
tests  
that  
I've  
done  
already  
with  
some  
queries,  
it  
seems  
like  
DAO  
is  
much  
faster  
than  
ADO.NET  
at  
running  
queries  
and  
returning  
results.  
I  
am  
using  
the  
DataReader...does  
anyone  
have  
any  
information  
about  
the  
differences  
etc?  
Thanks  
in  
advance...

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