

# Re: TreeView Dynamic XML Binding

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.webcontrols/2008-03/msg000>

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- *From:* [stcheng@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:stcheng@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) (Steven Cheng [MSFT])
  - *Date:* Thu, 27 Mar 2008 08:37:13 GMT
- 

Thanks for your reply Rich,

Not sure whether you have got further progress. Yes, I have repro the same error through the new XML data file you provided. Also, I've tested using the "Page\_Init" event to dynamically add the data file for the XmlDataSource. It seems that when I put the file assigning code into Page\_Init event handler, the exception disappeared. e.g.

```
protected void Page_Init(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    XmlDataSource1.DataFile = "~/TreeView/data.xml";
}
```

I think the problem may due to the initializing steps and sequence at the server-side for the XmlDataSource and the TreeView control. You can also try this on your side to see whether it works. If so, I think this should be a much simpler solution.

Sincerely,

Steven Cheng

Microsoft MSDN Online Support Lead

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From: "Rich Fowler" <[RJF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:RJF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
References: <[E25C0122-2976-4D54-8836-0B382773ED16@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:E25C0122-2976-4D54-8836-0B382773ED16@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>

## Re: TreeView Dynamic XML Binding

<a0e9b9da344298ca5ca0634b8a3a@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
<D0E82462-8CC5-4885-B8E0-D7747D7B4FDD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
<N0LRVpvjIHA.1500@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

In-Reply-To: <N0LRVpvjIHA.1500@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
Subject: Re: TreeView Dynamic XML Binding  
Date: Wed, 26 Mar 2008 08:53:42 -0600

Steven,

Sure, it is very simple. Most everything are the defaults. I do not provide any databinding because I have no control of the element names and do not know them in advance. I'm displaying the element name. At this point, I do not have a onselectednodechanged event, but when I do have one, it does not make any difference. The error occurs prior to reaching the Page\_Load event.

I've tried adding the TreeNodeDataBound event and setting the e.Node.Value but that makes no difference.

```
aspx code:
<form id="form1" runat="server">
<div>
<asp:TreeView ID="cSchemaTree" runat="server"
DataSourceID="cSchemaXML" ExpandDepth="1">
</asp:TreeView>
<asp:XmlDataSource ID="cSchemaXML"
runat="server"></asp:XmlDataSource>
</div>
</form>
```

```
aspx.cs code:
public partial class SchemaTree : System.Web.UI.Page
{
protected void Page_Load()
{
cSchemaXML.DataFile = @"D:\DotNet\TestData\TestXml.xml";
```

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```
}  
}
```

TestXml.xml file – extract from much larger file:

```
<Return Name="Return">  
<returnVersion Name="Return/returnVersion" />  
<ReturnHeader Name="Return/ReturnHeader">  
<binaryAttachmentCount
```

Name="Return/ReturnHeader/binaryAttachmentCount"

```
/>  
<Timestamp Name="Return/ReturnHeader/Timestamp" />  
<TaxPeriodEndDate Name="Return/ReturnHeader/TaxPeriodEndDate" />  
<DisasterRelief Name="Return/ReturnHeader/DisasterRelief" />  
<ISPNumber Name="Return/ReturnHeader/ISPNumber" />  
<PreparerFirm Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm">  
<EIN Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/EIN" />  
<PreparerFirmBusinessName  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmBusinessName">  
<BusinessNameLine1  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmBusinessName/BusinessNam
```

eLine1"

```
/>  
<BusinessNameLine2  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmBusinessName/BusinessNam
```

eLine2"

```
/>  
</PreparerFirmBusinessName>  
<PreparerFirmUSAddress  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmUSAddress">  
<AddressLine1  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmUSAddress/AddressLine1"  
>  
<AddressLine2  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmUSAddress/AddressLine2"  
>  
<City  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmUSAddress/City" />  
<State  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmUSAddress/State" />  
<ZIPCode  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmUSAddress/ZIPCode" />  
</PreparerFirmUSAddress>  
<PreparerFirmForeignAddress  
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmForeignAddress">
```

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```
<AddressLine1
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmForeignAddress/AddressLi
ne1"

/>
<AddressLine2
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmForeignAddress/AddressLi
ne2"

/>
<City
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmForeignAddress/City" />
<ProvinceOrState
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmForeignAddress/ProvinceO
rState"

/>
<Country
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmForeignAddress/Country"
/>
<PostalCode
Name="Return/ReturnHeader/PreparerFirm/PreparerFirmForeignAddress/PostalCod
e"

/>
</PreparerFirmForeignAddress>
</PreparerFirm>
</ReturnHeader>
</Return>
```

Notes: The test xml file is not in the website folder as in your code.  
Everything works if I set the DataFile in the XmlDataSource control. Does not work when I dynamically set the DataFile in the Page\_Load.

To reproduce the error:  
Open web page.  
Expand the ReturnHeader node.  
Click the Timestamp node.  
The null reference error is displayed.

Notes: To get the error, you need to expand a node and click on one of the elements in the expanded node.

Thanks – Rich F.

"Steven Cheng [MSFT]" <stcheng@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

## Re: TreeView Dynamic XML Binding

news:NOLRVpvjiHA.1500@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi Rich,

As for the TreeView page, would you provide some further information,

such

as the TreeView aspx template and attributes you set. I have created a simple test page (paste page source below) and didn't encounter the same behavior. I'm wondering whether there is anything else cause the problem. Here is my test page

```
#use the sample xml file you provided in first message
=====aspx template=====
<div>
<asp:XmlDataSource ID="XmlDataSource1" runat="server"
></asp:XmlDataSource>
<asp:TreeView ID="tv" runat="server"
DataSourceID="XmlDataSource1"
AutoGenerateDataBindings="False" ExpandDepth="1"
onselectednodechanged="Unnamed1_SelectedNodeChanged">
<DataBindings>
<asp:TreeNodeBinding ValueField="FullPath"
TextField="FullPath"
DataMember="Company" Depth="0" />
<asp:TreeNodeBinding DataMember="Name" Depth="1"
TextField="FullPath"
ValueField="FullPath" />
<asp:TreeNodeBinding DataMember="Address" Depth="1"
TextField="FullPath"
ValueField="FullPath" />
<asp:TreeNodeBinding DataMember="USAddress" Depth="2"
TextField="FullPath"
ValueField="FullPath" />
<asp:TreeNodeBinding DataMember="ForeignAddress" Depth="2"
TextField="FullPath"
ValueField="FullPath" />
<asp:TreeNodeBinding DataMember="Street" Depth="3"
TextField="FullPath"
ValueField="FullPath" />
<asp:TreeNodeBinding DataMember="City" Depth="3"
TextField="FullPath"
ValueField="FullPath" />
<asp:TreeNodeBinding DataMember="ZipCode" Depth="3"
TextField="FullPath"
ValueField="FullPath" />
</DataBindings>
</asp:TreeView>
```

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</div>

=====code behind=====

```

public partial class TreeView_TreeViewPage : System.Web.UI.Page
{
protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
XmlDataSource1.DataFile = "~/TreeView/data.xml";
}
protected void Unnamed1_SelectedNodeChanged(object sender, EventArgs

```

e)

```

{
Response.Write("<br/>Unnamed1_SelectedNodeChanged: " +
tv.SelectedNode.Text);
}
}

```

=====

Please let me know if there is anything I've missed.

BTW, by monitoring the browser http traffic, I get that the node expanding(without postback) is not using ajax. I think the page should have already loaded the nodes in response html and just use script to display them when you expanding nodes. Also, if you think the Page\_load event is the problem, you can try put the Xml file path setting code into the "Page\_Init" or "Page\_PreInit" event to see whether the behavior changes.

Sincerely,

Steven Cheng

Microsoft MSDN Online Support Lead

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Please

feel free to let my manager know what you think of the level of service provided. You can send feedback directly to my manager at:  
msdnmg@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

=====

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=====  
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-----  
From: "Rich Fowler" <RJF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
References:  
<E25C0122-2976-4D54-8836-0B382773ED16@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

<a0e9b9da344298ca5ca0634b8a3a@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

In-Reply-To:  
<a0e9b9da344298ca5ca0634b8a3a@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
Subject: Re: TreeView Dynamic XML Binding  
Date: Tue, 25 Mar 2008 17:01:19 -0600

David,

Thanks - quick and great response.

It actually addressed one issue I was interested in and that is turning

off

the postback at all nodes and expand/collapse images. This opens up my

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research into the use of the other events. Implementing as you suggest removed the error. However, it is not exactly the result I was looking

for.

I want the Expand/Collapse action to happen on the client but the Select action to be a postback. This works fine when I explicitly set the

DataFile

on the aspx page, as in your code below. However, when I dynamically set

the

DataFile in the Page\_Load, the postback generates the null reference

error

when clicking the tree node. Any suggesting into what is causing this?

Your response brings up a side question. When I implemented it and debug

on

the TreeNodeDataBound event, it fires when expanding. Is this using AJAX?

I'm moving directly from .NET 1.1 to 3.5, so much of this is new to me.

Thanks again.

"David R. Longnecker"

<dlongnecker@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:a0e9b9da344298ca5ca0634b8a3a@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:a0e9b9da344298ca5ca0634b8a3a@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Rich-

If I understand correctly, you're trying to create a TreeView based off

of

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an XML file and retain the expand/collapse functionality but AVOID the postbacks and flicker, correct?

You can do this by setting the `SelectAction` to `Expand` when you databind your nodes. Here's some sample code I whipped up using your XML:

aspx:

```
<asp:TreeView ID="CompanyTreeXml"
runat="server"
DataSourceID="CompanyXml"
ExpandDepth="1"
EnableClientScript="true"
PopulateNodesFromClient="true"
ontreenodedatabound="CompanyTreeXml_TreeNodeDataBound">
</asp:TreeView>
<asp:XmlDataSource ID="CompanyXml"
runat="server"
DataFile="~/Company.xml">
</asp:XmlDataSource>
```

code-behind:

```
protected void
CompanyTreeXml_TreeNodeDataBound(object
sender,
TreeNodeEventArgs e)
{
e.Node.SelectAction =
TreeNodeSelectAction.Expand;
}
```

At this point, CSS or a `NodeStyle` would be required because the

TreeView

generates any `Expandable` node as a hyperlink and any non-expanding node

as

as plain text.

Since `EnableClientScript` is still enabled, the control generates the according JavaScript and the `Expand` links

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do not fire postbacks. By default, I think, the `TreeNodeSelectAction` is set to `Select`, not

Expand,

which fires the `SelectedNodeChanged` event.

Hope this helps!

-dl

--

David R. Longnecker  
<http://blog.tiredstudent.com>

I'm dynamically binding an `XmlDataSource` to an xml file in the `Page_Load` event. This `XmlDataSource` control is the `DataSourceID` for a `TreeView` control. I'm receiving a null reference error prior to entering the `Page_Load` event when selecting a tree text value.

`Page_Load` code snippet:  
`cSchemaXML.DataFile = @ "D:\Schemas\2008\Schema_Tree.xml";`  
Note: The file path above will be calculated once I get it working.  
This is for testing only. The code is not in a `!this.IsPostBack` conditional.

Aspx page snippet:  
`<asp:TreeView  
ID="cSchemaTree"  
runat="server"  
DataSourceID="cSchemaXML"  
ExpandDepth="1">  
</asp:TreeView>  
<asp:XmlDataSource  
ID="cSchemaXML"  
runat="server"></asp:XmlDataSource>`

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When I click on the tree node (not the Expand icon) for the select processing, a null reference error (see below) is displayed.

The only way I can get this to work without a the error is to disable

client

side code:

```
EnableClientScript="False"
```

I prefer not to suffer the flashing and time required during postbacks. I'm simply trying to display the xml element tree

structure. The xml being displayed is nested elements, each containing one attribute. If I set the DataFile in the XmlDataSource control directly, everything works fine. Do I need to set DataFile someplace other than in the Page\_Load event? Some other solution?

Note: If I click a tree node that is part of the initial display (based on the ExpandDepth setting) I do not get the error until I expand the tree and then click the node (or one of the expanded nodes). This may indicate some variance between the viewstate and the returned tree structure (only a guess).

Sample XML – the actual xml is much more complex and nested much deeper, but this gives the idea.

## Re: TreeView Dynamic XML Binding

```
<Company
  FullPath="Company">
  <Name
    FullPath="Company/Name"/>
  <Address
    FullPath="Company/Address">
    <USAddress
      FullPath="Company/Address/USAddress">
      <Street
        FullPath="Company/Address/USAddress/Street"
      />
      <City
        FullPath="Company/Address/USAddress/City"/>
      <State
        FullPath="Company/Address/USAddress/State"
      />
      <ZipCode
        FullPath="Company/Address/USAddress/ZipCode"
      />
    </USAddress>
    <ForeignAddress
      FullPath="Company/Address/ForeignAddress"
    >
    <Street
      FullPath="Company/Address/USAddress/Street"
    />
    <City
      FullPath="Company/Address/USAddress/City"/>
    <StateOrProvince
      FullPath="Company/Address/USAddress/StateOrProvince"
    />
    <PostalCode
      FullPath="Company/Address/USAddress/PostalCode"
    />
    <Country
      FullPath="Company/Address/ForeignAddress/Country"
    />
    </ForeignAddress>
  </Address>
</Company>
```

The error returned when clicking the tree node is:

Server Error in '/' Application.

---

Object reference not set to an instance of an object.  
Description: An unhandled exception occurred during

## Re: TreeView Dynamic XML Binding

the execution of  
the  
current web request. Please  
review the stack trace for  
more  
information  
about the error and where it  
originated in the code.

Exception Details:  
System.NullReferenceException:  
Object reference not  
set to an instance of an  
object.

Source Error:

An unhandled exception  
was generated during the  
execution of the  
current web request.  
Information regarding the  
origin and location of  
the exception can be  
identified using the  
exception stack trace below.

Stack Trace:

[NullReferenceException:  
Object reference not set to  
an instance of an  
object.]

System.Xml.XmlLoader.Load(XmlDocument  
doc, XmlReader reader,  
Boolean  
preserveWhitespace) +24  
System.Xml.XmlDocument.Load(XmlReader  
reader) +96

System.Web.UI.WebControls.XmlDataSource.PopulateXmlDocument(XmlD  
t  
document,  
CacheDependency&  
dataCacheDependency,  
CacheDependency&  
transformCacheDependency)  
+305  
System.Web.UI.WebControls.XmlDataSource.GetXmlDocument()  
+154  
System.Web.UI.WebControls.XmlHierarchicalDataSourceView.Select()  
+14

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System.Web.UI.WebControls.TreeView.DataBindNode(TreeNode node) +126

System.Web.UI.WebControls.TreeView.PopulateNode(TreeNode node) +27

System.Web.UI.WebControls.TreeView.LoadPostData(String postDataKey, NameValueCollection postCollection) +1082

System.Web.UI.WebControls.TreeView.System.Web.UI.IPostBackDataHandler.LoadPostData(String

postDataKey, NameValueCollection

postCollection) +11

System.Web.UI.Page.ProcessPostData(NameValueCollection postData, Boolean

fBeforeLoad) +661

System.Web.UI.Page.ProcessRequestMain(Boolean includeStagesBeforeAsyncPoint,

Boolean includeStagesAfterAsyncPoint)

+1194

Thanks for any help – Rich

F.