

## Re: problems returning ArrayList from webServices

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.webservices/2004-04/0237.htm>

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**From:** Mickey Williams (*my*)

**Date:** 04/13/04

Date: Tue, 13 Apr 2004 09:24:04 -0700

You have two problems:

- Collections are always serialized as simple arrays.
- The general-purpose collection classes in the framework are only typed to work with object.

If you return an instance of a type that will cause other types to be serialized polymorphically, you must use SoapInclude or XmlInclude attributes to include the proper runtime type information.

If you want to serialize as a specific collection class rather than just an array, wrap it. So if you had a class called Boat, and a strongly-typed collection called BoatCollection, define your web method like:

```
[WebMethod]
public BoatRet GetBoats()
{
    BoatRet ret = new BoatRet();
    ret.Boats.Add(...);
    ret.Boats.Add(...);
    ret.Boats.Add(...);
    return ret;
}

class BoatRet
{
    BoatCollection _boats = new BoatCollection();
    public BoatCollection Boats
    {
        get { return _boats; }
    }
}
```

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microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.webservices: Re: problems returning ArrayList from webServices

"Mario Rodriguez" <mrodriguez@avantica.net> wrote in message  
news:eaEbN9MIEHA.2144@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...  
> Hi, I'm in a big problem because my implementation of a webService that  
> returns an ArrayList object have a weird behaviour. On the client side,  
> instead of return an ArrayList object, returns an object[] !!!!!. This is  
> normal or correct ????????

>  
> My other problem is that the ArrayList (and object[]) contains references  
to  
> an object My Container, that is out the namespace of the webService (so  
I've  
> to add the reference to MyContainer in both the client side and the  
> webService) but on the client side, when I try read the objects from the  
> object[] I got a castException due to the objectArray contains instances  
of  
> webService.namespace.MyContainer and not of  
> myContainer.namespace.MyContainer.

>  
> I'm not sure what is happening in both situations, that if someone can  
give  
> me a helping hand, I'll thank you a lot

>  
>