

## Re: Simple question ??

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet/2005-10/msg01037.html>

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- *From:* "Kevin Spencer" <[kevin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:kevin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 14 Oct 2005 08:27:17 -0400
- 

Hi serge,

> More generally how dynamic web page content works ?

A web page is basically an HTML document. HTML is a pure text markup language that enables data to be displayed in a formatted manner. ASP.Net is a technology that, at the most basic level, delivers HTML to a web browser. Originally, HTML documents were simply files on a server. When a Request came to the server for "somePage.htm," the server opened "somePage.htm" from its file system, and streamed it back to the browser, which then parsed and formatted the document. What ASP.Net does, again at base level, is to bypass the "open a file" part, and simply stream HTML to the browser. It controls the HTML that is streamed to the browser as an HTML document. It is therefore, "dynamic content."

Now, of course, browsers can deal with many other forms of documents, images, files, and so on. An HTML page can "contain," for example, an image. However, it doesn't actually contain the image. It is pure text. It contains an image markup tag that tells the browser where to download the image from, where to place it in the page, how to resize it, etc. A browser can also display a non-HTML file directly, assuming that the browser supports that file format. Internet Explorer, for example, can display Word documents, Excel Files, RTF files, GIF images, JPG images, and several other file formats straight out of the box. Adobe makes browser add-ons for PDF files, as well as do any number of other vendors. And ASP.Net can also deliver any file format to a browser in its native state.

In fact, ASP.Net can work with anything that a browser can work with, and other web technologies as well, including XML Web Services, Remoting, and so on.

- > The idea is that I need to build a web site for a customer who will be
- > able
- > to easily change its content (talking about an article or news). I have to
- > consider that people who will be able to update document knows nothing
- > about
- > htm, xml or whatever stuff.

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Now you're thinking like a User. If you want to program, you have to think like a programmer. Humans don't see data the same way that computers do. We see "an article" (some form of written language and/or media communication) in a newspaper, on a web page, in a newsgroup, on television, what-have-you, and our brain automatically extracts the information from it, converts it into abstract thought, and we don't consciously think of one medium as being different from another. In fact, we don't consciously think of the delivery mechanism at all; we think of the thought information we extract from it.

To write a program, however, you don't think of data as "an article." "Article" is a generic and broad abstraction that is useful to humans, because humans are sophisticated enough to get a general idea of what is being discussed, and often glean more information (only the information that is pertinent to the listener) from the context in which it is used. But to a computer, and in reality, it is data. It is in some format. It is stored in some location. It requires parsing, munging, and all of that other stuff which our brains do automatically, to be done by a computer program. The program knows nothing but what we tell it. It is not capable of interpretation, abstraction, or intelligent thought. It cannot do anything the programmer does not tell it explicitly to do. In short, humans are very very smart. Computers are actually very very stupid.

To us, a "document" is something we read, from any number of sources, and what the format is is not of any importance. To a computer, a "document" is a one-dimensional stream of bits (1s and 0s). How it is handled depends entirely on what format those bits are arranged in.

> What I was wondering also is that if we consider that document can be any  
> file format, does a database can store those file object or they could be  
> only path in tables ?

The first thing you need to do is to start thinking like a programmer. You need to define the terms "article" and "document" very specifically, or you will not be able to tell the program how to deal with them. What are the specific definitions of those sets of data that will be defined as "articles?" Are they multi-page TIFF files, Word documents, pure text documents, multi-media presentations, PDF files, etc.?

When you talk about "updating" you're opening up another can of worms. A text file is relatively easy to edit, but not in a browser. And as the browser is only looking at a downloaded copy of a file, how does the end user save the changes back to the server? A PDF document, on the other hand, requires some specific Adobe software to be installed on the client machine to be edited. And the same kinds of problems with regards to getting it back to the web server exist for PDF and any other document format as well.

And of course, we have not yet discussed how the "articles" will be stored. That also depends on the answers to the questions I posed above.

> Just a simply way to update document or introduce new one

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Again, you're thinking like a User. Computer programs look simple to users because programmers go to a great deal of difficulty to make them seem that way. The more user-friendly an interface is, the more programmer-UNfriendly the program actually is. An example of a "simple" ASP.Net application might be to create a page that dynamically writes "hello world" to the browser. It takes no user input from the user. it contains no logic. It simply outputs a string. THAT is simple. Almost everything else is complex in one way or another, and to a greater or lesser degree.

I hope this gives you an idea of where you need to start. Perhaps a "hello world" ASP.Net web page would be a good place to start. You can work your way up from there, one piece at a time. If you take small steps, you're much less likely to fall.

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HTH,

Kevin Spencer  
Microsoft MVP  
..Net Developer  
Ambiguity has a certain quality to it.

"serge calderara" <sergecalderara@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:F5A93B50-385A-497C-B840-DC5AAE3DDCE2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:F5A93B50-385A-497C-B840-DC5AAE3DDCE2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

> Thnaks kevin.

>

> More generally how dynamic web page content works ?

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> to easily change its content (talking about an article or news). I have to

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> Just a simply way to update document or introduce new one

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> file format, does a database can store those file object or they could be

> only path in tables ?

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> I kow it is not clear yet but just have a brif idea on how usually people

> process with dynamic content

>

> serge

>

> "Kevin Spencer" wrote:

>

>>> I need to build a web application which will contains articles (long or

>>> short)

>>> I was wondering on what is the correct way to retrieve those article on

>>> web

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>>> page.  
>>> In other words, when there is such information to be displayed are  
>>> they  
>>> coming from imported files, database ?  
>>  
>> So far, we can glean that your requirements include:  
>>  
>> A web application.  
>> It has something to do with "articles" (undefined).  
>> These "articles" are stored somewhere (you don't know where)  
>> They are displayed in a web page.  
>>  
>>  
>> "Articles" indicates some kind of document. Could be pure text, scanned  
>> newspaper articles in TIFF format, HTML, XML, PDF, RTF, Word documents,  
>> Excel documents, who knows? Well, if you're writing the app, I would have  
>> to  
>> say you ought to.  
>>  
>> Where are they stored? I don't know. Where are they supposed to come  
>> from?  
>> Who is creating or has created them? Is the only requirement that they be  
>> displayed in a web page, or are there other requirements? Is this an  
>> Internet or an Intranet? How many of them are there? Will they be edited  
>> online? Whose idea was this in the first place? Perhaps he/she would  
>> know.  
>>  
>> --  
>> HTH,  
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>> Kevin Spencer  
>> Microsoft MVP  
>> ..Net Developer  
>> Ambiguity has a certain quality to it.  
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>> "serge calderara" <sergecalderara@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in  
>> message [news:6EFE01CA-55D0-4C23-B792-1CE3C5A5F194@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:6EFE01CA-55D0-4C23-B792-1CE3C5A5F194@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>>> Dear all,  
>>>  
>>> I need to build a web application which will contains articles (long or  
>>> short)  
>>> I was wondering on what is the correct way to retrieve those article on  
>>> web  
>>> page.  
>>> In other words, when there is such information to be displayed are  
>>> they  
>>> coming from imported files, database ?  
>>>  
>>> Where and how this type of information is stored ?  
>>> What is the way to retrieve such information in order to display it in  
>>> page ?

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>> >  
>> > Thanks for your reply  
>> >  
>> > regards  
>> > serge  
>>  
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>>

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• *Follow-Ups:*

◆ *Re: Simple question ??*

◇ *From:* serge calderara

- Prev by Date: *Re: Asp.Net 2.0 Multiple Application Solutions*
- Next by Date: *getting guides form openPopuped window*
- Previous by thread: *Re: Simple question ??*
- Next by thread: *Re: Simple question ??*
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