

Re: automating email with links to records just submitted to an SQL DB using asp.net (vb)

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet/2006-06/msg03966.html>

- *From:* "Jimbo" <jimbo.oneill@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 27 Jun 2006 10:47:39 -0700
-

Gary

Sorry to be an idiot, but could u explain the [~USER_NAME~] function to me again...

If i want to have different emails set up for various recipients do i do it here? And do i just repeat the code or repeat the line containing the [~USER_NAME~] node for this?

Thanks

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<email server="smtpserver">
<template Id="EmailMessage1">
<from><![CDATA[]]></from>
<cc><![CDATA[]]></cc>
<subject><![CDATA[]]></subject>
<message format="HTML"><![CDATA[
<html><body>Email Message text to [~USER_NAME~]</body></html>]]>
</message>
</template>
</email>
```

**Take note of the [~USER_NAME~] token in the body. You can create as many of these nodes as you need, for each type of email you want to send.

Jimbo wrote:

Thanks Gary, I will try this out and let you know what happens!

Spent the whole day trying to do this so might give it a break and try again tomorrow :)

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Gary wrote:

Jim,

What I usually do for emailing is create an XML file and call it, say, email.config (naming it with a .config extension prevents a user from pulling it up through the website). In the XML file I define a template for any emails I want to send. I use something like:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<email server="smtpserver">
<template Id="EmailMessage1">
<from><![CDATA[]]></from>
<cc><![CDATA[]]></cc>
<subject><![CDATA[]]></subject>
<message format="HTML"><![CDATA[
<html><body>Email Message text to [~USER_NAME~]</body></html>]]>
</message>
</template>
</email>
```

**Take note of the [~USER_NAME~] token in the body. You can create as many of these nodes as you need, for each type of email you want to send.

Then I have code like the following to send the actual email:

```
public class TemplateEmail {
public static void Send(string templatePath, string templateID, string
recipients, Hashtable tokens)
{
/** Load the email configuration template
XmlDocument template = new XmlDocument();
template.Load(templatePath);

/** Pull out the template
XPathNavigator nav = template.DocumentElement.CreateNavigator();
string smtpServer = nav.GetAttribute("SMTPServer", String.Empty);
MailMessage msg = new MailMessage();

/** Process the message elements
XmlNode emailNode =
template.DocumentElement.SelectSingleNode(string.Format("Template[@Id='{0}']",
templateID));

if (emailNode == null) throw new Exception("Invalid or missing email
template identifier");
nav = emailNode.CreateNavigator();
if (!nav.MoveToFirstChild()) throw new Exception("Invalid email
template - no properties defined");
```

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```
string token = string.Empty;
while (true)
{
switch (nav.Name)
{
case "From":
msg.From = nav.Value;
break;
case "Cc":
msg.Cc = nav.Value;
break;
case "Bcc":
msg.Bcc = nav.Value;
break;
case "Subject":
/** Perform the subject token replacements
msg.Subject = ReplaceTokens(nav.Value, tokens);
break;
case "Body":
/** Perform the subject token replacements
msg.Body = ReplaceTokens(nav.Value, tokens);
break;
default:
break;
}

if (!nav.MoveNext()) break;
}

/** Send the message
msg.To = recipients;
SmtpMail.SmtpServer = smtpServer;
SmtpMail.Send(msg);
}

private static string ReplaceTokens(string source, Hashtable tokens)
{
string result = source;
foreach (string key in tokens.Keys)
{
result = result.Replace(key, tokens[key].ToString());
}

return result;
}
}
```

And then the calling program passes in a hashtable that contains the tokens to be replaced, along with the value to replace it with. A call for this case would look like this:

```
Hashtable properties = new Hashtable();
```

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```
properties.add("[~USER_NAME~]", "ggalehouse");  
Email.Send(path_to_email.config_file, "EmailMessage1", properties);  
//EmailMessage one is the ID attribute within the email.config file.
```

I hope this helps. I've used this on numerous projects with great results.

Thanks,
Gary