

# DataField, Binding to a property one level down

---

*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet/2007-02/msg01167.html>

---

- *From:* "VJ" <[victorjitlin@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:victorjitlin@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 9 Feb 2007 16:34:24 -0800
- 

Hi,

I'm certain I'm not the first person to run into this, but here's the scenario:

I have a collection of objects say of class 'User' which I want to put as the datasource of a GridView. I can bind to properties of User fine. But suppose I want to bind to a property one level down. (Say User has a property of class Name which has 2 properties 'FirstName' and 'LastName', both strings. So I'd like to be able to put:

<... DataField="Name.FirstName" ..> (in xml)  
DataField="Name.FirstName"; (in C#)

As far as I know the first is possible (it's smart enough to traverse down and find FirstName) while the second is not.

My question is why exactly is this and what's a simple or elegant workaround (using just code behind). I don't want to create a new class just so that it's more convenient to bind to the grid view, nor do I want to copy things manually into a datatable, or anything like that.

Any input appreciated,  
VJ

.