

RE: custom container control – wrapping child controls

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet/2008-08/msg00152.html>

- *From:* stcheng@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Steven Cheng [MSFT])
 - *Date:* Mon, 04 Aug 2008 04:07:08 GMT
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Hi Gerry,

How are you doing?

Regarding on this issue, I've performed some further research and discussed with some other ASP.NET engineers.

So far we can think of one way to achieve this, but I think it is total overkill. Whenever your template is persisted (when `GetPersistenceContent()` is called), you could examine your control tree and modify it to make sure it contains the container controls. You could then persist that control tree into text, then re-parse it into an `ITemplate` and set your property to that value. Then when ASP.NET persists your template it'll persist the modified template.

Some scenarios that are a bit similar to this are that the `MultiView` control can only contain `View` controls. Similarly, `WebPartZones` can only contain `WebParts`. You might want to dig into their designer and runtime code to see how they handle this. I've used the reflector tool to inspect the code a bit and find some code logic for getting the current inner content of control. But may still need more effort on setting the content.

Have you got any progress on your side?

Sincerely,

Steven Cheng

Microsoft MSDN Online Support Lead

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
From: stcheng@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Steven Cheng [MSFT])
Organization: Microsoft
Date: Thu, 24 Jul 2008 07:43:56 GMT
Subject: RE: custom container control – wrapping child controls

Hi Gerry,

From your description, you're developing a custom server control which contains some inner controls, and you want to make some certain kind of nested subcontrols be wrapper with another control automatically at design-time, correct?

I've performed some research on this. So far for nested controls, the custom control itself should be set as "ParseChildren" as false so that inner markup will be interpreted as control instances. I think you've also ready done this, correct? Generally, for design-time customization, we have two tools:

1. A custom control designer
2. A custom control parser

So far I only got some interfaces for customizing the displaying html from Control Designer , but not the inline markup of the control. Also, controlbuilder seems focus on the nested control's parsing and population at runtime. Is there are any particular requirement in your page or control that it will need such an wrapper element? Maybe we can also look for some other means on this.

I'll do some further research on this and inform you if I get any new finding.

Sincerely,

Steven Cheng

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From: "gerry" <germ2@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
Subject: custom container control – wrapping child controls
Date: Wed, 23 Jul 2008 09:41:31 -0400

I am trying to create a custom container control that will only ever contain

a specific type of control.
At design time, when a control of a different type is added to the

container

I would like to wrap the control in the proper control type – which is

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also

a container.

At design time I want to be able to turn this :

```
<my:container>  
<asp:textbox />  
</my:container>
```

into this :

```
<my:container>  
<my:wrapper>  
<asp:textbox />  
</my:wrapper>  
</my:container>
```

It is no problem to detect what type of object is being added to the

control

and I can do the wrapping easy enough for the rendered control , but I

can't

see how to change the physical markup as displayed in the designer and stored in the .aspx file.

Webparts does something similar but it looks like the designer source has not been made available.

Anyone know how to do this or have any ideas on how this might be done ?

Gerry