

RE: Looking for suggestions on populating dropdown from database table

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework/2005-02/0584.html>

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Date: 02/09/05

Date: Wed, 9 Feb 2005 07:09:02 -0800

DataSet or Collection, you are doing the same thing. You are pulling from a bindable object into something else. There are times where this makes sense, but the most efficient use of a DataReader is as follows:

```
private void Page_Load(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
{
    if(!Page.IsPostBack)
        BindPropertyTypeDropDown();
}

private void BindPropertyTypeDropDown()
{
    //Working with Northwind
    string connString = ConfigurationSettings.AppSettings["connString"];
    //Would normally have a stored procedure here
    string sql = "SELECT EmployeeID, FirstName+' '+LastName AS WholeName FROM
Employees";

    SqlConnection conn = new SqlConnection(connString);
    SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(sql, conn);

    try
    {
        conn.Open();
        SqlDataReader dr = cmd.ExecuteReader();

        //Note that you have to leave a reader open while you bind
        ddlPropertyType.DataSource = dr;
        ddlPropertyType.DataValueField = "EmployeeID";
        ddlPropertyType.DataTextField = "WholeName";
        ddlPropertyType.DataBind();
    }
    finally
    {
        if(conn.State == ConnectionState.Open)
            conn.Close();
    }
}
```

```
    conn.Dispose();
  }
}
```

Of course, if you are running a multi-tiered application, it is more efficient to either use business objects or set up a DataSet as a quasi-business object. The main key here is making sure you are using the proper interfaces or setting up specific attributes. A good primer:

<http://www.codeproject.com/useritems/AspNetBindDatagridVT.asp>

Check out the links at the bottom, as well.

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Think Outside the Box!

"pantichd" wrote:

> Hello,

>

> I want to populate an employee name dropdown in a webform with values from a database table. I

>

> Below is the method I'm using to retrieve a key/value pair from a database table. It returns a

>

> When reading about dropdowns I keep running into documentation about ListItemCollection but I c

>

>

> Any help would be greatly appreciated.

>

>

> David

>

>

> Public Function getKeyValuePairList(ByVal sql As String) As Collection

>

> Dim coll As Collection = New Collection

>

> readerConn.Open()

>

> readerCmd.Connection = readerConn

>

> readerCmd.CommandText = sql

>

> reader = readerCmd.ExecuteReader

>

> If reader.HasRows Then

>

> Do While reader.Read()

>

> coll.Add(reader.GetString(0), reader.GetString(1))

>

> Loop

>

> End If

>

> reader.Close()

>

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```
>     readerConn.Close()  
>  
> End Function  
>  
>  
>
```