

RE: Configuration parameter in SQL database

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Good morning Stephane. Welcome to Microsoft Newsgroup Support Service! My name is Jialiang Ge [MSFT]. It's my pleasure to work with you on this issue.

I understand you concerns are: how to store&return the configuration settings of applications without the need to restart the app pool in IIS or windows service. As you said, neither hard-coded parameters in static members nor the built-in configuration files (e.g. web.config) meets the requirement because their updates need the restart of some services. We are also concerned about the overhead of SQL server if the configurations are stored in a DB table. Are there any other better choices?

I have three solutions for your references:

1. SQL Server + SQL Dependency Cache
2. txt or xml based setting file + file change callback
3. Windows Registry

-----1. SQL Server + SQL Dependency Cache-----
SqlDependency is a feature introduced by .NET 2.0. It can be used in web applications (SqlCacheDependency) or windows applications (SqlDependency). SQL Dependency cache stays between your business logic (the retrieval of configurations) and SQL Server DB (2000 or 2005). The strength of SQL Dependency is that, when the data in DB is updated, the dependency will be notified about the change, clear the cache, and force the next retrieval of the data to query DB. But if the data in DB is not updated, the thousands of calls of configuration retrieval will not query DB, instead, it gets the value directly from "cache" in the application's memory. I believe this can solve your concern of the overhead of SQL server.

SqlDependency is briefly introduced in the MSDN:
[http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/9dz445ks\(VS.80\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/9dz445ks(VS.80).aspx)
There are many other materials about it online. If you like this idea, please tell me you SQL server version (2000 or 2005? SqlDependency is optimized for SQL server 2005), I will give more samples and documents for your references.

As a summary of this solution:

STRENGTH:

Good performance, good maintainability, and easy to implement.

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WEAKNESS:

If your application itself does not rely on SQL server, SQL server may look too fat solely for the storage of con