

# RE: ViewState vs. Database

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.general/2008-07/msg00161.html>

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- *From:* MCM <MCM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 10 Jul 2008 10:47:02 -0700
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1. If database server is powerful enough to support frequent query/update processing or such operations are not quite frequent, I'll always do the query instead of caching the data. Since that can save webserver memory.

So from a performance perspective, saving webserver memory is more important that reducing the load on the db server?

2. If data is quite large and operations are so frequent that may impact database server, I'll first consider caching data at server-side (such as in memory cache) rather than use page's viewstate.

This is an interesting idea. But this seems to contradict #1. So the question is still where to I want to place the heaviest load – web or db server?

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\*\* given anytime, for an application, user experience is the most important, large page size is certainly big problem for client user experience.

\*\* also, large page content also impact server memory since such large data(in form field) is post back to server and write down to client in every request, so means ASP.NET runtime need to load it into memory everytime processing page request.

How do you think?

Sincerely,

Steven Cheng

Microsoft MSDN Online Support Lead

RE: ViewState vs. Database

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From: =?Utf-8?B?TUNN?= <MCM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
References:  
<DB321895-A729-496F-B9B5-423029159B7B@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

<lzALYqj4IHA.4056@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Subject: RE: ViewState vs. Database  
Date: Wed, 9 Jul 2008 23:15:00 -0700

40.244.149

X-Tomcat-NG: microsoft.public.dotnet.general

From your description, you're wondering tradeoff between storing

database

records in ASP.NET page's viewstate and query them in every request, correct?

Yes.

Based on my understanding, if you're using Databound control(such as GridView, DataGrid)

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Not using datagrid. Using custom display controls. I can choose to enable/disable viewstate.

3. If the bottleneck is not at the web application and backend database server(performing data accessing operations such as query data), I recommend you query the data from database in every request where you

need

to display the data. But if the data is large and really static or unchangable, you can consider using Application Cache to cache them.

That is my point. I don't know where my bottleneck is yet. I'm looking for

a

"best practice". Something that works in most scenarios. I can choose to enable view state and only hit the database once – then reuse the data for multiple postbacks – this will obviously create a larger html response to

the

client. Or I can choose to keep the page size smaller, but hit my database

on

each postback – this will be more taxing on the server of course. As a general rule – which is better? And why?

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#Using the ASP.NET Application Cache to Make Your Applications Scream  
<http://www.developer.com/net/net/article.php/1477771>

#ASP.NET Caching Overview  
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms178597.aspx>

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Thread-Topic: ViewState vs. Database  
thread-index:  
AcjiL9LHoL7fpWJYTuakWT7C3nnrKw==  
X-WBNR-Posting-Host: 207.46.19.168  
From: =?Utf-8?B?TUNN?=  
<MCM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
Subject: ViewState vs. Database  
Date: Wed, 9 Jul 2008 18:54:00 -0700

I'm sure the answer to my question varies depending on the situation,

but

I

am looking for a general "best practice".

If I have an asp.net application and I load certain data from a

database,

should I use ViewState to store and reload the data, or should I load

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the

data from the database on each postback?

Assume for the sake of this question that I  
only care about

performance, I

don't care about ease of programming.