

Re: C# Retain Placeholder ViewState

Source:

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- *From:* SevDer <dotnet@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 26 Jul 2005 13:43:27 -0400
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theo wrote:

Hi...

I wish to extract the text content of an Xml file and assign it to DropDownList controls at runtime. I can get the Xml file text content into the DropDownList controls (Ex...if 5 Xml text tags then 5 dropdownlist controls each containing the 5 Xml text tags).

Problem, when I save the user DropDownList selected items by means of a button click the web form loses the Placeholder viewstate and generates the following error... "Object reference not set to an instance of an object....strSeletedItems+= ddl.SelectedItem.Text + "\\n";"

How do I retain the Placeholders viewstate?....when I enable the Placeholder's viewstate I get the this error... "The type 'System.Web.UI.WebControls.PlaceHolder' must be marked as Serializable or have a TypeConverter other than ReferenceConverter to be put in viewstate."

Code sample...

```
namespace AspXmlDbMapper_v2
{

    public class wfrmMain : System.Web.UI.Page
    {
```

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```
private void Page_Load(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
{

}

#region Web Form Designer generated code
override protected void OnInit(EventArgs e)
{

    InitializeComponent();
    base.OnInit(e);
}

private void InitializeComponent()
{
    this.btnLoadDb.Click += new System.EventHandler(this.btnLoadDb_Click);
    this.btnLoadXml.Click += new
    System.EventHandler(this.btnLoadXml_Click);
    this.btnLoadXmlTags.Click += new
    System.EventHandler(this.btnLoadXmlTags_Click);
    this.btnSave.Click += new System.EventHandler(this.btnSave_Click);
    this.Load += new System.EventHandler(this.Page_Load);

}
#endregion

private void btnLoadXml_Click(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
{

    string fileDestination = "C:\\TempXml";
    string fileName = Path.GetFileName(fileXml.Value);
    string fileExtentsion = Path.GetExtension(fileXml.Value);
```

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```
xmlFileDestination = Path.Combine(fileDestination, fileName);
```

```
Session["xmlFilePath"] = xmlFileDestination;
```

```
if (fileXml.PostedFile != null )
{
    if (fileExtentsion.ToString().Equals(".xml"))
    {
        try
        {
            fileXml.PostedFile.SaveAs(xmlFileDestination);
            span2.InnerHtml = "File uploaded successfully to <b>" +
            xmlFileDestination + "</b>";
            Session["xmlFileLoadedOk"] = true;
            fileXml.Dispose();

        }
        catch (Exception exc)
        {
            span2.InnerHtml = "Error saving file <b>" + xmlFileDestination +
            "</b><br>" + exc.ToString();
        }
    }
    else
    {
        MsgBox("Error incorrect file type  \\n\\nCorrect file type is \"
        filename.xml \");
    }
}

}
```

```
private void btnLoadXmlTags_Click(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
{
```

```
int elementCount=0, attributeCount=0, textCount=0;
```

```
try
{
    string fileDestination = (string)Session["xmlFilePath"];
}
```

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```
StreamReader streamreader = new StreamReader (fileDestination);
XmlTextReader xmlReader = new XmlTextReader (streamreader);

while (xmlReader.Read())
{
    string myNode = "";

    switch (xmlReader.NodeType)
    {
        case XmlNodeType.Element:
            elementCount++;
            myNode = xmlReader.Name;
            aryEleNodes.Add(myNode);

            if (xmlReader.HasAttributes)
            {
                attributeCount++;
                myNode = xmlReader.Value;
                aryAtrbNodes.Add(myNode);
            }
            break;

        case XmlNodeType.Text:
            textCount++;
            myNode = "<" + aryEleNodes[aryEleNodes.Count-1].ToString() + ">" +
                xmlReader.Value;
            aryTxtNodes.Add(myNode);
            break;

    }
}

CreateXmlDropDownLists();
}

catch(Exception ecpt)
{
    span2.InnerHtml = "Error...loading xml tags </b><br>" + ecpt.ToString();
}

}
```

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```
public void CreateXmlDropDownLists()
{

    int intCounter;

    for (intCounter=0; intCounter < aryTxtNodes.Count; intCounter++)
    {
        AddXmlDropDownList(aryTxtNodes,intCounter);
    }

    Session["PlaceholderControlCount"] = plhXmlContent.Controls.Count;
    //plhXmlContent.EnableViewState = true;
    //ViewState["plhXmlContent"] = plhXmlContent;

}

public void AddXmlDropDownList(ArrayList aryTxtNodes,int nodePos)
{

    int nodeNumber = nodePos + 1;
    literal = new LiteralControl();
    plhXmlContent.Controls.Add(literal);
    literal.Text = "<p><strong>Xml Tag " + nodeNumber + " :</b>";

    ddlXmlTagList = new DropDownList();
    plhXmlContent.Controls.Add(ddlXmlTagList);
    ddlXmlTagList.ID = "ddlXmlTagList" + nodeNumber;
    ddlXmlTagList.EnableViewState = true;

    //add xml tag content to ddl
    for(int a = 0;a < aryTxtNodes.Count;a++)
    {
        ddlXmlTagList.Items.Add(aryTxtNodes[a].ToString());
    }
}
```

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```
ddlXmlTagList.SelectedIndex = nodeNumber - 1;

}

private void btnSave_Click(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
{

//using this for debugging,but throws error "Object
//reference not set to an instance of an object.
//...strSeletedItems+= ddl.SelectedItem.Text + "\\n";"
MsgBox(ReadDropDownLists());

}
public string ReadDropDownLists()

{
string strSeletedItems = "";
//int n = (int)Page.FindControl("plhXmlContent").Controls.Count;
int n = (int) Session["PlaceholderControlCount"];

for (int i = 0; i<n; i++)
{
string DropDownListName = "ddlXmlTagList" + (i+1).ToString();
//DropDownList ddl =
(DropDownList)Page.FindControl("plhXmlContent").FindControl(DropDownListName);
DropDownList ddl = new DropDownList();
ddl.ID = DropDownListName;
strSeletedItems+= ddl.SelectedItem.Text + "\\n";
}

return strSeletedItems;

}

public void MsgBox(string strMsg)
{
```

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```
string alertScript;

alertScript = "<script language=JavaScript> alert('" + strMsg + "');
</script" + ">";

if (!IsClientScriptBlockRegistered("alert"))
this.RegisterClientScriptBlock("alert", alertScript);

}
}
}
```

The control tree into which viewstate is being loaded must match the control tree that was used to save viewstate during the previous request. For example, when adding controls dynamically, the controls added during a post-back must match the type and position of the controls added during the initial request. ---> System.Web.HttpException: Failed to load viewstate. The control tree into which viewstate is being loaded must match the control tree that was used to save viewstate during the previous request. For example, when adding controls dynamically, the controls added during a post-back must match the type and position of the controls added during the initial request.

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