

## Re: Avoiding dupes when merging files

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.vb/2004-11/5245.html>

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**From:** Lucas Tam (*REMOVEenntp\_at\_rogers.com*)

**Date:** 11/25/04

Date: Thu, 25 Nov 2004 19:55:40 GMT

"Bob Hollness" <bob@blockbuster.com> wrote in  
news:#UQFGZy0EHA.3616@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl:

>>  
>> *Take a look at the Microsoft Text Driver – you can run SQL queries on  
>> the text file. Perhaps you can just query each file checking for  
>> dupes?*  
>>  
>> *Or you could load the data into a datatable (or hash table type  
>> object?), with the PK set as the filename... if a duplicate shows up,  
>> the datatable should throw a duplicate PK exception which you would  
>> catch and ignore.*  
>>  
>> *Or lastly... perhaps you should think of a different method of  
>> storing the data? Maybe a database is a better idea than text files?*  
>>  
>> --  
>> *Lucas Tam (REMOVEenntp@rogers.com)*  
>> *Please delete "REMOVE" from the e-mail address when replying.*  
>> <http://members.ebay.com/aboutme/coolspot18/>  
>  
> *Thanks for the fast reply. I have to use text files so that really is  
> not an option. Any pointers or some sample code on how to use the  
> datatable? I like the idea of being able to trap a duplicate OK error.*

I replied to your message a bit early in the day, but I'm not sure if  
you received it:

Here's the example from MSDN (particularly the SetPrimaryKeys Sub):

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/cpref/html/frlrfssystemdatadatatableclassprimarykeytopic.asp>

I've used it a couple of times and it works fine.

Here is what you do in short:

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1. Add your columns to a datatable.
2. Add the same column from step 2 into a primary key array.
3. Add the primary key array to the DataTable.PrimaryKey property.

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Lucas Tam (REMOVEntp@rogers.com)

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