

Re: Datasets – Best approach to use?

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From: William \ (Bill) Vaughn (*billvaRemoveThis_at_nwlink.com*)

Date: 01/13/05

Date: Wed, 12 Jan 2005 20:32:06 -0800

It really depends on the architecture of the application. Windows forms, ASP, Web Service, etc all have different persistence strategies and limitations.

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William (Bill) Vaughn
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"Dave" <Dave@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message
news:71F8DC4C-58A4-49EE-B2E7-7D9466F08C5A@microsoft.com...
> Thanks for an excellent reply, Bill. I also learned some things from the
> sample chapter of your book. Obviously worth buying!
>
> I am still trying to understand the best place to declare the DataAdpater
> and DataSet and the life cycle of each. Will continue to experiment.
>
> Thanks again,
>
> Dave.
>
> "William (Bill) Vaughn" wrote:
>
>> If the books told you to mirror your data (replicate would be better as
>> mirroring makes everything backwards), then you got the wrong books. This
>> is
>> a widely discussed issue. First, when working with toy databases where
>> there
>> are a few tables and not many rows (a few thousand at most), then it does
>> not make much difference what you do--especially if there is only one
>> user.
>> When you're trying to implement a serious DBMS where many people need to
>> share the data, simply building a DataSet that contains the contents of a
>> table won't work--not for long. It simply won't scale. Using ASP (or
>> ASP.NET) makes the problem worse. In this case you're dealing with
>> DataSets
>> that are created and (by default) destroyed as soon as the page renders
>> the
>> HTML back to the client (browser). If you try to save these large DataSet
>> in
>> the Session state (or wherever), you'll choke the system before long.
>> No, the approach to take is to create a DataSet that contains the

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>> information that the user needs NOW and work from there. When you create
>> a
>> DataAdapter, you can create action commands (UPDATE, INSERT, DELETE) into
>> its infrastructure so that when you execute Update these commands make
>> changes to the database. No, the bound controls won't call Update--you
>> have
>> to do that in your code. In an ASP application the bound controls also
>> won't
>> post the changes to the server-side DataSet--you'll have to do that in
>> your
>> code. The ONLY thing bound controls will do in ASP is to move the data
>> from
>> the inbound DataSet (DataTable) to the control so you can see the rows.
>>
>> I discuss these issues in far more depth in my book and so does David
>> Sceppa.
>>
>> --
>> _____
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>>
>> "Dave Stumbles" <Dave Stumbles@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in
>> message
>> news:D8C8A27E-4C43-4E96-8153-EDC2D7ECBF56@microsoft.com...
>> >I am writing a VB.NET 2003 web application to operate on my company's
>> > intranet. It accesses data in an SQL Server database. I have developed
>> > a
>> > couple of pages that display data successfully. However, there is one
>> > area
>> > that I am having trouble getting a handle on, despite purchasing a
>> > couple
>> > of
>> > Wrox books.
>> >
>> > Up until now, I have used a whole lot of data adapters and datasets to
>> > be
>> > able to display my information. The data is stored in a very
>> > hierarchical
>> > structured database. I now want to be able to edit, delete and add new
>> > records to most of these tables. The data would be edited in datagrids.
>> >
>> > I have seen some information that indicates that having a
>> > 'mirror-image'
>> > of
>> > the original database stored in a dataset is the way to go, ie this is
>> > retrieved from the database, then modified and then sent back.
>> >
>> > My questions are:
>> >
>> > Is it best to have a single large dataset mimicking the tables and
>> > table
>> > structure in the database?
>> >
>> > If so, how is this achieved effectively? I only seem to be able to
>> > bring
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>> > across a table at a time.  
>> >  
>> > Any help would be greatly appreciated.  
>> >  
>> > Dave.  
>> >  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>>
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