

Contents

Acknowledgments	xv
Introduction	xvii
Chapter 1: Introducing SQL CLR	1
What is SQL CLR?	1
The Evolution of SQL CLR	2
Pre-SQL Server 2005 Extensibility Options	2
Why Does SQL CLR Exist?	2
Supported SQL CLR Objects	3
The .NET Architecture	4
CTS	4
CLS	5
CIL	5
VES	5
JIT	5
Managed Code and Managed Languages	6
Hosting the CLR	7
SQL CLR Architecture	7
Application Domains	8
The CLR Security Model	8
SQL CLR CAS Permission Sets	9
RBS/RBI	9
Key SQL CLR Decisions	9
Using SQL CLR or T-SQL	9
Using SQL CLR or Extended Stored Procedures	10
Using SQL CLR or OLE Automation Procedures	10
Using the Data Tier or Application Tier for Business Logic	11
SQL CLR Barriers of Entry	11
Security Considerations	11
The DBA Perspective on SQL CLR	12
Implementation Considerations	12
Performance Considerations	13
Maintenance Considerations	13
SQL Server 2005 SQL CLR support	14

Contents

Visual Studio 2005 SQL CLR support	14
Required Namespaces for SQL CLR Objects	15
Summary	15
Chapter 2: Your First CLR Stored Procedure	17
<hr/>	
Setting Up SQL Server Express and the AdventureWorks Database	18
The Mechanics of a Creating and Deploying a CLR Routine	18
Enabling CLR in SQL Server 2005	20
Creating Your First SQL CLR Routine without VS2005	22
Coding the Class	22
Compiling the .NET DLL	24
Creating the Assembly	25
Choosing between User-Defined Functions and Stored Procedures	26
Creating the T-SQL Stored Procedure	27
How SQL Server Manages Assemblies	28
Assembly Metadata	29
Extracting Assembly DLL and Source Code	31
Creating Your First CLR User-Defined Function	32
Using Visual Studio to Create a CLR Routine	33
Creating the Class	34
Deploying the Class	36
What the Auto-Deployment Process Does	37
Suggested Conventions	38
Assemblies	38
Classes	38
Structures	38
Class and Structure Functions or Methods	38
Removing SQL CLR Objects	39
Reviewing Assembly Dependencies	39
Dropping an Assembly	40
Summary	40
Chapter 3: SQL CLR Structure and Common Tasks	43
<hr/>	
SQL CLR Code Structure	43
SQL CLR Common Tasks	46
Using SQL CLR Data Type Classes	46
Detecting SQL CLR Availability	49
Performing Data Access	50

Returning Resultsets and Messages	53
Programming Transactions	58
Summary	67
Chapter 4: Creating SQL CLR Objects	69
<hr/>	
Managed Stored Procedures	69
Managed Code	69
The SqlParameter Attribute	70
Parameters	72
Return Values	74
Creating, Altering, and Dropping Managed Stored Procedures	75
Managed Functions	77
Scalar-Valued Functions	77
Creating, Altering, and Dropping, Managed Scalar-valued Functions	80
Table-Valued Functions	81
Managed Triggers	83
SqlTriggerContext Class	86
Accessing the Virtual Inserted and Deleted Temporary Tables	87
Enabling and Disabling Triggers	88
Managed DML Triggers	89
Managed DDL Triggers	92
Managed Aggregates	93
Managed Code	93
SqlUserDefinedAggregate Attribute	96
Creating, Altering, and Dropping UDAs	96
Managed Types	97
Managed Code	97
SqlUserDefinedType Attribute	101
Creating, Altering, and Dropping UDTs	101
Summary	101
Chapter 5: Comparing T-SQL with Managed Code	103
<hr/>	
Syntactic Comparisons	104
Variable Declaration and Scope	104
Automatic Variables and System Functions	106
Flow of Control	107
Syntax Checking	111
Custom Attributes and Optimizers	111

Contents

Organizational Comparison	112
Structured Programming	112
Object-Oriented Programming?	116
Error Handling	118
Capability Comparison	119
T-SQL Data-Centric Built-Ins	119
Handling NULL Values	122
String Parsing	123
Array Handling	125
Computations and Calculations	126
Cursor Processing	131
New .NET Base Class Library (BCL) Capabilities	137
Commingling SQL CLR and T-SQL	138
Submitting Data to Database	141
Retrieve Data from Database	145
Set-Based Operations	148
Forward-Only, Read-Only Row Navigation Example	149
Performance and Other Comparisons	161
Methodology of Comparison	162
A Final Word on Performance	167
Maintainability	168
Portability	169
Summary	169
Chapter 6: Replacing Extended Stored Procedures, Functions, and Other T-SQL Objects	171
Historical Perspective on Extended Stored Procedures	172
Why Replace XPs with SQL CLR?	172
Faster and Easier to Code	173
Plays Nice with SQL Server	173
Not Restricted to the Master Database	173
SQL CLR Replacements for XPs	174
Preparing SQL Server for External-Access Assemblies	174
Determining If a File Exists	175
Reading from the Registry	179
Replacing xp_CmdShell	182
Extended Stored Procedures for Mere Mortals	188
Writing Data to a CSV File	188
Retrieving HttpRequest Content	191
Calling Unmanaged Code API Functions	193

Replacing OLE Automation	195
Creating System SPs and UDFs	199
Summary	200
Chapter 7: The .NET Framework's Base Class Library	201
<hr/>	
Accessing External Data Sources	201
Performing File IO	201
Creating and Consuming XML Documents	207
Consuming Web Services	213
Building Effective Monitoring Tools	223
Auditing Server Processes	223
Auditing Installed Software	227
Summary	230
Chapter 8: Using SQL CLR Stored Procedures in Your Applications	231
<hr/>	
SQL CLR Application Usage Architecture	231
SQL Server Connections and SQL CLR Stored Procedures	232
Connection Conclusions	238
Console Apps and SQL CLR Extended Procs	238
WinForms and SQL CLR UDTs	241
Creating the Point SQL CLR UDT	241
Creating a Windows Form to Display a SQL CLR UDT	242
Accepting WinForm Input to Save a SQL CLR UDT	245
Web Forms and SQL CLR Aggregates	246
Integration Services and SQL CLR TVFs	248
Building the SQL CLR TVF	249
Using the SQL CLR TVF in an SSIS Package	253
Reporting Services and SQL CLR TVFs	255
Summary	256
Chapter 9: Handling Errors in CLR Stored Procedures	257
<hr/>	
Exception-Handling Mechanisms Used in SQL CLR	258
How T-SQL @@Error Exception-Handling Works	258
How T-SQL Try . . . Catch Error-handling Works	262
How .NET Structured Error-Handling Works	266
How SQL CLR Error Handling Works	270
SQL CLR Error-Handling Strategies	272
SQL CLR Objects Throw Errors	272
Exception Handling at Design Time	274

Contents

Clean Up after Exceptions	276
SQL CLR Handling T-SQL Object Errors	277
T-SQL Objects Handling SQL CLR Exceptions	280
Summary	281
Chapter 10: CLR Administration and Security	283
.NET for the DBA and System Admin	284
Where the .NET Framework Is Located on Your Server	284
Only One Version of CLR Can Be Hosted in SQL Server	284
How SQL Server Manages Memory Usage in SQL CLR	286
How to Look inside a Compiled Assembly	287
Security and SQL Server–Hosted CLR	288
Security Starts with Surface Area Configuration	288
Security by Identifying SQL CLR Code and .NET Framework Usage	288
Securing the Loading of Assemblies	291
Adding Role-Based User Access to the T-SQL Prototype	293
Restricting Code at the Assembly Level	293
SQL CLR Assembly Metadata	302
Where are Noncore Assemblies Stored?	302
Where Are Core .NET Assemblies Stored?	304
Managing the SQL CLR Lifecycle	305
Start by Limiting the .NET Language	305
Setting Up the Environments	305
Promoting Source through the Environments	306
Backups	321
Monitoring and Troubleshooting SQL CLR	321
Monitoring with SQL Server Profiler	321
Using Dynamic Management Views	322
Monitoring Counters with Performance Monitor	325
Troubleshooting SQL CLR	326
Summary	329
Chapter 11: Case Study	331
Business Case	332
DateTime Calculation Background	334
Implicit Casting Issues	334
Storing Time in Date-Only Fields	335
The .NET DateTime Class	336
The .NET TimeSpan Class	338
Solution Approach	340

Solution Prerequisites	342
T-SQL-Based Solution	343
T-SQL Object Type Decision	344
T-SQL Optional Parameters	344
Validation of Date and Time Input Parameters	345
Designing around Variable-Based Cursors	346
Creating the Table-Valued Functions	348
Creating and Calculating the Business Default Hours Structure	352
Altering Business Default Hours Structure with Exceptions	354
Considering the Parameterized Time Period	356
Calculating the Business Availability	356
SQL CLR-Based Solution	357
Setting up a .Net Studio Solution and Database Projects	358
Adding Nondatabase Projects to SQL CLR Solutions	358
Creating the Corp.SQLCLR.Scheduling Assembly	365
Creating the SQL CLR Object	383
Calculating the Business Availability	385
Solution Comparisons	386
Testing and Debugging	386
Adding a .NET Console Test Harness	388
Deployment and Administration	391
Performance	391
Development Perspective	392
Summary	392
Index	393

