

Contents

Introduction	xix
Chapter 1: Introduction to ASP.NET 2.0 and ADO.NET	1
Overview of the .NET Technologies	1
Introduction to the .NET Framework	2
Introduction to ASP.NET	4
Introduction to ASP.NET 2.0	5
Introduction to ADO.NET	7
Review of ASP.NET 1.x and ADO.NET for Data Access	7
ASP.NET 2.0 and Data Access	9
Review of Terminology	10
Requirements for Using ASP.NET 2.0	12
A Web Server	12
The .NET Framework Version 2.0	13
An Editor to Create Web Pages	13
Visual Studio	13
Visual Web Developer Express	14
Notepad and Other Editors	14
A Database Management System	14
Microsoft Access	15
Microsoft SQL Server	15
SQL Server Express	15
Other Relational Databases	16
Nonrelational Stores of Data	16
Setup for This Book	16
Install Visual Web Developer Express, SSE, and the ASP.NET Development Server	16
Download This Book's Files	17
Create the Practice Web Site	17
Install the Sample Databases	19
Demonstrations	20
Common Mistakes	34
Summary	34
Exercises	35

Chapter 2: Connecting to an Access Database	37
Introduction to Microsoft Access and the JET Database Engine	37
Pros and Cons of Using Access in Web Applications	38
Connecting to a Microsoft Access Database in Visual Web Developer	39
Using an AccessDataSource Control	42
Variations in Select Statements	47
Variations in MDB File Location	50
Managing MDB File Permissions	52
Handling Access Connection Failures Gracefully	53
Common Mistakes	56
Summary	57
Exercises	57
Chapter 3: Connecting to SQL Server and SQL Server Express	59
Introduction to SQL Server and Connection Strings	59
Preparing to Use a SQL Server Database	61
Specifying Connection Strings	61
Using the SqlDataSource Control	63
Understanding Security in SQL Server	66
Authentication Options in SQL Server	67
Authentication with SQL Server Express	69
Database Rights with SQL Server Express	70
Authentication Requirements for the SqlDataSource Control	70
Storing the Connection String in the web.config File	71
Manually Adding a Connection String to the web.config File	73
Encrypting Connection Strings	75
Choosing between DataSet and DataReader	77
Discovering the Schema of an Unfamiliar Database	79
Handling Failures with SqlDataSource	82
Common Mistakes	85
Summary	85
Exercises	86
Chapter 4: Connecting to Other Relational Databases	87
Introduction to Connections with Providers	88
Understanding the Relationship between Layers of Connectivity Software	88
Understanding Supported ADO.NET Providers	91
Using ADO.NET Providers in ASP.NET 2.0	91
Connecting to an Access MDB File When a Password Is Used	94
Connecting to Oracle Database	99

Connecting to MySQL	100
Syntax for an ODBC Connection to MySQL	100
Connecting to Excel	103
Connecting to Other Databases	104
Exploring Common Mistakes	105
Summary	106
Exercises	107
Chapter 5: Displaying Data in Tables	109
<hr/>	
Displaying Data in ASP.NET 2.0	109
Review of Data-Bound and Data Source Controls	109
Types of Data-Bound Controls	110
Introduction to the GridView Control	111
Capabilities of the GridView Control	111
GridView Rendering Elements	111
Connecting a GridView to Data	112
Drag and Drop Fields from Data Explorer	113
Drag and Drop Controls from the Toolbox	113
Customizing the GridView's Columns	116
Selecting Columns in the Edit Columns Dialog Box	116
Types of Column Fields	116
Bound Field	116
CheckBox Field	118
HyperLink Field	120
Image Field	124
Command Field	125
Button Field	127
Template Field	130
Using the AutoGenerateColumns Property of the GridView	134
Handling Null Field Values	135
The DetailsView Control	137
DetailsView Rendering Elements	138
Connecting the DetailsView to Data	139
Common Mistakes	141
Summary	142
Exercises	143
Chapter 6: Customizing the Appearance of Tables	145
<hr/>	
Customizing the Appearance of an Entire Table	145
Setting the BackColor and a BackImageUrl	146
Font and ForeColor	148

Contents

Height and Width	149
CellSpacing and CellPadding	149
Borders and GridLines	149
HorizontalAlign	153
ShowHeader and ShowFooter	153
ToolTip	153
Customizing Styles within a Table	155
GridView and DetailsView Styles	155
Empty Tables	158
Styles Specific to the DetailsView Control	160
Column Styles and Field Styles	161
Using Cascading Style Sheets	164
Understanding the Precedence of Styles	171
Implementing Themes and Skins	174
Using Auto Format in VWD	176
Solving Common Mistakes	176
Summary	177
Exercises	178
Chapter 7: Sorting and Paging Data	179
<hr/>	
Introduction	179
Sorting	180
Requirements to Enable Sorting	181
Understanding How ASP.NET 2.0 Manages Sorting	182
Sort Expressions	185
Paging	189
Enabling Paging	189
Customizing Paging and Pager Navigation Tools	191
Paging Theory and Alternatives	195
The Relationship among Sorting, Paging, and Selecting	196
Common Mistakes	197
Summary	197
Exercises	198
Chapter 8: Displaying Data in Selection Lists	199
<hr/>	
Introduction to Selection Lists	200
Transition from GridView to Other Formats	200
Types of Selection List Controls	200
Concepts Common to All Selection List Controls	201
Data-Binding List Controls	203

DropDownList Control	207
Selection in a List	209
SelectedIndex and SelectedValue	210
Automatic Postback	212
Common Mistakes	215
Summary	215
Exercises	216
Chapter 9: Filtering and Master–Details Scenarios	217
Introducing Master–Details Scenarios	217
Filtering GridView Records Using a Query String	218
Filtering GridView Records Using a TextBox	221
Using the SQL LIKE Operator	223
The Theory of Selection and ControlParameters	225
Scoping GridView Records Using a Selection List Control	226
Master Control by DropDownList with Hard-Coded Items	227
Master Control by ListBoxes with Data-Bound Items	228
Display Options for GridView in Master-Details Scenario	230
Master Control by List Boxes with a Default Setting That Shows all Records in the GridView	231
Displaying Details Using a GridView and DetailsView on the Same Page	233
Displaying Details Using a GridView and DetailsView on Different Pages	238
Cascading DropDownLists	242
Common Mistakes	244
Summary	244
Exercises	245
Chapter 10: Displaying Data in Templated Controls and Data Binding	247
Introduction to Templates	248
Template Location and Scope	251
Template Contents	252
Record Rendering: Repeat and Single	252
Subsections of Templates	253
Data Binding in Templates	254
General Guidelines for Using Templated Controls	256
GridView Template Columns	257
DataList Control	261
DataList Control Internal Layout	264
Repeater Control	267
Templates in the DetailsView Control	268

Contents

FormView Control	268
Comparison of the Templated Controls	270
A Few More Advanced Ideas on Data Binding	272
Common Mistakes	273
Summary	273
Exercises	274
Chapter 11: Updating and Deleting Data	277
Overview of Modifying	278
Command Fields	280
Simple Update	284
DataKeyNames and Updates	286
Update in a DetailsView	291
Parameters Collections	294
Handle Nulls in Updates	295
Delete to Remove Entire Records	298
Common Mistakes	301
Summary	302
Exercises	302
Chapter 12: Inserting New Records	303
Theory of Creating New Records	304
Support for Insert	304
What Happens under the Hood?	305
Enabling the Data Source Control for Insert	305
Display Modes	305
Action Performed by ASPNET 2.0 on Insert	306
Database Considerations When Performing an Insert	306
Enabling Insert in a Data Source Control	306
Basic Insert Using DetailsView	309
DetailsView Insert Starting from GridView	310
GridView and DetailsView for Insert on Same Page	310
GridView on One Page with DetailsView on a Different Page	310
Insert Using TemplateFields	313
Using the Bind Syntax in InsertItemTemplate	314
Data Entry with RadioButtonLists and DropDownList	317
Data Entry with CheckBoxes	321
Inserting with FormView	321
Trade-Offs between DetailsView and FormView	324
Common Mistakes	324

Summary	325
Exercises	326
Chapter 13: Validation	327
Overview of Validation Controls	327
What Are Validation Controls?	328
What Scenarios Do Validations Support?	328
Common Concepts of Validation Controls	330
Common Properties	330
Implementation of Validation Controls	332
How Validation Works behind the Scenes	333
Client-Side Validation	333
Server-Side Validation	333
Considerations for When to Use Server Side Versus Client-Side Validation	333
Multiple Validations	333
Types of Validation controls	334
Table of Types	334
RequiredFieldValidator Control	334
CompareValidator Control	335
RangeValidator Control	336
RegularExpressionValidator Control	339
CustomValidator Control	343
Validation in Data Scenarios	346
Validation Summary	347
Validation Groups	347
Validation in Code	348
Common Mistakes	349
Summary	349
Exercises	350
Chapter 14: Business Objects As a Source of Data	351
Introduction to the ObjectDataSource Control	352
Layers of an N-Tier Application	352
Presentation Logic Layer	352
Business Logic Layer	352
Data Access Layer	353
Advantages of N-Tier Architectures	353
Simple Objects with Hard-Coded Data	353
Binds to a Hard-Coded Array	356
Objects That Use Generics	358

Contents

Objects That Bind to a DataSource	366
Using VWD to Build Objects with Data	369
Object That Returns a DataSet List	374
Objects That Modify Data	375
Master-Details with a Data Object	378
Sorts in a Data Object	382
Common Mistakes	385
Summary	386
Exercises	387
Chapter 15: XML and Other Hierarchical Data	389
What Is Hierarchical Data?	389
Types of Hierarchical Data	390
ASPNET 2.0 Hierarchical Data Controls	390
XmlDataSource and the TreeView Control	391
DataBinding and Formatting the TreeView	393
XPath with XmlDataSource	396
Handling Events in a TreeView Control	398
Hierarchical Data with Other Controls	401
XmlDataSource and the DropDownList	401
XmlDataSource and GridView	401
XmlDataSource and DataList	403
XmlDataSource and DataList with Nesting	405
SiteMapDataSource, SiteMapPath, and the Menu Control	407
Common Mistakes	410
Summary	411
Exercises	412
Chapter 16: Caching Data	413
Caching and Its Benefits	413
When to Use Caching	414
Understanding State	415
Understanding State Staleness	415
Caching Options in ASP.NET 2.0	415
A Note on Data for the Exercises	416
Time-Based Cache Expiration	417
Caching with Parameters	418
Implementing Filtering Capability	421
SQL Server Cache Invalidation	423
Caching Partial Pages	427

Common Mistakes	428
Summary	429
Exercises	430
Chapter 17: Handling Events for Data Controls	431
<hr/>	
Introduction to Event Handling	431
Execution Control When an Event Is Triggered	432
Types of Events	432
General Techniques for Writing Event Handlers	433
Transfer of Values When an Event Is Triggered	436
Object Sender	436
EventArgs	437
Location of Event Handlers	437
Command and Custom Button Events	441
Using Events Raised by Command Buttons or Command Fields	442
Using Events Raised by Buttons with Custom Behavior	442
List Selection Events and Page Events	444
Data Control Binding Events	448
General Error Events	450
Common Mistakes	453
Summary	453
Exercises	454
Chapter 18: Performance Checklist	455
<hr/>	
Convert Pages from Earlier Versions to 2.0	456
Switch from Access to SQL Server	456
Use the DataReader Instead of the DataSet	456
Use OLEDB Instead of ODBC	457
Set List Items Statically	457
Cache Data	457
Cache Whole or Partial Pages	458
Use SQL Server Cache Invalidation	458
Typecast in Code	458
Specifically List Columns Instead of using AutoGenerate Columns	458
Turn Off ViewState When Possible	459
Set Properties Declaratively	459
Use Best Practices in Code	459
Precompile Your Pages	459

Contents

Chapter 19: Case Study: FAQ System	461
Project Description	461
Database Design	462
Development of Files	462
FaqsHome.aspx	463
FaqsDisplayAll.aspx	463
FaqsSearch.aspx	464
AdminFaqsEditor.aspx	464
AdminKeywordAssociations.aspx	464
AdminKeywordEditor.aspx	464
AdminScoreResults	464
MasterPage.master	465
FaqAuthors.aspx	465
FaqSqlTest.aspx	465
FaqSearch.aspx	465
Summary	480
Appendix A: A Short and Practical Introduction to SQL Statements	481
Appendix B: Exercise Answers	493
Index	509