

Re: Delphi 8 and ado.net

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From: Harry Van Tassell (*hairy_at_nada.com*)

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Lauchlan M wrote:

>> *So true and you have said it very well. It seems to me that*
>> *traditional Delphi users will likely have lots of preconceived ideas*
>> *about how it*
>> **should* work and little inclination to spend the considerable*
>> *amount of time and effort to learn how it *actually* works. The*
>> *result will be a vast amount of frustration and noisy grumbling.*
>
> *Well, how then does it actually work IYO, and why is it so very*
> *different to using say ADO in Delphi? Apart from datasets potentially*
> *having many different result sets / tables in them, and a more*
> *extensive use of data readers, I have found it much the same as*
> *Delphi. You still have a connection, you use a data adapter to*
> *populate a dataset (ok this is slightly different than just using a*
> *table or dataset component) and you bind it (hook it up) to your grid*
> *or whatever. It's not very different. I must be missing some big*
> *philosophical point, so if you could fill me in that would be great!*

The Delphi ADO implementation is basically a wrapper around the Recordset that makes it look like a TDataSet.

Some folks say that the ADO vs. ADO.NET object models share little in common except for the ADO in their names. To completely fill you in on the differences would be an almost Herculean task on my part so let me refer you to two books, "Programming ADO" and "ADO.NET the Core Reference" by David Sceppa who is my favorite author on this subject.

But so as to not appear as shirking your question, IMO a cursory examination of ADO's Recordset and ADO.NET's DataSet will begin to highlight the differences. The Recordset has methods like open, close, save, update, movefirst, movenext, sort, filter, find, etc none of which does the DataSet have. Recordsets can be connected or disconnected, the DataSet is always disconnected and does not communicate with your database.. With ADO you can have cursors into the database, there are no cursors in ADO.NET.

Quoting from the help file, "The DataSet, which is an in-memory cache of data retrieved from a data source, is a major component of the ADO.NET architecture. The DataSet consists of a collection of DataTable objects that

you can relate to each other with DataRelation objects. You can also enforce data integrity in the DataSet by using the UniqueConstraint and ForeignKeyConstraint objects."

The data cached in a ADO Recordset is more like that in the ADO.NET DataTable.

I'll stop here and not try to make "some big philosophical point". If you believe the two are quite similar object models, so be it. I just hope you will express that belief when someone complains that with ADO.NET Microsoft has yet again imposed some new diabolical data access technology.<g>

--Hairy