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Should we use View Models or Entity Models in Data Access Layer and Business Access Layer? [Answered]

3 replies

[Last post](#) Jun 14, 2016 06:16 AM by [Zhi Lv - MSFT](#)

Should we use View Models or Entity Models in Data Access Layer and Business Access Layer?

Jun 13, 2016 06:51 PM | ziaulrahman

hello,

I am using MVC architecture for developing project. I have created Business entity models and View models as separate class libraries. I am using View Models to render data to the UI. **Now, i am not sure which to use in my Data layer and Business Layer?**

What are the best practices when developing a MVC application?

Re: Should we use View Models or Entity Models in Data Access Layer and Business Access Layer?

Jun 13, 2016 07:21 PM | deepalgorithm

Creating View Models for your UI is the correct approach. Having Business objects (domain objects) is good too. You should have a mapping from your domain objects to your view models. From what you have described, it seems you are doing this.

Your data layer should be interacting with data objects. If you are using Entity Framework or some other ORM, then these objects look very similar to your database tables. So you repositories should be performing CRUD operations on these types of objects and you should be mapping from your data objects to your domain objects.

So there is the flow:

Data coming out: data objects (ORM / data access layer) --> Domain Model --> View Model

Data going in: View Model --> Domain Model --> data objects (ORM / data access layer)

You should also considering using automapper if you are not doing so already.

<https://github.com/AutoMapper/AutoMapper/wiki/Getting-started> (<https://github.com/AutoMapper/AutoMapper/wiki/Getting-started>)

Re: Should we use View Models or Entity Models in Data Access Layer and Business Access Layer?

Jun 14, 2016 04:37 AM | DholakiyaAnkit

You have used viewmodels which is good. Now, you will need automapper to make your viewmodel. Also, for the data layer its totally depends on your requirement. Database first and code first whichever option you use. I strongly recommend you to use the code first approach. and one more thing is repository pattern which is really reliable

Re: Should we use View Models or Entity Models in Data Access Layer and Business Access Layer?

Jun 14, 2016 06:16 AM | Zhi Lv - MSFT

Hi ziaulrahman,

ziaulrahman

Now, i am not sure which to use in my Data layer and Business Layer?

As we all known, the entity models represent the database entities, and the ViewModel represents the data that you want to display on your view/page. In the Data layer, you could query the database and get the entity model. Then, there have two choices: first, you can directly return it to the business layer and display on the view, second, you can according it, then get the ViewModel and return the viewmodel to the business layer and display on the view.

So, as for this issue, there is nothing to be confused about.

Best regards,
Dillion

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