Beginning VB 2008 Databases

From Novice to Professional

Vidya Vrat Agarwal and
James Huddleston

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Beginning VB 2008 Databases: From Novice to Professional

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To my sweet little daughter (Pearly) and beloved wife (Rupali).

You are precious in my eyes,
and honored, and I love you.

—Vidya Vrat Agarwal

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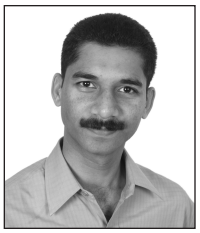

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Also, big, big thanks to the great God and my late grandparents for showering their blessings on me. I promise to be the best kid of yours.

Introduction

As most of the real-world applications interact with the data stored in relational databases, so every VB programmer needs to know how to access data. This book specifically covers how to interact with SQL Server 2005 databases using VB 2008. This book also covers LINQ and ADO.NET 3.5, the most exciting features of .NET Framework 3.5. The chapters that focus on the database concepts will help you understand the database concepts as if you'd learned them from a pure database concepts book. I have also covered many new features of T-SQL that SQL Server 2005 has brought in.

The book has been written in such a way that it will be easily understood by beginners and professionals alike. If you want to learn Visual Studio 2008 to build database applications, then this is the right book for you. It will not only walk you through all the concepts that an application developer may have to use, but will also explain what each piece of code you will write does.

The chapters in this book are organized in such a manner that you will build a strong foundation before moving on to the next higher-level chapter.

Who This Book Is For

If you are an application developer who likes to interact with databases using C#, then this book is for you—it covers programming SQL Server 2005 using VB 2008.

This book does not require or even assume that you have a sound knowledge of VB 2005, SQL Server 2000, and database concepts. I have written this book in such a way that, even if you don't have any of that background, you can pick up this book and learn. I have covered all the fundamentals that other books assume a reader must have before moving on with the chapters. This book is a must for any application developer who wants to interact with databases using VB 2008 and development tools.

What This Book Covers

This book covers Visual Studio 2008, SQL Server 2005, VB 2008, LINQ, and ADO .NET 3.5. All these tools and technologies are explained using various concepts and code examples. I have also tried to map the type of applications used in this book with the demand of real-life applications, so that you can utilize the concepts that you will learn throughout this book in your professional life.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is organized in such a way that the reader will find all the necessary concepts in the previous chapter before moving on to the next chapter. I have also taken care to avoid including references to the chapters that I will cover in the latter part of the book, so readers can concentrate on that chapter completely rather than switching their focus among the chapters to cover the concepts.

The concepts explained in each chapter have been explained with code examples under the section "Try It Out," followed by another section, "How It Works," which will help you understand each code statement and its purpose.

How to Download the Sample Code

All the source code is available in the Source Code/Download section at `www.apress.com`.

Contacting the Author

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