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private void frmMain_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    //call method to determine next StockId

    txtStockId.Text = String.Format("{0:0000}", getStockId());
    //txtStockId.Text = getStockId().ToString();

}

public int getStockId()
{
    int last;
    OracleConnection conn = new OracleConnection(oradb);
    conn.Open();
    OracleCommand cmd = conn.CreateCommand();

    //define SQL query
    strSQL = "SELECT MAX(StockNo) FROM Stock";
    cmd.CommandText = strSQL;
    OracleDataReader dr = cmd.ExecuteReader();

    dr.Read();
    if (dr[0] == DBNull.Value)
        last = 1;
    else
        last = Convert.ToInt32(dr[0])+1;
    conn.Close();
    return last;
}

```