

BTI420 Assignment 2

Common interaction patterns in a web app that uses a persistent store.

Read/skim all of this document before you begin work.

Due date

Section A: Thursday, May 26, 2016, at 11:59pm ET

Grade value: 4% of your final course grade

If you wish to submit the lab before the due date and time, you can do that.

Objective(s)

Implement some of the common interaction patterns in a web app that uses a persistent store.

Introduction to the problem to be solved

We need a simple ASP.NET web app that round-trips data to-and-from the browser user. We will use a Visual Studio project template that includes a database, and work with “employee” data.

Specifications overview and work plan

Here’s a brief list of specifications that you must implement:

- Follows best practices
- Implements the recommended system design guidance
- Customized appearance, with an added menu item
- Enables “get all”, “get one”, and “add new” use cases for employee objects
- Controller and manager work together for data service operations

Here is a brief work plan sequence:

1. Create the project, based on the project template
2. Customize the app’s appearance

3. Create view models and mappers that cover the use cases
4. Add methods to the Manager class that handle the use cases
5. Add a controller, with code to work with the manager object
6. For the employee entity, implement the “get all” use case; including controller code, and view
7. Implement the “get one” use case; including controller code, and view
8. Implement the “add new” use case; including controller code, and view

Every week, in the computer-lab class/session, your teacher will record a grade when you complete a specific small portion of the assignment. We call this “*in-class grading*”.

The *in-class grading* will look at:

1. Successful creation of the project, using the correct name and settings
2. Completed view model classes
3. Existence of the required methods in the Manager class

During the class/session, your professor will help you *get started* and *make progress* on this assignment.

Getting started

Create a new web app, named Assignment2. It MUST use [the “Web app project v1” project template](#) (click to download).

Using the technique that you learned in Assignment 1, update the project’s code.

Build/compile, and run the app, to ensure that you are starting with a working error-free base. Then, as you write code, build/compile frequently.

Note: If your project has a compilation error, complaining about **LocalDB**, you can fix this.

Follow the instructions in the recent notes.

Customize the app’s appearance

You will customize the appearance all of your web apps and assignments. Never submit an assignment that has the generic auto-generated text content. Make the time to customize the web app’s appearance.

For this assignment, you can defer this customization work until later. Come back to it at any time, and complete it before you submit your work.

Follow the guidance from Assignment 1 to customize the app’s appearance.

Create view models and mappers that cover the use cases

In the **Models** folder, study the **Employee** class. Although it will include some unfamiliar syntax, you should be able to locate and understand its properties. For a visual image, open the DesignModelClasses.cd object.

In the **Controllers** folder, create a source code file to hold the employee-related **view model classes**. As you recently learned, the source code file name is a composite name, consisting of the singular word form of the entity (i.e. Employee), plus “_vm”. Therefore, “**Employee_vm.cs**”.

Next, follow this *best practice* technique to create view model classes.

EmployeeAdd

We want to take advantage of *inheritance*. Therefore, the first class that we should write is the “add” class, EmployeeAdd.

The EmployeeAdd class will be used to define the data that the browser user sends (using HTTP POST) from the HTML Form. Then, the controller logic will accept the data, and process it, resulting (presumably) in the creation of a new employee object in the data store. In summary, it's used to get data from the user to the web app.

Copy the properties (with their data annotation attribute statements) from the Employee **design model class** (Models/Employee.cs), except for the following:

- EmployeeId
- ReportsTo
- navigation properties (Customers, Employee1, Employee2)

Paste them into the EmployeeAdd view model class. Fix the resulting error. As you have learned, create a constructor, to set appropriate initial values of the properties that need initialization.

Hint or tip:

- Did you know that the [DateTime](#) structure includes convenient methods to modify a date?
- Assume that we want to set the employee's birth date to the current date, less twenty-five years. That would be a good reasonable initial value for a property like that.
- You have learned that **DateTime.Now** will return an object that has the current date and time.
- Use the **AddYears()** method to change that value. Passing in “-25” would do the job. Try it!

Mapper for EmployeeAdd

Open the **AutoMapperConfig** class that's found in the same-named source code file, in the **App_Start** folder.

Think about the purpose of the EmployeeAdd class.

Add a mapping that implements the purpose.

EmployeeBase

Next, create a view model class to hold the base or basic properties of an employee. In almost all cases, this kind of class includes all the properties from the “add” class, plus the object's identifier.

The EmployeeBase class will be used to define the data that the web app user passes to the view, and then displayed in a web browser. In summary, it's used to get data from the web app to the user.

Use inheritance to include all the properties from the “add” class. As you have read and learned, the colon character (:) is used to designate C# inheritance. So, the signature of the EmployeeBase class would be:

```
public class EmployeeBase : EmployeeAdd
```

Next, add the identifier property. You can copy it from the design model class, if you wish.

What is the **name of the identifier property** – is it “Id”?

- If yes, you're done here.
- If not, then you **MUST** add the “**Key**” data annotation attribute statement before the identifier property.

Mapper for EmployeeBase

Think about the purpose of the EmployeeBase class.

Add a mapping that implements the purpose, to the **AutoMapperConfig** class.

Add methods to the Manager class that handle the use cases

As noted above, the app will implement these use cases for the employee entity:

1. Get all
2. Get one
3. Add new

Follow the recommended guidance in the **Manager.cs** comments to create method stubs for each use case. Then, use the guidance below to code the methods.

1. Get all

Features:

- Parameters: none
- Returns: collection of base objects

Algorithm:

1. Fetch the collection from the data store
2. Sort it, if desired
3. Map the collection to a new collection that's based on a view model class
4. Return the new collection

Questions:

What type of collection is used here? (What's the rule? Review the "collections" topic if you need a reminder.)

2. Get one

Features:

- Parameters: the identifier for the object
- Returns: a base object

Algorithm:

1. Attempt to fetch the object from the data store
2. If found, map the object to a new object that's based on a view model class, and return it
3. If not found, return null

3. Add new

Features:

- Parameters: new object, based on a view model class
- Returns: new object, fully-configured

Algorithm:

1. Attempt to add the new object; you'll have to map it to a design model object
2. Save changes
3. If successful, map the added object to a new object that's based on a view model class, and return it
4. If unsuccessful, return null

Questions:

Why do we return a fully-configured new object?

Add a controller, with code to work with the manager object

In this assignment, we will work with the employee entity. Therefore, create a controller.

Recently, you learned how to add a reference to the manager. Do that now.

For the employee entity, implement the “get all” use case; including controller code, and view

Best practice:

1. Fetch the collection from the manager object, and pass the collection to the view. This can be done in one or two lines of code.

Add a new view, using the list template, and the *base* view model class.

As suggested in the past, improve the appearance of the view.

At this point in time, you can test your work. Run your app, using the `/employees/index` URL segment.

Assignment 2 Home Employees												
List of employees												
Create New												
LastName	FirstName	Title	BirthDate	HireDate	Address	City	State	Country	PostalCode	Phone	Fax	Email
Adams	Andrew	General Manager	1962-02-18 12:00:00 AM	2002-08-14 12:00:00 AM	11120 Jasper Ave NW	Edmonton	AB	Canada	T5K 2N1	+1 (780) 428-9482	+1 (780) 428-3457	andrew@chinookcorp.com Details
Callahan	Laura	IT Staff	1968-01-09 12:00:00 AM	2004-03-04 12:00:00 AM	923 7 ST NW	Lethbridge	AB	Canada	T1H 1Y8	+1 (403) 467-3351	+1 (403) 467-8772	laura@chinookcorp.com Details
Edwards	Nancy	Sales Manager	1958-12-08 12:00:00 AM	2002-05-01 12:00:00 AM	825 8 Ave SW	Calgary	AB	Canada	T2P 2T3	+1 (403) 262-3443	+1 (403) 262-3322	nancy@chinookcorp.com Details
Johnson	Steve	Sales Support Agent	1965-03-03 12:00:00 AM	2003-10-17 12:00:00 AM	7727B 41 Ave	Calgary	AB	Canada	T3B 1Y7	1 (780) 836-9987	1 (780) 836-9543	steve@chinookcorp.com Details
King	Robert	IT Staff	1970-05-	2004-01-	590	Lethbridge	AB	Canada	T1K 5N8	+1	+1	robert@chinookcorp.com Details

Implement the “get one” use case; including controller code, and view

Best practice:

1. Attempt to fetch the object from the manager.
2. If the object is null, return “not found”.
3. Otherwise, pass the object to the view.

Add a new view, using the details template, and the *base* view model class.

As suggested in the past, improve the appearance of the view.

Test your work. The “Details” links on the list-of-employees page will now work.

Assignment 2
Home
Employees

Employee details

LastName	Callahan
FirstName	Laura
Title	IT Staff
BirthDate	1968-01-09 12:00:00 AM
HireDate	2004-03-04 12:00:00 AM
Address	923 7 ST NW
City	Lethbridge
State	AB
Country	Canada
PostalCode	T1H 1Y8
Phone	+1 (403) 467-3351
Fax	+1 (403) 467-8772
Email	laura@chinookcorp.com

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Implement the “add new” use case; including controller code, and view

The “add new” use case uses **two controller methods**, as explained in the recent notes:

- The Create method with an empty parameter list will send an HTML Form to the browser user
- The other Create method will accept and process data that’s posted by the browser user

Create method with an empty parameter list...

As you have learned, the Create() method with an empty parameter list will:

1. Handle a request from a browser user to the /employees/create URL segment
2. Optionally prepare data and settings needed by an HTML Form
3. Show/display the view, which contains an HTML Form

Therefore, for every view that includes an HTML Form, you must decide whether the form needs **initial data** and settings to display properly. In most cases, the answer is “**yes**”. This is a best practice.

For this use case, simply create a new object, based on the *add* view model class. Pass it to the view.

Add a new view, using the **create** template, and the ***EmployeeAdd*** view model class.

As suggested in the past, improve the appearance of the view.

Best practice: **Focus the cursor** at the first text input field. How?

In the Create view, locate this statement:

```
@Html.EditorFor(model => model.LastName...
```

Add another attribute: Existing text:

```
...htmlAttributes = new { @class = "form-control" }...
```

New text:

```
...htmlAttributes = new { @class = "form-control", @autofocus = "autofocus" }...
```

Test your work. The “Details” links on the list-of-employees page will now work.

The screenshot shows a web application interface with a dark header bar containing the text "Assignment 2", "Home", and "Employees". Below the header, the page title "Create employee" is displayed. The form itself is a light gray box with the following fields:

- LastName**: A text input field with a blue border and a cursor, indicating it is the first field to be focused.
- FirstName**: A text input field.
- Title**: A text input field.
- BirthDate**: A date and time input field showing "1991-01-21 2:53:05 PM".
- HireDate**: A date and time input field showing "2016-01-21 2:53:05 PM".
- Address**: A text input field.
- City**: A text input field.
- State**: A text input field.
- Country**: A text input field.

The other Create method...

As you have learned, the other Create() method will:

1. Handle an HTTP POST request from an HTML Form
2. Process the incoming data
3. If successful, redirect to the details view (as a confirmation to the browser user)

There are several best practices that we use in this method.

Parameter type: The “add” view model class is typically used as the parameter type. Do NOT use FormCollection, We WANT to use ASP.NET MVC *model binding*.

In the method body, the *first task* is to validate the incoming data. If not valid, then return the view, along with the bad data that was passed in. (The view code will then automatically display the error to the browser user.)

Next, attempt to create a new object, by calling the method in the manager object. It will return a new and fully-configured object, if successful. (Otherwise, null.)

Finally, if successful, redirect to the details view, and ensure that you pass the object identifier.

Otherwise, return the view, along with the bad data that was passed in.

Test your work. Submitting the HTML Form will now work.

Testing your work

In a browser, test your work, by doing tasks that fulfill the use cases in the specifications.

Reminder about academic honesty

You must comply with the College’s academic honesty policy. Although you may interact and collaborate with others, *you must submit your own work*.

Submitting your work

Here's how to submit your work, before the due date and time:

1. Locate the folder that holds your solution files. In Solution Explorer, right-click the "Solution" item, and choose "Open Folder in File Explorer". It has three (or more) items: a Visual Studio Solution file, a folder that has your project's source code, and a "packages" folder. Go UP one level.
2. Make a copy of the folder. This is the version that you will be uploading.
3. Remove the "packages" folder from the copied folder; also, remove the "bin" and "obj" folders.
4. Compress/zip the copied folder. The zip file SHOULD be about 2MB or less in size. If it isn't, you haven't followed the instructions properly.
5. Login to My.Seneca/Blackboard. Open the Web Programming on Windows course area. Click the "Assignments" link on the left-side navigator. Follow the link for this lab. Submit/upload your zip file. The page will accept three submissions, so if you upload, then decide to fix something and upload again, you can do so.