Entity Framework - Connection String - Best practice

Ask Question

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I develop an application using EF5 and I would like to know how to configure different connectionString (for example local and live). I know that all connectionsString are in app.config file:

```
<connectionStrings>
  <add name="MandatsEntitiesLocal"
connectionString="metadata=res://*/MandatsModel.csdl|res://*/MandatsModel.ssdl|res://*/Man
 connection string='data source=&quot;localhost&quot;;initial catalog=&quot;UIVB
Tests&quot;;user id=sa;password=***;MultipleActiveResultSets=True;App=EntityFramework'"
providerName="System.Data.EntityClient" />
  <add name="MandatsEntities"
connectionString="metadata=res://*/MandatsModel.csdl|res://*/MandatsModel.ssdl|res://*/Man
 connection string='data source=&quot;rmsi.net&quot;;initial catalog=&quot;UIVB
Tests&quot;;user id=sa;password=***;MultipleActiveResultSets=True;App=EntityFramework'"
providerName="System.Data.EntityClient" />
</connectionStrings>
```

I also know that I can switch between 2 different connection using DbContext constructor :

```
Partial Public Class MandatsEntities
Inherits DbContext

 Public Sub New()
    MyBase.New("name=MandatsEntities")
 End Sub

 Public Sub New(connectionName As String)
    MyBase.New(connectionName)
 End Sub

End Class
```

but I need to modify autogenerated class (and I think it's not recommanded)

So, to summarize if I have 10 contexts and 2 databases, I need to manage 20 connectionString !!! And I need to modify autogenerated class

Is there any method to do that properly? What is the best practice?

.net vb.net entity-framework

edited Apr 17 '17 at 15:13

Cœur

18.6k 9 110 150

asked Feb 28 '14 at 13:48

Cooxkie

1,471 4 15 22

1 Typically different environment connection strings are handled via web.config transforms. When you build/deploy for another environment it will automatically transform the configs for you. Do you need access to all environments while developing? – Dismissile Feb 28 '14 at 13:54

1 This is a standalone application, not web app ;-) – Cooxkie Feb 28 '14 at 13:57

@Cooxkie There is similar concepts for app.config using post / pre-build events – Simon Belanger Feb 28 '14 at 15:32

3 Answers

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Check out the Config Transform Nuget Package, it will allow you to perform Web.Config like transforms on a non-web project.

There is a walkthough of using this package in this another Stack Overflow question here.

edited May 23 '17 at 12:09

Community ♦

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answered Feb 28 '14 at 15:08

tom.dietrich

6,839 1 33 55

Thank you for your help, even if it wasn't what I was looking for, you help me in my research ;-) ! – Cooxkie Mar 11 '14 at 16:55

I don't know if this can directly help you, but I have had to handle different

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connection strings, for different entities before.

What I do is implement the logic in the repository.

If you want a context intialized with different connection strings, depending on the entity the repository has been initialized with, you can do something like:

```
//'Customers' and 'Orders' are in a di
private string[] _EntitiesGroup1 = { t
private string[] _EntitiesGroup2 = { t
```

In your repository constructor, you can do something like:

```
public Repository()
{
    if (Array.Exists(_EntitiesGroup1 ,
        _context = new Entities1();

    if (Array.Exists(_EntitiesGroup2 ,
        _context = new Entities2();


    _objectSet = _context.CreateObject

}
```

Hope this somewhat helps.

answered Feb 28 '14 at 16:11

Francis Ducharme

2,488 4 23 49

Thank you for your help, even if it wasn't what I was looking for, you help me in my research ;-) ! – Cooxkie Mar 11 '14 at 16:54

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OK I found a solution and need to make some concession ;-) !

First I modified constructor of every Entities. I added new constructor with string parameter :

```
'constructor auto-generated
Public Sub New()
 MyBase.New("name=ViticulteurEnti
End Sub

'constructor added by me
Public Sub New(connectionName As
 MyBase.New(connectionName)
End Sub
```

Second I created my own connection string :

```
viticulteurConnectionString = New
System.Data.EntityClient.EntityConnec
        With {
             .Metadata =
"res://*/MandatsModel.csdl|res://*/Ma
             .Provider = "System.Data.
             .ProviderConnectionString
Tests&amp;quot;;user id=sa;password=***"
              }.ConnectionString
```

Third, I used my own constructor with my own connection string ;-)

```
Dim viticulteurContext As Viticulteu
.
.
.
viticulteurContext = New Viticulteur
```

sources :

- http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Entityframework-how-set-connectioString-in-40949.S.200613735
- http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb738533.aspx
- Fetching dynamically updated connection string from app.config in VB.Net

Thanks all !

edited May 23 '17 at 10:31

Community ♦
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answered Mar 11 '14 at 16:52

Cooxkie
1,471 4 15 22