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How to get a page in EPiServer 7

I've gotten a few questions about DataFactory in EPiServer 7, or rather about what to use instead of DataFactory. Hopefully this post will clarify how we get pages and blocks in EPiServer 7.



Getting a page or block in EPiServer 7

```
1 // Get the equivalent of DataFactory in CMS 5/6
2 var repository = ServiceLocator.Current.GetInstance<IContentRepository>();
3
4 // Get content (page or block) with ID 5
5 var contentReference = new ContentReference(5);
6
7 // Get the page (or block)
8 return repository.Get<MyContentType>(contentReference);
```

Let's say we have a start page type called **StartPage**. To get the start page we simply:

```
1 // Get the start page
2 var startPage = repository.Get<StartPage>(PageReference.StartPage);
```

DataFactory in EPiServer 7

The original **Alloy Templates** used **DataFactory** quite extensively. That's partly because it was based on web forms and unit testing (or any other testing, for that matter) wasn't much of a concern.

With ASP.NET MVC unit testing becomes a lot more feasible in practice, and so making your code testable makes more sense.

So, although **DataFactory** is still available in EPiServer 7 just as it was in EPiServer 6 and earlier versions, the preferred approach nowadays is to make use of the dependency resolver **ServiceLocator** class to get an instance of **IContentRepository**.

DataFactory in fact implements the **IContentRepository** interface, so you will likely be using it implicitly quite a lot regardless.

If you want more details you should read [Johan Björnfot's post on DataFactory and IContentRepository](#).

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**Erik Engstrand** · 2 years ago

I have seen both, what Do you prefer? IContentRepository or IContentLoader.

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**Henrik Nystrom** → Erik Engstrand · 2 years ago

IContentLoader is intended to be a simpler interface that you can use when you only need to read data, which would be the case in most instances. IContentRepository, which in turn implements IContentLoader, adds methods for creating and saving content.

So if you only need to read data, use IContentLoader, if you need to modify it, use IContentRepository.

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**Erik Engstrand** → Henrik Nystrom · 2 years ago

Thanks for this info Henrik!

^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ›

**Ted Nyberg**  → Henrik Nystrom · 2 years ago

Hi Henrik! Thanks for clarifying, I just learned something! :)

^ | ▾ · Reply · Share ›

**Ted Nyberg**  → Erik Engstrand · 2 years ago

I always use IContentRepository. As I understand it IContentLoader is an interface for something that reads data from an IContentRepository (?), but I'm not really sure what it does. :)

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