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Parsing XML in C#: A Quick Working Sample

By STEVE JIN | *Published:* AUGUST 9, 2013

Just started to work on hacking the Web application of vCAC and REST APIs in C#. As expected, the XML processing is an indispensable part for that purpose. I have worked on C# on and off in the past, but never as consistently as on Java. To get myself familiar with the related C# APIs for parsing, I coded the following sample code.

```csharp
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Xml;

namespace org.doublecloud
{
    class XmlParsingDemo
    {
        static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            XmlDocument doc = new XmlDocument();
            doc.Load(@"c:\users\steve\documents\books.xml");

            XmlNodeList nodes = doc.DocumentElement.SelectNodes("/catalog/bc

            List<Book> books = new List<Book>();

            foreach (XmlNode node in nodes)
            {
                Book book = new Book();

                book.author = node.SelectSingleNode("author").InnerText;
                book.title = node.SelectSingleNode("title").InnerText;
                book.id = node.Attributes["id"].Value;

                books.Add(book);
            }

            System.Console.WriteLine("Total books: " + books.Count);
        }
    }

    class Book
    {
        public string id;
        public string title;
        public string author;
    }
}
```

The following is a sample XML for running the code. The content has duplications but is still good for trying out the above program.

```xml
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<catalog>
  <book id="bk101">
    <author>Steve Jin</author>
    <title>VMware VI and vSphere SDK</title>
    <genre>Computer</genre>
    <price>59.99</price>
```

NEED HELP?

My company has created products like vSearch ("Super vCenter"), vijavaNG APIs, EAM APIs, ICE tool. We also help clients with virtualization and cloud computing on customized development, training. Should you, or someone you know, need these products and services, please feel free to contact me: steve __AT__ doublecloud.org.

Me: Steve Jin, VMware vExpert who authored the **VMware VI and vSphere SDK** by Prentice Hall, and created the de factor open source **vSphere Java API** while working at VMware engineering. Companies like Cisco, EMC, NetApp, HP, Dell, VMware, are among the users of the API and other tools I developed for their products, internal IT orchestration, and test automation.

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about 11 hours ago

RT @dmanconi @sjin2008 looks awesome!! Thx! pls tell us what 2 improve 4 version 2. free trial https://t.co/u7qwtA3rDc
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@discoposse Thx Eric! It's a year of numerous late nights of coding, testing, recently a bit marketing, soon sales :)
about 15 hours ago

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@ymh2n @sandro_luca @VFrontDe

```
    <publish_date>2009-09-01</publish_date>
    <description>
      An in-depth introduction on VMware vSphere SDK and open source vijava
    </description>
  </book>
  <book id="bk102">
    <author>Steve Jin</author>
    <title>TBD</title>
    <genre>Computer</genre>
    <price>59.99</price>
    <publish_date>2015-09-01</publish_date>
    <description>
      An in-depth introduction on something.
    </description>
  </book>
</catalog>
```

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Pierre Lainé
Posted August 9, 2013 at 4:21 am | *Permalink*

Hi steve

sorry to post here but I didn't now where to contact you in private.

I made a tutorial on the VI Java API on the VMware communities web site and maybe it will help developers to use your API.

http://communities.vmware.com/people/pierreLx/blog/2013/08/07/using-vi-java-api-tutorial

You did an amazing job!

Regards
Pierre

Steve Jin
Posted August 9, 2013 at 11:57 am | *Permalink*

Thanks Pierre,

Great job in writing up the tutorial! I will add a link to it from the project home.

Steve

@vmb5n @sandro_luca @vFrontDe @vmdude_fr @hypervisor_fr thx 4 Retweet. Lots of visits, downloads https://t.co/S8bfk5wmtz
about 17 hours ago

@sandro_luca sorry about that. too many downloads to handle for my service provider. email you another link now.
about 17 hours ago

[DoubleCloud] DoubleCloud Inc Announces "Super vCenter" with Unlimited Scalability https://t.co/ZSdBCAYnCS
about 23 hours ago

Registered 4 #VMware Feb launch event https://t.co/Q5oqHjHcT1 as #vExpert pls do the same. /cc @vCommunityGuy
about 4 days ago

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Steve Jin
Posted August 12, 2013 at 1:59 am | *Permalink*

Hi Pierre,

Just updated the project Web site with a news on your tutorial. Also added the link to my existing tutorial.

Thanks again for your great work!

Steve

Pierre
Posted September 26, 2013 at 1:25 am | *Permalink*

Hi sorry for the late reply,
thanks a lot for adding a link to my tutorial, lot of views since 1 month 😉

Pierre

Steve Jin
Posted September 26, 2013 at 1:52 am | *Permalink*

You are very welcome Pierre! Please let me know more good stuff from your side. 🙂

Steve

pierre
Posted September 26, 2013 at 5:24 am | *Permalink*

Yes, still looking for ideas but since I am working for the AREVA group in the VMware team, security didn't let me try my programs so not a lot of motivation to continue the project...
Do you mind if I add you on linkedin? my mail address is
pierre.laine2@gmail.com.

Pierre

Lamia
Posted October 5, 2013 at 12:33 am | *Permalink*

i'm having a problem , could you help me ?

mushy
Posted October 10, 2013 at 5:54 am | *Permalink*

hey i have to ask if i want to print the name and the author of the book what should i do then ?????

CP
Posted March 3, 2014 at 11:19 am | *Permalink*

Hi,

Good job, quite good for a quick startup 🙂

Elvaris
Posted April 3, 2014 at 12:55 am | *Permalink*

```
XmlDataDocument xmldoc = new XmlDataDocument();
XmlNodeList xmlnode ;
int i = 0;
string str = null;
FileStream fs = new FileStream("product.xml", FileMode.Open,
FileAccess.Read);
xmldoc.Load(fs);
xmlnode = xmldoc.GetElementsByTagName("Product");
```

Disclaimer
The views and opinions are strictly mine, not my employers'. This is my blog.
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Full source : http://csharp.net-informations.com/xml/how-to-read-xml.htm

elvaris

Praveen
Posted December 9, 2014 at 1:41 am | *Permalink*

Hi, Thank you.
I was planning to apply the same logic to generate the list of the policies available in my XML file. seems to be not working as i have the tag name like "Q12:Policy".
It is not able to read the tag though i declared it as a string seperatly and called in the list.
Is there any way i can share my code so that some one can help me out?
Thanks in advance

Praveen
Posted December 9, 2014 at 2:02 am | *Permalink*

My code is:
private void button1_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{

{
XmlDocument doc = new XmlDocument();
doc.Load(@"c:\Temp\RSOP.xml");

XmlNodeList nodes =
doc.DocumentElement.SelectNodes("/RSOP/ComputerResults/EntensionData/Exte
String Policy;
Policy = ("q12:Policy");
List books = new List();

foreach (XmlNode node in nodes)
{
Policy Policy = new Policy();

Policy.Name = node.SelectSingleNode("q12:Name").InnerText;
Policy.Value = node.SelectSingleNode("q12:Value").InnerText;
Policy.catagory = node.Attributes["q12:Catagory"].InnerText;

Policy.Add(Policy);

}

}

And My XML is :

Allow active scripting
Windows Components/Internet Explorer/Internet Control
Panel/Security Page/Trusted Sites

Enabled

Enable

And it is having many Policy tags(I just copied only one policy) under .

Any help would be great.

Ryan
Posted February 3, 2015 at 6:09 pm | *Permalink*

This is awesome... Except that it doesn't work, at least not in Visual Studio.

On this line:

List books = new List();

"Book" is highlighted as producing an error. The error is:

The type or namespace 'Book' could not be found.

KevvvvyP
Posted August 4, 2015 at 5:47 am | *Permalink*

You're missing a closing book tag in your xml file.

Steve Jin
Posted August 4, 2015 at 3:09 pm | *Permalink*

Thanks a lot Kevin! Just updated it.

-Steve

One Trackback

By [Parsing XML in Python: A Quick Working Sample | DoubleCloud.org](#) on December 23, 2013 at 12:01 am

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Steve Jin