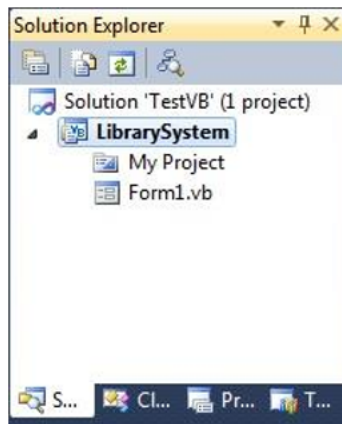


Lab 9: The Database Wizard in VB.NET

VB.Net allows you many ways to connect to a database or a data source. The technology used to interact with a database or data source is called ADO.NET. The ADO parts stands for Active Data Objects. What we're going to be doing is to use a Wizard to create a program that reads the database and allows us to scroll through it. The wizard will do most of the work for us, and create the controls that allow users to move through the database.

Let's make a start on our Database project. So, once you have your Visual Studio software open, do the following:

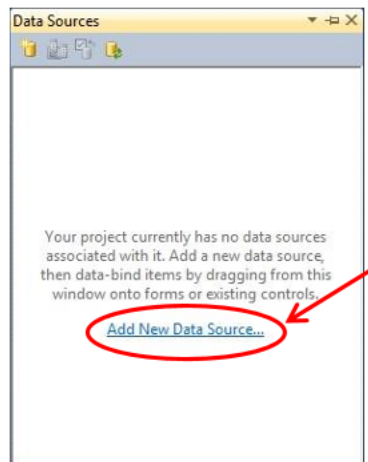
- Click File > New Project from the menu bar.
- Select Windows Form Application, and then give it the Name LibrarySystem. Click OK.
- Locate the Solution Explorer on the right hand side (If you can't see it, click View > Solution Explorer from the menu bar).



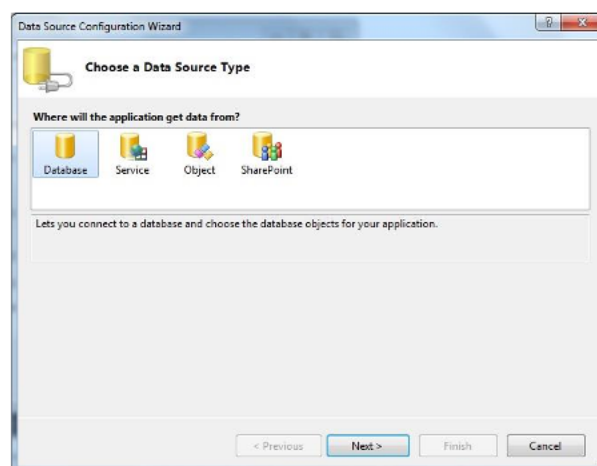
We need to select a Data Source. So click on Data Sources on the left, just below the Toolbox (If you can't see the tab, click View > Other Windows > Data Sources):



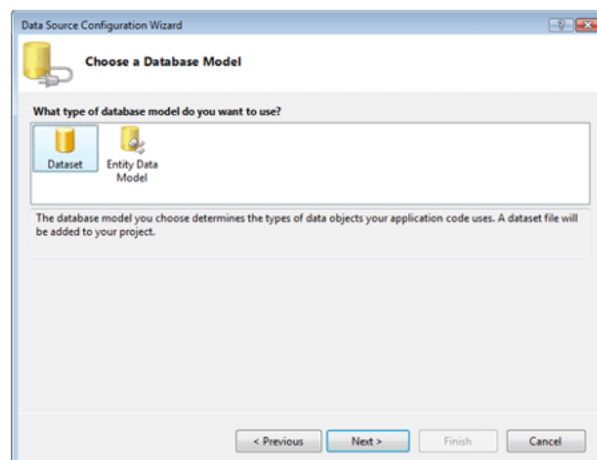
To Add a New Data Source, click on the link.



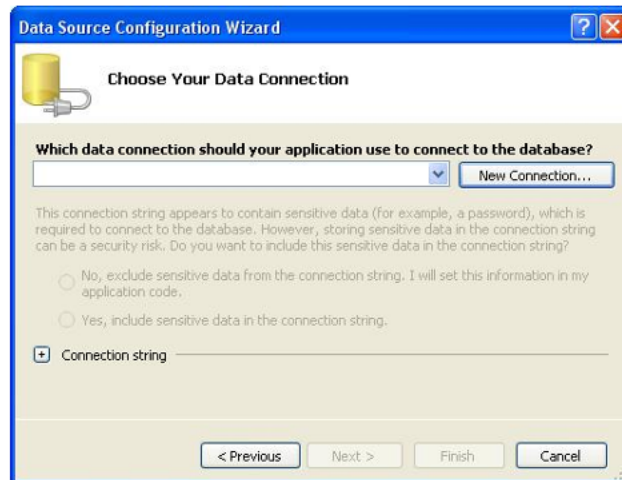
When you do, you'll see a screen welcoming you to the Data Source Configuration Wizard, Just click Next, to get to the screen below:



You want to connect to a Database. So select this option, and click Next.



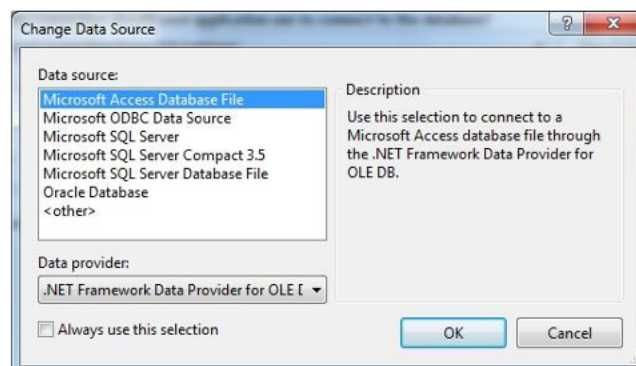
You'll then see a screen with a Dataset item. Select this and click Next. You'll then see a Choose Your Data Connection screen:



Click the New Connection button and another dialogue box pops up:



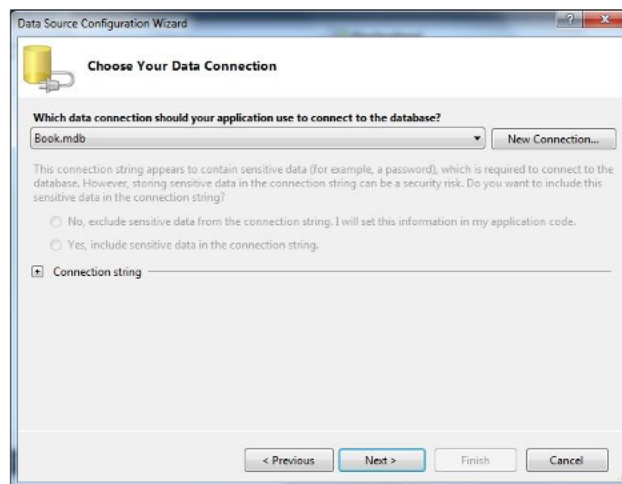
Make sure the User name and password field is empty. Click the Change button, because we want to connect to an Access database. When you click Change, you'll see this:



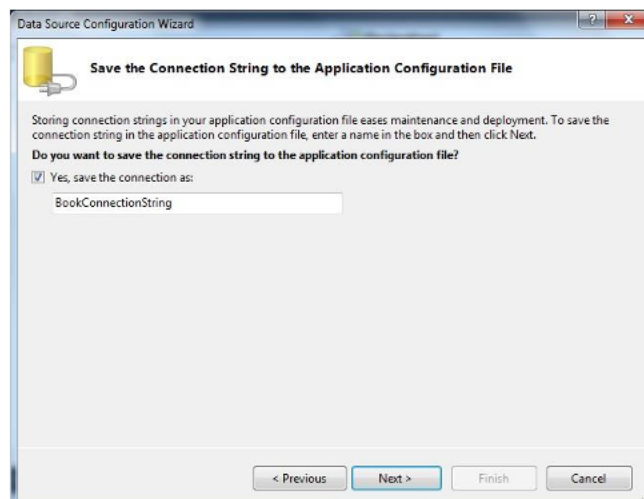
Select Microsoft Access Database File, then click OK. Click the Browse button and navigate to where you saved your Access Database called Books.accdb. Click Test Connection to see if everything is OK, and you'll hopefully see this:



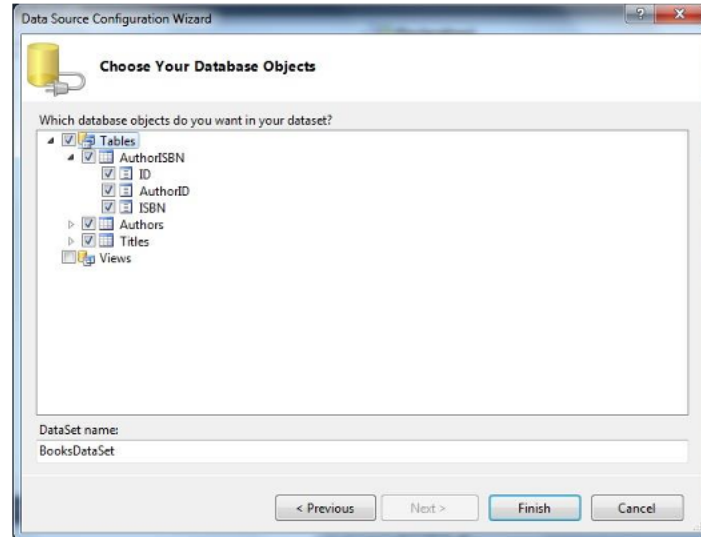
Click the OK button, then click the OK button on the Add Connection dialogue box as well. You will be returned to the Data Source Configuration Wizard, which should now look like this:



Click Next to move to the next step of the Wizard. You may see a message box appear, however. Click No on the message box to stop VB copying the database each time it runs. You should then see this:

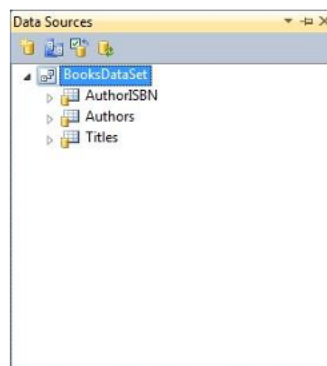


Make sure there's a tick in the box for "Save the connection", and then click Next:

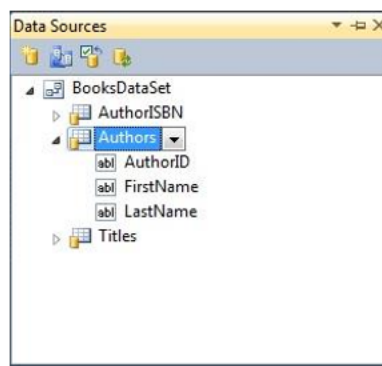


Here, you can select which tables and fields you want. Tick the Tables box to include them all. You can give your DataSet a name, if you prefer. Click Finish and you're done.

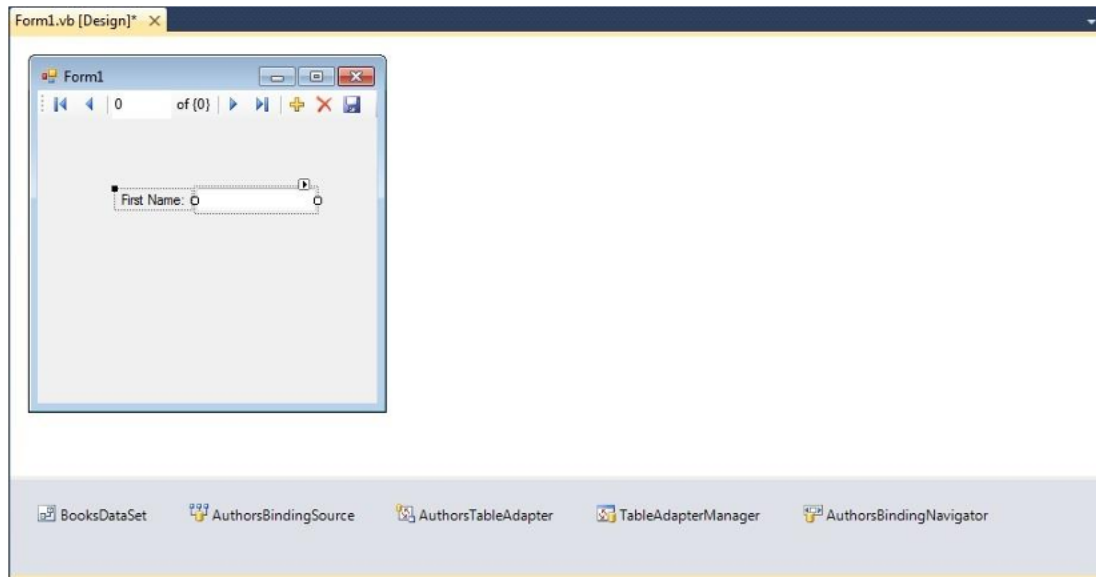
When you are returned to your form, you should notice your new Data Source has been added:



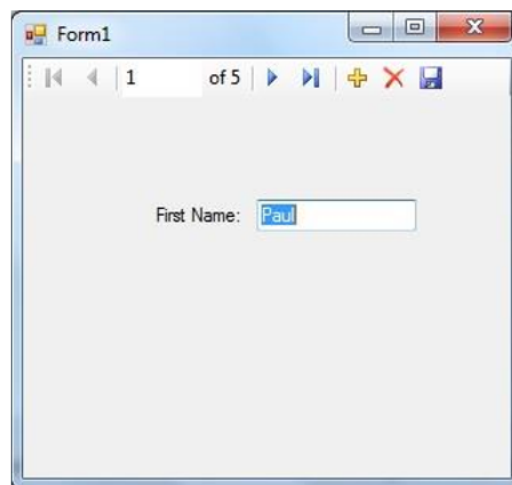
The Data Sources tab on the left now displays information about your database. Click the arrow symbol next to Authors:



All the Fields in the Books database are now showing. To add a Field to your Form, click on one in the list. Hold down your left mouse button, and drag it over to your form. When your Field is over the Form, let go of your left mouse button. A textbox and a label will be added. There are two other things to notice: a navigation bar appears at the top of the form, and a lot of strange objects have appeared in the object area at the bottom:



We'll explore the Objects in a later section. But notice the Navigation bar in blue. Run your program by hitting the F5 key on your keyboard. You should see this:



Click the Navigation arrows to scroll through the database. When you've played around with the controls, stop the form from running, and return to Design View. Drag and Drop more Fields to your form.

Click the Navigation icons to move backwards and forwards through your database.