Config Tool – Manual

 Revision:
 00
 Project ref.:
 NA

 Revision date:
 29-Aug-2021
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 NA



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Document history

Issue	Date	Description of change	Author
00	29-Aug-2021	First revision of the document	ADBX

1 Application Details

1.1 Scope

The goal of this tool is to make a user interface on top of the MC5 database. It should make the data more accessible and more human readable in order to boost the productivity and to automate as much as possible. In addition to this, extra functionality can also be added such as input validation and custom rules.

The tool will be used to maintain the MC5 configuration in an easy and controlled manner.

For the development of the tool, the scope was divided into several subtasks:

0. Reading data from database

1. Using existing dll of MC5

1. Writing data to database

1. Using existing dll of MC5

0. Visualizing data

- 1. Wpf
- Visualize all key tables for PLC developers (Plctags, Datablock, Text, TextLanguage, Engineering, Equipment, Recipe, Tooling, Ecm, Event)
 One window per table.
- 3. Research on the best control to use (DataGrid, items control, ...)
- 4. Display linked tables/foreign key tables
 - a. Display key information (e.g., tag name)
 - b. Show detail of tag when clicked on
 - c. Return button or easily switch between detail and normal
 - d. Evaluate layout with colleagues

1. Data editing

- 1. Edit, cancel and save button for each table
- 2. Fields must be editable when clicked.
 - Standard fields must be normal textboxes, foreign key fields must be combo boxes.
- 3. When the cancel button is clicked, the modifications must be undone.
- 4. Modifications are saved to the database when clicking the save button and the script must be exported.

0. Simplify editing

- 1. Copying data
- 2. Auto complete for new records (fill in id, default values, ...)
- 3. Bulk operations

Commented [BJ1]: Doel/scope van de applicatie toevoegen

How to start hoofdstuk toevoegen, wat moet je doen om

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4. Check this with colleagues.

1. Data validation

1. Custom validation rules:

Check whether data may be used (is tag already used, PARXX, EVTXX) See SQL statements task force

- 2. Database level validation:
 - Unique keys, data type, ...
- 3. Block the save procedure when data is incorrect and inform the user for each error.

1.2 Specifications

Framework: .NET 5

IDE: Visual Studio 2019
Application Type: WPF
Database: Firebird 3.0
Database Interaction:

- Entity Framework Core (5.0.4)

- Entity Framework Core Firebird (8.0.0-alpha3)

Used Patterns:

- MVVM pattern

- Repository pattern
- Dependency injection
- Reflection
- Generics

Dependencies

- Prism (8.0.0)¹
- Serilog (2.10.0)²
- MC5 Models for Firebird 3.0 database

Commented [BJ2]: Versienummer toevoegen

Commented [BJ3]: Database type en versie toevoegen

GEA INTERNAL

¹ https://prismlibrary.com/index.html

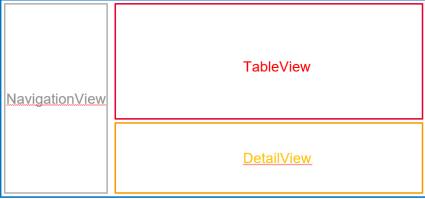
² https://serilog.net/

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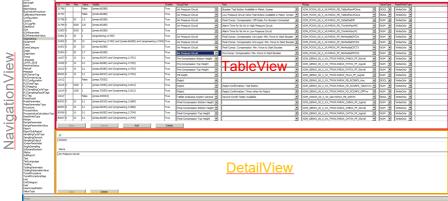


2 General Application Overview





MainView



2.1 Configuration of the database location

Before running the application, the location of the database has to be specified in the appsettings.(development).json file, which can be found in the following directory: C:\Users\gea.halle.cni\Source\Repos\ConfigTool.UI\bin\Debug\net5.0-windows

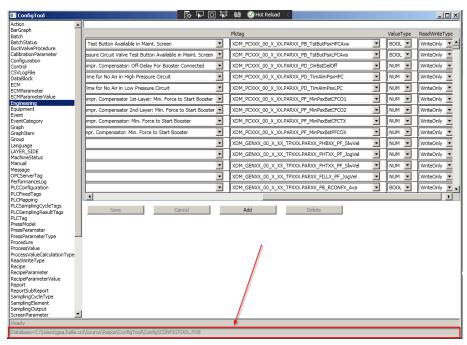
The json file is just a text file and can be opened with notepad++. The file contains a connection string with the details to locate and to open the database.

{
"ConnectionStrings": {
"ConfigToolDatabase": "Server-localhost:Database=C:\\Users\\gea.halle.cni\\Source\\Repos\\ConfigTool\\ConfigTool\\ConfigTool\\ConfigToOL.FDB:user id=STSDBA:password=

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The database location will be visualized in the tool at the bottom of the screen.



2.2 Running the application

Run the application with the following executable.

 $\label{lem:c:some} C:\Users\end{ConfigTool\ConfigTool\Ul\bin\Debug\net} ConfigTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configTool\Ul\configUol\configUol\conf$

! Make sure to use a database which is compliant with the tool, as described in \$ '5 Improvements'

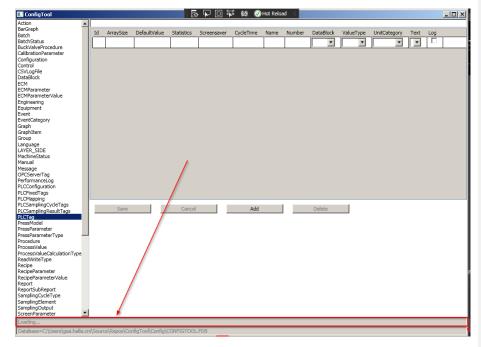
2.3 Selection of the desired table

Select the table in the navigation view that you would like to visualize. The table is then visualized in the table view, where the tags can be modified.

Opening larger tables can take some time. Keep an eye on the status bar to know if the application is ready or busy loading the values.

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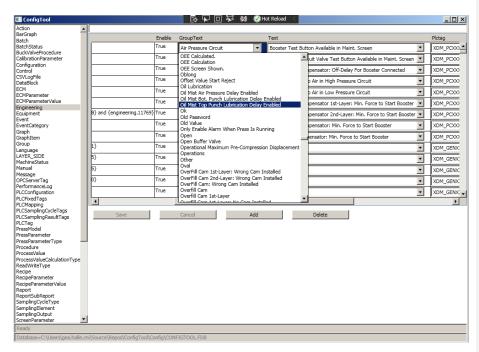


Non-foreign key columns can be modified straight away by double clicking on the cell.

Foreign key columns are visualized with clear text in combo boxes. The combo boxes contain all the possible values of the linked table and can be modified by selecting another value in the combo box. In the background the right foreign key value will be linked in the database.

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2.4 Save and cancel modifications in the table view

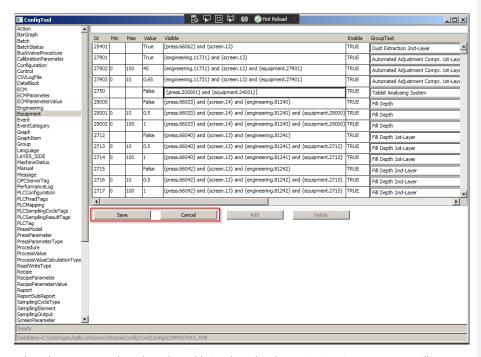
When a cell is modified, the save and cancel buttons will become enabled.

When the save button is activated, all modifications will be applied to the database.

When the **cancel** button is activated, all modifications will be deleted and the previous values will be visible again.

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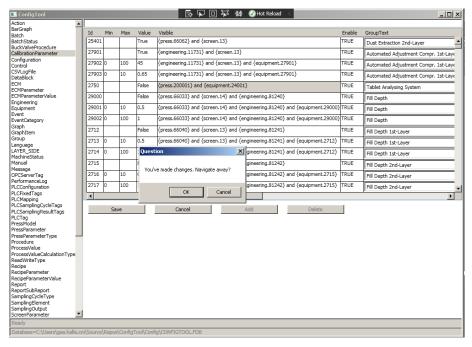




When changes are made and another table is selected in the navigation view, a message will pop-up to ask you whether you would like to navigate away and lose all your modifications, or to abort the navigation so you could continue and/or save your work.

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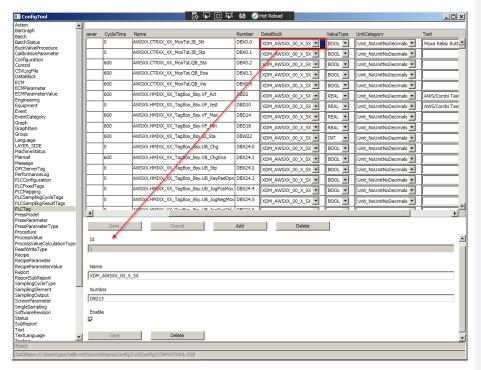
2.5 Get foreign key details

By selecting a foreign key column, the linked tag will be visualized in the detail view.

All records, except for the primary key, can directly be modified in the detail view. Be aware that these changes will be applicable in all tables where this foreign key value is used.

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When you only want to see the details of the tag without the combo box to open, click on the small space next to the combo box. This allows quick navigation between the foreign keys.



2.6 Save and cancel changes in the detail view

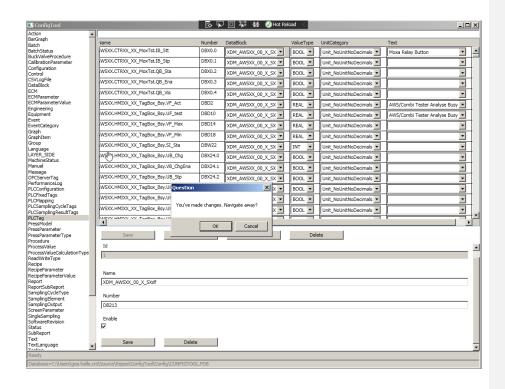
When a cell is modified, the save button will become enabled.

When the save button is activated, all modifications will be applied to the database.

Unfortunately, there is no cancel button yet in the detail view, at this moment the work around is to select another cell in the table view. Like in the table view you will get a message dialog with the question if you would like to proceed to navigate away and undo your changes or to abort the navigation.

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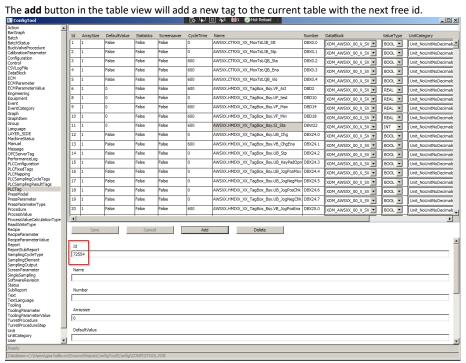




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Add and delete buttons



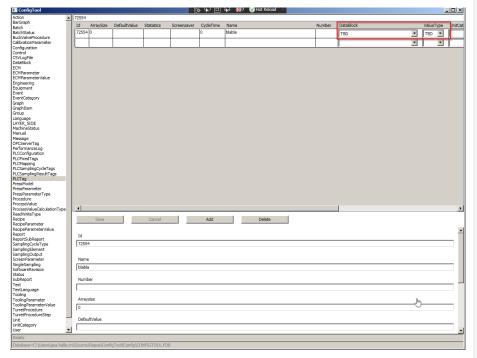
All non-foreign key values can immediately be filled in.

Only when the save button is clicked, this tag is created in the database.

The foreign key values can then be filled in, in the table view.

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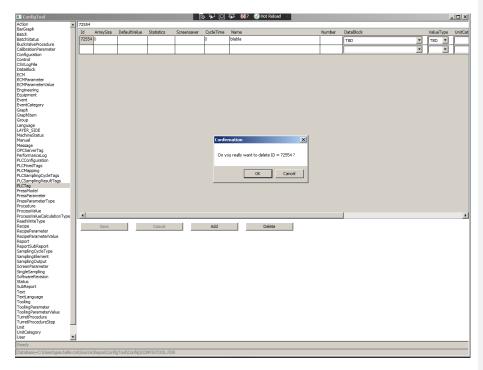




When the delete button is clicked, the selected record will be deleted. For safety reasons, a confirmation message box will be shown.

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2.8 Input validation

One of the requirements of the tool was to foresee the possibility of input validation.

The foundation has already been laid in the current version of the tool and can easily be expanded in the future.

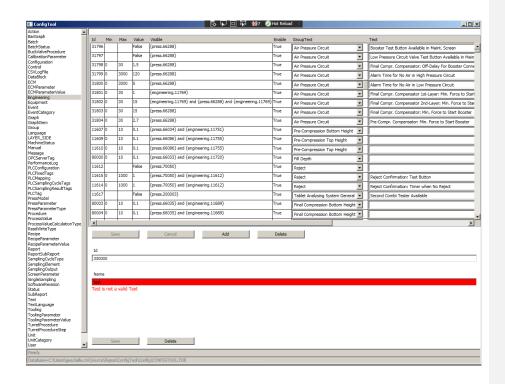
With database annotations input validation can be done on database level. Custom based rules can also be enforced. More details on this topic can be found in paragraph "3.8 Wrappers and input validation"

When the entry does not comply with the imposed rules, the input is marked in red and the error message is shown below the input field.

For test purposes, a custom rule is imposed requiring that the name is not equal to "Test".

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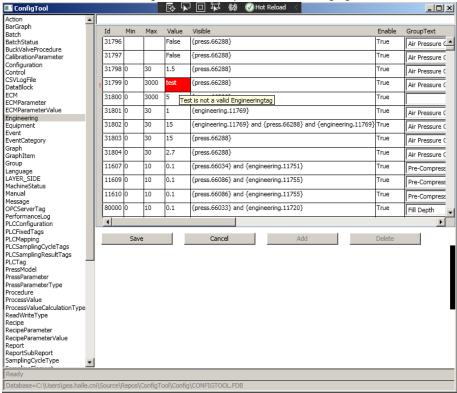




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In the table view the error message is shown when you hover over the highlighted error.

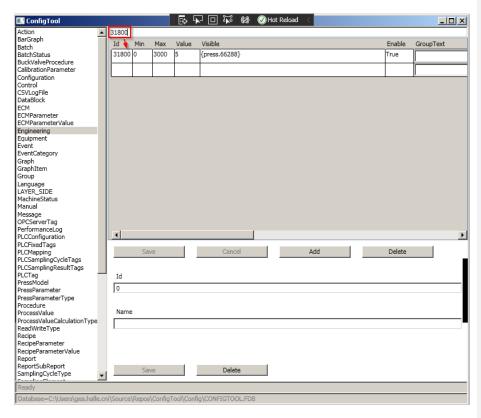


2.9 Filtering

The upper text box acts as a filtering box. Each column of the table view will be filtered with the input value.

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2.10 Exception Messages

When an operation results in errors, the user is informed with an error message.

For example, when you delete a tag in the detail view that is used as a foreign key in (an) other table(s), a violation of the foreign key constraint will be triggered.

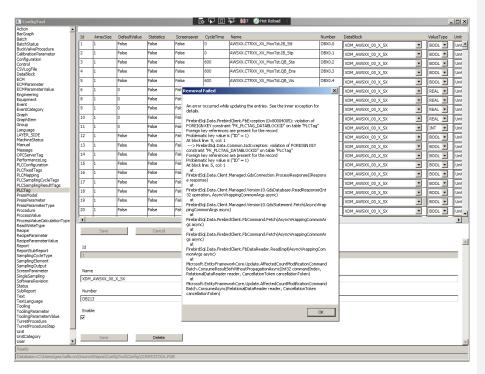
The same will happen when you add a tag, with a name that already exists, to a table with a unique constraint enforced on the name column. In this case a unique constraint violation is triggered.

In these situations, an error message will inform the user and the operation is cancelled.

More information on this topic can be found in paragraph "4 Error Handling"

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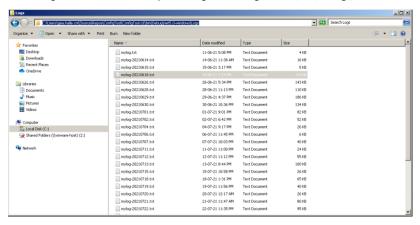




2.11 Logging

All executed SQL-statements are logged in a text file to be able to save these modifications for that specific revision. The log file and location folder can be configured as described in \$ "3.9 App.xaml.cs". Afterwards, the SQL-statements can be executed in a DBMS, like DBeaver.

C:\Users\gea.halle.cni\Source\Repos\ConfigTool\ConfigTool.UI\bin\Debug\net5.0-windows\Logs



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3 Application Structure and Classes

3.1 DataAccess

3.1.1 ModelContext.cs

Datacontext with all tables and table properties defined with fluent api.

3.2 Models

3.2.1 Models

Each table of the database is represented by a model class.

3.2.2 ExtendedModels

3.2.3 Interfaces

Each model must inherit from IEntity<TId> to define the type of the primary key. This was necessary to be able to make other classes generic.

3.3 UI

3.3.1 Repository

For each table in the database, represented with a model in code, a repository class exists. The repository class contains all the methods to query the database.

The repository pattern is used together with dependency injection to have a lot of flexibility between different implementations.

Eg.: if in the future sql-server would be preferred over Firebird, only the implementation class should be modified to sql specific code. The rest of the application can remain untouched.

3.3.2 Interfaces

The interfaces contain all the methods that need to be implemented, when this is inherited.

Since dependency injection is used with constructor injection, these interfaces are necessary.

3.3.3 Implementations

The implementation classes contain the implementation of the inherited methods of the interfaces.

3.4 Converters

In the MVVM pattern, views are linked to their viewmodel properties by databinding. When updating the UI, the property is updated and vice versa. This data binding is simple when the datatypes of the sending and receiving properties are equal. A value converter is used when the datatypes of sending and receiving properties are different.

In this tool the converter is used to get the necessary data of the selected cell in the table view with the datatype of DataGridCellInfo to the datatype of TableItem.

All TableViews must have this Converter which inherits from SelectedCellToColumnNameConverterBase.

Commented [BJ4]: Typo

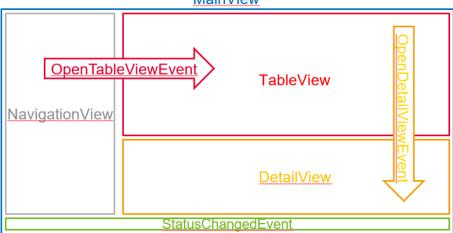
Commented [BJ5]: Typo

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3.5 Events

To preserve the strength of the MVVM architecture, allowing to create a loosely coupled application, the view models communicate with each other by events. By making use of the event aggregator of the Prism library³, publishers and subscribers can communicate through events without having a direct reference to each other.

MainView



3.5.1 OpenDetailViewEvent

When a forein key column is selected in the table view (publisher), an event is triggered with the id of the tag to visualize in the detail view (subscriber).

3.5.2 OpenTableViewEvent

When a table is selected in the navigation view (publisher), an event is triggered with the table name to visualize in the table view (subscriber).

3.5.3 StatusChangedEvent

This event is used to update the status bar in the main view (subscriber) from any other view (publisher)

3.6 ViewModels

In the Model-View-ViewModel (MVVM) pattern each view is linked to its viewmodel with the data context property. The viewmodel contains the business logic.

³ https://prismlibrary.com/docs/event-aggregator.html

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MainView - MainViewModel



3.6.1 DetailViewModels

Every table that is used as a foreign key in other tables, must have a detail viewmodel.

3.6.2 Services

The RangeObservableCollection is implemented to increase the performance when loading data to the combo boxes. This class inherits from the standard observable collection but only hits the OnCollectionChanged method when the entire data is loaded to the combobox instead of updating the view each time a tag is added to the combobox.

3.6.3 TableViewModels

Every table of the navigation view that needs to be visualized or to be made editable, must have a table view model.

3.6.4 NavigationViewModels

The navigation view has its corresponding navigation viewmodel.

3.6.5 MainviewModel

Depending on the selected table in the navigation view, the correct table viewmodel datatype will be linked to the table viewmodel property, which will trigger the corresponding table view.

When a foreign key column is selected in the table view, the correct detil viewmodel datatype will be linked to the detail viewmodel property, which will trigger the corresponding detail view.

3.7 Views

3.7.1 DetailViews

When a foreign key column is selected in the table view, the foreign key data is visualized in its detail

Therefore every table that is used as a foreign key in other tables, must have a detail view.

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3.7.2 Services

The message boxes to the user are also implemented as an interface to allow dependency injection with different implementations. In this way the message boxes can be mocked during unit testing.

3.7.3 TableViews

The selected table in the navigation view is visualized in its table view. Therefore, every table of the navigation view that needs to be visualized or to be made editable, must have a table view.

3.7.4 NavigationView

The navigation view contains all the tables of the database.

3.7.5 Mainview

The mainview contains all other subviews/usercontrols: navigation view, table view, detail view.

These subviews are defined as contentcontrols which allows to connect the correct view at runtime, depending on the received viewmodel.

Unfortunately, every time a new view with a corresponding viewmodel is added to the application, this information needs to be added to the mainview since xaml doesn't support generic types.

3.8 Wrappers and input validation

The wrapper classes inherit from the ModelWrapper class and contains the data validation functionalities. It is implemented as a wrapper class, as it adds new functionality to the models.

The validation is done in two parts:

1. ValidateDataAnnotations

The input data will be validated against the table field properties, that are defined with data annotations in de model classes.

2. ValidateCustomErrors

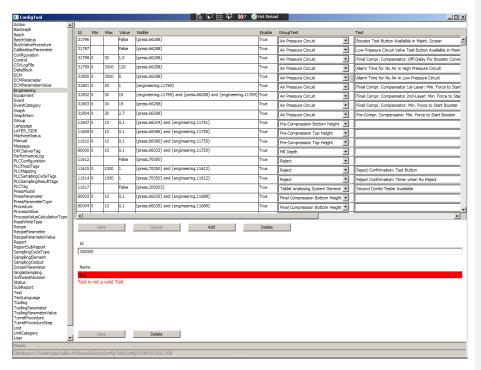
The input data is validated against custom rules.

These custom rules can be specified in each wrapper classes, by overwriting the ValidatProperty method of the inherited ModelWrapper Class.

When the input data conflicts with above validation rules, the cell is highlighted in red and the error message is displayed below the cell.

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3.9 App.xaml.cs

This class is used at startup of the application, will build the project and will boot up the main window.

- ConfigureServices
 - Creates the IoC container to allow dependency injection. Every class that is
 injected by constructor injection, must be declared in this method. Here you
 define which implementation is used for a specific interface. This adds a lot of
 flexibility for future modifications with no impact on other code. It also allows
 TDD with faking and mocking patterns.
 - o Defines the database connection with its connection string
- ConfigureLogging

Sets up the **logging** to an external text file, located on the defined custom path.

In this application the serilog library is used to setup logging and can easily be configured:

- $\circ \quad \hbox{Output format} \\$
- Different log levels can be configured on application or on namespace level (debug, information, warning, ...).

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- Log medium (console, external file, ...)
- Filters

In the ConfigTool the logging is mainly used to get access to the executed SQL statements and to save them for the current revision.

3.10 Appsettings.(development).json

In this Jason file, the connection string to the database is defined. When your application is starting up in development mode, the values specified in the 'appsettings.development.json' will overwrite the values that are also specified in the 'appsettings.json' file.

In this way you can specify different connection strings for a production, development, \dots environment.

4 Error Handling

The application is foreseen of the necessary error handling to inform the user and to avoid crashes. The visualization of the errors to the user is done via the message dialog.

Be aware that database errors are directly visualized to the user, without prior filtering, and can therefore contain application critic information. Since the application is for internal use only, this is not a problem.

5 Improvements

! Database modifications necessary to get the tool working:

Each tabel should have a default value:

- For unitcategoy, the default value is id = 42 (noUnitNodecimal) and not id = 0
 => each plctag must have at least unitcategoryld = 42 and the column property in the database should be configured NOT NULL
- For TextLanguage textId = 0 must be added with empty text INSERT INTO "TextLanguage" (ID, "TextID", "LanguageID", "Text") VALUES(20150,0,1,");
- For ValueType Id = 0 must be added with the value of 'To Be Decided' aka TBD.
 INSERT INTO "ValueType" (ID, "Name", "Remarks") VALUES (0, 'TBD', NULL);
- Follow the naming conventions for every table in the database and align with the database model in code, otherwise you always have to make hybrid code instead of generic code
 - o Tagld column should be Plctagld
 - o ECMParameter -> EcmParameter since the model also uses small letters
 - o ...
- Optimize filtering -> now filter is triggered when property changed, would be better to filter only after 'enter' is clicked.
 - I did not immediately find how to do this in the "MVVM" architecture.
- Filter per column

Config Tool – Manual Revision: 00 Project ref.: NA Revision date: 29-Aug-2021 Machine number: NA

6 Known Bugs

- When the application is started via the Configtool.UI.exe and when you open the
 engineering table, the executable crashes. This does not happen when you start the
 application in visual studio
- Filter on text in engineering table gives exception, some texts are null while these should be id = 0 => "empty"
- The complete detailview of the TextLanguage table should be implemented and work with the textld, because of this reason, currently the creation of a new textld is not correct.
- Sometimes you first need to scroll in the table view before the save button will become enabled after a modification. It seems that sometimes the application need some kind of refresh.