

# ADO.NET Entity Framework vs NHibernate [closed]

Asked 16 years, 4 months ago   Modified 8 years, 8 months ago

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34



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So the ADO.NET Entity Framework has gotten a little bit of bad press (in the form of blog entries and a petition) but I don't want to rush to judgement. I'm limited in time for experimentation but I was wondering has anyone worked with it yet with more empirical feedback?

Finally, what are thoughts on using NHibernate which has been around for a long time and *may* be more mature than the ADO.NET Entity Framework.

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edited Apr 14, 2016 at 8:39



Răzvan Flavius Panda

22.1k ● 18 ● 119 ● 175

asked Aug 20, 2008 at 14:48



t3rse

10.1k ● 11 ● 60 ● 85

## 7 Answers

Sorted by:

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NHibernate may be more mature. That does not necessarily mean it is a "better" solution. Having used it at my job for some time, I would personally prefer to use almost anything than NHibernate (even straight SQL, if migration were remotely feasible). The number of error messages thrown by NHibernate that don't mean anything (or that do mean something but should never occur) is absolutely staggering, as are some of its default behaviours (such as flushing the session once for each object returned in a Find).

Personally, when I have a choice, I use LINQ to SQL for all database work.

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answered Aug 20, 2008 at 15:11



TheSmurf

15.6k ● 3 ● 41 ● 48

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does the subsiding support recently spouted about in the 'sphere make you question this decision? i feel as though i

needed to abandon it for fear that future needs for support would be ignored by ms. thoughts? – [brady gaster](#) Dec 10, 2008 at 3:12

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I'm not terribly concerned. If it's abandoned completely (unlikely), it's always possible for a third party to build a LINQ to SQL layer ontop of plain LINQ (which is not going anywhere), similar to the groups that did LINQ to AD or LINQ to NHibernate. Someone would almost certainly do this.  
– [TheSmurf](#) Dec 10, 2008 at 18:48

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4 My favourite one is "expected affected row count: 1, actual affected row count: 0," without an explanation or even a table name. There are lots more, but that one's fairly demonstrative. – [TheSmurf](#) Feb 4, 2009 at 19:41

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1 @Brady Gaster LINQ nor EF are going anywhere. MS is pushing EF big time and have really listened to the community. I agree that they still have a lot of things to improve but I have no doubt that they will. – [ChevCast](#) Nov 7, 2010 at 7:56

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12

If zero configuration is main advantage of SubSonic you can look at [Fluent nHibernate](#) or Entity Framework Code-First



UPDATE from Răzvan Panda: Fluent NHibernate has been mostly made obsolete by inclusion in NHibernate itself of mapping by code, see:

[notherdev.blogspot.ie/2012/02/](http://notherdev.blogspot.ie/2012/02/)



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edited Apr 14, 2016 at 9:35

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answered Aug 19, 2009 at 6:59



Regfor

8,091 ● 1 ● 39 ● 52

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Entity Framework Code First is also zero configuration, so much in fact you don't even need a connection string to get it running. – [Daniel Little](#) Aug 9, 2011 at 23:17

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@Lavinski Yeh, now has. But in 19/08/2009 when I've left this comment there was no. – [Regfor](#) Feb 9, 2012 at 10:19

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1 All the more reason to keep it up to date. – [Daniel Little](#) Feb 9, 2012 at 10:38

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Fluent NHibernate has been mostly made obsolete by inclusion in NHibernate itself of mapping by code, see: [notherdev.blogspot.ie/2012/02/...](http://notherdev.blogspot.ie/2012/02/) – [Răzvan Flavius Panda](#) Apr 14, 2016 at 8:45



6



It has been 2 years since the original post. From what I understand ADO.NET Entity Framework has matured in with .net 4. Does anyone have any new feedback on this topic?



Here's a link to the improvements added to EF since first release in 2008

<http://blogs.msdn.com/b/adonet/archive/2009/05/11/update-on-the-entity-framework-in-net-4-and-visual-studio-2010.aspx>

Update: I found this thread on stack overflow that does a nice job of discussing the updated EF:

[Entity Framework 4 vs NHibernate](#)

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edited May 23, 2017 at 11:45



Community Bot

1 ● 1

answered Feb 24, 2011 at 21:15



Alex

9,419 ● 12 ● 74 ● 83



4



Microsoft have all but admitted that the ADO.Net Entity Framework isn't an ORM (I can't find a reference currently). So if you think of the Entity Framework as a query engine then apparently it is really good at what it does. For a complete ORM solution you might want to look elsewhere however.

The following blog post seems to bear out this difference:

<http://blogs.msdn.com/dsimmons/archive/2008/05/17/why-use-the-entity-framework.aspx>

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answered Aug 20, 2008 at 15:04



samjudson

56.8k ● 7 ● 60 ● 69



3



I've used SubSonic, LinqToSql, LinqToEntities. Now i'm trying NHibernate. For now - i like NHibernate (probably cause i haven't met problems enough). Worst of them all - LinqToEntities (that's only my opinion, of course).

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answered May 12, 2009 at 8:54



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[Arnis Lapsa](#)

47.5k ● 29 ● 118 ● 196



0



I do have a problem with SubSonic. SubSonic choked to death on tables with same name but different schema. I don't want to discuss the best practices of building a database, because I did not make the call to do so.( When it comes to raise voice make a point and keep the job, I'd rather keep my job. :) )



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answered Apr 30, 2009 at 22:35

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Barron Lands

That's a good insight - where I work someone designed a database in the same way with duplicated names across multiple schemas. – [t3rse](#) May 4, 2009 at 22:27



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I am coming around to liking Entity. It takes a while to figure out what all of its error messages mean but once you get used to it it really does a great job. The biggest drawback it has right now is no real support for going disconnected.



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answered Jun 24, 2009 at 14:45

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[MvcCmsJon](#)

609 ● 7 ● 12