What are some of the advantage/disadvantages of using SQLDataReader?

Asked 16 years, 2 months ago   Modified 14 years, 10 months ago

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SqlDataReader is a faster way to process the stored procedure. What are some of the advantage/disadvantages of using SQLDataReader?
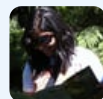
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asked Oct 10, 2008 at 18:40

jbcedge
19.5k ● 28 ● 71 ● 91

5 Answers

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7

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I assume you mean "instead of loading the results into a DataTable"?

Advantages: you're in control of how the data is loaded. You can ask for specific data types, and you don't end up loading the whole set of data into memory all at the same time unless you want to. Basically, if you want the data

but don't need a data table (e.g. you're going to populate your own kind of collection) you don't get the overhead of the intermediate step.

Disadvantages: you're in control of how the data is loaded, which means it's easier to make a mistake and there's more work to do.

What's your use case here? Do you have a good reason to believe that the overhead of using a normal (or strongly typed) data table is significantly hurting performance? I'd only use SqlDataReader directly if I had a good reason to do so.

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answered Oct 10, 2008 at 18:46

Jon Skeet
1.5m ● 889 ● 9.3k ● 9.3k

I totally agree with your answer, Jon. Thanks for your simplified answer. – Harold Javier May 26, 2014 at 14:38

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3

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The key advantage is obviously speed - that's the main reason you'd choose a SQLDataReader.

One potential disadvantage not already mentioned is that the SQLDataReader is forward only, so you can only go through the records once in sequence - that's one of the things that allows it to be so fast. In many cases that's fine but if you need to iterate over the records more than once or add/edit/delete data you'll need to use one of the alternatives.

It also remains connected until you've worked through all the records and close the reader (of course, you can opt to close it earlier, but then you can't access any of the remaining records). If you're going to perform any lengthy processing on the records as you iterate over them, you may find that you impact other connections to the database.

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edited Oct 10, 2008 at 20:38

answered Oct 10, 2008 at 19:03

Simon Forrest
2,327 ● 18 ● 22

1

It depends on what you need to do. If you get back a page of results from the database (say 20 records), it would be better to use a data adapter to fill a DataSet, and bind that to something in the UI.

But if you need to process many records, 1 at a time, use SqlDataReader.

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answered Oct 10, 2008 at 18:45

Eric Z Beard
38.4k ● 27 ● 101 ● 147

Advantages: Faster, less memory.

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Disadvantages: Must remain connected, must remember to close the reader.

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answered Oct 10, 2008 at 18:46

Even Mien
45.8k ● 44 ● 117 ● 120

-2

The data might not be concluesive and you are not in control of your actions that why the milk man down the road has always got to carry data with him or else they gona get cracked by the data and the policeman will not carry any data because they think that is wrong to keep other people's data and its wrong to do so. There is a girl who lives in Sheffield and she loves to go out and play most the times that she s in the house that is why I dont like to talk to her because her parents and her other fwends got taken to peace gardens thats a place that everyone likes to sing and stay. usually famous Celebs get to hang aroun dthere but there are always top security because we dont want to get skanked down them ends. KK see u now I need 2 go and chill in the west end PEACE!!!£"$$$ Made of MOney MAN$$$$

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answered Jan 31, 2010 at 21:38

hanamontana
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