



Welcome

db4o is the native Java, .NET and Mono open source object database.

This tutorial was written to get you started with db4o as quickly as possible. Before you start, please make sure that you have downloaded the latest db4o distribution from the [db4objects website](#).

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And here are some further links on developer.db4o.com that you may find useful:

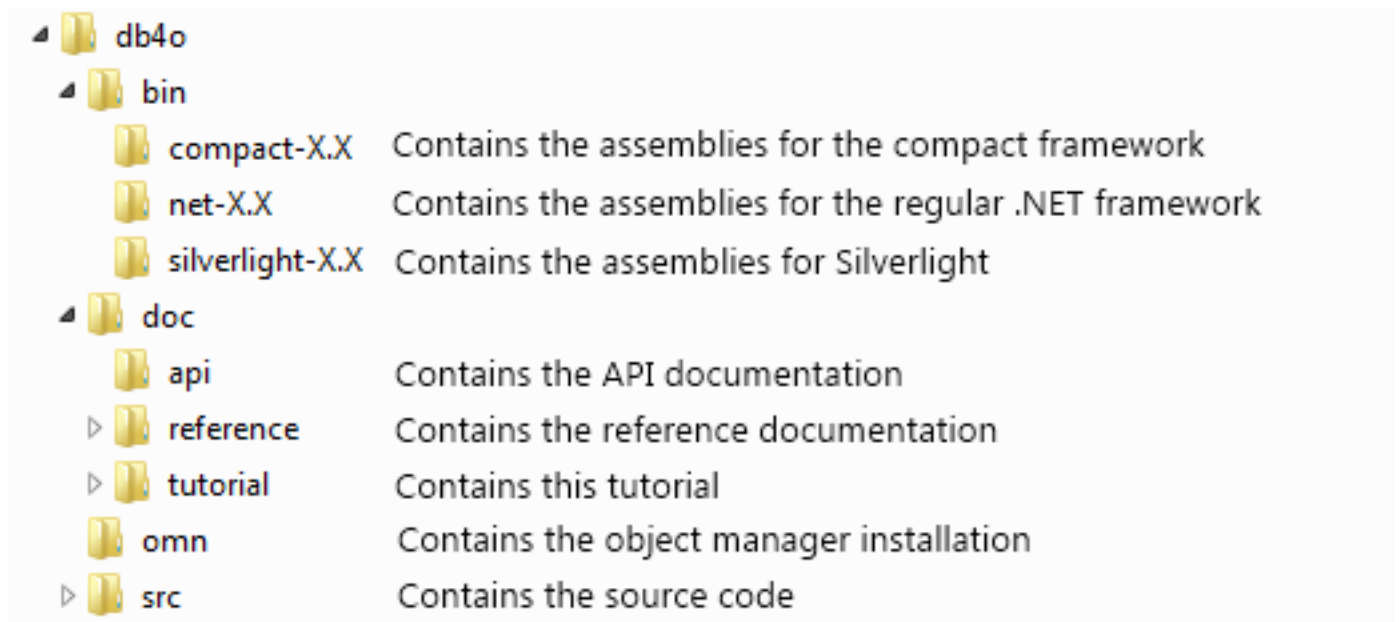
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The db4o .NET distribution comes as one MSI installer file, db4o-8.0-net.msi. After you run the installer, you get the following directory structure:



Please take a look at all the supplied documentation formats to choose the one that works best for you:

db4o-8.0/doc/api/db4o.chm

The API documentation for db4o is supplied as a compiled Help file. While you read through the rest of this tutorial, it may be helpful to look into the API documentation occasionally.

db4o-8.0/doc/reference/index.html

The reference documentation is a complete compilation for experienced db4o users.

db4o-8.0/doc/tutorial/Db4objects.Db4o.Tutorial.exe

This is the interactive tutorial application for .NET. Examples can be run "live" against a db4o database from within the application.

db4o-8.0/doc/tutorial/db4o-8.0-tutorial.pdf

The PDF version of the tutorial allows best fulltext search capabilities.

1. First Glance

Before diving straight into the first source code samples let's get you familiar with some basics.

1.1. The db4o engine

The db4o object database engine consists of one single core DLL. This is all that you need to program against. In addition you may want to use client/server library or optional components. The versions supplied with the distribution can be found in /db4o-8.0/bin/.

db4o is available in multiple distributions for Microsoft .NET. One downloadable distribution is for the .NET Framework 3.5 and the other is for the .NET Framework 4.0. Be sure to download and use the correct one for your project environment.

/db4o-8.0/bin/net-X.X/Db4objects.Db4o.dll

is the standard db4o engine for the regular .NET framework.

/db4o-8.0/bin/compact-X.X/Db4objects.Db4o.dll

is the db4o engine for the compact framework

/db4o-8.0/bin/silverlight-X.X/Db4objects.Db4o.dll

is the db4o engine for Silverlight

1.2. Installation

To use db4o in a development project, you only need to add one of the above Db4objects.Db4o.dll files to your project references.

1.3. Object Manager Enterprise installation

Object Manager Enterprise (OME) is an object browser for db4o databases. OME provided with this installation comes as Visual Studio plugin. OME can be installed as part of db4o setup.

Alternatively, if you opt out, you can install it later by running the installation from the shortcut provided in the db4objects Start menu folder.

If you've downloaded .NET distribution as a zip archive, you will find OME installation in the omn folder of the distribution.

1.4. API Overview

Do not forget the API documentation while reading through this tutorial. It provides an organized view of the API, looking from a namespace perspective and you may find related functionality to the theme you are currently reading up on.

For starters, the `Db4objects.Db4o` and `Db4objects.Db4o.Query` namespaces are all that you need to worry about.

Db4objects.Db4o

The `Db4objects.Db4o` namespace contains most of the functionality you will commonly need when you work with db4o. Two objects of note are `Db4objects.Db4o.Db4oEmbedded` and `Db4objects.Db4o.IObjectContainer`.

The `Db4oEmbedded` is your starting point. Static methods in this class allow you to open a database file. For client/server environment you will need to use `Db4objects.Db4o.CS.dll` and `Db4oClientServer` factory class to start a server, or connect to an existing server, but this will be discussed [later](#). Factory classes also let you configure the db4o environment before opening a database.

The most important interface, and the one that you will be using 99% of the time is `IObjectContainer`: This is your db4o database.

- An `IObjectContainer` can either be a database in single-user mode or a client connection to a db4o server.
- Every `IObjectContainer` owns one transaction. All work is transactional. When you open an `IObjectContainer`, you are in a transaction, when you `Commit()` or `Rollback()`, the next transaction is started immediately.
- Every `IObjectContainer` maintains its own references to stored and instantiated objects. In doing so, it manages object identities, and is able to achieve a high level of performance.
- `IObjectContainers` are intended to be kept open as long as you work against them. When you close an `IObjectContainer`, all database references to objects in RAM will be discarded.

Db4objects.Db4o.Ext

In case you wonder why you only see very few methods in an `IObjectContainer`, here is why: The db4o interface is supplied in two steps in two namespaces, `Db4objects.Db4o` and `Db4objects.Db4o.Ext` for the following reasons:

- It's easier to get started, because the important methods are emphasised.
- It will be easier for other products to copy the basic db4o interface.
- It is an example of how a lightweight version of db4o could look.

Every `IObjectContainer` object is also an `IExtObjectContainer`. You can cast the `IObjectContainer` to

IExtObjectContainer or you can use the .Ext() method to access advanced features.

Db4objects.Db4o.Config

The Db4objects.Db4o.Config namespace contains types necessary to configure db4o. The objects and interfaces within are discussed in the [Configuration](#) section.

Db4objects.Db4o.Query

The Db4objects.Db4o.Query namespace contains the Predicate class to construct [Native Queries](#). The Native Query interface is the primary db4o querying interface and should be preferred over the Soda Query API.

Db4objects.Db4o.Linq

Another query alternative interface. Combines the benefits of the db4o Native Queries and wide database support.

2. First Steps

Let's get started as simple as possible. We are going to demonstrate how to store, retrieve, update and delete instances of a single class that only contains primitive and String members. In our example this will be a Formula One (F1) pilot whose attributes are his name and the F1 points he has already gained this season.

First we create a class to hold our data. It looks like this:

```
namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter1
{
    public class Pilot
    {
        string _name;
        int _points;

        public Pilot(string name, int points)
        {
            _name = name;
            _points = points;
        }

        public string Name
        {
            get
            {
                return _name;
            }
        }

        public int Points
        {
            get
            {
                return _points;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        public void AddPoints(int points)
        {
            _points += points;
        }

        override public string ToString()
        {
            return string.Format("{0}/{1}", _name, _points);
        }
    }
}

```

Notice that this class does not contain any db4o-related code.

2.1. Opening the database

To access a db4o database file or create a new one, call `DB4OEMBEDDED.OPENFILE()` and provide `Db4oEmbedded.newConfiguration()` as a configuration template and the path to your database file as the second parameter, to obtain an `IObjectContainer` instance. `IObjectContainer` represents "The Database", and will be your primary interface to db4o. Closing the `IObjectContainer` with the `#Close()` method will close the database file and release all resources associated with it.

```

// accessDb4o

using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
{
    // do something with db4o
}

```

`Db4oFileName` is just a string value representing any filename. If the file with this name already exists, it will be opened as db4o database, otherwise a new db4o database will be created.

For the following examples we will assume that our environment takes care of opening and closing the `IObjectContainer` automatically, and stores the reference in a variable named 'db'.

2.2. Storing objects

To store an object, we simply call `#Store()` on our database, passing any object as a parameter.

```
// storeFirstPilot

Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
db.Store(pilot1);
Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot1);
```

OUTPUT:

```
Stored Michael Schumacher/100
```

We'll need a second pilot, too.

```
// storeSecondPilot

Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
db.Store(pilot2);
Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot2);
```

OUTPUT:

```
Stored Rubens Barrichello/99
```

2.3. Retrieving objects

The easiest way to see the content of our database is to use Object Manager Enterprise, which will be introduced in the [next chapter](#) . For now let's continue with the API overview and learn how to build db4o queries.

db4o supplies several different querying systems, *Query by Example* (QBE), *LINQ*, *Native Queries* (NQ) and the *SODA Query API* (SODA). In this first example we will introduce QBE. Once you are familiar with storing objects, we encourage you to use [LINQ](#) .

When using Query-By-Example, you create a prototypical object for db4o to use as an example of what you wish to retrieve. db4o will retrieve all objects of the given type that contain the same (non-default) field values as the example. The results will be returned as an `IObjectSet` instance. We will use a convenience method `#ListResult()` to display the contents of our result `IObjectSet` :

```
public static void ListResult(IObjectSet result)
{
    Console.WriteLine(result.Count);
    foreach (object item in result)
    {
        Console.WriteLine(item);
    }
}
```

To retrieve all pilots from our database, we provide an 'empty' prototype:

```
// retrieveAllPilotQBE

Pilot proto = new Pilot(null, 0);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Michael Schumacher/100
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Note that we specify 0 points, but our results were not constrained to only those Pilots with 0 points; 0 is the default value for int fields.

db4o also supplies a shortcut to retrieve all instances of a class:

```
// retrieveAllPilots

IEnumerable result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Pilot));
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Michael Schumacher/100
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

For .NET there also is a generics shortcut, using the query method:

```
IList <Pilot> pilots = db.Query<Pilot>(typeof(Pilot));
```

To query for a pilot by name:

```
// retrievePilotByName

Pilot proto = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 0);
IEnumerable result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```

And to query for Pilots with a specific number of points:

```
// retrievePilotByExactPoints

Pilot proto = new Pilot(null, 100);
IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```

Of course there's much more to db4o queries. They will be covered in more depth in later chapters.

2.4. Updating objects

Updating objects is just as easy as storing them. In fact, you use the same `#Store()` method to update your objects: just call `#Store()` again after modifying any object.

```
// updatePilot

IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Pilot("Michael Schumacher",
0));
Pilot found = (Pilot)result.Next();
found.AddPoints(11);
db.Store(found);
Console.WriteLine("Added 11 points for {0}", found);
RetrieveAllPilots(db);
```

OUTPUT:

```
Added 11 points for Michael Schumacher/111
2
Michael Schumacher/111
```

Notice that we query for the object first. This is an important point. When you call `#Store()` to modify a stored object, if the object is not 'known' (having been previously stored or retrieved during the current session), db4o will insert a new object. db4o does this because it does not automatically match up objects to be stored, with objects previously stored. It assumes you are inserting a second object which happens to have the same field values.

To make sure you've updated the pilot, please return to any of the retrieval examples above and run them again.

2.5. Deleting objects

Objects are removed from the database using the `#Delete()` method.

```
// deleteFirstPilotByName

IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Pilot("Michael Schumacher",
0));
Pilot found = (Pilot)result.Next();
db.Delete(found);
Console.WriteLine("Deleted {0}", found);
RetrieveAllPilots(db);
```

OUTPUT:

```
Deleted Michael Schumacher/111
1
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Let's delete the other one, too.

```
// deleteSecondPilotByName
```

```

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello",
0));
Pilot found = (Pilot)result.Next();
db.Delete(found);
Console.WriteLine("Deleted {0}", found);
RetrieveAllPilots(db);

```

OUTPUT:

```

Deleted Rubens Barrichello/99
0

```

Please check the deletion with the retrieval examples above.

As with updating objects, the object to be deleted has to be 'known' to db4o. It is not sufficient to provide a prototype object with the same field values.

2.6. Conclusion

That was easy, wasn't it? We have stored, retrieved, updated and deleted objects with a few lines of code. Now you are probably interested to see how the database looks like. Let's have a look using db4o graphical tool - Object Manager in the [next chapter](#) .

2.7. Full source

```

using System;
using System.IO;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;
using Db4odoc.Tutorial;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter1
{
    public class FirstStepsExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD

```

```

ata),

        "formula1.yap");

public static void Main(string[] args)
{
    File.Delete(YapFileName);
    AccessDb4o();
    File.Delete(YapFileName);
    using (IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
    {
        StoreFirstPilot(db);
        StoreSecondPilot(db);
        RetrieveAllPilots(db);
        RetrievePilotByName(db);
        RetrievePilotByExactPoints(db);
        UpdatePilot(db);
        DeleteFirstPilotByName(db);
        DeleteSecondPilotByName(db);
    }
}

public static void AccessDb4o()
{
    using (IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
    {
        // do something with db4o
    }
}

public static void StoreFirstPilot(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
    db.Store(pilot1);
    Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot1);
}

public static void StoreSecondPilot(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);

```

```

        db.Store(pilot2);
        Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot2);
    }

    public static void RetrieveAllPilotQBE(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Pilot proto = new Pilot(null, 0);
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrieveAllPilots(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Pilot));
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrievePilotByName(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Pilot proto = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 0);
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void
RetrievePilotByExactPoints(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Pilot proto = new Pilot(null, 100);
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void UpdatePilot(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Pilot("Michael
Schumacher", 0));
        Pilot found = (Pilot)result.Next();
        found.AddPoints(11);
        db.Store(found);
        Console.WriteLine("Added 11 points for {0}", found);
        RetrieveAllPilots(db);
    }

```



```

    }

    public static void DeleteFirstPilotByName(IObjectContainer
db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Pilot("Michael
Schumacher", 0));
        Pilot found = (Pilot)result.Next();
        db.Delete(found);
        Console.WriteLine("Deleted {0}", found);
        RetrieveAllPilots(db);
    }

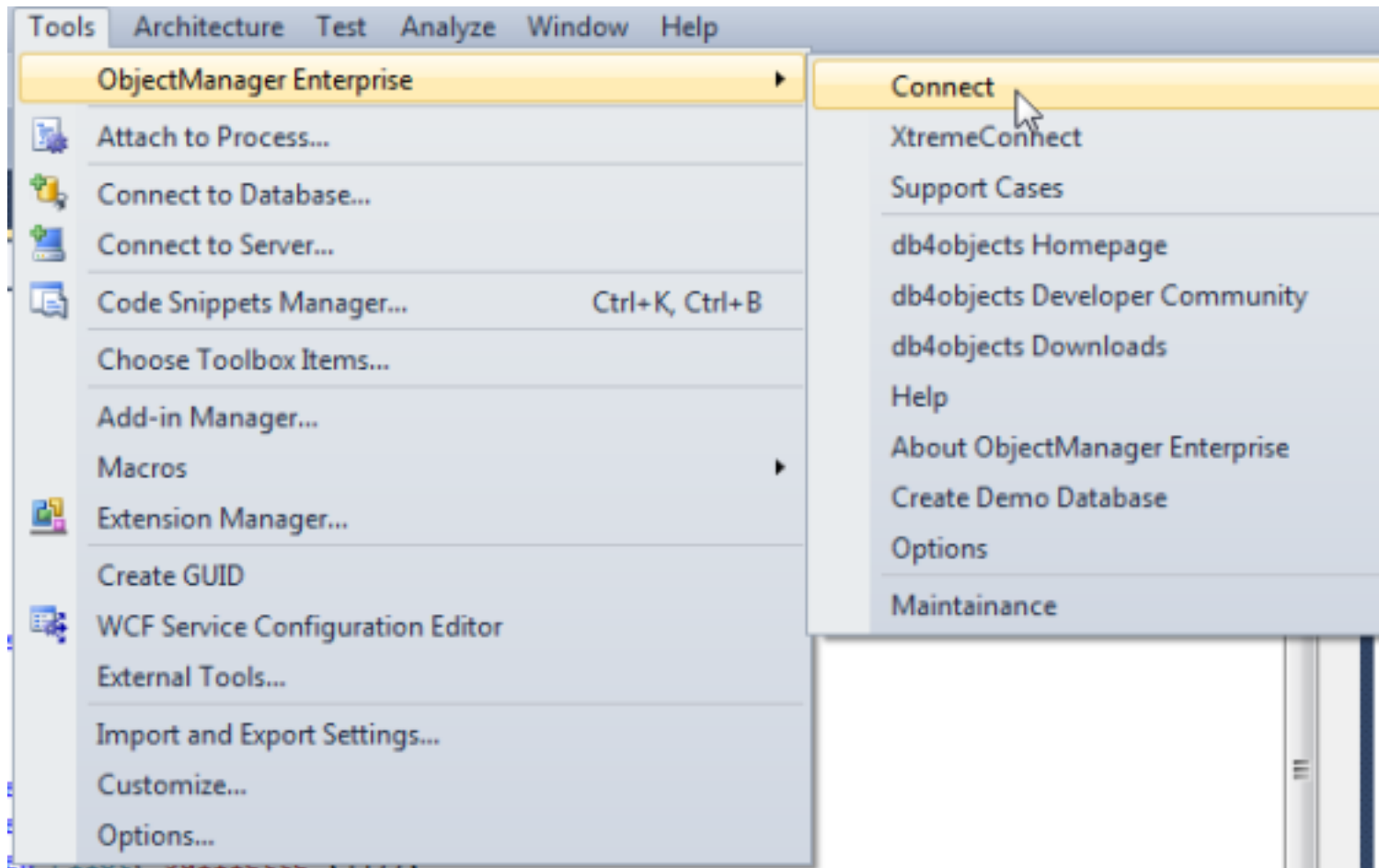
    public static void DeleteSecondPilotByName(IObjectContainer
db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Pilot("Rubens
Barrichello", 0));
        Pilot found = (Pilot)result.Next();
        db.Delete(found);
        Console.WriteLine("Deleted {0}", found);
        RetrieveAllPilots(db);
    }
}
}

```

3. Object Manager Enterprise Overview

If you did not install the Object Manager Enterprise yet, please, return to [FirstGlance](#) chapter and follow the installation instructions there.

Once the Object Manager Enterprise (OME) is installed you can see it in Visual Studio Tools menu:



You should also be able to see OME toolbar icons:



3.1. Browsing the database

In the [previous chapter](#) we've learned how to create a new database and store objects in it. Let's create a new database and store some objects in it now:

```
// storePilots

using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
```

```
{  
    Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);  
    db.Store(pilot1);  
    Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot1);  
    Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);  
    db.Store(pilot2);  
    Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot2);  
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
Stored Michael Schumacher/100  
Stored Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Now we can see the resultant database in the Object Manager. Please select Tools->Object Manager Enterprise->Connect (or use a shortcut button from the toolbar menu) and browse to ome.db4o file in your Local Application Data folder. (normally it is C:\Documents and Settings\[user name]\Local Settings\Application Data on Windows XP/2000, c:/Users/[user name]/AppData/Local on Windows Vista).

Once you've connected you will see a screen similar to this:

The screenshot displays the Db4o software interface. On the left, the 'db4o Browser' window shows a tree view of the database 'Db4oDoc.OME.Pilot, Db4oDoc' containing two fields: 'name' and 'points'. Below it, the 'DataBase Properties' window is open to the 'Class Properties' tab, showing 'Number of objects : 4' and a table of field properties.

Field	DataType	Indexed	Public
name	System.String	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
points	System.Int32	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

On the right, the 'Pilot, Db4oDoc' window shows a table of objects:

No.	points	name
1	65	Jonny

Below this table are 'Save' and 'Delete' buttons, and a label 'No. of Objects Re'. At the bottom right, the 'Object 1' window shows the details of the selected object:

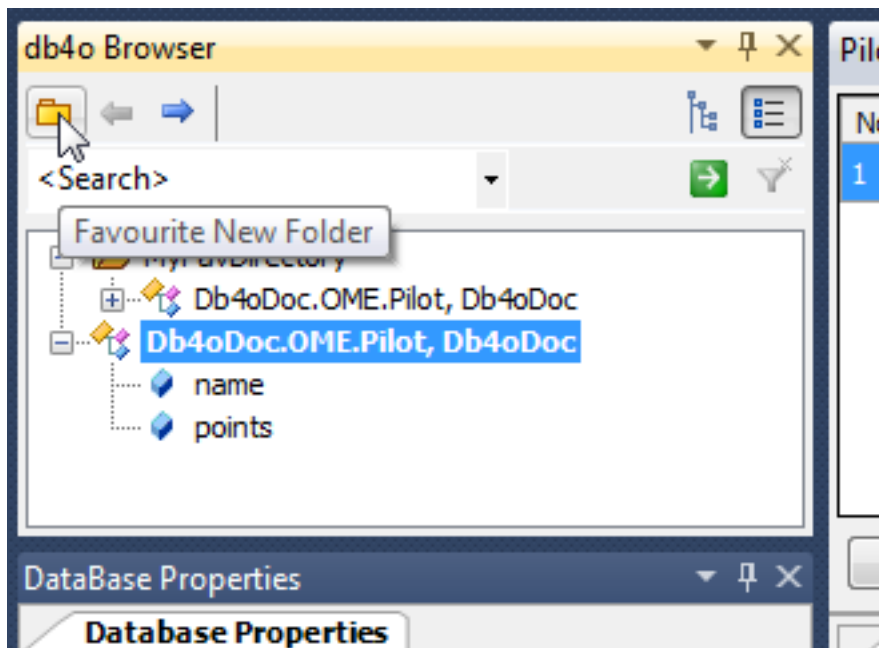
Field	Value
Db4oDoc.OME.Pilot, D...	Db4oDoc.OME.
name	Jonny
points	65

In this view you can see:

- Db4o Browser: window displaying the contents of the open db4o database
- Database Properties: window displaying the properties of the open database or the properties of the selected database class
- Build Query: windows allowing to build a query using drag&drop functionality
- Query Results: window to browse the results of the query execution

The Db4o Browser window shows that there is 1 class in the database (Pilot), which contains 2 fields: `_name` and `_points`. In the Property Viewer you can see more information about the class fields. You can also change "Indexed" field and add the index to the database by pressing "Save Index" button.

The filter panel on the top of the view allows easier navigation through the database with lots of different classes. You can use wildcard searches and benefit from the search history to make the selection faster. To further improve the navigation experience, you can create favourite folders and drag&drop frequently used classes into these folders.



3.2. Querying

It is easy to retrieve all of the Pilot instances from the database: just right-click the Pilot class in Db4o Browser and select "Show All Objects". The list of the Pilot objects will be shown in the Query Result view:

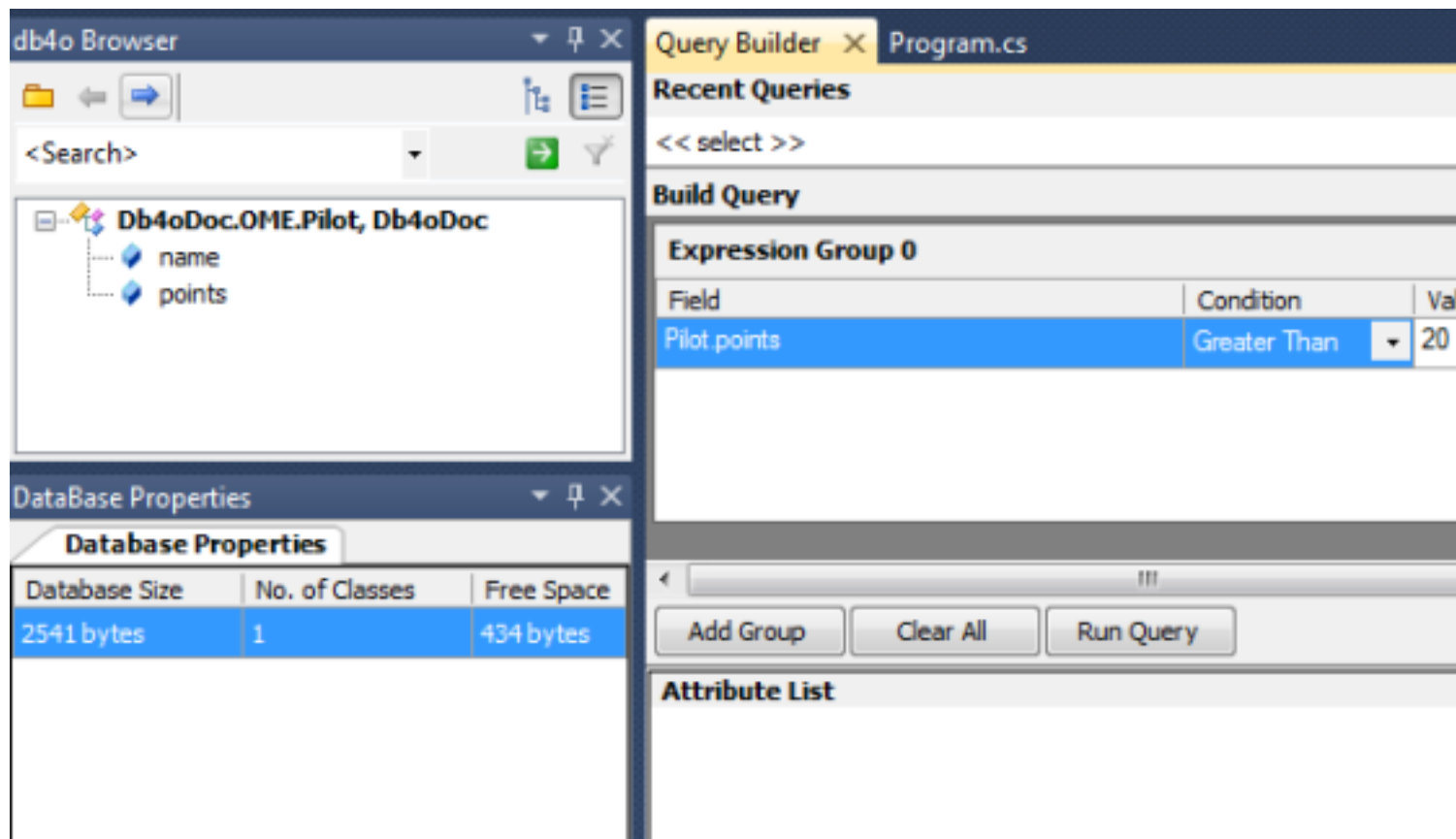
The screenshot displays the Db4o application interface. On the left, the 'db4o Browser' window shows the 'Db4oDoc.OME.Pilot, Db4oDoc' class. Below it, the 'DataBase Properties' window shows the database size (2541 bytes), number of classes (1), and free space (434 bytes). The main window is titled 'Pilot, Db4oDoc' and shows a 'Query Builder' tab. The 'Query Result' view displays a table with 4 rows of Pilot objects. Below the table are 'Save' and 'Delete' buttons, and a 'No. of Objects Retrieved: 4' indicator. The 'Object 1' tab is selected, showing the details of the first object (John, 42 points).

No.	points	name
1	42	John
2	28	Joanna
3	44	Juilette
4	65	Jonny

Field	Value	Type
Db4oDoc.OME.Pilot, Db4oD...	Db4oDoc.OME....	Db4oDoc.OME.Pilot
name	John	System.String
points	42	System.Int32

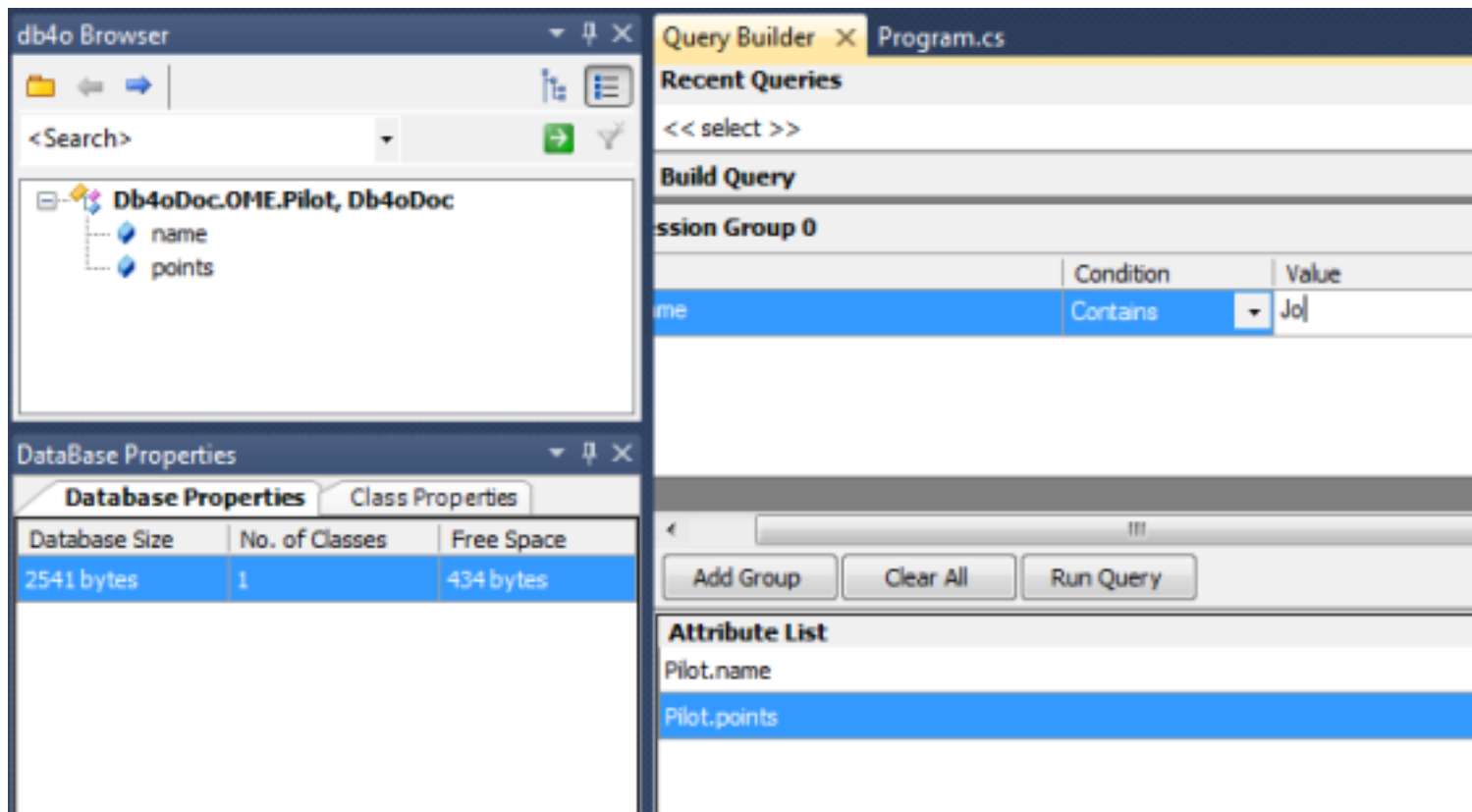
You can see object details in the detailed view below. Try to change any values and use Save button to persist the changes to the database. You can also use Delete button to delete objects from the database. For the objects containing field objects you will be prompted to use cascade on delete.

More complex queries can be done by using Query Builder view:



Drag "name" field from the Db4o Browser view into the Query Builder view, set condition "Contains", put a value "a" and run the query. You can return to the Built Query tab and modify the query later on again. For example: add "AND" operator, drag "name" field, set Condition to "Starts With" and the value to "M". Re-run the query.

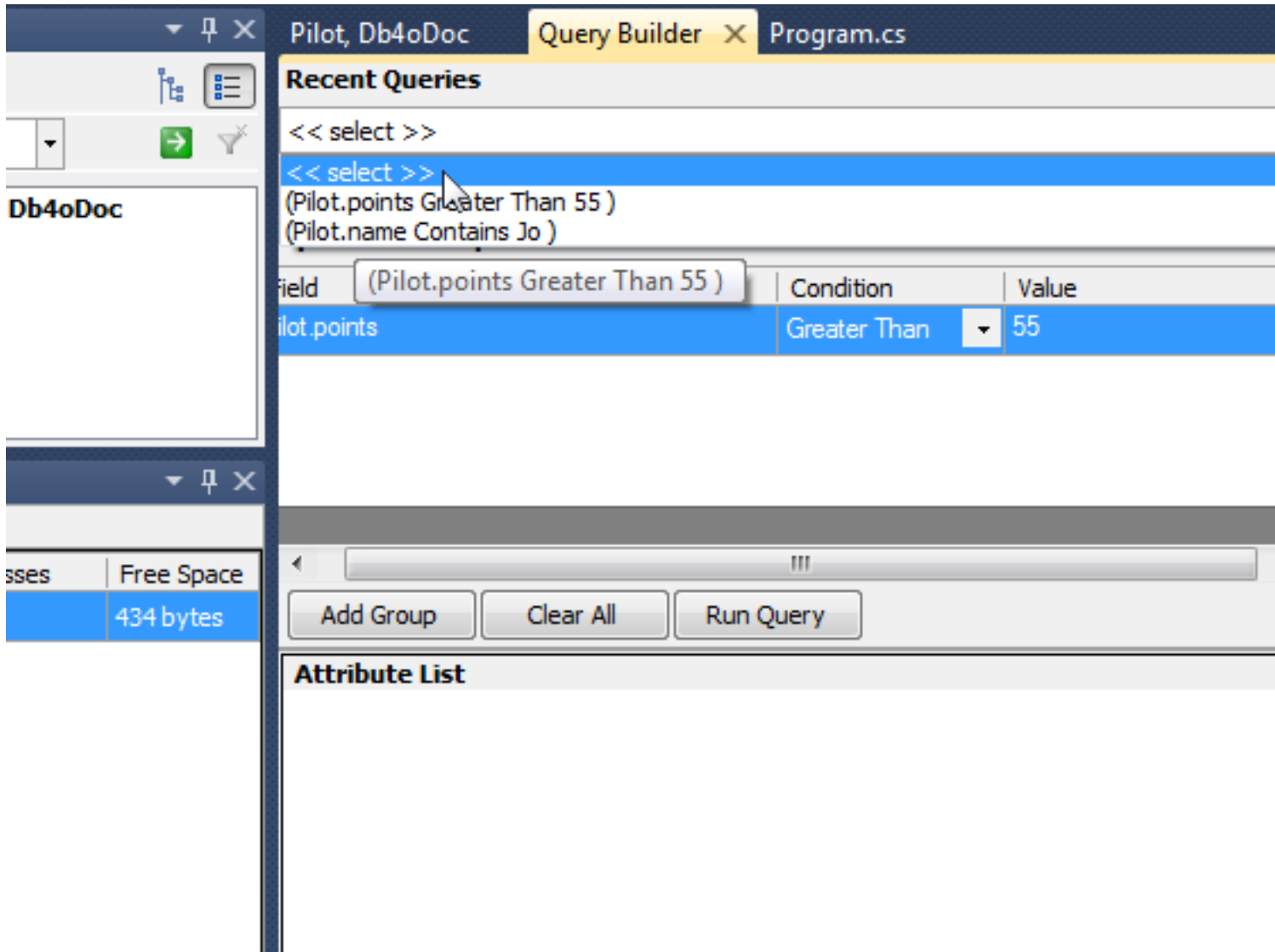
If you want only selected fields to be displayed in the query result, drag and drop fields to be displayed from Db4o Browser into "Attribute List" window.



When the new query is created, the previous query is stored and can be selected from the history drop-down:

More sophisticated queries can be build by joining grouped constraints using "Add Group" button. When you are done working with the database in OME, you can close the connection by using Tools->Object Manager Enterprise-> Disconnect menu command or by using the equivalent button on the toolbar.

In the [next chapter](#) we will explore more about db4o querying capabilities. You can continue using OME while going through the rest of this tutorial. If you are using the interactive version you will find the database in formula1.db4o file in your Local Application Data folder (normally it is C:\Documents and Settings\[user name]\Local Settings\Application Data on Windows XP/2000, c:/Users/[user name]/AppData/Local on Windows Vista) Please, remember to disconnect OME before running any of the tutorial examples, as only one active connection is allowed to the database file.



4. Querying

db4o supplies three querying systems, Query-By-Example (QBE) Native Queries (NQ), and the SODA API. In the previous chapter, you were briefly introduced to *Query By Example*(QBE).

Query-By-Example (QBE) is appropriate as a quick start for users who are still acclimating to storing and retrieving objects with db4o.

LINQ is the recommended db4o querying interface for .NET platforms.

SODA is the underlying internal API. It is provided for backward compatibility and it can be useful for dynamic generation of queries, where LINQ and NQ are too strongly typed.

4.1. Query by Example (QBE)

When using *Query By Example* (QBE) you provide db4o with a template object. db4o will return all of the objects which match all non-default field values. This is done via reflecting all of the fields and building a query expression where all non-default-value fields are combined with AND expressions. Here's an example from the previous chapter:

```
// retrievePilotByName

Pilot proto = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 0);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

Querying this way has some obvious limitations:

- db4o must reflect all members of your example object.
- You cannot perform advanced query expressions. (AND, OR, NOT, etc.)
- You cannot constrain on values like 0 (integers), "" (empty strings), or nulls (reference types) because they would be interpreted as unconstrained.
- You need to be able to create objects without initialized fields. That means you can not initialize fields where they are declared. You can not enforce contracts that objects of a class are only allowed in a well-defined initialized state.
- You need a constructor to create objects without initialized fields.

To get around all of these constraints, db4o provides the Native Query (NQ) system.

4.2. Native Queries

Wouldn't it be nice to pose queries in the programming language that you are using? Wouldn't it be nice if all your query code was 100% typesafe, 100% compile-time checked and 100% refactorable? Wouldn't it be nice if the full power of object-orientation could be used by calling methods from within queries? Enter Native Queries.

Native queries are the main db4o query interface and they are the recommended way to query databases from your application. Because native queries simply use the semantics of your programming language, they are perfectly standardized and a safe choice for the future.

Native Queries are available for all platforms supported by db4o.

4.2.1. Concept

The concept of native queries is taken from the following two papers:

- [Cook/Rosenberger, Native Queries for Persistent Objects, A Design White Paper](#)
- [Cook/Rai, Safe Query Objects: Statically Typed Objects as Remotely Executable Queries](#)

4.2.2. Principle

Native Queries provide the ability to run one or more lines of code against all instances of a class. Native query expressions should return true to mark specific instances as part of the result set. db4o will attempt to optimize native query expressions and run them against indexes and without instantiating actual objects, where this is possible.

4.2.3. Simple Example

Let's look at how a simple native query will look like in some of the programming languages and dialects that db4o supports:

C# .NET

```
ICollection<Pilot> pilots = db.Query<Pilot>(delegate(Pilot pilot) {  
    return pilot.Points == 100;  
});
```

Java JDK 5

```
List <Pilot> pilots = db.query(new Predicate<Pilot>() {  
    public boolean match(Pilot pilot) {  
        return pilot.getPoints() == 100;  
    }  
});
```

Public Class PilotHundredPoints

Inherits Predicate

Public Function Match (pilot As Pilot) as Boolean

 If pilot.Points = 100 Then

 Return True

 Else

 Return False

End Function

End Class

A side note on the above syntax:

For all dialects without support for generics, Native Queries work by convention. A class that extends the com.db4o.Predicate class is expected to have a boolean #Match() method with one parameter to describe the class extent:

```
bool Match(Pilot candidate);
```

When using native queries, don't forget that modern integrated development environments (IDEs) can do all the typing work around the native query expression for you, if you use templates and auto-completion.

The following example shows how to create an autocompletion code snippet in Visual Studio 2005. Create a "nq.snippet" file in any text editor.

Paste the following code:

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<CodeSnippets
xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/VisualStudio/2005/CodeSnippet">
  <CodeSnippet Format="1.0.0">
    <Header>
      <Title>NQ</Title>
      <Shortcut>NQ</Shortcut>
      <Description>Code snippet for Native Query</Description>
      <Author>db4objects Inc.</Author>
      <SnippetTypes>
        <SnippetType>Expansion</SnippetType>
      </SnippetTypes>
    </Header>
    <Snippet>
      <Declarations>
        <Literal>
          <ID>type</ID>
          <ToolTip>Type</ToolTip>
          <Default>MyType</Default>
        </Literal>
        <Literal>
          <ID>var</ID>
          <ToolTip>variable</ToolTip>
          <Default>myType</Default>
        </Literal>
        <Literal>
          <ID>expression</ID>
          <ToolTip>Boolean expression</ToolTip>
          <Default>return true;</Default>
        </Literal>
      </Declarations>
      <Code Language="csharp"><![CDATA[ IList<$type$> list =
db.Query<$type$>(delegate($type$ $var$)
{
    $expression$
});]]>
    </Code>
  </Snippet>
</CodeSnippet>

```

```
</CodeSnippets>
```

Save the file.

In the Visual Studio 2005 open Tools/Code SnippetsManager

Select language "Visual c#" if not yet selected. Press "Import..." button and select the newly created file. Select "Visual c#" as the location and press "Finish" button.

Now you can use the snippet by selecting it from "Edit/IntelliSense/Insert Snippet..." menu.

4.2.4. Advanced Example

For complex queries, the native syntax is very precise and quick to write. Let's compare to a SODA query that finds all pilots with a given name or a score within a given range:

```
// storePilots

db.Store(new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100));
db.Store(new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99));
```

```
// retrieveComplexSODA

IQuery query=db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
IQuery pointQuery=query.Descend("_points");
query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Rubens Barrichello")
    .Or(pointQuery.Constrain(99).Greater())
    .And(pointQuery.Constrain(199).Smaller()));
IObjectSet result=query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Michael Schumacher/100
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Here is how the same query will look like with native query syntax, fully accessible to autocompletion, refactoring and other IDE features, fully checked at compile time:

C# .NET 2.0

```
IList <Pilot> result = db.Query<Pilot> (delegate(Pilot pilot) {  
    return pilot.Points > 99  
        && pilot.Points < 199  
        || pilot.Name == "Rubens Barrichello";  
});
```

Java JDK 5

```
List <Pilot> result = db.query(new Predicate<Pilot>() {  
    public boolean match(Pilot pilot) {  
        return pilot.getPoints() > 99  
            && pilot.getPoints() < 199  
            || pilot.getName().equals("Rubens Barrichello");  
    }  
});
```

4.2.5. Arbitrary Code

Basically that's all there is to know about native queries to be able to use them efficiently. In principle you can run arbitrary code as native queries, you just have to be very careful with side effects - especially those that might affect persistent objects.

Let's run an example that involves some more of the language features available.

```
using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;  
  
namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter1  
{  
    public class ArbitraryQuery : Predicate  
    {  
        private int[] _points;
```

```

    public ArbitraryQuery(int[] points)
    {
        _points=points;
    }

    public bool Match(Pilot pilot)
    {
        foreach (int points in _points)
        {
            if (pilot.Points == points)
            {
                return true;
            }
        }
        return pilot.Name.StartsWith("Rubens");
    }
}

```

4.2.6. Native Query Performance

One drawback of native queries has to be pointed out: Under the hood db4o tries to analyze native queries to convert them to SODA. This is not possible for all queries. For some queries it is very difficult to analyze the flowgraph. In this case db4o will have to instantiate some of the persistent objects to actually run the native query code. db4o will try to analyze parts of native query expressions to keep object instantiation to the minimum.

The development of the native query optimization processor will be an ongoing process in a close dialog with the db4o community. Feel free to contribute your results and your needs by providing feedback to our [db4o forums](#)(Forums are accessible through [free db4o membership](#)).

With the current implementation, all above examples will run optimized, except for the "Arbitrary Code" example - we are working on it.

4.2.7. Full source


```

using System;
using System.IO;

using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;

using Db4odoc.Tutorial;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter1
{
    public class NQExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
ata),

                                "formulal.yap");

        public static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                StorePilots(db);
                RetrieveComplexSODA(db);
                RetrieveComplexNQ(db);
                RetrieveArbitraryCodeNQ(db);
                ClearDatabase(db);
            }
        }

        public static void StorePilots(IObjectContainer db)
        {
            db.Store(new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100));
            db.Store(new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99));
        }

        public static void RetrieveComplexSODA(IObjectContainer db)
        {
            IQuery query=db.Query();

```

```

        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        IQuery pointQuery=query.Descend("_points");
        query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Rubens Barrichello")
            .Or(pointQuery.Constrain(99).Greater()
            .And(pointQuery.Constrain(199).Smaller()));
        IObjectSet result=query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrieveComplexNQ(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.Query(new ComplexQuery());
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrieveArbitraryCodeNQ(IObjectContainer
db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.Query(new ArbitraryQuery(new
int[] {1,100}));
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void ClearDatabase(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Pilot));
        while (result.HasNext())
        {
            db.Delete(result.Next());
        }
    }
}
}

```

```
using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;
```

```
namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter1
```

```

{
    public class ComplexQuery : Predicate
    {
        public bool Match(Pilot pilot)
        {
            return pilot.Points > 99
                && pilot.Points < 199
                || pilot.Name=="Rubens Barrichello";
        }
    }
}

```

```

using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter1
{
    public class ArbitraryQuery : Predicate
    {
        private int[] _points;

        public ArbitraryQuery(int[] points)
        {
            _points=points;
        }

        public bool Match(Pilot pilot)
        {
            foreach (int points in _points)
            {
                if (pilot.Points == points)
                {
                    return true;
                }
            }
            return pilot.Name.StartsWith("Rubens");
        }
    }
}

```

4.3. LINQ

db4o querying syntax has got even easier with the introduction of .NET LINQ queries. LINQ allows you to write compile checked db4o queries, which can be refactored automatically when a field name changes and which are supported by code auto-completion tools.

In order to use LINQ you will need to add reference to Db4objects.Db4o.Linq.dll and usage to your program class:

```
using System.Linq;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Linq;
```

If you are already familiar with LINQ syntax, you can just start writing LINQ to query db4o. Otherwise you may want to familiarise yourself with LINQ resources on <http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb397926.aspx> MSDN.

Note that LINQ requires at least .NET 3.5.

4.3.1. Linq Examples

Let's prepare some objects in our database to query against:

```
// storeObjects

db.Store(new Car("Ferrari", (new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100))));
db.Store(new Car("BMW", (new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99))));
```

The simplest LINQ query will look like this:

```
// retrievePilot

IEnumerable<Pilot> result = from Pilot p in db
                           where p.Name.StartsWith("Michael")
                           select p;

ListResult(result);
```

You can see that we are using db4o object container as a datasource, the rest of the syntax is generic to all LINQ queries.

Now let's try a bit more complex selection:

```
// retrievePilotByCar

IEnumerable<Pilot> result = from Car c in db
                             where c.Model.StartsWith("F")
                             && (c.Pilot.Points > 99 && c.Pilot.Points
<150)
                             select c.Pilot;

ListResult(result);
```

So we can constrain on one object and retrieve a list of others. You can even create completely new objects based on the retrieved information using *select new MyObject(field1, field2...)*. Try to experiment with different LINQ queries against db4o database.

4.3.2. Performance

db4o query processor is based on SODA queries, therefore LINQ query is analysed and converted to SODA syntax in the runtime. However, in some cases this conversion is not possible. This can happen when query is constrained against aggregates or projections of a field value and in other cases when SODA equivalent does not exist. For example:

```
// retrievePilotUnoptimized

IEnumerable<Pilot> result = from Pilot p in db
                             where (p.Points - 81) == p.Name.Length
                             select p;

ListResult(result);
```

The query still works, but it requires instantiation of all candidate objects, which is much less performant than SODA query.

4.3.3. LINQ for Compact Framework

Compact Framework version 3.5 contains LINQ implementation for querying objects, however it does not contain the namespace `System.Linq.Expressions`, which is used by all optimized LINQ providers. Luckily there is a solution to this problem. Mono implementation of `System.Core` can be used to

support optimized LINQ providers and expression interpreter contributed by [Mainsoft](#) to Mono's System.Core can be used to support full LINQ expression trees.

These assemblies were used by db4o team to compile a new assembly, System.Linq.Expressions.dll, which provides LINQ support to .NET Compact Framework 3.5. In order to use the full LINQ functionality including optimisation, add a reference to System.Linq.Expressions.dll in your project and enjoy.

System.Linq.Expressions.dll can be found in bin\compact-3.5 folder of your distribution. You can also examine the code in src\Libs\compact-3.5\System.Linq.Expressions or db4o [SVN](#) .

4.4. SODA Query API

The SODA query API is db4o's low level querying API, allowing direct access to nodes of query graphs. Since SODA uses strings to identify fields, it is neither perfectly typesafe nor compile-time checked and it also is quite verbose to write.

For most applications [LINQ](#) and [Native Queries](#) will be the better querying interface.

However there can be applications where dynamic generation of queries is required, that's why SODA is explained here.

4.4.1. Simple queries

Let's see how our familiar QBE queries are expressed with SODA. A new Query object is created through the `#Query()` method of the `ObjectContainer` and we can add `Constraint` instances to it. To find all `Pilot` instances, we constrain the query with the `Pilot` class object.

```
// retrieveAllPilots

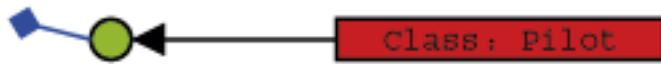
IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Michael Schumacher/100
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Basically, we are exchanging our 'real' prototype for a meta description of the objects we'd like to hunt down: a **query graph** made up of query nodes and constraints. A query node is a placeholder for a candidate object, a constraint decides whether to add or exclude candidates from the result.

Our first simple graph looks like this.



We're just asking any candidate object (here: any object in the database) to be of type Pilot to aggregate our result.

To retrieve a pilot by name, we have to further constrain the candidate pilots by descending to their name field and constraining this with the respective candidate String.

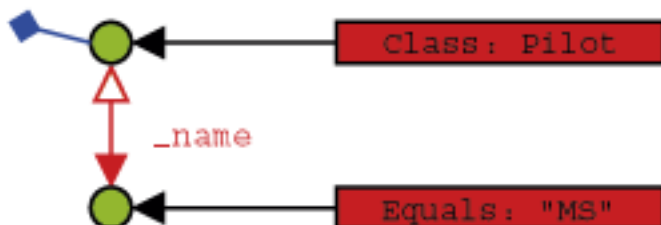
```
// retrievePilotByName

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
query.D descend("_name").Constrain("Michael Schumacher");
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```

What does #Descend mean here? Well, just as we did in our 'real' prototypes, we can attach constraints to child members of our candidates.



So a candidate needs to be of type Pilot and have a member named '_name' that is equal to the given String to be accepted for the result.

Note that the class constraint is not required: If we left it out, we would query for all objects that contain a '_name' member with the given value. In most cases this will not be the desired behavior, though.

Finding a pilot by exact points is analogous.

```
// retrievePilotByExactPoints

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
query.Discard("_points").Constrain(100);
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```

4.4.2. Advanced queries

Now there are occasions when we don't want to query for exact field values, but rather for value ranges, objects not containing given member values, etc. This functionality is provided by the Constraint API.

First, let's negate a query to find all pilots who are not Michael Schumacher:

```
// retrieveByNegation

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
query.Discard("_name").Constrain("Michael Schumacher").Not();
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

1
Rubens Barrichello/99

Where there is negation, the other boolean operators can't be too far.

```
// retrieveByConjunction

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
IConstraint constr = query.Discard("_name")
    .Constrain("Michael Schumacher");
query.Discard("_points")
    .Constrain(99).And(constr);
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

0

```
// retrieveByDisjunction

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
IConstraint constr = query.Discard("_name")
    .Constrain("Michael Schumacher");
query.Discard("_points")
    .Constrain(99).Or(constr);
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Michael Schumacher/100
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

We can also constrain to a comparison with a given value.

```
// retrieveByComparison

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
query.Discard("_points")
    .Constrain(99).Greater();
IObjSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```

The query API also allows to query for field default values.

```
// retrieveByDefaultFieldValue

Pilot somebody = new Pilot("Somebody else", 0);
db.Store(somebody);
IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
query.Discard("_points").Constrain(0);
IObjSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
db.Delete(somebody);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
Somebody else/0
```

It is also possible to have db4o sort the results.

```
// retrieveSorted  
  
IQuery query = db.Query();  
query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));  
query.Descend("_name").OrderAscending();  
IOBJECTSet result = query.Execute();  
ListResult(result);  
query.Descend("_name").OrderDescending();  
result = query.Execute();  
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2  
Michael Schumacher/100  
Rubens Barrichello/99  
2  
Rubens Barrichello/99  
Michael Schumacher/100
```

All these techniques can be combined arbitrarily, of course. Please try it out. There still may be cases left where the predefined query API constraints may not be sufficient - don't worry, you can always let db4o run any arbitrary code that you provide in an Evaluation. Evaluations will be discussed in a [later chapter](#).

To prepare for the next chapter, let's clear the database.

```
// clearDatabase

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Pilot));
foreach (object item in result)
{
    db.Delete(item);
}
```

OUTPUT:

4.4.3. Conclusion

Now you have been provided with the following alternative approaches to query db4o databases: Query-By-Example, .NET LINQ, Native Queries, SODA.

Which one is the best to use? Some hints:

- LINQ is a standard typesafe queries for .NET languages and is recommended for use with .NET version of db4o.
- Native queries are targeted to be the primary interface for db4o, so they should be preferred.
- With the current state of the db4o query optimizer there may be queries that will execute faster in SODA style, so it can be used to tune applications. SODA can also be more convenient for constructing dynamic queries at runtime.
- Query-By-Example is nice for simple one-liners, but restricted in functionality. If you like this approach, use it as long as it suits your application's needs.

Of course you can mix these strategies as needed.

We have finished our walkthrough and seen the various ways db4o provides to pose queries. But our domain model is not complex at all, consisting of one class only. Let's have a look at the way db4o handles object associations in the [next chapter](#).

4.4.4. Full source

```
using System;
using System.IO;
```

```

using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;

using Db4odoc.Tutorial;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter1
{
    public class QueryExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
ata),

                                "formula1.yap");
        public static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                StoreFirstPilot(db);
                StoreSecondPilot(db);
                RetrieveAllPilots(db);
                RetrievePilotByName(db);
                RetrievePilotByExactPoints(db);
                RetrieveByNegation(db);
                RetrieveByConjunction(db);
                RetrieveByDisjunction(db);
                RetrieveByComparison(db);
                RetrieveByDefaultFieldValue(db);
                RetrieveSorted(db);
                ClearDatabase(db);
            }
        }

        public static void StoreFirstPilot(IObjectContainer db)
        {
            Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
            db.Store(pilot1);
            Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot1);
        }

        public static void StoreSecondPilot(IObjectContainer db)

```

```

    {
        Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
        db.Store(pilot2);
        Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot2);
    }

    public static void RetrieveAllPilots(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrievePilotByName(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        query.Discard("_name").Constrain("Michael Schumacher");
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void
RetrievePilotByExactPoints(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        query.Discard("_points").Constrain(100);
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrieveByNegation(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        query.Discard("_name").Constrain("Michael
Schumacher").Not();
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

```

```

    }

    public static void RetrieveByConjunction(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        IConstraint constr = query.Descend("_name")
            .Constrain("Michael Schumacher");
        query.Descend("_points")
            .Constrain(99).And(constr);
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrieveByDisjunction(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        IConstraint constr = query.Descend("_name")
            .Constrain("Michael Schumacher");
        query.Descend("_points")
            .Constrain(99).Or(constr);
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrieveByComparison(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        query.Descend("_points")
            .Constrain(99).Greater();
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void
RetrieveByDefaultFieldValue(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Pilot somebody = new Pilot("Somebody else", 0);
        db.Store(somebody);
    }

```



```

        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        query.Descend("_points").Constrain(0);
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
        db.Delete(somebody);
    }

    public static void RetrieveSorted(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Pilot));
        query.Descend("_name").OrderAscending();
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
        query.Descend("_name").OrderDescending();
        result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void ClearDatabase(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Pilot));
        foreach (object item in result)
        {
            db.Delete(item);
        }
    }
}

```

5. Structured objects

It's time to extend our business domain with another class and see how db4o handles object interrelations. Let's give our pilot a vehicle.

```
namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter2
{
    public class Car
    {
        string _model;
        Pilot _pilot;

        public Car(string model)
        {
            _model = model;
            _pilot = null;
        }

        public Pilot Pilot
        {
            get
            {
                return _pilot;
            }

            set
            {
                _pilot = value;
            }
        }

        public string Model
        {
            get
            {
                return _model;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        override public string ToString()
        {
            return string.Format("{0}[{1}]", _model, _pilot);
        }
    }
}

```

5.1. Storing structured objects

To store a car with its pilot, we just call `#Store()` on our top level object, the car. The pilot will be stored implicitly.

```

// storeFirstCar

Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
car1.Pilot = pilot1;
db.Store(car1);

```

Of course, we need some competition here. This time we explicitly store the pilot before entering the car - this makes no difference.

```

// storeSecondCar

Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
db.Store(pilot2);
Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
car2.Pilot = pilot2;
db.Store(car2);

```

5.2. Retrieving structured objects

5.2.1. QBE

To retrieve all cars, we simply provide a 'blank' prototype.

```
// retrieveAllCarsQBE

Car proto = new Car(null);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
```

We can also query for all pilots, of course.

```
// retrieveAllPilotsQBE

Pilot proto = new Pilot(null, 0);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Michael Schumacher/100
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Now let's initialize our prototype to specify all cars driven by Rubens Barrichello.

```
// retrieveCarByPilotQBE

Pilot pilotproto = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 0);
Car carproto = new Car(null);
carproto.Pilot = pilotproto;
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(carproto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
```

What about retrieving a pilot by car? We simply don't need that - if we already know the car, we can simply access the pilot field directly.

5.2.2. Native Queries

Using native queries with constraints on deep structured objects is straightforward, you can do it just like you would in plain other code.

Let's constrain our query to only those cars driven by a Pilot with a specific name:

```
public class RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate : Predicate
{
    readonly string _pilotName;

    public RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate(string pilotName)
    {
        _pilotName = pilotName;
    }

    public bool Match(Car candidate)
    {
        return candidate.Pilot.Name == _pilotName;
    }
}
```

```
}
```

```
// retrieveCarsByPilotNameNative

string pilotName = "Rubens Barrichello";
IObjectSet results = db.Query(new
RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate(pilotName));
ListResult(results);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
```

Using generics syntax this is a lot simpler:

C# Generics

```
// retrieveCarsByPilotNameNative
string pilotName = "Rubens Barrichello";
List<Car> results = db.Query<Car>(delegate(Car car) {
    return car.Pilot.Name == pilotName; });
listResults(results);
```

5.2.3. SODA Query API

In order to use SODA for querying for a car given its pilot's name we have to descend two levels into our query.

```
// retrieveCarByPilotNameQuery
```

```

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Car));
query.Discard("_pilot").Discard("_name")
    .Constrain("Rubens Barrichello");
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);

```

OUTPUT:

```

1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]

```

We can also constrain the pilot field with a prototype to achieve the same result.

```

// retrieveCarByPilotProtoQuery

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Car));
Pilot proto = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 0);
query.Discard("_pilot").Constrain(proto);
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);

```

OUTPUT:

```

1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]

```

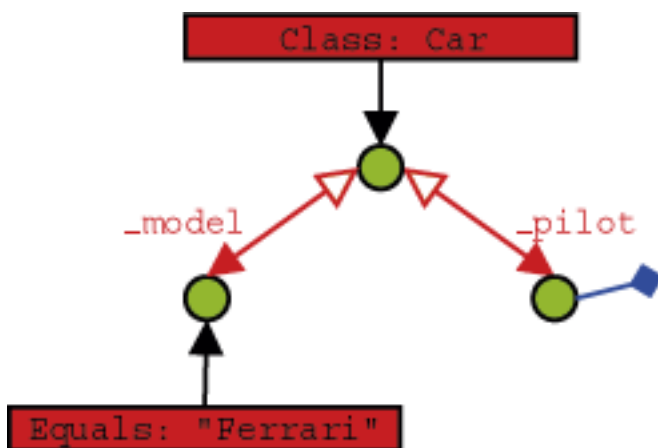
We have seen that descending into a query provides us with another query. Starting out from a query root we can descend in multiple directions. In practice this is the same as ascending from one child to a parent and descending to another child. We can conclude that queries turn one-directional references in our objects into true relations. Here is an example that queries for "a Pilot that is being referenced by a Car, where the Car model is 'Ferrari'":

```
// retrievePilotByCarModelQuery

IQuery carQuery = db.Query();
carQuery.Constrain(typeof(Car));
carQuery.Discard("_model").Constrain("Ferrari");
IQuery pilotQuery = carQuery.Discard("_pilot");
IObjectSet result = pilotQuery.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```



5.3. Updating structured objects

To update structured objects in db4o, we simply call #Store() on them again.

```
// updateCar

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));
Car found = (Car)result.Next();
found.Pilot = new Pilot("Somebody else", 0);
```



```
db.Store(found);  
result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));  
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
Ferrari[Somebody else/0]
```

Let's modify the pilot, too.

```
// updatePilotSingleSession  
  
IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));  
Car found = (Car)result.Next();  
found.Pilot.AddPoints(1);  
db.Store(found);  
result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));  
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
Ferrari[Somebody else/1]
```

Nice and easy, isn't it? But wait, there's something evil lurking right behind the corner. Let's see what happens if we split this task in two separate db4o sessions: In the first we modify our pilot and update his car:

```
// updatePilotSeparateSessionsPart1  
  
IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));  
Car found = (Car)result.Next();
```

```
found.Pilot.AddPoints(1);  
db.Store(found);
```

And in the second, we'll double-check our modification:

```
// updatePilotSeparateSessionsPart2  
  
IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));  
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
Ferrari[Somebody else/0]
```

Looks like we're in trouble: Why did the Pilot's points not change? What's happening here and what can we do to fix it?

5.3.1. Update depth

Imagine a complex object with many members that have many members themselves. When updating this object, db4o would have to update all its children, grandchildren, etc. This poses a severe performance penalty and will not be necessary in most cases - sometimes, however, it will.

So, in our previous update example, we were modifying the Pilot child of a Car object. When we saved the change, we told db4o to save our Car object and assumed that the modified Pilot would be updated. But we were modifying and saving in the same manner as we were in the first update sample, so why did it work before? The first time we made the modification, db4o never actually had to retrieve the modified Pilot it returned the same one that was still in memory that we modified, but it never actually updated the database. The fact that we saw the modified value was, in fact, a bug. Restarting the application would show that the value was unchanged.

To be able to handle this dilemma as flexible as possible, db4o introduces the concept of update depth to control how deep an object's member tree will be traversed on update. The default update depth for all objects is 1, meaning that only primitive and String members will be updated, but changes in object

members will not be reflected.

db4o provides means to control update depth with very fine granularity. For our current problem we'll advise db4o to update the full graph for Car objects by setting `#CascadeOnUpdate()` for this class accordingly.

```
// updatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart1

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(true);
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));
    Car found = (Car)result.Next();
    found.Pilot.AddPoints(1);
    db.Store(found);
}
```

```
// updatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart2

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Ferrari[Somebody else/1]
```

This looks much better.

Note that container configuration must be passed when the container is opened.

We'll cover update depth as well as other issues with complex object graphs and the respective db4o

configuration options in more detail in a later chapter.

5.4. Deleting structured objects

As we have already seen, we call `#Delete()` on objects to get rid of them.

```
// deleteFlat

IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));
Car found = (Car)result.Next();
db.Delete(found);
result = db.QueryByExample(new Car(null));
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
```

Fine, the car is gone. What about the pilots?

```
// retrieveAllPilotsQBE

Pilot proto = new Pilot(null, 0);
IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
3
Michael Schumacher/100
Rubens Barrichello/99
Somebody else/1
```

Ok, this is no real surprise - we don't expect a pilot to vanish when his car is disposed of in real life, too. But what if we want an object's children to be thrown away on deletion, too?

5.4.1. Recursive deletion

You may already suspect that the problem of recursive deletion (and perhaps its solution, too) is quite similar to our little update problem, and you're right. Let's configure db4o to delete a car's pilot, too, when the car is deleted.

```
// deleteDeep

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(true);
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName)){
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("BMW"));
    Car found = (Car)result.Next();
    db.Delete(found);
    result = db.QueryByExample(new Car(null));
    ListResult(result);
}
```

OUTPUT:

0

Again: Note that configuration should be passed to the call opening ObjectContainer.

Let's have a look at our pilots again.

```
// retrieveAllPilots

Pilot proto = new Pilot(null, 0);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Michael Schumacher/100
Somebody else/1
```

5.4.2. Recursive deletion revisited

But wait - what happens if the children of a removed object are still referenced by other objects?

```
// deleteDeepRevisited

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(true);
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Pilot("Michael
Schumacher", 0));
    Pilot pilot = (Pilot)result.Next();
    Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
    Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
    car1.Pilot = pilot;
    car2.Pilot = pilot;
    db.Store(car1);
    db.Store(car2);
    db.Delete(car2);
    result = db.QueryByExample(new Car(null));
    ListResult(result);
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]
```

```
// retrieveAllPilots

Pilot proto = new Pilot(null, 0);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Somebody else/1
```

Houston, we have a problem - and there's no simple solution at hand. Currently db4o does **not** check whether objects to be deleted are referenced anywhere else, so please be very careful when using this feature.

Let's clear our database for the next chapter.

```
// deleteAll

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Object));
foreach (object item in result)
{
    db.Delete(item);
}
```

5.5. Conclusion

So much for object associations: We can hook into a root object and climb down its reference graph to specify queries. But what about multi-valued objects like arrays and collections? We will cover this in the [next chapter](#) .

5.6. Full source

```

using System;
using System.IO;

using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Config;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter2
{
    public class StructuredExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
ata),

                                "formulal.yap");

        public static void Main(String[] args)
        {
            File.Delete(YapFileName);

            using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                StoreFirstCar(db);
                StoreSecondCar(db);
                RetrieveAllCarsQBE(db);
                RetrieveAllPilotsQBE(db);
                RetrieveCarByPilotQBE(db);
                RetrieveCarByPilotNameQuery(db);
                RetrieveCarByPilotProtoQuery(db);
                RetrievePilotByCarModelQuery(db);
                UpdateCar(db);
                UpdatePilotSingleSession(db);
                UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsPart1(db);
            }
            using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsPart2(db);
            }
        }
    }
}

```



```

        }
        UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart1();
        using (IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
        {
            UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart2(db);
            DeleteFlat(db);
        }
        DeleteDeep();
        DeleteDeepRevisited();
    }

    public static void StoreFirstCar(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
        Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
        car1.Pilot = pilot1;
        db.Store(car1);
    }

    public static void StoreSecondCar(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
        db.Store(pilot2);
        Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
        car2.Pilot = pilot2;
        db.Store(car2);
    }

    public static void RetrieveAllCarsQBE(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Car proto = new Car(null);
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrieveAllPilotsQBE(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Pilot proto = new Pilot(null, 0);
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
        ListResult(result);
    }

```

```

    }

    public static void RetrieveCarByPilotQBE(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Pilot pilotproto = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 0);
        Car carproto = new Car(null);
        carproto.Pilot = pilotproto;
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(carproto);
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void
RetrieveCarByPilotNameQuery(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Car));
        query.Discard("_pilot").Discard("_name")
            .Constrain("Rubens Barrichello");
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void
RetrieveCarByPilotProtoQuery(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Car));
        Pilot proto = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 0);
        query.Discard("_pilot").Constrain(proto);
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void
RetrievePilotByCarModelQuery(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery carQuery = db.Query();
        carQuery.Constrain(typeof(Car));
        carQuery.Discard("_model").Constrain("Ferrari");
        IQuery pilotQuery = carQuery.Discard("_pilot");
        IObjectSet result = pilotQuery.Execute();
    }

```

```

        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrieveAllPilots(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet results = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Pilot));
        ListResult(results);
    }

    public static void RetrieveAllCars(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet results = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
        ListResult(results);
    }

    public class RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate : Predicate
    {
        readonly string _pilotName;

        public RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate(string pilotName)
        {
            _pilotName = pilotName;
        }

        public bool Match(Car candidate)
        {
            return candidate.Pilot.Name == _pilotName;
        }
    }

    public static void
RetrieveCarsByPilotNameNative(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        string pilotName = "Rubens Barrichello";
        IObjectSet results = db.Query(new
RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate(pilotName));
        ListResult(results);
    }

    public static void UpdateCar(IObjectContainer db)
    {

```

```

        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new
Car("Ferrari"));

        Car found = (Car)result.Next();
        found.Pilot = new Pilot("Somebody else", 0);
        db.Store(found);
        result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void UpdatePilotSingleSession(IObjectContainer
db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new
Car("Ferrari"));

        Car found = (Car)result.Next();
        found.Pilot.AddPoints(1);
        db.Store(found);
        result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("Ferrari"));
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsPart1(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new
Car("Ferrari"));

        Car found = (Car)result.Next();
        found.Pilot.AddPoints(1);
        db.Store(found);
    }

    public static void
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsPart2(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new
Car("Ferrari"));

        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart1()
    {

```

```

        IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(true);
        using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
        {
            IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new
Car("Ferrari"));
            Car found = (Car)result.Next();
            found.Pilot.AddPoints(1);
            db.Store(found);
        }
    }

    public static void
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart2(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new
Car("Ferrari"));
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void DeleteFlat(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new
Car("Ferrari"));
        Car found = (Car)result.Next();
        db.Delete(found);
        result = db.QueryByExample(new Car(null));
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void DeleteDeep()
    {
        IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(true);
        using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName)){
            IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new
Car("BMW"));

```

```

        Car found = (Car)result.Next();
        db.Delete(found);
        result = db.QueryByExample(new Car(null));
        ListResult(result);
    }
}

public static void DeleteDeepRevisited()
{
    IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(true);
    using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new
Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 0));
        Pilot pilot = (Pilot)result.Next();
        Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
        Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
        car1.Pilot = pilot;
        car2.Pilot = pilot;
        db.Store(car1);
        db.Store(car2);
        db.Delete(car2);
        result = db.QueryByExample(new Car(null));
        ListResult(result);
    }
}
}
}

```

6. Collections and Arrays

We will slowly move towards real-time data processing now by installing sensors to our car and collecting their output.

```
using System;
using System.Text;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter4
{
    public class SensorReadout
    {
        double[] _values;
        DateTime _time;
        Car _car;

        public SensorReadout(double[] values, DateTime time, Car car)
        {
            _values = values;
            _time = time;
            _car = car;
        }

        public Car Car
        {
            get
            {
                return _car;
            }
        }

        public DateTime Time
        {
            get
            {
                return _time;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

public int NumValues
{
    get
    {
        return _values.Length;
    }
}

public double[] Values
{
    get
    {
        return _values;
    }
}

public double GetValue(int idx)
{
    return _values[idx];
}

override public string ToString()
{
    StringBuilder builder = new StringBuilder();
    builder.Append(_car);
    builder.Append(" : ");
    builder.Append(_time.TimeOfDay);
    builder.Append(" : ");
    for (int i=0; i<_values.Length; ++i)
    {
        if (i > 0)
        {
            builder.Append(", ");
        }
        builder.Append(_values[i]);
    }
    return builder.ToString();
}
}

```


A car may produce its current sensor readout when requested and keep a list of readouts collected during a race.

```
using System;
using System.Collections;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter4
{
    public class Car
    {
        string _model;
        Pilot _pilot;
        IList _history;

        public Car(string model) : this(model, new ArrayList())
        {
        }

        public Car(string model, IList history)
        {
            _model = model;
            _pilot = null;
            _history = history;
        }

        public Pilot Pilot
        {
            get
            {
                return _pilot;
            }

            set
            {
                _pilot = value;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

    public string Model
    {
        get
        {
            return _model;
        }
    }

    public IList History
    {
        get
        {
            return _history;
        }
    }

    public void Snapshot()
    {
        _history.Add(new SensorReadout(Poll(), DateTime.Now,
this));
    }

    protected double[] Poll()
    {
        int factor = _history.Count + 1;
        return new double[] { 0.1d*factor, 0.2d*factor,
0.3d*factor };
    }

    override public string ToString()
    {
        return string.Format("{0}[{1}]/{2}", _model, _pilot,
_history.Count);
    }
}

```

We will constrain ourselves to rather static data at the moment and add flexibility during the next chapters.

6.1. Storing

This should be familiar by now.

```
// storeFirstCar

Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
car1.Pilot = pilot1;
db.Store(car1);
```

The second car will take two snapshots immediately at startup.

```
// storeSecondCar

Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
car2.Pilot = pilot2;
car2.Snapshot();
car2.Snapshot();
db.Store(car2);
```

6.2. Retrieving

6.2.1. QBE

First let us verify that we indeed have taken snapshots.

```
// retrieveAllSensorReadout

IOBJECTSET result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(SensorReadout));
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

2

BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.1,0.2,0.3

BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.2,0.4,0.6

As a prototype for an array, we provide an array of the same type, containing only the values we expect the result to contain.

```
// retrieveSensorReadoutQBE

SensorReadout proto = new SensorReadout(new double[] { 0.3, 0.1 },
DateTime.MinValue, null);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

1

BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.1,0.2,0.3

Note that the actual position of the given elements in the prototype array is irrelevant.

To retrieve a car by its stored sensor readouts, we install a history containing the sought-after values.

```
// retrieveCarQBE

SensorReadout protoReadout = new SensorReadout(new double[] { 0.6,
0.2 }, DateTime.MinValue, null);
IList protoHistory = new ArrayList();
protoHistory.Add(protoReadout);
Car protoCar = new Car(null, protoHistory);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(protoCar);
```

```
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2
```

We can also query for the collections themselves, since they are first class objects.

```
// retrieveCollections  
  
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new ArrayList());  
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
2  
[ ]  
[BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.1,0.2,0.3,  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.2,0.4,0.6]
```

This doesn't work with arrays, though.

```
// retrieveArrays  
  
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new double[] { 0.6, 0.4 });  
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
0
```

6.2.2. Native Queries

If we want to use Native Queries to find SensorReadouts with matching values, we simply write this as if we would check every single instance:

```
public class RetrieveSensorReadoutPredicate : Predicate
{
    public bool Match(SensorReadout candidate)
    {
        return Array.IndexOf(candidate.Values, 0.3) > -1
            && Array.IndexOf(candidate.Values, 0.1) > -1;
    }
}
```

```
// retrieveSensorReadoutNative

IObjectSet results = db.Query(new RetrieveSensorReadoutPredicate());
ListResult(results);
```

OUTPUT:

0

And here's how we find Cars with matching readout values:

```
public class RetrieveCarPredicate : Predicate
{
    public bool Match(Car car)
    {
        foreach (SensorReadout sensor in car.History)
        {
            if (Array.IndexOf(sensor.Values, 0.3) > -1
```

```

        && Array.IndexOf(sensor.Values, 0.1) > -1)
    {
        return true;
    }
}
return false;
}
}

```

```

// retrieveCarNative

IObjectSet results = db.Query(new RetrieveCarPredicate());
ListResult(results);

```

OUTPUT:

```

1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2

```

6.2.3. Query API

Handling of arrays and collections is analogous to the previous example. First, lets retrieve only the SensorReadouts with specific values:

```

// retrieveSensorReadoutQuery

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(SensorReadout));
IQuery valueQuery = query.D descend("_values");
valueQuery.Constrain(0.3);
valueQuery.Constrain(0.1);
IObjectSet results = query.Execute();
ListResult(results);

```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.1,0.2,0.3
```

Then let's get some Cars with matching Readout values:

```
// retrieveCarQuery

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(Car));
IQuery historyQuery = query.Descend("_history");
historyQuery.Constrain(typeof(SensorReadout));
IQuery valueQuery = historyQuery.Descend("_values");
valueQuery.Constrain(0.3);
valueQuery.Constrain(0.1);
IObjectSet results = query.Execute();
ListResult(results);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2
```

6.3. Updating and deleting

This should be familiar, we just have to remember to take care of the update depth.

```
// updateCar

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(true);
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
```



```

YapFileName))
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("BMW", null));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    car.Snapshot();
    db.Store(car);
    RetrieveAllSensorReadout(db);
}

```

OUTPUT:

```

3
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.1,0.2,0.3
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.2,0.4,0.6
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/1 : 1352135020407 : 0.1,0.2,0.3

```

There's nothing special about deleting arrays and collections, too.

Deleting an object from a collection is an update, too, of course.

```

// updateCollection

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(true);
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
{
    IQuery query = db.Query();
    query.Constrain(typeof(Car));
    IObjectSet result = query.Discard("_history").Execute();
    IList history = (IList) result.Next();
    history.RemoveAt(0);
    db.Store(history);
    Car proto = new Car(null, null);
    result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
    foreach (Car car in result)
    {

```

```

        foreach (object readout in car.History)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(readout);
        }
    }
}

```

OUTPUT:

```

BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.1,0.2,0.3
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1352135020188 : 0.2,0.4,0.6

```

(This example also shows that with db4o it is quite easy to access object internals we were never meant to see. Please keep this always in mind and be careful.)

We will delete all cars from the database again to prepare for the next chapter.

```

// deleteAll

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(true);
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car(null, null));
    foreach (object car in result)
    {
        db.Delete(car);
    }
    IObjectSet readouts = db.QueryByExample(new SensorReadout(null,
DateTime.MinValue, null));
    foreach (object readout in readouts)
    {
        db.Delete(readout);
    }
}

```

6.4. Conclusion

Ok, collections are just objects. But why did we have to specify the concrete ArrayList type all the way? Was that necessary? How does db4o handle inheritance? We will cover that in the [next chapter](#).

6.5. Full source

```
using System;
using System.Collections;
using System.IO;

using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Config;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter4
{
    public class CollectionsExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
            Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
            ata),

                "formula1.yap");

        public static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            File.Delete(YapFileName);
            using(IOObjectContainer db =
            Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                StoreFirstCar(db);
                StoreSecondCar(db);
                RetrieveAllSensorReadout(db);
                RetrieveSensorReadoutQBE(db);
                RetrieveCarQBE(db);
                RetrieveCollections(db);
                RetrieveArrays(db);
                RetrieveSensorReadoutQuery(db);
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        RetrieveCarQuery(db);
    };
    UpdateCar();
    UpdateCollection();
    DeleteAll();

    using (IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
    {
        RetrieveAllSensorReadout(db);
    }

}

public static void StoreFirstCar(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
    Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
    car1.Pilot = pilot1;
    db.Store(car1);
}

public static void StoreSecondCar(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
    Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
    car2.Pilot = pilot2;
    car2.Snapshot();
    car2.Snapshot();
    db.Store(car2);
}

public static void RetrieveAllSensorReadout(IObjectContainer
db)
{
    IObjectSet result =
db.QueryByExample(typeof(SensorReadout));
    ListResult(result);
}

public static void RetrieveSensorReadoutQBE(IObjectContainer

```

```

db)
    {
        SensorReadout proto = new SensorReadout(new double[] {
0.3, 0.1 }, DateTime.MinValue, null);
        IOObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
        ListResult(result);
    }

public static void RetrieveCarQBE(IOObjectContainer db)
{
    SensorReadout protoReadout = new SensorReadout(new
double[] { 0.6, 0.2 }, DateTime.MinValue, null);
    IList protoHistory = new ArrayList();
    protoHistory.Add(protoReadout);
    Car protoCar = new Car(null, protoHistory);
    IOObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(protoCar);
    ListResult(result);
}

public static void RetrieveCollections(IOObjectContainer db)
{
    IOObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new ArrayList());
    ListResult(result);
}

public static void RetrieveArrays(IOObjectContainer db)
{
    IOObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new double[] { 0.6,
0.4 });
    ListResult(result);
}

public static void
RetrieveSensorReadoutQuery(IOObjectContainer db)
{
    IQuery query = db.Query();
    query.Constrain(typeof(SensorReadout));
    IQuery valueQuery = query.Descend("_values");
    valueQuery.Constrain(0.3);
    valueQuery.Constrain(0.1);
    IOObjectSet results = query.Execute();
}

```

```

        ListResult(results);
    }

    public static void RetrieveCarQuery(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(Car));
        IQuery historyQuery = query.Descend("_history");
        historyQuery.Constrain(typeof(SensorReadout));
        IQuery valueQuery = historyQuery.Descend("_values");
        valueQuery.Constrain(0.3);
        valueQuery.Constrain(0.1);
        IObjectSet results = query.Execute();
        ListResult(results);
    }

    public class RetrieveSensorReadoutPredicate : Predicate
    {
        public bool Match(SensorReadout candidate)
        {
            return Array.IndexOf(candidate.Values, 0.3) > -1
                && Array.IndexOf(candidate.Values, 0.1) > -1;
        }
    }

    public static void
RetrieveSensorReadoutNative(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet results = db.Query(new
RetrieveSensorReadoutPredicate());
        ListResult(results);
    }

    public class RetrieveCarPredicate : Predicate
    {
        public bool Match(Car car)
        {
            foreach (SensorReadout sensor in car.History)
            {
                if (Array.IndexOf(sensor.Values, 0.3) > -1
                    && Array.IndexOf(sensor.Values, 0.1) > -1)

```

```

        {
            return true;
        }
    }
    return false;
}

}

public static void RetrieveCarNative(IObjectContainer db)
{
    IObjectSet results = db.Query(new
RetrieveCarPredicate());
    ListResult(results);
}

public static void UpdateCar()
{
    IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(true);
    using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("BMW",
null));

        Car car = (Car)result.Next();
        car.Snapshot();
        db.Store(car);
        RetrieveAllSensorReadout(db);
    }
}

public static void UpdateCollection()
{
    IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(true);
    using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();

```

```

        query.Constrain(typeof (Car));
        IObjectSet result =
query.Descend("_history").Execute();
        IList history = (IList) result.Next();
        history.RemoveAt(0);
        db.Store(history);
        Car proto = new Car(null, null);
        result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
        foreach (Car car in result)
        {
            foreach (object readout in car.History)
            {
                Console.WriteLine(readout);
            }
        }
    }

    public static void DeleteAll()
    {
        IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
        config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(true);
        using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
        {
            IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car(null,
null));

            foreach (object car in result)
            {
                db.Delete(car);
            }
            IObjectSet readouts = db.QueryByExample(new
SensorReadout(null, DateTime.MinValue, null));
            foreach (object readout in readouts)
            {
                db.Delete(readout);
            }
        }
    }
}

```



```
}  
}
```

7. Inheritance

So far we have always been working with the concrete (i.e. most specific type of an object. What about subclassing and interfaces?

To explore this, we will differentiate between different kinds of sensors.

```
using System;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter5
{
    public class SensorReadout
    {
        DateTime _time;
        Car _car;
        string _description;

        public SensorReadout(DateTime time, Car car, string
description)
        {
            _time = time;
            _car = car;
            _description = description;
        }

        public Car Car
        {
            get
            {
                return _car;
            }
        }

        public DateTime Time
        {
            get
            {
                return _time;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        }
    }

    public string Description
    {
        get
        {
            return _description;
        }
    }

    override public string ToString()
    {
        return string.Format("{0}:{1}:{2}", _car, _time,
        _description);
    }
}

```

```

using System;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter5
{
    public class TemperatureSensorReadout : SensorReadout
    {
        double _temperature;

        public TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime time, Car car,
string description, double temperature)
            : base(time, car, description)
        {
            _temperature = temperature;
        }

        public double Temperature
        {
            get

```

```

        {
            return _temperature;
        }
    }

    override public string ToString()
    {
        return string.Format("{0} temp: {1}", base.ToString(),
            _temperature);
    }
}

```

```

using System;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter5
{
    public class PressureSensorReadout : SensorReadout
    {
        double _pressure;

        public PressureSensorReadout(DateTime time, Car car, string
description, double pressure)
            : base(time, car, description)
        {
            _pressure = pressure;
        }

        public double Pressure
        {
            get
            {
                return _pressure;
            }
        }

        override public string ToString()

```

```

        {
            return string.Format("{0} pressure: {1}",
base.ToString(), _pressure);
        }
    }
}

```

Our car's snapshot mechanism is changed accordingly.

```

using System;
using System.Collections;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter5
{
    public class Car
    {
        string _model;
        Pilot _pilot;
        IList _history;

        public Car(string model)
        {
            _model = model;
            _pilot = null;
            _history = new ArrayList();
        }

        public Pilot Pilot
        {
            get
            {
                return _pilot;
            }

            set
            {
                _pilot = value;
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

        }
    }

    public string Model
    {
        get
        {
            return _model;
        }
    }

    public SensorReadout[] GetHistory()
    {
        SensorReadout[] history = new
SensorReadout[_history.Count];
        _history.CopyTo(history, 0);
        return history;
    }

    public void Snapshot()
    {
        _history.Add(new TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,
this, "oil", PollOilTemperature()));
        _history.Add(new TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,
this, "water", PollWaterTemperature()));
        _history.Add(new PressureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,
this, "oil", PollOilPressure()));
    }

    protected double PollOilTemperature()
    {
        return 0.1*_history.Count;
    }

    protected double PollWaterTemperature()
    {
        return 0.2*_history.Count;
    }

    protected double PollOilPressure()
    {

```

```

        return 0.3*_history.Count;
    }

    override public string ToString()
    {
        return string.Format("{0}[{1}]/{2}", _model, _pilot,
            _history.Count);
    }
}

```

7.1. Storing

Our setup code has not changed at all, just the internal workings of a snapshot.

```

// storeFirstCar

Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
car1.Pilot = pilot1;
db.Store(car1);

```

```

// storeSecondCar

Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
car2.Pilot = pilot2;
car2.Snapshot();
car2.Snapshot();
db.Store(car2);

```

7.2. Retrieving

db4o will provide us with all objects of the given type. To collect all instances of a given class, no matter whether they are subclass members or direct instances, we just provide a corresponding prototype.

```
// retrieveTemperatureReadoutsQBE

SensorReadout proto = new TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.MinValue,
null, null, 0.0);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
4
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.8
```

```
// retrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBE

SensorReadout proto = new SensorReadout(DateTime.MinValue, null,
null);
IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
```



```
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 1.5
```

This is one more situation where QBE might not be applicable: What if the given type is an interface or an abstract class? Well, there's a little trick to keep in mind: Type objects receive special handling with QBE.

```
// retrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBEAlternative

IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(SensorReadout));
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 1.5
```

And of course there's our SODA API:

```
// retrieveAllSensorReadoutsQuery

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof(SensorReadout));
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 1.5
```

7.3. Updating and deleting

is just the same for all objects, no matter where they are situated in the inheritance tree.

Just like we retrieved all objects from the database above, we can delete all stored objects to prepare for the next chapter.

```
// deleteAll

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Object));
```

```
foreach (object item in result)
{
    db.Delete(item);
}
```

7.4. Conclusion

Now we have covered all basic OO features and the way they are handled by db4o. We will complete the first part of our db4o walkthrough in the [next chapter](#) by looking at deep object graphs, including recursive structures.

7.5. Full source

```
using System;
using System.IO;
using Db4objects.Db4o;

using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter5
{
    public class InheritanceExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
            Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
            ata),

            "formula1.yap");

        public static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            File.Delete(YapFileName);
            using (IOobjectContainer db =
            Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                StoreFirstCar(db);
                StoreSecondCar(db);
                RetrieveTemperatureReadoutsQBE(db);
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBE(db);
        RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBEAlternative(db);
        RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQuery(db);
        RetrieveAllObjects(db);
    }
}

public static void StoreFirstCar(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
    Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
    car1.Pilot = pilot1;
    db.Store(car1);
}

public static void StoreSecondCar(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
    Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
    car2.Pilot = pilot2;
    car2.Snapshot();
    car2.Snapshot();
    db.Store(car2);
}

public static void
RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBE(IObjectContainer db)
{
    SensorReadout proto = new
SensorReadout(DateTime.MinValue, null, null);
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
    ListResult(result);
}

public static void
RetrieveTemperatureReadoutsQBE(IObjectContainer db)
{
    SensorReadout proto = new
TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.MinValue, null, null, 0.0);
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(proto);
    ListResult(result);
}

```

```

    }

    public static void
RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBESAlternative(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result =
db.QueryByExample(typeof(SensorReadout));
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void
RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQuery(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof(SensorReadout));
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        ListResult(result);
    }

    public static void RetrieveAllObjects(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new object());
        ListResult(result);
    }
}
}

```

8. Deep graphs

We have already seen how db4o handles object associations, but our running example is still quite flat and simple, compared to real-world domain models. In particular we haven't seen how db4o behaves in the presence of recursive structures. We will emulate such a structure by replacing our history list with a linked list implicitly provided by the SensorReadout class.

```
using System;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter6
{
    public abstract class SensorReadout
    {
        DateTime _time;
        Car _car;
        string _description;
        SensorReadout _next;

        protected SensorReadout(DateTime time, Car car, string
description)
        {
            _time = time;
            _car = car;
            _description = description;
            _next = null;
        }

        public Car Car
        {
            get
            {
                return _car;
            }
        }

        public DateTime Time
        {
            get
```

```

        {
            return _time;
        }
    }

    public SensorReadout Next
    {
        get
        {
            return _next;
        }
    }

    public void Append(SensorReadout sensorReadout)
    {
        if (_next == null)
        {
            _next = sensorReadout;
        }
        else
        {
            _next.Append(sensorReadout);
        }
    }

    public int CountElements()
    {
        return (_next == null ? 1 : _next.CountElements() + 1);
    }

    override public string ToString()
    {
        return string.Format("{0} : {1} : {2}", _car, _time,
            _description);
    }
}

```

Our car only maintains an association to a 'head' sensor readout now.

```

using System;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter6
{
    public class Car
    {
        string _model;
        Pilot _pilot;
        SensorReadout _history;

        public Car(string model)
        {
            _model = model;
            _pilot = null;
            _history = null;
        }

        public Pilot Pilot
        {
            get
            {
                return _pilot;
            }

            set
            {
                _pilot = value;
            }
        }

        public string Model
        {
            get
            {
                return _model;
            }
        }
    }
}

```



```

public SensorReadout GetHistory()
{
    return _history;
}

public void Snapshot()
{
    AppendToHistory(new TemperatureSensorReadout(
        DateTime.Now, this, "oil", PollOilTemperature()));
    AppendToHistory(new TemperatureSensorReadout(
        DateTime.Now, this, "water",
PollWaterTemperature()));
    AppendToHistory(new PressureSensorReadout(
        DateTime.Now, this, "oil", PollOilPressure()));
}

protected double PollOilTemperature()
{
    return 0.1*CountHistoryElements();
}

protected double PollWaterTemperature()
{
    return 0.2*CountHistoryElements();
}

protected double PollOilPressure()
{
    return 0.3*CountHistoryElements();
}

override public string ToString()
{
    return string.Format("{0} [{1}] / {2}", _model, _pilot,
CountHistoryElements());
}

private int CountHistoryElements()
{
    return (_history == null ? 0 : _history.CountElements());
}

```

```

        private void AppendToHistory(SensorReadout readout)
        {
            if (_history == null)
            {
                _history = readout;
            }
            else
            {
                _history.Append(readout);
            }
        }
    }
}

```

8.1. Storing and updating

No surprises here.

```

// storeCar

Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
Car car = new Car("BMW");
car.Pilot = pilot;
db.Store(car);

```

Now we would like to build a sensor readout chain. We already know about the update depth trap, so we configure this first.

```

// takeManySnapshots

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(true);
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,

```

```

YapFileName))
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
    {
        car.Snapshot();
    }
    db.Store(car);
}

```

8.2. Retrieving

Now that we have a sufficiently deep structure, we'll retrieve it from the database and traverse it.

First let's verify that we indeed have taken lots of snapshots.

```

// retrieveAllSnapshots

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(SensorReadout));
while (result.HasNext())
{
    Console.WriteLine(result.Next());
}

```

OUTPUT:

```

BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/7 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/8 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/9 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/10 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.8

```

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/11 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 1.5
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/12 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.6000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/13 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 1.4000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/14 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 2.4
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.9
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 2.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 3.3
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 1.2000000000000002
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 2.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 4.2
```

All these readouts belong to one linked list, so we should be able to access them all by just traversing our list structure.

```
// retrieveSnapshotsSequentially

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
Car car = (Car)result.Next();
SensorReadout readout = car.GetHistory();
while (readout != null)
{
    Console.WriteLine(readout);
    readout = readout.Next;
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
null : null : null temp : 0.0
```

Ouch! What's happening here?

8.2.1. Activation depth

Deja vu - this is just the other side of the update depth issue.

db4o cannot track when you are traversing references from objects retrieved from the database. So it would always have to return 'complete' object graphs on retrieval - in the worst case this would boil down to pulling the whole database content into memory for a single query.

This is absolutely undesirable in most situations, so db4o provides a mechanism to give the client fine-grained control over how much he wants to pull out of the database when asking for an object. This mechanism is called *activation depth* and works quite similar to our familiar update depth.

The default activation depth for any object is 5, so our example above runs into nulls after traversing 5 references.

We can dynamically ask objects to activate their member references. This allows us to retrieve each single sensor readout in the list from the database just as needed.

```
// retrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyImproved

IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
Car car = (Car)result.Next();
SensorReadout readout = car.GetHistory();
while (readout != null)
```

```
{  
    db.Activate(readout, 1);  
    Console.WriteLine(readout);  
    readout = readout.Next;  
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
temp : 0.0  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water  
temp : 0.2  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
pressure : 0.6  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
temp : 0.30000000000000004  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water  
temp : 0.8  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/7 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
pressure : 1.5  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/8 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
temp : 0.60000000000000001  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/9 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water  
temp : 1.40000000000000001  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/10 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
pressure : 2.4  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/11 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
temp : 0.9  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/12 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water  
temp : 2.0  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/13 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
pressure : 3.3  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/14 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
temp : 1.20000000000000002  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water  
temp : 2.6  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil  
pressure : 4.2
```

Note that 'cut' references may also influence the behavior of your objects: in this case the length of the list is calculated dynamically, and therefor constrained by activation depth.

Instead of dynamically activating subgraph elements, you can configure activation depth statically, too. We can tell our SensorReadout class objects to cascade activation automatically, for example.

```
// retrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyCascade

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(TemperatureSensorReadout))
    .CascadeOnActivate(true);
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    SensorReadout readout = car.GetHistory();
    while (readout != null)
    {
        Console.WriteLine(readout);
        readout = readout.Next;
    }
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.8
null : null : null pressure : 0.0
```

You have to be very careful, though. Activation issues are tricky. Db4o provides a wide range of configuration features to control activation depth at a very fine-grained level. You'll find those triggers in `Db4objects.Db4o.Config.Configuration` and the associated `IObjectClass` and `IObjectField` classes.

Don't forget to clean up the database.

```
// deleteAll

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Object));
foreach (object item in result)
{
    db.Delete(item);
}
```

8.3. Conclusion

Now we should have the tools at hand to work with arbitrarily complex object graphs. But so far we have only been working forward, hoping that the changes we apply to our precious data pool are correct. What if we have to roll back to a previous state due to some failure? In the [next chapter](#) we will introduce the db4o transaction concept.

8.4. Full source

```
using System;
using System.IO;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Config;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter6
{
    public class DeepExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
            Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
            ata),
```



```

        "formula1.yap");

    public static void Main(string[] args)
    {
        File.Delete(YapFileName);
        using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
        {
            StoreCar(db);
        }
        TakeManySnapshots();
        using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
        {
            RetrieveAllSnapshots(db);
        }
        using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
        {
            RetrieveSnapshotsSequentially(db);
            RetrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyImproved(db);
        }
        RetrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyCascade();
    }

    public static void StoreCar(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
        Car car = new Car("BMW");
        car.Pilot = pilot;
        db.Store(car);
    }

    public static void TakeManySnapshots()
    {
        IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
        config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(true);
        using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
        {

```

```

        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
        Car car = (Car)result.Next();
        for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
        {
            car.Snapshot();
        }
        db.Store(car);
    }
}

public static void RetrieveAllSnapshots(IObjectContainer db)
{
    IObjectSet result =
db.QueryByExample(typeof(SensorReadout));
    while (result.HasNext())
    {
        Console.WriteLine(result.Next());
    }
}

public static void
RetrieveSnapshotsSequentially(IObjectContainer db)
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    SensorReadout readout = car.GetHistory();
    while (readout != null)
    {
        Console.WriteLine(readout);
        readout = readout.Next;
    }
}

public static void RetrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyCascade()
{
    IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(TemperatureSensorReadout))
.CascadeOnActivate(true);
    using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,

```

```

YapFileName))
    {
        IOObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
        Car car = (Car)result.Next();
        SensorReadout readout = car.GetHistory();
        while (readout != null)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(readout);
            readout = readout.Next;
        }
    }
}

public static void
RetrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyImproved(IOObjectContainer db)
{
    IOObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    SensorReadout readout = car.GetHistory();
    while (readout != null)
    {
        db.Activate(readout, 1);
        Console.WriteLine(readout);
        readout = readout.Next;
    }
}

}
}

```

9. Transactions

Probably you have already wondered how db4o handles concurrent access to a single database. Just as any other DBMS, db4o provides a transaction mechanism. Before we take a look at multiple, perhaps even remote, clients accessing a db4o instance in parallel, we will introduce db4o transaction concepts in isolation.

9.1. Commit and rollback

You may not have noticed it, but we have already been working with transactions from the first chapter on. By definition, you are always working inside a transaction when interacting with db4o. A transaction is implicitly started when you open a container, and the current transaction is implicitly committed when you close it again. So the following code snippet to store a car is semantically identical to the ones we have seen before; it just makes the commit explicit.

```
// storeCarCommit

Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
Car car = new Car("BMW");
car.Pilot = pilot;
db.Store(car);
db.Commit();
```

```
// listAllCars

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
```

However, we can also rollback the current transaction, resetting the state of our database to the last commit point.

```
// storeCarRollback

Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
Car car = new Car("Ferrari");
car.Pilot = pilot;
db.Store(car);
db.Rollback();
```

```
// listAllCars

IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
ListResult(result);
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
```

9.2. Refresh live objects

There's one problem, though: We can roll back our database, but this cannot automatically trigger a rollback for our live objects.

```
// carSnapshotRollback

IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("BMW"));
Car car = (Car)result.Next();
car.Snapshot();
db.Store(car);
```

```
db.Rollback();  
Console.WriteLine(car);
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/3
```

We will have to explicitly refresh our live objects when we suspect they may have participated in a rollback transaction.

```
// carSnapshotRollbackRefresh  
  
IOBJECTSet result=db.QueryByExample(new Car("BMW"));  
Car car=(Car)result.Next();  
car.Snapshot();  
db.Store(car);  
db.Rollback();  
db.Ext().Refresh(car, int.MaxValue);  
Console.WriteLine(car);
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
```

What is this #Ext() construct good for? Well, it provides some functionality that is in itself stable, but the API may still be subject to change. As soon as we are confident that no more changes will occur, #Ext() functionality will be transferred to the common IOBJECTContainer API.

Finally, we clean up again.

```
// deleteAll  
  
IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Object));
```

```
foreach (object item in result)
{
    db.Delete(item);
}
```

9.3. Conclusion

We have seen how transactions work for a single client. In the [Client/Server chapter](#) we will see how the transaction concept extends to multiple clients, whether they are located within the same runtime or on a remote machine.

Let's first revisit Activation again in the [next chapter](#) and take a look at how db4o can take care of our Object lifecycle automatically.

9.4. Full source

```
using System;
using System.IO;
using Db4objects.Db4o;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter6
{
    public class TransactionExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
            Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
            ata),

            "formula1.yap");

        public static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            File.Delete(YapFileName);
            using (IObjectContainer db =
                Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                StoreCarCommit(db);
            }
            using (IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(
```

```

YapFileName))
    {
        ListAllCars(db);
        StoreCarRollback(db);
    }
    using (IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
    {
        ListAllCars(db);
        CarSnapshotRollback(db);
        CarSnapshotRollbackRefresh(db);
    }
}

public static void StoreCarCommit(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
    Car car = new Car("BMW");
    car.Pilot = pilot;
    db.Store(car);
    db.Commit();
}

public static void ListAllCars(IObjectContainer db)
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
    ListResult(result);
}

public static void StoreCarRollback(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
    Car car = new Car("Ferrari");
    car.Pilot = pilot;
    db.Store(car);
    db.Rollback();
}

public static void CarSnapshotRollback(IObjectContainer db)
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(new Car("BMW"));

```



```

        Car car = (Car)result.Next();
        car.Snapshot();
        db.Store(car);
        db.Rollback();
        Console.WriteLine(car);
    }

    public static void
CarSnapshotRollbackRefresh(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result=db.QueryByExample(new Car("BMW"));
        Car car=(Car)result.Next();
        car.Snapshot();
        db.Store(car);
        db.Rollback();
        db.Ext().Refresh(car, int.MaxValue);
        Console.WriteLine(car);
    }
}
}

```

10. Transparent Activation

Let's take a second look at the concept of Activation. We have seen how db4o uses a "depth" concept by default to activate objects to a specific depth when they are returned from a query.

Wouldn't it be a lot nicer, if an application would never have to worry about activating objects and if db4o could handle things transparently for us? This is what Transparent Activation was developed for.

10.1. The Activation Problem

We can reuse most of the code from the [Deep Graphs chapter](#) and get it to work with Transparent Activation.

As a first step we should fill up our database with Car, Pilot and SensorReadout objects, so we have some objects to work with.

```
// storeCarAndSnapshots

Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Kimi Raikkonen", 110);
Car car = new Car("Ferrari");
car.Pilot = pilot;
for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
{
    car.snapshot();
}
db.Store(car);
```

If we now rerun the code to traverse all cars and their sensor readings, we are again confronted with the same problem that we had before, we end up with some leaves of our object graph being null.

```
// retrieveSnapshotsSequentially

IOBJECTSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof (Car));
Car car = (Car) result.Next();
SensorReadout readout = car.History;
```

```

while (readout != null)
{
    Console.WriteLine(readout);
    readout = readout.Next;
}

```

OUTPUT:

```

Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.0
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.2
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 0.6
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/5 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
null : null : null temp : 0.0

```

10.2. Turning On Transparent Activation

Let's configure db4o to run in Transparent Activation mode and let's try again:

```

// retrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyTA

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.Add(new TransparentActivationSupport());
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
{
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    SensorReadout readout = car.History;
    while (readout != null)
    {
        Console.WriteLine(readout);
        readout = readout.Next;
    }
}

```

```
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.0
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.2
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 0.6
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 0.8
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 1.5
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.60000000000000001
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 1.40000000000000001
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 2.4
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 0.9
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 2.0
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 3.3
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
temp : 1.20000000000000002
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : water
temp : 2.6
Ferrari[Kimi Raikkonen/110]/15 : Mon Nov 05 17:03:40 GMT 2012 : oil
pressure : 4.2
```

Wow it worked! Is it really that easy? Principally yes. When db4o is run in Transparent Activation mode there are no surprises with null members that have not yet been read from the database.

10.3. Implementing IActivatable

When Transparent Activation is turned on, all objects that do not implement the Db4objects.Db4o.TA.IActivatable interface will be fully activated when they are used.

Although we won't get any surprises with null objects when we work in this mode, access to the root of a deep graph may load the entire graph into memory and that can take a long time and use a lot of memory.

To prevent immediate activation of a class you can implement the IActivatable interface. Whenever db4o comes across an Activatable object while activating a graph of objects it will stop traversing the graph any deeper. db4o will "know" that it can activate Activatable objects on demand, so there is no reason to continue activation until these objects are really needed.

For demonstration purposes we have made all classes used in this example Activatable and we have also added all the code required to activate by hand.

Let's take a look at the Activatable version of our Car class:

```
using System;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Activation;
using Db4objects.Db4o.TA;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter8
{

    public class Car : IActivatable
    {
        private readonly String _model;
        private Pilot _pilot;
        private SensorReadout _history;

        [Transient]
        private IActivator _activator;

        public Car(String model)
        {
```

```

        this._model=model;
        this._pilot=null;
        this._history=null;
    }

    public Pilot Pilot
    {
        get
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
            return _pilot;
        }

        set
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Write);
            this._pilot = value;
        }
    }

    public Pilot PilotWithoutActivation
    {
        get { return _pilot; }
    }

    public String Model
    {
        get
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
            return _model;
        }
    }

    public SensorReadout History
    {
        get
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
            return _history;
        }
    }

```

```

    }

    public void snapshot()
    {
        AppendToHistory(new
TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,this,"oil",
PollOilTemperature()));
        AppendToHistory(new TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,
this, "water", PollWaterTemperature()));
        AppendToHistory(new PressureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now, this,
"oil", PollOilPressure()));
    }

    protected double PollOilTemperature()
    {
        return 0.1* CountHistoryElements();
    }

    protected double PollWaterTemperature()
    {
        return 0.2* CountHistoryElements();
    }

    protected double PollOilPressure()
    {
        return 0.3* CountHistoryElements();
    }

    public override String ToString()
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return string.Format("{0}[{1}]/{2}", _model, _pilot,
CountHistoryElements());
    }

    private int CountHistoryElements()
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return (_history==null ? 0 : _history.CountElements());
    }

```

```

private void AppendToHistory(SensorReadout readout)
{
    Activate(ActivationPurpose.Write);
    if(_history==null)
    {
        _history=readout;
    }
    else
    {
        _history.Append(readout);
    }
}

public void Activate(ActivationPurpose purpose)
{
    if(_activator != null)
    {
        _activator.Activate(purpose);
    }
}

public void Bind(IActivator activator)
{
    if (_activator == activator)
    {
        return;
    }
    if (activator != null && null != _activator)
    {
        throw new System.InvalidOperationException();
    }
    _activator = activator;
}
}
}

```

Can you spot the member `_activator`, all the `# Activate()` calls and the two methods `# Activate()` and `# Bind(IActivator)` at the end?

An Activatable class should store the Activator that db4o provides to the bind method in a transient variable and call # Activate() on this Activator before any field is accessed.

If the object is already activated, the method will return immediately. If it is not, activation will happen at this time.

We have added the PilotWithoutActivation property to the Car class to be able to demonstrate.

```
// demonstrateTransparentActivation

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.Add(new TransparentActivationSupport());

using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName)){
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof (Car));
    Car car = (Car) result.Next();

    Console.WriteLine("#PilotWithoutActivation before the car is
activated");
    Console.WriteLine(car.PilotWithoutActivation);

    Console.WriteLine("accessing 'Pilot' property activates the car
object");
    Console.WriteLine(car.Pilot);

    Console.WriteLine("Accessing PilotWithoutActivation property
after the car is activated");
    Console.WriteLine(car.PilotWithoutActivation);
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
#getPilotWithoutActivation() before the car is activated
null
calling #getPilot() activates the car object
Kimi Raikkonen/110
#getPilotWithoutActivation() after the car is activated
```

10.4. Where Enhancement can help

If all this Activatable code in a persistent class looked like a lot of typing work, do not worry: db4o comes with a tool to add this code automatically to all of your persistent classes. Read more about it in the chapter on [Enhancement](#) .

As a final step we should clean up the database again.

```
// deleteAll

IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Object));
foreach (object item in result)
{
    db.Delete(item);
}
```

10.5. Conclusion

This was just a short introduction to Transparent Activation and what it can do for you. For more detailed information please see the pages on Transparent Activation in our [online reference](#) or in your offline copy of the Reference documentation.

10.6. Full source

```
using System;
using System.IO;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Config;
using Db4objects.Db4o.TA;
using Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter8
```

```

{
    public class TransparentActivationExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
ata),

                                "formula1.yap");

        public static void Main(String[] args)
        {
            File.Delete(YapFileName);
            using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                StoreCarAndSnapshots(db);
            }

            using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                RetrieveSnapshotsSequentially(db);
            }

            RetrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyTA();

            DemonstrateTransparentActivation();
        }

        public static void StoreCarAndSnapshots(IObjectContainer db)
        {
            Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Kimi Raikkonen", 110);
            Car car = new Car("Ferrari");
            car.Pilot = pilot;
            for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)
            {
                car.snapshot();
            }
            db.Store(car);
        }
    }
}

```

```

        public static void
RetrieveSnapshotsSequentially(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof (Car));
        Car car = (Car) result.Next();
        SensorReadout readout = car.History;
        while (readout != null)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(readout);
            readout = readout.Next;
        }
    }

    public static void RetrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyTA()
    {
        IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
        config.Common.Add(new TransparentActivationSupport());
        using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
        {
            IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
            Car car = (Car)result.Next();
            SensorReadout readout = car.History;
            while (readout != null)
            {
                Console.WriteLine(readout);
                readout = readout.Next;
            }
        }
    }

    public static void DemonstrateTransparentActivation()
    {
        IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
        config.Common.Add(new TransparentActivationSupport());

        using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName)){
            IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof (Car));

```

```
        Car car = (Car) result.Next();

        Console.WriteLine("#PilotWithoutActivation before the  
car is activated");
        Console.WriteLine(car.PilotWithoutActivation);

        Console.WriteLine("accessing 'Pilot' property  
activates the car object");
        Console.WriteLine(car.Pilot);

        Console.WriteLine("Accessing PilotWithoutActivation  
property after the car is activated");
        Console.WriteLine(car.PilotWithoutActivation);

    }
}
}
```

11. Transparent Persistence

The problem of updating deep object structures was briefly outlined in [Structured objects chapter](#) . Update Depth configuration setting gives a user a certain control over the object updating and allows to find a balance between performance and convenient object storage code. However, this balance is far from ideal:

- when update depth is zero, each piece of code should "know" how many levels of objects should be updated; this potentially creates lots of problems when the objects are refactored;
- when update depth is maximum performance can become very poor as many unchanged objects will be stored unnecessary.

The solution to this problem is to let db4o engine decide, which objects were modified and should be stored. This feature was introduced in db4o version 7.1 and was named Transparent Persistence. So how does it work?

1. Database should be configured to use `TransparentPersistenceSupport`.
2. Persistent classes available for Transparent Persistence must implement `IActivatable` interface. This interface provides a `#Bind()` method to bind an object to the object container's activator.
3. The object is bound to the `IObjectContainer` when it is first stored or instantiated from the database.
4. When an object field is modified in the runtime, `#Activate()` method is called to register the object to be stored with the next commit. The difference from [Transparent Activation](#) is in the activation purpose: `ActivationPurpose.Write` is used for TP.
5. When the transaction is committed or the database is closed, db4o traverses the list of modified `IActivatable` objects and persists them.

Well, that's enough of theory, let's look at an example.

11.1. Transparent Persistence Example

We will use `Car` and `SensorReadout` classes from [Deep Graphs chapter](#). These are persistent classes, so if we want to use Transparent Persistence, we should make them "visible" to Transparent Persistence by implementing `IActivatable` interface.

```
using System;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Activation;
using Db4objects.Db4o.TA;
```

```

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter9
{

public class Car : IActivatable
{
    private readonly String _model;
    private SensorReadout _history;

    [Transient]
    private IActivator _activator;

    public Car(String model)
    {
        this._model=model;
        this._history=null;
    }

    public String Model
    {
        get
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
            return _model;
        }
    }

    public SensorReadout History
    {
        get
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
            return _history;
        }
    }

    public void snapshot()
    {
        AppendToHistory(new
TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,this,"oil",
PollOilTemperature()));
        AppendToHistory(new TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,

```

```

this, "water", PollWaterTemperature()));
    }

    protected double PollOilTemperature()
    {
        return 0.1* CountHistoryElements();
    }

    protected double PollWaterTemperature()
    {
        return 0.2* CountHistoryElements();
    }

    public override String ToString()
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return string.Format("{0}/{1}", _model,
CountHistoryElements());
    }

    private int CountHistoryElements()
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return (_history==null ? 0 : _history.CountElements());
    }

    private void AppendToHistory(SensorReadout readout)
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Write);
        if(_history==null)
        {
            _history=readout;
        }
        else
        {
            _history.Append(readout);
        }
    }

    public void Activate(ActivationPurpose purpose)
    {

```



```

        if(_activator != null)
        {
            _activator.Activate(purpose);
        }
    }

    public void Bind(IActivator activator)
    {
        if (_activator == activator)
        {
            return;
        }
        if (activator != null && null != _activator)
        {
            throw new System.InvalidOperationException();
        }
        _activator = activator;
    }
}
}

```

Note, that we've added an *_activator* field, *Bind* and *Activate* methods to implement *IActivatable* interface. In addition to that all methods that read or write object fields has got *activate* calls with a corresponding purpose.

Similar modifications should be done to the *SensorReadout* class.

Now we are ready to test how Transparent Persistence work. First we should configure the database to use *TransparentPersistenceSupport* before storing objects:

```

// storeCarAndSnapshots

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.Add(new TransparentPersistenceSupport());
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
{
    Car car = new Car("Ferrari");
    for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++)
    {

```

```

        car.snapshot();
    }
    db.Store(car);
}

```

Ok, all the objects are stored.

Now, let's retrieve all the stored objects and modify them:

```

// modifySnapshotHistory

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.Add(new TransparentPersistenceSupport());
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
{
    System.Console.WriteLine("Read all sensors and modify the
description:");
    IObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    SensorReadout readout = car.History;
    while (readout != null)
    {
        System.Console.WriteLine(readout);
        readout.Description = "Modified: " + readout.Description;
        readout = readout.Next;
    }
    db.Commit();
}

```

You can see that we do not have to call *#store* any more - all the objects are stored when *#commit* is called.

Let's test that the modifications actually reached the database:

```

// readSnapshotHistory

IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
config.Common.Add(new TransparentPersistenceSupport());
using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,

```

```

YapFileName))
{
    System.Console.WriteLine("Read all modified sensors:");
    IOObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    SensorReadout readout = car.History;
    while (readout != null)
    {
        System.Console.WriteLine(readout);
        readout = readout.Next;
    }
}

```

Yes, it is all as it should be. If you want to see the difference without Transparent Persistence, run the same examples without *TransparentPersistenceSupport* .

11.2. Transparent Persistence Enhancement

As we saw [before](#) enhancement tools can simplify the process for Transparent Activation. The same applies to Transparent Persistence. Actually Transparent Persistence enhancement implicitly provides TA for enhanced classes.

For more information please refer to [Enhancement chapter](#) .

11.3. Conclusion

Transparent Persistence can considerably simplify the development process at the same time providing considerable performance benefits. For more information on Transparent Persistence please refer to our [online reference](#) or your offline copy of the Reference documentation.

11.4. Full source

```

using System;
using System.IO;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Config;
using Db4objects.Db4o.TA;
using Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter9
{

```

```

public class TransparentPersistenceExample : Util
{
    readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
ata),

                                "formula1.yap");

    public static void Main(String[] args)
    {
        File.Delete(YapFileName);
        StoreCarAndSnapshots();
        ModifySnapshotHistory();
        ReadSnapshotHistory();
    }

    public static void StoreCarAndSnapshots()
    {
        IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();

        config.Common.Add(new TransparentPersistenceSupport());
        using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
        {
            Car car = new Car("Ferrari");
            for (int i = 0; i < 3; i++)
            {
                car.snapshot();
            }
            db.Store(car);
        }
    }

    public static void ModifySnapshotHistory()
    {
        IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();

        config.Common.Add(new TransparentPersistenceSupport());
        using(IObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
        {

```

```

        System.Console.WriteLine("Read all sensors and modify
the description:");
        IOObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
        Car car = (Car)result.Next();
        SensorReadout readout = car.History;
        while (readout != null)
        {
            System.Console.WriteLine(readout);
            readout.Description = "Modified: " +
readout.Description;
            readout = readout.Next;
        }
        db.Commit();
    }
}

public static void ReadSnapshotHistory()
{
    IEmbeddedConfiguration config =
Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
    config.Common.Add(new TransparentPersistenceSupport());
    using(IOObjectContainer db = Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config,
YapFileName))
    {
        System.Console.WriteLine("Read all modified
sensors:");
        IOObjectSet result = db.QueryByExample(typeof(Car));
        Car car = (Car)result.Next();
        SensorReadout readout = car.History;
        while (readout != null)
        {
            System.Console.WriteLine(readout);
            readout = readout.Next;
        }
    }
}
}
}
}

```

```

using System;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Activation;
using Db4objects.Db4o.TA;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter9
{

public class Car : IActivatable
{
    private readonly String _model;
    private SensorReadout _history;

    [Transient]
    private IActivator _activator;

    public Car(String model)
    {
        this._model=model;
        this._history=null;
    }

    public String Model
    {
        get
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
            return _model;
        }
    }

    public SensorReadout History
    {
        get
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
            return _history;
        }
    }
}

```

```

    public void snapshot()
    {
        AppendToHistory(new
TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,this,"oil",
PollOilTemperature()));
        AppendToHistory(new TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,
this, "water", PollWaterTemperature()));
    }

    protected double PollOilTemperature()
    {
        return 0.1* CountHistoryElements();
    }

    protected double PollWaterTemperature()
    {
        return 0.2* CountHistoryElements();
    }

    public override String ToString()
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return string.Format("{0}/{1}", _model,
CountHistoryElements());
    }

    private int CountHistoryElements()
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return (_history==null ? 0 : _history.CountElements());
    }

    private void AppendToHistory(SensorReadout readout)
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Write);
        if(_history==null)
        {
            _history=readout;
        }
        else

```

```

        {
            _history.Append(readout);
        }
    }

    public void Activate(ActivationPurpose purpose)
    {
        if(_activator != null)
        {
            _activator.Activate(purpose);
        }
    }

    public void Bind(IAActivator activator)
    {
        if (_activator == activator)
        {
            return;
        }
        if (activator != null && null != _activator)
        {
            throw new System.InvalidOperationException();
        }
        _activator = activator;
    }
}

```

```

using System;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Activation;
using Db4objects.Db4o.TA;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter9
{
    public class SensorReadout : IActivatable
    {
        private readonly DateTime _time;
    }
}

```



```

private readonly Car _car;
private String _description;
private SensorReadout _next;

[Transient]
private IActivator _activator;

protected SensorReadout(DateTime time, Car car, String
description)
{
    this._time = time;
    this._car = car;
    this._description = description;
    this._next = null;
}

public Car Car
{
    get
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return _car;
    }
}

public DateTime Time
{
    get
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return _time;
    }
}

public String Description
{
    get
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return _description;
    }
}

```

```

        set
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Write);
            _description = value;
        }
    }

    public SensorReadout Next
    {
        get
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
            return _next;
        }
    }

    public void Append(SensorReadout readout)
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Write);
        if (_next == null)
        {
            _next = readout;
        }
        else
        {
            _next.Append(readout);
        }
    }

    public int CountElements()
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return (_next == null ? 1 : _next.CountElements() + 1);
    }

    public override String ToString()
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return String.Format("{0} : {1} : {2}", _car, _time,
            _description);
    }

```

```

    public void Activate(ActivationPurpose purpose)
    {
        if (_activator != null)
        {
            _activator.Activate(purpose);
        }
    }

    public void Bind(IAActivator activator)
    {
        if (_activator == activator)
        {
            return;
        }
        if (activator != null && null != _activator)
        {
            throw new System.InvalidOperationException();
        }
        _activator = activator;
    }
}

```

```

using System;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Activation;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter9
{
    public class TemperatureSensorReadout : SensorReadout
    {
        private readonly double _temperature;

        public TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime time, Car car,
string description, double temperature)
            : base(time, car, description)
        {
            this._temperature = temperature;
        }
    }
}

```

```

    }

    public double Temperature
    {
        get
        {
            Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
            return _temperature;
        }
    }

    public override String ToString()
    {
        Activate(ActivationPurpose.Read);
        return string.Format("{0} temp : {1}", base.ToString(),
            _temperature);
    }
}

```

12. Client/Server

Now that we have seen how transactions work in db4o conceptually, we are prepared to tackle concurrently executing transactions.

We start by preparing our database in the familiar way.

```
// setFirstCar

Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
Car car = new Car("BMW");
car.Pilot = pilot;
db.Store(car);
```

```
// setSecondCar

Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
Car car = new Car("Ferrari");
car.Pilot = pilot;
db.Store(car);
```

12.1. Embedded server

From the API side, there's no real difference between transactions executing concurrently within the same runtime and transactions executed against a remote server. To use concurrent transactions within a single runtime, we just open a db4o server on our database file, directing it to run on port 0, thereby declaring that no networking will take place.

```
// accessLocalServer

using(IObjectServer server = Db4oClientServer.OpenServer(YapFileName,
0))
```

```
{
    using(IObjectContainer client = server.OpenClient())
    {
        // Do something with this client, or open more clients
    }
}
```

Again, we will delegate opening and closing the server to our environment to focus on client interactions.

```
// queryLocalServer

using(IObjectContainer client = server.OpenClient())
{
    ListResult(client.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
```

The transaction level in db4o is *read committed* . However, each client container maintains its own weak reference cache of already known objects. To make all changes committed by other clients immediately, we have to explicitly refresh known objects from the server. We will delegate this task to a specialized version of our #ListResult() method.

```
public static void ListRefreshedResult(IObjectContainer container,
IObjectSet items, int depth)
{
    Console.WriteLine(items.Count);
    foreach (object item in items)
    {
```

```

        container.Ext().Refresh(item, depth);
        Console.WriteLine(item);
    }
}

```

```

// demonstrateLocalReadCommitted

using(IObjectContainer client1 =server.OpenClient(),
    client2 =server.OpenClient())
{
    Pilot pilot = new Pilot("David Coulthard", 98);
    IObjectSet result = client1.QueryByExample(new Car("BMW"));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    car.Pilot = pilot;
    client1.Store(car);
    ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    client1.Commit();
    ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(typeof(Car)));
    ListRefreshedResult(client2, client2.QueryByExample(typeof(Car)),
2);
}

```

OUTPUT:

```

2
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0

```

Simple rollbacks just work as you might expect now.

```
// demonstrateLocalRollback

using (IObjectContainer client1 = server.OpenClient(),
    client2 = server.OpenClient())
{
    IObjectSet result = client1.QueryByExample(new Car("BMW"));
    Car car = (Car) result.Next();
    car.Pilot = new Pilot("Someone else", 0);
    client1.Store(car);
    ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    client1.Rollback();
    client1.Ext().Refresh(car, 2);
    ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
BMW[Someone else/0]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
```

12.2. Networking

From here it's only a small step towards operating db4o over a TCP/IP network. We just specify a port number greater than zero and set up one or more accounts for our client(s).

```
// accessRemoteServer

using(IObjectServer server = Db4oClientServer.OpenServer(YapFileName,
ServerPort))
{
    server.GrantAccess(ServerUser, ServerPassword);

    using(IObjectContainer client =
Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", ServerPort, ServerUser,
ServerPassword))
    {
        // Do something with this client, or open more clients
    }
}
```

The client connects providing host, port, user name and password.

```
// queryRemoteServer

using(IObjectContainer client =
Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password))
{
    ListResult(client.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
```

Everything else is absolutely identical to the local server examples above.

```
// demonstrateRemoteReadCommitted

using(IObjectContainer client1 =
Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password),
    client2 = Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", port,
user, password))
{
    Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Jenson Button", 97);
    IObjectSet result = client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null));
    Car car = (Car)result.Next();
    car.Pilot = pilot;
    client1.Store(car);
    ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    client1.Commit();
    ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
BMW[Jenson Button/97]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[Jenson Button/97]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[Jenson Button/97]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
```

```
// demonstrateRemoteRollback

using(IObjectContainer client1
=Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password),
    client2 =Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", port, user,
password))
{
    IObjectSet result = client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null));
    Car car = (Car) result.Next();
    car.Pilot = new Pilot("Someone else", 0);
    client1.Store(car);
    ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    client1.Rollback();
    client1.Ext().Refresh(car, 2);
    ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
}
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
BMW[Someone else/0]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[Jenson Button/97]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[Jenson Button/97]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
2
BMW[Jenson Button/97]/0
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
```

12.3. Out-of-band signalling

Sometimes a client needs to send a special message to a server in order to tell the server to do something. The server may need to be signalled to perform a defragment or it may need to be signalled to shut itself down gracefully.

This is configured by setting MessageRecipient parameter to the object that will process client-initiated messages.

```
public void RunServer()
{
    lock(this)
    {
        IServerConfiguration config =
        Db4oClientServer.NewServerConfiguration();
        // Using the messaging functionality to redirect all
        // messages to this.processMessage
        config.Networking.MessageRecipient = this;
        IObjectServer db4oServer =
        Db4oClientServer.OpenServer(config, FILE, PORT);
        db4oServer.GrantAccess(USER, PASS);

        try
        {
            if (! stop)
            {
                // wait forever until Close will change stop variable
                Monitor.Wait(this);
            }
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(e.ToString());
        }
        db4oServer.Close();
    }
}
```

The message is received and processed by a #ProcessMessage() method:

```
public void ProcessMessage(IMessageContext con, object message)
{
    if (message is StopServer)
    {
        Close();
    }
}
```

Db4o allows a client to send an arbitrary signal or message to a server by sending a plain object to the server. The server will receive a callback message, including the object that came from the client. The server can interpret this message however it wants.

```
public static void Main(string[] args)
{
    IObjectContainer IObjectContainer = null;
    try
    {
        // connect to the server
        IObjectContainer =
        Db4oClientServer.OpenClient(Db4oClientServer.NewClientConfiguration()
        ,
            HOST, PORT, USER, PASS);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        Console.WriteLine(e.ToString());
    }

    if (IObjectContainer != null)
    {
        // get the messageSender for the IObjectContainer
        IMessageSender messageSender = IObjectContainer.Ext()
            .Configure().ClientServer().GetMessageSender();
    }
}
```

```

        // send an instance of a StopServer object
        messageSender.Send(new StopServer());

        // close the IObjectContainer
        IObjectContainer.Close();
    }
}

```

12.4. Putting it all together: a simple but complete db4o server

Let's put all of this information together now to implement a simple standalone db4o server with a special client that can tell the server to shut itself down gracefully on demand.

First, both the client and the server need some shared configuration information. We will provide this using an interface:

```

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter6
{
    /// <summary>
    /// Configuration used for StartServer and StopServer.
    /// </summary>
    public class ServerInfo
    {
        /// <summary>
        /// the host to be used.
        /// If you want to run the client server examples on two
computers,
        /// enter the computer name of the one that you want to use
as server.
        /// </summary>
        public const string HOST = "localhost";

        /// <summary>
        /// the database file to be used by the server.
        /// </summary>
        public const string FILE = "formula1.yap";
    }
}

```

```

    /// <summary>
    /// the port to be used by the server.
    /// </summary>
    public const int PORT = 4488;

    /// <summary>
    /// the user name for access control.
    /// </summary>
    public const string USER = "db4o";

    /// <summary>
    /// the pasword for access control.
    /// </summary>
    public const string PASS = "db4o";
}
}

```

Now we'll create the server:

```

using System;
using System.Threading;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.CS;
using Db4objects.Db4o.CS.Config;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Messaging;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter6
{
    /// <summary>
    /// starts a db4o server with the settings from ServerInfo.
    /// This is a typical setup for a long running server.
    /// The Server may be stopped from a remote location by running
    /// StopServer. The StartServer instance is used as a
    MessageRecipient
    /// and reacts to receiving an instance of a StopServer object.
    /// Note that all user classes need to be present on the server
    side

```

```

    /// and that all possible Db4oFactory.Configure() calls to alter
the db4o

    /// configuration need to be executed on the client and on the
server.

    /// </summary>
public class StartServer : ServerInfo, IMessageRecipient
{
    /// <summary>
    /// setting the value to true denotes that the server should
be closed
    /// </summary>
private bool stop = false;

    /// <summary>
    /// starts a db4o server using the configuration from
    /// ServerInfo.
    /// </summary>
public static void Main(string[] arguments)
{
    new StartServer().RunServer();
}

    /// <summary>
    /// opens the IObjectServer, and waits forever until Close()
is called
    /// or a StopServer message is being received.
    /// </summary>
public void RunServer()
{
    lock(this)
    {
        IServerConfiguration config =
Db4oClientServer.NewServerConfiguration();

        // Using the messaging functionality to redirect all
        // messages to this.processMessage
        config.Networking.MessageRecipient = this;
        IObjectServer db4oServer =
Db4oClientServer.OpenServer(config, FILE, PORT);
        db4oServer.GrantAccess(USER, PASS);

        try

```



```

        {
            if (! stop)
            {
                // wait forever until Close will change stop
variable
                Monitor.Wait(this);
            }
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            Console.WriteLine(e.ToString());
        }
        db4oServer.Close();
    }
}

/// <summary>
/// messaging callback
/// see com.db4o.messaging.MessageRecipient#ProcessMessage()
/// </summary>
public void ProcessMessage(IMessageContext con, object
message)
{
    if (message is StopServer)
    {
        Close();
    }
}

/// <summary>
/// closes this server.
/// </summary>
public void Close()
{
    lock(this)
    {
        stop = true;
        Monitor.PulseAll(this);
    }
}
}

```

```
}
```

And last but not least, the client that stops the server.

```
using System;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.CS;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Messaging;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter6
{
    /// <summary>
    /// stops the db4o Server started with StartServer.
    /// This is done by opening a client connection
    /// to the server and by sending a StopServer object as
    /// a message. StartServer will react in it's
    /// processMessage method.
    /// </summary>
    public class StopServer : ServerInfo
    {
        /// <summary>
        /// stops a db4o Server started with StartServer.
        /// </summary>
        /// <exception cref="Exception" />
        public static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            IObjectContainer IObjectContainer = null;
            try
            {
                // connect to the server
                IObjectContainer =
                Db4oClientServer.OpenClient(Db4oClientServer.NewClientConfiguration()
                ,
                    HOST, PORT, USER, PASS);
            }
            catch (Exception e)
            {
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        Console.WriteLine(e.ToString());
    }

    if (IObjectContainer != null)
    {
        // get the messageSender for the IObjectContainer
        IMessageSender messageSender = IObjectContainer.Ext()
            .Configure().ClientServer().GetMessageSender();

        // send an instance of a StopServer object
        messageSender.Send(new StopServer());

        // close the IObjectContainer
        IObjectContainer.Close();
    }
}
}
}
}

```

12.5. Conclusion

That's it, folks. No, of course it isn't. There's much more to db4o we haven't covered yet: schema evolution, custom persistence for your classes, writing your own query objects, etc. A much more thorough documentation is provided in the reference that you should have also received with the download or [online](#).

We hope that this tutorial has helped to get you started with db4o. How should you continue now?

- Register on db4o developer [website](#).
- You could browse the remaining chapters. They are a selection of themes from the reference that very frequently come up as questions in our <http://developer.db4o.com/Forums.aspx>.
- *(Interactive version only)* While this tutorial is basically sequential in nature, try to switch back and forth between the chapters and execute the sample snippets in arbitrary order. You will be working with the same database throughout; sometimes you may just get stuck or even induce exceptions, but you can always reset the database via the console window.
- The examples we've worked through are included in your db4o distribution in full source code. Feel

free to experiment with it.

- If you're stuck, browse the information on our [web site](#), check if your problem is submitted to [Jira](#) or visit our forums at <http://developer.db4o.com/Forums.aspx>.

12.6. Full source

```
using System;
using System.IO;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.CS;
using Db4objects.Db4o.CS.Config;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter6
{
    public class ClientServerExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
            Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
            ata),

                "formula1.yap");

        readonly static int ServerPort = 0xdb40;

        readonly static string ServerUser = "user";

        readonly static string ServerPassword = "password";

        public static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            File.Delete(YapFileName);
            AccessLocalServer();
            File.Delete(YapFileName);
            using (IOObjectContainer db =
                Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                SetFirstCar(db);
                SetSecondCar(db);
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

    }

    IServerConfiguration config =
Db4oClientServer.NewServerConfiguration();
    config.Common.ObjectClass(typeof(Car)).UpdateDepth(3);
    using(IObjectServer server =
Db4oClientServer.OpenServer(config,
        YapFileName, 0))
    {
        QueryLocalServer(server);
        DemonstrateLocalReadCommitted(server);
        DemonstrateLocalRollback(server);
    }

    AccessRemoteServer();
    using(IObjectServer server =
Db4oClientServer.OpenServer(Db4oClientServer.NewServerConfiguration()
,
        YapFileName, ServerPort))
    {
        server.GrantAccess(ServerUser, ServerPassword);
        QueryRemoteServer(ServerPort, ServerUser,
ServerPassword);
        DemonstrateRemoteReadCommitted(ServerPort,
ServerUser, ServerPassword);
        DemonstrateRemoteRollback(ServerPort, ServerUser,
ServerPassword);
    }
}

public static void SetFirstCar(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
    Car car = new Car("BMW");
    car.Pilot = pilot;
    db.Store(car);
}

public static void SetSecondCar(IObjectContainer db)
{
    Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);

```

```

        Car car = new Car("Ferrari");
        car.Pilot = pilot;
        db.Store(car);
    }

    public static void AccessLocalServer()
    {
        using(IObjectServer server =
Db4oClientServer.OpenServer(YapFileName, 0))
        {
            using(IObjectContainer client = server.OpenClient())
            {
                // Do something with this client, or open more
clients
            }
        }
    }

    public static void QueryLocalServer(IObjectServer server)
    {
        using(IObjectContainer client = server.OpenClient())
        {
            ListResult(client.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
        }
    }

    public static void
DemonstrateLocalReadCommitted(IObjectServer server)
    {
        using(IObjectContainer client1 =server.OpenClient(),
            client2 =server.OpenClient())
        {
            Pilot pilot = new Pilot("David Coulthard", 98);
            IObjectSet result = client1.QueryByExample(new
Car("BMW"));

            Car car = (Car)result.Next();
            car.Pilot = pilot;
            client1.Store(car);
            ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
            ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));

```

```

        client1.Commit();
        ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(typeof(Car)));

        ListRefreshedResult(client2,
client2.QueryByExample(typeof(Car)), 2);
    }
}

public static void DemonstrateLocalRollback(IObjectServer
server)
{
    using (IObjectContainer client1 = server.OpenClient(),
        client2 = server.OpenClient())
    {
        IObjectSet result = client1.QueryByExample(new
Car("BMW"));

        Car car = (Car) result.Next();
        car.Pilot = new Pilot("Someone else", 0);
        client1.Store(car);
        ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
        ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
        client1.Rollback();
        client1.Ext().Refresh(car, 2);
        ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
        ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    }
}

public static void AccessRemoteServer()
{
    using(IObjectServer server =
Db4oClientServer.OpenServer(YapFileName, ServerPort))
    {
        server.GrantAccess(ServerUser, ServerPassword);

        using(IObjectContainer client =
Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", ServerPort, ServerUser,
ServerPassword))
        {
            // Do something with this client, or open more
clients

```

```

        }
    }
}

    public static void QueryRemoteServer(int port, string user,
string password)
    {
        using(IObjectContainer client =
Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password))
        {
            ListResult(client.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
        }
    }

    public static void DemonstrateRemoteReadCommitted(int port,
string user, string password)
    {
        using(IObjectContainer client1 =
Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password),
            client2 =
Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password))
        {
            Pilot pilot = new Pilot("Jenson Button", 97);
            IObjectSet result = client1.QueryByExample(new
Car(null));

            Car car = (Car)result.Next();
            car.Pilot = pilot;
            client1.Store(car);
            ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
            ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
            client1.Commit();
            ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
            ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
        }
    }

    public static void DemonstrateRemoteRollback(int port, string
user, string password)
    {
        using(IObjectContainer client1
=Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password),

```



```

        client2 = Db4oClientServer.OpenClient("localhost",
port, user, password))
    {
        IObjectSet result = client1.QueryByExample(new
Car(null));

        Car car = (Car) result.Next();
        car.Pilot = new Pilot("Someone else", 0);
        client1.Store(car);
        ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
        ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
        client1.Rollback();
        client1.Ext().Refresh(car, 2);
        ListResult(client1.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
        ListResult(client2.QueryByExample(new Car(null)));
    }
}
}
}

```

13. SODA Evaluations

In the [SODA API chapter](#) we already mentioned *Evaluations* as a means of providing user-defined custom constraints and as a means to run any arbitrary code in a SODA query. Let's have a closer look.

13.1. Evaluation API

The evaluation API consists of two interfaces, `IEvaluation` and `ICandidate`. Evaluation implementations are implemented by the user and injected into a query. During a query, they will be called from db4o with a candidate instance in order to decide whether to include it into the current (sub-)result.

The `IEvaluation` interface contains a single method only:

```
public void Evaluate(ICandidate candidate);
```

This will be called by db4o to check whether the object encapsulated by this candidate should be included into the current candidate set.

The `ICandidate` interface provides three methods:

```
public object GetObject();  
public void Include(bool flag);  
public IObjectContainer ObjectContainer();
```

An Evaluation implementation may call `#GetObject()` to retrieve the actual object instance to be evaluated, it may call `#Include()` to instruct db4o whether or not to include this object in the current

candidate set, and finally it may access the current database directly by calling `#ObjectContainer()` .

13.2. Example

For a simple example, let's go back to our Pilot/Car implementation from the [Collections chapter](#). Back then, we kept a history of `SensorReadout` instances in a `List` member inside the car. Now imagine that we wanted to retrieve all cars that have assembled an even number of history entries. A quite contrived and seemingly trivial example, however, it gets us into trouble: Collections are transparent to the query API, it just 'looks through' them at their respective members.

So how can we get this done? Let's implement an `Evaluation` that expects the objects passed in to be instances of type `Car` and checks their history size.

```
using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;

using Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter4;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter7
{
    public class EvenHistoryEvaluation : IEvaluation
    {
        public void Evaluate(ICandidate candidate)
        {
            Car car=(Car)candidate.GetObject();
            candidate.Include(car.History.Count % 2 == 0);
        }
    }
}
```

To test it, let's add two cars with history sizes of one, respectively two:

```
// storeCars

Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
```

```

Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
car1.Pilot = pilot1;
car1.Snapshot();
db.Store(car1);
Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
car2.Pilot = pilot2;
car2.Snapshot();
car2.Snapshot();
db.Store(car2);

```

and run our evaluation against them:

```

// queryWithEvaluation

IQuery query = db.Query();
query.Constrain(typeof (Car));
query.Constrain(new EvenHistoryEvaluation());
IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
Util.ListResult(result);

```

OUTPUT:

```

1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2

```

13.3. Drawbacks

While evaluations offer you another degree of freedom for assembling queries, they come at a certain cost: As you may already have noticed from the example, evaluations work on the fully instantiated objects, while 'normal' queries peek into the database file directly. So there's a certain performance penalty for the object instantiation, which is wasted if the object is not included into the candidate set.

Another restriction is that, while 'normal' queries can bypass encapsulation and access candidates'

private members directly, evaluations are bound to use their external API, just as in the language itself.

13.4. Conclusion

With the introduction of evaluations we finally completed our query toolbox. Evaluations provide a simple way of assemble arbitrary custom query building blocks, however, they come at a price.

13.5. Full source

```
using System;
using System.IO;
using Db4objects.Db4o;
using Db4objects.Db4o.Query;

using Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter4;

namespace Db4odoc.Tutorial.F1.Chapter7
{
    public class EvaluationExample : Util
    {
        readonly static string YapFileName = Path.Combine(
Environment.GetFolderPath(Environment.SpecialFolder.LocalApplicationD
ata),

                                "formula1.yap");
        public static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            File.Delete(YapFileName);
            using(IObjectContainer db =
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(YapFileName))
            {
                StoreCars(db);
                QueryWithEvaluation(db);
            }
        }

        public static void StoreCars(IObjectContainer db)
```

```

    {
        Pilot pilot1 = new Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100);
        Car car1 = new Car("Ferrari");
        car1.Pilot = pilot1;
        car1.Snapshot();
        db.Store(car1);
        Pilot pilot2 = new Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99);
        Car car2 = new Car("BMW");
        car2.Pilot = pilot2;
        car2.Snapshot();
        car2.Snapshot();
        db.Store(car2);
    }

    public static void QueryWithEvaluation(IObjectContainer db)
    {
        IQuery query = db.Query();
        query.Constrain(typeof (Car));
        query.Constrain(new EvenHistoryEvaluation());
        IObjectSet result = query.Execute();
        Util.ListResult(result);
    }
}

```

14. Configuration

db4o provides a wide range of configuration methods to request special behaviour. For a complete list of all available methods see the API documentation for the `Db4objects.Db4o.Config` and `Db4objects.Db4o.CS.Config` namespaces.

A more complete description of Configuration usage and scope can also be obtained from the [Reference](#) documentation.

Some hints around using configuration calls:

14.1. Scope

Configuration should be created and passed to an opening `ObjectContainer` or `ObjectServer`:

```
IEmbeddedConfiguration config = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();
```

```
IServerConfiguration serverConfig =  
Db4oClientServer.NewServerConfiguration();
```

```
IClientConfiguration clientConfig =  
Db4oClientServer.NewClientConfiguration();
```

Appropriate configuration should be submitted when an `IObjectContainer` `ObjectServer` is opened:

```
Db4oEmbedded.OpenFile(config, filename)
```

```
Db4oClientServer.OpenServer(serverConfig, filename, PORT)
```

```
Db4oClientServer.OpenClient(clientConfig, HOST, PORT, USER, PASS);
```

A separate configuration instance should be created for each new `IObjectContainer` `ObjectServer`. It is recommended to use a factory method with all the necessary settings.

14.2. Calling Methods

Configurations that influence the database file format will have to take place, before a database is created, before the first `#OpenXXX()` call. Some examples:

```
IEmbeddedConfiguration conf = Db4oEmbedded.NewConfiguration();  
conf.BlockSize(8);  
conf.StringEncoding(new MyStringEncoding());
```

Configuration settings are **not** stored in db4o database files. Accordingly the same configuration has to be submitted **every time** an `IObjectContainer` `ObjectServer` is opened.

15. Indexes

db4o allows to index fields to provide maximum querying performance. To request an index to be created, you would issue the following API method call in your global [db4o configuration method](#) before you open an `IObjectContainer/IObjectServer`:

```
// assuming
class Foo
{
    String bar;
}

ICommonConfiguration#ObjectClass(typeof(Foo)).ObjectField("bar").Indexed(true);
```

If the configuration is set in this way, an index on the `Foo#bar` field will be created (if not present already) the next time you open an `IObjectContainer/IObjectServer` and you use the `Foo` class the first time in your application.

Contrary to all other [configuration calls](#) indexes - once created - will remain in a database even if the index configuration call is not issued before opening an `IObjectContainer/IObjectServer`.

To drop an index you would also issue a configuration call in your db4o configuration method:

```
ICommonConfiguration#ObjectClass(typeof(Foo)).ObjectField("bar").Indexed(false);
```

Actually dropping the index will take place the next time the respective class is used.

db4o will tell you when it creates and drops indexes, if you choose a message level of 1 or higher:

```
ICommonConfiguration#MessageLevel(1);
```

For creating and dropping indexes on large amounts of objects there are two possible strategies:

(1) Import all objects with indexing off, configure the index and reopen the ObjectContainer/ObjectServer.

(2) Import all objects with indexing turned on and commit regularly for a fixed amount of objects (~10,000).

(1) will be faster.

(2) will keep memory consumption lower.

16. IDs

The db4o team recommends, not to use object IDs where this is not necessary. db4o keeps track of object identities in a transparent way, by identifying "known" objects on updates. The reference system also makes sure that every persistent object is instantiated only once, when a graph of objects is retrieved from the database, no matter which access path is chosen. If an object is accessed by multiple queries or by multiple navigation access paths, db4o will always return the one single object, helping you to put your object graph together exactly the same way as it was when it was stored, without having to use IDs.

The use of IDs does make sense when object and database are disconnected, for instance in stateless applications.

db4o provides two types of ID systems.

16.1. Internal IDs

The internal db4o ID is a physical pointer into the database with only one indirection in the file to the actual object so it is the fastest external access to an object db4o provides. The internal ID of an object is available with

```
objectContainer.Ext().GetID(object);
```

To get an object for an internal ID use

```
objectContainer.Ext().GetByID(id);
```

Note that `#GetByID()` does not activate objects. If you want to work with objects that you get with `#GetByID()`, your code would have to make sure the object is [activated](#) by calling

```
objectContainer.Activate(object, depth);
```

db4o assigns internal IDs to any stored first class object. These internal IDs are guaranteed to be unique within one `IObjectContainer/IObjectServer` and they will stay the same for every object when an `IObjectContainer/IObjectServer` is closed and reopened. Internal IDs **will change** when an object is moved from one `IObjectContainer` to another, as it happens during Defragment.

16.2. Unique Universal IDs (UUIDs)

For long term external references and to identify an object even after it has been copied or moved to another `IObjectContainer`, db4o supplies UUIDs. These UUIDs are not generated by default, since they occupy some space and consume some performance for maintaining their index. UUIDs can be turned on globally or for individual classes:

```
IFileConfiguration#GenerateUUIDs(Int32.MaxValue);  
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(typeof(Foo)).GenerateUUIDs(true);
```

The respective methods for working with UUIDs are:

```
IExtObjectContainer#GetObjectInfo(object)  
IObjectInfo#GetUUID();  
IExtObjectContainer#GetByUUID(Db4oUUID);
```

17. Enhancement

As we have seen both [Transparent Activation](#) and [Native Queries](#) will produce correct results out-of-the-box.

To get your application to run as fast as possible with db4o, you will want to make sure that only required objects are loaded from the database and that Native Queries are optimized to use field indexes where this is possible.

Theoretically you could write all the necessary code by hand but you will save yourself a lot of time if you use automatic enhancement. Using the db4o enhancer tools you can automatically add code to your assemblies to make them work even better with db4o.

There are two possible strategies to enhance your assemblies:

[Enhancement with MSBuild](#)

[Enhancement using Db4oTool](#)

17.1. Required Libraries

The db4o enhancer requires the following assemblies in order to work:

Cecil.FlowAnalysis.dll

IL code flow analysis

Db4objects.Db4o.dll

db4o core engine

Db4objects.Db4o.Instrumentation.dll

IL code instrumentation

Db4objects.Db4o.NativeQueries.dll

Native Query Analyzer

Db4oTool.exe

commandline tool

Db4oTool.MSBuild.dll

MSBuild tasks

Mono.Cecil.dll

IL code handling

Mono.GetOptions.dll

helper library for Cecil

17.2. Enhancement with MSBuild

When csc (or Visual Studio, calling csc) compiles your assemblies, it uses the instructions in your csproj project files to know what to do. The "code" in csproj files is plain XML, it is very well readable and you can add your own tasks to the build by editing the files with your favourite (XML) editor.

If you want the produced assemblies to be enhanced for db4o, you can add the db4o enhancer build task to your csproj files as an "AfterBuild" task.

Db4oTool.MSBuild.dll contains the main MSBuild enhancer task:

Db4oTool.MSBuild.Db4oEnhancerMSBuildTask

For all possibilities of using this task see the [topics on transparent activation](#) in the reference documentation.

The simplest enhancer task does both: It optimizes Native Queries and it adds the IActivatable interface to your classes, making sure a persistent object is activated whenever any field is read. Here is a simple example of how such an addition to MSBuild task could look like:

```
<Project DefaultTargets="Build"
xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/developer/msbuild/2003">

  <!--
    Normal build code here
  -->

  <UsingTask AssemblyFile="$(OutputPath)\Db4oTool.MSBuild.dll"
TaskName="Db4oTool.MSBuild.Db4oEnhancerMSBuildTask" />
  <ItemGroup>
    <Db4oEnhance Include="$(TargetPath)" />
  </ItemGroup>
  <Target Name="AfterBuild">
    <Db4oEnhancerMSBuildTask Assemblies="@ (Db4oEnhance)" />
  </Target>
</Project>
```

```
</Target>

</Project>
```

17.3. Enhancement using Db4oTool

Db4oTool.exe is a top level command line interface to all enhancement tasks. You can either add it to your own build setup or you can directly integrate it from within Visual Studio.

To get you an idea on how you can set things up, here is a step-by-step example how you could integrate Db4oTool.exe from Visual Studio.NET 2005 to do it's post-build tasks for a CompactFramework 2.0 project:

- In Visual Studio, right click on the project you want to enable Native Query optimization for
- Select '**Properties**'
- In the Properties Page select the **Build Events** tab
- In the **Post-build event command line** text box insert the following text:
<path-to-your-db4o-installation>/bin/Db4oTool.exe -ta -nq \$(TargetPath) (replace <path-to-your-db4o-installation> with the correct path for your system)

Db4oTool.exe offers different command line options for different setups. You can get a list of options directly from Db4oTool.exe by calling

```
Db4oTool.exe -help
```

Options may be grouped into 4 categories:

[Enhancement Modes](#)

[Target types \(classes\) specification](#)

[Output related options](#)

[Misc Options](#)

17.3.1. Enhancement Modes

With the options in this group you can specify which type of instrumentation you want to apply (either [Transparent Activation](#) or [Native Queries Optimization](#) or both)

- ta : Add Transparent Activation Support
- nq : Optimize Native Queries
- instrumentation:PARAM : Use your own instrumentation type

17.3.2. Target types (classes) specification

When enhancing an assembly it's possible to enhance all or some of its types through the following options:

- by-attribute:PARAM Filter types to be instrumented by attribute
- by-filter:PARAM Custom type filter
- by-name:PARAM Filter types by name (with regular expression syntax)
- not Negates the last filter

Note that these filters specifies which types should be included in the enhancement process. enhanced. If you want to filter out (i.e, to not enhance some types) you can specify **-not** option.

-by-namefilter expects a regular expression and will include each type whose fully qualified name matches this regular expression.

17.3.3. Output related options

Output related options

- debug Preserve debugging information
- fake Fake operation mode, assembly won't be written

17.3.4. Misc Options

- case-sensitive Case sensitive queries
- ? -help Show this help list
- usage Show usage syntax and exit
- v -verbose Verbose operation mode

-V -version	Display version and licensing information
-vv	Pretty verbose operation mode

17.4. Native Query Optimization

The Native Query optimizer is still under development to eventually "understand" all valid C# constructs. Current optimization supports the following constructs well:

- compile-time constants
- simple member access
- primitive comparisons
- equality operator
- #Contains()/#StartsWith()/#EndsWith() for Strings
- boolean expressions
- arbitrary method calls (including property accessors) on predicate fields (without any arguments)
- candidate methods composed of the above
- chained combinations of the above

Note that the current implementation does not support polymorphism yet.

If optimization is turned off or not possible for some reason, a Native Query will be executed by instantiating all objects, using [SODA Evaluations](#). Naturally performance will not be as good in this case, but queries will still deliver correct results.

17.4.1. Native Query Optimization on CompactFramework 2.0

Due to some platform limitations, CompactFramework 2.0 users using the convenient delegate based Native Query syntax that want their queries to be optimized are required to run the Db4oTool.exe command line utility on their assemblies prior to deploying them.

The Db4oTool.exe utility, which can be found in the /bin folder of this distribution is required because the CompactFramework API does not expose any of the delegate metadata needed by the Native Query optimizer.

The tool can be easily integrated inside Visual Studio.NET 2005 as a Post Build tool by following the simple steps below:

- Right click the project you want to enable Native Query optimization for
- Select '**Properties**'
- In the Properties Page select the '**Build Events**' tab

- In the 'Post-build event command line' text box insert the following text "<path-to-your-db4o-installation>/bin/Db4oTool.exe -nq \$(TargetPath)" without the quotes and replacing <path-to-your-db4o-installation> to the correct value for your system.

17.4.2. Monitoring optimization

To monitor optimization you can attach event handlers to the IObjectContainer:

```
NativeQueryHandler handler =  
    ((ObjectContainerBase)container).GetNativeQueryHandler();  
handler.QueryExecution += OnQueryExecution;  
handler.QueryOptimizationFailure += OnQueryOptimizationFailure;
```

18. License

[Versant Inc.](#) supplies the object database engine db4o under a triple licensing regime:

18.1. General Public License (GPL)

db4o is free to be used:

- for development,
- in-house as long as no deployment to third parties takes place,
- together with works that are placed under the GPL themselves.

You should have received a copy of the GPL in the file db4o.license.html together with the db4o distribution.

If you have questions about when a commercial license is required, please read our GPL Interpretation policy for further detail, available at:

<http://www.db4o.com/about/company/legalpolicies/gplinterpretation.aspx>

18.2. Opensource Compatibility license (dOCL)

The db4o Opensource Compatibility License (dOCL) is designed for free/open source projects that want to embed db4o but do not want to (or are not able to) license their derivative work under the GPL in its entirety. This initiative aims to proliferate db4o into many more open source projects by providing compatibility for projects licensed under Apache, LGPL, BSD, EPL, and others, as required by our users. The terms of this license are available here: ["dOCL" agreement](#).

18.3. Commercial License

For incorporation into own commercial products and for use together with redistributed software that is not placed under the GPL, db4o is also available under a commercial license.

Visit the [purchasing area on the db4o website](#) or [contact db4o sales](#) for licensing terms and pricing.

18.4. Bundled 3rd Party Licenses

The db4o distribution comes with the following 3rd party libraries:

-[Mono.Cecil](#)(MIT/X11)

Used inside Db4oTool.exe, Db4objects.Db4o.Instrumentation.dll and Db4objects.Db4o.NativeQueries.dll

Cecil is used to read the CIL code during NQ and TA enhancement.

-[Cecil.FlowAnalysis](#)(MIT/X11)

Used inside Db4oTool.exe, Db4objects.Db4o.Instrumentation.dll and
Db4objects.Db4o.NativeQueries.dll

Cecil.FlowAnalysis is used to analyse the CIL code during NQ and TA enhancement.

-[Mono.GetOptions](#)(MIT/X11)

Used inside Db4oTool.exe

Mono.GetOptions is used to parse the command line of the Db4oAdmin.exe tool.

19. Contacting Versant

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