

Configuring an ASP.NET Application to Use Membership

.NET Framework 4 14 out of 22 rated this helpful

ASP.NET Membership is configured using the [membership](#) element in the Web.config file for your application. The **membership** element is a sub-element of the **system.web** section. You can enable ASP.NET Membership for an application by directly editing the Web.config file for that application, or you can use the Web Site Administration Tool, which provides a wizard-based interface. As part of membership configuration, you specify:

- Which membership provider (or providers) to use. (This typically also specifies what database to store membership information in.)
- Password options such as encryption and whether to support password recovery based on a user-specific question.
- Users and passwords. If you are using the Web Site Administration Tool, you can create and manage users directly. Otherwise, you must call membership functions to create and manage users programmatically.

For an example of configuring ASP.NET Membership using the Web Site Administration Tool, see [Walkthrough: Creating a Web Site with Membership and User Login](#).

Specifying the Default Provider

You specify the default membership provider using the **defaultProvider** attribute of the **membership** element. The machine configuration specifies a [SqlMembershipProvider](#) instance named "AspNetSqlMembershipProvider" that is identified as the default provider if you do not specify a default provider explicitly. The "AspNetSqlMembershipProvider" connects to the aspnetdb database in the local SQL Server.

Note

You need to set up the database used by the [SqlMembershipProvider](#) before using it in an application. For details, see [Creating and Configuring the Application Services Database for SQL Server](#).

You can also specify the default provider instance and options for that provider by configuring a provider in the **membership** section. You use the **providers** element to identify a provider to add to the collection of providers available for the application. You can identify your provider instance as the default provider by using the value of the **name** attribute as the **defaultProvider** value. When you specify a provider instance, you must also specify a valid connection string for that instance by using the [connectionStrings](#) section of the configuration. For example, the following Web.config file identifies a [SqlMembershipProvider](#) instance that connects to a SQL Server other than the local server.

```
<configuration>
  <connectionStrings>
    <add name="MySQLConnection" connectionString="Data
      Source=MySQLServer;Initial Catalog=aspnetdb;Integrated
      Security=SSPI;" />
  </connectionStrings>
  <system.web>
    <authentication mode="Forms" >
      <forms loginUrl="login.aspx"
        name=".ASPXFORMSAUTH" />
    </authentication>
    <authorization>
      <deny users="?" />
    </authorization>
    <membership defaultProvider="SqlProvider" userIsOnlineTimeWindow="15">
      <providers>
        <clear />
        <add
          name="SqlProvider"
          type="System.Web.Security.SqlMembershipProvider"
          connectionStringName="MySQLConnection"
          applicationName="MyApplication"
          enablePasswordRetrieval="false"
          enablePasswordReset="true"
          requiresQuestionAndAnswer="true"
          requiresUniqueEmail="true"
          passwordFormat="Hashed" />
        </providers>
      </membership>
    </system.web>
  </configuration>
```

See Also

Other Resources

[Managing Users by Using Membership](#)

Community Additions

misleading 'mysqlconnection'

Until now there is still confusion. The connectionString part of the article must be changed.



Alfred Roa

2/27/2013

Fwd: misleading connection string name

I agree with rtpHarry. At the first glance, it seems very much like "MySQL".

However, it would be much better, if names like, "MyMSSqlConnection", "MyMSSqlServer", etc. are used.



Chaitanya Phadke

7/28/2010

misleading connection string name

The name of the connection string is misleading. Its name is MySqlConnection which is following the old windows terminology such as My Computer.

However if the user is not familiar with the technologies they could be mislead into think it is a connection string for the open source database product MySQL which is most commonly used on the PHP development platform.

The database connection is in fact for a MS SQL / Microsoft Sql Server based database.



rtpHarry

6/8/2010

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