How to Form Text with Values

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Form Text with Values

In many situations, we want to use properties to form a text. For example, a text may be

Dear {Name}

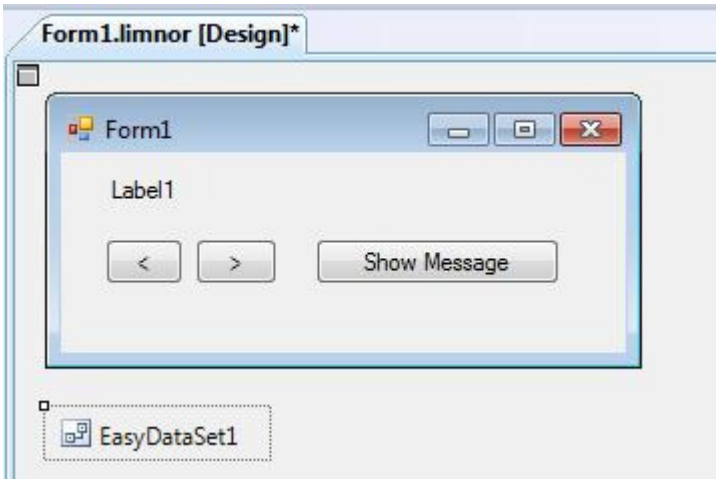
Where {Name} is a value determined at runtime.

Below we will explain how to do such programming in two different ways.

String Expression

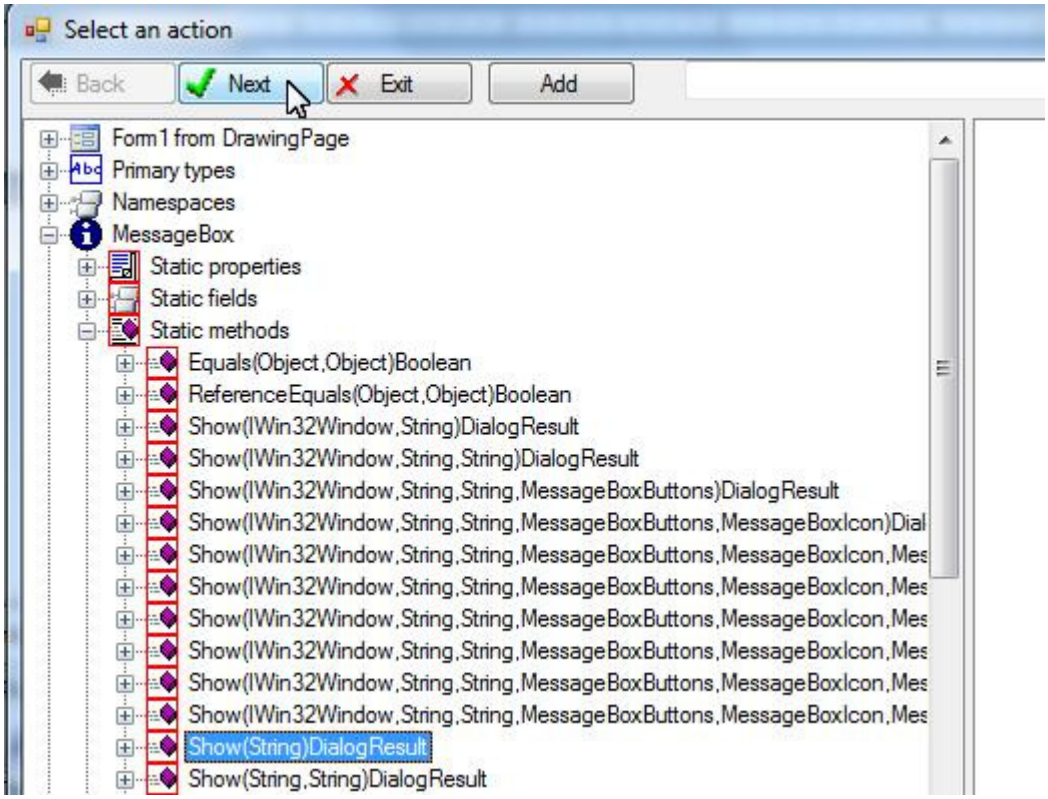
There is an expression entity, its symbol is A+, can be used to do it.

For example, suppose we have an EasyDataSet providing records from database, we have buttons to navigate through the records. We use a button to display a message box. The message box displays a message which is formed by the contents of fields from the current record of the EasyDataSet. We will see that each time click the message button, it may display a message with values from the current record.

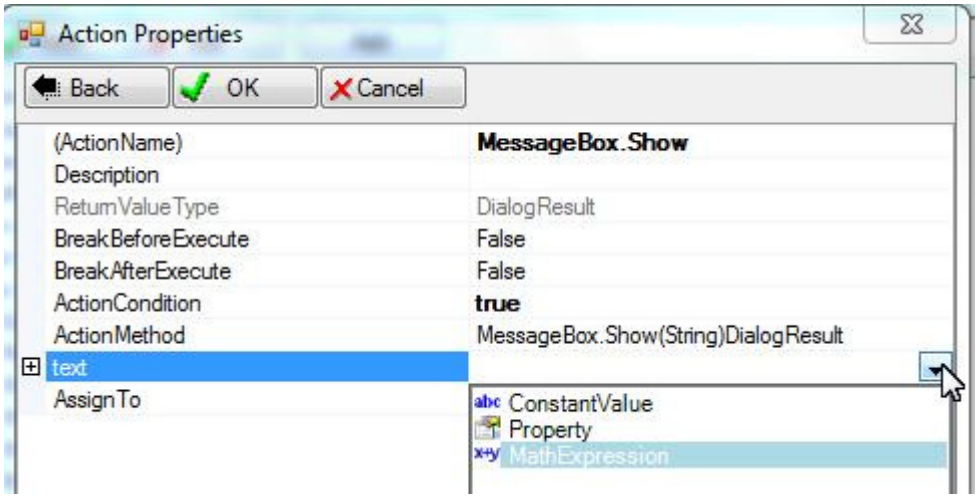


Right-click the message button; choose “Assign Action”; choose “Click” event:

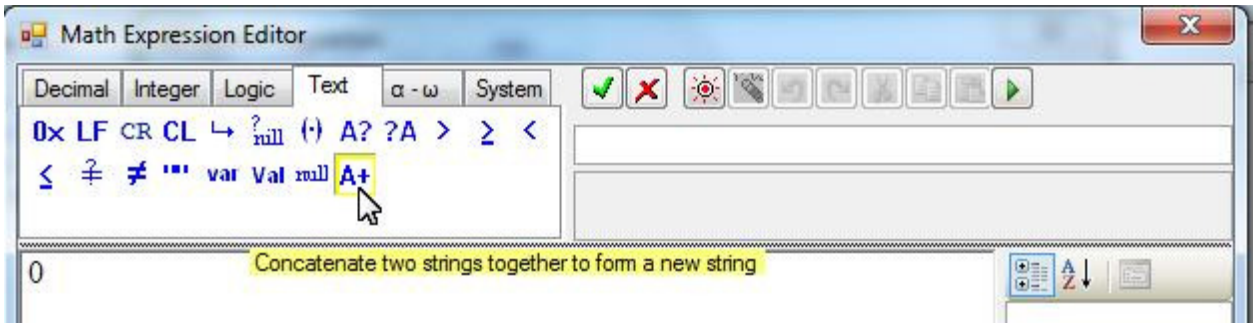
Select Show method of the MessageBox class:



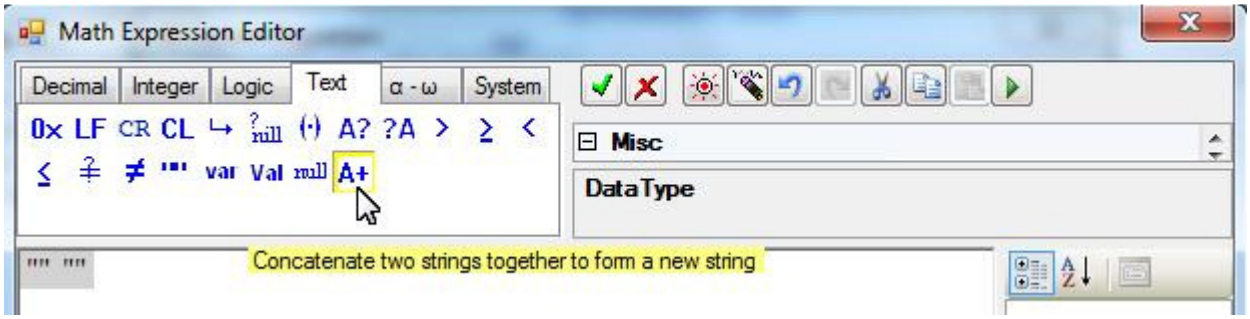
Note that the “text” parameter of the action is the message to be displayed. Choose Math Expression to form a string expression.



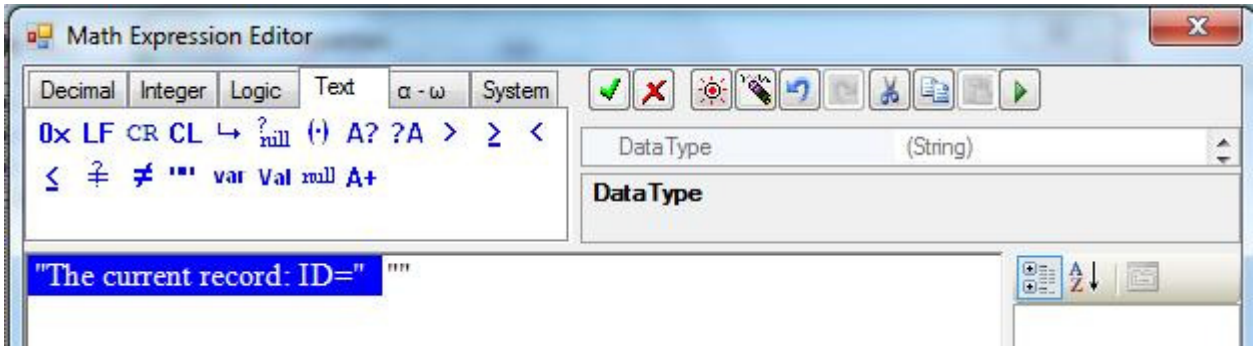
Click icon A+ to form string concatenation:



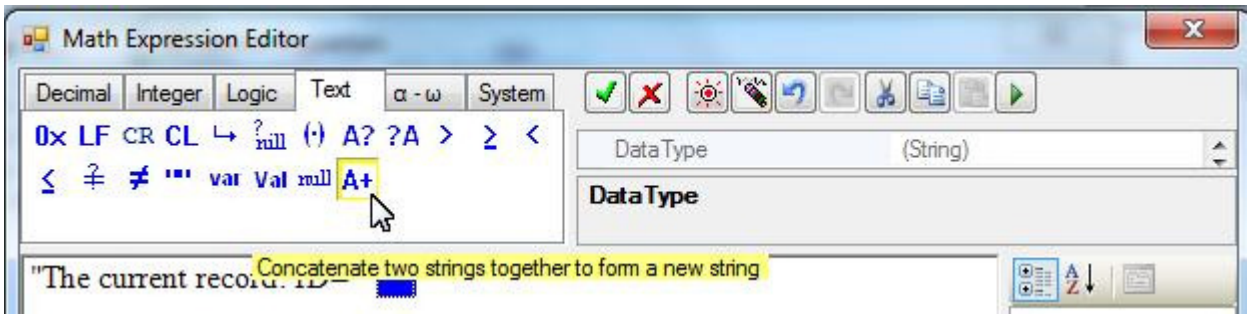
Two empty strings appear in the expression:



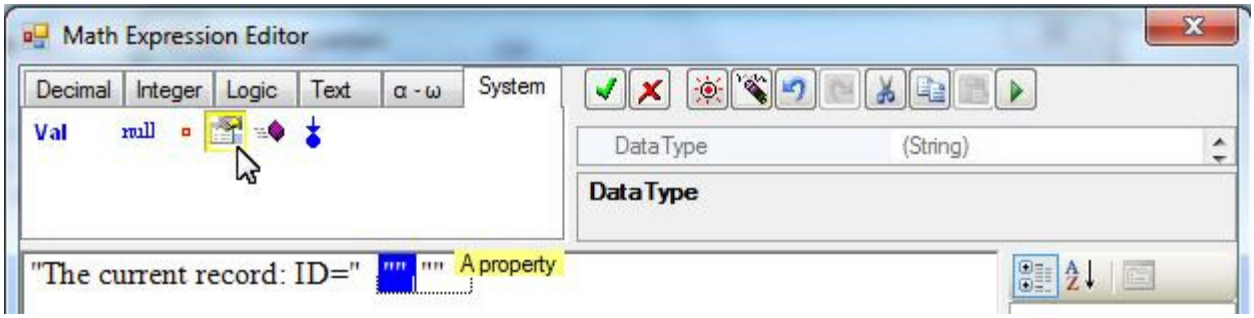
Select the first string, type in some constant text:



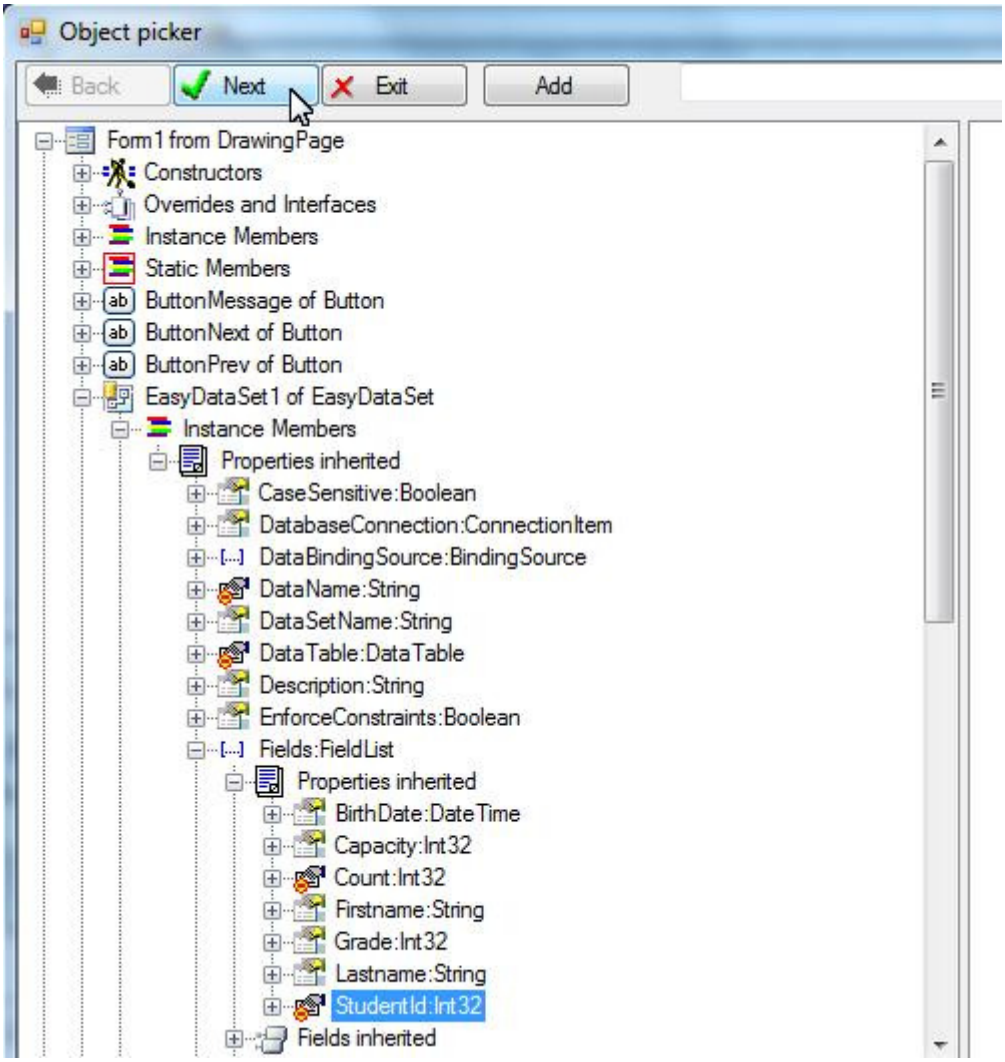
Select the second string; click A+ again to add more string elements:



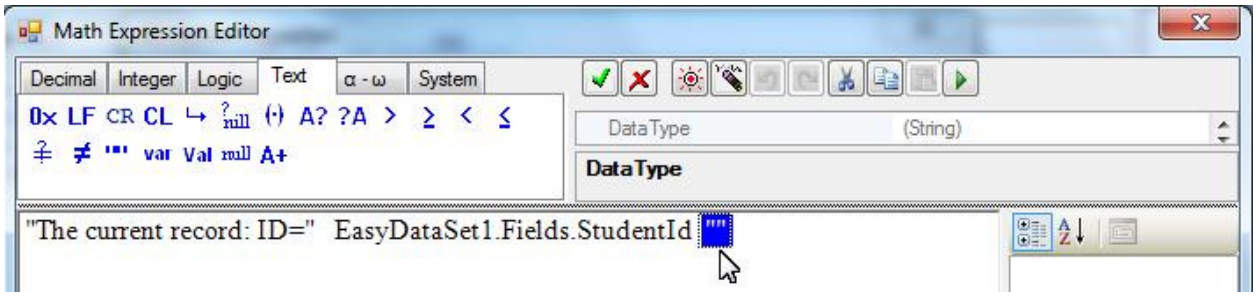
Select the second element; click the Property icon to use a property for this element:

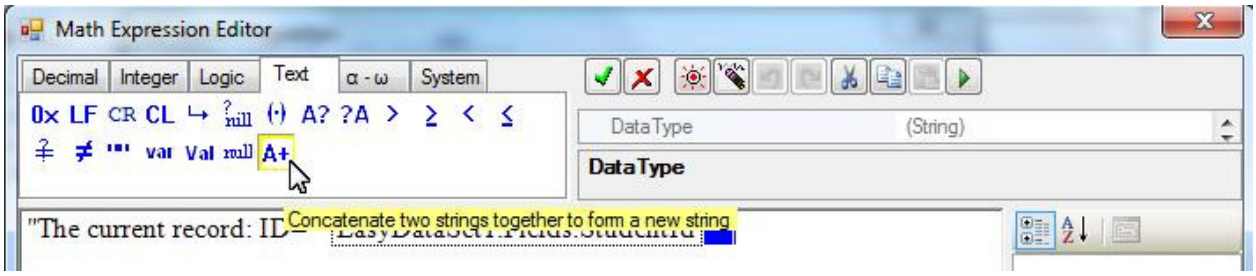


Select a database field from the EasyDataSet:

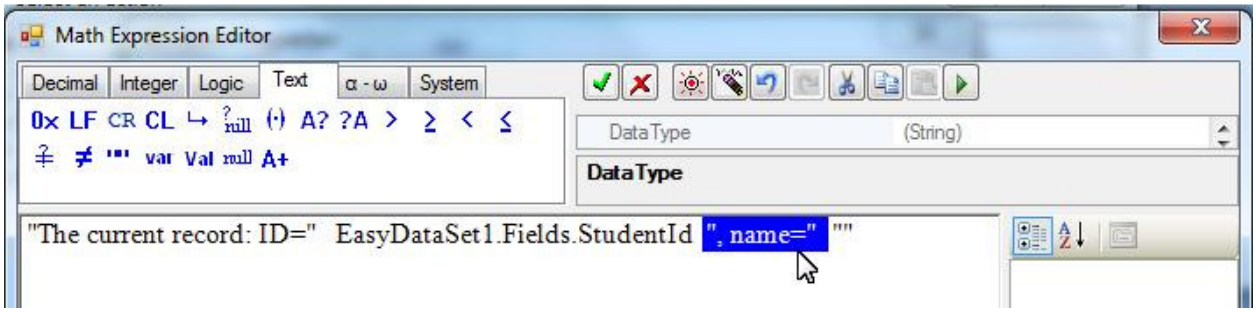


The property appears in the expression. Select the last element; click A+ to add more string element:

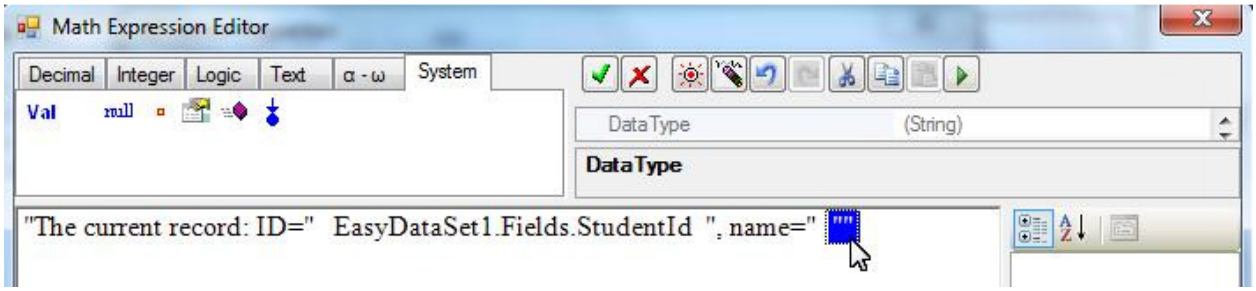




Select the element following the property; type in some text:



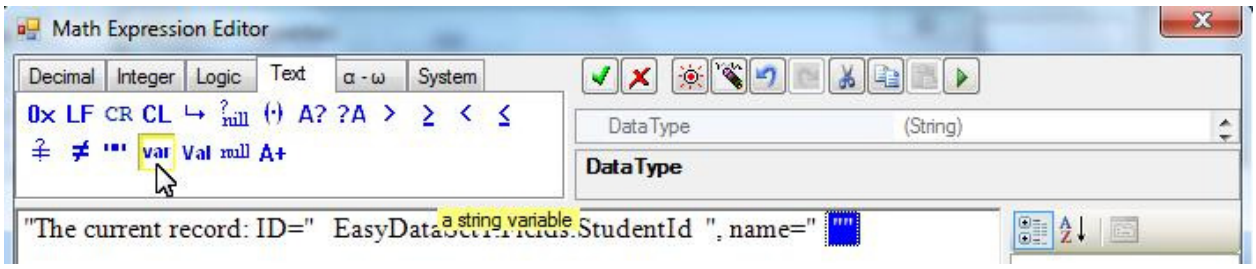
Select the last element:



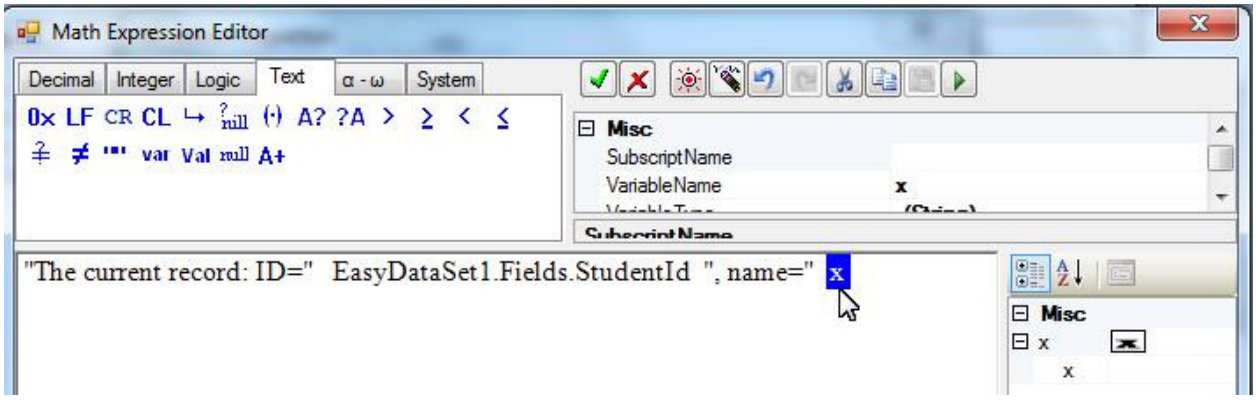
If we want to add more string elements then we may click the A+ icon again.

If we do not need more string element then we may click the Property icon to select the property for this last element.

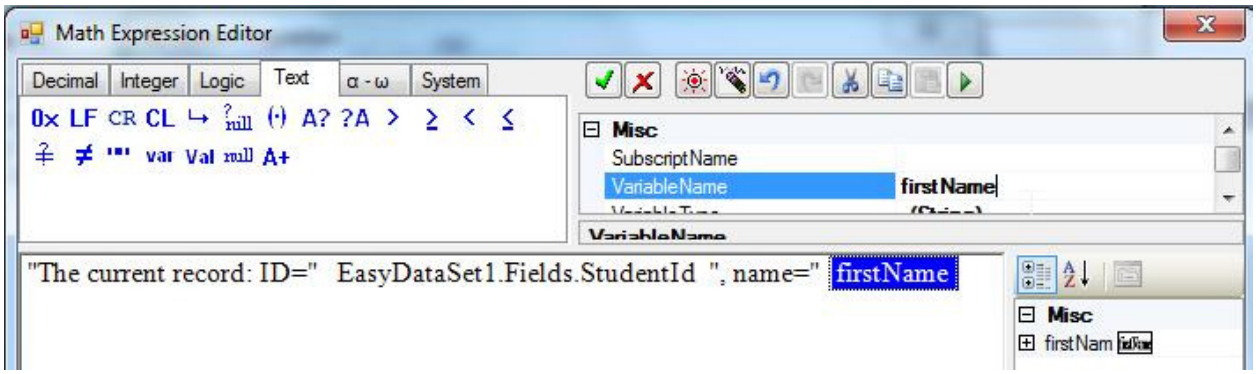
If we want to make the expression look more concise then we may use variables instead of inserting properties directly into the expression. We'll use this opportunity to introduce it. Click the variable icon, instead of the property icon:



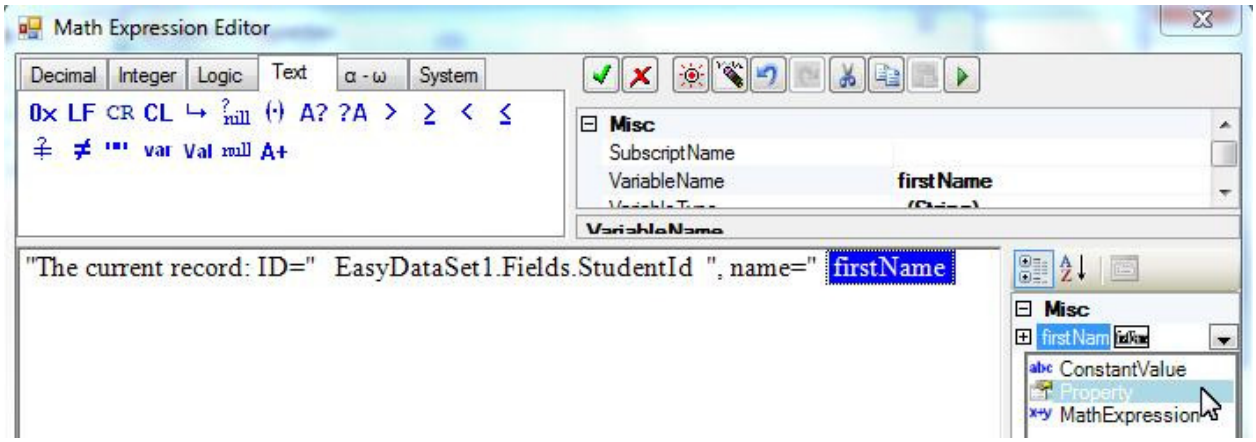
A variable appears in the expression:



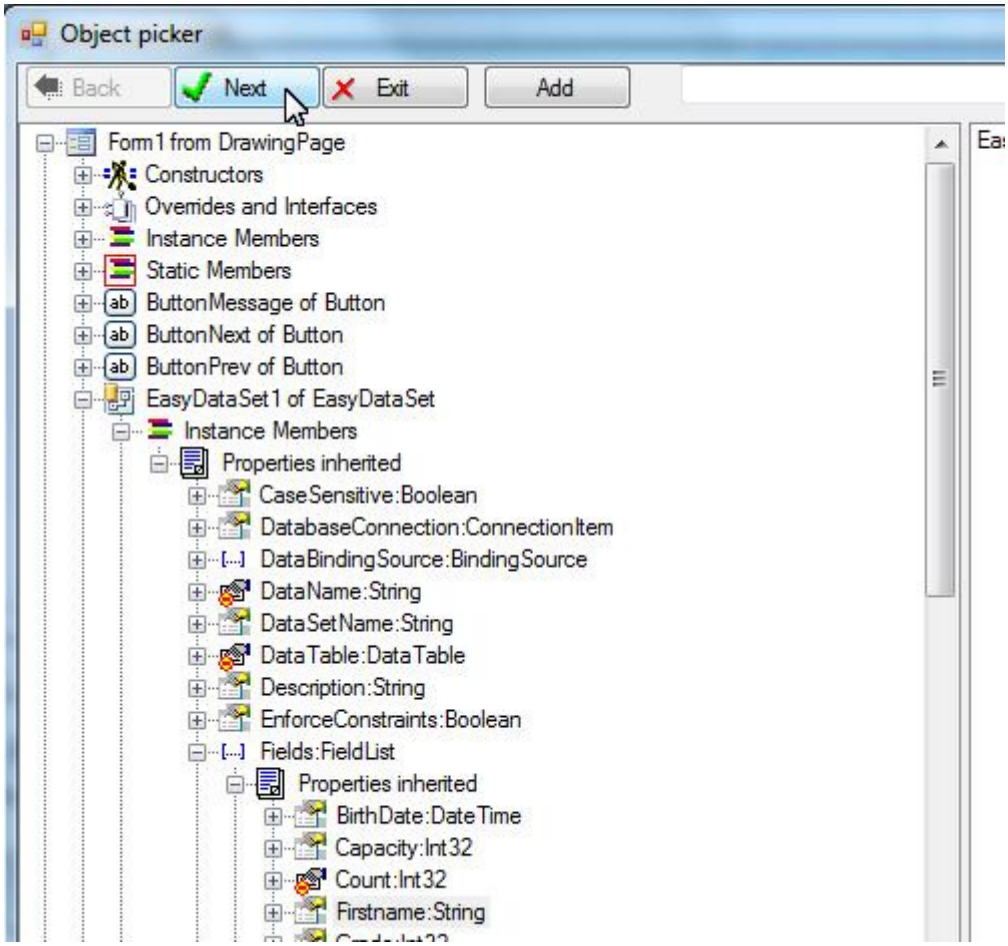
We can rename it:

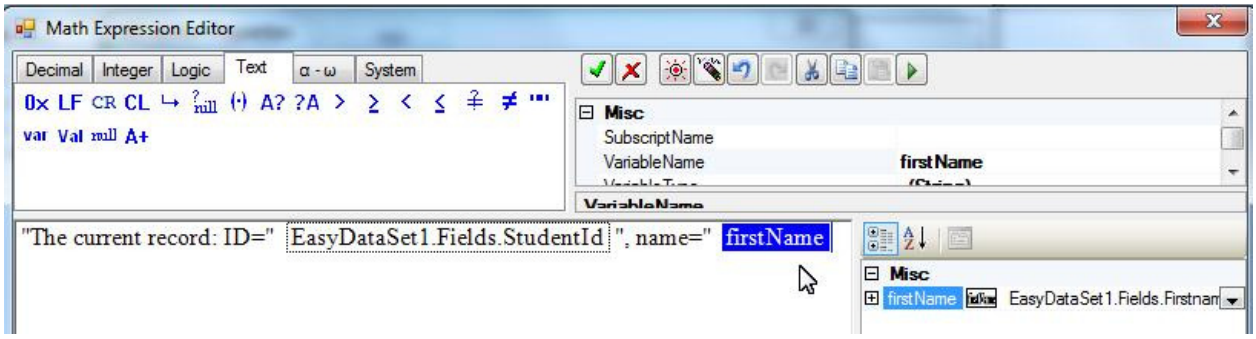


We need to map it to a constant, a property, or another expression. In this sample, we map it to a property:



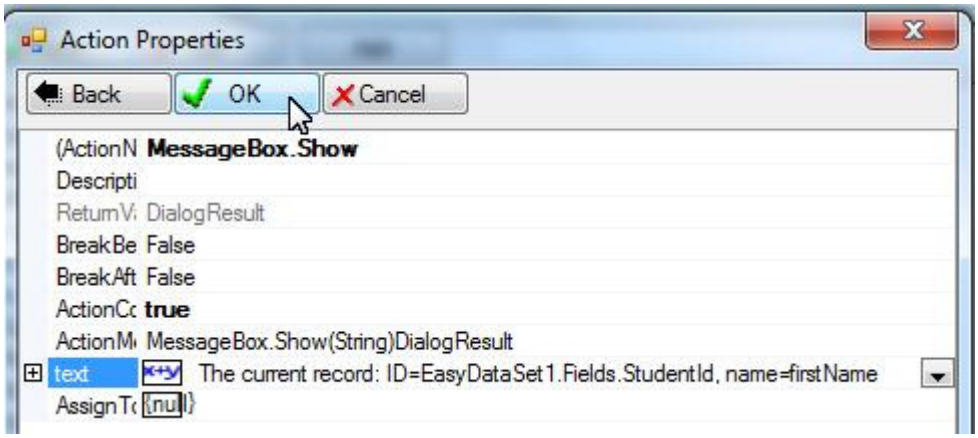
Select the Firstname field of the EasyDataSet:



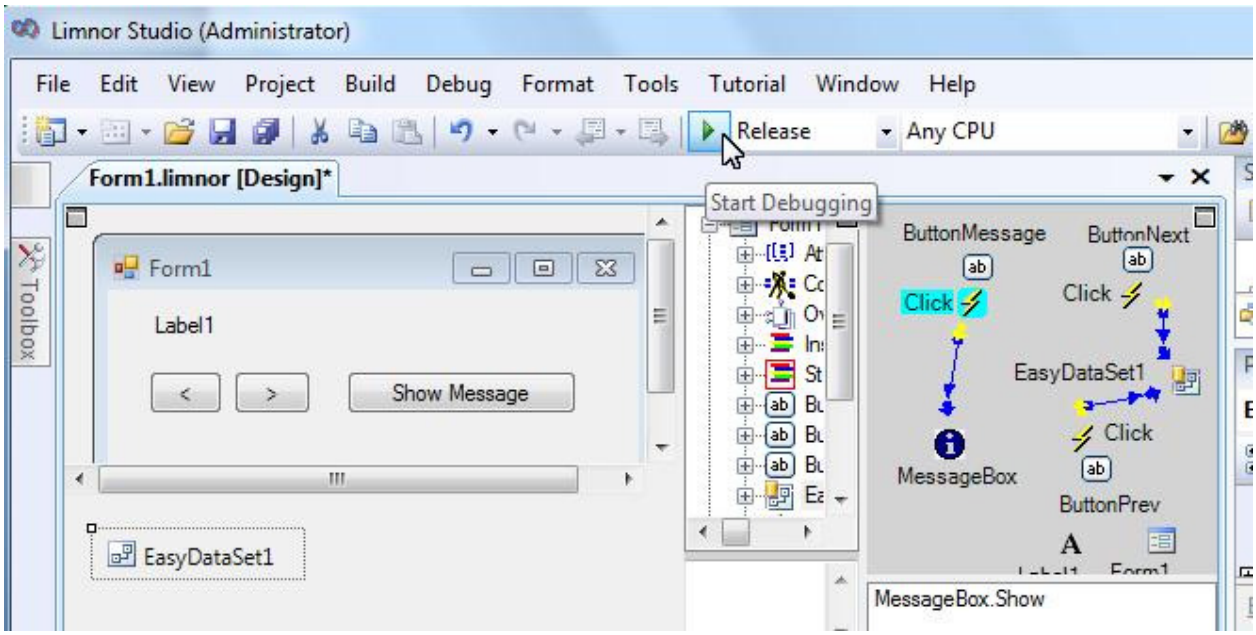


Click to finish editing the expression.

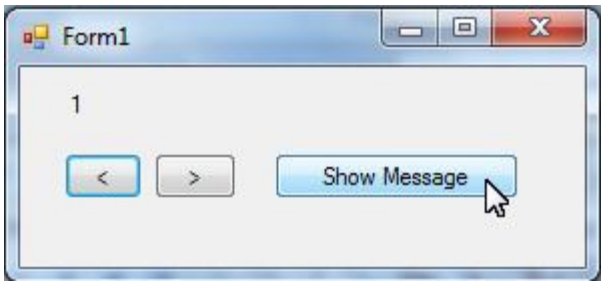
This is the message box Show action:



Test the application:



Click the message button:

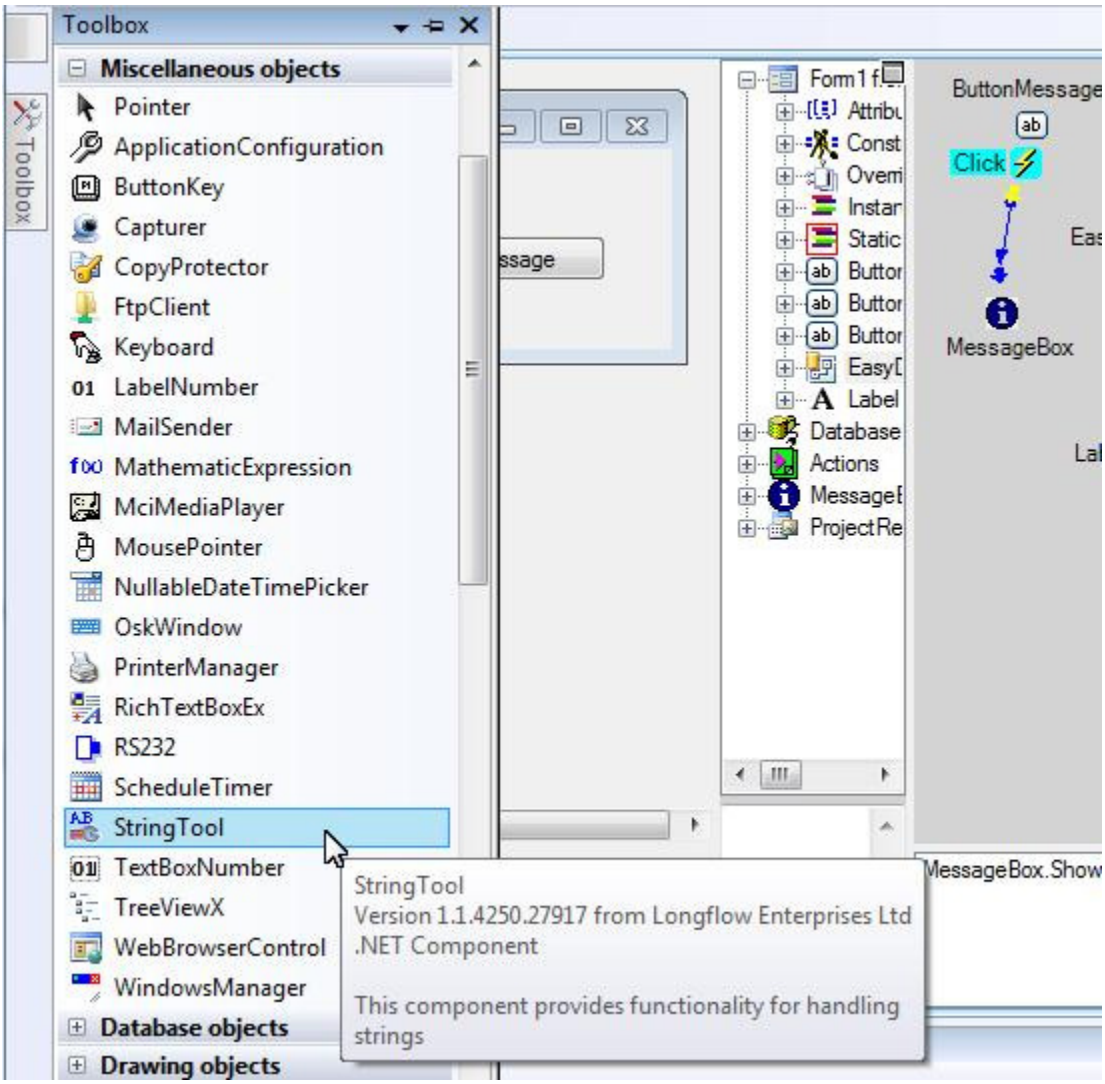


A message box appears:

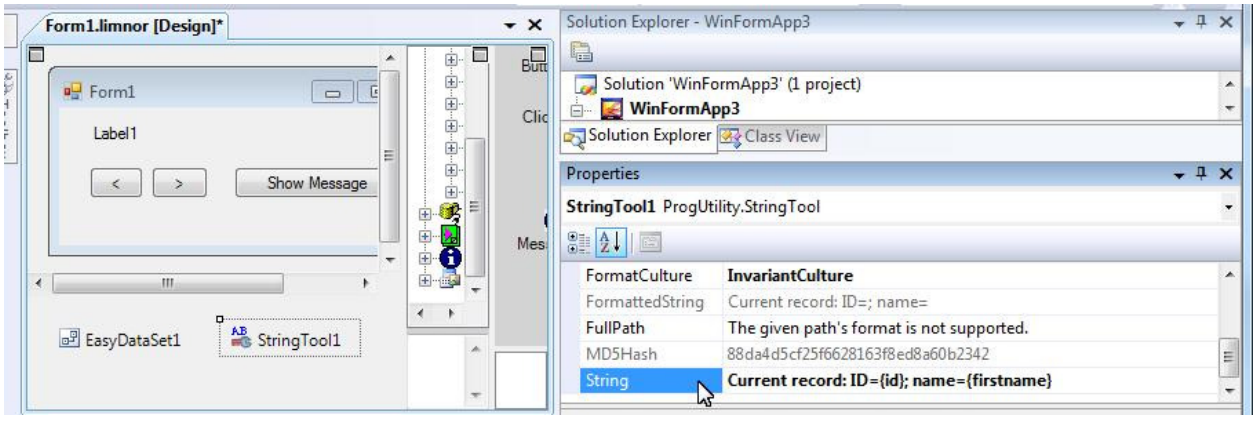
Navigate to another record. Click the message button again. The message shows the contents of another record:

StringTool Object

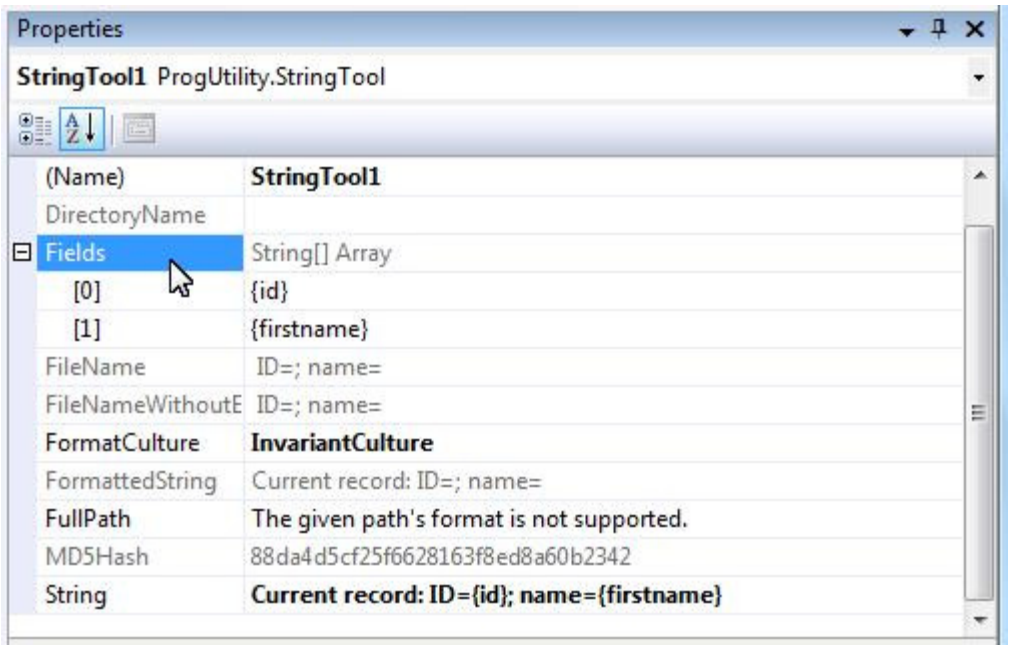
Another way to form text is to use a StringTool object.



Set the String property to the text we want. Use “{“ and “}” to define each value we want to use:



Once you set the String property, each value name you defined becomes a property of the StringTool object. You can access these properties through Fields property of the StringTool:



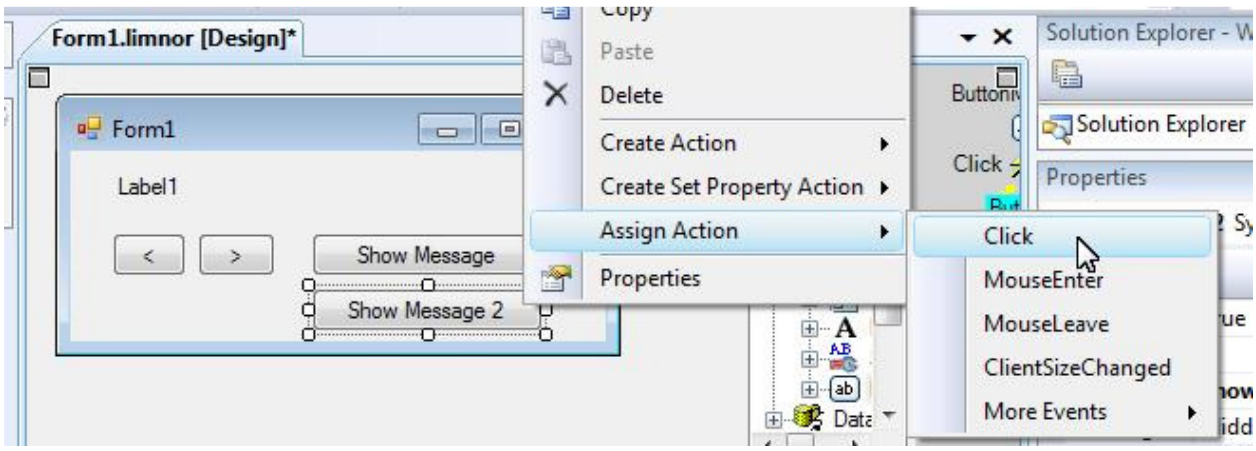
Note the FormattedString property. It is the text formed with the values.

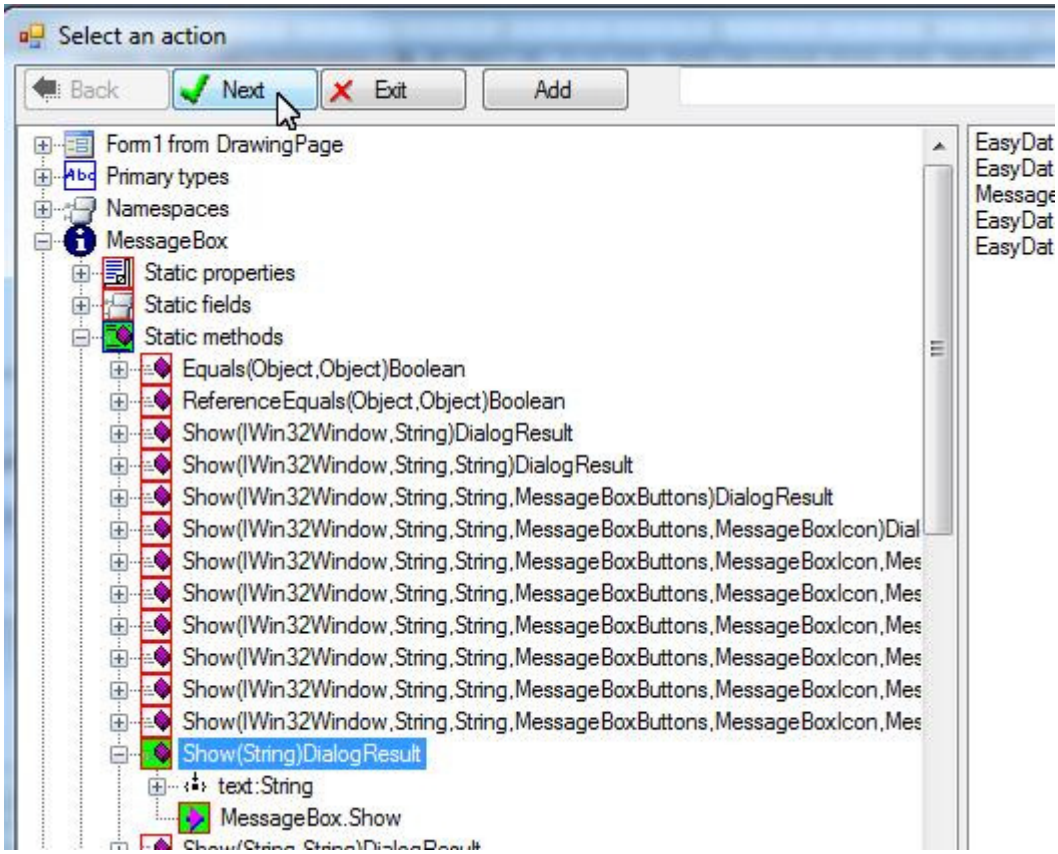
So, you may use actions to change each value and the FormattedString will be changed automatically.

Another easy way to get formatted string is to use the method FormatStringWithValues. Use it to create an action to get the result by providing all values. The action result is retrieved using its “AssignTo” property.

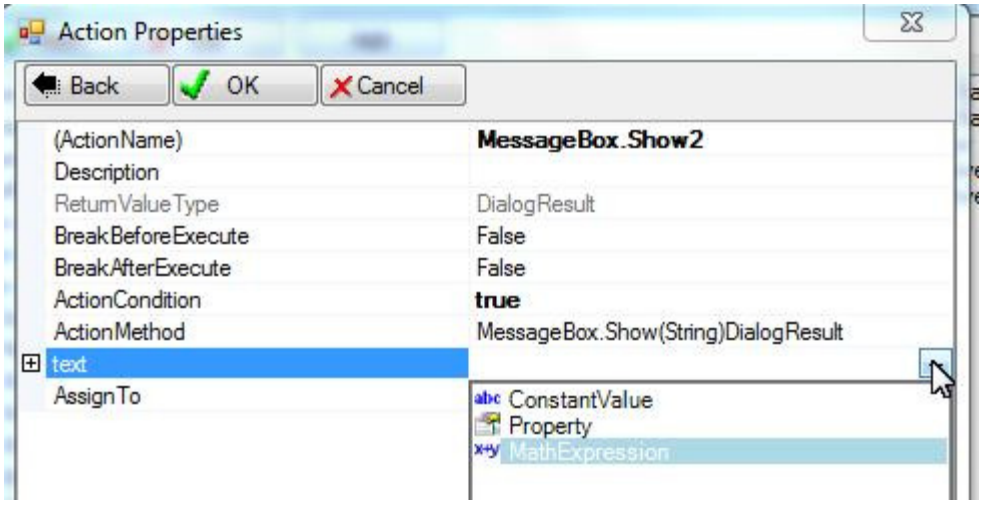
We may also use method FormatStringWithValues in an expression. We’ll do it in this sample.

Use another button to show message box:

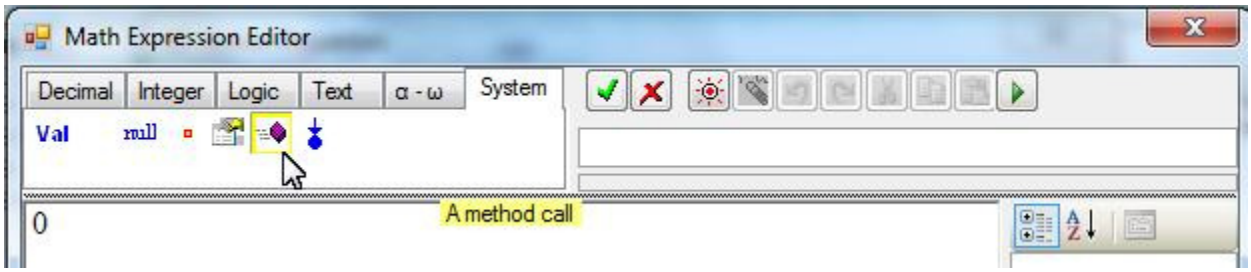




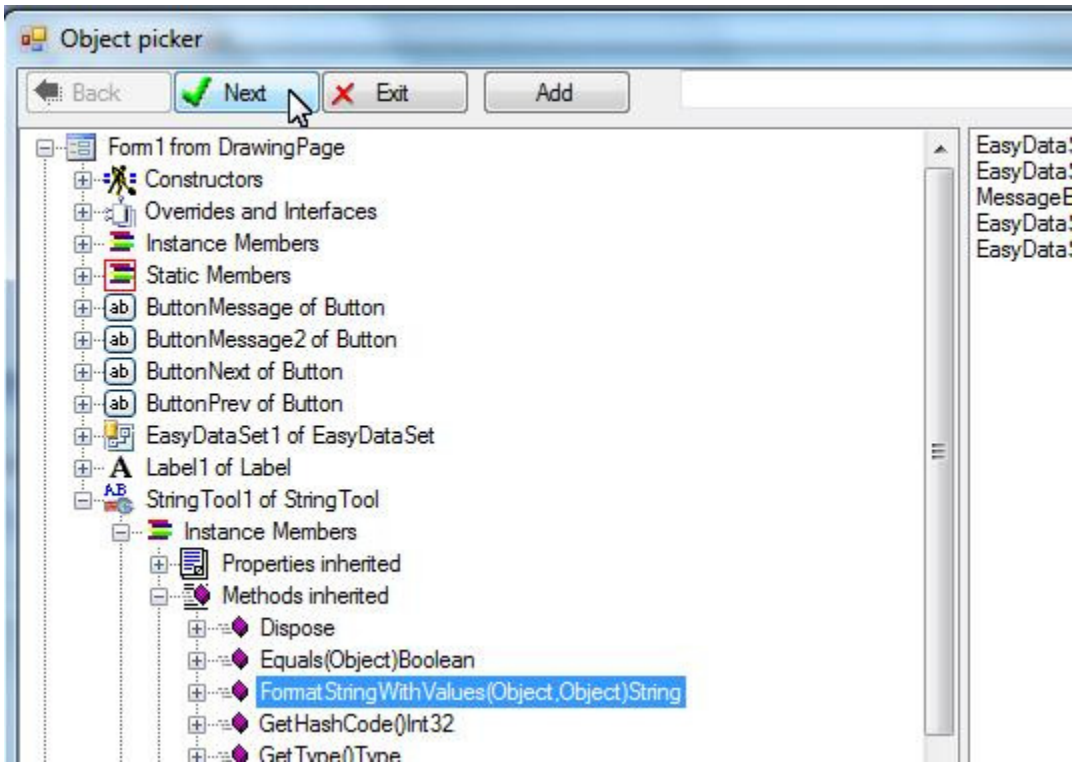
Also use Math Expression for the “text” parameter of the action:



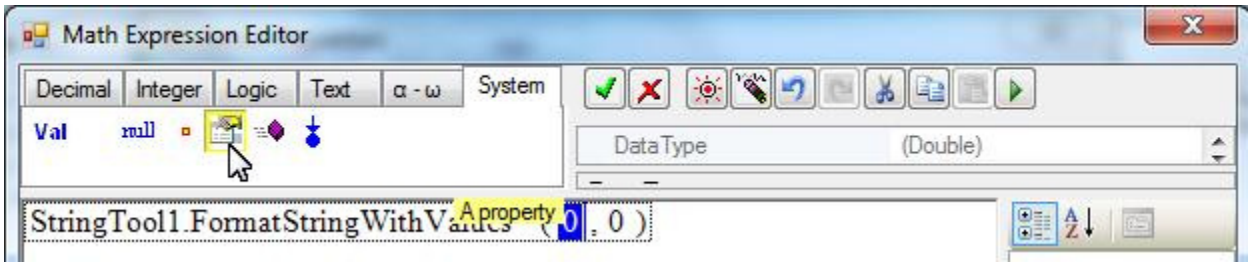
Click the Method icon because we want to use the FormatStringWithValues method:



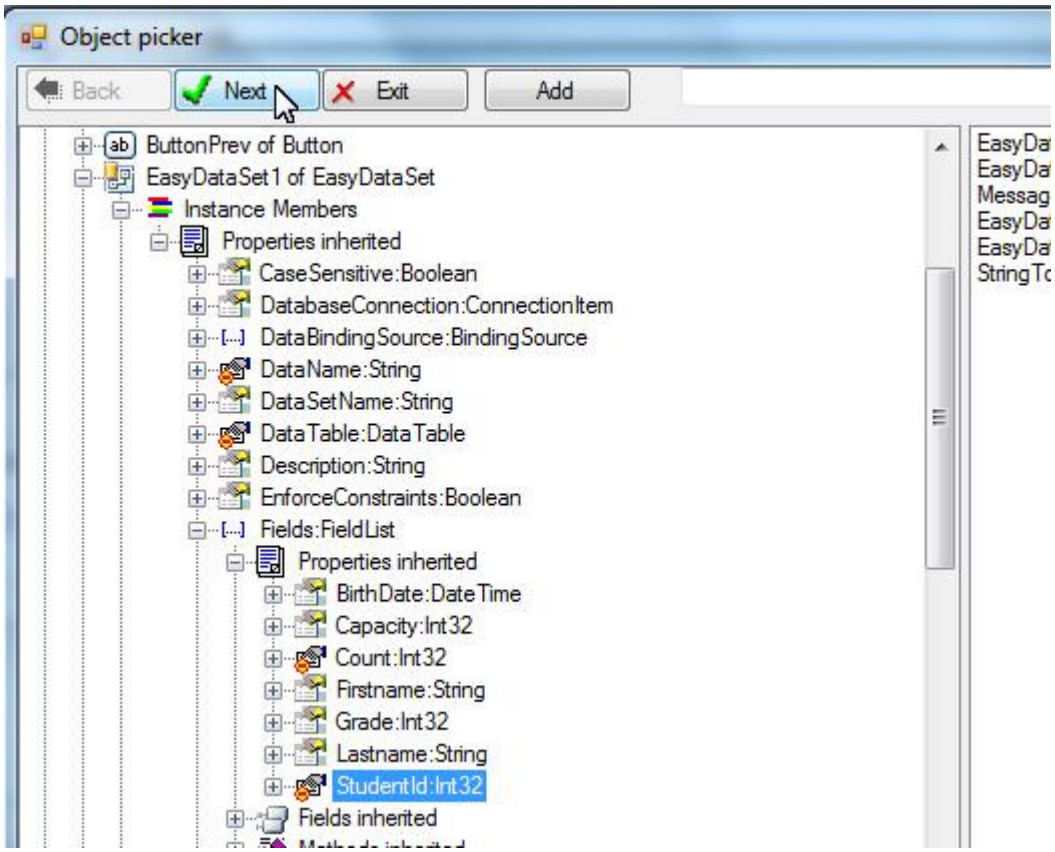
Select the FormatStringWithValues method:



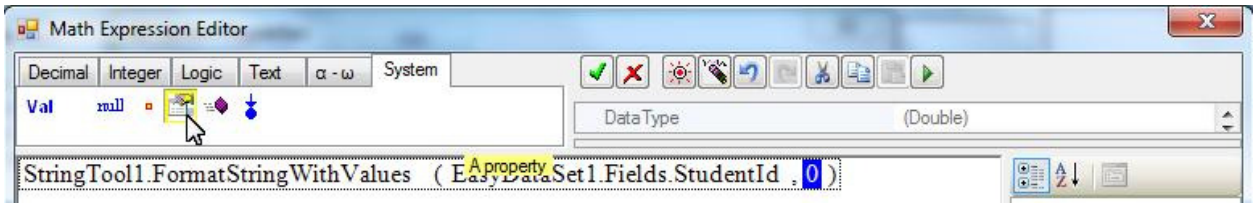
The method appears in the expression. It has two parameters. Select the first parameter, click the Property icon:



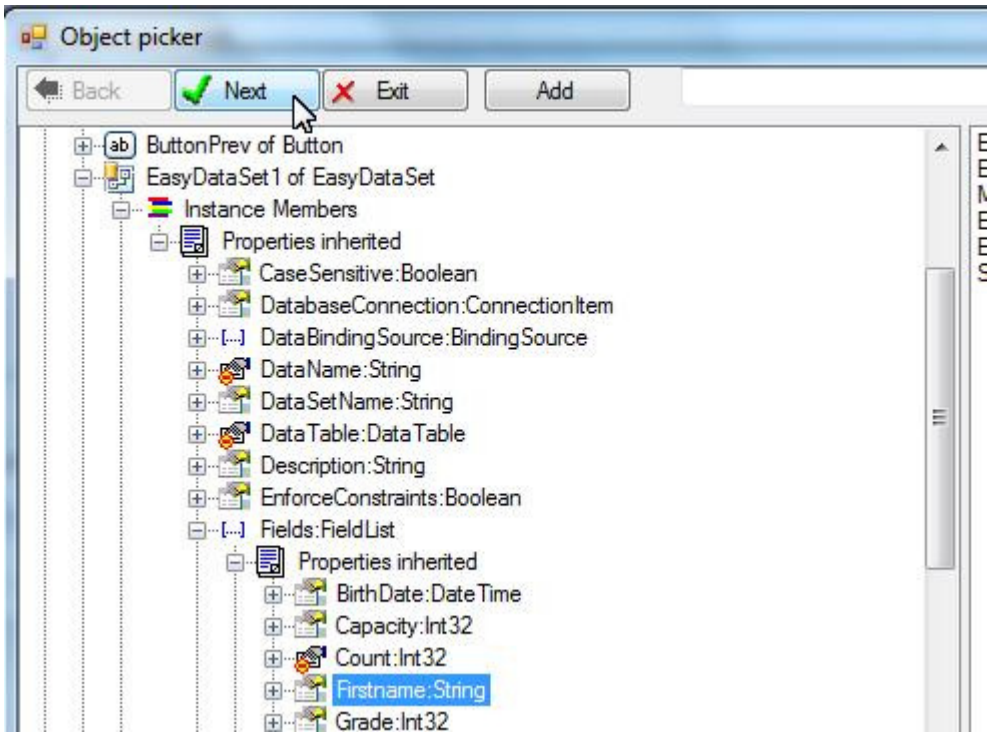
Select a database field from the EasyDataSet:



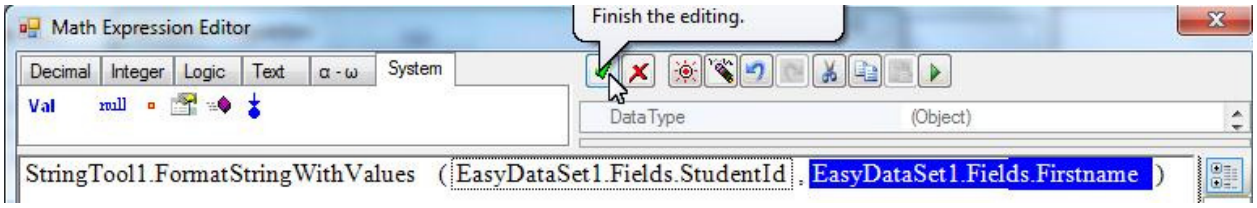
Select the second parameter; click the property icon:



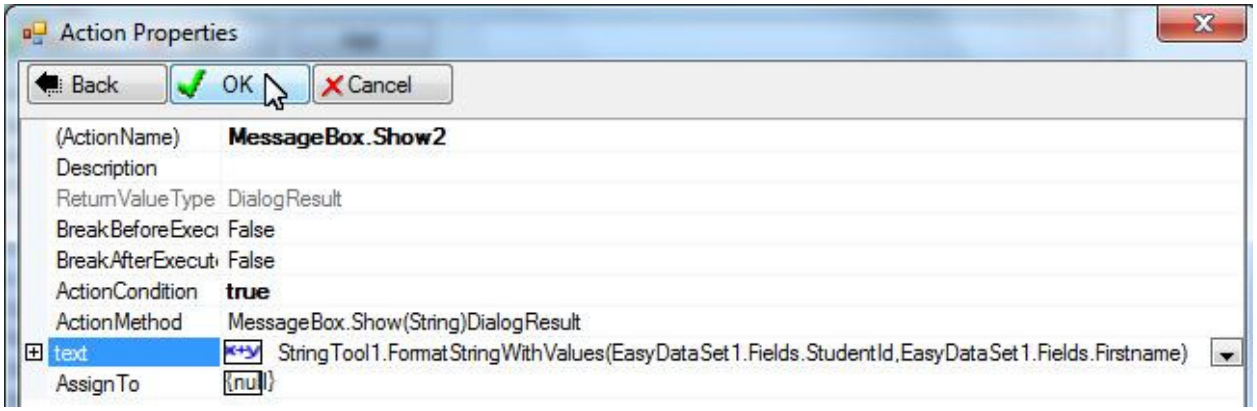
Select another database field from the EasyDataSet:



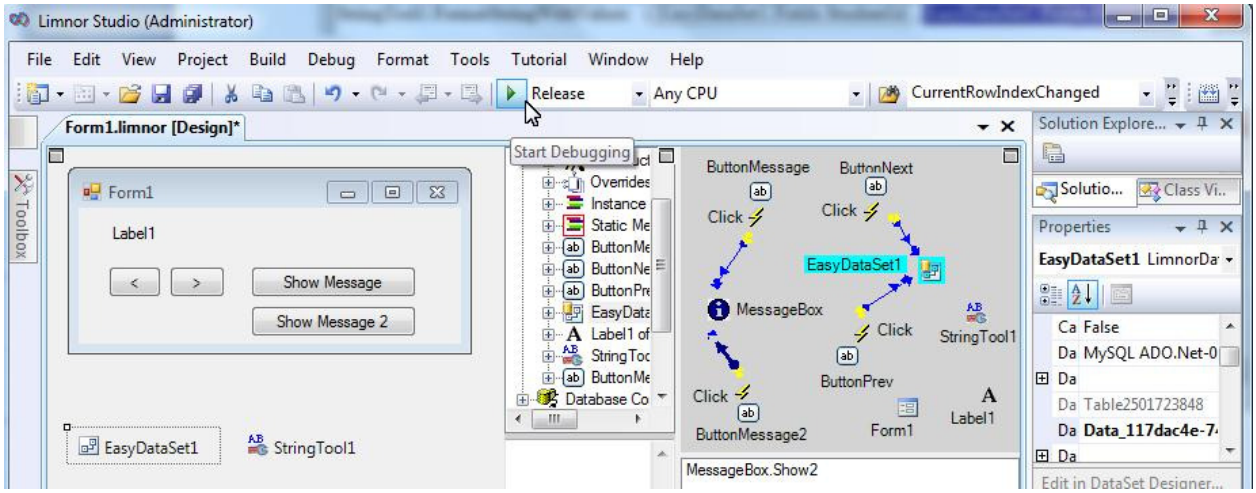
This is the expression which is just one method call:



This is the message box action:

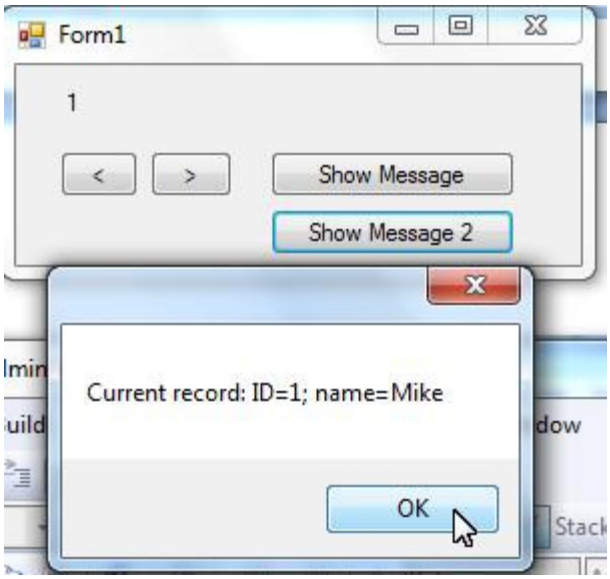


We may test the application now:

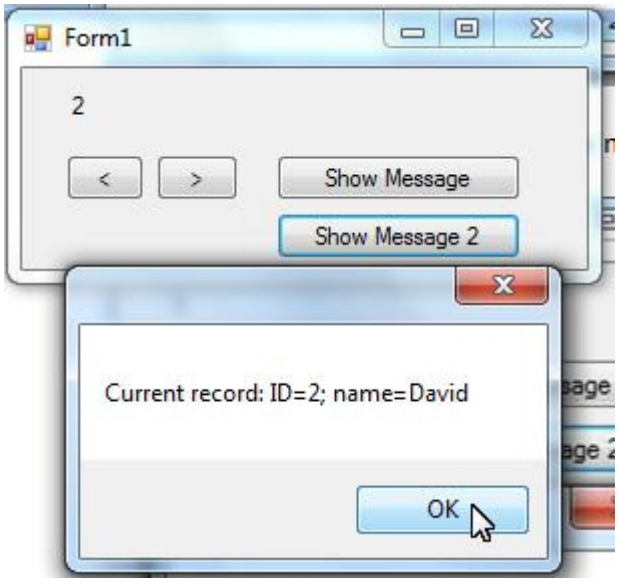


The form appears. Click the second message button:

A message box appears displaying the message formed by the values from the first record:



Navigate to another record. Click the second message button again. This time the message is formed by the values from another record:


Form1
2
<
>
Show Message
Show Message 2
Current record: ID=2; name=David
OK