

User's Guide – TreeViewX

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Introduction

TreeViewX is a control derived from TreeView provided in Microsoft .Net Framework. It inherits all the features from TreeView and added following new features:

- Create shortcuts – a special type of nodes is defined as shortcuts to other nodes. A shortcut node looks and behaves the same as the node it points, but it appears under a different parent node. Many shortcuts may be created for one node.
- Attach data to nodes – a list of data can be attached to a node. Each piece of data appears as a property of the node.
- Node Edit UI – At both design time and runtime the user may edit the nodes via following UI:
 - Context menu – right-click TreeViewX, a context menu allows creating root node, sub-node, attach data to selected node, delete selected node, delete selected data
 - Drag/drop – drag a node and drop it to another node, it allows the user to move the dragged node to the drop target or create a shortcut to the dragged node under the drop target.
- New Properties
 - ReadOnly – Gets or sets a Boolean value indicating whether it allows the user to modify the TreeView at runtime
- New Methods
 - `bool SaveToFile(string filename)` – save nodes to an XML file
 - `bool LoadFromFile(string filename)` – load nodes from an XML file
 - `TreeNodeX AddRootNode(string text)` – Add a root node. The new node is selected. Returns the new node.
 - `TreeNodeX AddSubNode(string text)` – Add a sub node to the selected node. The new node is selected. Returns the new node. If there is not a selected node then this method does nothing and returns null.
 - `TreeNodeValue CreateNewValue()` – Attach a new value to the selected category node and return the new node representing the new value. A dialogue appears asking

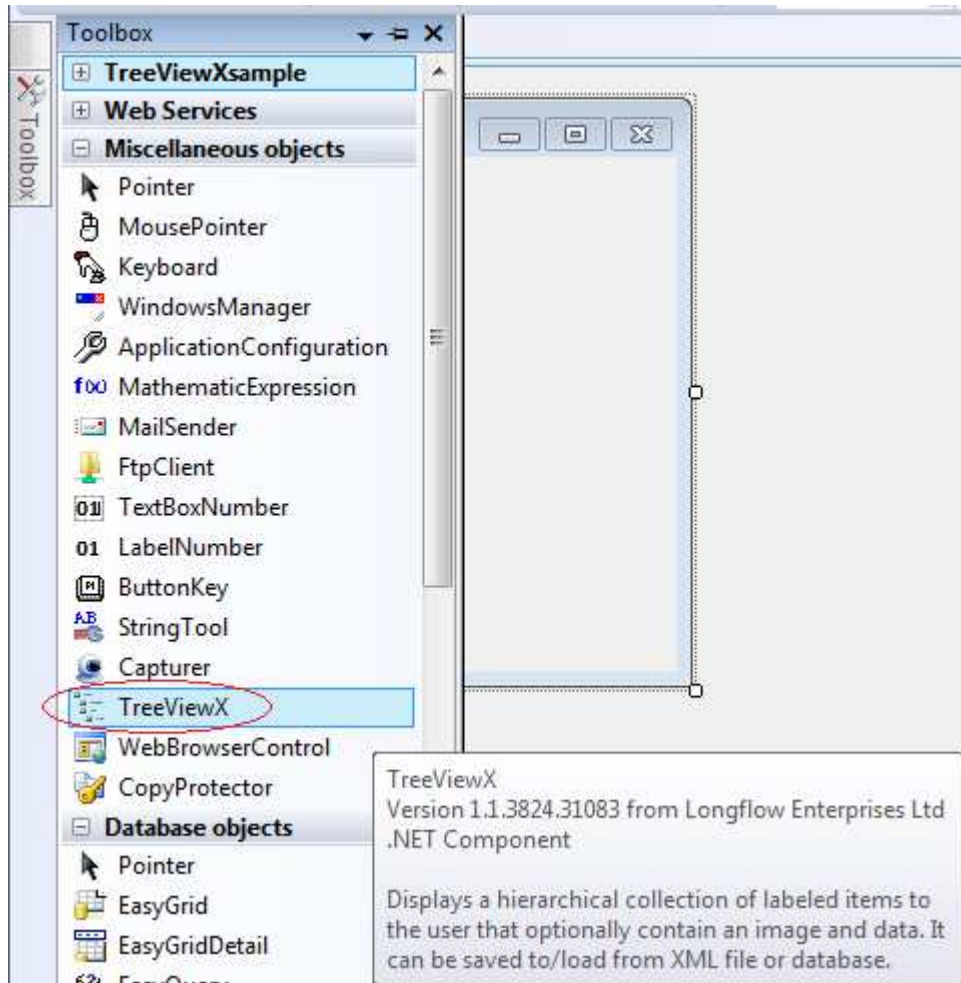
for the type of the new data. The default value for the data type is used as the new value. If there is not a category node selected then this method does nothing.

- `void DeleteSelectedCategoryNode(bool confirm)` – Delete selected node. If there is not a selected node or the selected node is for value then this method does nothing. If parameter 'confirm' is true then a message box appears to ask the user to confirm the deletion.
- `void DeleteSelectedValue(bool confirm)` – Delete selected value node. If there is not a selected node or the selected node is not for value then this method does nothing. If parameter 'confirm' is true then a message box appears to ask the user to confirm the deletion.
- `bool EditNodes()` – Launch Tree Nodes Editor to edit the nodes and values. It returns false if the editing is canceled.
- `void RemoveAllNodes()` – Remove all nodes.
- `void LoadRootNodesFromDatabase()` – Load root nodes from database. Deeper level tree nodes will be automatically loaded from databases when a parent node is expanded.
- New events
 - `CategoryNodeSelected` – it occurs when a node is selected, and the node is not is not for a piece of attached value
 - `ShortcutNodeSelected` – it occurs when a shortcut node is selected. `CategoryNodeSelected` event will follow this event.
 - `ValueNodeSelected` – it occurs when a node for a piece of attached data is selected
- Load Tree Nodes from databases

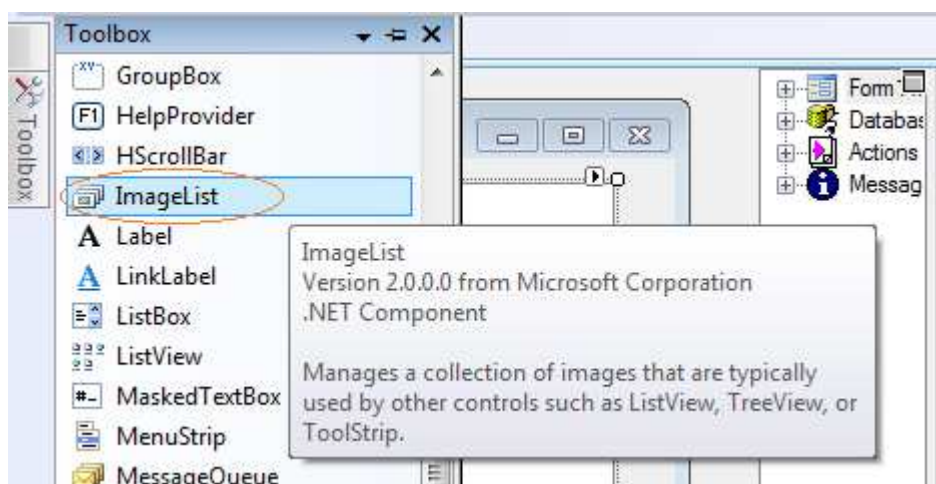
Prepare images for nodes

We use a Windows Form application project to demonstrate the use of the TreeViewX.

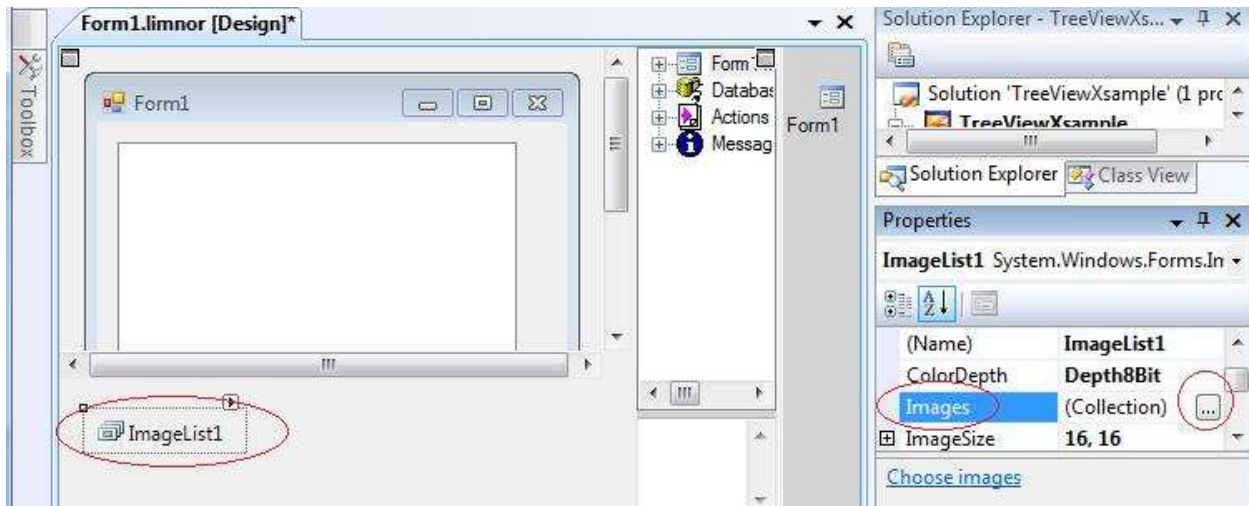
Drop TreeViewX to the form:



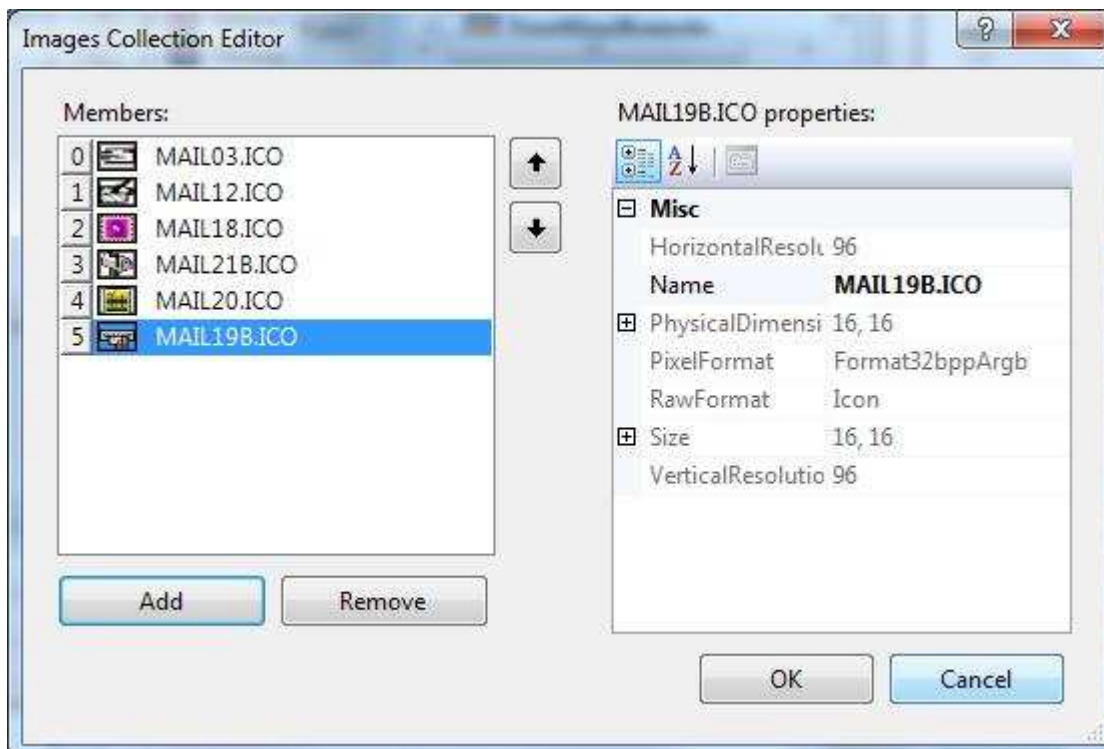
We may use an ImageList to provide icons for tree nodes. Drop ImageList to the form:



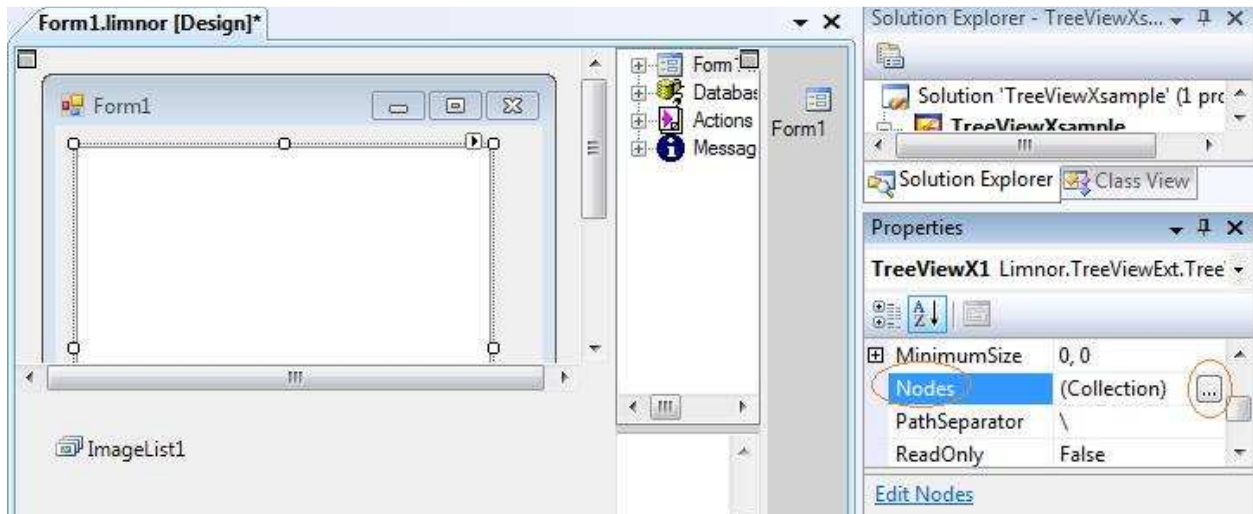
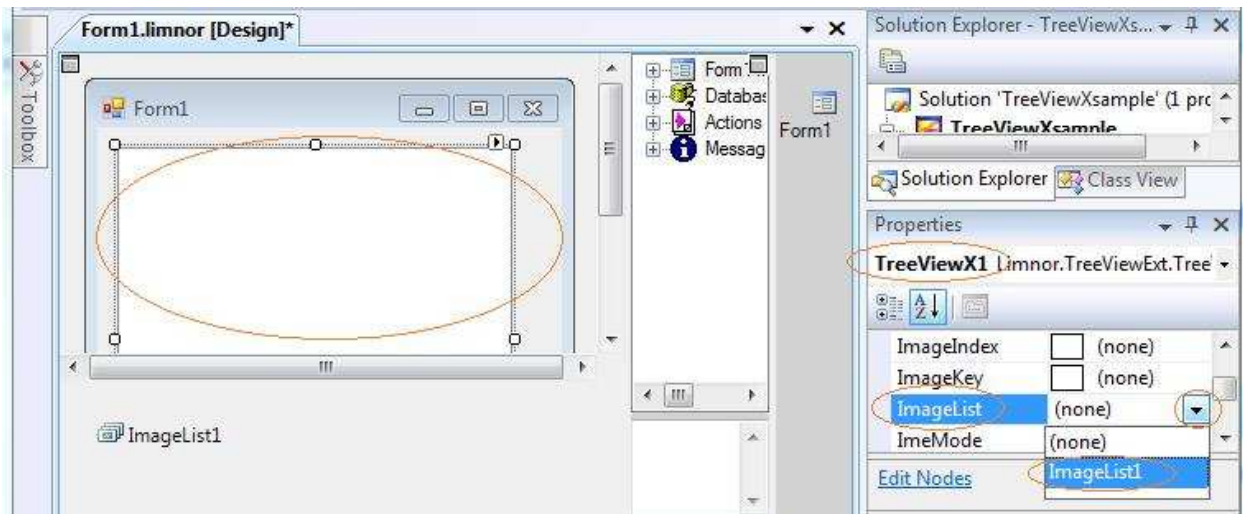
Click  to add images to the ImageList:




Click Add button to add images to the list:



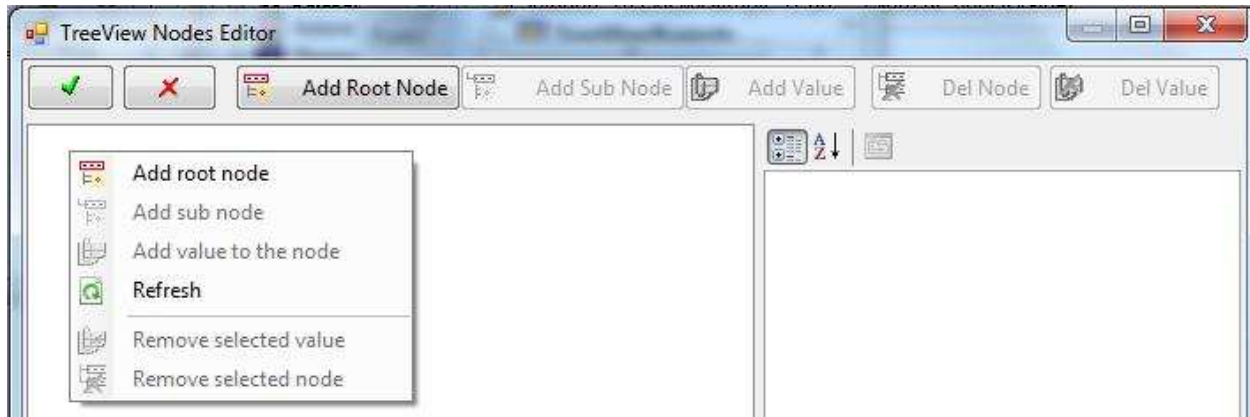
To tell the tree view to use the image list, select ImageList1 as the ImageList property of the tree view:



Edit nodes at design time

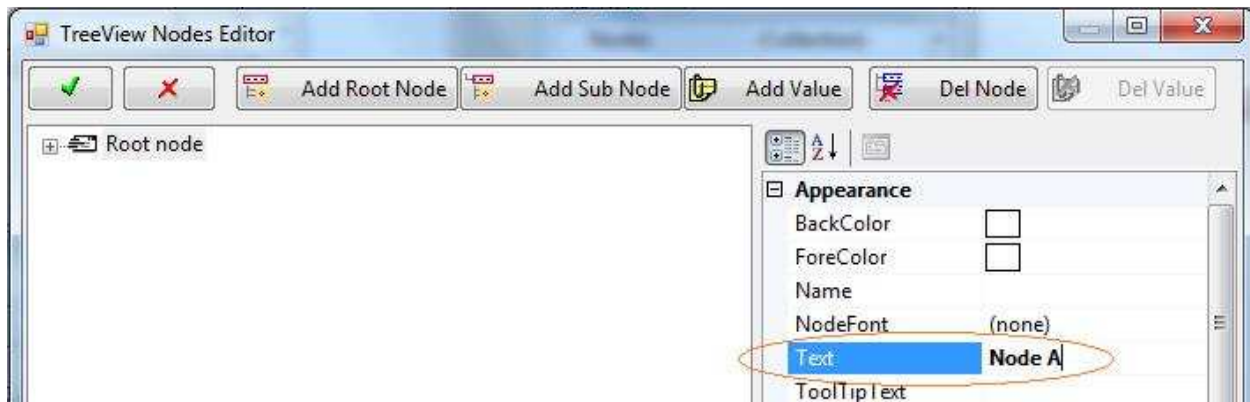
Select Nodes property; click  to edit nodes for the tree view. A “TreeView Nodes Editor” appears.

You may use the buttons or the context menu to edit the nodes.

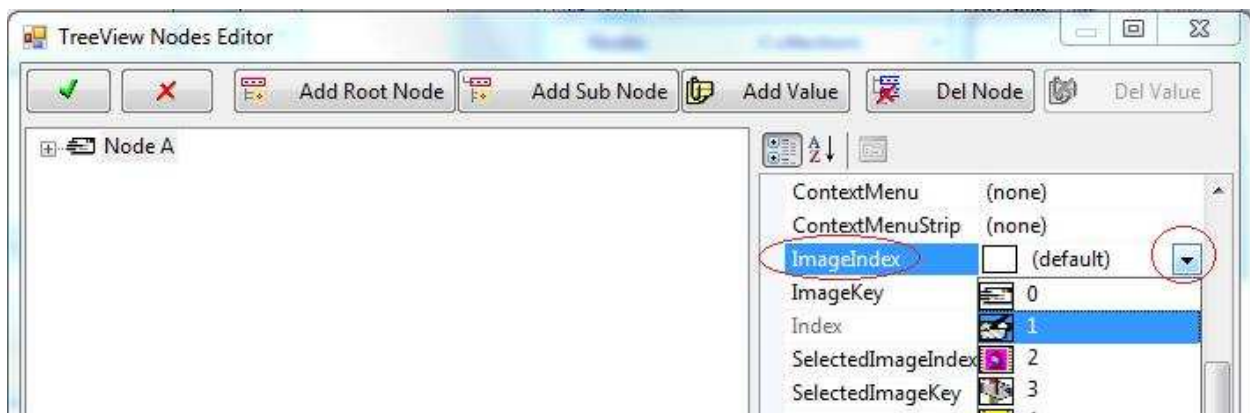


Create root node

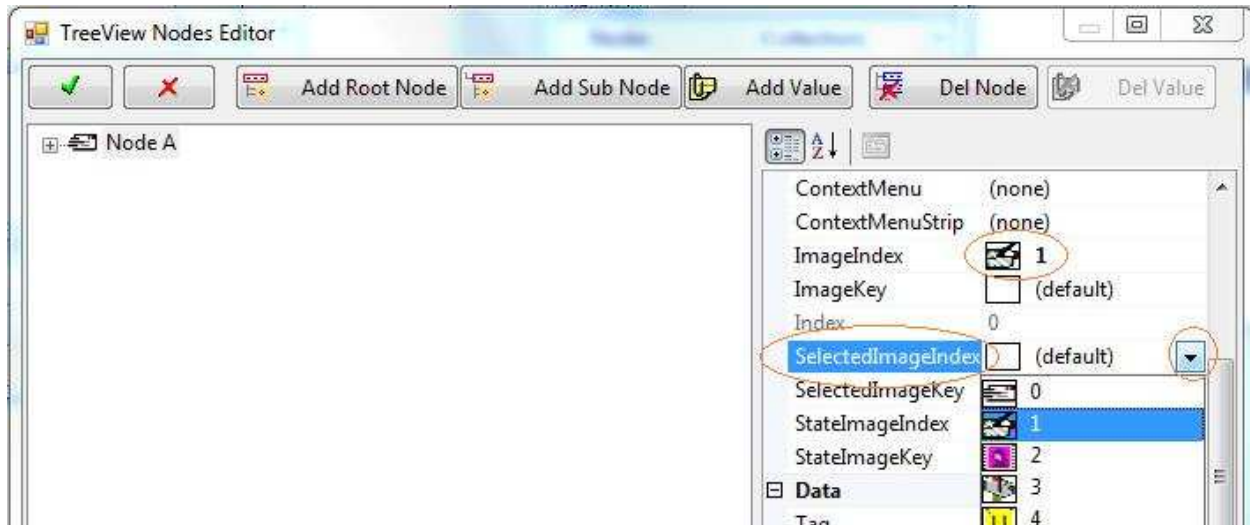
Click “Add Root Node” to create the first node. We may set its properties. For example, set its Text property:



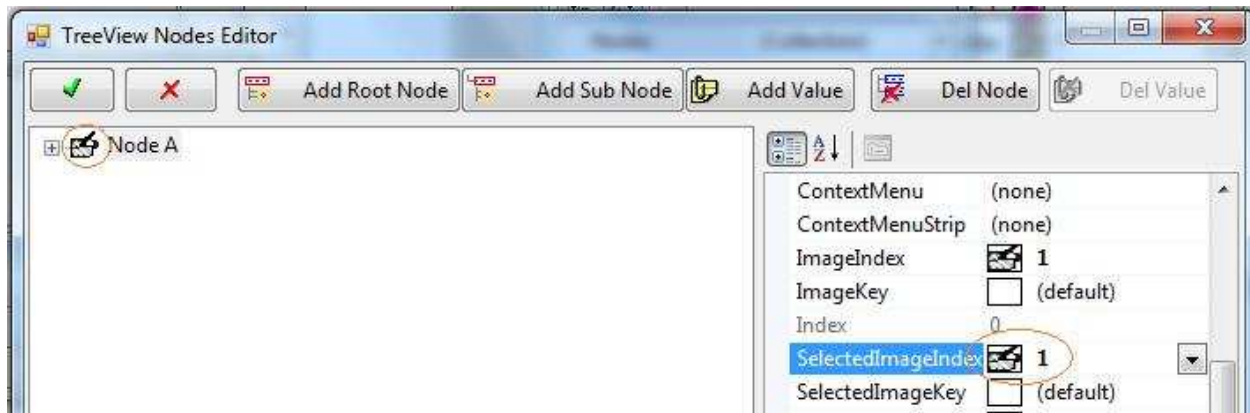
Setting its ImageIndex to specify image for the node:



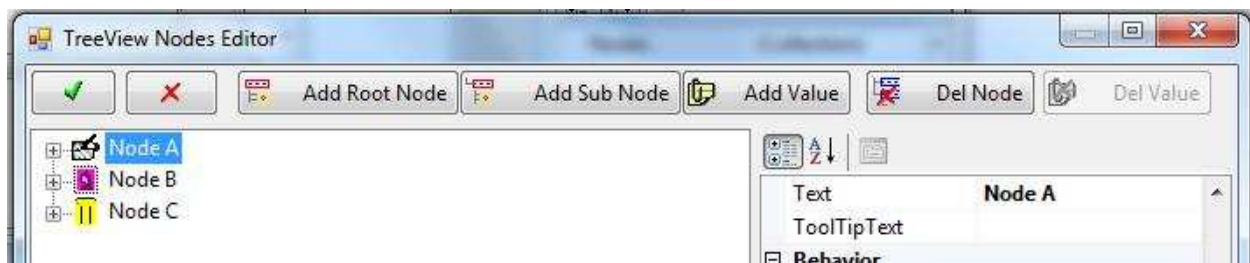
Note that after choosing ImageIndex the image for the Node does not change in the tree view. This is because ImageIndex is for the node when the node is not selected. Currently the node is selected; its image is determined by property SelectedImageIndex. Let’s modify SelectedImageIndex:



Now the image in the tree view is changed:

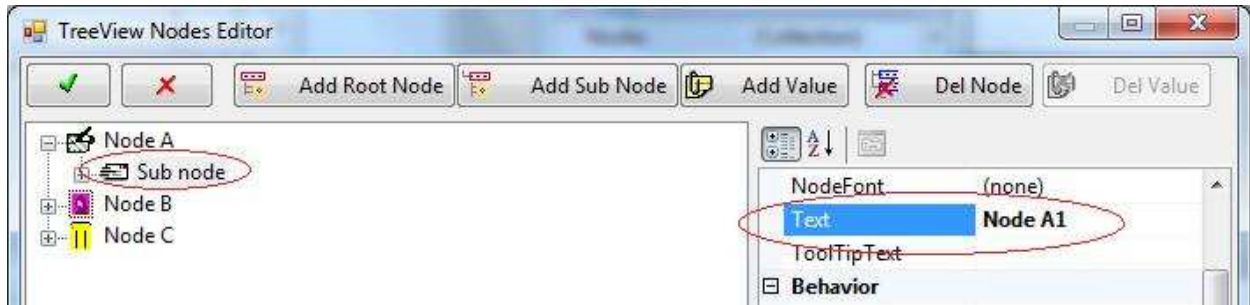


We may create more root nodes in this way.

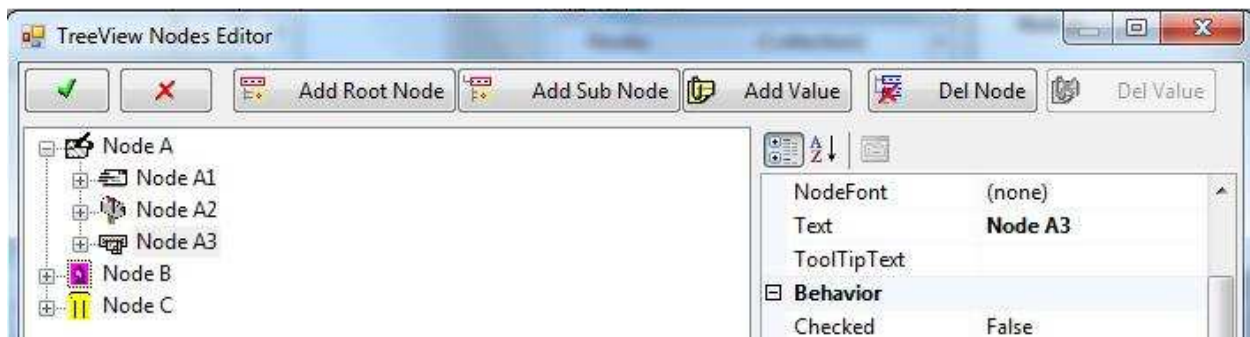


Create sub-nodes

Click button "Add Sub Node". A new sub-node appears under the selected node. We may change its properties. For example, change its Text:

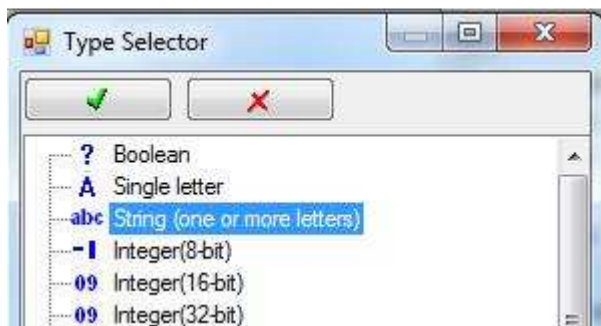


We may add more sub nodes:

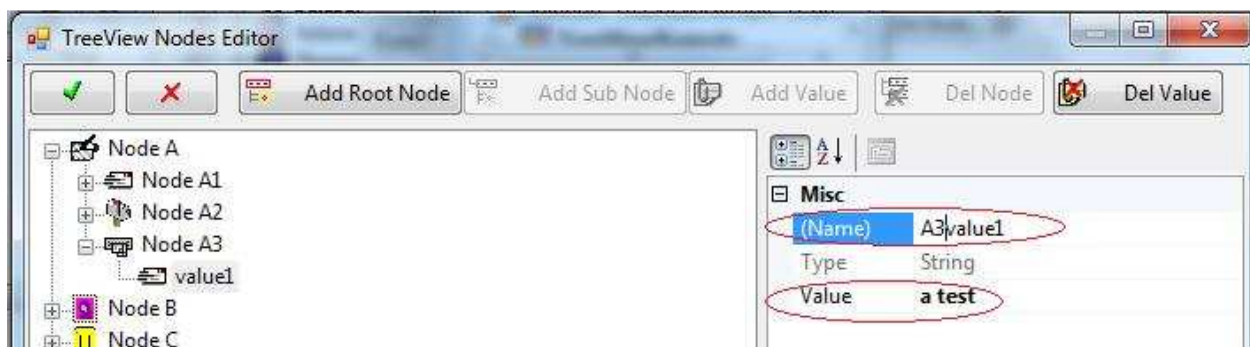


Attach values to nodes

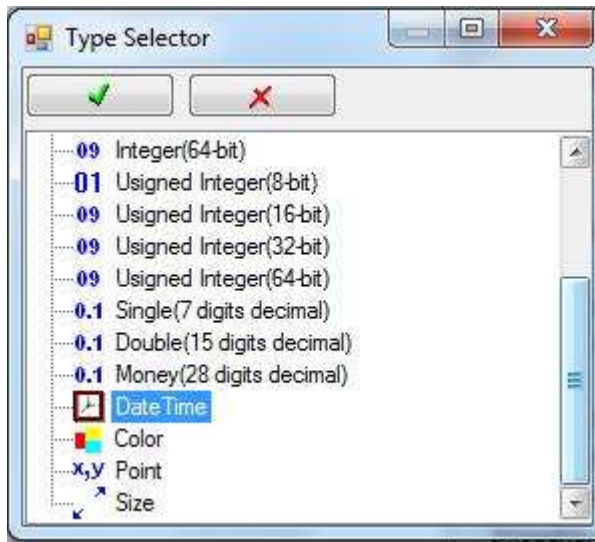
Click button "Add Value". A dialogue box appears asking for the type of data to be attached. If we want to attach text to this node then we may choose String:



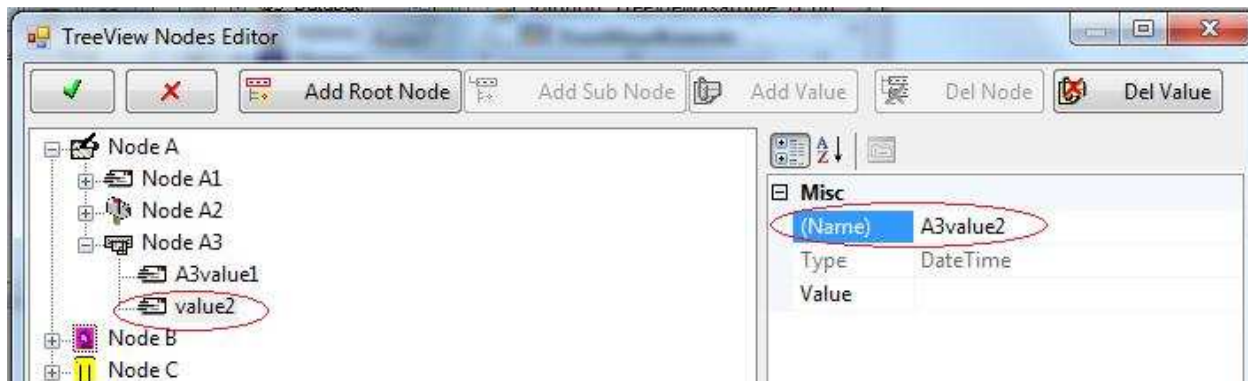
A new value appears under the selected node. We may change the value and the name:



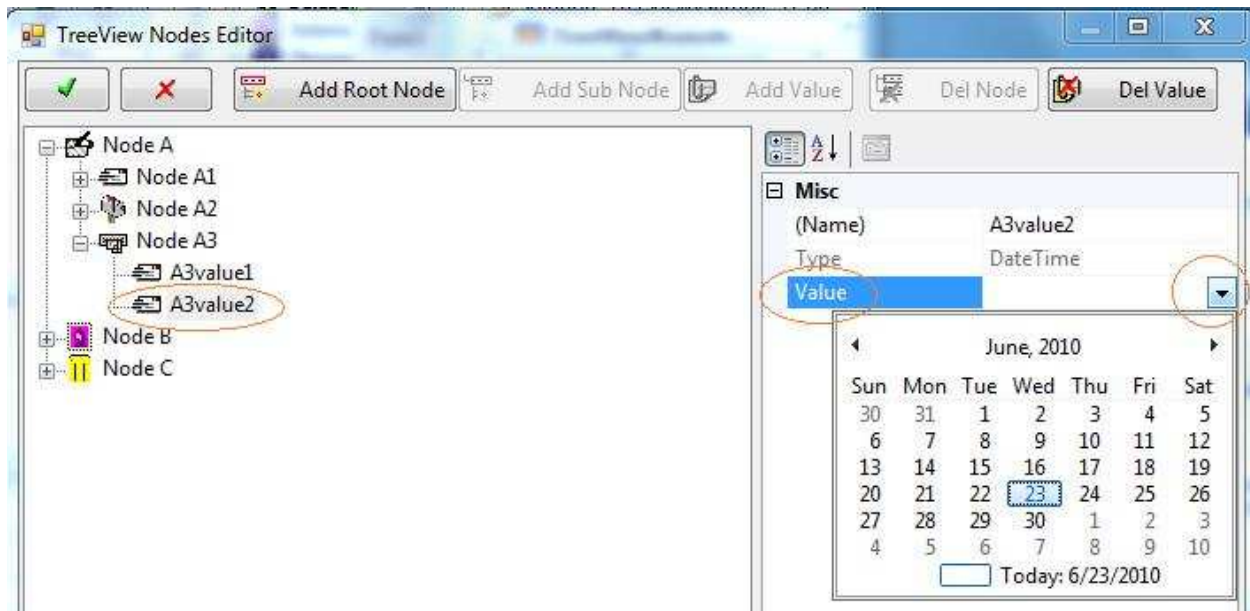
As an example, let's attach a date-time value to the same node:



The new value appears. We may change its name:



We may change its value:

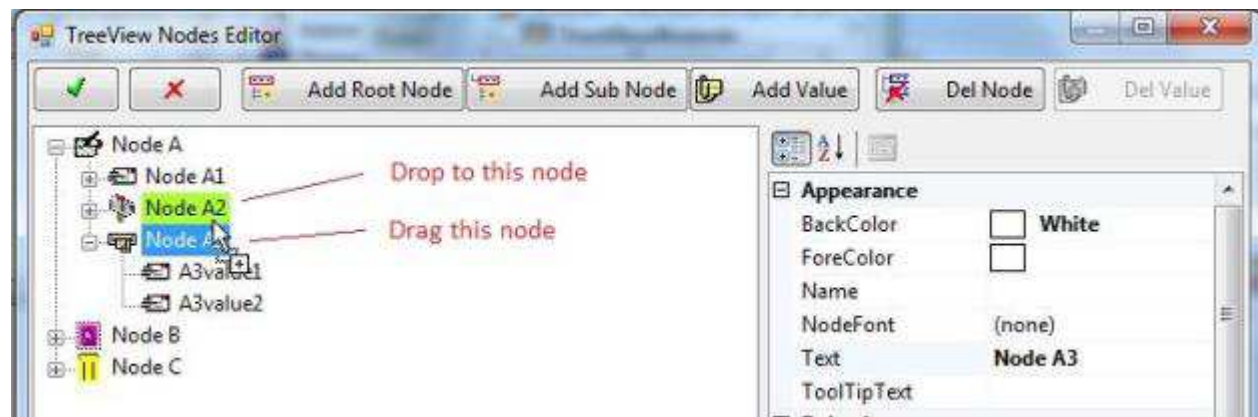


Change node category structure

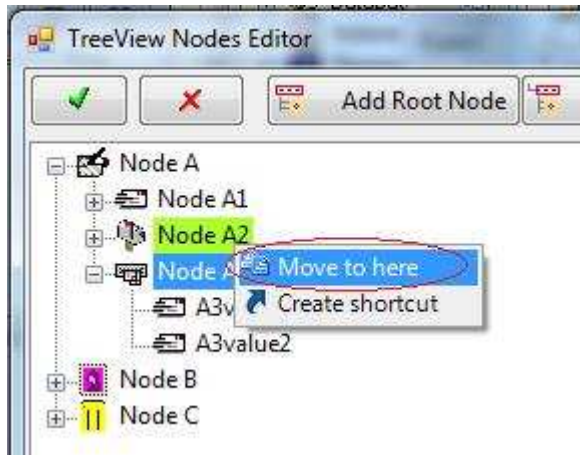
A tree structure represents a category system. So, we also call a tree node a category node, if the node is not for an attached value. A value node cannot have sub nodes. A category node may have sub-nodes.

The category structure can be changed by drag and drop.

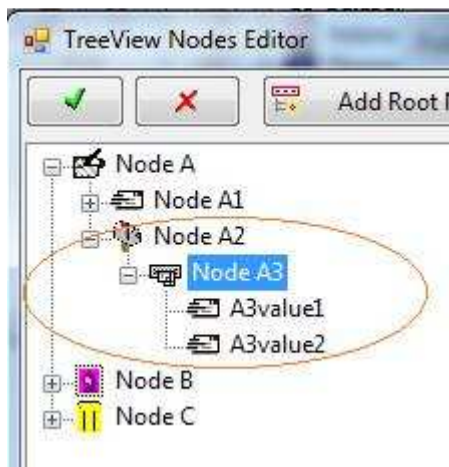
Drag node "Node A3" and drop it to node "Node A2":



When a category node is dropped to another category node, a context menu appears. Choose "Move here" to move the node:



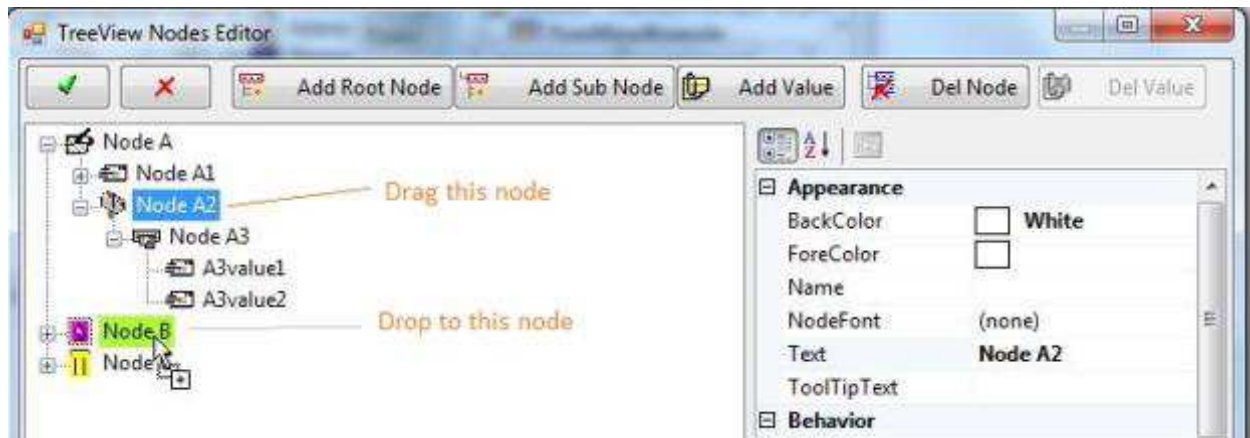
The node “Node A3” becomes a sub node of “Node A2”:



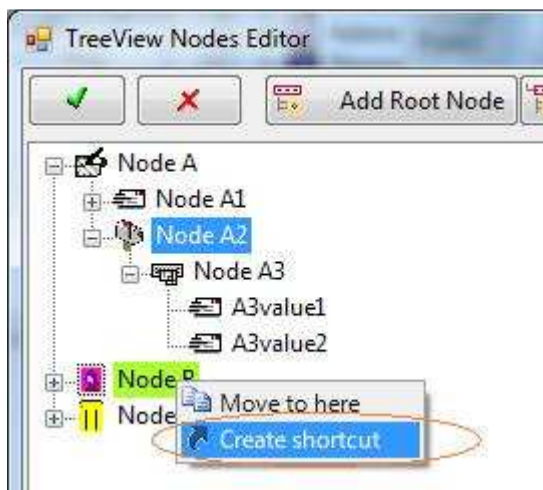
Create Shortcuts

In this sample, “Node A2” is a sub node of “Node A”. So, we need to access “Node A2” through “Node A”. Normally we cannot access “Node A2” through other category nodes. But we create shortcut nodes in other category nodes to access “Node A2”.

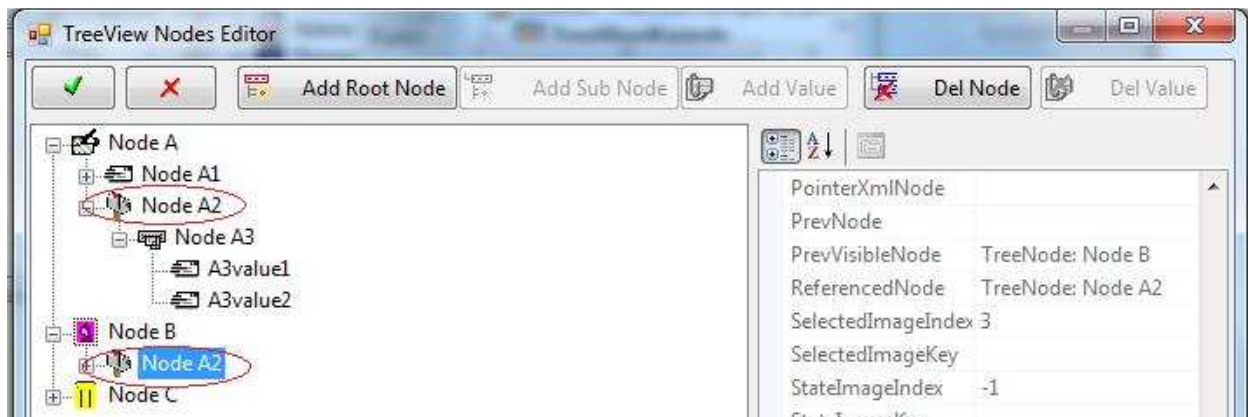
Suppose we want to be able to access “Node A2” through “Node B”. Drag “Node A2” and drop it to “Node B”:



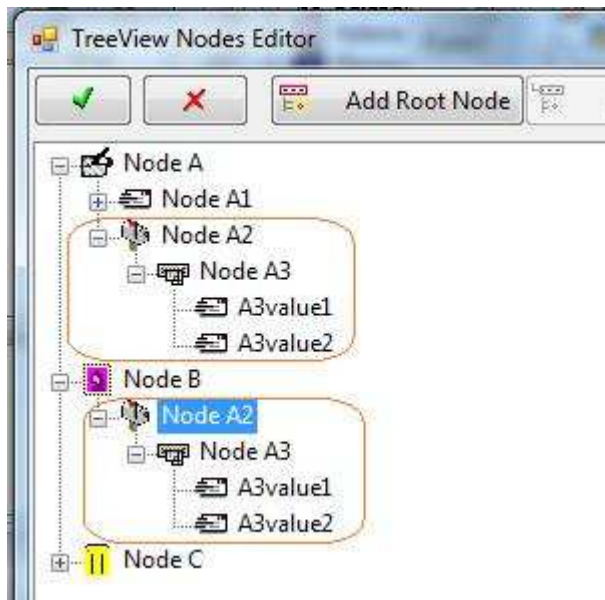
Choose context menu "Create shortcut":



A shortcut to node "Node A2" appears under "Node B":



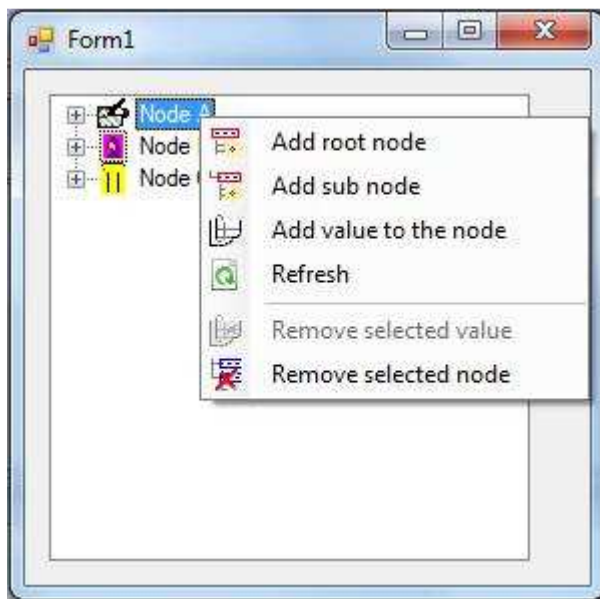
Through the shortcut we may access all the contents of the original node it points to:



Editing at runtime

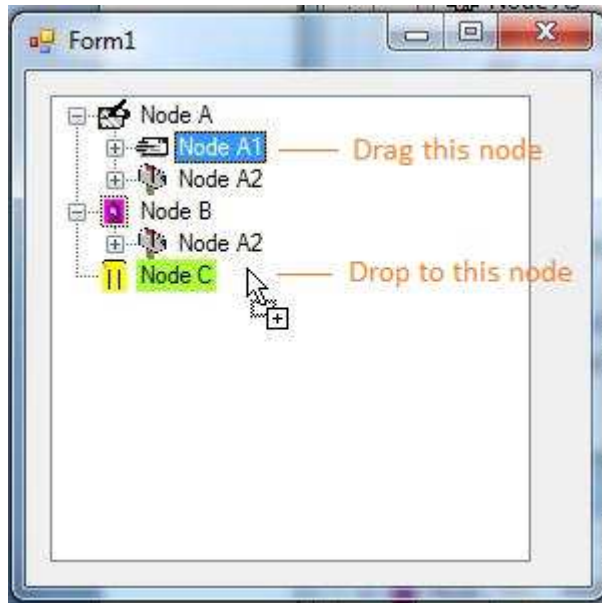
Create and delete nodes

At runtime, right-click the tree view, a context menu appears to let the user create/delete category nodes and value nodes:



Change structure and create shortcuts

Drag a node and drop it to another node

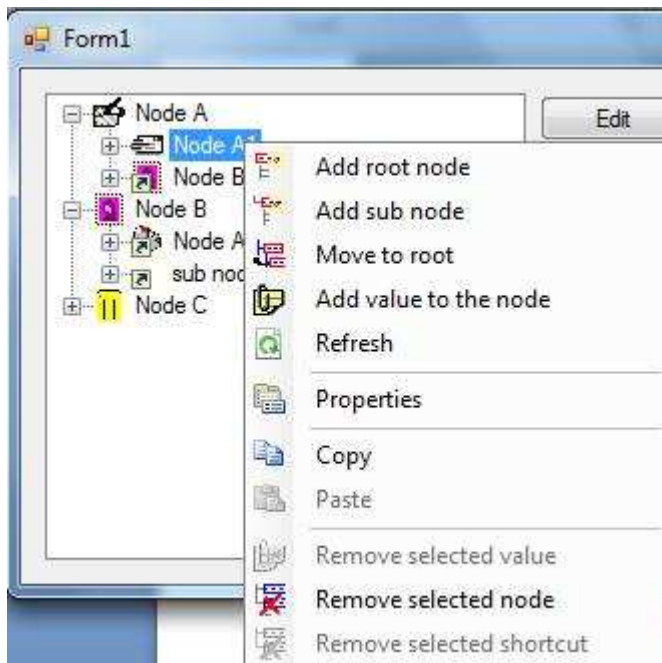


A context menu appears to allow moving the node or to create a shortcut:

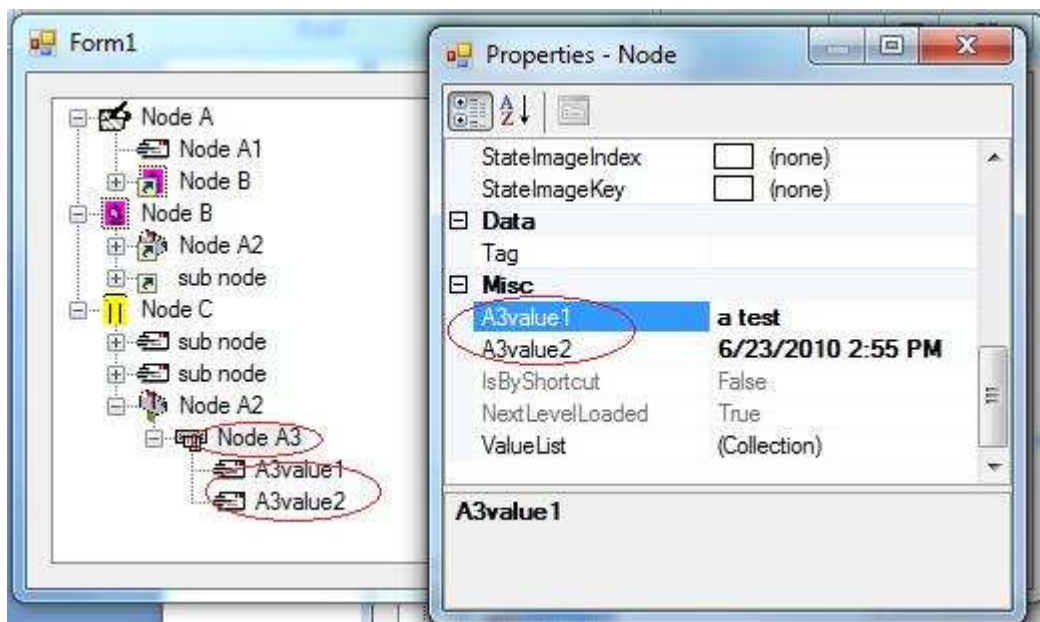


Nodes and values editing

At runtime, right-click the tree view, a context menu allows editing nodes and attached values:



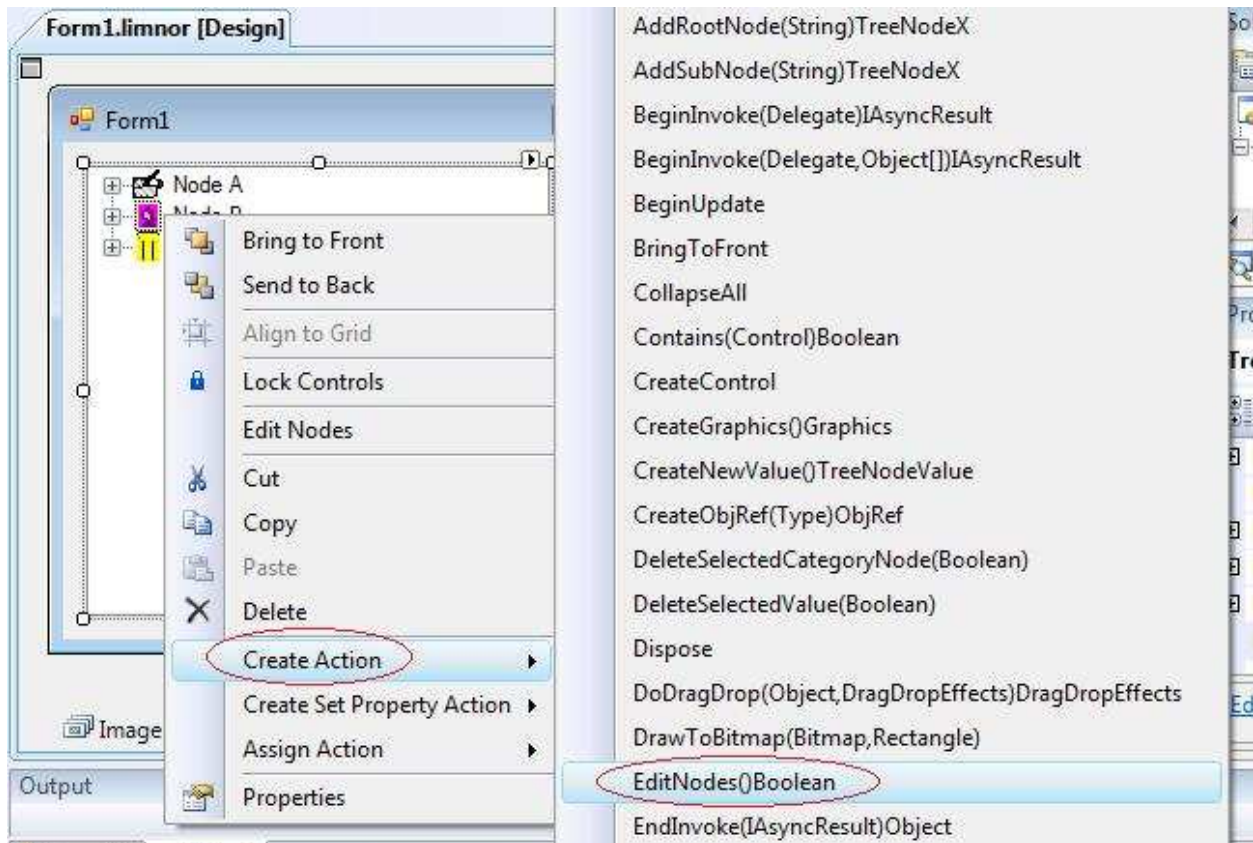
For a node, its attached values are displayed at node properties. In the following example, Node A3 has two attached values A3value1 and A3value2. These two values shown in the Properties window for the node as two properties:



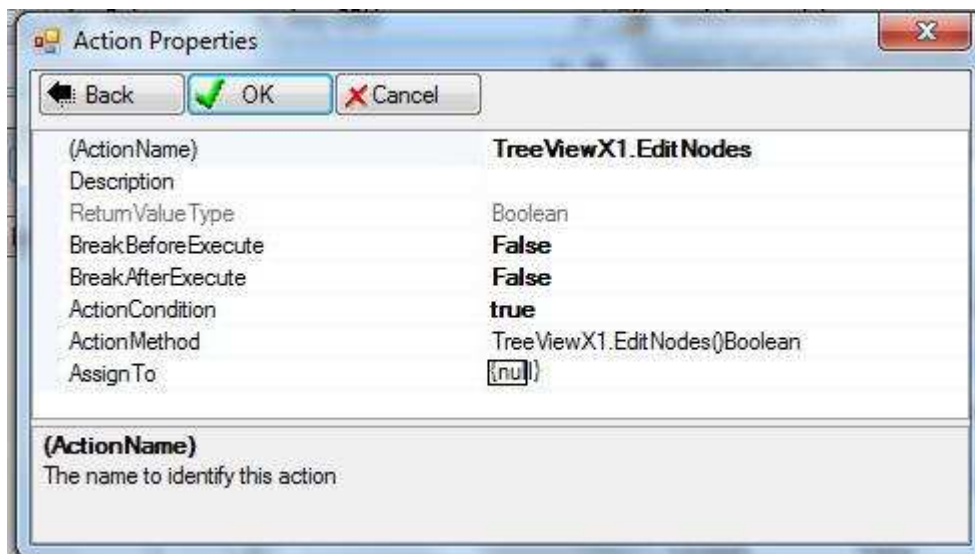
Calling EditNode method

The design time editing can be launched at runtime via an action of “EditNodes”.

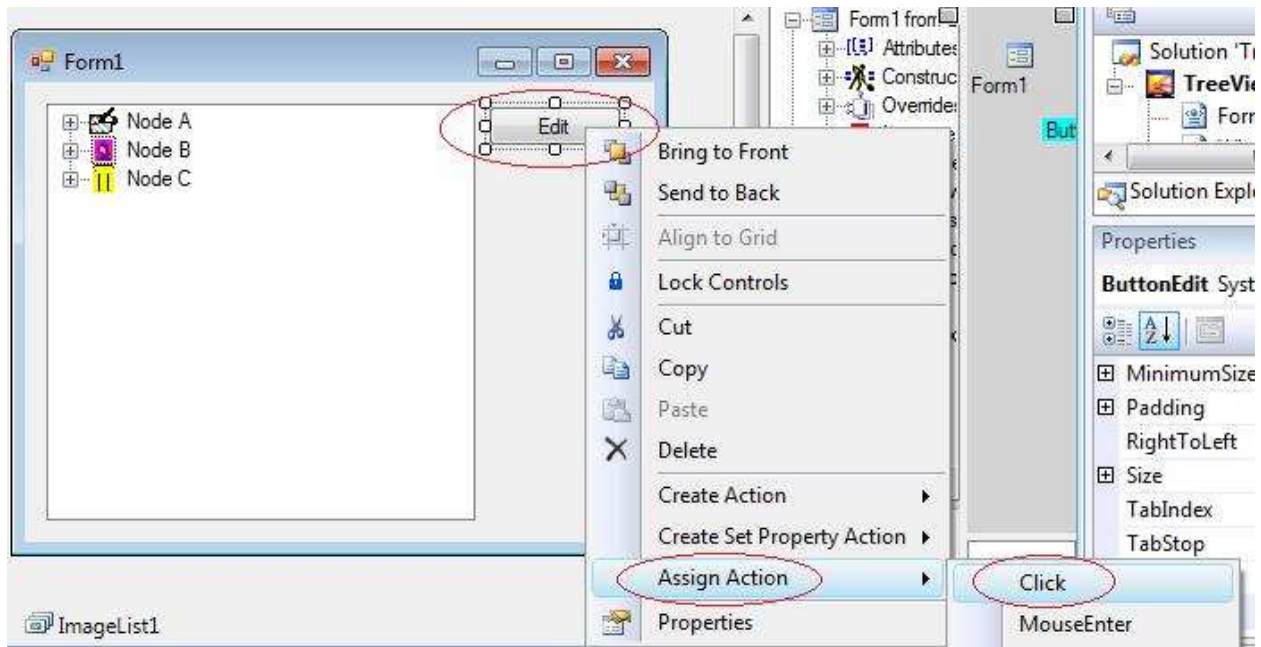
Right-click the tree view, choose “Create Action”. Choose “EditNodes”:



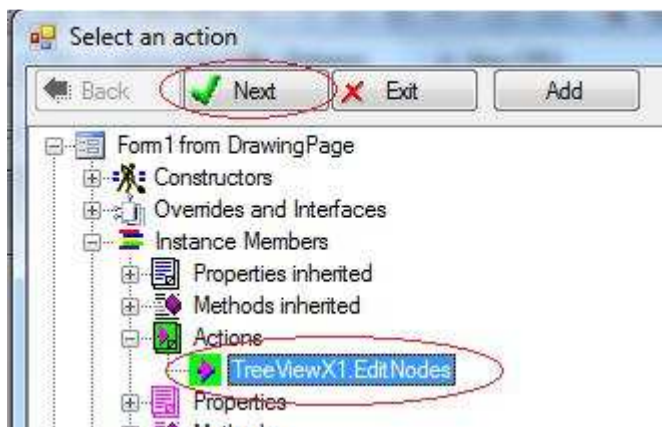
Click OK:




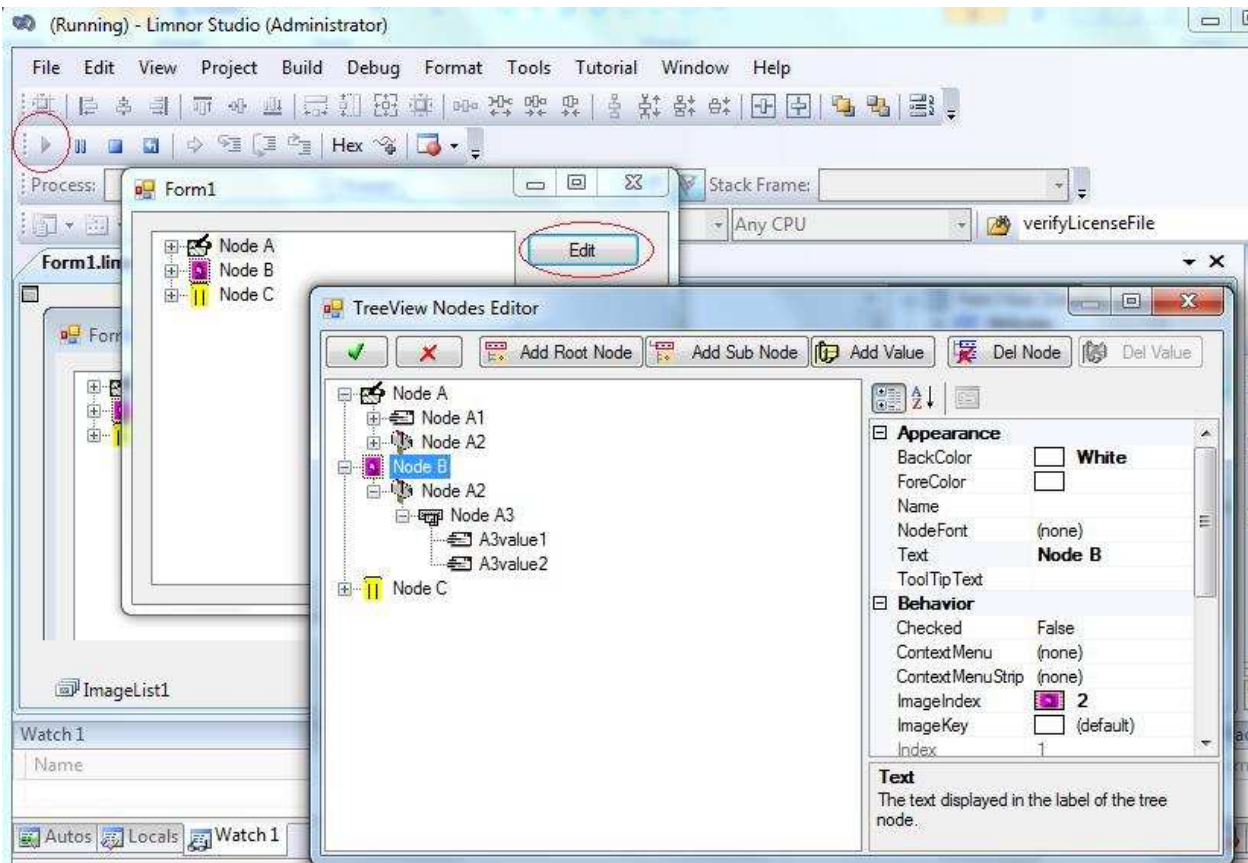
To assign this action, TreeViewX1.EditNodes, to a button, right-click the button, choose "Assign Action". Choose "Click":



Choose the action. Click Next:



Click  to test it at runtime. The application runs. Click button Edit. The Nodes Editor appears:

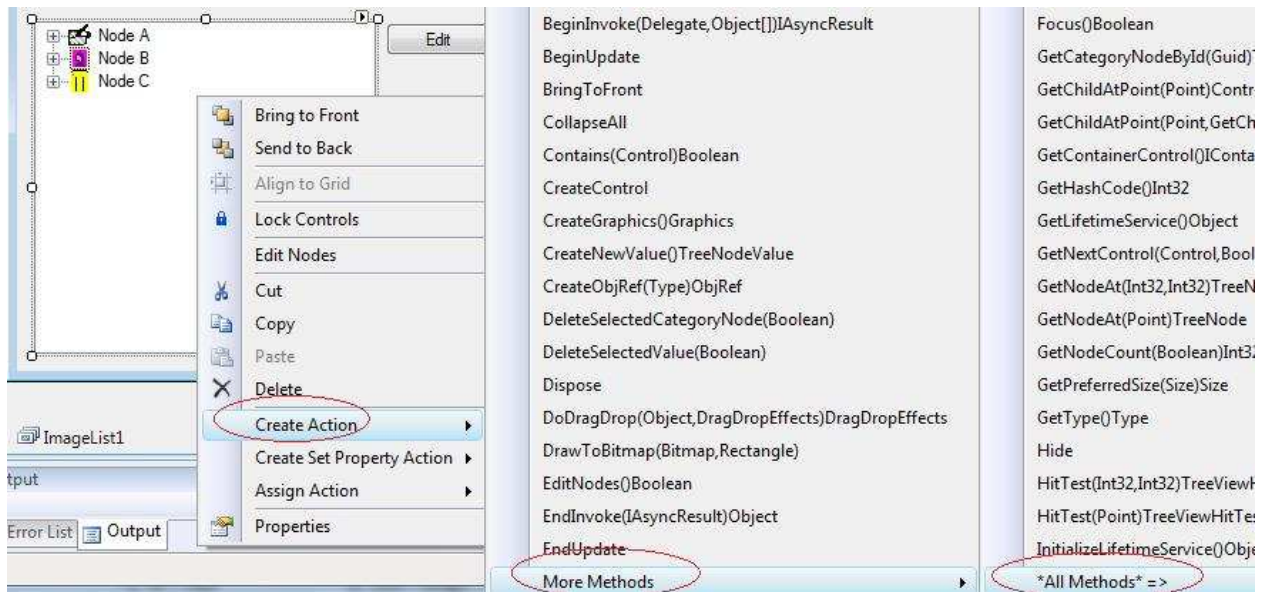


Use XML Files

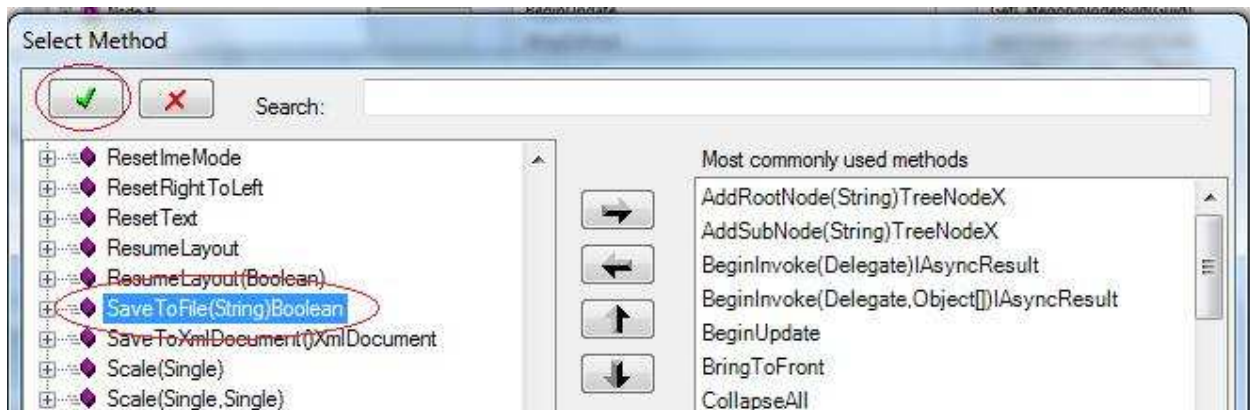
Save nodes to XML file

We may create an action to save nodes to an XML file.

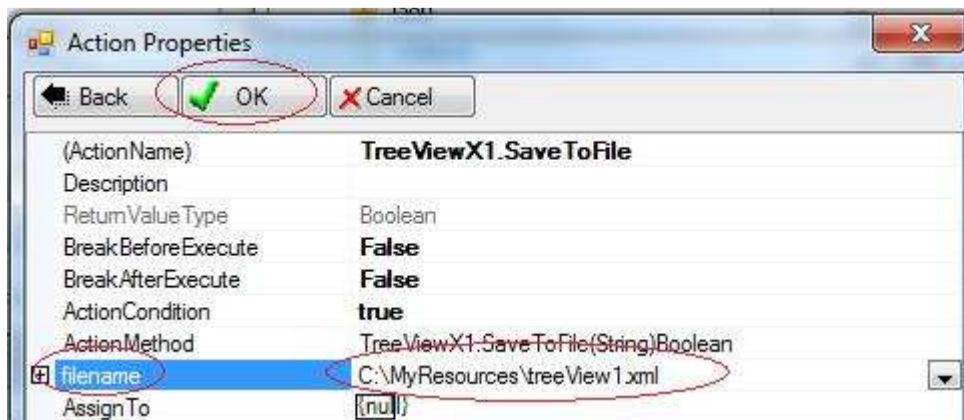
Right-click the tree view, choose "Create Action". Choose "More methods". Choose "*All methods *=>"



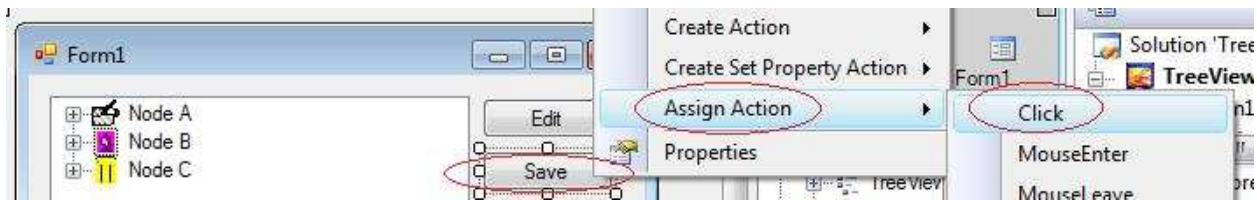
Select "SaveToFile":



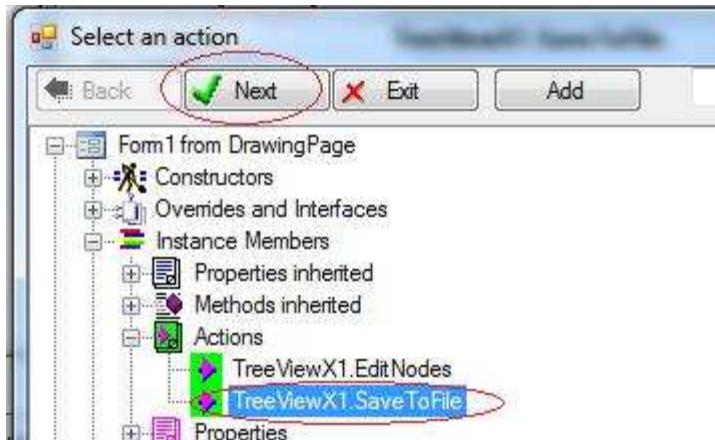
This action needs a "filename" parameter indicating the name of file to be created. For this sample, we use a constant "C:\MyResources\treeView1.xml":




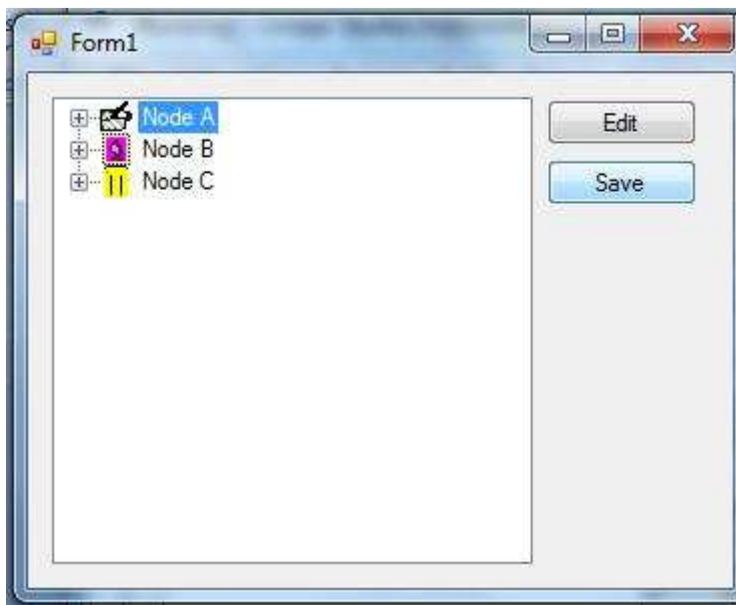
Assign this action to a button:



Select the action. Click Next:



Click  to test it at runtime. The application runs. Click "Save" button:




The XML file is created. We may use IE to view it:

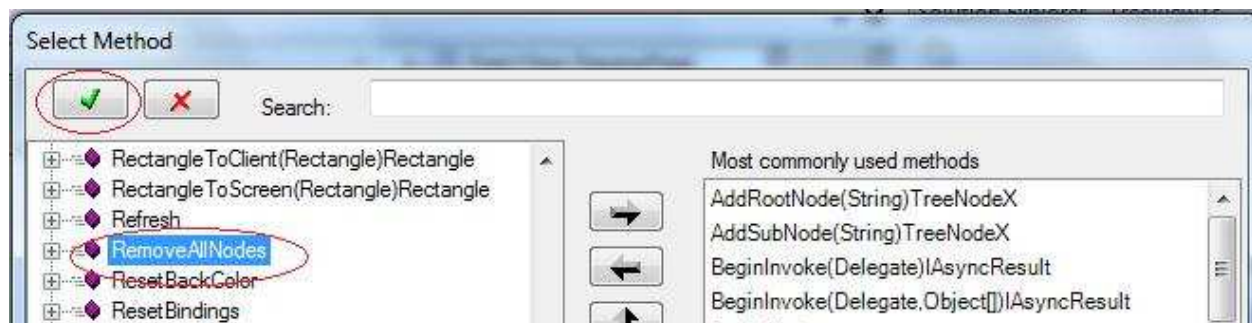


Load nodes from XML file

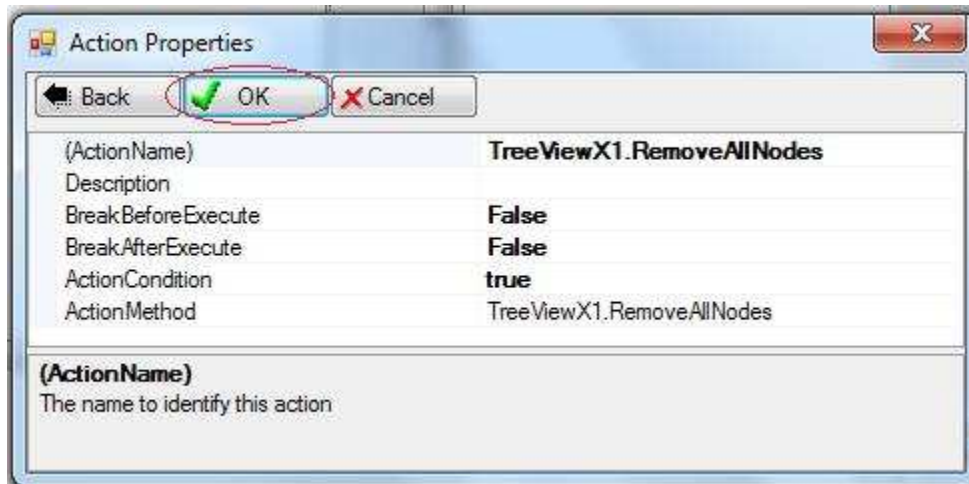
We may use a LoadFromFile action to load tree nodes from a XML file. The file must be created by executing a SaveToFile action.

We have a file, "C:\MyResources\treeView1.xml". We may create a new application to load this file. For simplicity, we use the same sample application but add a "Clear" button to remove all the tree nodes to prepare for the loading of nodes from the XML file.

Right-click the tree view, choose "Create Action". Choose "More methods". Choose "*All methods *=>". Select "RemoveAllNodes". Click :




Click OK:

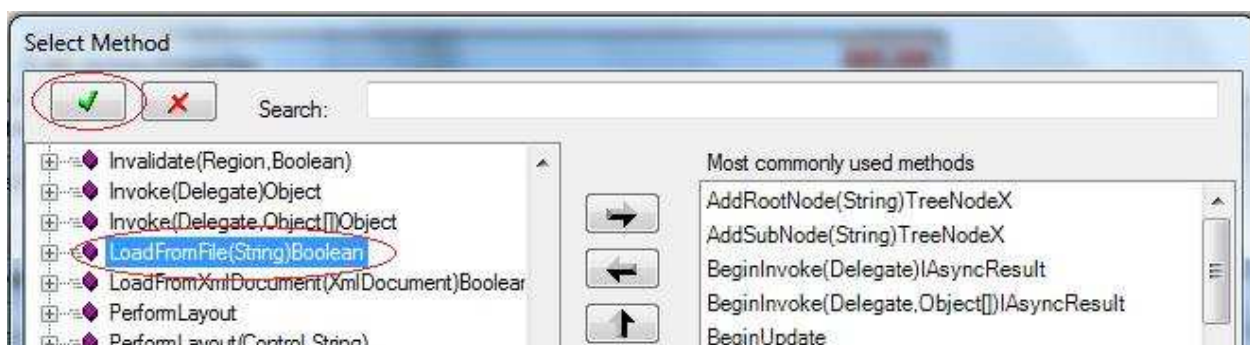


Assign this action a “Clear” button:

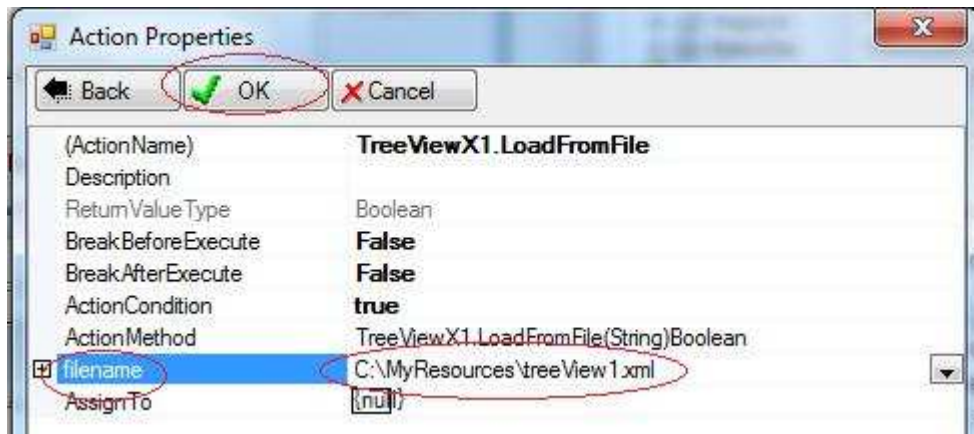


Select action TreeViewX1.RemoveAllNodes to assign to this event.

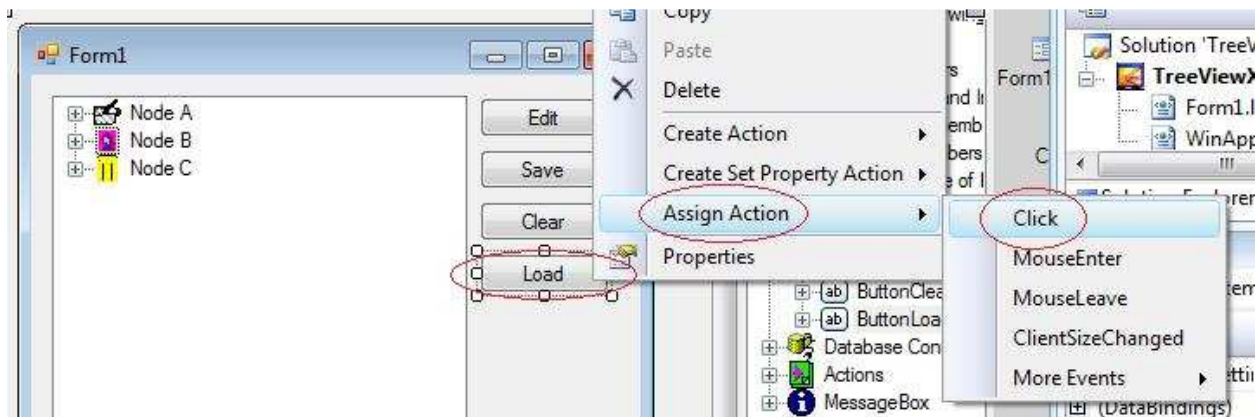
Now, let’s create LoadFromFile action. Right-click the tree view, choose “Create Action”. Choose “More methods”. Choose “*All methods *=>”. Select “LoadFromFile”. Click :



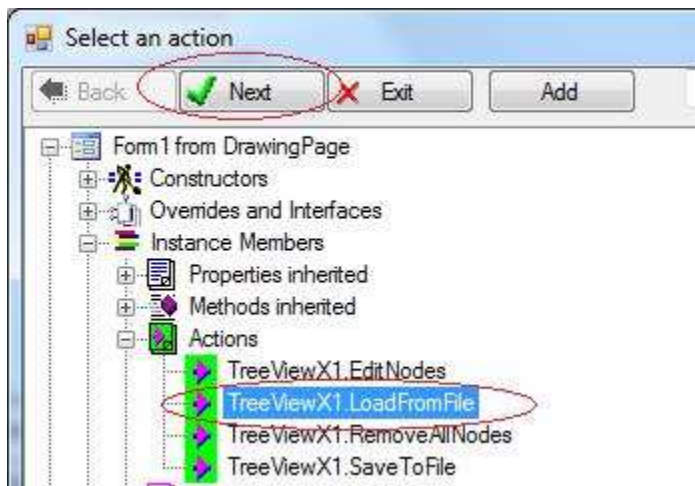
This action needs a “filename” parameter indicating the name of file to be created. For this sample, we use a constant “C:\MyResources\treeView1.xml”:



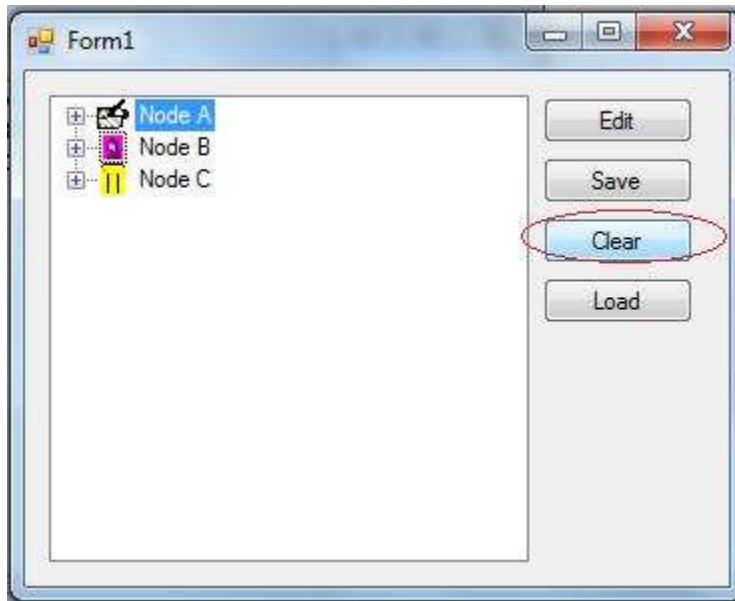
Assign this action to a button:



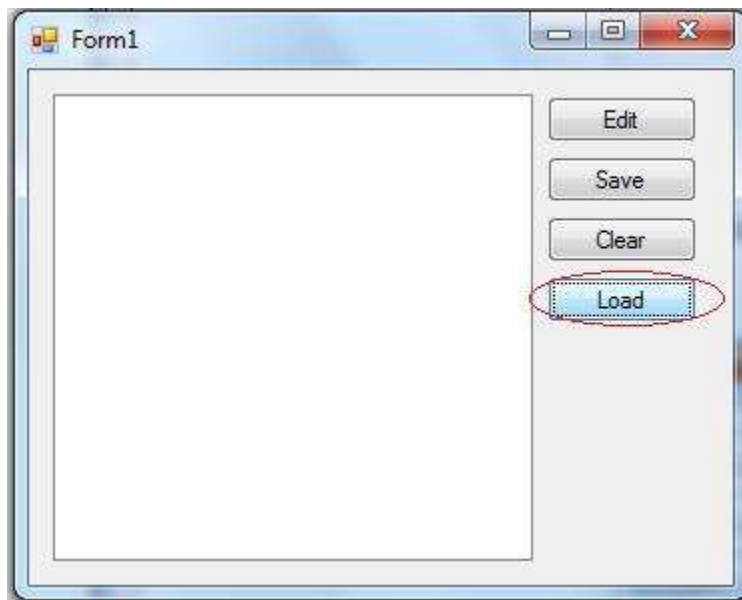
Select the action, click Next:



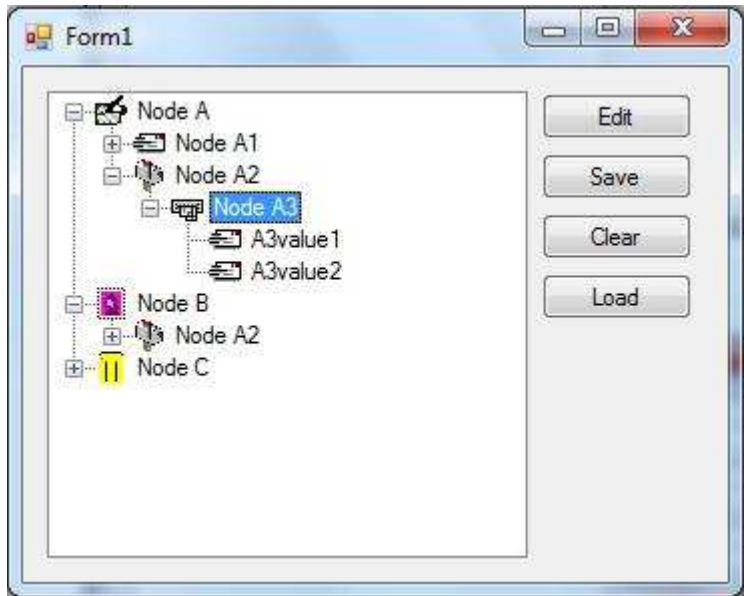
Click  to test it at runtime. The application runs. Click "Clear" button:



All nodes are removed. Click “Load” button:



The nodes are loaded from the XML file:



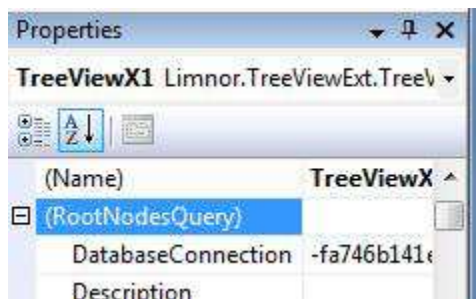
Use Databases

Tree Nodes may be created using data from databases. This chapter describes how to create tree nodes from database query and pass data from database to tree nodes.

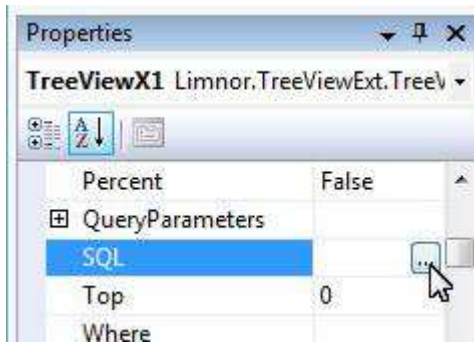
Load root nodes

Data Query

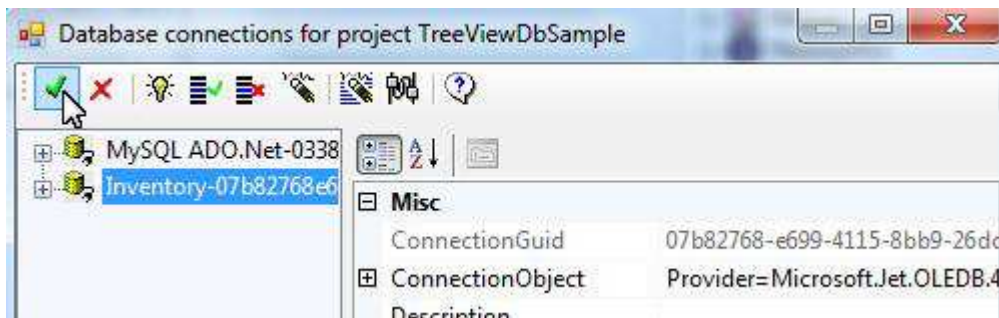
A TreeViewX has a RootNodesQuery property for specifying database query to load root nodes:



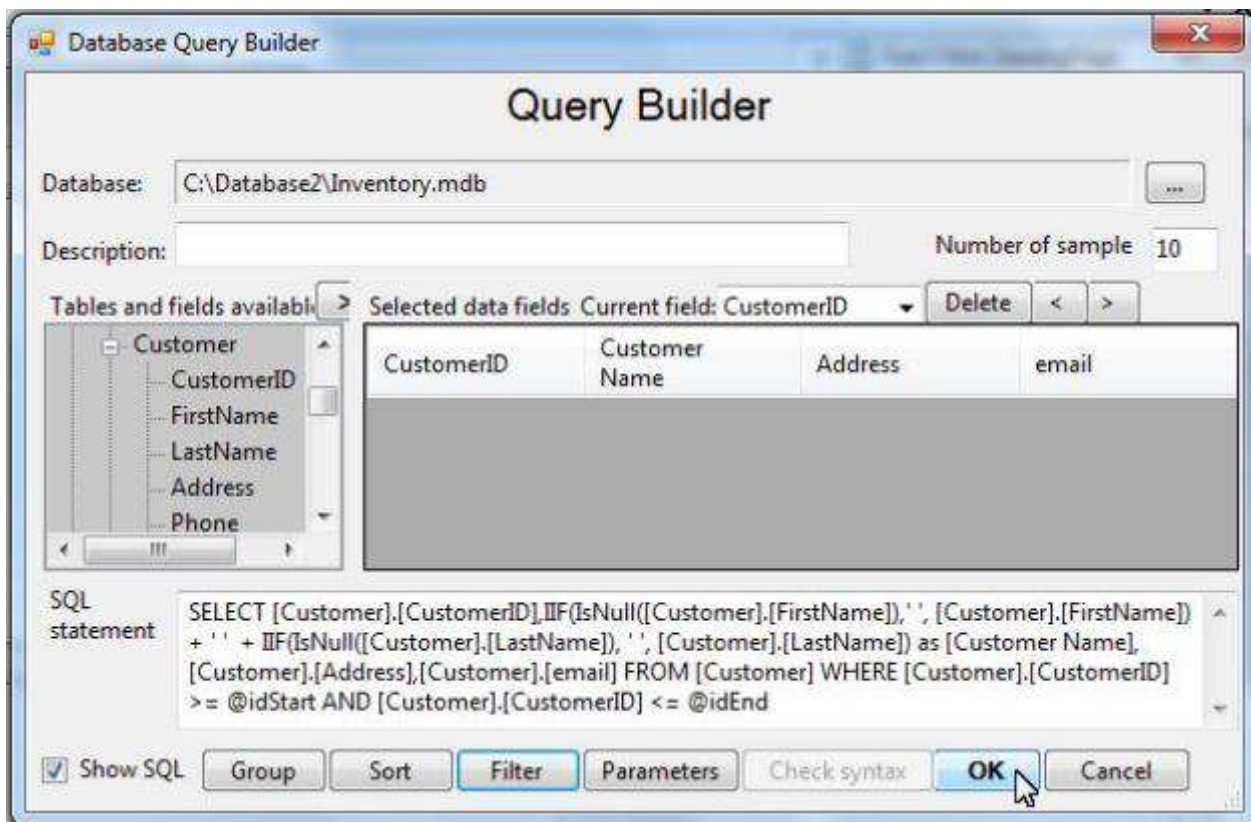
Set the SQL property of the RootNodesQuery to launch the Query Builder:



Select a desired database connection:



Suppose the database has a Customer table; suppose we want to use a Tree Node for each Customer record. We may build a query to include desired customer information:



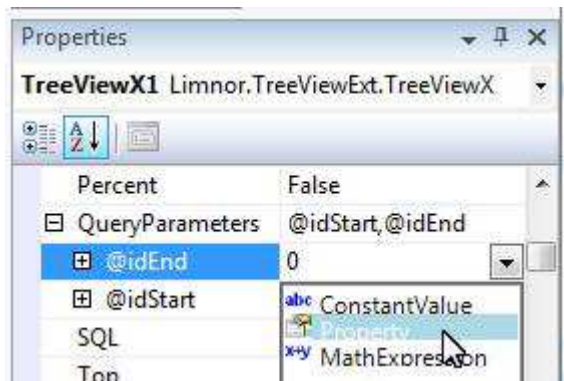
Note that we use two parameters in this sample query.

For more information on how to use database and Query Builder, see

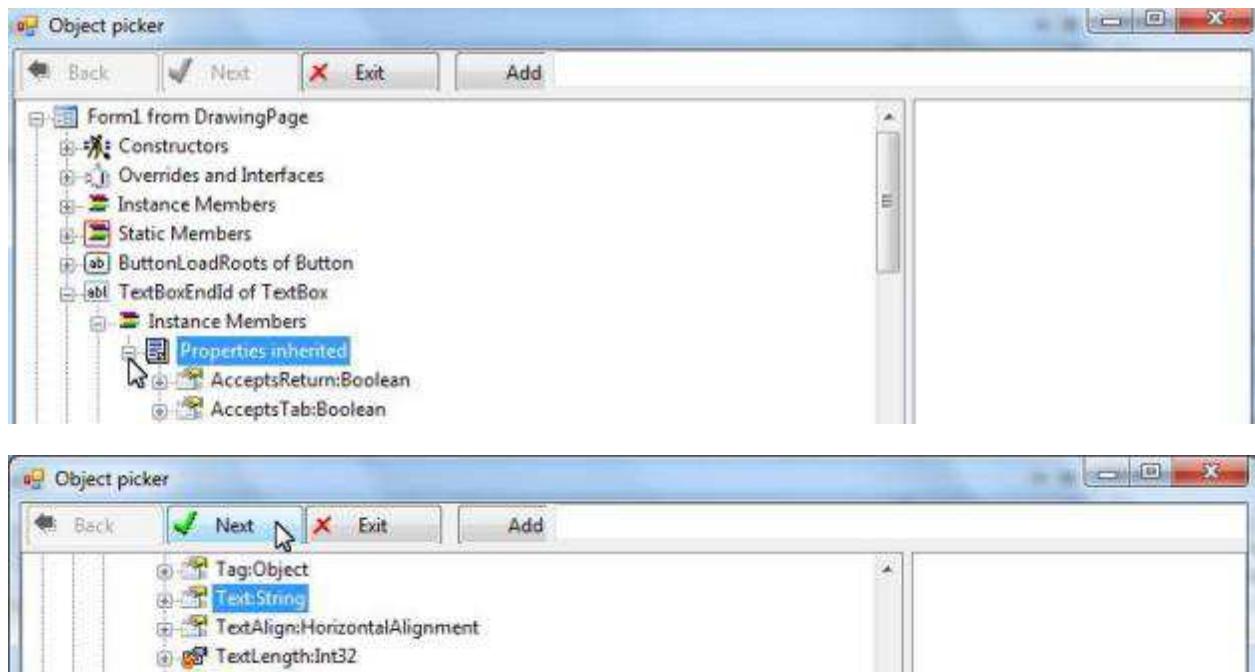
<http://www.limnor.com/support/Limnor%20Studio%20-%20User%20Guide%20-%20Part%20VI.pdf>

All parameters defined in the query are listed under QueryParameters. We may create actions to set parameter values at runtime. For this sample, we simply link each parameter to a Text Box at design time.

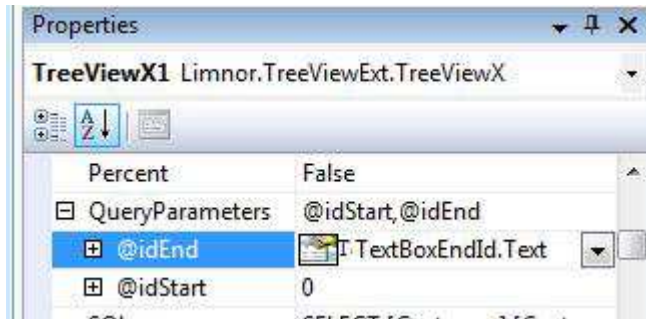
Select Property for parameter @idEnd:



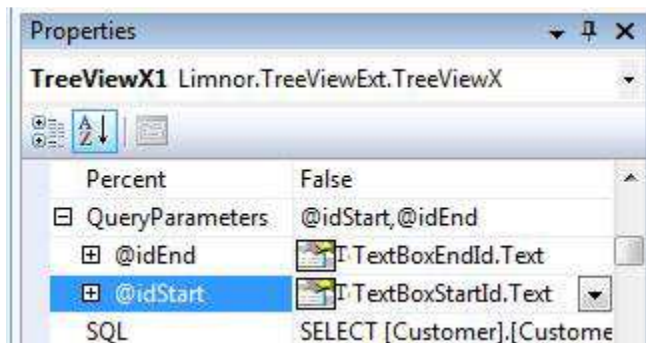
Select Text property of the Text Box named TextBoxEndId:



The Text property of the text box TextBoxEndId is assigned to the @idEnd:



We also assign the Text property of TextBoxStartId to @idStart:



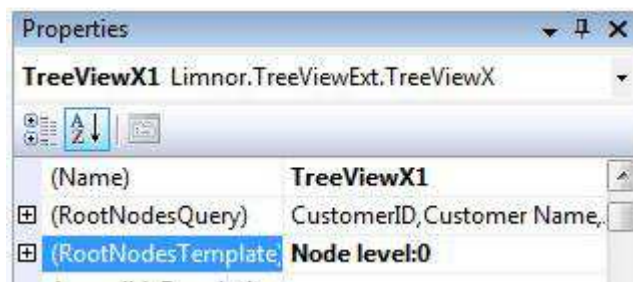
We are done setting up data query for loading root nodes.

Every tree node has a Fields property. The query results will be available through the Fields property.

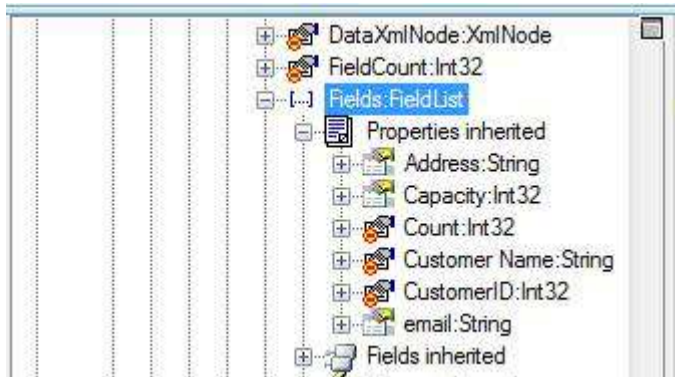
To apply the query results to each tree node, RootNodesTemplate property can be used.

Node template

A TreeViewX has a RootNodesTemplate property. We may use this property to specify how each node should be created.

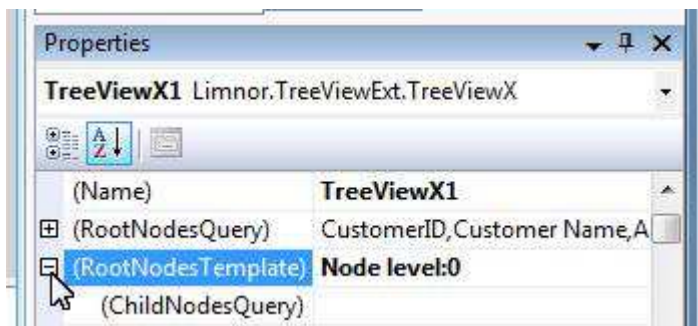


RootNodesTemplate has a Fields property, which shows fields defined by the data query

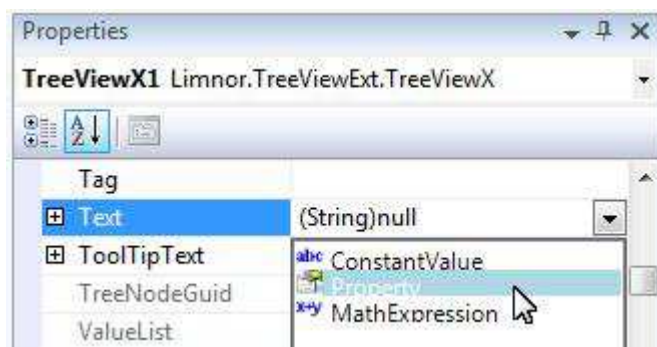


Suppose we want to display Customer Name field on each node. To do that, we may assign the Customer Name field to the Text property of the node template. It is done as described below.

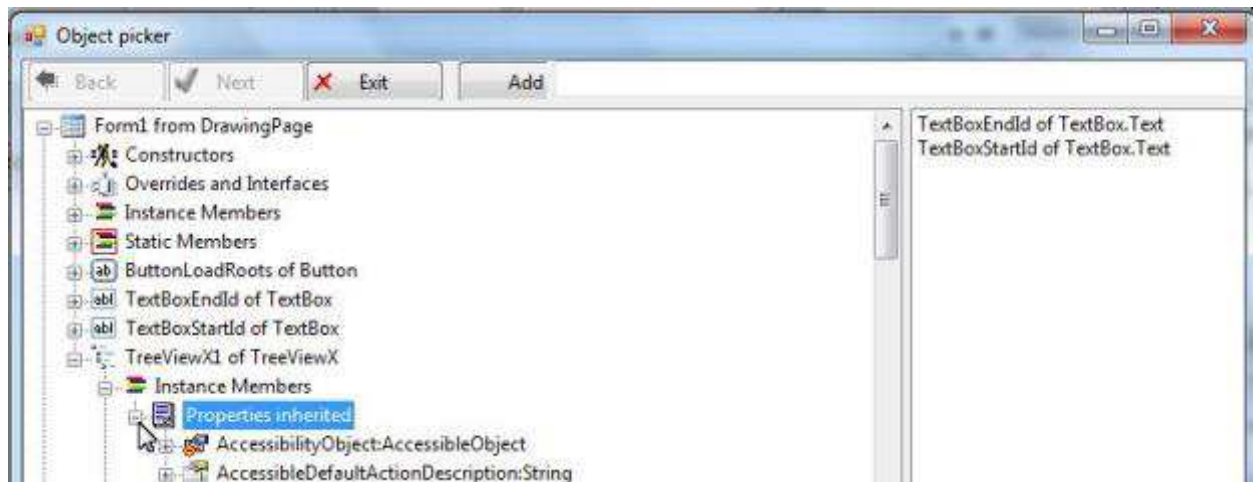
Expand RootNodesTemplate:



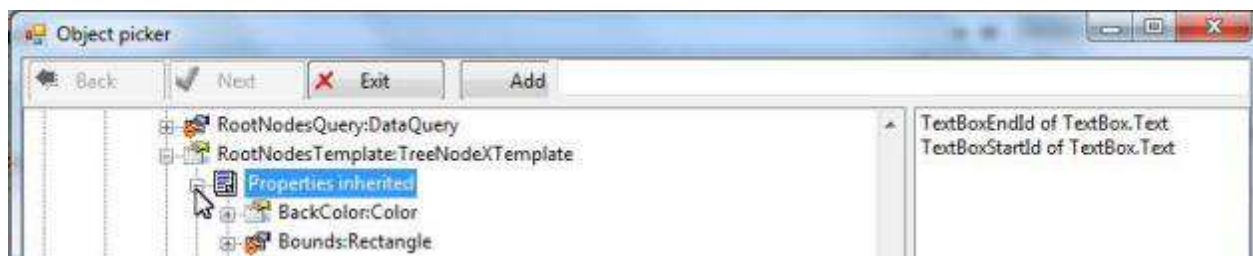
Select Text property and select Property:



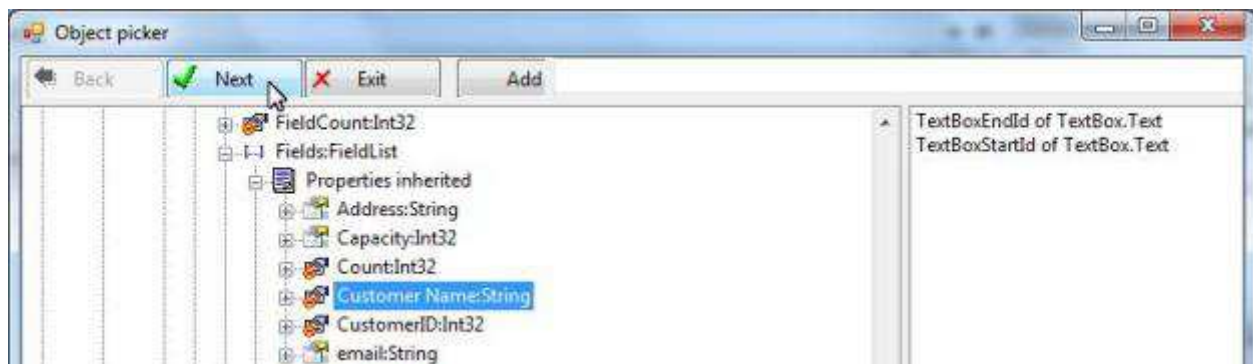
Expand the properties of TreeViewX:



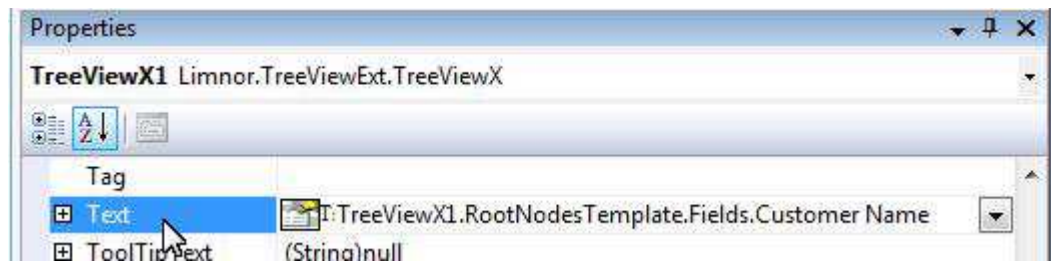
Expand the properties of RootNodesTemplate:



Select Customer Name under Fields:

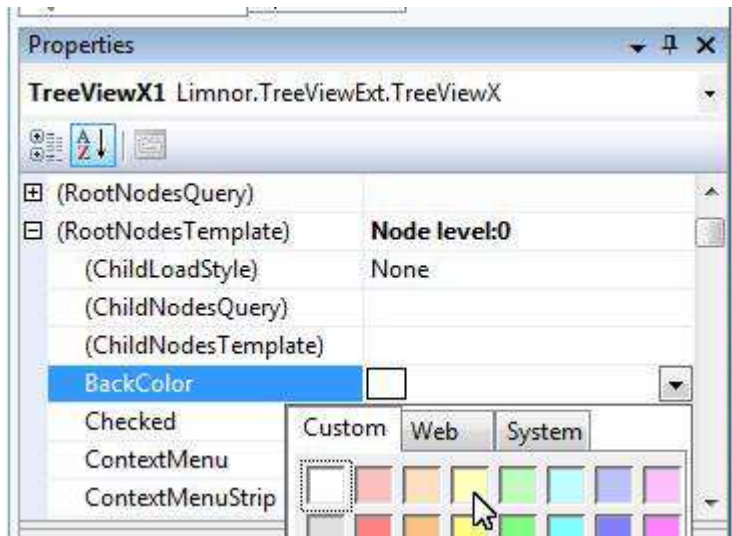


The Customer Name field is assigned to the Text property of the root node template:



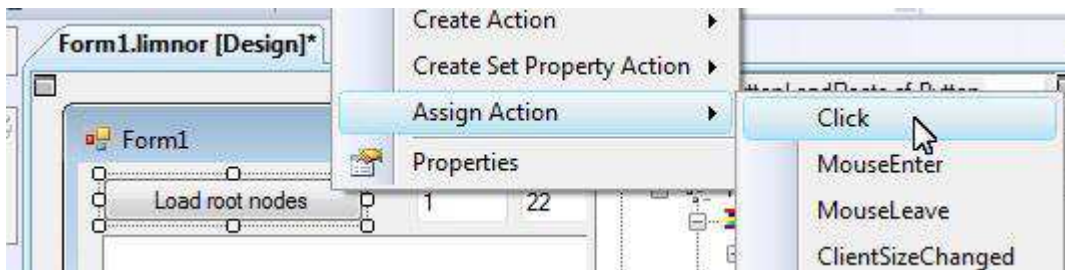
We may set other properties of the template node. For example, set the ImageIndex and SelectedImageIndex for showing node icons. It does not have to be linked to database fields. For example, ImageIndex may be linked to the Level property of the node if you want to use one icon for one level.

As another example of setting template, we set the BackColor to light yellow:

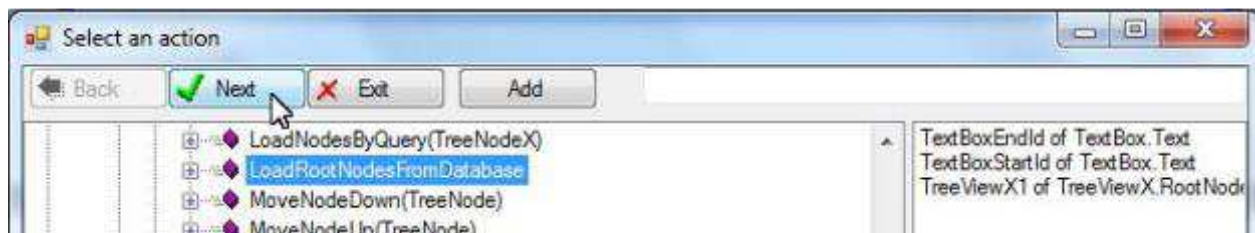
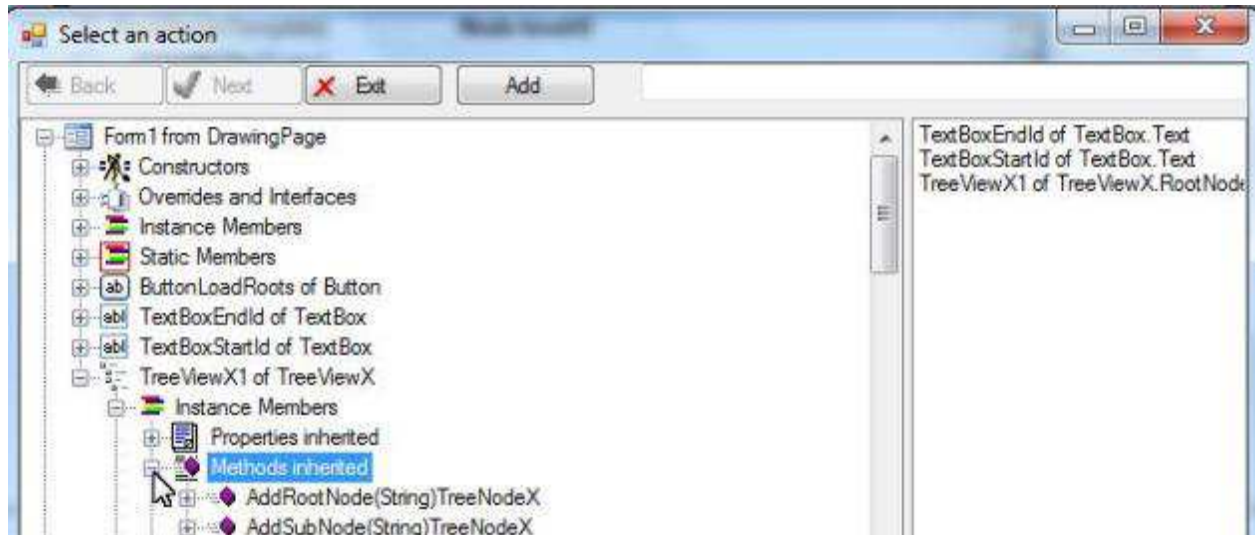


Load root nodes

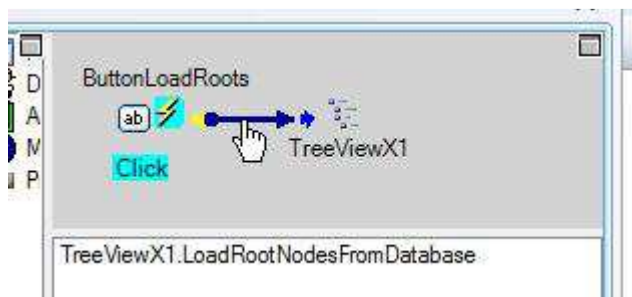
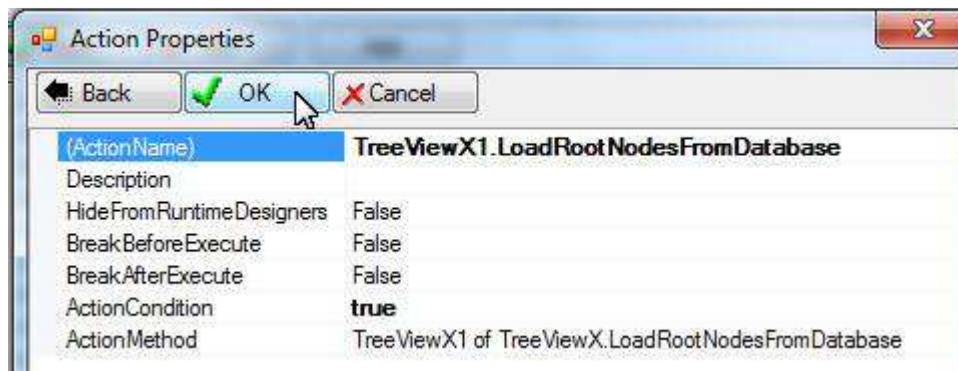
A TreeViewX has a LoadRootNodesFromDatabase method. In this sample it is executed by clicking a button. Right-click the button; choose "Assign Action"; choose "Click":



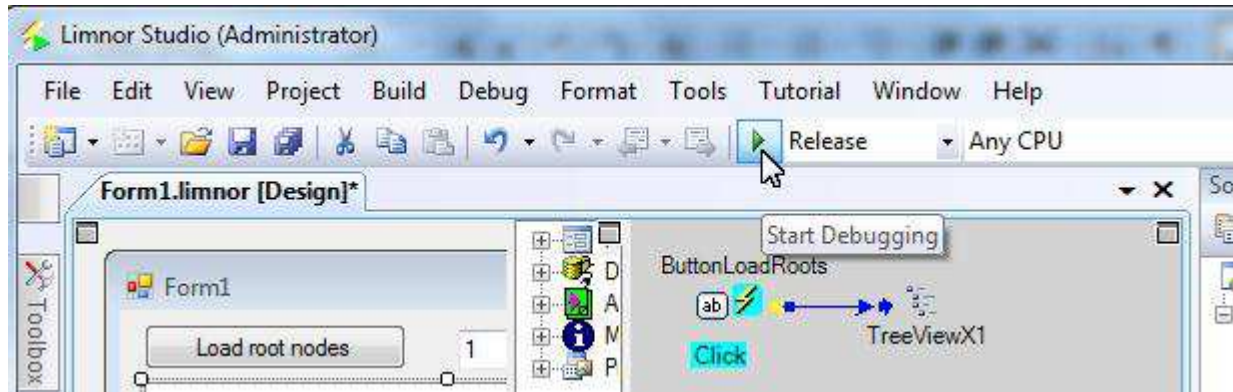
Select LoadRootNodesFromDatabase of the TreeViewX:



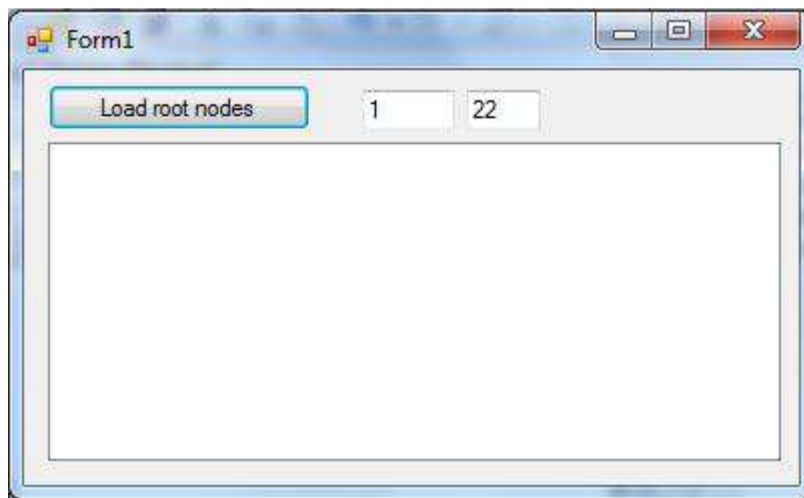
Click OK to create an action and assign it to the button:



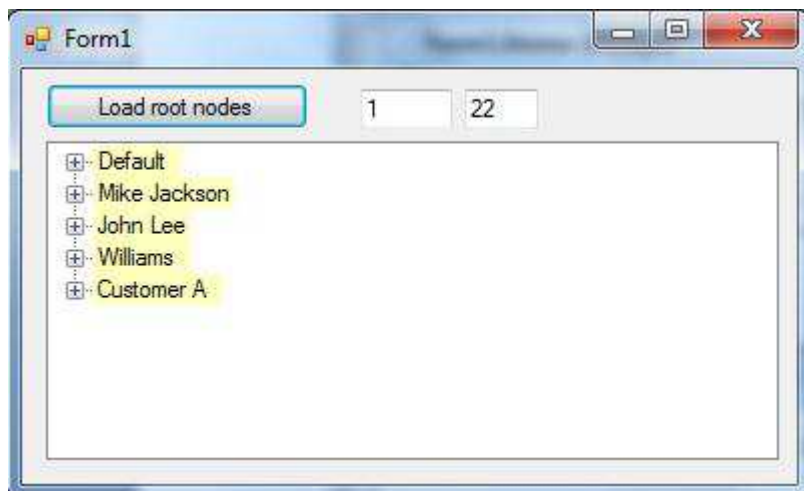
We may test it. Click the Run button:



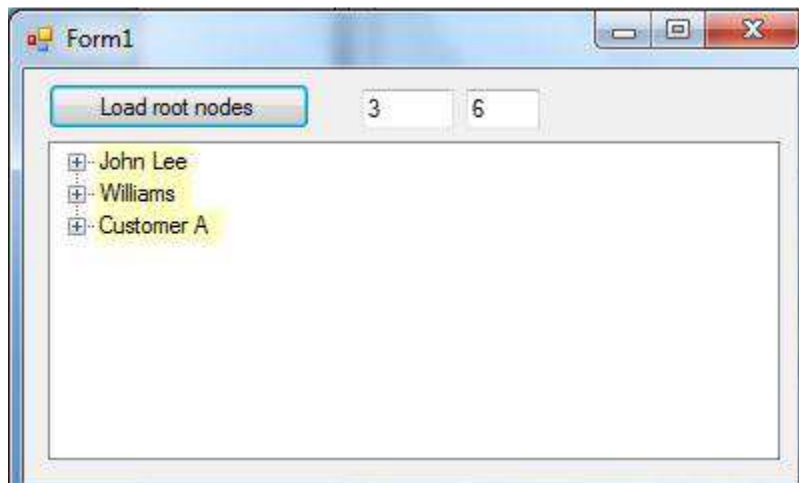
The form appears:



Click the button. A root node is created for each customer record. Background color for the nodes is light yellow:



If we change the values in the text boxes and click the button again then we will see that the range of customers is changed accordingly.

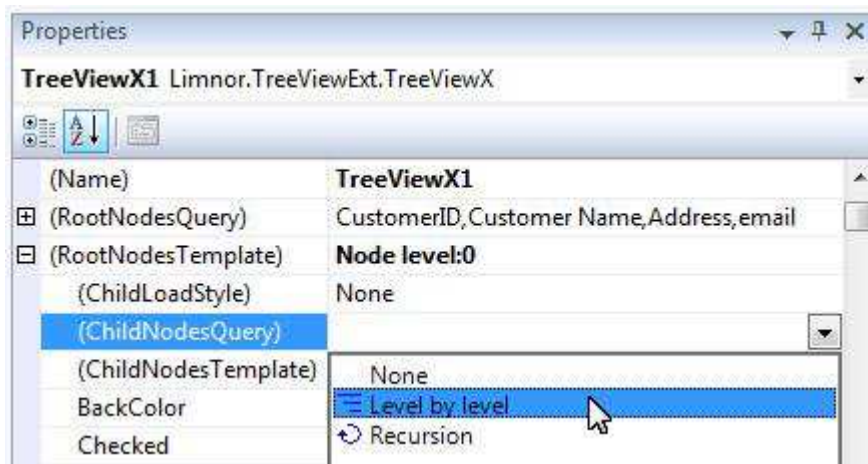


Load child nodes level by level

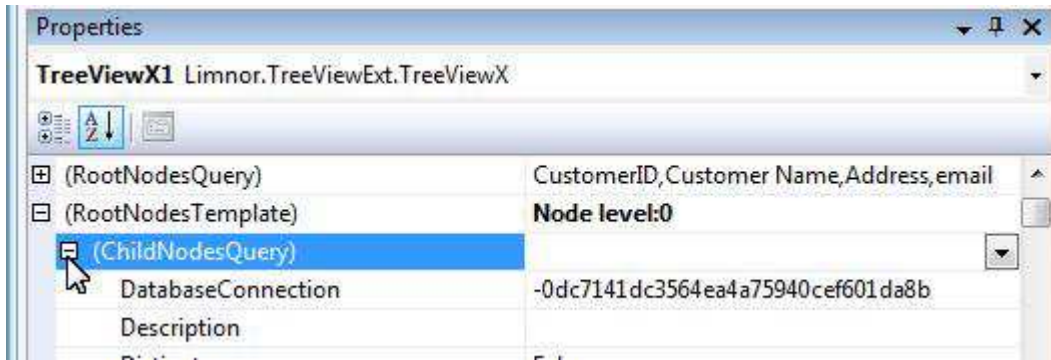
Suppose our database has an Order table which is linked to the Customer table, that is, each customer may have many orders. We want to display orders for each customer. That is, we want the child nodes of the root nodes to be created by Order records.

Data query for child nodes

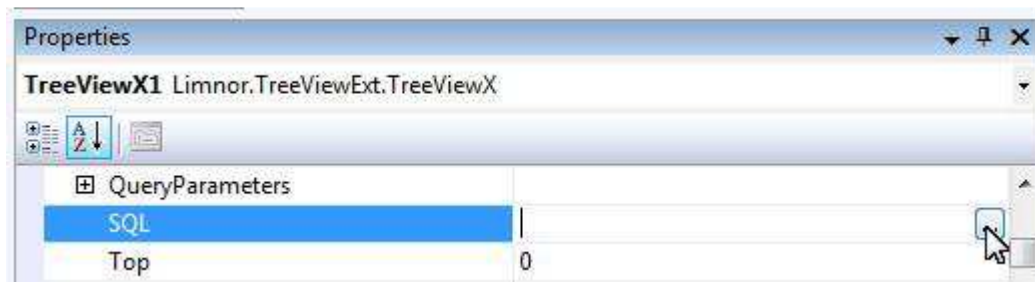
The RootNodesTemplate has a ChildNodesQuery. By default, it is disabled. Turn it on by selecting “Level by level”



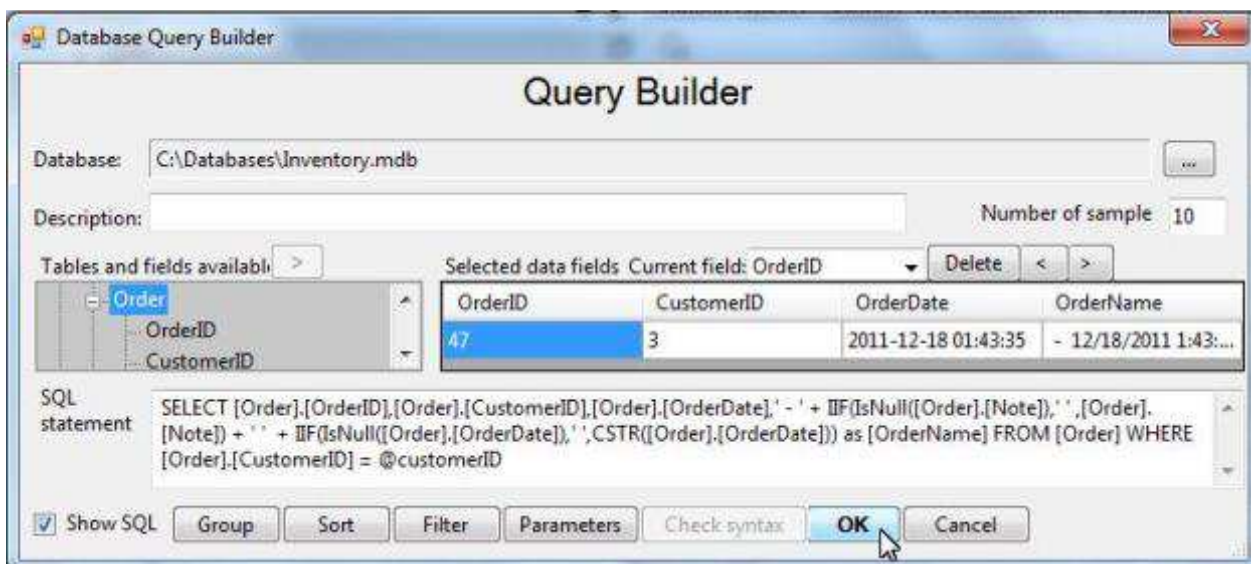
Expand ChildNodesQuery:



Set SQL property of the ChildNodesQuery:



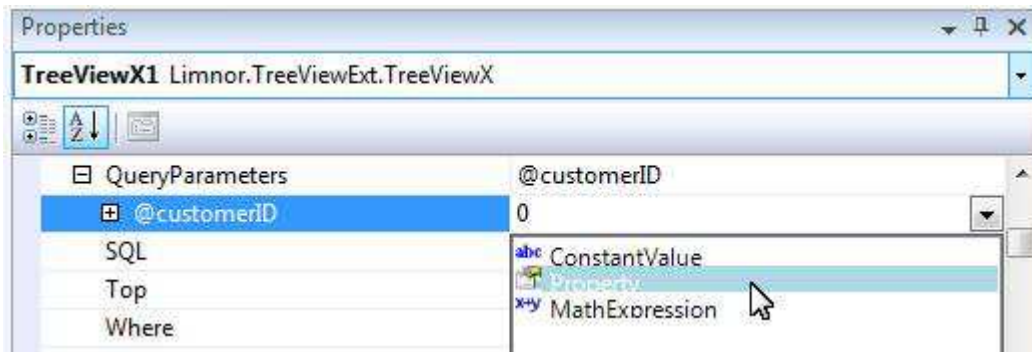
Build a query to include desired Order information:



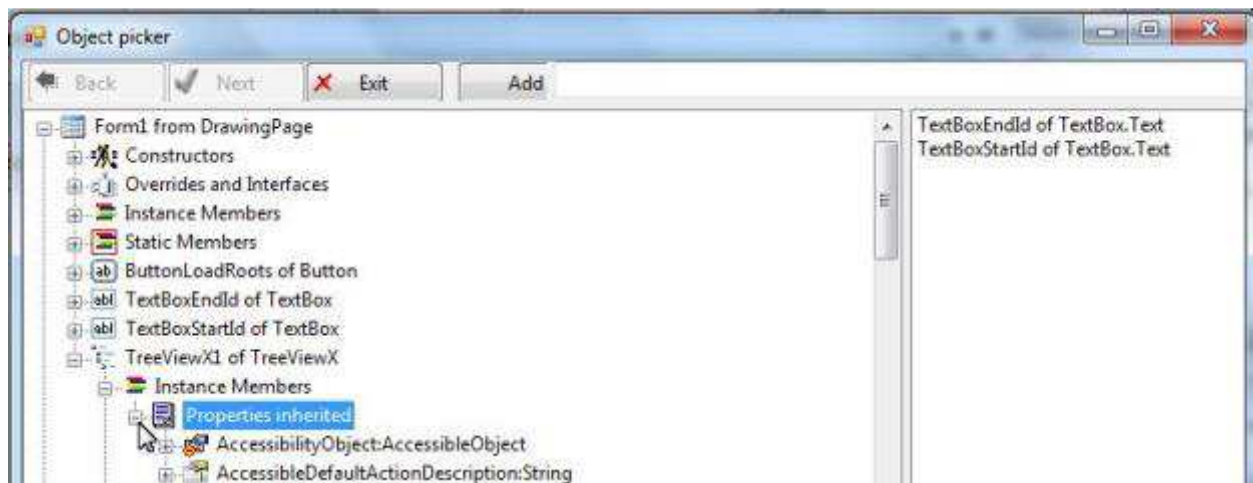
The query forms a "OrderName" field for tree node text.

It uses a parameter, @customerID, to associate Order records to Customer records. We need to link this parameter to the OrderID field of the parent tree node.

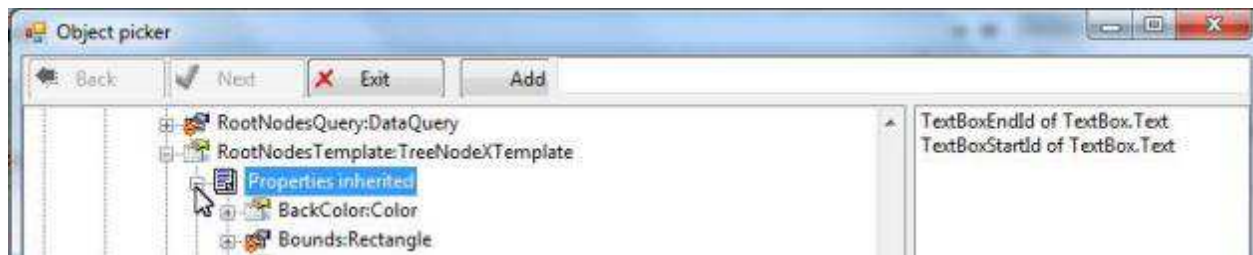
Select Property for the parameter @customerID:



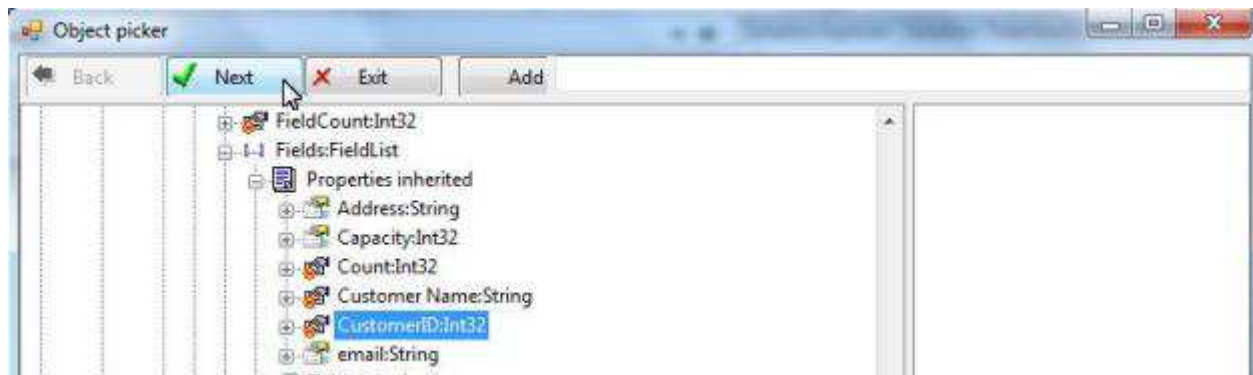
Expand the properties of TreeViewX:



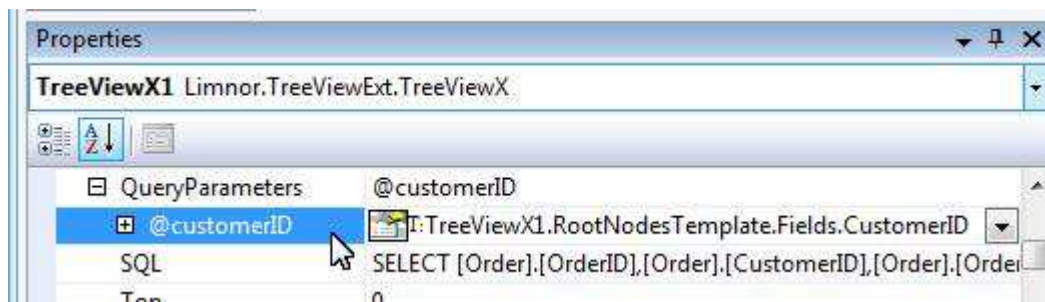
Expand the properties of RootNodesTemplate:



Select CustomerID under Fields:

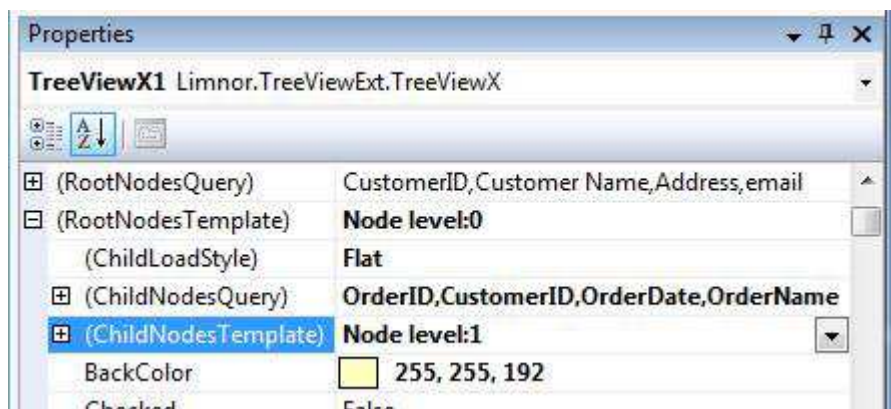


The CustomerID of the RootNodesTemplate is assigned to parameter @customerID:

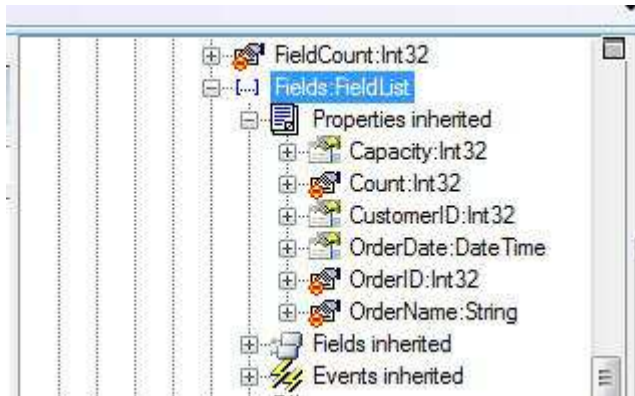


Child node template

The RootNodesTemplate has a ChildNodesTemplate property. We may use this property to specify how each child node should be created.

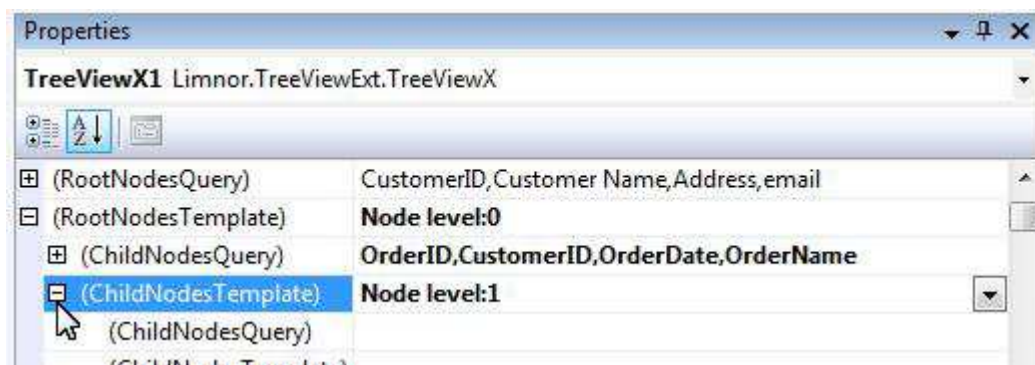


The child node template has a Fields property, which shows fields defined by the data query:

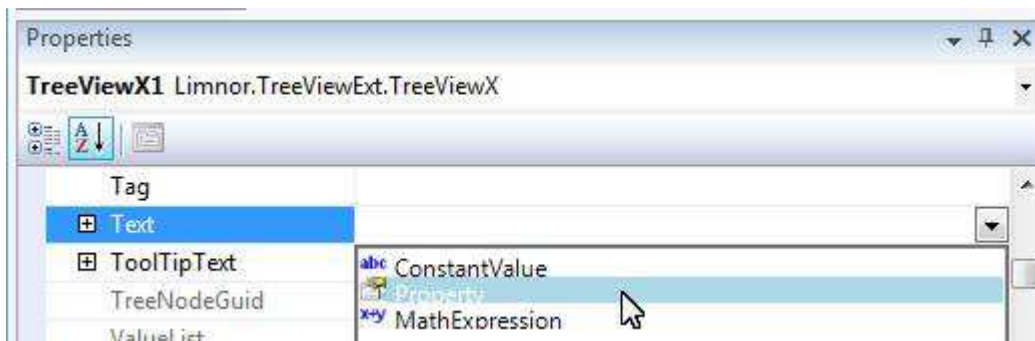


Suppose we want to display OrderName field on each node. To do that, we may assign the OrderName field to the Text property of the node template. It is done as described below.

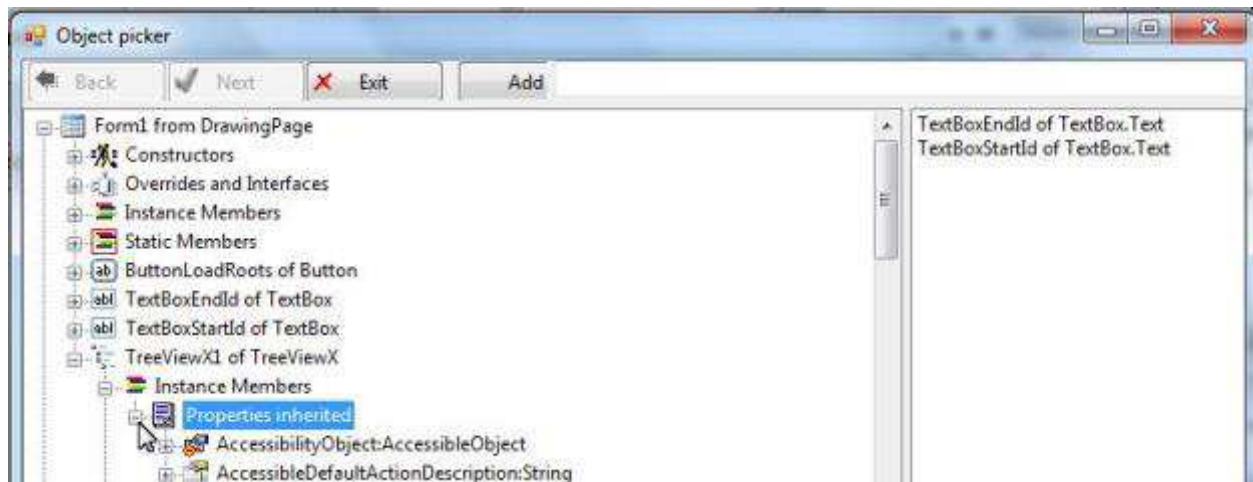
Expand ChildNodesTemplate:



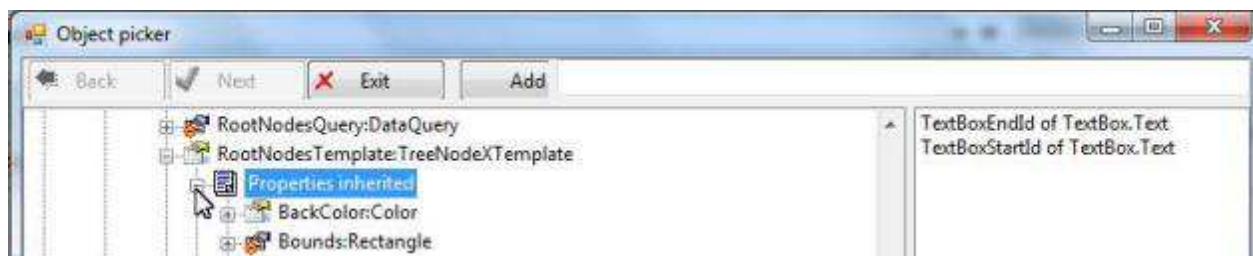
Select Text property and select Property:



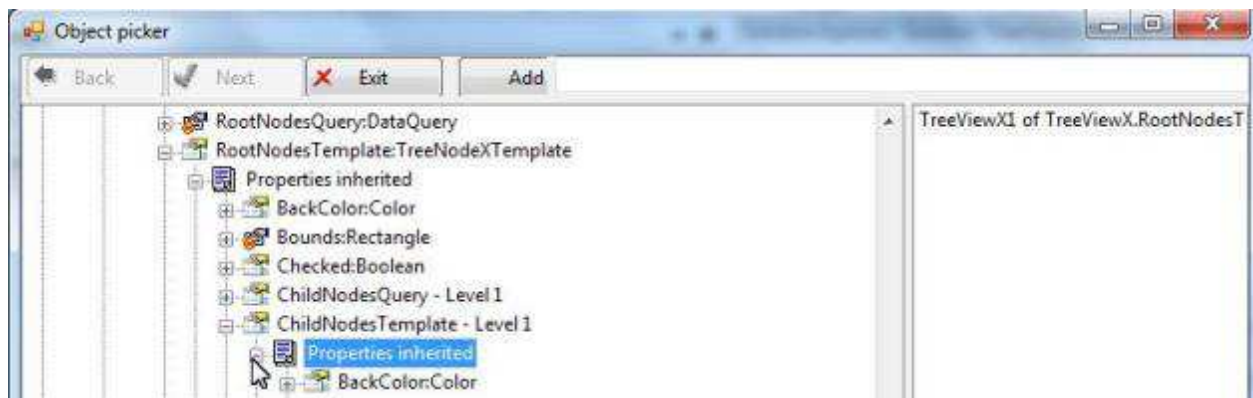
Expand the properties of TreeViewX:



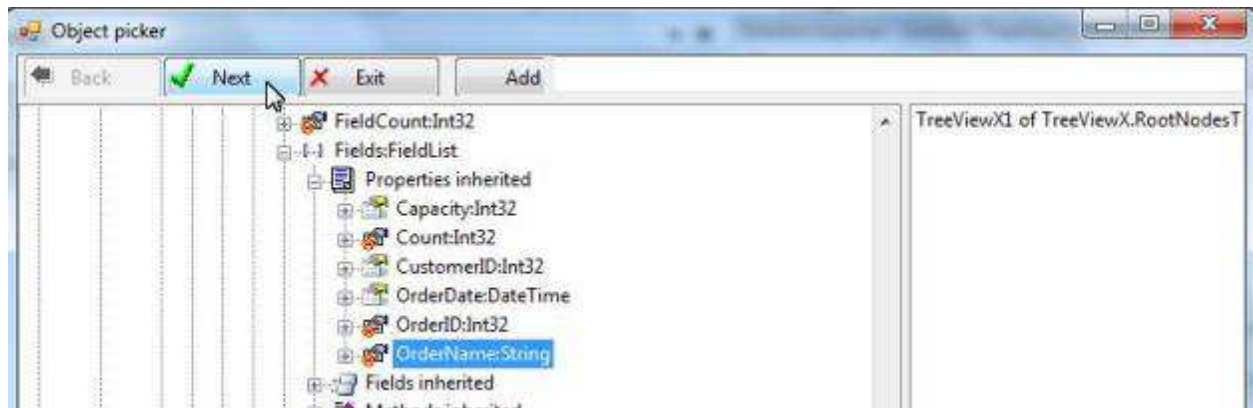
Expand the properties of RootNodesTemplate:



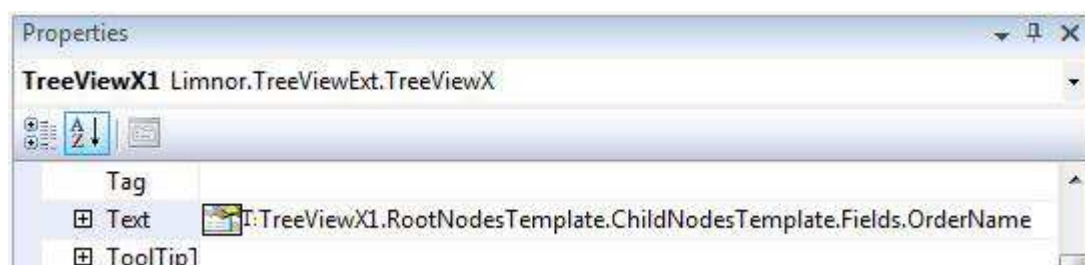
Expand the properties of ChildNodesTemplate:



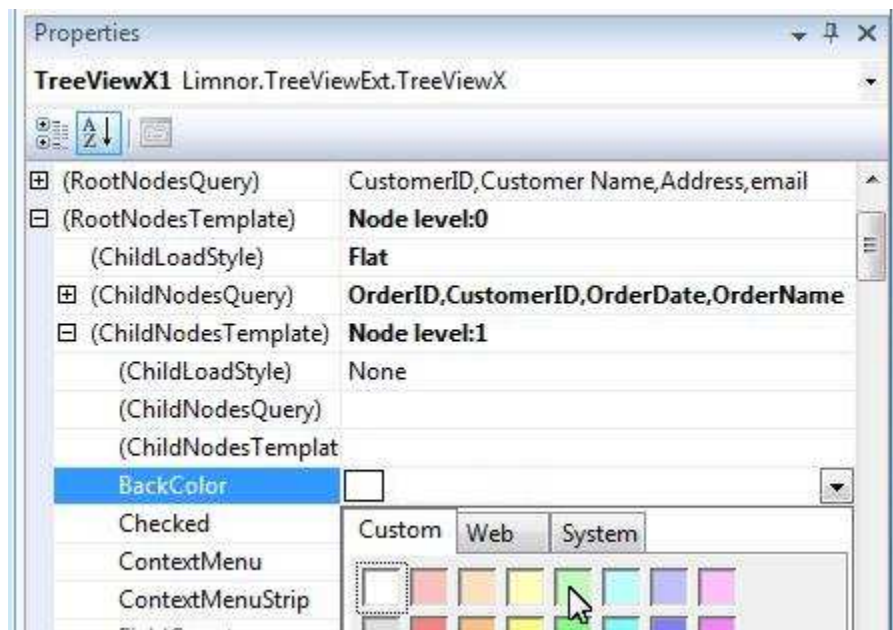
Select OrderName field under Fields:



The OrderName field is assigned to the Text property of the child node template:

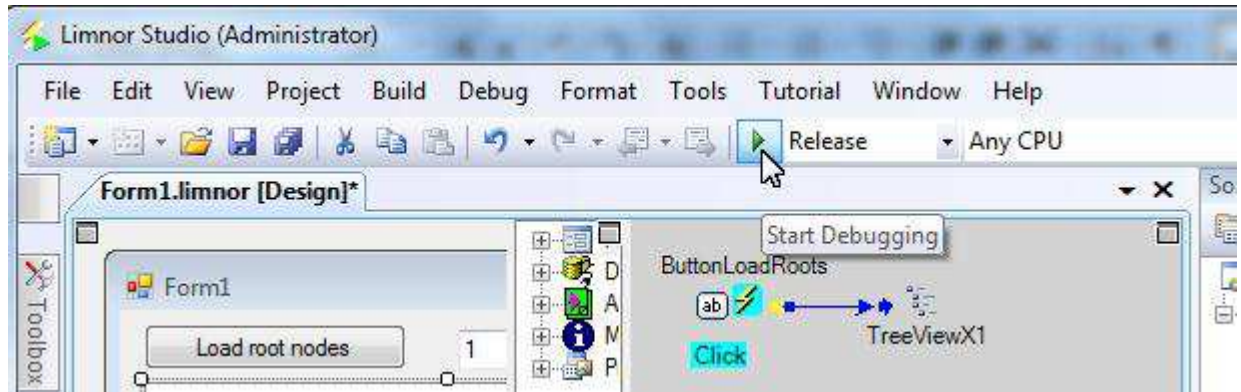


We may set other properties of the template node. For example, we set the BackColor to light green:

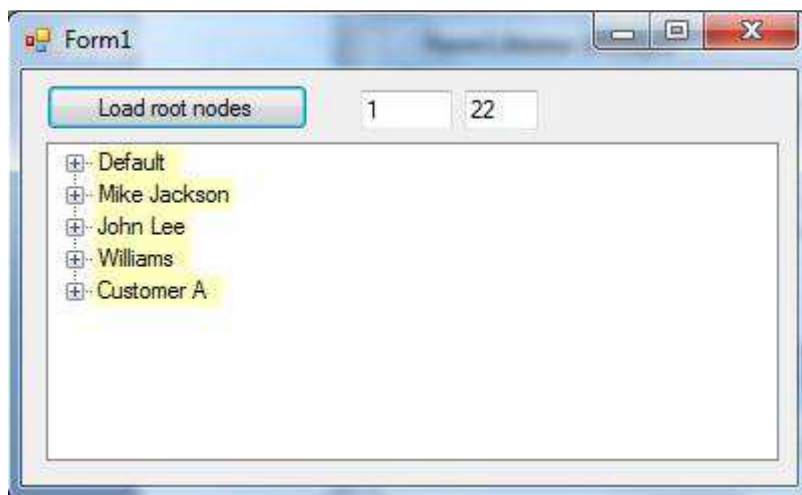


Test

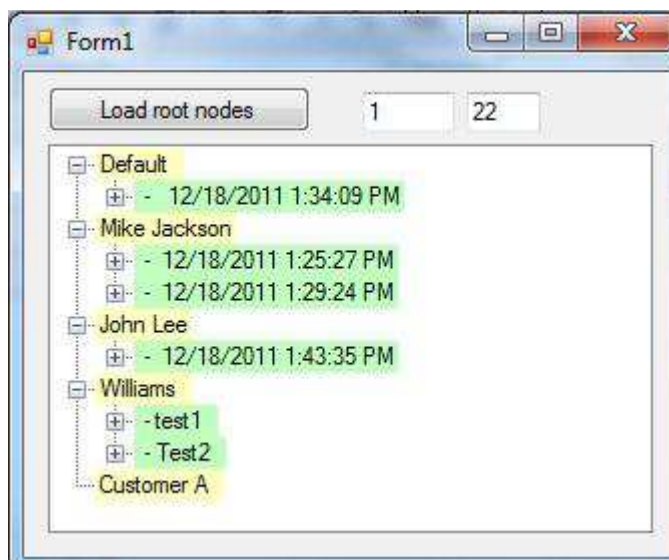
The above settings will display Order nodes under Customer nodes. Let's test it by clicking the Run button.



Click the button to load the root nodes:



Expand each root node, order nodes appear under each root node:

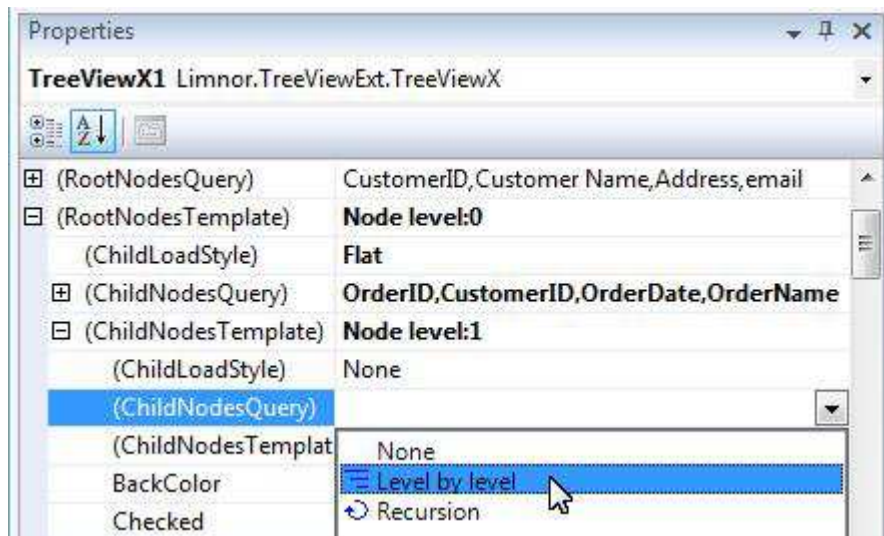


Deeper level child nodes

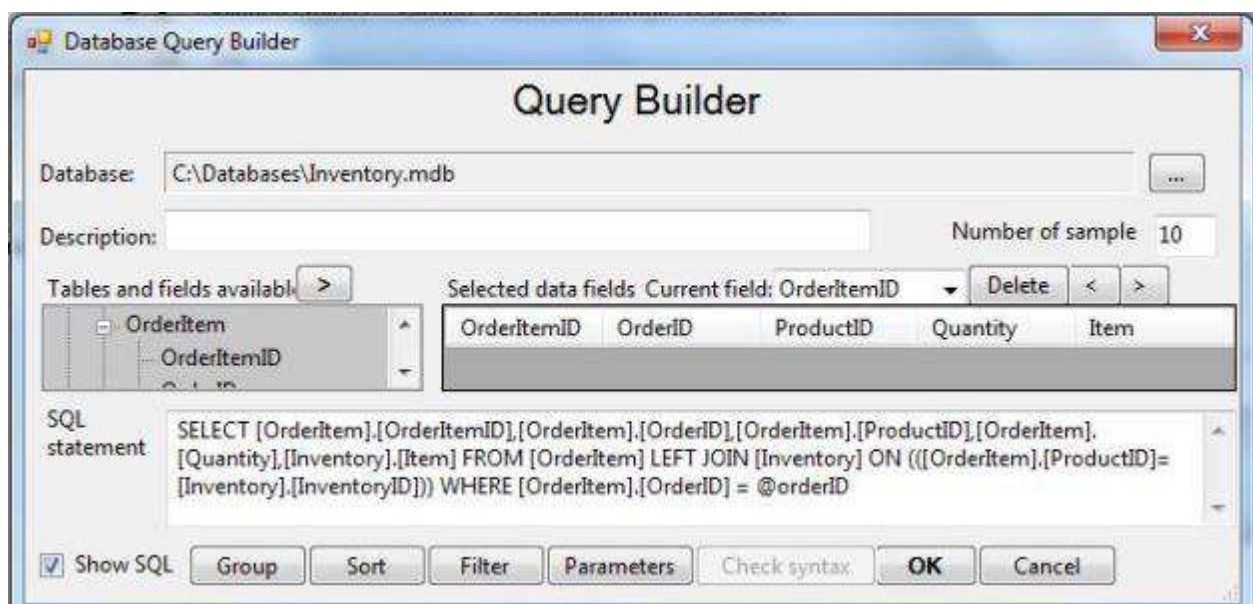
Every ChildNodesTemplate in turn has its own ChildNodesQuery and ChildNodesTemplate properties for loading its own children. Their usage is exactly the same. Let's show one more example of loading tree nodes level by level.

Suppose we want to display order items under each order node. It is done in the same steps for loading order nodes:

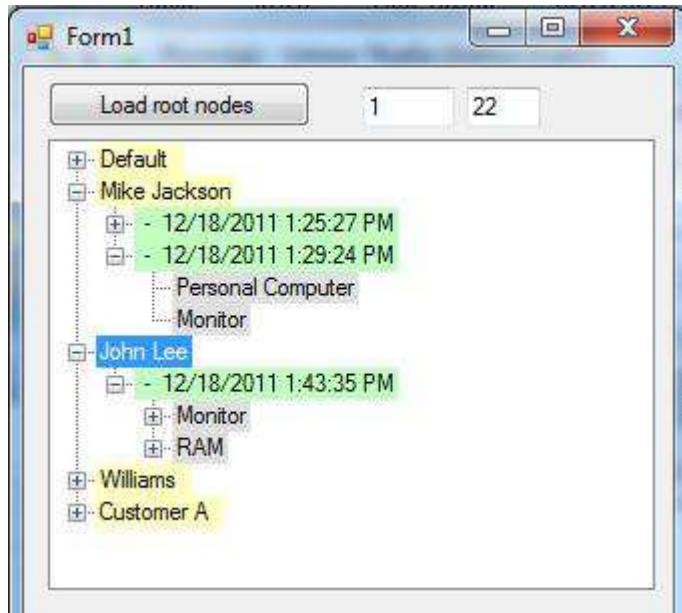
1. Select "Level by level":



2. Setup data query



3. Link query parameters to the values in the parent templates



Load child nodes recursively

A table may be linked to itself to form a tree of unlimited levels. The following “Category” table in a MYSQL database is such an example:

```
mysql> show columns from category;
```

Field	Type	Null	Key	Default	Extra
CatID	int(11)	NO	PRI	NULL	auto_increment
parentID	int(11)	YES		NULL	
name	varchar(50)	NO		NULL	
description	longtext	YES		NULL	

4 rows in set (0.03 sec)

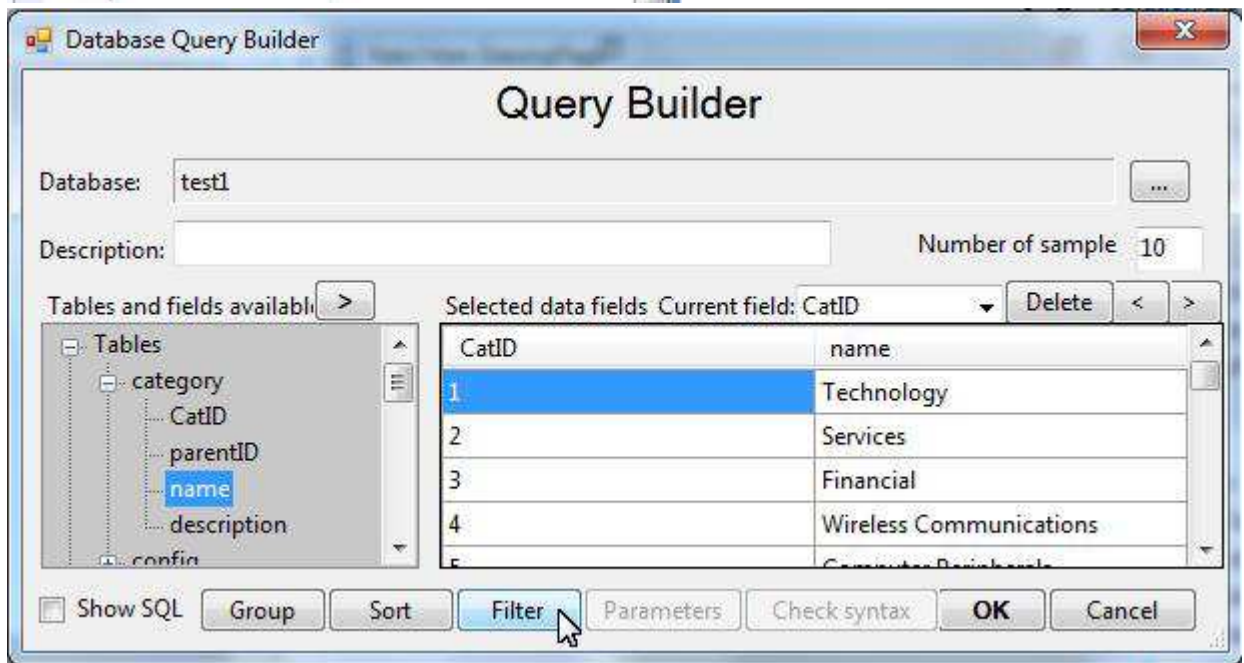
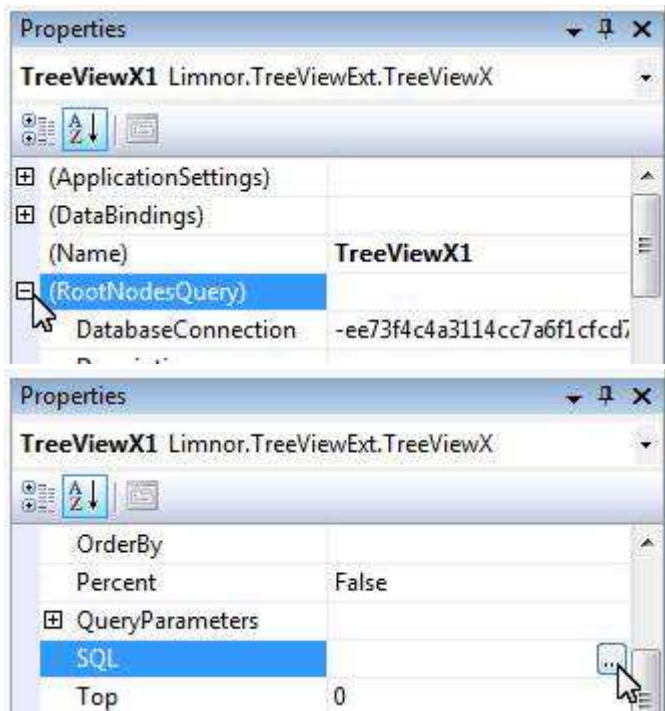
In this example, CatID is the primary key; parentID is a foreign key. If parentID is null then the record is a top level category; if parentID is not null then it must be an existing value of CatID to indicate the parent category.

We may load this Category table into a tree view.

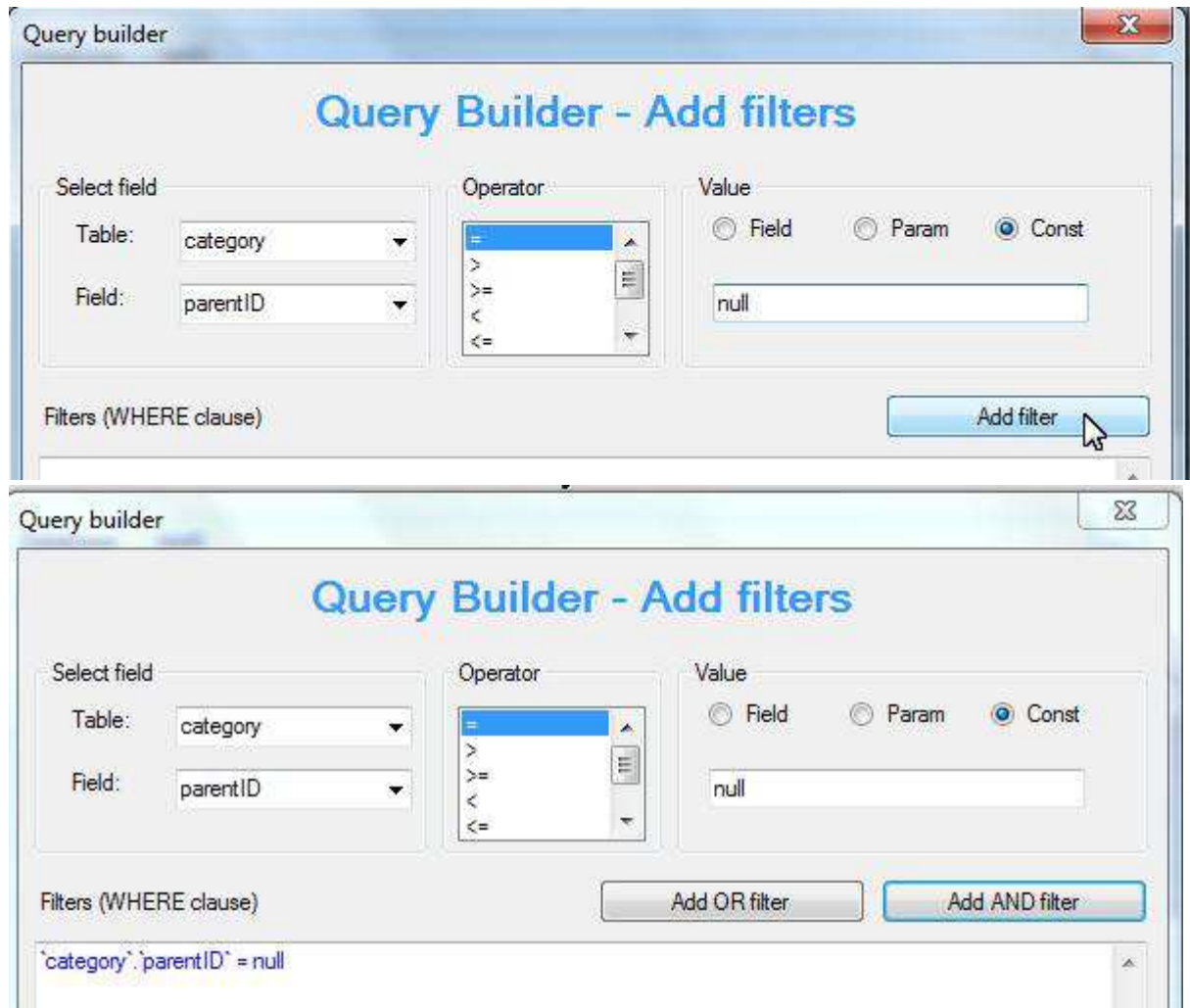
Load root nodes

This is the same as we did before.

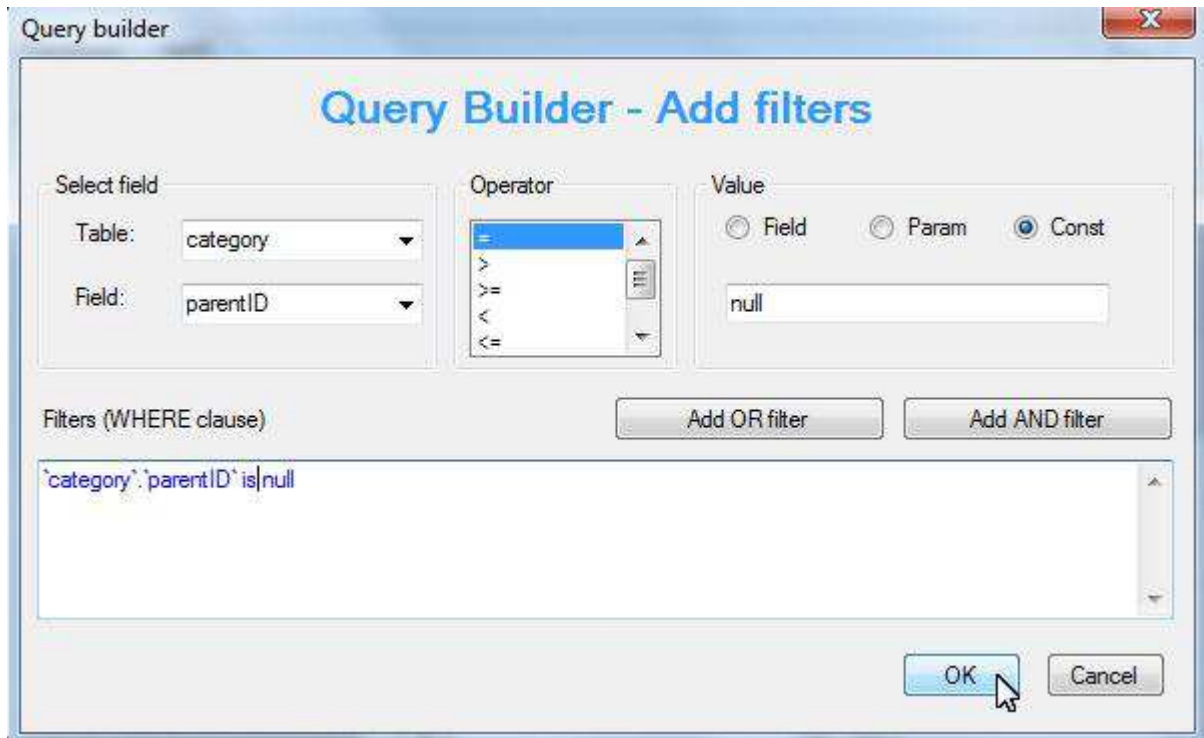
1. Set RootNodesQuery



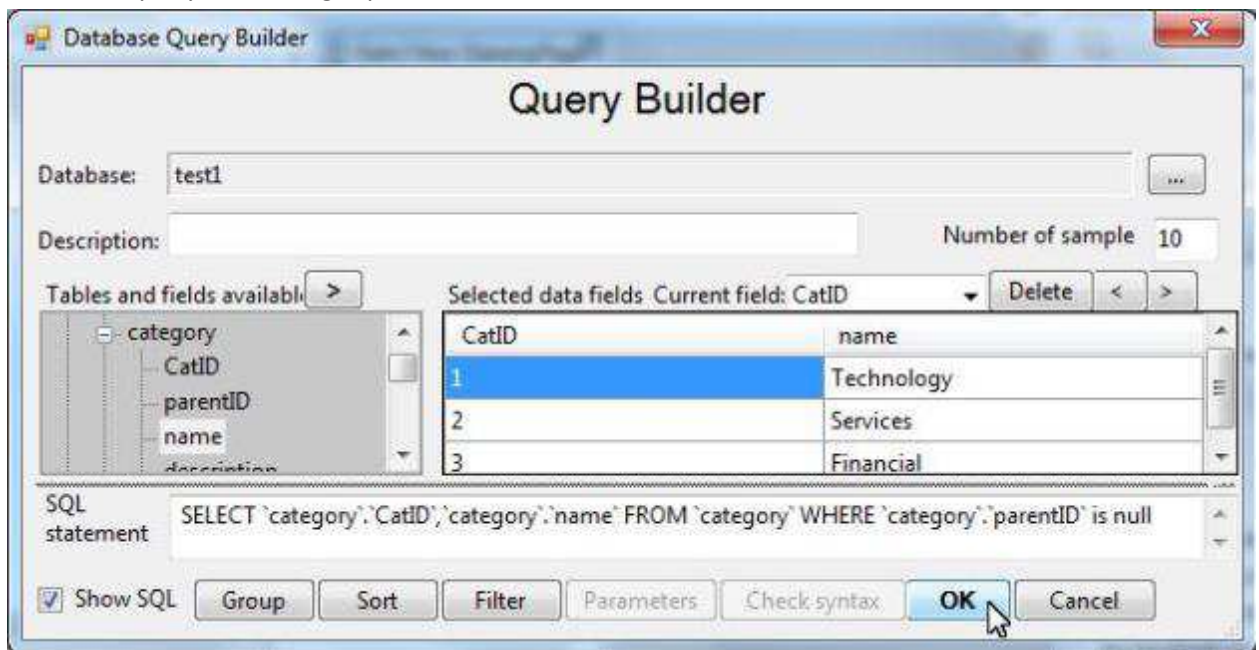
In this sample, we want to set the filter to be "parentID is null":



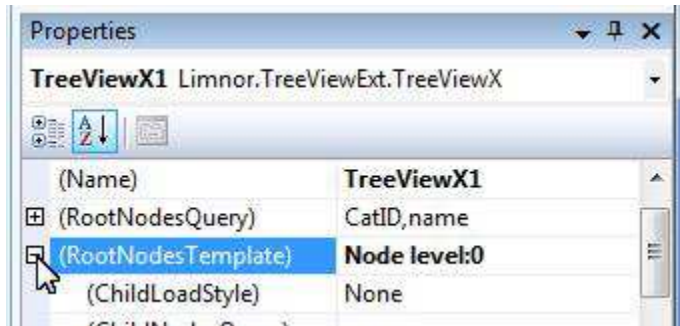
But "null" value is a special case. It cannot use "=". We need to modify it to be "is":



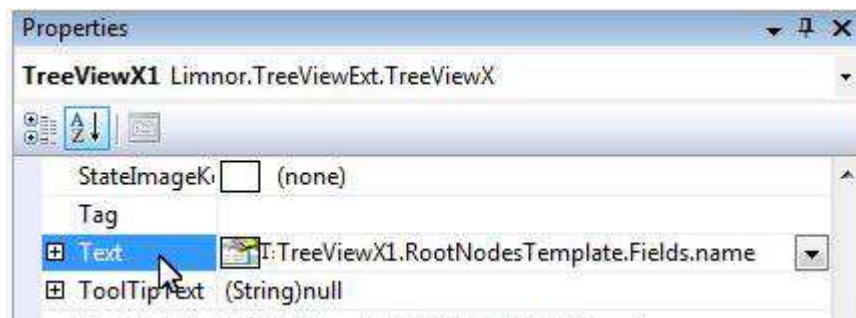
This is our query for loading top level nodes:



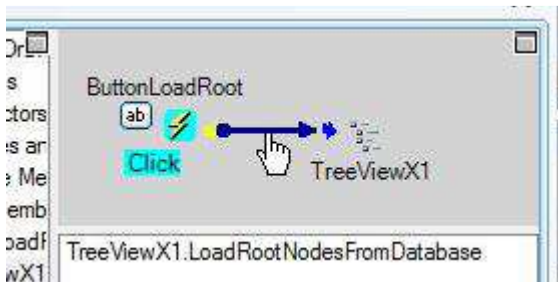
2. Setup node template through RootNodesTemplate



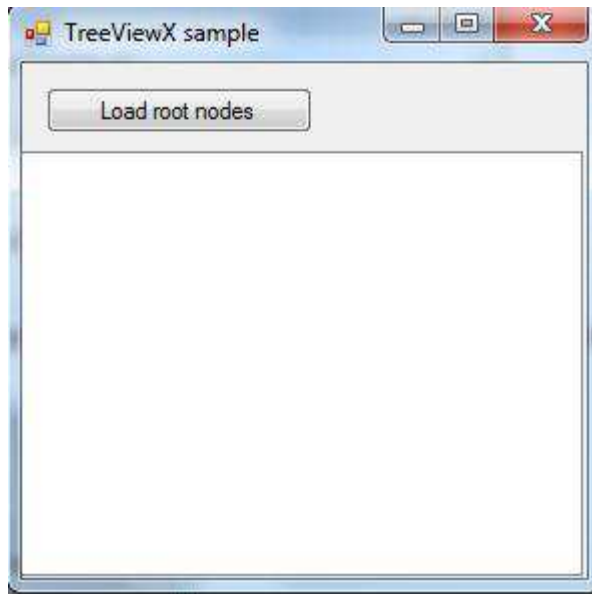
Usually we want to set Text of the template to information from database. In this example, we set it to be the “name” field:



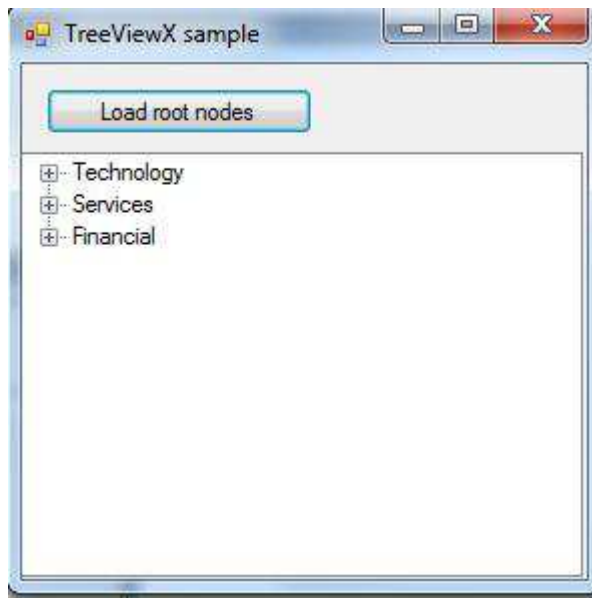
3. A LoadRootNodesFromDatabase action is used to load root nodes. In this example, we use a button to execute this action:



Run the sample. The form appears:



Click the button. The top level categories appear as root nodes:

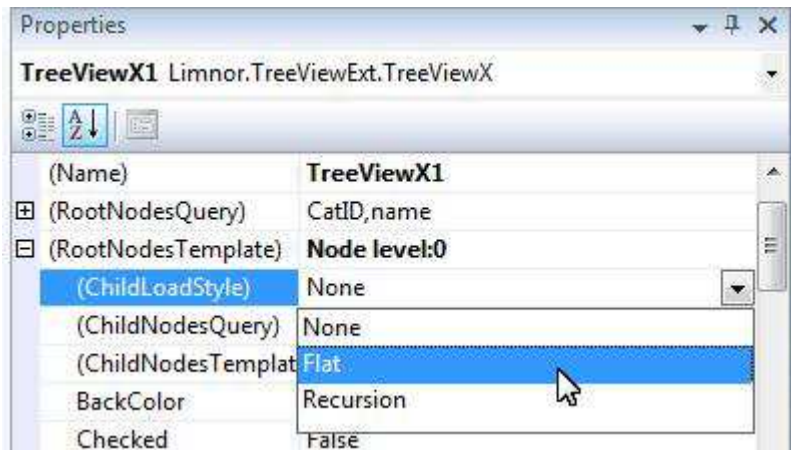


Load first level child nodes

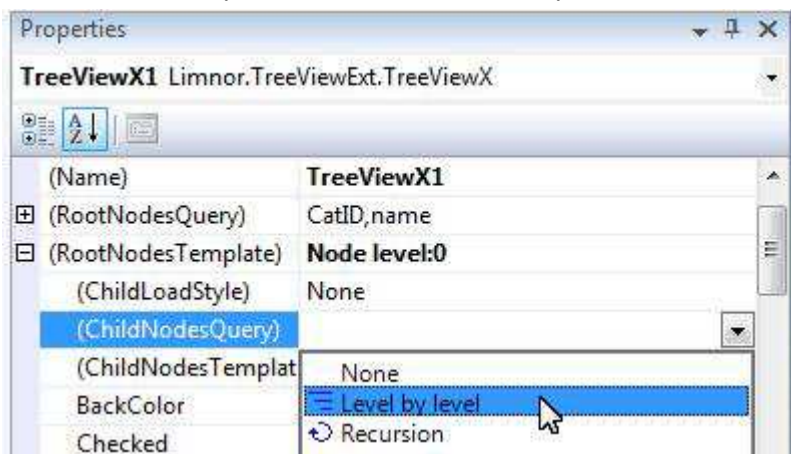
It is also done just as we did before.

1. Turn on the next level

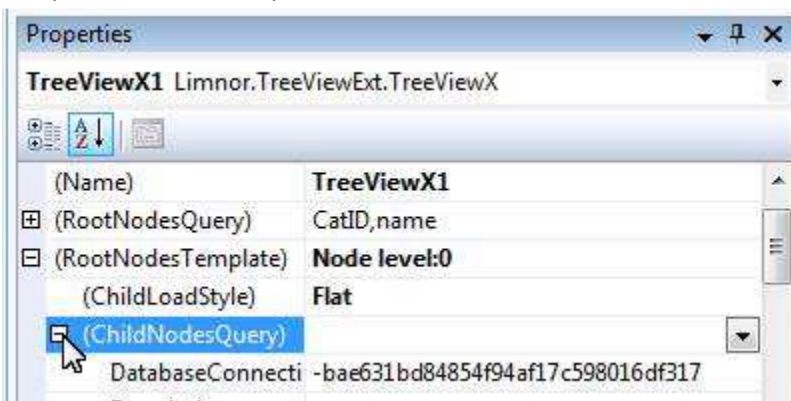
It can be done by selecting "Flat" for ChildLoadStyle property:

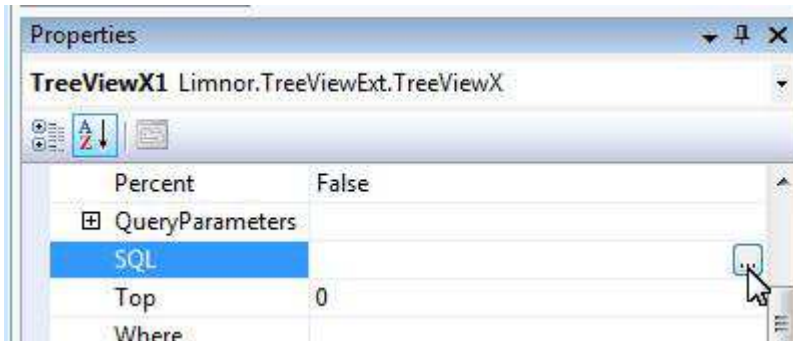


Or choose “Level by level” for ChildNodesQuery or ChildNodesTemplate:

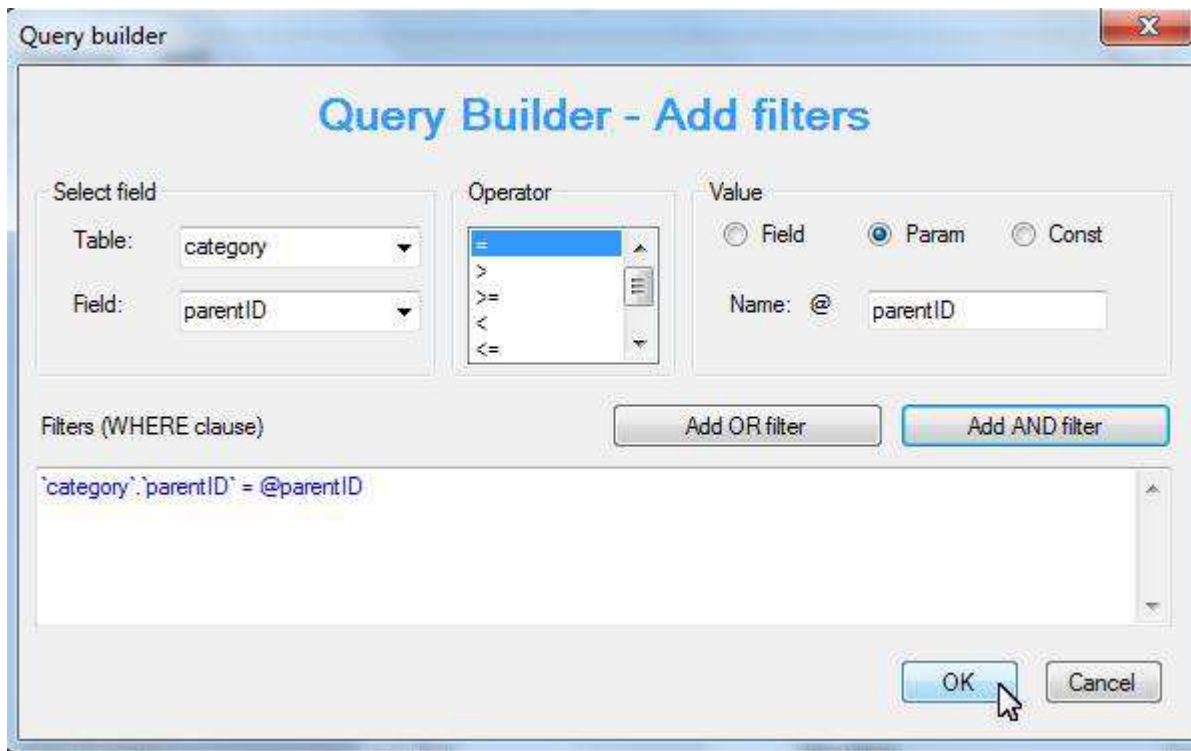


2. Setup ChildNodesQuery

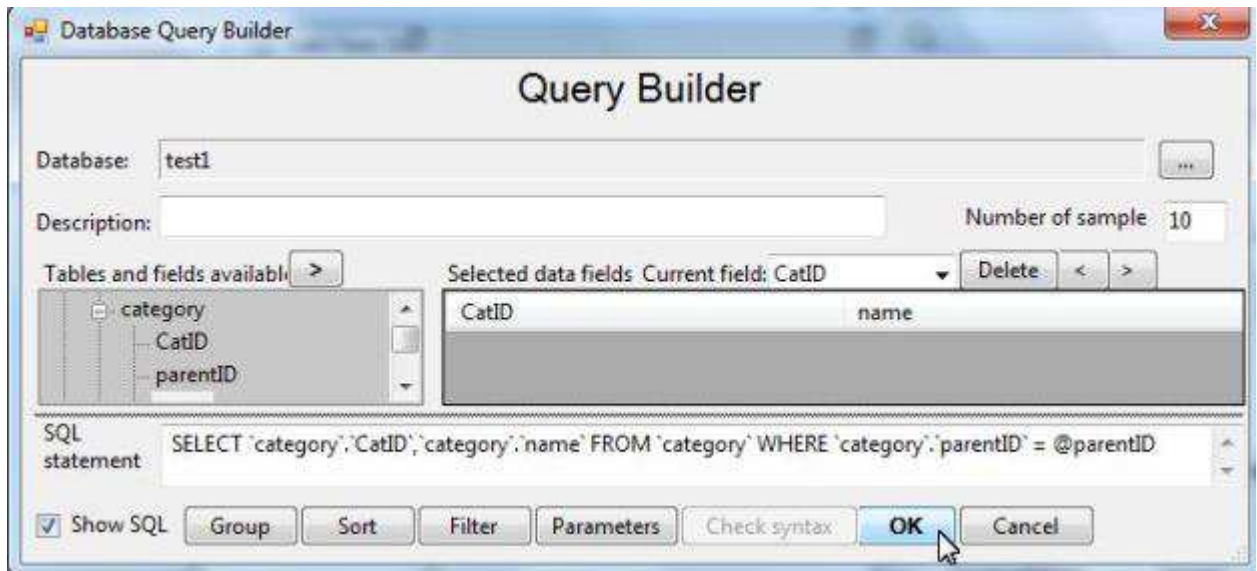




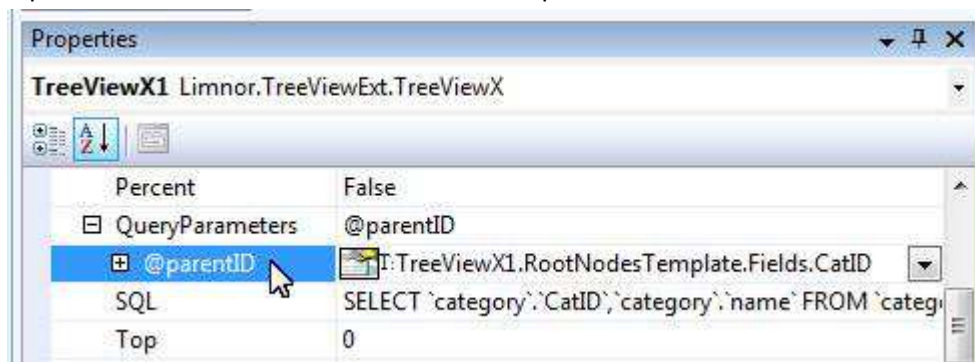
We use a parameter in the query for parentID field:



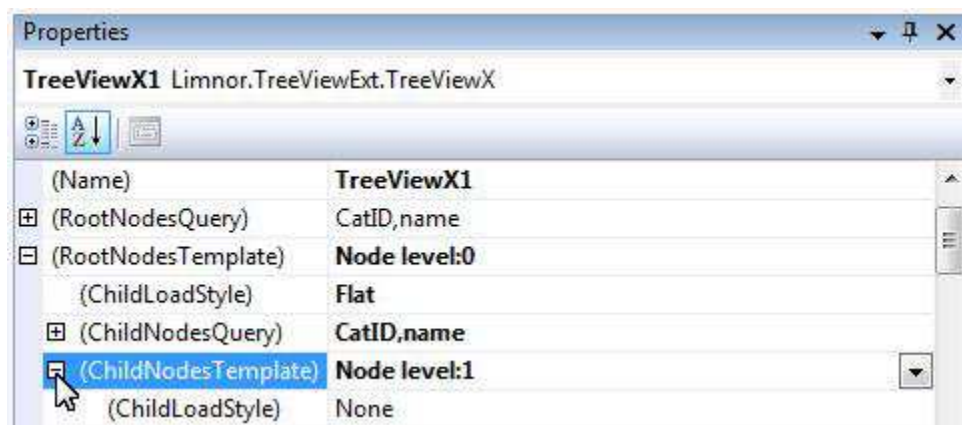
This is the query we use to load child nodes:



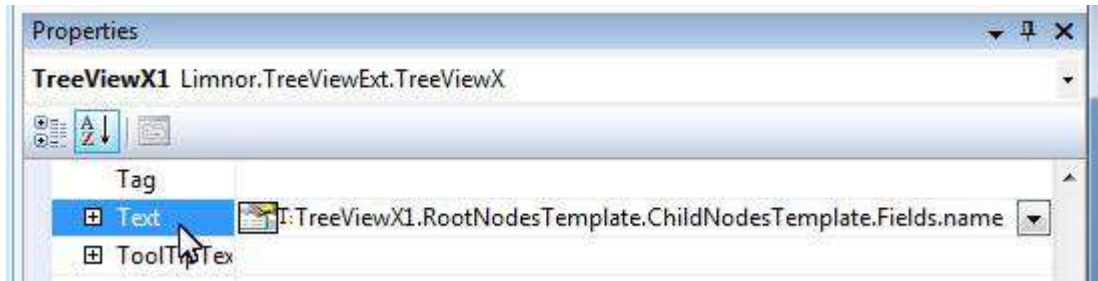
3. Link query parameters to parent level templates. In this sample, we link the parameter @parentID to the CatID of the root node template:



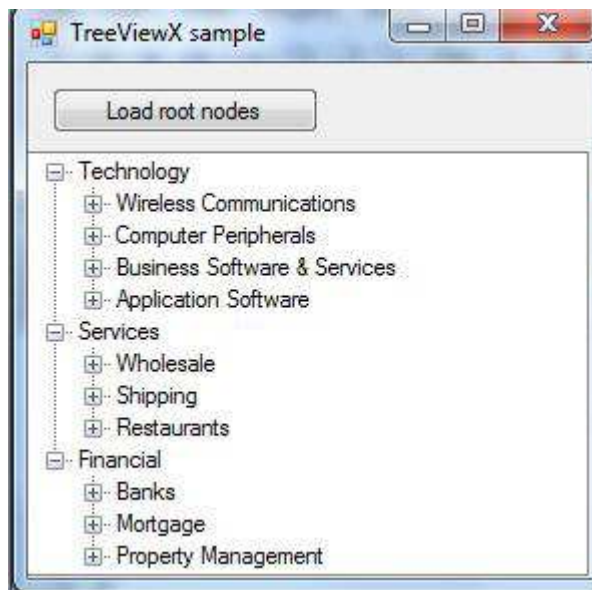
4. Setup node template through ChildNodesTemplate



Usually we want to set Text of the template to information from database. In this example, we set it to be the "name" field:

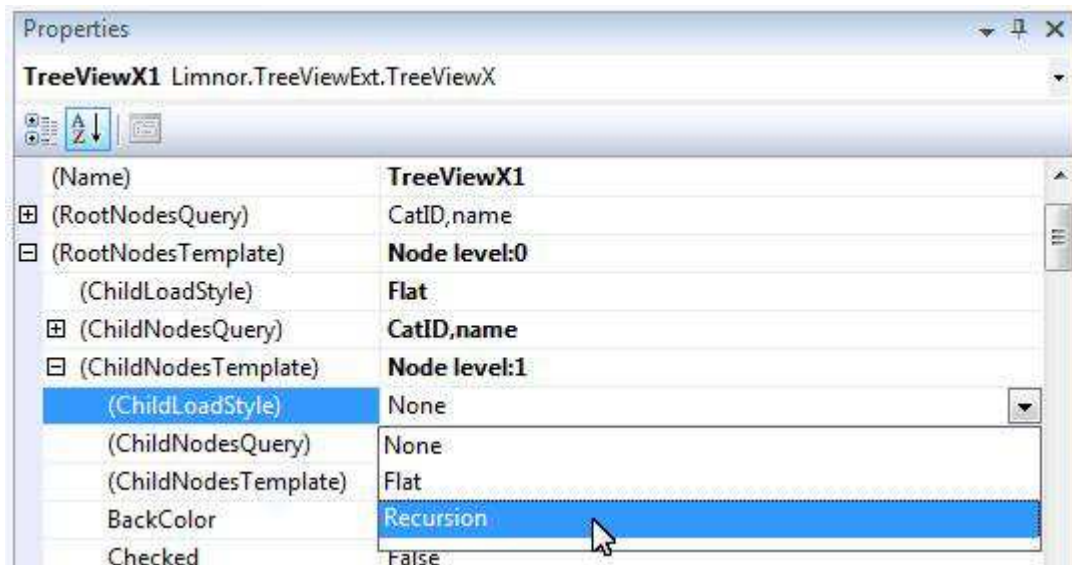


Run this sample, we may expand the root nodes to see the second level categories:

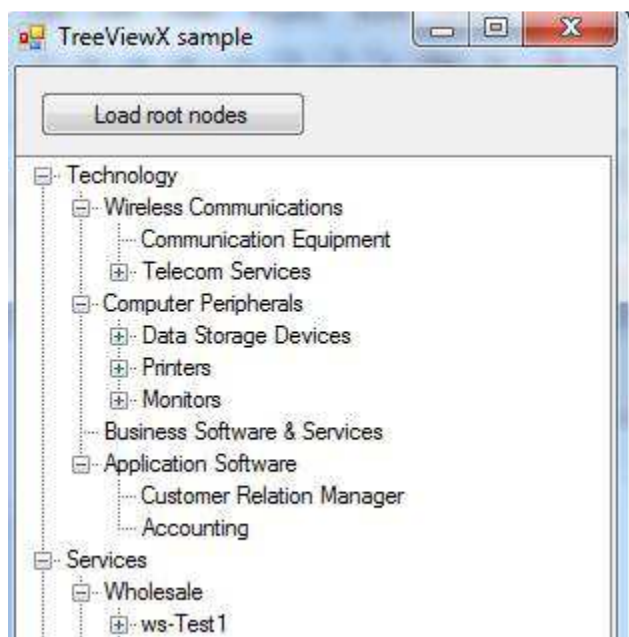


Load child nodes recursively

Because the ChildNodesQuery and the ChildNodesTemplate we setup can be used for loading any levels of child nodes, we do not have to setup each child level loading level by level. We may simply select "Recursion" for ChildLoadStyle:



Run the sample, we can keep expanding to as deep as there are data in the database:



Feedback

Please send your feedback to support@limnor.com