MultipleActiveResultSets=True or multiple connections?

Asked 10 years, 9 months ago   Active 7 years, 5 months ago   Viewed 58k times

I have some C# in which I create a reader on a connection (`ExecuteReader`), then for every row in that reader, perform another command
(with `ExecuteNonQuery`). In this case is it better that I use `MultipleActiveResultSets=True` on my connection or use multiple connections?

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| c# | .net | 🍄 sql-server | sql-server-2005 | ado.net |

edited Jun 6 '12 at 7:16

abatishchev
72.7k   70   270   406

asked Feb 4 '09 at 11:05

Sprintstar
6,097   3   34   47

15

3 Answers

88

Multiple Active Result Sets (MARS) was added specifically for this type of operation so that you don't have to have two connections
open at the same time to be able to read from a SqlDataReader AND execute additional batches.

MARS is compatible with SQL Server 2005 and above. To quote from MSDN docs:

> Before the introduction of Multiple Active Result Sets (MARS), developers had to use either multiple connections or server-side
> cursors to solve certain scenarios.

For more info see:

> [MSDN Library - MARS Overview](#)

Worked example reading and updating data:

> [MSDN Library - Manipulating Data (MARS)](#) scroll down to 'Reading and Updating Data with MARS'

edited Feb 2 '11 at 12:20

answered Feb 4 '09 at 11:50

Kev

101k   45   273   361

This is as far as I know the reason MARS was added, so yeah I think you should use it.

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answered Feb 4 '09 at 11:12

Rune Grimstad

30.8k   8   52   72

Best way to test this is to fire SQLServer Profiler, and see what really happens on the server side.

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My guess is that it will not be better since you are using ExecuteNonQuery(). So, in fact, you don't work with multiple results.

answered Feb 4 '09 at 11:15

dmajkic

3,093   1   13   24

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6   That's what I thought when I wrote the code, but if I don't have MultipleActiveResultSets=True then I still get an "There is already an open DataReader associated with this Command which must be closed first." exception on ExecuteNonQuery. –   Sprintstar   Feb 4 '09 at 11:21