Convert linq query to string array - C#

What is the most efficient way of converting a single column linq query to a string array?

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```csharp
private string[] WordList()
    {
        DataContext db = new DataContext();

        var list = from x in db.Words
                    orderby x.Word ascending
                    select new { x.Word };

        // return string array here
    }
```

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Note - x.Word is a string

c#   linq   arrays   string   casting

edited Sep 4 '09 at 12:03

asked Sep 4 '09 at 11:54

Andrew

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I prefer the lambda style, and you really ought to be disposing your data context.

```csharp
private string[] WordList()
{
    using (DataContext db = new DataContext())
    {
        return db.Words.Select( x => x.Word ).OrderBy( x => x ).ToArr
    }
}
```

answered Sep 4 '09 at 12:01

tvanfosson
432k   82   651   757

2   I like to give the gc a workout! - just kidding - this is a very good point.
     Thanks. – Andrew Sep 4 '09 at 12:07

▲

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if you type it in Lambda syntax instead you can do it a bit easier with the ToArray method:

```
string[] list = db.Words.OrderBy(w=> w.Word).Select(w => w.Word).ToA
```

or even shorter:

```
return db.Words.OrderBy(w => w.Word).Select(w => w.Word).ToArray();
```

edited Sep 4 '09 at 12:17

answered Sep 4 '09 at 11:56

Robban
5,968   2   29   40

> both give error - Cannot implicitly convert type 'Word[]' to 'string[]' –
> Andrew Sep 4 '09 at 12:05

> Corrected it, missed the .Word bit – Robban Sep 4 '09 at 12:17

How about:

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```
return list.ToArray();
```

This is presuming that `x.Word` is actually a string.

Otherwise you could try:

```
return list.Select(x => x.ToString()).ToArray();
```

answered Sep 4 '09 at 11:56

Daren Thomas
43.4k   37   133   184

The first way gives this error - Cannot implicitly convert type 'AnonymousType#1[]' to 'string[]'. The second method works! Thanks! – Andrew Sep 4 '09 at 12:02

Skip the new {} in your select and you won't have to unpack the anonymous type, you'll just have a string (assuming Word is a character column). – tvanfosson Sep 4 '09 at 12:04

@tvanfosson, What does it mean to "*unpack an anonymous type*"? (I'm assuming an edit has been made to this answer, because I no longer see any `new {}` .) – kdbanman Sep 3 '15 at 15:36