.NET App Dev Hands-On Lab

EF Lab 4 – Custom Exceptions, SaveChanges(), SQL Server Objects

This lab walks you through creating custom exceptions, overriding SaveChanges, implementing the event handlers for the Change Tracker, and adding an SQL Server view to the database. As a final step, you will allow the test project access to internal project items. Before starting this lab, you must have completed EF Lab 3.

Part 1: Add the Custom Exceptions

A common pattern in exception handling is to wrap system exceptions with custom exceptions. The AutoLot Data Access Layer uses three custom exceptions with a base custom exception.

Step 1: Create the Base Custom Exception

• Create a new folder in the AutoLot.Dal project named Exceptions. To the Exceptions folder, add a new folder named Base. In the Base folder add a new class named CustomException.cs. Update the code to the following:

• Add the following global using statement to the GlobalUsings.cs class:

global using AutoLot.Dal.Exceptions.Base;

Step 2: Create the Remaining Exceptions

 Add three more files to the Exceptions directory: CustomConcurrencyException.cs, CustomDbUpdateException.cs, CustomRetryLimitExceededException.cs.
 Update each of the exceptions to the following:

```
// CustomDbUpdateException.cs
namespace AutoLot.Dal.Exceptions;
public class CustomDbUpdateException : CustomException
  public CustomDbUpdateException(){}
  public CustomDbUpdateException(string message) : base(message) { }
  public CustomDbUpdateException(string message, DbUpdateException innerException)
    : base(message, innerException) { }
}
// CustomRetryLimitExceededException.cs
namespace AutoLot.Dal.Exceptions;
public class CustomRetryLimitExceededException : CustomException
{
  public CustomRetryLimitExceededException() {}
  public CustomRetryLimitExceededException(string message) : base(message) { }
  public CustomRetryLimitExceededException(
    string message, RetryLimitExceededException innerException): base(message, innerException)
  }
}
```

• Add the following global using statement to the GlobalUsings.cs class:

global using AutoLot.Dal.Exceptions;

Part 2: Override Save Changes

Overriding save changes in the ApplicationDbContext class allows for encapsulation of error handling. Note that this example only overrides one of the SaveChanges methods, the other three would be handled similarly.

• Add the following to the ApplicationDbContext class:

```
public override int SaveChanges()
{
  try
  {
    return base.SaveChanges();
  catch (DbUpdateConcurrencyException ex)
    //A concurrency error occurred
    //Should log and handle intelligently
    Console.WriteLine(ex.Message);
    EntityEntry entryEntity = ex.Entries[0];
    //Kept in DbChangeTracker
    PropertyValues originalValues = entryEntity.OriginalValues;
    PropertyValues currentValues = entryEntity.CurrentValues;
    IEnumerable<PropertyEntry> modifiedEntries =
    entryEntity.Properties.Where(e => e.IsModified);
    foreach (var itm in modifiedEntries)
      //Console.WriteLine($"{itm.Metadata.Name},");
    //Needs to call to database to get values
    PropertyValues databaseValues = entryEntity.GetDatabaseValues();
    //Discards local changes, gets database values, resets change tracker
    //entryEntity.Reload();
    throw new CustomConcurrencyException("A concurrency error happened.", ex);
  catch (RetryLimitExceededException ex)
    //DbResiliency retry limit exceeded
    //Should log and handle intelligently
    throw new CustomRetryLimitExceededException("There is a problem with SQL Server.", ex);
  catch (DbUpdateException ex)
    //Should log and handle intelligently
    throw new CustomDbUpdateException("An error occurred updating the database", ex);
  catch (Exception ex)
    //Should log and handle intelligently
    throw new CustomException("An error occurred updating the database", ex);
}
```

Part 3: Create the SQL Server Objects

As a pattern, if all SQL Server objects are created using the EF Core migration framework, a single call to the EF Core command line updates the database to the proper state.

Step 1: Create the Helper Class to Create/Drop SQL Server Objects

• Add a class named MigrationHelpers.cs to the EfStructures folder, and make the class public and static:

```
namespace AutoLot.Dal.EfStructures;
public static class MigrationHelpers
{
    //implementation goes here
}
```

Step 2: Create the SQL Server Stored Procedure Create and Drop Functions

• The create will be called in the Up method of the migration:

```
public static void CreateSproc(MigrationBuilder migrationBuilder)
{
    migrationBuilder.Sql(@"exec (N'
        CREATE PROCEDURE [dbo].[GetPetName] @carID int, @petName nvarchar(50) output
        AS
        SELECT @petName = PetName from dbo.Inventory where Id = @carID')"
    );
}
```

• Add another method to drop the procedure. This will be called by the Down method of the migration.

```
public static void DropSproc(MigrationBuilder migrationBuilder)
{
   migrationBuilder.Sql("EXEC (N' DROP PROCEDURE [dbo].[GetPetName]')");
}
```

Step 3: Create the SQL Server Functions Create and Drop Functions

The create will be called in the Up method of the migration:

```
public static void CreateFunctions(MigrationBuilder migrationBuilder)
  migrationBuilder.Sql(@"exec (N'
    CREATE FUNCTION [dbo].[udtf GetCarsForMake] ( @makeId int )
    RETURNS TABLE
    AS
    RETURN
      (
        SELECT Id, IsDrivable, DateBuilt, Color, PetName, MakeId, TimeStamp, Display, Price
        FROM Inventory WHERE MakeId = @makeId
      )')"
  );
  migrationBuilder.Sql(@"exec (N'
    CREATE FUNCTION [dbo].[udf_CountOfMakes] ( @makeid int )
    RETURNS int
    AS
    BEGIN
      DECLARE @Result int
      SELECT @Result = COUNT(makeid) FROM dbo.Inventory WHERE makeid = @makeid
      RETURN @Result
    END')"
  );
}
      Add another method to drop the functions. This will be called by the Down method of the migration.
```

```
public static void DropFunctions(MigrationBuilder migrationBuilder)
 migrationBuilder.Sql("EXEC (N' DROP FUNCTION [dbo].[udtf_GetCarsForMake]')");
  migrationBuilder.Sql("EXEC (N' DROP FUNCTION [dbo].[udf CountOfMakes]')");
}
```

Step 4: Create the Migration for the SQL Server Objects

Even if nothing has changed in the model, migrations can still be created. The Up and Down methods will be empty. To execute custom SQL, that is exactly what is needed. MAKE SURE ALL FILES ARE SAVED

Open a command prompt or Package Manager Console in the AutoLot.Dal directory. Create an empty migration (but do NOT run dotnet ef database update) by running the following command:

```
[Windows]
dotnet ef migrations add CustomSql -c AutoLot.Dal.EfStructures.ApplicationDbContext
[Non-Windows]
dotnet ef migrations add CustomSql -c AutoLot.Dal.EfStructures.ApplicationDbContext
```

Note: After the first migration for a context, the same output directory will be used in subsequent migrations, so it can be left off the command.

• Open the new migration file (named <timestamp>_CustomSql.cs). Note that the Up and Down methods are empty. Change the Up method to the following:

SAVE THE MIGRATION FILE BEFORE RUNNING THE MIGRATION

• Update the database by executing the migration:

dotnet ef database update

- Check the database to make sure the sproc, and functions exist
- You can create a script of the migrations by running the following CLI command:

dotnet ef migrations script -o allmigrations.sql -i

Part 4: Map the SQL Functions to C# Functions

Map the udf_CountOfMakes SQL Server function to a C# function in the ApplicationDbContext class:

Map the udf_GetCarsForMake SQL Server function to a C# function in the ApplicationDbContext class
The FromExpression call in the CLR function body allows for the function to be used instead of a
regular DbSet:

• The MakeTests.cs class in Lab 7 demonstrates using these functions.

Part 5: Allow the Test Project Access to Internals

• Add a new class named LibraryAttributes.cs to the project root folder. Clear out the scaffolded code and add the following to the class:

```
using System.Runtime.CompilerServices;
[assembly:InternalsVisibleTo("AutoLot.Dal.Tests")]
```

Summary

This lab created the custom exceptions, implemented the SaveChanges() override, added SQL Server objects to the database, and allowed the AutoLot.Dal.Tests test project access to internal project items.

Next steps

In the next part of this tutorial series, you will create the repositories.