

# Advanced Querying

## Advanced Entity Framework Core



**SoftUni Team**  
**Technical Trainers**



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<https://about.softuni.bg/>

- Executing Native SQL Queries
  - Execute Stored Procedures
- Object State Tracking
- Bulk Operations
- Types of Loading
- Concurrency Checks
- Cascade Operations



[sli.do](https://sli.do)

**#csharp-db**



# Executing Native SQL Queries

Parameterless and Parameterized

- Executing a **native SQL query** in EF Core directly

```
var query = "SELECT * FROM Employees";  
var employees = db.Employees  
    .FromSqlRaw(query)  
    .ToArray();
```

- Limitations
  - **JOIN** statements **don't** get mapped to the entity class
  - **Required columns** must **always** be selected
  - **Target table** must be the same as the **DbSet**

- Native SQL queries can also be parameterized

```
var context = new SoftUniDbContext();
string nativeSQLQuery =
    "SELECT FirstName, LastName, JobTitle" +
    "FROM dbo.Employees WHERE JobTitle = {0}";
var employees = context.Employees.FromSqlRaw(
    nativeSQLQuery, "Marketing Specialist");
foreach (var employee in employees)
{
    Console.WriteLine(employee.FirstName);
}
```

Parameter  
placeholder

Parameter  
value

- **FromSqlInterpolated** allows string interpolation syntax

```
var context = new SoftUniDbContext();
string jobTitle = "Marketing Specialist";
FormattableString nativeSQLQuery =
    $"SELECT * FROM dbo.Employees WHERE JobTitle = {jobTitle}";
var employees = context.Employees.FromSqlInterpolated(
    nativeSQLQuery);
foreach (var employee in employees)
{
    Console.WriteLine(employee.FirstName);
}
```

Interpolated  
parameter

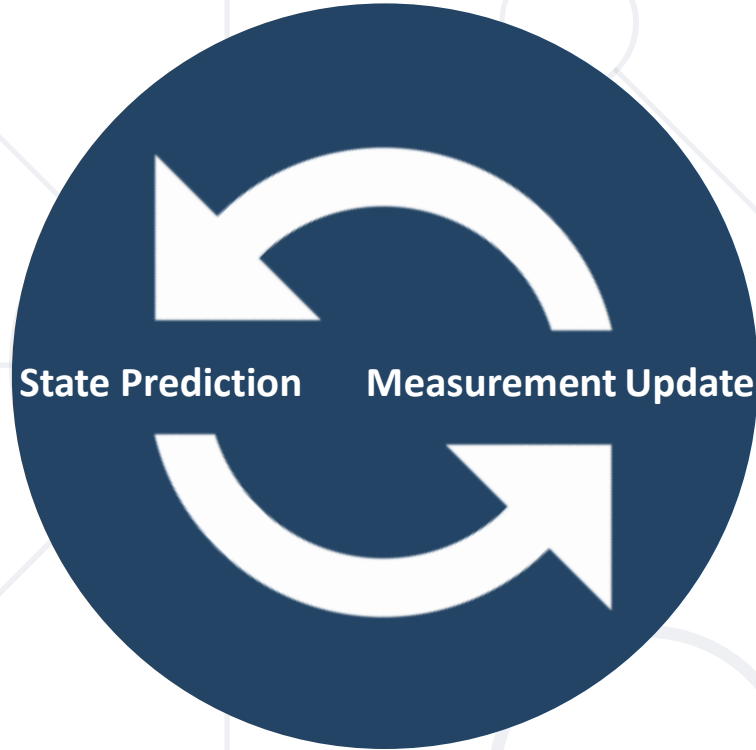
# Executing a Stored Procedure

- Stored Procedures can be executed via SQL

```
CREATE PROCEDURE UpdateSalary @param int  
AS  
UPDATE Employees SET Salary = Salary + @param;
```

```
var salaryParameter = new SqlParameter("@salary", 5);  
var query = "EXEC UpdateSalary @salary";  
context.Database.ExecuteSqlRaw(query, salaryParameter);
```





# Object State Tracking

- In Entity Framework, objects can be
  - **Attached** to the object context (tracked object)
  - **Detached** from an object context (untracked object)
- Attached objects are tracked and managed by the **DbContext**
  - **SaveChanges()** persists all changes in DB
- Detached objects are not referenced by the **DbContext**
  - Behave like a normal objects, which are not related to EF
  - We can get detached objects using **AsNoTracking()**
  - No-tracking queries are quicker to execute

# Tracking and No-tracking Queries

- **Tracking** queries

Returns attached entry

```
var employee = context.Employees
    .FirstOrDefault(e => e.EmployeeId == 1);
employee.JobTitle = "Marketing Specialist";
context.SaveChanges();
```

- **No-tracking** queries

Returns detached read-only entity

```
var employees = context.Employees
    .AsNoTracking()
    .ToList();
```

- When a query is executed inside a **DbContext**, the returned objects are **automatically attached** to it
- When a context is **destroyed**, all **objects** in it are automatically **detached**
  - e.g., in **Web applications** between requests
- You might later **attach** objects that have been previously **detached** to a **new context**

- When is an object detached?
  - When we get the object from a **DbContext** and then **Dispose** it

```
Employee GetEmployeeById(int id)
{
    using (var SoftUniDbContext = new SoftUniDbContext())
    {
        return SoftUniDbContext.Employees
            .First(e => e.EmployeeID == id);
    }
}
```

Returned employee  
is detached

- Manually: by setting its **State** to **Detached**

- When we want to update a detached object, we need to **reattach it** and then update it: change to **Attached** state

```
void UpdateName(Employee employee, string newName)
{
    using (var softUniDbContext = new SoftUniDbContext())
    {
        var entry = softUniDbContext.Entry(employee);
        entry.State = EntityState.Modified;
        employee.FirstName = newName;
        softUniDbContext.SaveChanges();
    }
}
```

A background network diagram consisting of a grid of light gray lines intersecting at various points. At these intersections, there are several circles of different sizes, some solid light gray and some hollow, creating a web-like structure.

***BULK***

## **Bulk Operations**

Multiple Update and Delete in Single Query

- EF Core **does not** support bulk operations
- **Z.EntityFramework.Plus** gives you the ability to perform **bulk update/delete** of entities

- Entity Framework Plus

Install-Package **Z.EntityFramework.Plus.EFCore**

- Read more: <https://entityframework-plus.net>



- Delete all users where **FirstName** matches given string

```
context.Employees  
    .Where(e => e.FirstName == "Pesho")  
    .Delete();
```



```
DELETE [dbo].[Employees]  
FROM [dbo].[Employees] AS j0 INNER JOIN (  
    SELECT  
        [Extent1].[Id] AS [Id]  
        FROM [dbo].[Employees] AS [Extent1].[Name]  
        WHERE N'Pesho' = [Extent1].[Name]  
    ) AS j1 ON (j0.[Id] = j1.[Id])
```

- Update all Employees with name "Niki" to "Stoyan"

```
context.Employees
    .Where(t => t.Name == "Niki")
    .Update(u => new Employee { Name = "Stoyan" });
```

- Update all Employees' age to 99 who have the name "Plamen"

```
IQueryable<Employee> employees = context.Employees
    .Where(employee => employee.Name == "Plamen");

employees.Update(employee => new Employee { Age = 99 });
```



# Types of Loading

Lazy, Eager and Explicit Loading

- **Explicit loading** loads all records when they're needed
- Performed with the **.Reference().Load()** and **.Collection().Load()** methods

```
var employee = context.Employees.First();  
  
context.Entry(employee)  
    .Reference(e => e.Department)  
    .Load();  
  
context.Entry(employee)  
    .Collection(e => e.EmployeeProjects)  
    .Load();
```

- **Eager loading** loads **all related records** of an entity **at once**
- Performed with the **Include()** and **ThenInclude()** methods

```
context.Towns.Include("Employees");
```

```
context.Towns.Include(town => town.Employees);
```

```
context.Employees  
    .Include(employee => employee.Address)  
    .ThenInclude(address => address.Town)
```

- Lazy Loading **delays** loading of data until it is used
- EF Core enables lazy-loading for any navigation property that can be **overridden** (**virtual**)
- Offers better performance in certain cases
  - Less RAM usage
  - Smaller result sets returned
- Each loading of navigational property is an additional query (N+1)

# Enable Lazy Loading Proxies

- Install Lazy Loading Proxies

```
Install-Package Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.Proxies
```

- Enable the package

```
void OnConfiguring (DbContextOptionsBuilder options)
{
    options
        .UseLazyLoadingProxies()
        .UseSqlServer(myConnectionString);
}
```

# N+1 Problem

- Refreshing the article list page, sends 11 queries to the database
  - The **first query** finds the first 10 articles
  - The subsequent **10 queries**, find each article's comments
  - Total of 11 queries ( $N + 1$ )







**Concurrency Checks**

- EF Core runs in **optimistic concurrency** mode (no locking)
  - By default, the conflict resolution strategy in EF is "**last one wins**"
  - The last change overwrites all previous concurrent changes
- Enabling "**first wins**" strategy for certain property in EF
  - **[ConcurrencyCheck]**

# Last One Wins – Example

```
var contextFirst = new SoftUniDbContext();  
var lastProjectFirstUser = contextFirst.Projects.First();  
lastProjectFirstUser.Name = "Changed by the First User";  
  
// The second user changes the same record  
var contextSecondUser = new SoftUniDbContext();  
var lastProjectSecond = contextSecondUser.Projects.First();  
lastProjectSecond.Name = "Changed by the Second User";  
  
// Conflicting changes: Last wins  
contextFirst.SaveChanges();  
contextSecondUser.SaveChanges();
```

Second user wins

# First One Wins – Example

```
var context = new SoftUniDbContext();  
var lastTownFirstUser = contextFirst.Towns.First();  
lastTownFirstUser.Name = "First User";
```

[ConcurrencyCheck]

```
var contextSecondUser = new SoftUniDbContext();  
var lastTownSecondUser = contextSecondUser.Towns.First();  
lastTownSecondUser.Name = "Second User";
```

```
context.SaveChanges();  
contextSecondUser.SaveChanges();
```

Changes get saved

DbUpdateConcurrencyException

A background network diagram consisting of a central dark blue circle with the word 'cascade' in white. Surrounding this central circle are several smaller, light gray circles connected by thin gray lines, forming a web-like structure. The circles vary in size and are distributed across the frame, with some lines extending towards the edges.

cascade

# **Cascade Operations**

Deleting Related Entities

- **Required FK** with **cascade delete** set to **true**, **deletes everything** related to the deleted property
- **Required FK** with **cascade delete** set to **false**, **throws exception** (it cannot leave the navigational property with no value)
- **Optional FK** with **cascade delete** set to **true**, **deletes everything** related to the deleted property
- **Optional FK** with **cascade delete** set to **false**, **sets** the value of the **FK to NULL**

- Using **OnDelete** with **DeleteBehavior** Enumeration:
  - **DeleteBehavior.Cascade**
    - Deletes related entities (default for required FK)
  - **DeleteBehavior.Restrict**
    - Throws exception on delete
  - **DeleteBehavior.ClientSetNull**
    - Default behavior for optional FK (does not affect database)
  - **DeleteBehavior.SetNull**
    - Sets the property to null (affects database)

# Cascade Delete with Fluent API (2)

- Cascade delete syntax

```
modelBuilder.Entity<User>()  
    .HasMany(u => u.Replies)  
    .WithOne(a => a.Author)  
    .OnDelete(DeleteBehavior.Restrict);
```

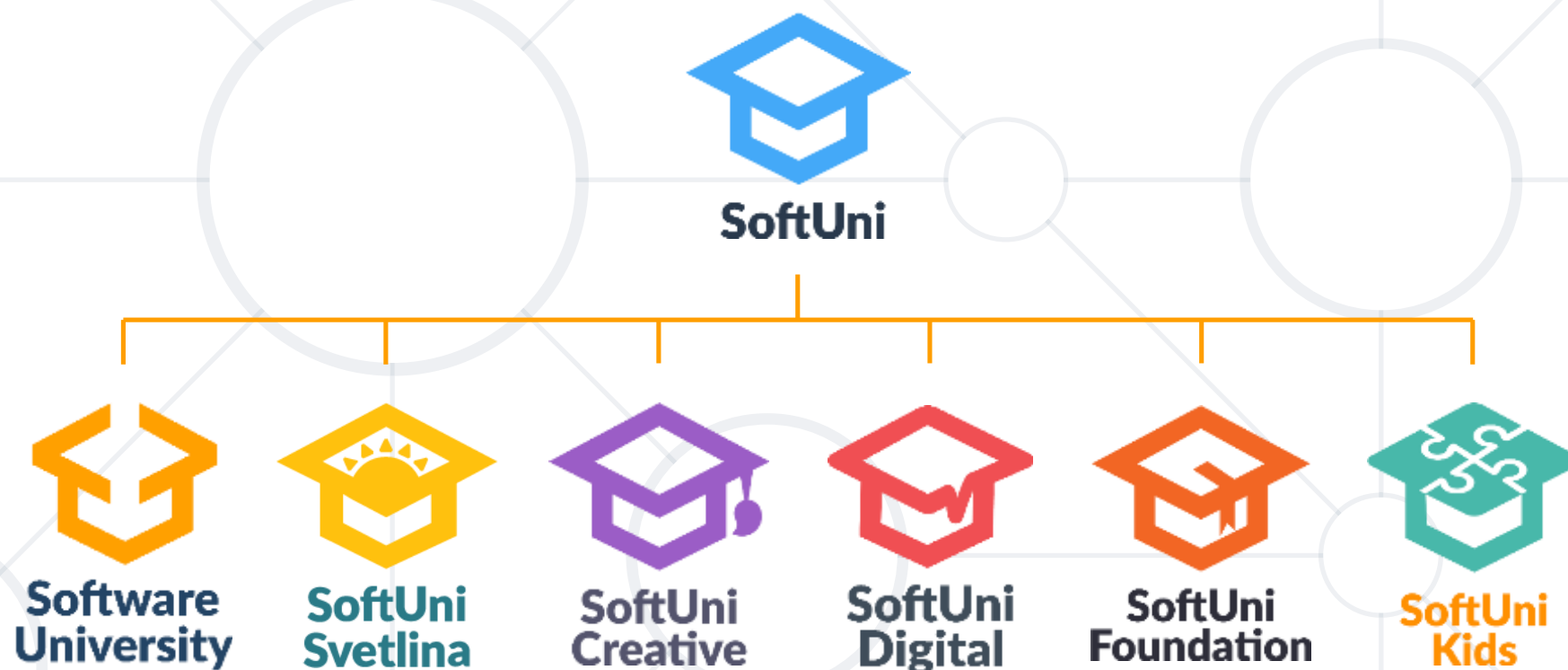
```
modelBuilder.Entity<User>()  
    .HasMany(u => u.Replies)  
    .WithOne(a => a.Author)  
    .OnDelete(DeleteBehavior.Cascade);
```



- Databases can be accessed directly with **SQL queries** from C# code
- EF keeps track of the **model state**
- **Entity Framework-Plus** lets you bundle **update** and **delete** operations
- EF supports lazy, eager and explicit **loading**
- With multiple users, **concurrency** of operations must be observed
- **Cascade delete** is on by default



# Questions?



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