

SQL Server with C# Windows Forms App

Windows Forms App

Sensor System		_		×
Sensor Name:				
Sensor Type:				
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			Save	

We will create a basic Windows Forms App that saves data to an SQL Server Database. The App will also retrieve Data from the SQL Server Database.

Create a new project Search for templates (Alt+S) Clear all Recent project templates C# Windows Desktop NUnit Test Project ASP.NET Core Web App C# A project that contains NUnit tests that can run on .NET Core on Windows, Linux and MacOS Direction Application Python C# Linux macOS Windows Desktop Test Web NI Windows Forms Application C# Windows Forms App (.NET Framework) Windows Forms App (.NET Framework) C# A project for creating an application with a Windows Forms (WinForms) user interface 🖺 Windows Forms App C# C# Windows Desktop Windows Forms App A project template for creating a .NET Windows Forms (WinForms) App. C# Windows Desktop

WPF Application A project for creating a .NET Core WPF Application

C# Windows Desktop

WPF Class library

A project for creating a class library that targets a .NET Core WPF Application

Contents

- SQL Server
- ADO.NET
- C# WinForms Examples
- Structured Query Language (SQL)
- Saving Data to SQL Server
- Retrieving Data from SQL Server

Audience

- This Tutorial is made for rookies making their first basic C# Windows Forms Database Application
- You don't need any experience in either Visual Studio or C#
- No skills in Automation or Control System is necessary



Note!

- The examples provided can be considered as a "proof of concept"
- The sample code is very simplified for clarity and doesn't necessarily represent best practices.



SQL Server

What is a Database?

- A Database is a structured way to store lots of information.
- The information inside the database is stored in different tables.
- - "Everything" today is stored in databases!

Examples:

- Bank/Account systems
- Information in Web pages such as Facebook, Wikipedia, YouTube, etc.
- ... lots of other examples!

Database Systems

We communicate with the Database using a Database Management System (DBMS). We use the Structured Query Language (SQL) in order to communicate with the Database, i.e., Insert Data, Retrieve Data, Update Data and Delete Data from the Database.



SQL – Structured Query Language

Database Systems

- Oracle
- MySQL
- MariaDB
- Sybase
- Microsoft Access
- Microsoft SQL Server
- ... (we have hundreds different DBMS)

SQL Server

- SQL Server Express
 - Free version of SQL Server that has all we need for the exercises in this Tutorial
- SQL Server Express consist of 2 parts (separate installation packages):
 - SQL Server Express
 - SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) This software can be used to create Databases, create Tables, Insert/Retrieve or Modify Data, etc.
- SQL Server Express Installation: <u>https://youtu.be/hhhggAlUYo8</u>

SQL Server Management Studio



Structured Query Language

- Structured Query Language (SQL) is used to write, read and update data from the Database System
- You can use SQL inside the "SQL Server Management Studio" or inside your C# App.
- SQL Example: select * from SCHOOL

SQL Examples



Query Examples:

- insert into STUDENT (Name , Number, SchoolId) values ('John Smith', '100005', 1)
- **select** SchoolId, Name from SCHOOL
- **select** * from SCHOOL where SchoolId > 100
- update STUDENT set Name='John Wayne' where StudentId=2
- **delete** from STUDENT **where** SchoolId=3

We have 4 different Query Types: INSERT, SELECT, UPDATE and DELETE

CRUD: **C** – Create or Insert Data, **R** – Retrieve (Select) Data, **U** – Update Data, **D** – Delete Data



ADO.NET

ADO.NET

- ADO.NET is the core data access technology for .NET languages.
- System.Data.SqlClient (or the newer Microsoft.Data.SqlClient) is the provider or namespace you typically use to connect to an SQL Server

Installation in Visual Studio

- Typically, we need to add the necessary NuGet package for that
- NuGet is the package manager for .NET
- The NuGet client tools provide the ability to produce and consume packages

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□ Ready



Windows Forms App

Windows Forms App

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Create a new project

Recent project templates

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Windows Forms App A project template for creating a .NET Windows Forms (WinForms) App.

C# Windows Desktop

■^c¹ WPF Application

Configure your new project

Windows Forms App C# Windows Desktop

Project name

WinFormsApp1

Location

C:\Users\hansp\source\repos

Solution name 🕕

WinFormsApp1

Place solution and project in the same directory

Additional information

Windows Forms App C# Windows Desktop
Target Framework ()
.NET 5.0 (Current)



Basic Example

Basic Example

Sensor System	—		\times
Sensor Name:			
Temperature1			
Sensor Type:			
Temperature			
	Г		
		Save	
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Basic Example

- Sensor Type
 - -Temperature, Pressure, ..
- Sensor Name

Configure your new project

Windows Forms App C# Windows Desktop

Project name

SensorSystem

Location

C:\Users\hansp\OneDrive\Programming\Visual Studio Examples

Solution name 🕕

SensorSystem

 \square Place solution and project in the same directory

....

Database

```
CREATE TABLE SENSOR
(
SensorId int NOT NULL IDENTITY (1,1),
SensorName varchar(50) NOT NULL,
SensorType varchar(50) NOT NULL
)
GO
```

Visual Studio

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Configure your new project

Windows Forms App C# Windows Desktop

Project name

SensorSystem

Location

C:\Users\hansp\OneDrive\Programming\Visual Studio Examples -

....

Solution name 🕕

SensorSystem

Place solution and project in the same directory

Back Next

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25 con.Close(); 26 } 27 }	24		<pre>sc.ExecuteNonQuery();</pre>	
26 } 27 }	25		<pre>con.Close();</pre>	
	26		}	
	27		}	
	28	}		

```
using System;
using Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;
using System.Windows.Forms;
namespace SensorSystem
    public partial class Form1 : Form
        public Form1()
            InitializeComponent();
        private void btnSave Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
            string connectionString = "Data Source=xxx; Initial Catalog=xxx; Integrated Security=True";
            string sqlQuery = "INSERT INTO SENSOR (SensorName, SensorType)
                  VALUES (" + "'" + txtSensorName.Text + "'" + "," + "'" + txtSensorType.Text + "'" + ")";
            SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
            con.Open();
            SqlCommand sc = new SqlCommand(sqlQuery, con);
            sc.ExecuteNonQuery();
            con.Close();
```

Running the Application

Sensor System	_		×
Sensor Name:			
Temperature1			
Sensor Type:			
Temperature			
		_	
		Save	

INSERT INTO SENSOR (SensorName, SensorType)
VALUES ('Temperature1', 'Temperature')

Certificate Issue?

Do you get this one:

<pre>con.Open();</pre>		
SqlCommand s	A man Calcommand(aslowers ass).	
sc.ExecuteNo	Exception Unhandled	\times
<pre>con.Close();</pre>	Microsoft.Data.SqlClient.SqlException: 'A connection was successfully established with the server, but then an error occurred during the login process. (provider: SSL Provider, error: 0 - The certificate chain was issued by an authority that is not trusted.)'	•
nces	Inner Exception Win32Exception: The certificate chain was issued by an authority that is not	•
vate void Sav	BAsk Copilot Show Call Stack View Details Copy Details Start Live Share session.	
string senso	Exception Settings	

Add TrustServerCertificate=True in the Connection String:

string connectionString = "Data Source=Hans-Petter\\SQLEXPRESS;Initial Catalog=SENSORSYSTEM;Integrated Security=True;TrustServerCertificate=True";



Improvements

- Use App.config
- Use SQL Parameters
- Use Stored Procedure
- Use Try ... Catch
- Create separate Classes and Methods
- Improve Database structure



App.config

Use App.config

```
App.config 😐 🗙
     1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
     2 ⊟ < configuration >
     3
      4
           <connectionStrings>
     5
     6
             <add name="DatabaseConnectionString" connectionString="Data Source=NUCHPH\SQLEXPRESS;Initial Catalog=SENSORSYSTEM;Trusted Connection=True"</pre>
        Ė
     7
             providerName="System.Data.SqlClient" />
           </connectionStrings>
     8
     9
    10
    11
         </configuration>
```

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<configuration>
```

```
<connectionStrings>
```

```
<add name="DatabaseConnectionString" connectionString="Data Source=x;Initial Catalog=x;Trusted_Connection=True" providerName="System.Data.SqlClient" /> </connectionStrings>
```

</configuration>

Form1.cs	. + ×	Form1.cs [Design]			- ¢
Sensor	Syster	n	 SensorSystem.Form1 	- 🖲 Form1()	• ‡
1	Ģusin	g System;			
2	usin	g Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;			
3	usin	g System.Configuration;			
4	usin	g System.Windows.Forms;			
5					
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Q		nublic partial class Form1 · Form			
9	T	{			
		1 reference			
10 🖌	Ę.	<pre>public Form1()</pre>			
11		{			
12		<pre>InitializeComponent();</pre>			
13	_	}			
14					
15		reference	t sender EventArgs a)		
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17		string connectionString = Co	nfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["Da	atabaseConnectionString"].ConnectionString:	
18					
19		<pre>string sqlOuery = "INSERT IN</pre>	TO SENSOR (SensorName, SensorType) VALUE	ES (" + "'" + txtSensorName.Text + "'" + ","	+ "'" + txtSensorType.Te
20		5 1 5 9			21
21		SqlConnection con = new SqlC	<pre>onnection(connectionString);</pre>		
22					
23		<pre>con.Open();</pre>			
24		SqlCommand sc = new SqlComma	nd(sqlQuery, con);		
25		<pre>sc.ExecuteNonQuery();</pre>			
26		<pre>con.Close();</pre>			
27		}			
28		}			
29	[}				

Code

```
using System;
using Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;
using System.Configuration;
using System.Windows.Forms;
namespace SensorSystem
    public partial class Form1 : Form
        public Form1()
            InitializeComponent();
        private void btnSave Click (object sender, EventArgs e)
            string connectionString = ConfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["DatabaseConnectionString"].ConnectionString;
            string sqlQuery = "INSERT INTO SENSOR (SensorName, SensorType)
                   VALUES (" + "'" + txtSensorName.Text + "'" + "," + "'" + txtSensorType.Text + "'" + ")";
            SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
            con.Open();
            SqlCommand sc = new SqlCommand(sqlQuery, con);
            sc.ExecuteNonQuery();
            con.Close();
```



SQL Parameters

Use SQL Parameters

- Using SQL Parameters are safer than putting the values into the string because the parameters are passed to the database separately, protecting against SQL injection attacks.
- It is also be more efficient if you execute the same SQL repeatedly with different parameters.
- The Example is showing Windows Forms using C#
- Other Languages like PHP, Python, etc. offer the same functionality

```
using System;
using Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;
using System.Configuration;
using System.Windows.Forms;
namespace SensorSystem
    public partial class Form1 : Form
        public Form1()
            InitializeComponent();
        private void btnSave Click (object sender, EventArgs e)
            string connectionString = ConfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["DatabaseConnectionString"].ConnectionString;
            string sqlQuery = "INSERT INTO SENSOR (SensorName, SensorType) VALUES (@sensorname, @sensortype)";
            SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
            con.Open();
            SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(sqlQuery, con);
            var sensorNameParameter = new SqlParameter("sensorname", System.Data.SqlDbType.VarChar);
            sensorNameParameter.Value = txtSensorName.Text;
            cmd.Parameters.Add(sensorNameParameter);
            var sensorTypeParameter = new SqlParameter("sensortype", System.Data.SqlDbType.VarChar);
            sensorTypeParameter.Value = txtSensorType.Text;
            cmd.Parameters.Add(sensorTypeParameter);
            cmd.ExecuteNonOuery();
            con.Close();
```



Stored Procedure

Use Stored Procedure

- A Stored Procedure is a premade SQL Script which you can use inside your C# Code
- Here you also use SQL Parameters
- Using Stored Procedure and SQL Parameters prevent SQL Injection

Stored Procedure

```
IF EXISTS (SELECT name
    FROM sysobjects
    WHERE name = 'SaveSensor'
    AND type = 'P')
DROP PROCEDURE SaveSensor
GO
```

```
CREATE PROCEDURE SaveSensor
@SensorName varchar(50),
@SensorType varchar(50)
AS
```

INSERT INTO SENSOR (SensorName, SensorType) VALUES (@SensorName, @SensorType)

```
using System;
using System.Data;
using Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;
using System.Configuration;
using System.Windows.Forms;
namespace SensorSystem
    public partial class Form1 : Form
        public Form1()
            InitializeComponent();
        private void btnSave Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
            string connectionString = ConfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["DatabaseConnectionString"].ConnectionString;
            SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
            con.Open();
            SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand("SaveSensor", con);
            cmd.CommandType = CommandType.StoredProcedure;
            string sensorName = txtSensorName.Text;
            string sensorType = txtSensorType.Text;
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorName", sensorName));
            cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorType", sensorType));
            cmd.ExecuteNonOuery();
            con.Close();
```



Try.. Catch..

Use Try ... Catch

- When executing C# code, different errors may occur
- When an error occurs, C# will normally stop and generate an error message.
- Typically, we just want to show an Error Message to the user without stopping the application
- Then we can use Try ... Catch





Code

private void btnSave Click(object sender, EventArgs e)

string connectionString = ConfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["DatabaseConnectionString"].ConnectionString;

```
try
      SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
      con.Open();
      SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand("SaveSensor", con);
      cmd.CommandType = CommandType.StoredProcedure;
      string sensorName = txtSensorName.Text;
      string sensorType = txtSensorType.Text;
      cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorName", sensorName));
      cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorType", sensorType));
      cmd.ExecuteNonQuery();
      con.Close();
catch
     MessageBox.Show("Error Writing Data to Database");
```



Classes and Methods

Create Classes and Methods

- So far, we have used the Button Click Event Method
 - btnSave_Click() and then we
 created all code inside that Method
- Better to create separate Classes and Methods

Create a Separate Method

private void btnSave Click(object sender, EventArgs e)

SaveData();

```
private void SaveData()
```

string connectionString = ConfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["DatabaseConnectionString"].ConnectionString;

```
try
      SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
      con.Open();
      SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand("SaveSensor", con);
      cmd.CommandType = CommandType.StoredProcedure;
      string sensorName = txtSensorName.Text;
      string sensorType = txtSensorType.Text;
      cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorName", sensorName));
      cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorType", sensorType));
      cmd.ExecuteNonQuery();
      con.Close();
catch
      MessageBox.Show("Error Writing Data to Database");
```

Create a Class and Method

Add New Item - SensorSystem			? >	×
▲ Installed	Sort by: Default	• # E	Search (Ctrl+E)	р -
 ✓ Visual C# Items Code Data General > Web Windows Forms > ASP.NET Core Measurement Studio SQL Server Storm Items 	Class Class Class Code File	Visual C# Items Visual C# Items Visual C# Items	Type: Visual C# Items An empty class definition	
▶ Online				
Name: Sensor.cs			Add Cance	Ι

Create a Class and Method

```
using System.Data;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;
using System.Configuration;
```

namespace SensorSystem.Classes

class Sensor

```
public void SaveSensorData(string sensorName, string sensorType)
```

```
string connectionString = ConfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["DatabaseConnectionString"].ConnectionString;
```

```
try
1
```

```
SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
con.Open();
```

```
SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand("SaveSensor", con);
cmd.CommandType = CommandType.StoredProcedure;
```

```
cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorName", sensorName));
cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorType", sensorType));
```

```
cmd.ExecuteNonQuery();
con.Close();
```

```
catch
```

```
MessageBox.Show("Error Writing Data to Database");
```

Using the Class and Method

```
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using SensorSystem.Classes;
```

```
namespace SensorSystem
   public partial class Form1 : Form
        public Form1()
            InitializeComponent();
        private void btnSave Click (object sender, EventArgs e)
            SaveData();
        private void SaveData()
            string sensorName = txtSensorName.Text;
            string sensorType = txtSensorType.Text;
            Sensor sensor = new Sensor();
            sensor.SaveSensorData(sensorName, sensorType);
```



Improve Database

Updated Database

```
CREATE TABLE SENSOR_TYPE
```

```
SensorTypeId int PRIMARY KEY IDENTITY (1,1),
SensorType varchar(50) NOT NULL UNIQUE
```

```
GO
```

```
CREATE TABLE SENSOR
(
SensorId int PRIMARY KEY IDENTITY (1,1),
SensorName varchar(50) UNIQUE NOT NULL,
SensorTypeId int NOT NULL FOREIGN KEY REFERENCES SENSOR_TYPE(SensorTypeId)
```

Test Data

insert into SENSOR_TYPE (SensorType) values ('Temperature')
insert into SENSOR_TYPE (SensorType) values ('Pressure')
insert into SENSOR_TYPE (SensorType) values ('Level')
insert into SENSOR_TYPE (SensorType) values ('Proximity ')

Update Stored Procedure

```
IF EXISTS (SELECT name
    FROM sysobjects
    WHERE name = 'SaveSensor'
    AND type = 'P')
DROP PROCEDURE SaveSensor
G0
```

```
CREATE PROCEDURE SaveSensor
@SensorName varchar(50),
@SensorType varchar(50)
AS
```

DECLARE @SensorTypeId int

SELECT @SensorTypeId=SensorTypeId FROM SENSOR_TYPE WHERE SensorType=@SensorType

INSERT INTO SENSOR (SensorName, SensorTypeId) VALUES (@SensorName, @SensorTypeId)

Updated GUI

Sensor System	- 🗆 X
Sensor Name:	
Sensor Type:	
	~
	_
	Save

The different Sensor Types will now be retrieved from the SQL Server Database

Sensor Types are now a Drop-down List. This prevent you from spelling mistakes, and getting Sensor Types like "Temperature", "Tmperature", ...

Sensor System	—	×
Sensor Name:		
Temperature1		
Sensor Type:		
Sensor Type:		~
Sensor Type: Level		~
Sensor Type: Level Pressure		~
Sensor Type: Level Pressure Proximity		~

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;
using System.Configuration;
namespace SensorSystem.Classes
   class SensorType
        string connectionString = ConfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["DatabaseConnectionString"].ConnectionString;
        public int SensorTypeId { get; set; }
        public string SensorTypeName { get; set; }
        public List<SensorType> GetSensorTypes()
            List<SensorType> sensorTypeList = new List<SensorType>();
           SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
           con.Open();
            string sqlQuery = "select SensorTypeId, SensorType from SENSOR TYPE order by SensorType";
           SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(sqlQuery, con);
           SqlDataReader dr = cmd.ExecuteReader();
           if (dr != null)
               while (dr.Read())
                   SensorType sensorType = new SensorType();
                    sensorType.SensorTypeId = Convert.ToInt32(dr["SensorTypeId"]);
                    sensorType.SensorTypeName = dr["SensorType"].ToString();
                   sensorTypeList.Add(sensorType);
                }
            }
           con.Close();
           return sensorTypeList;
```

{

} }

SensorType.cs

```
using System.Data;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using Microsoft.Data.SqlClient;
using System.Configuration;
```

namespace SensorSystem.Classes

class Sensor

{

```
string connectionString = ConfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["DatabaseConnectionString"].ConnectionString;
```

```
public void SaveSensorData(string sensorName, string sensorType)
    try
    ł
        SqlConnection con = new SqlConnection(connectionString);
        con.Open();
        SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand("SaveSensor", con);
        cmd.CommandType = CommandType.StoredProcedure;
        cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorName", sensorName));
        cmd.Parameters.Add(new SqlParameter("@SensorType", sensorType));
        cmd.ExecuteNonQuery();
        con.Close();
    }
    catch
    {
        MessageBox.Show("Error Writing Data to Database");
    }
```

```
using System;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using SensorSystem.Classes;
namespace SensorSystem
{
    public partial class Form1 : Form
        public Form1()
            InitializeComponent();
            FillSensorTypeComboBox();
        private void btnSave Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
            SaveData();
        private void FillSensorTypeComboBox()
            SensorType sensorType = new SensorType();
            List<SensorType> sensorTypeList = new List<SensorType>();
            sensorTypeList = sensorType.GetSensorTypes();
            foreach (SensorType sensorTypeItem in sensorTypeList)
                comboSensorType.Items.Add(sensorTypeItem.SensorTypeName);
        }
        private void SaveData()
            string sensorName = txtSensorName.Text;
            string sensorType = comboSensorType.SelectedItem.ToString();
            Sensor sensor = new Sensor();
            sensor.SaveSensorData(sensorName, sensorType);
        }
```

}

Form1.cs

Discussions

- We have made a simple Windows Forms App for saving Data to a SQL Server Database
- First, I made it work, then I improved the code step by step
- Still, lots of improvements to make, but I leave that for you

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