

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for *Murach's Beginning Visual Basic .NET*

Can this book be used with Visual Studio or Visual Basic 2003?

Although our book was developed before Visual Studio 2003 was released, it will work equally well with that release. In fact, we have discovered only one minor difference that affects our book. This difference comes into play when you create a query using the Data Adapter Configuration Wizard as described on pages 542 and 543. With Visual Basic 2002, if you create a query that performs an update or delete operation and you don't include the primary key field in the query, the Configuration Wizard adds it for you automatically. With Visual Basic 2003, a dialog box is displayed asking if you want to add the primary key.

Why can't I attach the databases provided with the book to MSDE?

The batch file (DB_Attach.bat) that's included in the download for our book that attaches the sample databases to MSDE was designed to work with a server that was installed from the Visual Studio 2002 CDs. In that case, the server is installed with a name that consists of your computer name, followed by \VSDotNET. If you didn't install MSDE from the Visual Studio 2002 CDs, you may need to change the server name in the batch file.

If you're using Visual Studio 2003, for example, you have to download MSDE from Microsoft's web site. Then, you have to install MSDE by entering a command at the command prompt. One of the parameters on that command is INSTANCENAME. Microsoft suggests that you specify VSDOTNET for this parameter. If you do that, the server will be given a name that consists of your computer name, followed by \VSDOTNET. In that case, the batch file we provide will work fine.

If you specify another value for the INSTANCENAME parameter, however, or if you omit this parameter, you'll need to edit the DB_Attach.bat file before you execute it. To do that, open the file in Notepad. As you'll see, it consists of a single command:

```
OSQL -S %COMPUTERNAME%\VSDotNET -E /i db_attach.sql
```

To change the server name, replace the VSDotNET specification with the name you specified on the INSTANCENAME parameter. Or, if you omitted this parameter, just omit the \VSDotNET specification. Then, close and save the file. Now, when you execute this file, it should attach the sample databases.

If you installed MSDE from another source, or if you want to attach the databases to an instance of SQL Server that you have access to, you'll want to find out what the server name is so you can change the batch file accordingly. The easiest way to do that is to use the Server Explorer from within Visual Studio. The Server Explorer is in a tabbed window that's grouped with the Toolbox at the left side of the Visual Studio window. After you display it, you can display the names of the servers you have access to by expanding the Servers node, followed by the node for your computer, followed by the SQL Servers node. Then, you can replace the server name specification in the DB_Attach.bat file (%COMPUTERNAME% \VSDotNET) with the appropriate server name.

Why do I get a “Login failed” error message when I try to connect to a SQL Server database from a web application?

This error typically occurs when you use Windows NT Integrated security to connect to the database. To understand why, you need to realize that ASP.NET runs as a separate Windows process with its own login name: ASPNET. When you try to access a SQL Server database from a web application, then, ASP.NET will try to use this login name to log in to SQL Server. For that to work, you first have to create a Windows user named ASPNET, and you have to create a SQL Server user account named ASPNET and grant it access to the database. A simpler solution, however, is to not use Windows NT Integrated security. Instead, you can name the specific SQL Server account you want to use when you create the connection. If you’re using MSDE on your own system, for example, you can probably just use the default system administrator account, sa. Then, your connection string will look something like this :

```
Dim sConnectionString As String _  
    = "Data Source=Anne\VSDOTNET;" _  
    & "Initial Catalog=Halloween;" _  
    & "Integrated Security=False;" _  
    & "User ID=sa"
```

If you make this change and you continue to get a “Login failed” error message, it’s probably because SQL Server authentication isn’t enabled on your server. In that case, you’ll need to enable it before you can access the database using the sa account. To do that, you’ll need to either reinstall MSDE and specify the appropriate switch to enable SQL Server authentication, or you’ll need to modify the registry. For information on using either of these techniques, please see the Microsoft Knowledge Base article at <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;321698>.

Why do I get an error when I try to delete some of the rows in the Vendors table?

The Vendors table is defined with a foreign key constraint that associates the vendors with invoices in the Invoices table. This foreign key constraint prohibits you from deleting a vendor that has associated invoices. For more information on foreign key constraints, please see pages 518 and 519 of the book.

Is something wrong (or right) with the book’s binding?

If the binding looks unusual to you, that’s because it is a special “lay flat” binding that is designed to make the book lay open on your desk without flipping shut. We hope that will make it easier for you to use our book as you do the exercises in the book or refer to the book on the job.

Unfortunately, the binding in the first printing of the book wasn’t as strong as we thought it should be, and we’ve had a few complaints about it. In fact, a few customers have reported that the binding has broken down completely. So, if you have had problems with the binding, please let us know by emailing kelly@murach.com. We will be happy to send you a replacement copy.

If you bought your book after July 1, 2003, you shouldn’t have any problem with the binding because we scrapped the remaining books of the first printing and reprinted the book at that time. Although we stayed with the lay-flat binding for this second printing, the printer assured us that the binding problems wouldn’t recur. But here again, if you do have a problem with the binding of your book, please let us know by emailing kelly@murach.com.