Working with Structured Data in Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 (Part3): Browser Enabled InfoPath Forms

Applies to: Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 and InfoPath 2007.

Explore different options you have to work with structured data in a high volume while you need to perform complex queries and actions against such data ranging from authoring, approval and landing information on Web Part pages, all the way down to the physical storage. This blog post is part 3 of a blog post series that I am planning to write on this topic. (31 printed pages)

Reza Alirezaei , Microsoft Office Server 2007 MVP 4/27/2009

For comments please see http://blogs.devhorizon.com/reza/?p=889

Content:

- <u>It's all about reusability</u>
- Create a Data Connection Library
- <u>Create a data connection in InfoPath connecting to Products Web service</u>
- Design the form
- Publish the form to Office SharePoint Server 2007
- <u>Testing the solution</u>
- Working with InfoPath form data
- Browser enabled InfoPath forms and SSO
- Additional links

It's all about reusability

One of the most important characteristics of a well-designed application is reusability. In my first exposure to InfoPath, I was drawn to the product for exactly the same reason. I was excited to see a completely schema-based solution which would give me the ability to design the schema outside of the InfoPath authoring tool, import the schema into my InfoPath form and create an electronic form based on that specific schema.

Alternatively, I realized that I could design an InfoPath form, extract its schema and reuse it all over my application – for examples in my workflows, event handlers or any other bits of my application that can potentially interact with my InfoPath forms.

Important

For an in-depth look into how to use InfoPath forms in SharePoint, see Chapter 14: Electronic Forms in MOSS 2007 in <u>Professional SharePoint 2007 Development</u>, by John Holiday

By introducing Data Connection libraries and Universal Data Connections files (a.k.a UDC file) in MOSS 2007, Microsoft took the reusability goal to the next level. Data Connection libraries were designed with one primary objective: to abstract data connection settings in UDC files from the form template and store it in a location either relative to the root of the site collection or in a central location in Central administration site as shown in the pictures below.

| New | Upload Actions S | ettings 🔹 | |
|------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Туре | Title | Name | Description |
| | WSGetProductsBySupplierID.udcx | WSGetProductsBySupplierID | Format: UDC V2; Connection Type: WebService; Purpose: ReadOnly; Generated by Microsoft Office InfoPath 2007 on 2008-01-07 at 09:08:17 by LITWAREINC\Administrato |

| entral Administration > Application Management > Manage Data Connection Files 1 anage Data Connection Files | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| 🚅 Upl | oad | | | |
| Туре | Name | Display Name | Description | Category |
| 動 | Wsgetproductsbysupplierid.udcx | WSGetProductsBySupplierID | Format: UDC V2; Connection Type: WebService; Purpose: ReadOnly; Generated by Microsoft Office InfoPath 2007 on 2008-01-07 at 09:08:17 by LITWAREINC\Administrator. | Northwine |

Well, the first obvious advantage of this level of abstraction is reusability. Technically speaking, data Connection library gives you the ability to share the same connection settings across multiple InfoPath forms, site collections or even Web applications when stored in the central administration site. Another benefit is that UDC files can be further customized based on your dev, staging or production environments which in turn means that instead of changing your form template every time you move your InfoPath forms from one environment to another one, all you need to do is to change the settings in a UDC file to match with the new environment configurations and that's it. You are all set!

Content types are yet another way in which InfoPath forms and SharePoint play very well together. Instead of attaching your form to a specific form library and do it over and over again for other form libraries, you can attach the form template to a content type and reuse it all across your site collection. As matter of fact, reusability is just the most obvious challenge that content types are supposed to solve in the new version of SharePoint; therefore InfoPath is just benefiting from such capability introduced by content types.

Important

Form library is just a special type of document library that has InfoPath form defined as its

document template.

With a tighter integration with MOSS 2007, InfoPath forms offer way more than being just a rich and smart presentation layer on the top of MOSS 2007. InfoPath Forms Services feature of MOSS 2007 makes InfoPath also a browser-based, thin-client solution which allows users to interact with the forms through browser with absolutely no need for client application to be present on users' machines. Pretty much like any document libraries, in form libraries you have the option to set the forms to render either in InfoPath client or as a Web page in the browser.

1) In a Form Library click on the Settings menu and choose Form Library Settings



- 2) In the General Settings section, click on the Advanced Settings
- 3) Go to the advanced settings
- 4) In the browser-enabled Documents, choose Display as a Web page

| Browser-enabled Documents | Opening browser-enabled documents |
|---|---|
| Specify how to display documents that are enabled for opening both in a browser and a client application. If the client application is unavailable, these documents will always be displayed as Web pages in the browser. | C Open in the client application Display as a Web page |

In this blog post, you will learn another way to achieve interoperability between the Office SharePoint Server 2007 platform and your backend systems by following required steps to surface data from a SharePoint list and SQL Server 2008 (through a Web service call) in a master-detail way. Finally, you will see how you can leverage SSO to overcome the double hop issue when consuming your backend data.

Create a Data Connection Library

As mentioned above, we need a central location to store data connections associated with InfoPath forms. We can either convert the data connections (the ones that need to be converted) to UDC files in a Data Connection library located relatively to the site collection or we can put the whole process in the hand of the farm administrator to deal with our form's deployment process. In this blog post, we only exercise publishing the form to a data connection library. You can also publish you InfoPath form centrally which would require the farm's administrator intervention. I won't walk you through that process simply because this blog post is not about how to deploy InfoPath forms.

So we need a data connection library, right? Let's create one.

Open Internet Explorer and browse to http://litwaredemo/

- 1) Click on **Site Actions**
- 2) Choose View All Site Content
- 3) Click on the **Create** button
- 4) From the Libraries section choose Data Connection Library

| ome > Create Create | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Data Connection Library Create a Data Connection Library to make it easy to share files that contain information about external data connections. | | | | | |
| Libraries | Communications | Tracking | Custom Lists | | |
| Document Library | Announcements | = Links | Custom List | | |
| Form Library | Contacts | Calendar | Custom List in | | |
| Wki Page Library | Discussion Board | = Tasks | View | | |
| Picture Library | | Project Tasks | Languages a | | |
| Report Library | | Issue Tracking | RPI List | | |
| Translation Management | | = Survey | Suppliers List | | |
| Library | | | Import Spread | | |
| Data Connection Library | | | | | |
| n Clida Library | | | | | |

5) Enter NW Trusted Data Connections and Click Create

Create a data connection in InfoPath connecting to Products Web service

When you use a Web service data source in a browser-enabled InfoPath form, especially a Web service that is not virtualized; therefore doesn't run within the context of SharePoint, there are couple of steps you need to take, otherwise the form may not run correctly when deployed.

In this section, we will first look at how to create a new external data connection to connect to the Products ASMX Web we created in <u>Part 2</u>. We will then convert this data connection to a UDC file and reload it in a brand new InfoPath form to ensure our InfoPath form is pointing to the right data connection file. This UDC file will be bound it to a Drop-Down List Box control (fldProducts) which is going to play the role of a detail control in a master-detail relationship. Let's follow these step-by-step instructions to build our first data connection.

- 1) Start Microsoft Office InfoPath 2007
- 2) In the Design a form section click the Design a Form Template... link

3) Make sure the Form Template option check box is selected. Select the Blank option in the Based on section of the Design a Form Template dialog and click the OK button.
4) Select the Data Connections... option from the Tools menu

| Eile Edit View | Insert Forma | at Too | ls T <u>a</u> ble <u>H</u> elp | _ |
|----------------|--------------|----------|---|----|
| 🔊 📴 🖬 💪 | Review ▼ | # 🗞 | Spelling Set <u>L</u> anguage | 8. |
| Draw Table | No border | | Defaul <u>t</u> Values | |
| | | | Eorm Options S <u>u</u> bmit Options | |
| | | | Data Connections | |
| | | | Convert Main Data Source | |

- 5) Click the **Add** button. Leave the **Create a new connection to** option selected
- 6) Select the **Receive Data** option and click the **Next** button
- 7) Select the **Web service** option and click the **Next** button

| Data Connection Wizar | | ? × |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| Data Lonnection Wizar | Select the source of your data. From where do you want to receive your data? (* ML document (* Database (Microsoft SQL Server only) (* Web service) (* SharePoint library or list | ĨX |
| | < <u>B</u> ack <u>N</u> ext > C | ancel |

8) Enter a **location** of http://litwaredemo:8080/Service.asmx?WSDL (This is the URL of the ASMX Web Service , we created in <u>Part 2</u>). Click the **Next** button

| Data Connection Wizard | | <u>?×</u> |
|------------------------|--|-------------|
| | Web service details | |
| | Enter the location of the Web service you want to use as your data connection: | |
| | http://litwaredemo:8080/Service.asmx?WSDL | Search UDDI |
| | Example: http://www.contoso.com/Service.asmx?WSDL | |
| | < Back Next > | Cancel |

9) Select GetProductsBySupplierID from Select an operation list. Click the Next button

10) Click the **Set Sample Value...** button and enter 1 in **Sample value** text box. Basically, by providing a sample value in this step, InfoPath can collect information about the Web service such as the return result. After entering a sample value for the suppID parameter, click **Next**.

| Data Connection Wizard | | | | <u>? ×</u> |
|------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | To design a form based o service by querying it wit To enter a sample value Parameters: | on this Web service, Inf th sample values in the for each parameter, se | oPath needs to collect parameters listed below lect the parameter and | more information about the v. click Set Sample Value. |
| | Parameter | Туре | Sample Value | Set Sample Value |
| | tns:suppID* | int | | |
| | Parameter Deta | ails | <u>?×</u> | |
| | Parameter name: | suppID | | |
| | Data type: | int | | |
| | Sample value: | 1 | | |
| | | OK | Cancel | |
| | | | | |
| | | | < <u>B</u> ack | Next > Cancel |

11) Clik the **Next** button again in the next dialog box. Now you should see the following dialog box:

| Oata Connection Wizar | <u>? </u> × |
|-----------------------|--|
| | When a query occurs while working with the form in InfoPath, the returned data is stored locally for use in Offline Mode. InfoPath can connect to this data source now and store the results in the form template for offline use. This will enable users to access the data if they are working with the form for the first time and there is no previously stored data available. |
| | <back next=""> Cancel</back> |

12) Leave the **Store a copy of the data in the form template** checkbox deselected. We will talk about this option in more details later in this blog post, but for now just click on the **Next** button.

13) Enter **WSGetProductsBySupplierID** in the **Enter a name for this data connection** Make sure that **Automatically retrieve data when form is opened** is not selected. I will walk you through this option later in this blog post. Click **Finish.**



14) Your **Data Connections** dialog box should look like below. Notice the details section important info about the DCL.

| Pata Connections | <u>? ×</u> |
|---|------------|
| Data connections for the form template: | |
| W5GetProductsBy5upplierID | Add |
| | Modify |
| | Remove |
| | ⊆onvert |
| Details Name: WSGetProductsBySupplierID Type: Retrieve data Web service: http://iltwaredemo:8080/Service.asmx Operation: GetProductsBySupplierID Data source type: Secondary data source | |
| | |

15) With the **Data Connections** dialog box still open, click on the **Convert** button. This will open **Convert Data Connection** wizard.

16) Click on the **Browse** button and browse to the Data Connection Library we created earlier in this blog post. It should be located at http://litwaredemo/NW%20Trusted%20Data%20Connections.

17) Enter WSGetProductsBySupplierID.udcx in File name and click on the Save button.

18) Choose the connection link type to be **"Relative to site collection (recommended)".** Click **Ok.**



19) Notice how **Convert** button is disabled. Click on the **Close** button. We are done!

| ata Connections | 2) |
|---|---------|
| ata connections for the form template: | |
| W5GetProductsBySupplierID | Add |
| | Modify |
| | Remove |
| | Çonvert |
| Details Name: W5GetProductsBySupplierID Type: Retrieve data Web service: Defined by settings on the server Operation: Defined by settings on the server Data source type: Secondary data source Data connection file: NW Trusted Data Connections/W5GetProductsBySupplierID.udcx | |
| Data connection file: NW Trusted Data Connections/WSGetProductsBySupplierID.udcx | |

When you close Data Connection dialog box, do not save this form! We just wanted to use this form to create an external data connection to the Web service. We will have to create another form from the scratch right after this section. Open IE and browse to the Data Connection Library to which we just published our form

(http://litwaredemo/NW%20Trusted%20Data%20Connections).

As you can see approval is by default active in any Data Connection Library which is created at the site collection level. This is a great way for site collection administrators to control existing data connection and approving them, before they can be used in any of the forms published to the site collection. Choose Approve/reject from the drop down menu for the new data connection as shown in the picture below. Choose Approved and click the OK button.

There is one extra step required to complete this section . When you access a webservice from an browser-enabled InfoPath form, from Internet Explorer's standpoint this is a cross-domain connection and is not permitted unless the end user authorizes it. Unfortunately, HTTP is a stateless protocol so browser-enabled InfoPath form (running in a browser) is unable to stop the server-side code execution of the form in order to prompt the user to authorize the cross-domain call.

Running a form in Full trust bypasses this security check, but for all other security modes this security check is always performed. Thankfully, this behavior doesn't happen when you open the form in InfoPath client, so for browser-enabled forms that do not run in full trust mode and there is one or more Web service connections, you need to ask the farm's administrator to allow such connections to be made. Here are the steps:

1) Go to SharePoint Central Admin Site

2) select Application Management tab

3) In the InfoPath Forms Services section, choose Configure InfoPath Forms Services.

4) Check "Allow cross domain access for user templates".

Cross-Domain Access for User Form Templates Form templates can contain data connections that access data from other domains. Select this check box to allow user form templates to access data from another domain.

I Allow cross-domain data access for user form templates that use connection settings in a data connection file

Design the form

With our Web service connection created and turned into a UDC file, the next step is to design the main InfoPath form that hosts the Web Service connection created above, a new data connection to the SharePoint **Suppliers** list and finally all of the data controls. The **Suppliers** list data connection will be bound to a Drop-Down List Box control (fldSuppliers) on the form which plays the role of master control participating in a master-detail relationship.

1) Let's fire up InfoPath. In the Design a form section (Getting Started dialog) click the Design a Form Template... link



2) Make sure the Form Template option and Enable browser-compatible features only check boxes are selected in the Design a new section of the Design a Form Template dialog. Select the **Blank** option in the **Based on** section of the **Design a Form Template** dialog and Click the **OK** button.



3) When working with an InfoPath form from the scratch creating data connections is the best starting point, so let's go ahead and create our second data connection. Select the **Data Connections...** option from the **Tools** menu

| 😫 (Design) Template1 - Microsoft | Office InfoPath | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| Eile Edit View Insert Forma | t <u>T</u> ools T <u>a</u> ble <u>H</u> elp | _ |
| A4 Verdana • 10 • | Spelling Set Language | 🛞 🛙 |
| Draw Table 📝 No border | Defaul <u>t</u> Values | |
| | E Form Options | |
| | Data Connections | |
| | Convert Main Data Source | |

4) Click the **Add** button on the **Data Connections** dialog. Leave the **Create a new connection to** option selected. Select the **Receive Data** option and click the **Next** button .Select the **SharePoint Library or list** option as shown in the picture below and click the **Next** button



5) Enter the **URL** of the SharePoint site from which you want to receive data and click **Next** button

| Data Connection Wizard | 1 <u>?</u> × |
|------------------------|--|
| | SharePoint site details Use these options to specify the SharePoint site from which you receive data. Enter the location of the SharePoint site you want to use as your data connection or the complete URL to your SharePoint list. http://iitwaredemo/ |
| | Examples: http://yourserver/yoursite/ or http://yourserver/yoursite/yourlist/Forms/AllItems.aspx |
| | < <u>B</u> ack <u>N</u> ext > Cancel |

6) Select Suppliers List from **Select a list or library** section.

| Select a list or library: | Description of list or library: |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Notification List NWSimpleOrders Pages Quick Deploy Items Relationships List Reporting Metadata Reporting Metadata Reusable Content Site Collection Documents Site Collection Images Site Template Gallery Style Library Suppliers List Tasks Team Discussion Trusted Data Connections Liser Information List Variation Labels Web Part Gallery Workflow Tasks | Custom List |

7) Select "**CompanyName**" from the list and leave all the other fields to be selected in **Select fields** section. Click **Next.**

| Data Connection Wizar | d | | <u>?</u> × |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|------------|
| | The SharePoint list has the following fields that Select fields: | t you can select from. | |
| | CompanyName SupplierID ContactName ContactName ContactTitle Address City Region PostalCode Country Phone Fax HomePage ID Content_Type (Content Type) | | |
| | Modified Created Created By Created By | | |
| | Modified By (Modified By) | | <u> </u> |
| | | < Back Next > | Cancel |

8) The next step is to decide if you want to **Store a copy of the data in the form template.** By selecting Store **a copy of the data in the form template** checkbox, you tell InfoPath to store a static copy of the data from the **Suppliers** List in the form template. If you look into the form template, you will find the static data stored as an XML file in the form template .Select this option if your form is meant to be used by offline users or its data source is not updated quite often.

9) In the last dialog box, enter **SPSuppliersList** in the **Enter a name for this data connection**. Make sure that **Automatically retrieve data when form is opened** is selected. Click **Finish**.

| Data Connection Wizar | d <u>1</u> × |
|-----------------------|---|
| | Enter a name for this data connection: |
| | SPSuppliersList |
| | |
| | Automatically retrieve data when form is opened |
| | Note: You can also add a Refresh button to your form template or template part, which will retrieve the data. |
| | |
| | Summary |
| | Type: Retrieve data SharePoint site: http://litwaredemo/ List: Suppliers List |
| | |
| | |
| | < Back Enish Cancel |

10) At this point, your **Data Connections** dialog box should like below:

| Data Connections | <u>? ×</u> |
|---|---------------------------|
| Data connections for the form template: | |
| SPSuppliersList | Add Modify Bemove Convert |
| Details Name: SPSuppliersList Type: Retrieve data SharePoint site: http://itwaredemo/ Data source type: Secondary data source Data retrieved: Every time form is opened Data connection available in Offline mode | |
| | Close |

11) Without closing this dialog box, click on the **Add** button. This time instead of creating a brand new data connection;let's reload the one we built and placed in the Site collection Data Connection Library.

- 12) Select Search for connection on a Microsoft Office SharePoint Server.
- 13) Select WSGetProductsBySupplierID.udcx from
- 14) the NW%20Trusted%20Data%20Connections Data Connection Library.

When our form's Data Connections library is populated with the right connections to the Web service and SharePoint list, there are 23 steps in total to design the form and place the master details control on it.

- 1) Add a Drop-Down List Box to the form
- 2) Right click on the control and choose Drop-Down List Box Properties
- 3) Modify the name to: **fldSuppliers**
- 4) Select Look up values from an external data source
- 5) Choose **SPSuppliersList** as the Data source
- 6) Choose **Suppliers_List** as the Entries
- 7) Set the Value to @SupplierID
- 8) Set the Display name to @CompanyName

| | nasupp | peers | _ | |
|--|---|---|--|-----------|
| Data type: | Text (s | tring) | <u> </u> | |
| lidation and P | Rules | | | |
| Gannot be | e blank | | | |
| Data <u>Y</u> alidat | tion | Use data validation to displa invalid data. | y errors when | users ent |
| Rules | | Use rules to apply actions wi value in this control. | hen users cha | nge the |
| t box entries | 2 | | | |
| | | | | |
| C Enter list l | box ent | ries manually | | |
| C Enter list I C Look up v | box enti alues in | ries manually the form's data source | | |
| C Enter list I C Look up v C Look up v | box ent alues in alues fr | ries manually the form's data source om an external data source | | |
| C Enter list I C Look up v C Look up v Data source: | box enb alues in alues fr SPSu | ries manually the form's data source om an external data source ppliersList | A <u>d</u> d | |
| Enter list I Look up v Look up v Look up v Data source: Choose the re | box ent alues in alues fr SPSu | ries manually the form's data source om an external data source ppliersList v g group or field where the entr | Add | |
| ← Enter list I ← Look up v ← Look up v Data source: Choose the re Entrieg: | box enb alues in alues fr SPSu speating s/dfs: | ries manually the form's data source om an external data source ppliersList g group or field where the entr dataFields/dfs:Suppliers_List | Add | L |
| C Enter list I C Look up v C Look up v Cook up v Data source: Choose the re Entries: Value: | box enb alues in alues fr SPSu speating s/dfs: | ries manually the form's data source om an external data source ppliersList g group or field where the entr dataFields/dfs:Suppliers_List @SupplierID | Add ies are stored علي | |
| C Enter list I C Look up v C Look up v Look up v Data source: Choose the re Entrieg: Value: Display na | box enb alues in alues fr SPSu epeating s/dfs: me: | ries manually the form's data source om an external data source ppliersList g group or field where the entr dataFields/dfs:Suppliers_List @SupplierID @CompanyName | Add ies are stored to to to | |
| C Enter list I C Look up v C Look up v Look up v Data sgurce: Choose the re Entries: Value: Display na | box enb alues in alues fr SP5u speating s/dfs: ame: | ries manually the form's data source om an external data source ppliersList g group or field where the entr dataFields/dfs:Suppliers_List @SupplierID @CompanyName | Add ies are stored علي علي علي | L |

- 9) Add another Drop-Down List Box to the form
- 10) Right click on the control and choose Drop-Down List Box Properties
- 11) Modify the name to: **fldProducts**
- 12) Select Look up values from an external data source
- 13) Choose WSGetProductsBySupplierID as the Data source

14) Choose **ProductName** as the Entries



15) Do not change Value and Display name. Leave the default values intact

| Data type: | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| and when 1 | lext (stri | ing) | | • | |
| lidation and Ru | les | | | | |
| ⊆annot be | blank | | | | |
| Data Validatio | on | Use data vali | dation to displa | y errors when u | users ente |
| | | invalid data. Use rules to a | noly actions w | hen users chan | oe the |
| <u>R</u> ules | | value in this o | ontrol. | | yo aro |
| t box entries | | | | | |
| Enter list be | ox entrie | s manually | | | |
| C Look up val | iues in th | e form's data | source | | |
| · Look up val | ues from | n an external | data source | | |
| Data source: | WSGetF | ProductsBySu | pplierID 💌 | A <u>d</u> d | 1 |
| Choose the rep | beating g | roup or field | where the entr | ies are stored. | |
| Entries: | wDatas | et/Products/I | ProductName | 2. | |
| | | | | | |
| Value: | | 1. | | <u>=</u> | |
| - | ne: | | | 23 | |
| Display nag | WT 0 | 1 C C | | | |
| Data source: Choose the rep Entrieg: | WSGetF seating g swDataS | ProductsBySu proup or field Set/Products/I | pplierID <u> </u> | Add | |
| Value: | | | | 23 | |
| 1.0 | ne: | | | 2. | |
| Dicplay pan | 1953 A | | | | |

Important

The ASMX Web service , we use in this blog post is installed on the same server as SharePoint and SQL Server , so multiple-hop delegation issue won't happen. If you are following these steps and you install your Web Service and/or SQL Server on different machines than SharePoint and you also happen to be using NTLM , then you need to think about extra hops that may occur between your InfoPath form , Web Service and SQL Server. For more information see **Configuring SSO** in <u>Part 1</u> or **Brower enabled InfoPath forms and SSO** later in this blog post.

- 16) Add a **Text Box** to the form
- 17) Right click on the control and choose Text Box Properties
- 18) Modify the name to: **fldReview**
- 19) Design view of the form should be something like below

| Design) Tem | place1 - Microsoft Office InfoPath |
|------------------------------|--|
| ile <u>E</u> dit <u>V</u> ie | w Insert Format Iools Table Help |
|) 💕 🖬 🕓 | , 🖎 Prevlew 🔹 🎲 🖾 🦈 🐰 🐘 🏡 🍼 🧉 🔍 🧾 🌆 🖓 Design Tasks 🕑 💂 |
| 4 Verdana | • 10 • B I U 🏾 🗮 著 🗮 🇮 🗄 • 🗄 • 译 译 😤 • 🛆 • 💂 |
| Draw Table | A his boundary and the state of |
| I TODIO | No porder |
| LIGHT LOOK | |
| | Products Review Form |
| Suppliers: | Products Review Form |
| Suppliers: | Products Review Form Select |

20) Right click on the first Drop-Down List Box (fld*Suppliers*) and choose Rules.21) Create a new Rule with the following actions (with No condition):

Important

Adding conditional or non-conditional rules directly to the data elements of your form is one of the three possible ways you can add more power to your forms. You can also write scripts embedded in the form or alternatively, you can use VSTO (Visual Studio Tools for Office) or VSTA (Visual Studio Tools for Applications) to write managed code that is called from a separate assembly.

- Set a field's value: Set the *fldProducts* field to nothing (e.g. leave the Value blank)
- Set a field's value: Set the parameter value (*suppID*) for the *WSGetProductsBySupplierID secondary* data source to the *fldSuppliers* field. Since fldSuppliers will return a string , you need to apply **number**() function to cast it to integer.
- Query the WSGetProductsBySupplierID data connection

| Rule | <u>? ×</u> |
|--|-----------------------|
| Name: | |
| Rule 1 | |
| Condition: | |
| None - This rule always applies | Set <u>C</u> ondition |
| Actions (run in the order shown): | |
| =fx Set a field's value: fldProducts = "" | Add Action |
| =fx Set a field's value: suppID = number(.) | |
| Query using a data connection: WSGetProductsBySupplierID | Modify |
| | Remove |
| | Move Up |
| | Move Do <u>w</u> n |
| Stop processing rules when this rule finishes | |
| ОК | Cancel |

22) At this point, you can click on **Preview** button to see the form in action.

| | Products Review Form | |
|------------|------------------------|---|
| Suppliers: | Exotic Liquids | - |
| Products: | | - |
| Review: | Chai | |
| | Chang Aniseed Syrup | |

23) Save the form locally as *MasterDetailForm.xsn*. This xsn file is what is referred to as form template. In nutshell, it is just a zip file that contains all different tenants of your form.

Important

There is an important distinction between saving and publishing a form template. Before publishing your form template, you need to save it first. Publishing your form make it available for distribution.

Publish form to Office SharePoint Server 2007

Once you have finished designing your form template, you can begin the form deployment process by first publishing the form template to a location, either the local hard disk or a SharePoint site. The Publishing Wizard guides you through the publishing process while providing good amount of information to help you choose the right location for the form template. The location options are the following:

- To a SharePoint server with or without InfoPath Forms Services
- To a list of e-mail recipients
- To a network location
- As an installable form template (requires Microsoft Visual Studio)

In this blog post, we will publish our form template to a SharePoint site.

1) Select the **Publish** option from the **File** menu



2) Click the Next button to publish To a SharePoint server with or without InfoPath Forms Services

3) Enter a location of http://litwaredemo/ and click the Next button

4) Click the Next button to publish to a Document Library



Important

If there was any managed code in the form's code behind, the Publishing Wizard only allows the Administrator-approved form template option, so don't be surprised if you see **Document Library** and **Site Content Type** are disabled.

5) Choose **Create a new document library** or choose a form library , that you have already created in the site , from **Document library to update** list

6) Click the **Next** button to create a new document library

| What do you want to do? © greate a new document library © Update the form template in an exi Document library to update: | isting document library |
|--|---|
| Name Documents Form Templates Pages Ste Collection Documents Ste Collection Images Style Library Trusted Data Connections | Description This system library was created by th This library contains administrator-app This system library was created by th |
| | < Back Next > C |

7) Enter a **Name** of **NWSupplierProducts** and click the **Next** button

| Publishing Wizard | <u>? ×</u> |
|-------------------|---|
| | Type a name and description for this document library. |
| | Ngme: Products Review |
| | Description: |
| | This Form Library is used for customer to enter their review about an specific product of a given supplier.] |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | < <u>B</u> ack <u>N</u> ext > Cancel |

8) Click the Next button, then Publish button.

| Publishing Wizard | | | | ? × |
|-------------------|---|--|---------|--------|
| | Verify the form inform | ation below and then click publi | sh. | |
| | Document Library: Location: Server Type: Security Level: | Products Review http://litwaredemo InfoPath Forms Services Domain | | |
| | | < Back | Bublish | Cancel |

In the picture shown above, there is one thing that needs to be highlighted: Security Level. If you select Form Options... option from the Tools menu and go to the Security and Trust category, you will see that Automatically determine security level option is selected by default and it is set to Domain.

This security level is what InfoPath has determined is appropriate for our form based on the data sources we have created. **Domain security mode** means that the form can access content from only the domain in which it is located. In case you need to elevate the security mode to **Full Trust** and get the administrators involved in the publishing process, unselect **Automatically determine security level** option, select the **Full Trust** option in the **Security Level** section, select the **Sign this form template** option and finally click the **OK** button.

9) In the last screen, select the **Open this document** library option. Click the **Close** button to finish the **Publishing Wizard.**

10) Browse to Products Review, from Setting menu choose Form Library Settings

11) In General Settings section, choose advanced settings.

12) In Browser-enabled Documents section, select Display as a Web page.

Testing the solution

1) Open Internet Explorer and browse to http://litwaredemo/ProductsReview



2) Select the **New Document** option from the **New** menu

3) InfoPath Forms Services will load your form in the browser

| 🛃 Save Save As 🗳 Close 🛁 Print View | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| | Products Review Form | |
| Suppliers: | Exotic Liquids | |
| Products: | | |
| Review: | Chai | |
| Save Save A | Chang Aniseed Syrup | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

4) Click the **Save** Button to save the data.

| Save As | Powered by: InfoPathr Forms Services | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----|--|
| You can only save this file to | the current site. | 1. | |
| Overwrite existing file? | ✓ [http://litwaredemo/N₩SupplierProducts/] | | |
| Save in: | | | |
| File name:* | PS1 | | |
| | Save Cancel | | |
| waredemo > NWSuppl IWSupplierP | ierProducts roducts | | |
| sample form library | | | |
| New • Upload • | Actions - | | |
| Suma Nama | Modified | Mod | |

1/19/2008 5:23 PM

Working with the InfoPath form data

4

PS1 NEW

Okay, back to our reusability related discussion in the beginning of this blog post. Form libraries in SharePoint are one of best examples of how a form's schema can be reused.

Barbara Decker

Simply put, when you publish a form to a form library, you attach your form as the default template for that from library. When someone creates a new document, they fill out the form and save the result as xml into the form library either via InfoPath client or a browser-enabled representation of the form provided by IFS. The xml that is stored in a form library conforms to the form's schema, so technically any code, as long as it confirms to that schema, can intercept this xml file and extract the information needed.

When users complete their forms, all of the accumulated form data is available to you for reporting and further analysis. In the solution provided in this blog post, InfoPath form is directly saved in the form library. This is a good approach if you want to work with all the data in the form. Remember, every time you save a new form to the form library, a new list item is created,

so you can access the xml data via the <u>SPFile</u> object associated with each list item, parse that xml (using XPath, XSLT,etc) to extract the fields you need. This can be done in two ways:

- 1. Inside your form library. An event handler or workflow can be written to access the SPFile object and extract the xml data for further processing such as writing them to another list or to a separate database.
- 2. Outside of your form library. Your code sitting outside of the form library (i.e. in a timer job) can access the SPFile objects associated with list items and extracts the xml data for further processing.

In addition to parsing the xml data (for example using XPath), there is another interesting way to extract the xml data out of a submitted InfoPath form using .Net serialization.

- 1. Save your form template (*.xsn) to a folder
- 2. Temporarily change the file extension to ".cab"
- 3. Double-click the CAB file, it will open as an archive file and you can locate the primary schema (".xsd") file and drag it out
- 4. Create.Net (C#, VB, J#) wrapper classes from the xsd file using XSD.EXE (command line).
- 5. In your code, submitted InfoPath xml data (accessed by SPFile object) can be accessed and de-serialized to objects of these classes. Here is an <u>example</u> of a serializable class that can be generated from this blog post's InfoPath form primary schema file.

Okay, what you saw above definitely requires some coding, but is there a way that you can work with form data directly rather than having to extract it? Answer is: Yes. During the publishing process, you are given the option to simply promote your form's fields to SharePoint site columns and then work directly with the column data.

| Publishing Wizard | | <u>? ×</u> |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | The columns listed below will be available in Shar | ePoint sites and Outlook folders. |
| | Column Name | <u>A</u> dd |
| | | Remove |
| | | Modify |
| | | |
| | | |

Click on the **Add...** button and specify which data elements of your form should be promoted to which SharePoint site columns. Publishing process then introduces the form's schema to the form library. Okay, what is that necessarily? This is required because Form library has some extra work to take care of, after the form is saved. It needs to intercept the result xml file, extract the values and copies them to the list columns. Guess what? In the new version of InfoPath, Form data fields are now bi-directional meaning that it goes both way from InfoPath form to the list columns and vice versa. Isn't that cool?

Alternatively, you could let InfoPath create a site content type that is linked to the form template. When you choose to add this content type to a document library, in fact you promote your form's data elements to the columns of that document library. Then, your forms data will be rendered in

columns.



Browser Enabled InfoPath Forms and SSO

In <u>Part 1</u>, it was discussed that SSO can be set for individual, group, or group using restricted credentials. A browser-enabled InfoPath form (like Data Form Web Part - see Part 3) can use either individual or group. In case you want to use individual credential mapping (like how we configured our App def in <u>Part 1</u>), you have two avenues to take:

- 1. Administrator must enter account information for every user into the SSO database. In another word, each user must be mapped to the SSO account individually.
- You can implement a solution for an individual form or a set of forms so when a user browse to a form, a check must be done to see whether the connecting user has their credentials stored in the SSO database or not. If not, there should be a mechanism to redirect the user to a credentials management page where user can enter the credentials. A proof of concept for this approach has been developed. For more information, see <u>Appendix: Creating an ASP.NET Page to Redirect Users Who Are Not in the SSO Database</u>

Okay, no matter you use group or individual account types in SSO, you still need some work to do before get this all working.

- 1) Open IE and browse to the Data Connection Library the contains the UDCX file
- 2) Right click on the UDCX file for which you want to setup SSO and Save Target As...
- 3) Open the file in notepad
- 4) Locate <udc:ConnectionString>... </udc:ConnectionString>element
- 5) Replace it with the following :

<udc:ConnectionString>

Provider=SQLOLEDB.1;Password=<CredentialValue Class="Password" Resource="sso:Northwind" Type="Password" />;Persist Security Info=True;User ID=<CredentialValue Class="User ID" Resource="sso:Northwind" Type="Username" />;Initial Catalog=Northwind;Data Source=LITWAREDEMO;Use Procedure for Prepare=1;Auto Translate=True;Packet Size=4096;Workstation ID=LITWAREDEMO;Use Encryption for Data=False;Tag with column collation when possible=False </udc:ConnectionString>

6) Uncomment the following authentication block<!--udc:Authentication><udc:SSO AppId="" CredentialType=""/></udc:Authentication-->

7) Enter your SSO application definition file information.

<udc:Authentication> <udc:SSO AppId="Northwind" CredentialType="NTLM" /></udc:Authentication>

8) Upload the new UDCX file back to the **Data Connection Library**9) Approve the UDCX file

10) In central administration site, browse to Central Administration > Application Management > Configure InfoPath Forms Services and enable the following checkbox. Notice that this potentially can cause security threads to the underlying data structures so it should be used with extra cautious.

Authentication to data sources (user form templates) Allow user form templates to use authentication information Data connection files can contain authentication information, such as contained in data connection files an explicit username and password or a Microsoft Office Single Sign-On Application ID. Check this box to allow user form templates to use this authentication information.

In case, you want to connect to Northwind database using SQL Authentication instead of Windows Integrated Security (NTML). There are five steps that you should follow to get this working:

1) Connection string block in UDCX file should be changed to :

<udc:ConnectionString>

Provider=SQLOLEDB.1;Password=<CredentialValue Class="Password" Resource="sso: NorthwindSQLAuth " Type="Password" />;Persist Security Info=True;User ID=<CredentialValue Class="User ID" Resource="sso:NorthwindSQLAuth" Type="Username" />;Initial Catalog=Northwind;Data Source=LITWAREDEMO;Use Procedure for Prepare=1;Auto Translate=True;Packet Size=4096;Workstation ID=LITWAREDEMO;Use Encryption for Data=False;Tag with column collation when possible=False </udc:ConnectionString>

NorthwindSQLAuth in Resource="sso: **NorthwindSQLAuth** " is the name of enterprise application definition you setup in SSO service for SQL authentication . Username in Type="**Username**" and Password in Type="**Password**" are what you have specified in Field1 and Field2 of the SSO Application Definition.

| Display name: * |
|---------------------------------|
| NorthwindAppDefSQLAuth |
| Application name: * |
| NorthwindSQLAuth |
| Contact e-mail address: * |
| administrator@litwareinc.com |
| |
| Account type: |
| Group |
| © Individual |
| Group using restricted account |
| - Group using resoluted betwark |
| |
| N |
| Windows authentication |
| |
| |
| |
| Field 1: Display Name |
| Username 🥌 |
| Mask: |
| C Yes O No |
| Field 2: Display Name |
| Password |

2) In Manage Account Information for an Enterprise Application Definition page, map your users to a SQL account that you have already created in SQL Server 2008 and you have given that account required permission to access Northwind database. For example map, LITWAREINC\Barbarad to Username=NWUser, password =pass@word1

3) SSO block in UDCX file should be changed to:<udc:Authentication><udc:SSO AppId=' NorthwindSQLAuth ' CredentialType='Sql' /></udc:Authentication>

4) Important : In the SSO application definition ,Windows authentication checkbox must be deselect to allow both SQL Auth and Windows Auth to be established from client components (in this case , an InfoPath form)

5) Important: In forms configuration settings, Allow embedded SQL authentication is selected. Note that using embedded SQL credentials, will cause some security vulnerability in UDCX files as people can embed credentials in clear text.



Additional Resources

- <u>http://blogs.msdn.com/infopath/archive/2006/10/12/cascading-dropdowns-in-browser-forms.aspx</u>
- http://www.sharepoint-tips.com/2007/01/infopath-form-services-implementing.html
- http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb251017.aspx
- http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb787184.aspx