

Quick Start: DataDirect Connect[®] for .NET SQL Server Data Provider

The following basic information enables you to connect with and test your DataDirect Connect[®] for .NET data providers immediately after installation. For installation instructions, please see the *DataDirect Connect for .NET Installation Guide*. Code examples in this document assume you are using C# and Visual Studio .NET.

Connecting to a Database

Once the DataDirect Connect for .NET data providers are installed, you can connect from your application to your database.

To connect to SQL Server:

- 1 In the Solution Explorer, right-click **References**.
- 2 Click **Add Reference**; then, select **DataDirect Technologies SQL Server Data Provider** in the component list.
- 3 Click **OK**. The Solution Explorer now includes the SQL Server data provider.
- 4 Check the beginning of your application. If the data provider's namespace is not present, add it, as shown in the following C# code fragment:

```
// Access SQL Server
using System.Data;
using DDTek.SQLServer;
```

- 5 Add the connection information for your server and exception handling code:

```
SQLServerConnection Conn = new SQLServerConnection("host=Accounting;
            port=1433;User ID=test01;Password=test01;
            Database Name=test");

try
{
    Conn.Open();
    Console.WriteLine ("Connection successful!");
}

catch (SQLServerException ex)
{
    // Connection failed
    Console.WriteLine(ex.Message);
    return;
}
// Close the connection
Conn.Close();
```

- 6 Close the connection.

Testing the Connection

You can test the connection using a small C# application in Visual Studio .NET.

- 1 Create a small Windows test application (refer to the Microsoft .NET Framework documentation).
- 2 Add a button to the default form that is created for you.
- 3 Follow the steps in the “Connecting to a Database” section above, making sure that you modify the connection string values for your SQL Server server, Logon ID, Password, and Database Name. Add the code in Step 5 to the button’s click event.
- 4 Save the test application.
- 5 To test the connection, click the button in the test application.

Tuning the Data Provider for Optimal Performance

To tune the data provider for optimal performance, run the DataDirect Connect *for*.NET Performance Tuning Wizard, which is installed along with the product and is also available from the DataDirect Web site (www.datadirect.com). The Performance Tuning Wizard leads you step-by-step through a series of questions about your application. Based on your answers, the Wizard provides the optimal settings for performance-related connection string options.

The Wizard runs as an applet within a browser window. To run the Wizard, one of the following browsers must be installed:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 or higher
- Netscape 7.x or higher
- FireFox 1.0 or higher

In addition, the browser must be configured to run applets. Refer to your browser's documentation for instructions on configuring your browser.

NOTE FOR WINDOWS XP SP2 USERS: Security features added in Windows XP Service Pack 2 cause Internet Explorer by default to block all active content such as Java Applets. This prevents the Performance Tuning Wizard from launching even though the page that contains it loads successfully. The following message is displayed in the toolbar:

To help protect your security, Internet Explorer has restricted this file from showing active content that could access your computer.

Click the message and select **Allow Blocked Content**. A security warning message is displayed. Click **Yes** to allow the Performance Tuning Wizard to run.

Starting the Wizard

To start the Wizard that was installed with the product, launch the following file from your browser, where *install_dir* is your DataDirect Connect *for*.NET data provider installation directory:

```
install_dir /wizards/index.html
```

Tuning Performance With the Wizard

After you start the Wizard, a Welcome window appears. Click **Start** to start the process and select a data provider. When you have answered all questions for a data provider, results are displayed in the Results window. You can copy the results to use in your application or in an ADO.NET connection string. In addition, you can copy and paste the results into a text file for reference.

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