

Mobile Web Application Course

Lab # 6

Database Handling and AJAX using ASP.NET

The objective of this lab is to learn and understand how to retrieve data from databases and use AJAX to display the results.

Instructions: Create a New AJAX-Enabled Web Site for this lab

Exercise 1: Database Handling

Create a Microsoft Access database called “Customers” which contains a table name “CustomerInfo”. This table should contain at least four columns including name, email address, country, telephone number, etc. Then, populate the database with at least 5 full records. Place the MDB file in the App_Data folder of the ASP.NET Web site.

CustomerInfo : Table				
	Name	Telephone	Email	Country
▶	Andrew Smith	333-333-3333	andrew_smith@smith_com	Spain
	Jane Doe	444-444-4444	jane_doe@doe_com	Brazil
	Jane Lee	444-444-4444	jane_lee@lee_com	Ecuador
	John Doe	555-555-5555	john_doe@doe_com	Canada
	John Lee	555-555-5555	john_lee@lee_com	United States
*				

Select the “Email” field as the primary key.

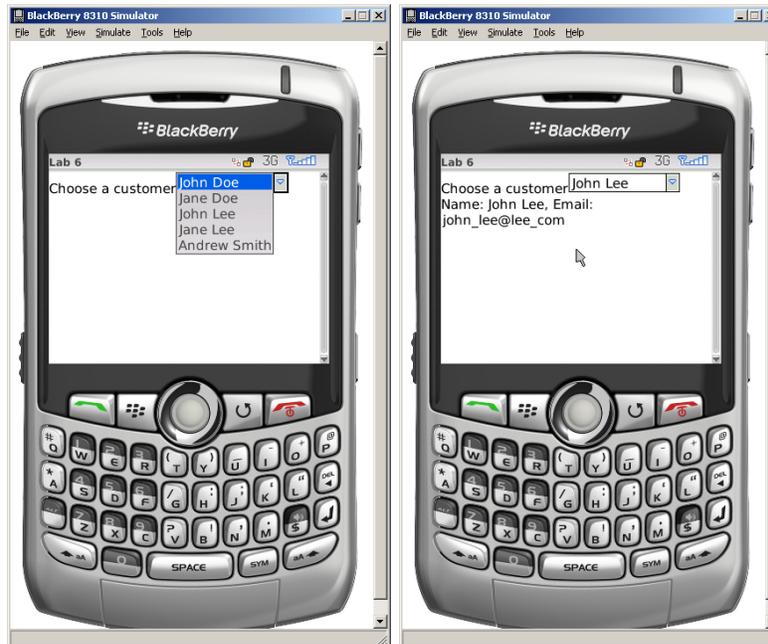
Once the page loads up, create a database connection that reads all the records in the CustomerInfo table. Then, populate the Name and Email fields to a DropDownList server control. The text for the DropDownList correspond to the Name field and the value correspond to the Email field.

To read from the database, perform the following steps:

```
Dim myConn As New OleDbConnection(...)
Dim query As String = "SELECT * ..."
Dim myCommand As New OleDbCommand(...,...)
Open database connection...
Create a datareader instance
Read the data using the datareader
Add the datareader instance as the data source for the DropDownList
Set the DataTextField to "Name"
Set the DataValueField to "Email"
Bind the data
Close database connection
```

Question: What would happen if the database connection is not closed properly?

Once a user selects a customer name, the page should display a text message with the name and email address of the customer. For example:



Exercise 2: Add AJAX Support

Using the UpdatePanel command, wrap the text message label into the ContentTemplate. Then, use the DropDownList server control as the control that triggers the update panel to refresh. Set the event name to “[SelectedIndexChanged](#)”. Make sure to add the ScriptManager in the page for AJAX to work properly. Refer to Lecture 6 for more examples on using AJAX.

Question: What is the difference between the output using AJAX and the one from Exercise 1?