NHibernate 3 Beginner's Guide

By Dr. Gabriel Nicolas Schenker, Aaron Cure

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Rapidly retrieve data from your database into .NET objects

- Incorporate robust, efficient data access into your .Net projects
- Reduce hours of application development time and get better application architecture and performance
- Create your domain model first and then derive the database structure automatically from the model
- Test, profile, and monitor data access to tune the performance and make your applications fly
- Clear, precise step-by-step directions to get you up and running quickly

In Detail

Ideally, we would want to persist the objects our application uses and produces AS IS, without having to first transform them in complex ways. NHibernate is a framework that provides us with an object-oriented access to a relational database without having to write SQL and with little or no database-specific data access code. Definitely, if you are a .NET developer, knowing more about NHibernate will simplify and reduce your efforts in developing .Net applications.NHibernate 3 Beginner's Guide introduces Nhibernate with step-by-step examples, and is the easiest way to learn about bridging the gap between object-oriented .NET applications and the relational database that stores the application's data. It is a beginner's guide to NHibernate that starts from scratch. Successive chapters build upon earlier concepts, while the sample code presents various ways to accomplish typical data access tasks.

NHibernate 3 Beginner's Guide examines all of the topics required to get a functional data access layer implemented while writing the least amount of code possible, presenting options along the way to handle particular edge cases or situations as they arise. The book begins with an introduction to NHIbernate 3 and then moves on to creating the development environment. Then it teaches you how to create a model, define a database schema, and map the model to the database then covers sessions and transactions. This is succeeded by testing, profiling, and configuration, validation of data and writing queries. Finally, we wrap up with notes on the common pitfalls that you should avoid.

Once you complete reading the book, you will have gained the skills and knowledge to incorporate NHibernate into your own applications.

An easy-to-follow guide that will show you how to connect the NHibernate object-relational mapper to your projects to create a rich, efficient, object-oriented data access layer with little or no additional work

What you will learn from this book

- Create a domain model
- Learn different techniques to map the domain model to the underlying database
- Build the database from your model automatically
- Use session and transactions to persist and retrieve data
- Efficiently query the database by using LINQ to NHibernate and HQL
- Configure your system for use of NHibernate in a clear and concise way
- Write unit and integration tests for your data access layer
- Learn about the common pitfalls that should be avoided
- Implement data validation on the entity level
- Monitor and profile your data access

Approach

This is a beginner's guide with comprehensive step-by-step instructions. There are appropriate screenshots throughout the book and plenty of code, which is explained in a well-thought-out format.

Who this book is written for

If you are a new or seasoned developer of .NET web or desktop applications who is looking for a better way to access database data, then this book is for you. It is a basic introduction to NHibernate, with enough information to get a solid foundation in using NHibernate. Some advanced concepts are presented where appropriate to enhance functionality or in situations where they are commonly used. Absolutely no knowledge of NHibernate is required to read this book.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Gabriel N. Schenker started his career as a physicist. Following his passion and interest in stars and the universe he chose to write his Ph.D. thesis in astrophysics. Soon after this he dedicated all his time to his second passion, writing and architecting software. Gabriel has since been working for over 12 years as an independent consultant, trainer, and mentor mainly on the .NET platform. He is currently working as chief software architect in a mid-size US company based in Austin TX providing software and services to the pharmaceutical industry as well as to many well-known hospitals and universities throughout the US and in many other countries around the world. Gabriel is passionate about software development and tries to make the life of developers easier by providing guidelines and frameworks to reduce friction in the software development process.

He has used NHibernate in many different commercial projects, web-based as well as Windows-based solutions. Gabriel has written many articles and blog posts about different aspects of NHibernate. He is the author behind the well-known NHibernate FAQ blog. Gabriel has also been a reviewer for the bestselling NHibernate 3 Cookbook.

Gabriel is married and father of four children and during his spare time likes hiking in the mountains, cooking and reading.

Aaron Cure is an avid developer, instructor, and innovator. During his 10 years in the military as a linguist and a satellite communications repair technician, he learned that his real love was computer programming. After various throes with PHP, Classic ASP, VB, and a brief encounter with Java/JSP, he found a real passion for the .NET framework. After searching for a "better way" to carry out database storage and retrieval, Aaron stumbled across the NHibernate framework. Unsatisfied with the options for interacting with this great framework, he founded the NHibernate Generation project (nhib-gen) on SourceForge to reduce the "barrier to entry" for most developers.

Aaron and his family run a small consulting and web hosting company doing web design and custom software development for various organizations across the country. One of their more interesting projects has been software to control laser cutting machines. In his spare time, he also enjoys developing projects with his daughters, using everything from Lego NXT (using C# and Bluetooth communications) to the Microchip PIC platform (using JAL and USB).

He also collects and restores classic farm tractors, engines, and farm equipment, as well as semi trucks and trailers.

He and his family display them at tractor shows, parades, schools, and various other community events.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ryan Neal:

This NHibernate 3 Beginner's Guide book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book will be information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This particular NHibernate 3 Beginner's Guide without we realize teach the one who examining it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry NHibernate 3 Beginner's Guide can bring once you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even phone. This NHibernate 3 Beginner's Guide having good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

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