

OpenAccess 101 Webinar Q&A

Are there any database restrictions such as do you support Identity columns and default values on columns?

OpenAccess supports multiple identity column types. Read this [help topic](#) for more details.

When can support for SQL 2000 be expected?

Support for SQL Server 2000 is expected in Q2 or Q3 2009 (although no firm release has been targeted yet). Keep an eye on the [product roadmap](#) for more details.

"Connection String" in the Demo showed default item as "SQL Server". Does that mean the product is more fine-tuned for MS-SQL Server?

Absolutely not. SQL Server is a common database used by .NET developers, which is probably why it was chosen as the default. However, you can easily switch to another of the supported databases and achieve the same functionality and performance.

In the Demo Generated code it said namespace = "Telerik....", if I change the name space, will that break the code?

No. The namespace you provide will be reflected in the generated classes. The default value you see is simply the default namespace value for the Visual Studio class library project. If you do change the namespace of your persistent classes, you simply need to ensure that any references to those classes are updated in the rest of your project.

If the DB Table Schema change, do we need to change the XML file manually or there is a tool that will refresh the XML Mapping file?

The Reverse Mapping Wizard lets you easily merge schema changes with your existing mappings. See [this help topic](#).

Can entire object graph be loaded/saved with one call i.e. load a parent object and any related child objects based on a single call to an OpenAccess object.

Yes. OpenAccess supports lazy loading by default, meaning that data is fetched as needed. However, you can define fetch plans to customize how data is retrieved. Check out [this help topic](#) for more details.

Can we have 2 connections pointing to separate Server & different types of Database Server (one SQL Server, another Oracle)?

Yes, you can set up multiple connections with OpenAccess. And there is no requirement that all connections be to the same platform (e.g. SQL Server). [Help Topic](#)

What was voa_version column in the database "Department", table "Customer" & "Department"? Were they created by your product?

This is generated by OpenAccess as an optimistic concurrency control. Read [this help topic](#) for more details.

You created 2 tables "department" & "customer" with column name as "nme". I guess it was a TYPO error and not that "name" is a RESERVED WORD in your product. Right?

OpenAccess uses the class name and member variables to generate the table and column names. However, since 'name' is a reserved word in the OpenAccess configuration file, the column name was truncated. If you want to use a reserved word, you have to manually change the configuration file. See [this help document](#).

Changing databases isn't as simple if you are using stored procs.

You are absolutely correct. But OpenAccess does what very few other ORM products do by making the transition from one database platform to another as painless as possible. While it is your job to ensure the data and any database logic (stored procedures, triggers, etc) are migrated to the new server, modifying your data access layer to access the new server is as easy as modifying the connection settings with OpenAccess, making the change virtually transparent to your entire application.

For our business application, we have our own DAL. Are there any gotchas to know before using OpenAccess partially (for reverse mapping only few tables) instead of using it for the entire database? Is there a knowledge base article regarding this?

Not that I am aware of. I often create examples where I generate only a part of the Northwind database. You can use OpenAccess for all or part of your DAL. However, by only using it for part of your DAL, you may run into concurrency issues if you use another ORM or straight ADO.NET code to work with the remaining tables in your database. However, if no relationships exist between the tables mapped to OpenAccess and the tables that aren't, you should be fine.

Can OpenAccess be used with DotNetNuke?

Check out [this forum thread](#).

Will this video be downloadable later on?

Will this webinar be downloadable for later viewing?

Yes, you can download the webinar now on Telerik TV at:
http://tv.telerik.com/orm/webinar/openaccessorm_101

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Definitely. All videos on Telerik TV are 100% free for you to watch, download, and learn!

Can OpenAccess ORM create class code, etc. in VB as well?

Yes, it absolutely can. OpenAccess automatically generates code using the language you've selected for your Visual Studio project. If your project already uses VB.NET, OpenAccess generate classes in VB.NET as well.

How easy is it to work with the CRUD operations in code? I want to impliment Open Access ORM as the provider for a custom Sitefinity module.

For using OpenAccess with Sitefinity, I highly recommend you check out Sitefinity evangelist Gabe Sumner's blog at www.sitefinitywatch.com. He did an OpenAccess series a few months ago which you can find here: <http://www.sitefinitywatch.com/blog.aspx?BlogTagID=2c79f35b-1a38-4783-ad85-20b1092e525c>. And in case you didn't know, Sitefinity 4.0 will use OpenAccess as its data access layer.

Is there a way to see SQL produced from OpenAccess?

Use the `ObjectScope.Extent.BackendQuery` property to retrieve the generated SQL statements. See [this help topic](#) (under the section “Determining the generated SQL statements”)

I am trying to use OA with my Silverlight Application but unable to host it.

If you shoot me an email with your specific issue I'd be happy to help you out.

Will outer joins be supported?

Outer joins are supported. See [this help topic](#) (under the section “Kind of Prefetch Algorithm”).

How to connect to different databases in the same application? Doesn't the config get rewritten when you run the wizard again?

When you run the “Enable Project” wizard, the connection information is saved under whatever connection name you gave it. If you rerun this wizard, the previous settings are saved and as long as you give your new connection a different name, it will not overwrite the original.

Can the Persistent Classes, Data Access and actual project be defined in separate projects? You showed DAL in the actual product?

Yes, you can break everything up into separate assemblies (and we encourage you to do so!). I simply combined them for simplicity's sake.

Architecture-wise, if you want to keep all your crud operations in a common place, would it be ok to put in a partial class in the persistence layer? Also what would happen with `ObjectScopeProvider`?

The partial class approach was used specifically so that you can add any logic you want to your classes without worrying that it will be overwritten if the OpenAccess wizard is re-run. Add whatever logic you like to your classes, just remember to leave the “codebehind” classes alone.

Is there support for generating WCF?

No, OpenAccess does not automatically generate WCF services for you.

Could this be done again for Telerik training video in VB.NET?

I'll see what I can do. 😊

Let's say I use the wizard to forward map...get my tables generated automatically. If I then delete those tables and re-run the app do they get re-re-generated?

Yes, every time you build your project the tables will be regenerated (if they have been removed). If you want to keep them from being regenerated you must remove the `[Telerik.OpenAccess.Persistent]` attribute from the class or remove the mapping by re-running the Forward Mapping Wizard.

Any complications with hierarchical data with multiple levels of master-detail relationships?

No. OpenAccess will automatically generate all of the references for you in your persistent classes, but you have full control over them if you want to add/remove references.

Why use an ORM? What solution does it solve

Wow, good question. There are many different opinions on how to answer this, but I recommend re-watching the first part of the webinar to get my take on the issue. You can also read [this whitepaper](#) by Telerik's Chief Strategist, Microsoft RD/MVP, and all-around data-access guru Stephen Forte.

When forward mapping on a test system is the script retained for deploying to production?

All mapping information is retained in a configuration file in your project (not in any scripts). Therefore, if you deploy your app to a new environment, simply re-running the tool will regenerate your database schema.