

Connecting an ASP.NET-form to a database

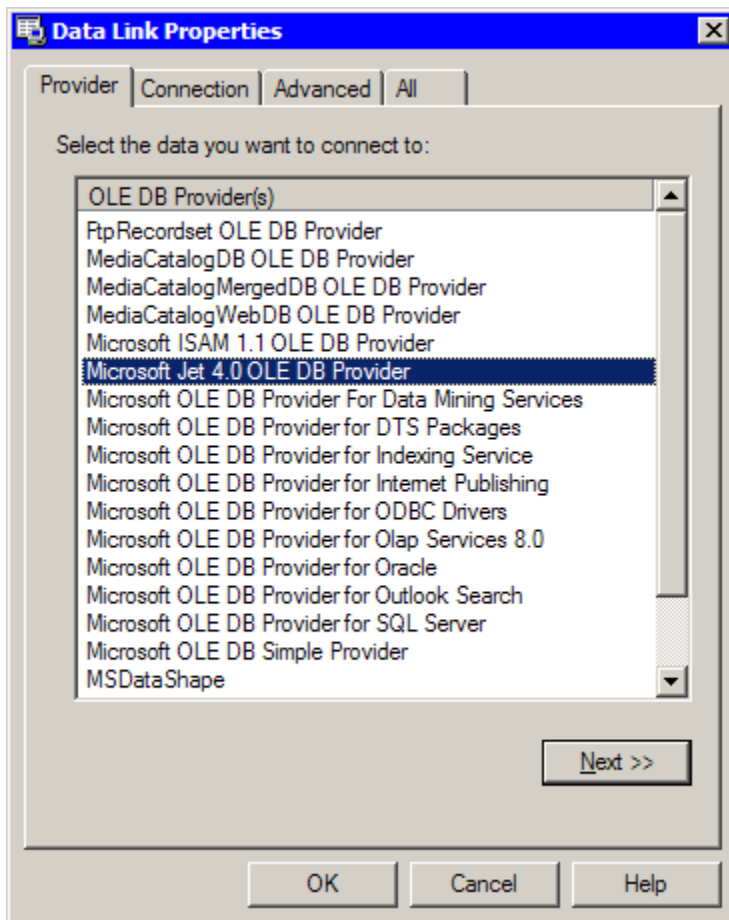
Connecting an ASP.NET form created with ExcelEverywhere to a database is very easy. We will do it in 3 steps:

1. [Calculate and save the form contents into a database.](#)
2. [Retrieve previous entered data from the database, show it in the form and let the user edit it and recalculated and save it again](#)
3. Show all submitted entries so that we can click on them to edit them.

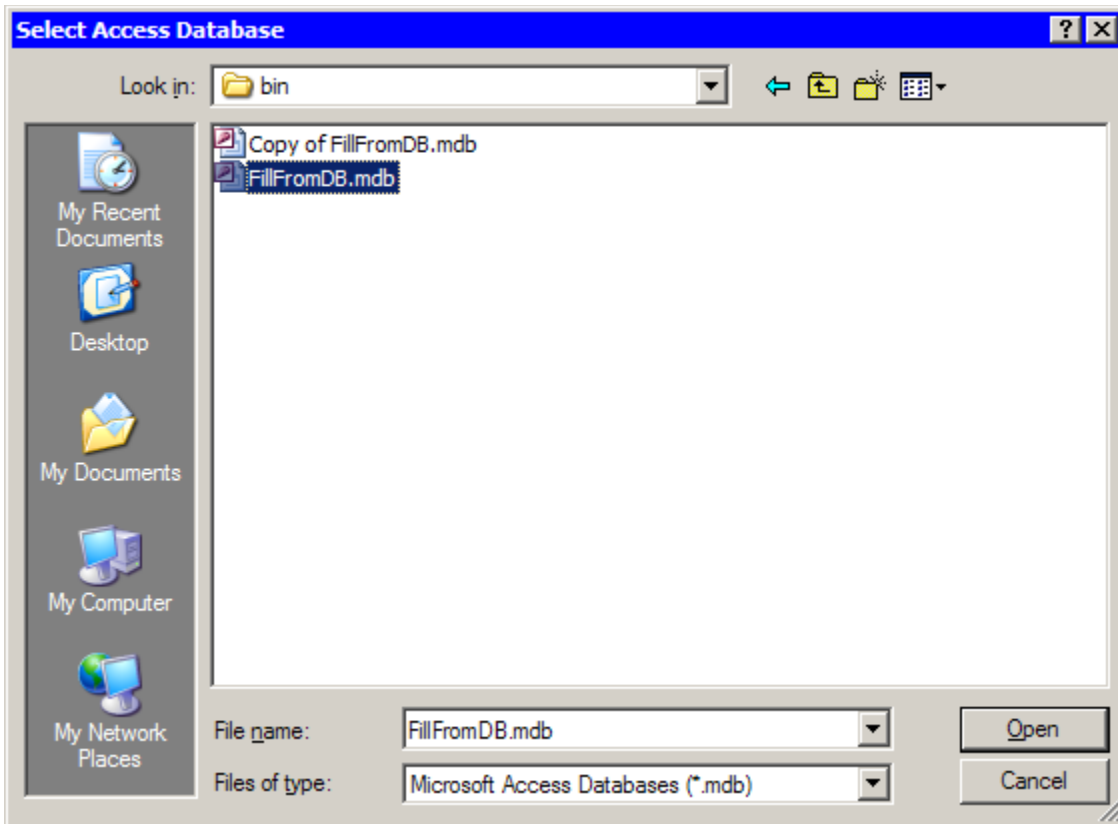
Part 3: Show all entries in a clickable list

We use the Data Form Wizard of Visual Studio 2003 to create a list view of all entries. Select File-Add new item and select Data Form Wizard.

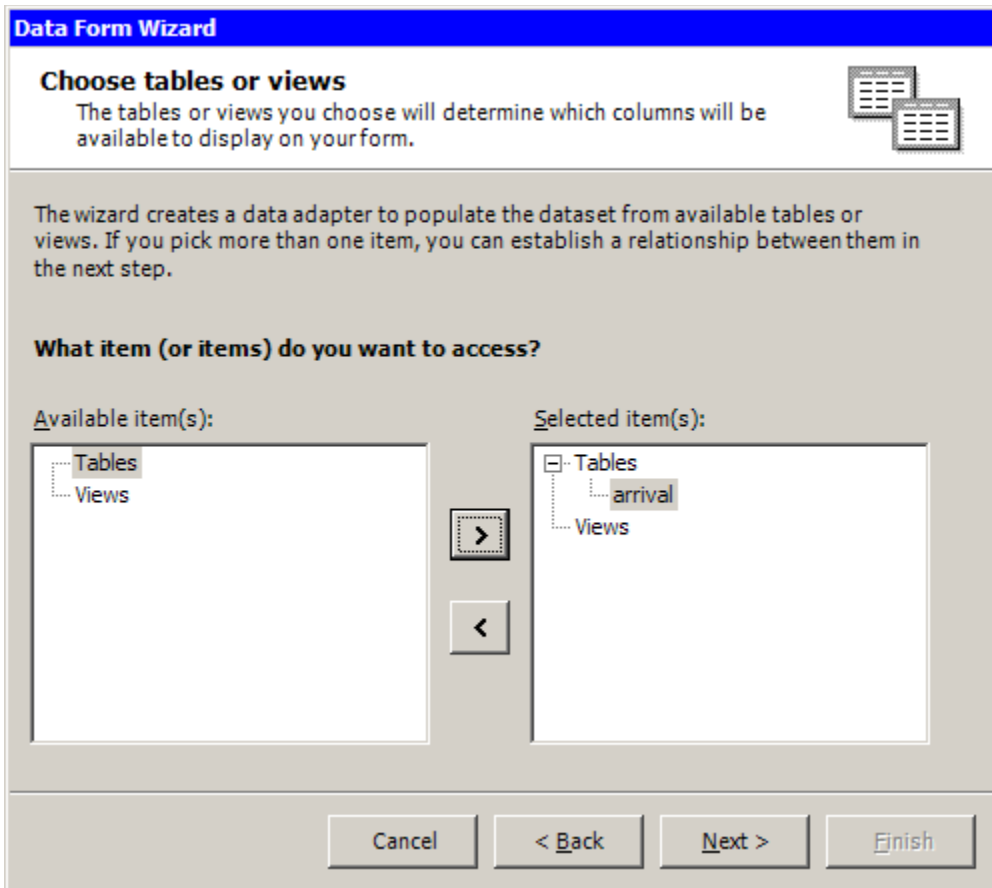
First you will have to select type of database provider. Select Microsoft Jet 4.0 OLE DB Provider.



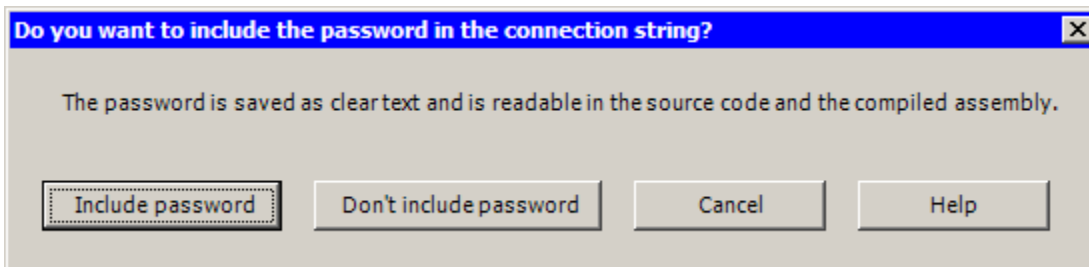
And select the database file called FillFromDB.mdb in the bin-directory



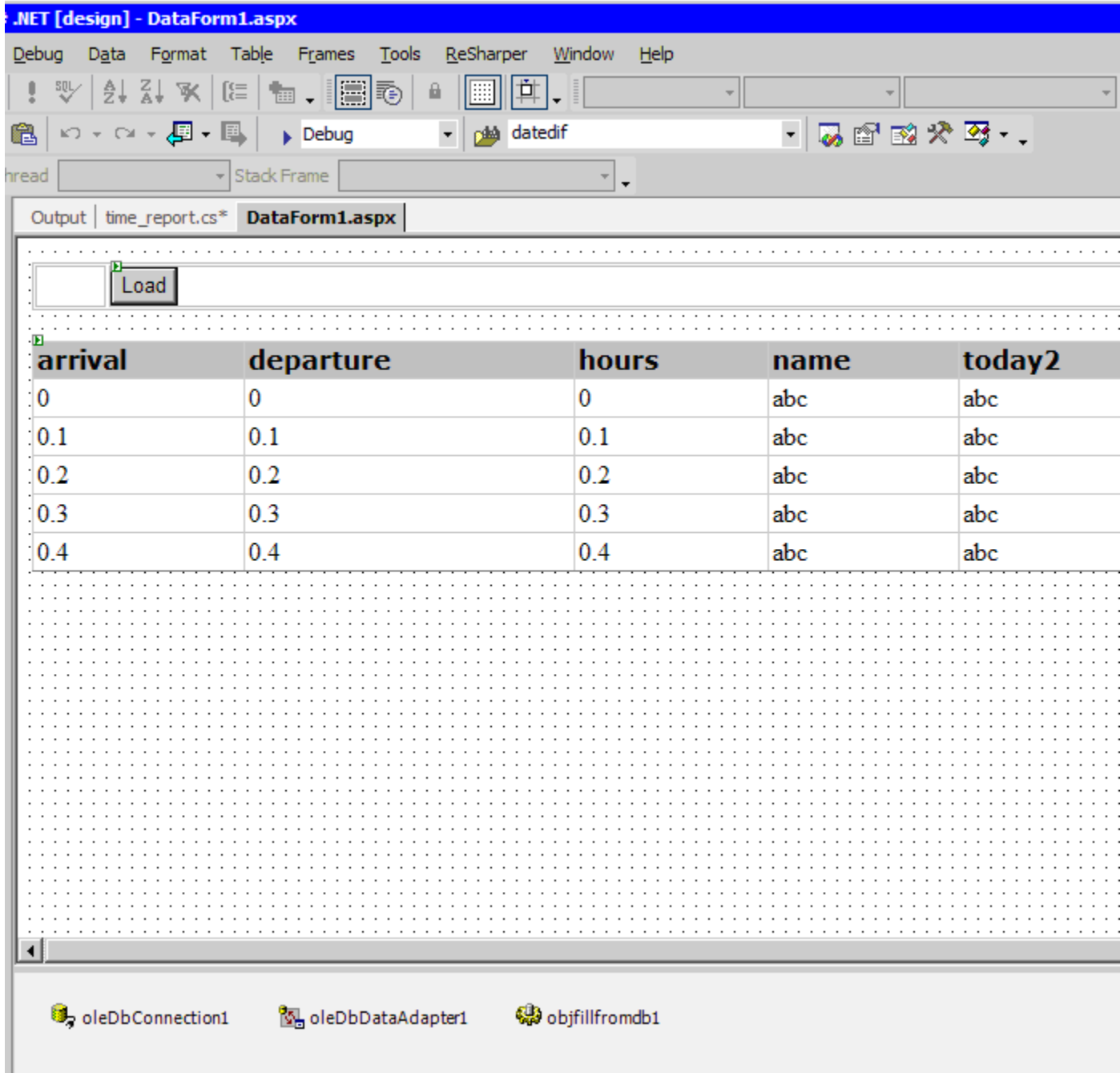
Select the arrival table



Let us include the (empty) password

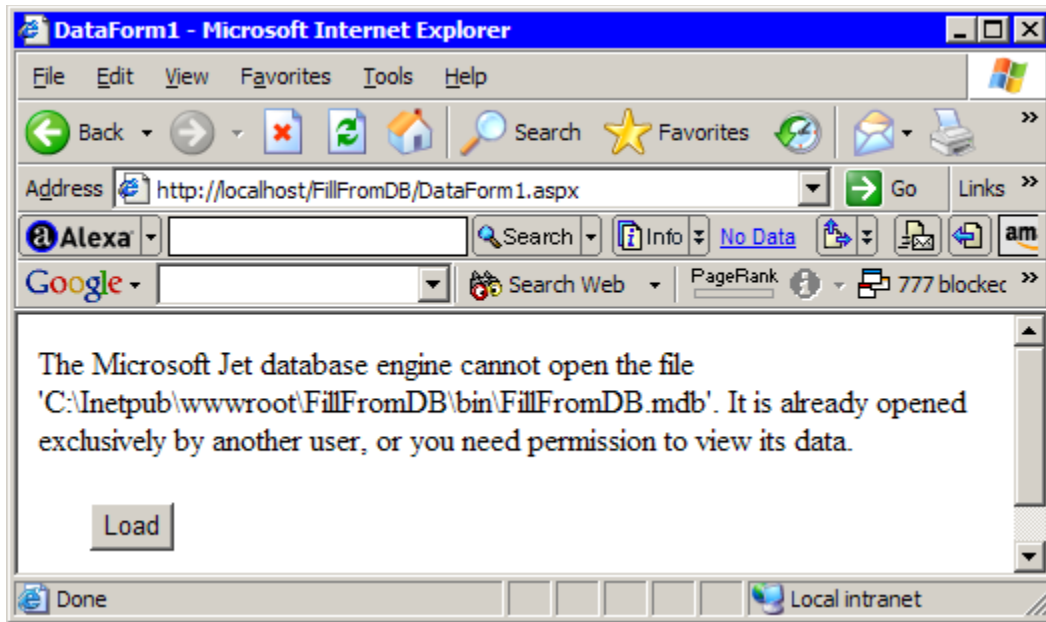


And you will get a form like this:



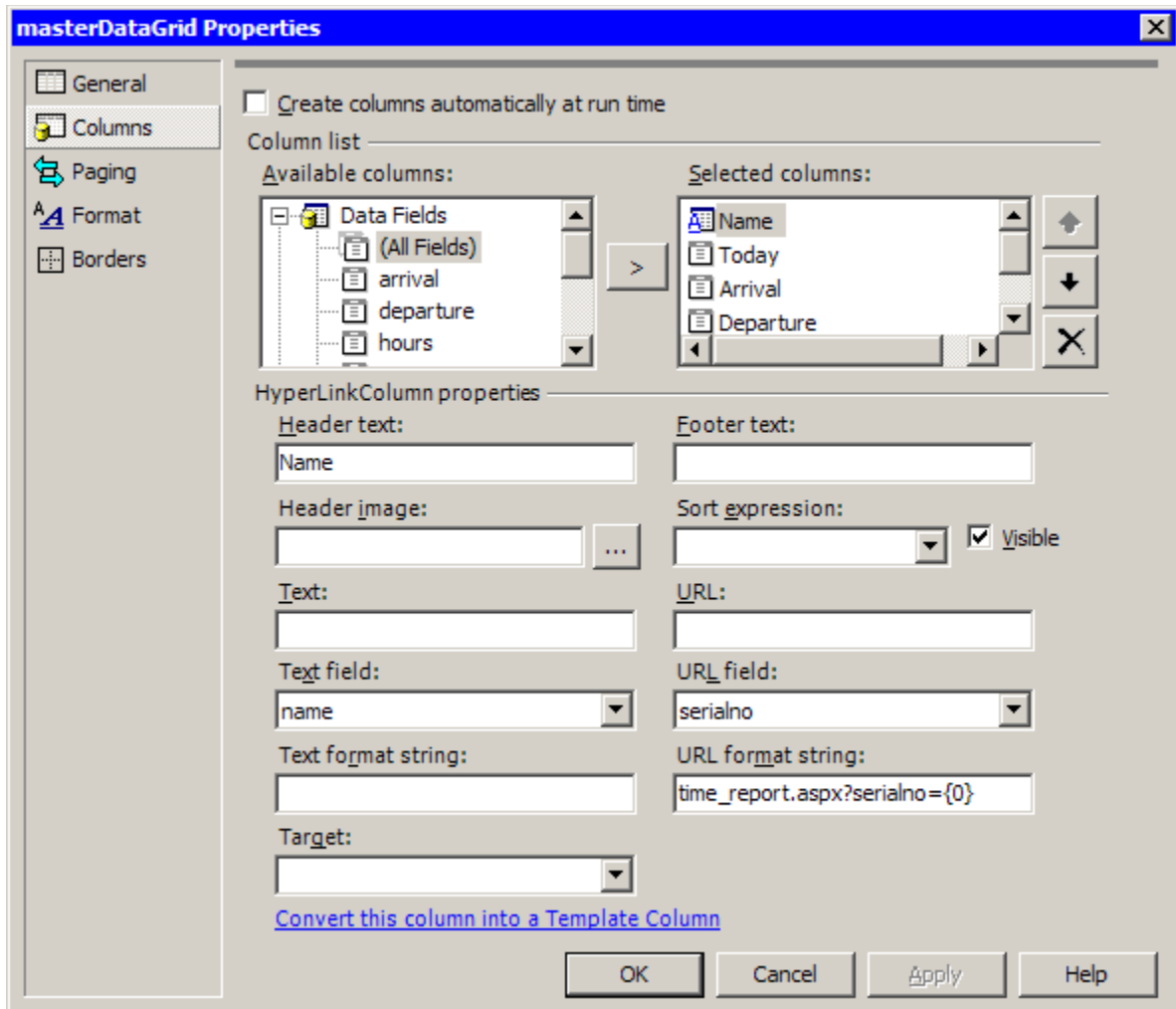
Delete mode entry from connection string if you use the Data Form Wizard: ;Mode=Share Deny None' from connection string. Or Mode=Read

Also make sure that the arrival table is not opened in Access or in the Server Explorer, or otherwise you will get errors like:



Right-click and select property builder. I have reordered the columns. Most importantly, I created a hyperlink column for the name field. I set the URL format string to `time_report?serialno={0}` and the URL field to `serialno`. This will make the DataGrid create urls like `time_report?serialno=1`, `time_report?serialno=2` etc under each row.

When the user clicks on the name, our form created with ExcelEverywhere will be opened and the data will be read from the database.



Tips:

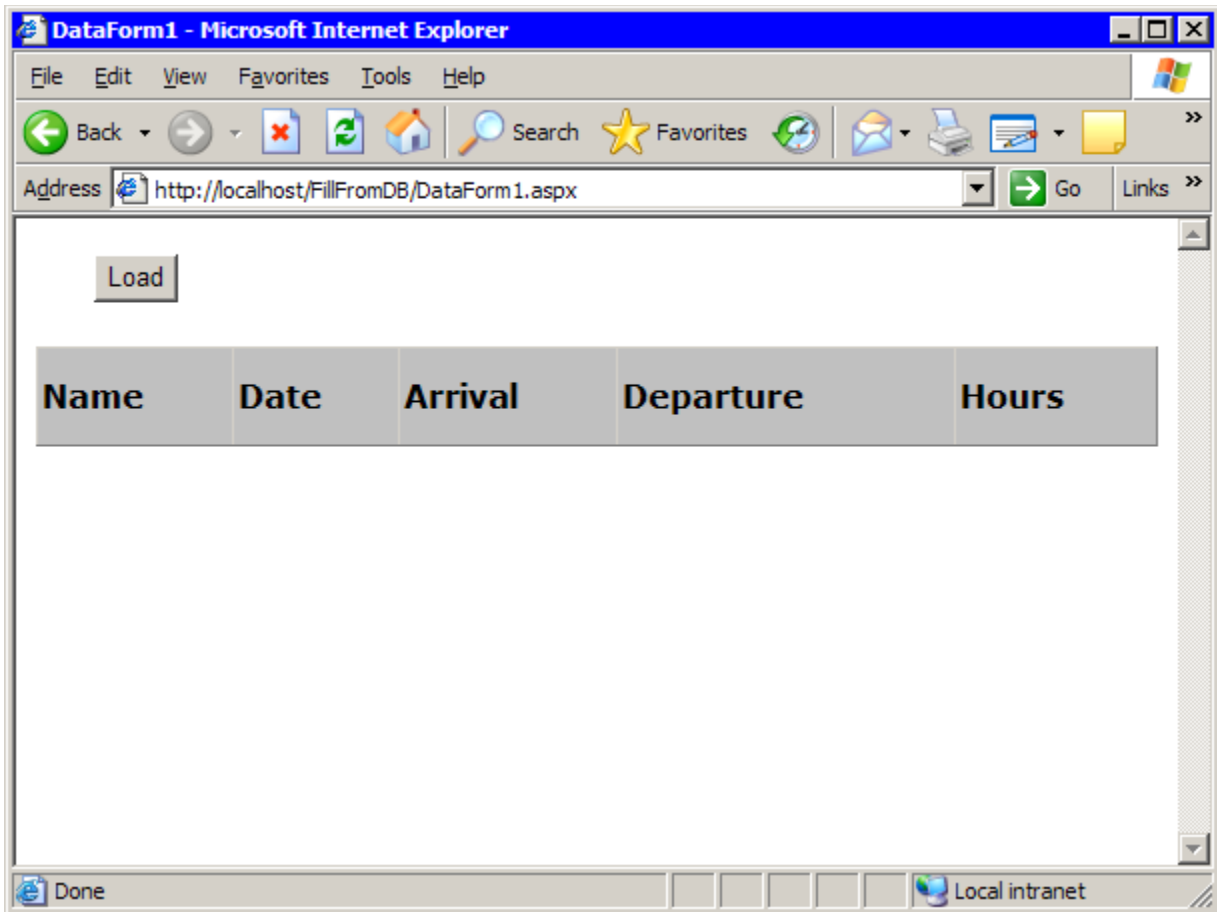
Sometimes the MDB file gets locked by the webserver, especially during debugging in Visual Studio 2003. Therefore, I have a bat-file on my desktop with the lines

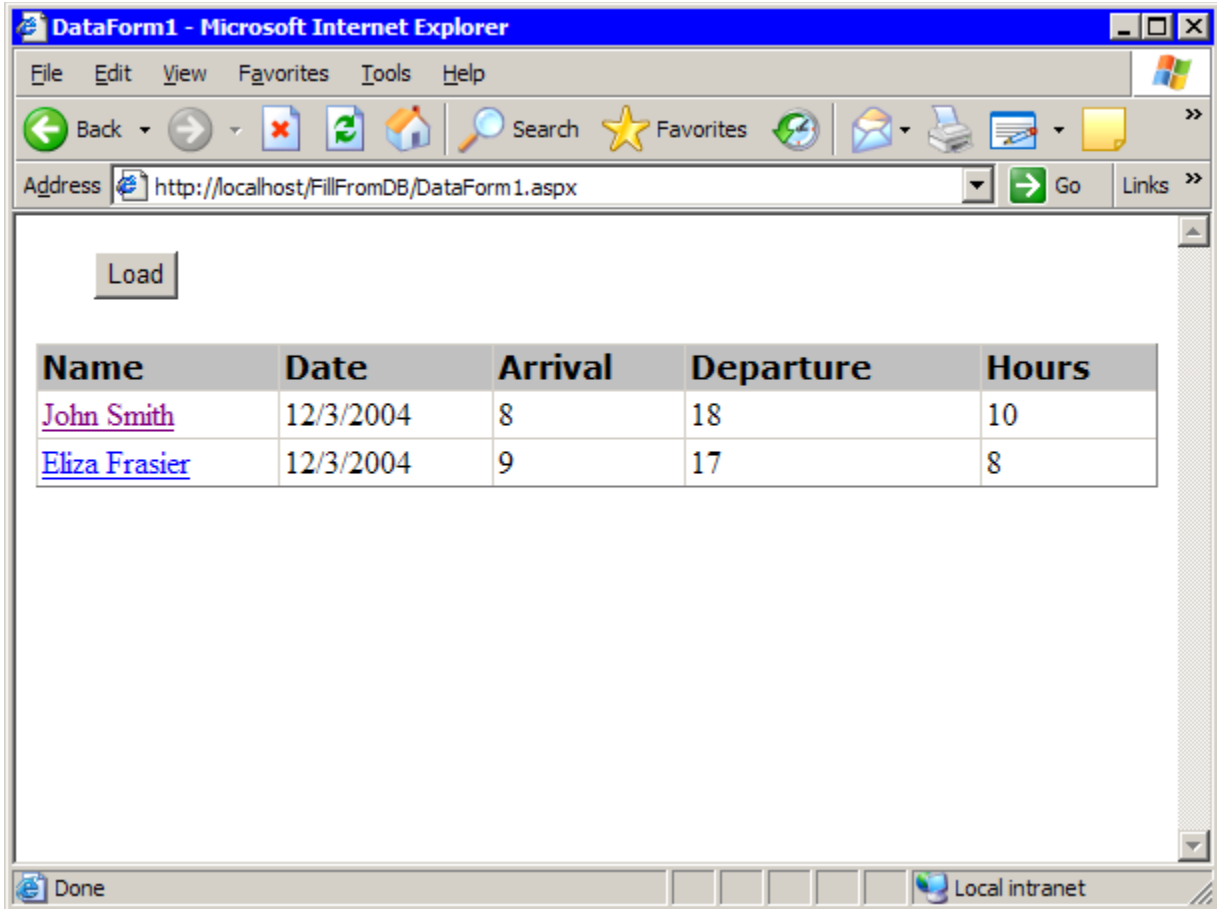
```
net stop w3svc  
net start w3svc
```

It restarts IIS.

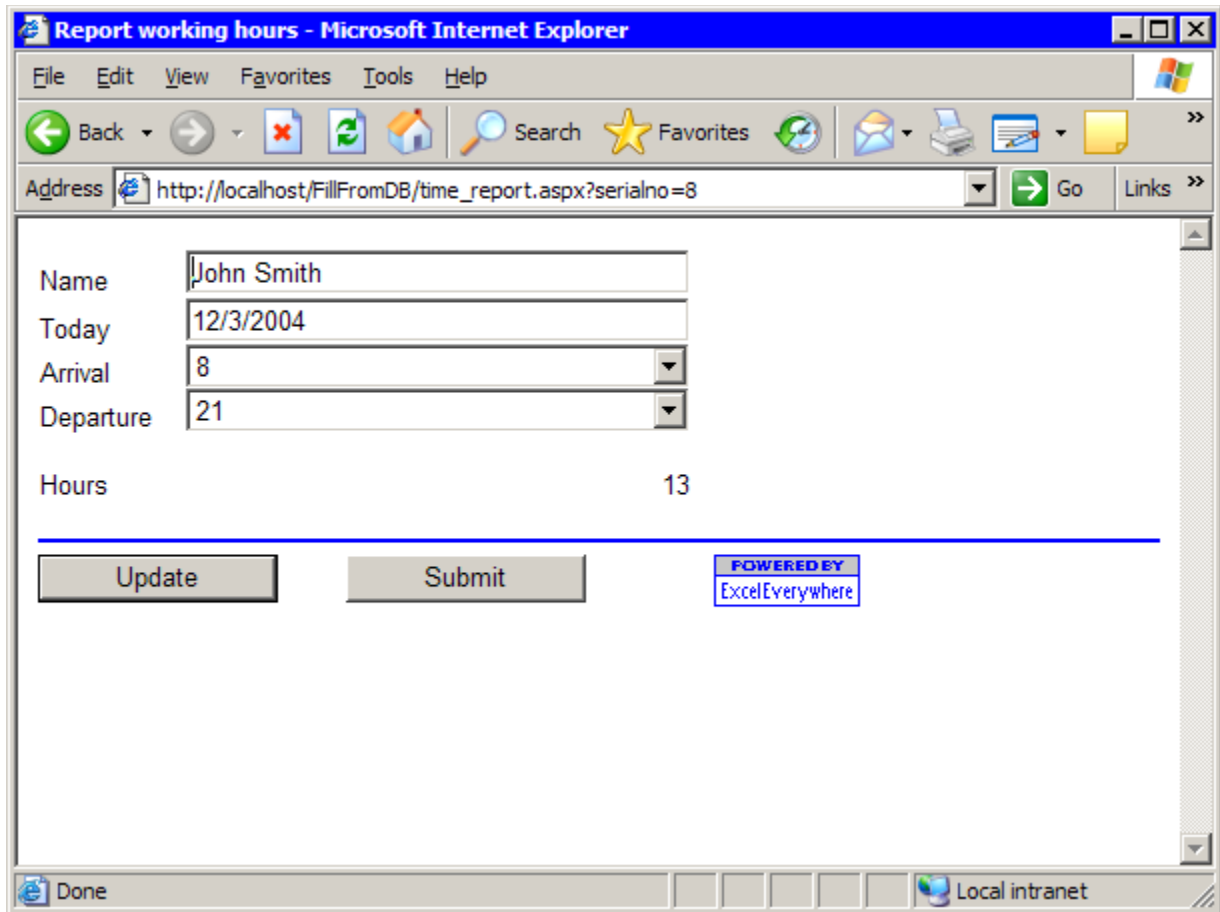
A complete sample run:

Start DataForm1.aspx and press Load





Click on the John Smith text and the time report form will open with the data filled in.



If you edit the values, press save and then go back to DataForm1.aspx, you see your changes.

Conclusion

We showed how to create a list view using the Data Form Wizard and how listviews easily can generate urls that open up our ASP.NET-page created with ExcelEverywhere.