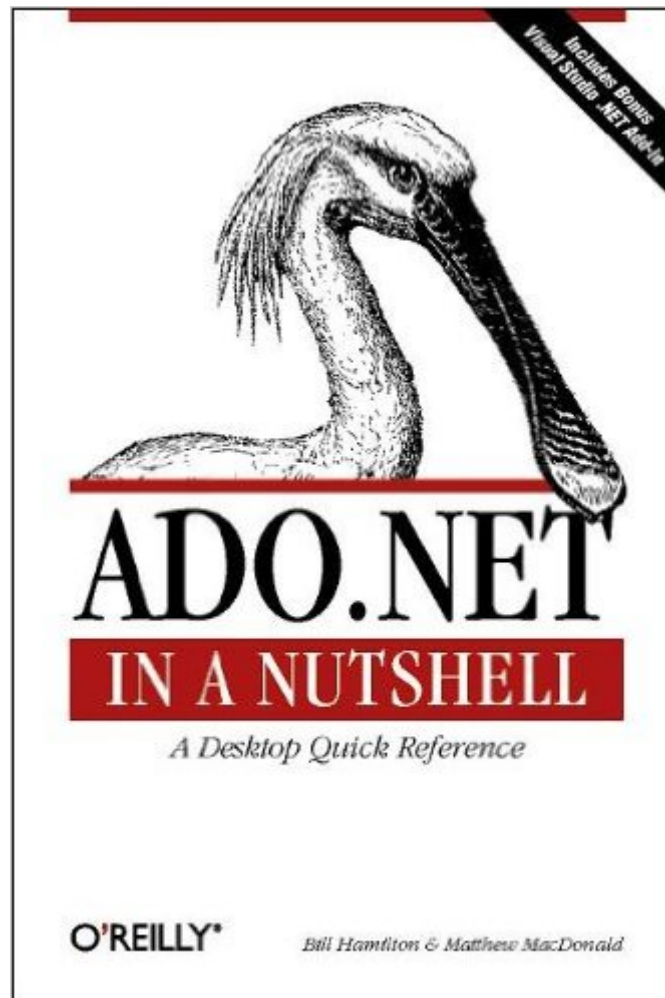


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# ADO.NET In A Nutshell



## Synopsis

Written by experts on the Microsoft® .NET programming platform, *ADO.NET in a Nutshell* delivers everything .NET programmers will need to get a jump-start on ADO.NET technology or to sharpen their skills even further. In the tradition of O'Reilly's In a Nutshell Series, *ADO.NET in a Nutshell* is the most complete and concise source of ADO.NET information available. ADO.NET is the suite of data access technologies in the .NET Framework that developers use to build applications services accessing relational data and XML. Connecting to databases is a fundamental part of most applications, whether they are web, Windows®, distributed, client/server, XML Web Services, or something entirely different. But ADO.NET is substantially different from Microsoft's previous data access technologies--including the previous version of ADO--so even experienced developers need to understand the basics of the new disconnected model before they start programming with it. Current with the .NET Framework 1.1, *ADO.NET in a Nutshell* offers one place to look when you need help with anything related to this essential technology, including a reference to the ADO.NET namespaces and object model. In addition to being a valuable reference, this book provides a concise foundation for programming with ADO.NET and covers a variety of issues that programmers face when developing web applications or Web Services that rely on database access. Using C#, this book presents real world, practical examples that will help you put ADO.NET to work immediately. Topics covered in the book include: An Introduction to ADO.NET Connections, Commands and DataReaders Disconnected Data Advanced Data Sets Transactions Data Views and Data Binding XML and the DataSet. Included with the book is a Visual Studio .NET add-in that integrates the entire reference directly into your help files. When combining *ADO.NET in a Nutshell* with other books from O'Reilly's .NET In a Nutshell series, you'll have a comprehensive, detailed and independent reference collection that will help you become more productive.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The first third of the book discusses, with code samples, how the component parts (connections, data providers, data readers, data sets etc.) fit together. This is interesting. The next third analyses the classes themselves but can be seen as a help rehash (altho' this is a little harsh since it does go into more detail than the standard help). And the last third lays out the namespaces themselves and shows the classes within them, tabulating their members without further comment. Not useful. In the end, I still didn't feel confident enough to develop even a simple application (except with the data grid, as in many samples). Why would I want to merge two data sets, and why do I get duplicates in the data set but not the underlying data base? What exactly happens when I Update, or EndEdit()? When I do a Fill() on a dataset, am I really sucking the entire data into memory?! Is this efficient, what is Best Practice on this? ADO.NET puts a large, complex, flexible abstraction between the developer and the database itself, and what is needed is someone to show the "correct" way to use all these bits in real-world programs.

This book is classic O'Reilly. It's separated into three sections. The first being a thorough but brief introduction to all aspects of the API. The second section is an API reference. And the third a quick reference. This third section is included on the CD that comes with the book and will integrate into Visual Studio. Don't expect the first section of the book, which is an introduction to ADO.NET to give you a gentle introduction to the subject. That's not the Nutshell form. If you don't know ADO at all you will want to buy both this book and an introductory book. If you know related APIs, or you know ADO.NET and you need a refresher or have weak spots you will find some new things in the first section. For me it was the support for disconnect access and also the integration with the XML features of SQL Server 2000. Although this book stays true to the Nutshell form it is a little longer in the introduction than the usual. The introductory section is seventeen chapters and is almost half of the length of the book. So if you are an intermediate or advanced engineer I think you could probably learn enough ADO directly from this book without any other introductory book.

I own over 50 books on .NET including several on ADO.NET. This book is my favorite on ADO.NET. Thus, it is the one I use most often. It has a great blend of discussion, documentation, and code samples. It is much easier and more thorough than much of the MSDN documentation or most other books. I've yet to run into a situation where the answer I need isn't either in this book or gives me a great starting point to find that answer. Virtually every ADO.NET oriented class, method, event, and property is covered. This book is definitely worth purchasing.

I've owned this book for 3 days and cannot put it down! I have not been a big fan of O'Reilly over the years, but this book is "incredible". It goes into the detail that most books seem to omit and it's those details that we "developers" desperately need. I would recommend this book to ANY and ALL .NET developers who are writing code that hits against a database. There are topics covered in this book that Microsoft's own MSDN and VS.NET help system seem to fail at properly explaining. It's because of this that I've found myself (all too often) going to codeguru.com and google groups to get answers to ADO.NET questions that this book actually covers. My hat goes off to authors Matthew MacDonald and Bill Hamilton on a job well done. Coming from a Visual Basic background and now working in VB.NET and C#.NET, this book should satisfy both the VB.NET and C# developer.

I have always been a fan of the O'Reilly Nutshell series, and this book lives up to the tradition of its predecessors. However, this book actually goes one step further: all the content in the book is provided on an accompanying CD, which integrates an electronic version of the book directly into Visual Studio .NET. This means that (like the regular MSDN documentation), the O'Reilly documentation becomes a part of your context-sensitive help. Now that's pretty cool! The book is current with the 1.1 version of the Framework, which is a big deal, since there were some pretty significant changes to XML in this release (which is integral to ADO.NET). Like all the other Nutshell books, this one begins out with a quick introduction to all of the more popular classes in ADO.NET through explanation and examples of use. I personally enjoyed the section on DataTables, as there is a lot of discussion on things I don't normally do in conjunction with DataTables, like computing aggregate calculations and merging data sets. Even though this is an ADO.NET book, the authors realize that you can't talk about just ADO.NET, you really need some discussion on implementing the data in a GUI (like using a DataGrid). The authors actually spend some time discussing various issues in data binding and various methods for retrieving and displaying data via this mechanism. Finally, there is considerable discussion (for a Nutshell book) on the relationship

between a DataSet and XML. This discussion also includes the basics of using an XSLT to transform XML.

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