

Welcome

db4o is the native Java, .NET and Mono open source object database.

This documentation and tutorial is intended to get you started with db4o and to be a reliable companion while you develop with db4o. Before you start, please make sure that you have downloaded the latest db4o distribution from the [db4objects website](#).

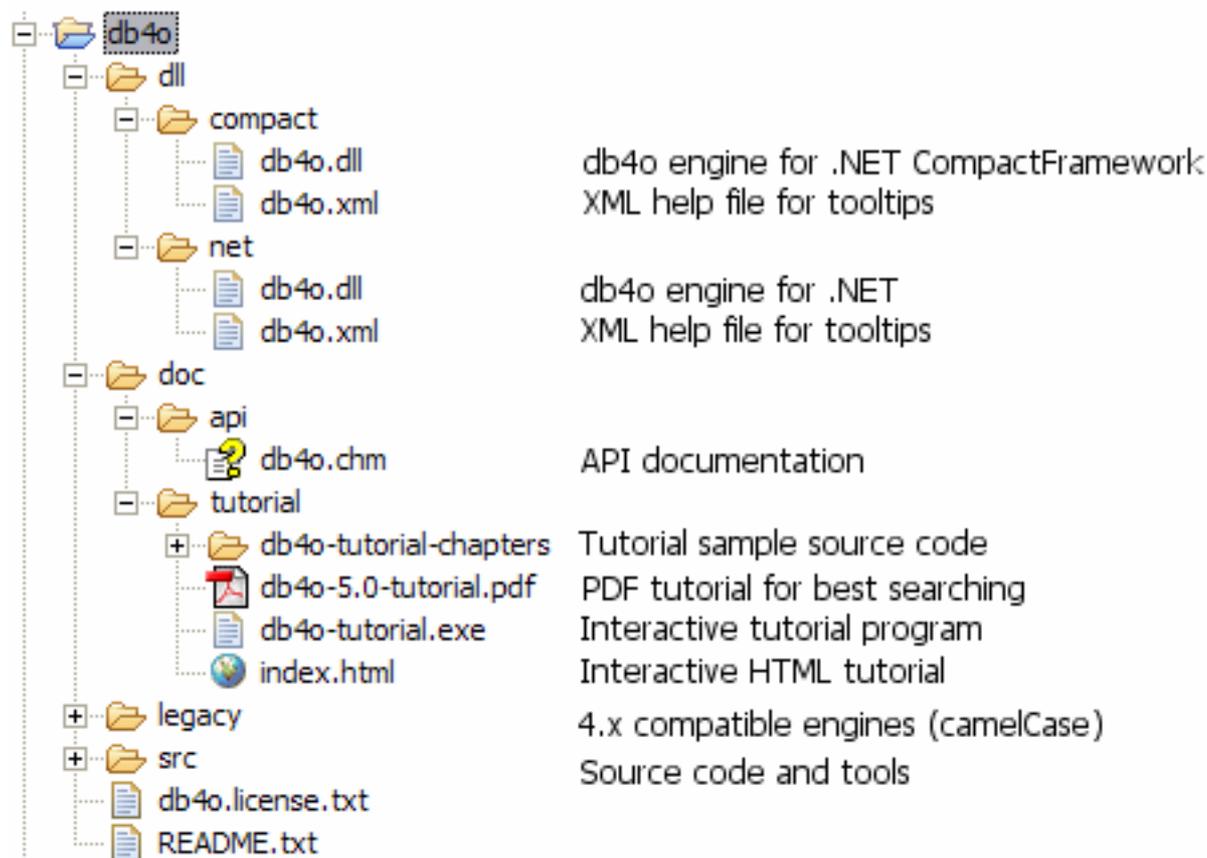
You are invited to join the db4o community in the public [db4o forums](#) to ask for help at any time. You may also find the [db4o knowledgebase](#) helpful for keyword searches.

Java, .NET and Mono

db4o is available for Java, for .NET and for Mono. This tutorial was written for .NET . The structure of the other distributions may be considerably different, so please use the tutorial for the version that you plan to experiment with first.

Download Contents

The db4o .NET distribution comes as one MSI installer file, db4o-5.0-net.msi. After you run the installer, you get the following directory structure:



db4o-5.0/doc/tutorial/db4o-tutorial.exe

This is the interactive tutorial application for .NET. Examples can be run "live" against a db4o database from within the application.

db4o-5.0/doc/tutorial/db4o-5.0-tutorial.pdf

The PDF version of the tutorial allows best fulltext search capabilities.

db4o-5.0/doc/api/db4o.chm

The API documentation for db4o is supplied as a compiled Help file. While you read through the rest of this tutorial, it may be helpful to look into the API documentation occasionally.

1. First Glance

Before diving straight into the first source code samples let's get you familiar with some basics.

1.1. The db4o engine...

The db4o object database engine consists of one single DLL. This is all that you need to program against. The versions supplied with the distribution can be found in /db4o-5.0/dll/.

db4o is available in two separate distributions for Microsoft .NET. One distribution is for the .NET Framework 1.0/1.1 and the other is for the .NET Framework 2.0. Be sure to use the correct one for your project environment.

/db4o-5.0/dll/net/db4o.dll

is the standard db4o engine for the .NET framework.

/db4o-5.0/dll/compact/db4o.dll

is built for the .NET CompactFramework.

1.2. Installation

To use db4o in a development project, you only need to add one of the above db4o.dll files to your project references.

Here is how to do this with Visual Studio .NET:

- copy db4o.dll to your VS.NET project folder
- Right-click on "References" in the Solution Explorer
- choose "Add Reference"
- select "Browse"
- find the db4o.*dll in your project folder
- click "Open"
- click "OK"
- Right-click db4o
- Choose "Properties"
- Set "Copy Local" to [True] if it is not already set.

1.3. db4o Object Manager

[db4o Object Manager](#) is a GUI tool to browse and query the contents of any db4o database file. Object Manager has to be downloaded separately from the main db4o distributions. Please visit the [db4o Download Center](#) and choose the installation appropriate for your system. The following distributions are currently available:

- db4o ObjectManager for Windows IKVM (Java VM included)
- db4o ObjectManager for Windows no Java VM
- db4o ObjectManager for Linux

1.4. API Overview

Do not forget the API documentation while reading through this tutorial. It provides an organized view of the API, looking from a namespace perspective and you may find related functionality to the theme you are currently reading up on.

For starters, the namespace `com.db4o` and `com.db4o.query` are all that you need to worry about.

com.db4o

The `com.db4o` namespace contains almost all of the functionality you will commonly need when using db4o. Two objects of note are `com.db4o.Db4o`, and the `com.db4o.ObjectContainer` interface.

The `com.db4o.Db4o` factory is your starting point. Static methods in this class allow you to open a database file, start a server, or connect to an existing server. It also lets you configure the db4o environment before opening a database.

The most important interface, and the one that you will be using 99% of the time is `com.db4o.ObjectContainer`: This is your db4o database.

- An `ObjectContainer` can either be a database in single-user mode or a client connection to a db4o server.
- Every `ObjectContainer` owns one transaction. All work is transactional. When you open an `ObjectContainer`, you are in a transaction, when you `commit()` or `rollback()`, the next transaction is started immediately.
- Every `ObjectContainer` maintains it's own references to stored and instantiated objects. In doing so, it manages object identities, and is able to achieve a high level of performance.
- `ObjectContainers` are intended to be kept open as long as you work against them. When you close an `ObjectContainer`, all database references to objects in RAM will be discarded.

com.db4o.ext

In case you wonder why you only see very few methods in an `ObjectContainer`, here is why: The db4o interface is supplied in two steps in two namespaces, `com.db4o` and `com.db4o.ext` for the following reasons:

- It's easier to get started, because the important methods are emphasized.
- It will be easier for other products to copy the basic db4o interface.
- It is an example of how a lightweight version of db4o could look.

Every `com.db4o.ObjectContainer` object is also an `com.db4o.ext.ExtObjectContainer`. You can cast it to `ExtObjectContainer` or you can use the to get to the advanced features.

`com.db4o.config`

The `com.db4o.config` namespace contains types and classes necessary to configure db4o. The objects and interfaces within are discussed in the [Configuration](#) section.

`com.db4o.query`

The `com.db4o.query` namespace contains the `Predicate` class to construct [Native Queries](#). The `Native Query` interface is the primary db4o querying interface and should be preferred over the [Query API](#).

2. First Steps

Let's get started as simple as possible. We are going to demonstrate how to store, retrieve, update and delete instances of a single class that only contains primitive and String members. In our example this will be a Formula One (F1) pilot whose attributes are his name and the F1 points he has already gained this season.

First we create a class to hold our data. It looks like this:

```
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter1
    Public Class Pilot
        Private _name As String

        Private _points As Integer

        Public Sub New(ByVal name As String, ByVal points As Integer)
            _name = name
            _points = points
        End Sub

        Public ReadOnly Property Name() As String
            Get
                Return _name
            End Get
        End Property

        Public ReadOnly Property Points() As Integer
            Get
                Return _points
            End Get
        End Property

        Public Sub AddPoints(ByVal points As Integer)
            _points += points
        End Sub

        Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
            Return String.Format("{0}/{1}", _name, _points)
        End Function
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```
End Function

End Class

End Namespace
```

Notice that this class does not contain any db4o-related code.

2.1. Opening the database

To access a db4o database file or create a new one, call `Db4o.openFile()`, providing the path to your file as the parameter, to obtain an `ObjectContainer` instance. `ObjectContainer` represents "The Database", and will be your primary interface to db4o. Closing the container with the `#.close()` method will close the database file and release all resources associated with it.

```
[accessDb4o]

Dim db As ObjectContainer = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
Try
    ' do something with db4o
Finally
    db.Close()
End Try
```

For the following examples we will assume that our environment takes care of opening and closing the `ObjectContainer` automatically, and stores the reference in a variable named 'db'.

2.2. Storing objects

To store an object, we simply call `set()` on our database, passing any object as a parameter.

```
[storeFirstPilot]
```

```
Dim pilot1 As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100)
db.Set(pilot1)
Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot1)
```

OUTPUT:

```
Stored Michael Schumacher/100
```

We'll need a second pilot, too.

```
[storeSecondPilot]

Dim pilot2 As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
db.[Set](pilot2)
Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot2)
```

OUTPUT:

```
Stored Rubens Barrichello/99
```

2.3. Retrieving objects

db4o supplies three different querying systems, *Query by Example* (QBE), *Native Queries* (NQ) and the *SODA Query API* (SODA). In this first example we will introduce QBE. Once you are familiar with storing objects, we encourage you to use [Native Queries](#), the main db4o querying interface.

When using Query-By-Example, you create a prototypical object for db4o to use as an example of what you wish to retrieve. db4o will retrieve all objects of the given type that contain the same (non-default) field values as the example. The results will be returned as an ObjectSet instance. We will use a convenience method 'listResult' to display the contents of our results:

```
Public Shared Sub ListResult(ByVal result As ObjectSet)
    Console.WriteLine(result.Count)
    For Each item As Object In result
        Console.WriteLine(item)
    Next
End Sub
```

To retrieve all pilots from our database, we provide an 'empty' prototype:

```
[retrieveAllPilotQBE]

Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot(Nothing, 0)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Rubens Barrichello/99
Michael Schumacher/100
```

Note that we specify 0 points, but our results were not constrained to only those Pilots with 0 points; 0 is the default value for int fields.

db4o also supplies a shortcut to retrieve all instances of a class:

```
[retrieveAllPilots]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Pilot))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Rubens Barrichello/99
Michael Schumacher/100
```

For .NET 2.0 there also is a generics shortcut, using the query method:

```
IList <Pilot> pilots = db.query<Pilot>(typeof(Pilot));
```

To query for a pilot by name:

```
[retrievePilotByName]

Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 0)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```

And to query for Pilots with a specific number of points:

```
[retrievePilotByExactPoints]

Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot(Nothing, 100)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
```

```
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
Michael Schumacher/100
```

Of course there's much more to db4o queries. They will be covered in more depth in later chapters.

2.4. Updating objects

Updating objects is just as easy as storing them. In fact, you use the same `set()` method to update your objects: just call `set()` again after modifying any object.

```
[updatePilot]  
  
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Pilot("Michael Schumacher",  
0))  
Dim found As Pilot = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Pilot)  
found.AddPoints(11)  
db.[Set](found)  
Console.WriteLine("Added 11 points for {0}", found)  
RetrieveAllPilots(db)
```

OUTPUT:

```
Added 11 points for Michael Schumacher/111  
2  
Rubens Barrichello/99  
Michael Schumacher/111
```

Notice that we query for the object first. This is an important point. When you call `set()` to modify a stored object, if the object is not 'known' (having been previously

stored or retrieved during the current session), db4o will insert a new object. db4o does this because it does not automatically match up objects to be stored, with objects previously stored. It assumes you are inserting a second object which happens to have the same field values.

To make sure you've updated the pilot, please return to any of the retrieval examples above and run them again.

2.5. Deleting objects

Objects are removed from the database using the `delete()` method.

```
[deleteFirstPilotByName]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Pilot("Michael Schumacher",
0))
Dim found As Pilot = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Pilot)
db.Delete(found)
Console.WriteLine("Deleted {0}", found)
RetrieveAllPilots(db)
```

OUTPUT:

```
Deleted Michael Schumacher/111
1
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Let's delete the other one, too.

```
[deleteSecondPilotByName]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello",
0))
Dim found As Pilot = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Pilot)
db.Delete(found)
Console.WriteLine("Deleted {0}", found)
```

```
RetrieveAllPilots(db)
```

OUTPUT:

```
Deleted Rubens Barrichello/99  
0
```

Please check the deletion with the retrieval examples above.

As with updating objects, the object to be deleted has to be 'known' to db4o. It is not sufficient to provide a prototype object with the same field values.

2.6. Conclusion

That was easy, wasn't it? We have stored, retrieved, updated and deleted objects with a few lines of code. But what about complex queries? Let's have a look at the restrictions of QBE and alternative approaches in the [next chapter](#) .

2.7. Full source

```
Imports System  
Imports System.IO  
Imports com.db4o  
  
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter1  
    Public Class FirstStepsExample  
        Inherits Util  
        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())  
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)  
            AccessDb4o()  
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)  
            Dim db As ObjectContainer =  
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)  
            Try  
                StoreFirstPilot(db)  
                StoreSecondPilot(db)  
                RetrieveAllPilots(db)
```

```

        RetrievePilotByName(db)
        RetrievePilotByExactPoints(db)
        UpdatePilot(db)
        DeleteFirstPilotByName(db)
        DeleteSecondPilotByName(db)
    Finally
        db.Close()
    End Try
End Sub

Public Shared Sub AccessDb4o()
    Dim db As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
    Try
        ' do something with db4o
    Finally
        db.Close()
    End Try
End Sub

Public Shared Sub StoreFirstPilot(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim pilot1 As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher",
100)

    db.Set(pilot1)
    Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot1)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub StoreSecondPilot(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim pilot2 As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
    db.[Set](pilot2)
    Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot2)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllPilotQBE(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot(Nothing, 0)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

```

```

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllPilots(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Pilot))
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrievePilotByName(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 0)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrievePilotByExactPoints(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot(Nothing, 100)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub UpdatePilot(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Pilot("Michael
Schumacher", 0))
        Dim found As Pilot = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Pilot)
        found.AddPoints(11)
        db.[Set](found)
        Console.WriteLine("Added 11 points for {0}", found)
        RetrieveAllPilots(db)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub DeleteFirstPilotByName(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Pilot("Michael
Schumacher", 0))
        Dim found As Pilot = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Pilot)
        db.Delete(found)
        Console.WriteLine("Deleted {0}", found)
        RetrieveAllPilots(db)
    End Sub

```

```
Public Shared Sub DeleteSecondPilotByName(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Pilot("Rubens
Barrichello", 0))
    Dim found As Pilot = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Pilot)
    db.Delete(found)
    Console.WriteLine("Deleted {0}", found)
    RetrieveAllPilots(db)
End Sub

End Class
End Namespace
```

3. Querying

db4o supplies three querying systems, Query-By-Example (QBE) Native Queries (NQ), and the SODA API. In the previous chapter, you were briefly introduced to *Query By Example* (QBE).

Query-By-Example (QBE) is appropriate as a quick start for users who are still acclimating to storing and retrieving objects with db4o.

Native Queries (NQ) are the main db4o query interface, recommended for general use.

SODA is the underlying internal API. It is provided for backward compatibility and it can be useful for dynamic generation of queries, where NQ are too strongly typed.

3.1. Query by Example (QBE)

When using *Query By Example* (QBE) you provide db4o with a template object. db4o will return all of the objects which match all non-default field values. This is done via reflecting all of the fields and building a query expression where all non-default-value fields are combined with AND expressions. Here's an example from the previous chapter:

```
[retrievePilotByName]

Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 0)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

Querying this way has some obvious limitations:

- db4o must reflect all members of your example object.
- You cannot perform advanced query expressions. (AND, OR, NOT, etc.)
- You cannot constrain on values like 0 (integers), "" (empty strings), or nulls (reference types) because they would be interpreted as unconstrained.
- You need to be able to create objects without initialized fields. That means you can not initialize fields where they are declared. You can not enforce contracts that objects of a class are only allowed in a well-defined initialized state.
- You need a constructor to create objects without initialized fields.

To get around all of these constraints, db4o provides the Native Query (NQ) system.

3.2. Native Queries

Wouldn't it be nice to pose queries in the programming language that you are using? Wouldn't it be nice if all your query code was 100% typesafe, 100% compile-time checked and 100% refactorable? Wouldn't it be nice if the full power of object-orientation could be used by calling methods from within queries? Enter Native Queries.

Native queries are the main db4o query interface and they are the recommended way to query databases from your application. Because native queries simply use the semantics of your programming language, they are perfectly standardized and a safe choice for the future.

Native Queries are available for all platforms supported by db4o.

3.2.1. Concept

The concept of native queries is taken from the following two papers:

- [Cook/Rosenberger, Native Queries for Persistent Objects, A Design White Paper](#)
- [Cook/Rai, Safe Query Objects: Statically Typed Objects as Remotely Executable Queries](#)

3.2.2. Principle

Native Queries provide the ability to run one or more lines of code against all instances of a class. Native query expressions should return true to mark specific instances as part of the result set. db4o will attempt to optimize native query expressions and run them against indexes and without instantiating actual objects, where this is possible.

3.2.3. Simple Example

Let's look at how a simple native query will look like in some of the programming languages and dialects that db4o supports:

C# .NET 2.0

```
ILList <Pilot> pilots = db.Query <Pilot> (delegate(Pilot pilot) {  
    return pilot.Points == 100;  
});
```

Java JDK 5

```
List <Pilot> pilots = db.query(new Predicate<Pilot>() {
    public boolean match(Pilot pilot) {
        return pilot.getPoints() == 100;
    }
});
```

Java JDK 1.2 to 1.4

```
List pilots = db.query(new Predicate() {
    public boolean match(Pilot pilot) {
        return pilot.getPoints() == 100;
    }
});
```

Java JDK 1.1

```
ObjectSet pilots = db.query(new PilotHundredPoints());

public static class PilotHundredPoints extends Predicate {
    public boolean match(Pilot pilot) {
        return pilot.getPoints() == 100;
    }
}
```

C# .NET 1.1

```
IList pilots = db.Query(new PilotHundredPoints());

public class PilotHundredPoints : Predicate {
    public boolean Match(Pilot pilot) {
        return pilot.Points == 100;
    }
}
```

```
}  
}
```

VB .NET 1.1

```
Dim pilots As IList = db.Query(new PilotHundredPoints())  
  
Public Class PilotHundredPoints  
    Inherits Predicate  
    Public Function Match (pilot As Pilot) as Boolean  
        If pilot.Points = 100 Then  
            Return True  
        Else  
            Return False  
        End Function  
End Class
```

A side note on the above syntax:

For all dialects without support for generics, Native Queries work by convention. A class that extends the `com.db4o.Predicate` class is expected to have a boolean `#match()` or `#Match()` method with one parameter to describe the class extent:

```
bool Match(Pilot candidate);
```

When using native queries, don't forget that modern integrated development environments (IDEs) can do all the typing work around the native query expression for you, if you use templates and autocompletion.

Here is how to configure a Native Query template with Eclipse 3.1:

From the menu, choose Window + Preferences + Java + Editor + Templates + New

As the name type "nq". Make sure that "java" is selected as the context on the right.

Paste the following into the pattern field:

```
List <${extent}> list = db.query(new Predicate <${extent}> () {
    public boolean match(${extent} candidate){
        return true;
    }
});
```

Now you can create a native query with three keys: n + q + Control-Space.
 Similar features are available in most modern IDEs.

3.2.4. Advanced Example

For complex queries, the native syntax is very precise and quick to write. Let's compare to a SODA query that finds all pilots with a given name or a score within a given range:

```
[storePilots]

db.[Set](New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100))
db.[Set](New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99))
```

```
[retrieveComplexSODA]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
Dim pointQuery As Query = query.Descend("_points")
query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Rubens
Barrichello").[Or](pointQuery.Constrain(99).Greater().[And](pointQuer
y.Constrain(199).Smaller()))
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Rubens Barrichello/99
Michael Schumacher/100
```

Here is how the same query will look like with native query syntax, fully accessible to autocompletion, refactoring and other IDE features, fully checked at compile time:

C# .NET 2.0

```
IList <Pilot> result = db.Query<Pilot> (delegate(Pilot pilot) {
    return pilot.Points > 99
        && pilot.Points < 199
        || pilot.Name == "Rubens Barrichello";
});
```

Java JDK 5

```
List <Pilot> result = db.query(new Predicate<Pilot>() {
    public boolean match(Pilot pilot) {
        return pilot.getPoints() > 99
            && pilot.getPoints() < 199
            || pilot.getName().equals("Rubens Barrichello");
    }
});
```

3.2.5. Arbitrary Code

Basically that's all there is to know about native queries to be able to use them efficiently. In principle you can run arbitrary code as native queries, you just have to be very careful with side effects - especially those that might affect persistent objects.

Let's run an example that involves some more of the language features available.

```

Imports com.db4o.query
Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter1
    Public Class ArbitraryQuery
        Inherits Predicate
            Private _points As Integer()

            Public Sub New(ByVal points As Integer())
                _points = points
            End Sub

            Public Function Match(ByVal pilot As Pilot) As Boolean
                For Each points As Integer In _points
                    If pilot.Points = points Then
                        Return True
                    End If
                Next
                Return pilot.Name.StartsWith("Rubens")
            End Function

        End Class
    End Namespace

```

3.2.6. Native Query Performance

One drawback of native queries has to be pointed out: Under the hood db4o tries to analyze native queries to convert them to SODA. This is not possible for all queries. For some queries it is very difficult to analyze the flowgraph. In this case db4o will have to instantiate some of the persistent objects to actually run the native query code. db4o will try to analyze parts of native query expressions to keep object instantiation to the minimum.

The development of the native query optimization processor will be an ongoing process in a close dialog with the db4o community. Feel free to contribute your results and your needs by providing feedback to our [db4o forums](#).

With the current implementation, all above examples will run optimized, except for the

"Arbitrary Code" example - we are working on it.

3.2.7. Full source

```
Imports com.db4o
Imports com.db4o.query

Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter1
    Public Class NQExample
        Inherits Util

        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
            Dim db As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
            Try
                StorePilots(db)
                RetrieveComplexSODA(db)
                RetrieveComplexNQ(db)
                RetrieveArbitraryCodeNQ(db)
                ClearDatabase(db)
            Finally
                db.Close()
            End Try
        End Sub

        Public Shared Sub StorePilots(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
            db.[Set](New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100))
            db.[Set](New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99))
        End Sub

        Public Shared Sub RetrieveComplexSODA(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
            Dim query As Query = db.Query()
            query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
            Dim pointQuery As Query = query.Descend("_points")
            query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Rubens
Barrichello").[Or](pointQuery.Constrain(99).Greater()).[And](pointQuer
y.Constrain(199).Smaller()))
            Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
            ListResult(result)
        End Sub
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```

        End Sub

        Public Shared Sub RetrieveComplexNQ(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
            Dim result As ObjectSet = db.Query(New ComplexQuery())
            ListResult(result)
        End Sub

        Public Shared Sub RetrieveArbitraryCodeNQ(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
            Dim result As ObjectSet = db.Query(New ArbitraryQuery(New
Integer() {1, 100}))
            ListResult(result)
        End Sub

        Public Shared Sub ClearDatabase(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
            Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Pilot))
            While result.HasNext()
                db.Delete(result.[Next]())
            End While
        End Sub

    End Class
End Namespace

```

```

Imports com.db4o.query
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter1
    Public Class ComplexQuery
        Inherits Predicate

        Public Function Match(ByVal pilot As Pilot) As Boolean
            Return pilot.Points > 99 AndAlso pilot.Points < 199
        OrElse pilot.Name = "Rubens Barrichello"
        End Function

    End Class
End Namespace

```

```
Imports com.db4o.query
Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter1
    Public Class ArbitraryQuery
        Inherits Predicate
            Private _points As Integer()

            Public Sub New(ByVal points As Integer())
                _points = points
            End Sub

            Public Function Match(ByVal pilot As Pilot) As Boolean
                For Each points As Integer In _points
                    If pilot.Points = points Then
                        Return True
                    End If
                Next
                Return pilot.Name.StartsWith("Rubens")
            End Function

        End Class
    End Namespace
```

3.3. SODA Query API

The SODA query API is db4o's low level querying API, allowing direct access to nodes of query graphs. Since SODA uses strings to identify fields, it is neither perfectly typesafe nor compile-time checked and it also is quite verbose to write.

For most applications [Native Queries](#) will be the better querying interface.

However there can be applications where dynamic generation of queries is required, that's why SODA is explained here.

3.3.1. Simple queries

Let's see how our familiar QBE queries are expressed with SODA. A new Query object is created through the #query() method of the ObjectContainer and we can add Constraint instances to it. To find all Pilot instances, we constrain the query with the Pilot class object.

```
[retrieveAllPilots]

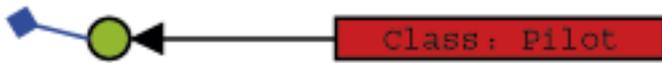
Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Rubens Barrichello/99
Michael Schumacher/100
```

Basically, we are exchanging our 'real' prototype for a meta description of the objects we'd like to hunt down: a **query graph** made up of query nodes and constraints. A query node is a placeholder for a candidate object, a constraint decides whether to add or exclude candidates from the result.

Our first simple graph looks like this.



We're just asking any candidate object (here: any object in the database) to be of type Pilot to aggregate our result.

To retrieve a pilot by name, we have to further constrain the candidate pilots by descending to their name field and constraining this with the respective candidate String.

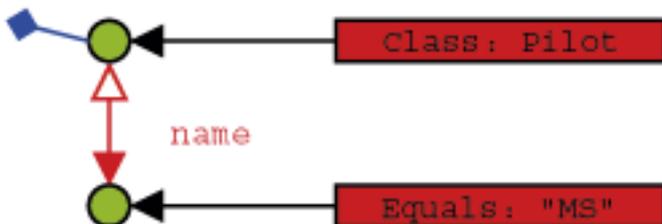
```
[retrievePilotByName]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Michael Schumacher")
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```

What does 'descend' mean here? Well, just as we did in our 'real' prototypes, we can attach constraints to child members of our candidates.



So a candidate needs to be of type Pilot and have a member named 'name' that is equal to the given String to be accepted for the result.

Note that the class constraint is not required: If we left it out, we would query for all objects that contain a 'name' member with the given value. In most cases this will not be the desired behavior, though.

Finding a pilot by exact points is analogous.

```
[retrievePilotByExactPoints]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
query.Descend("_points").Constrain(100)
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```

3.3.2. Advanced queries

Now there are occasions when we don't want to query for exact field values, but rather for value ranges, objects not containing given member values, etc. This functionality is provided by the Constraint API.

First, let's negate a query to find all pilots who are not Michael Schumacher:

```
[retrieveByNegation]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Michael Schumacher").[Not]()
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
```

```
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Where there is negation, the other boolean operators can't be too far.

```
[retrieveByConjunction]
```

```
Dim query As Query = db.Query()  
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))  
Dim constr As Constraint = query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Michael  
Schumacher")  
query.Descend("_points").Constrain(99).[And](constr)  
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()  
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
0
```

```
[retrieveByDisjunction]
```

```
Dim query As Query = db.Query()  
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))  
Dim constr As Constraint = query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Michael  
Schumacher")  
query.Descend("_points").Constrain(99).[Or](constr)  
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()  
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Rubens Barrichello/99
Michael Schumacher/100
```

We can also constrain to a comparison with a given value.

```
[retrieveByComparison]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
query.Descend("_points").Constrain(99).Greater()
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```

The query API also allows to query for field default values.

```
[retrieveByDefaultFieldValue]

Dim somebody As Pilot = New Pilot("Somebody else", 0)
db.[Set](somebody)
Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
query.Descend("_points").Constrain(0)
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(result)
db.Delete(somebody)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
Somebody else/0
```

It is also possible to have db4o sort the results.

```
[retrieveSorted]  
  
Dim query As Query = db.Query()  
query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))  
query.Descend("_name").OrderAscending()  
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()  
ListResult(result)  
query.Descend("_name").OrderDescending()  
result = query.Execute()  
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2  
Michael Schumacher/100  
Rubens Barrichello/99  
2  
Rubens Barrichello/99  
Michael Schumacher/100
```

All these techniques can be combined arbitrarily, of course. Please try it out. There still may be cases left where the predefined query API constraints may not be sufficient - don't worry, you can always let db4o run any arbitrary code that you provide in an Evaluation. Evaluations will be discussed in a [later chapter](#).

To prepare for the next chapter, let's clear the database.

```
[clearDatabase]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Pilot))
For Each item As Object In result
    db.Delete(item)
Next
```

OUTPUT:

3.3.3. Conclusion

Now you have been provided with three alternative approaches to query db4o databases: Query-By-Example, Native Queries, SODA.

Which one is the best to use? Some hints:

- Native queries are targetted to be the primary interface for db4o, so they should be preferred.
- With the current state of the native query optimizer there may be queries that will execute faster in SODA style, so it can be used to tune applications. SODA can also be more convenient for constructing dynamic queries at runtime.
- Query-By-Example is nice for simple one-liners, but restricted in functionality. If you like this approach, use it as long as it suits your application's needs.

Of course you can mix these strategies as needed.

We have finished our walkthrough and seen the various ways db4o provides to pose queries. But our domain model is not complex at all, consisting of one class only. Let's have a look at the way db4o handles object associations in the [next chapter](#) .

3.3.4. Full source

```
Imports System
Imports com.db4o
Imports com.db4o.query

Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter1
```

```

Public Class QueryExample
    Inherits Util

    Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
        Dim db As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
        Try
            StoreFirstPilot(db)
            StoreSecondPilot(db)
            RetrieveAllPilots(db)
            RetrievePilotByName(db)
            RetrievePilotByExactPoints(db)
            RetrieveByNegation(db)
            RetrieveByConjunction(db)
            RetrieveByDisjunction(db)
            RetrieveByComparison(db)
            RetrieveByDefaultFieldValue(db)
            RetrieveSorted(db)
            ClearDatabase(db)
        Finally
            db.Close()
        End Try
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub StoreFirstPilot(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim pilot1 As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher",
100)
        db.[Set](pilot1)
        Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot1)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub StoreSecondPilot(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim pilot2 As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
        db.[Set](pilot2)
        Console.WriteLine("Stored {0}", pilot2)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllPilots(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()

```

```

        query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrievePilotByName(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
        query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Michael Schumacher")
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrievePilotByExactPoints(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
        query.Descend("_points").Constrain(100)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveByNegation(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
        query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Michael
Schumacher").[Not]()
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveByConjunction(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
        Dim constr As Constraint =
query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Michael Schumacher")
        query.Descend("_points").Constrain(99).[And](constr)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()

```

```

        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveByDisjunction(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
        Dim constr As Constraint =
query.Descend("_name").Constrain("Michael Schumacher")
        query.Descend("_points").Constrain(99).[Or](constr)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveByComparison(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
        query.Descend("_points").Constrain(99).Greater()
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveByDefaultFieldValue(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim somebody As Pilot = New Pilot("Somebody else", 0)
        db.[Set](somebody)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
        query.Descend("_points").Constrain(0)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
        db.Delete(somebody)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveSorted(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Pilot))
        query.Descend("_name").OrderAscending()
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

```

```
        query.Descend("_name").OrderDescending()
        result = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub ClearDatabase(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Pilot))
        For Each item As Object In result
            db.Delete(item)
        Next
    End Sub

End Class
End Namespace
```

4. Structured objects

It's time to extend our business domain with another class and see how db4o handles object interrelations. Let's give our pilot a vehicle.

```
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter2
  Public Class Car
    Private _model As String

    Private _pilot As Pilot

    Public Sub New(ByVal model As String)
      _model = model
      _pilot = Nothing
    End Sub

    Public Property Pilot() As Pilot
      Get
        Return _pilot
      End Get
      Set
        _pilot = value
      End Set
    End Property

    Public ReadOnly Property Model() As String
      Get
        Return _model
      End Get
    End Property

    Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
      Return String.Format("{0} [{1}]", _model, _pilot)
    End Function

  End Class
End Namespace
```

4.1. Storing structured objects

To store a car with its pilot, we just call `set()` on our top level object, the car. The pilot will be stored implicitly.

```
[storeFirstCar]

Dim car1 As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
Dim pilot1 As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100)
car1.Pilot = pilot1
db.[Set](car1)
```

Of course, we need some competition here. This time we explicitly store the pilot before entering the car - this makes no difference.

```
[storeSecondCar]

Dim pilot2 As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
db.[Set](pilot2)
Dim car2 As Car = New Car("BMW")
car2.Pilot = pilot2
db.[Set](car2)
```

4.2. Retrieving structured objects

4.2.1. QBE

To retrieve all cars, we simply provide a 'blank' prototype.

```
[retrieveAllCarsQBE]

Dim proto As Car = New Car(Nothing)
```

```
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]
```

We can also query for all pilots, of course.

```
[retrieveAllPilotsQBE]

Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot(Nothing, 0)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Michael Schumacher/100
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Now let's initialize our prototype to specify all cars driven by Rubens Barrichello.

```
[retrieveCarByPilotQBE]

Dim pilotproto As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 0)
Dim carproto As Car = New Car(Nothing)
carproto.Pilot = pilotproto
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](carproto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
```

What about retrieving a pilot by car? We simply don't need that - if we already know the car, we can simply access the pilot field directly.

4.2.2. Native Queries

Using native queries with constraints on deep structured objects is straightforward, you can do it just like you would in plain other code.

Let's constrain our query to only those cars driven by a Pilot with a specific name:

```
Public Class RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate  
Inherits Predicate  
    ReadOnly _pilotName As String  
  
    Public Sub New(ByVal pilotName As String)  
        _pilotName = pilotName  
    End Sub
```

```
[retrieveCarsByPilotNameNative]  
  
Dim pilotName As String = "Rubens Barrichello"  
Dim results As ObjectSet = db.Query(New  
RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate(pilotName))  
ListResult(results)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
```

Using .NET 2.0 syntax this is a lot simpler:

C# .NET 2.0

```
[retrieveCarsByPilotNameNative]
string pilotName = "Rubens Barrichello";
List<Car> results = db.Query<Car>(delegate(Car car) {
    return car.Pilot.Name == pilotName; });
listResults(results);
```

4.2.3. SODA Query API

In order to use SODA for querying for a car given its pilot's name we have to descend two levels into our query.

```
[retrieveCarByPilotNameQuery]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Car))
query.Descend("_pilot").Descend("_name").Constrain("Rubens
Barrichello")
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
```

We can also constrain the pilot field with a prototype to achieve the same result.

```
[retrieveCarByPilotProtoQuery]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Car))
Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 0)
query.Descend("_pilot").Constrain(proto)
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
```

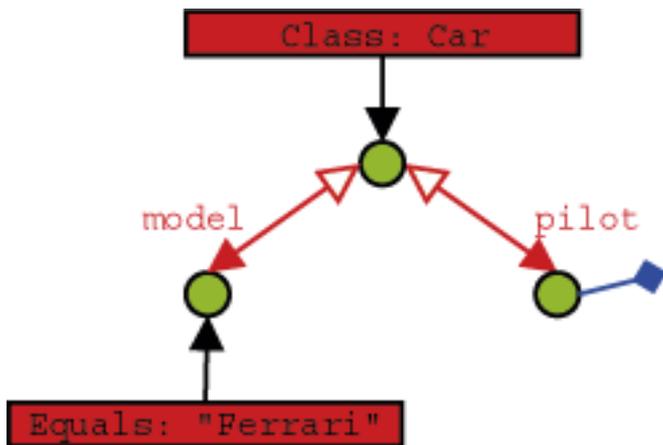
We have seen that descending into a query provides us with another query. Starting out from a query root we can descend in multiple directions. In practice this is the same as ascending from one child to a parent and descending to another child. We can conclude that queries turn one-directional references in our objects into true relations. Here is an example that queries for "a Pilot that is being referenced by a Car, where the Car model is 'Ferrari'":

```
[retrievePilotByCarModelQuery]

Dim carQuery As Query = db.Query()
carQuery.Constrain(GetType(Car))
carQuery.Descend("_model").Constrain("Ferrari")
Dim pilotQuery As Query = carQuery.Descend("_pilot")
Dim result As ObjectSet = pilotQuery.Execute()
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Michael Schumacher/100
```



4.3. Updating structured objects

To update structured objects in db4o, we simply call `set()` on them again.

```
[updateCar]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
found.Pilot = New Pilot("Somebody else", 0)
db.[Set](found)
result = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Ferrari[Somebody else/0]
```

Let's modify the pilot, too.

```
[updatePilotSingleSession]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
```

```
Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
found.Pilot.AddPoints(1)
db.[Set](found)
result = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Ferrari[Somebody else/1]
```

Nice and easy, isn't it? But wait, there's something evil lurking right behind the corner. Let's see what happens if we split this task in two separate db4o sessions: In the first we modify our pilot and update his car:

```
[updatePilotSeparateSessionsPart1]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
found.Pilot.AddPoints(1)
db.[Set](found)
```

And in the second, we'll double-check our modification:

```
[updatePilotSeparateSessionsPart2]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Ferrari[Somebody else/2]
```

Looks like we're in trouble: Why did the Pilot's points not change? What's happening here and what can we do to fix it?

4.3.1. Update depth

Imagine a complex object with many members that have many members themselves. When updating this object, db4o would have to update all its children, grandchildren, etc. This poses a severe performance penalty and will not be necessary in most cases - sometimes, however, it will.

So, in our previous update example, we were modifying the Pilot child of a Car object. When we saved the change, we told db4o to save our Car object and assumed that the modified Pilot would be updated. But we were modifying and saving in the same manner as we were in the first update sample, so why did it work before? The first time we made the modification, db4o never actually had to retrieve the modified Pilot it returned the same one that was still in memory that we modified, but it never actually updated the database. The fact that we saw the modified value was, in fact, a bug. Restarting the application would show that the value was unchanged.

To be able to handle this dilemma as flexible as possible, db4o introduces the concept of update depth to control how deep an object's member tree will be traversed on update. The default update depth for all objects is 1, meaning that only primitive and String members will be updated, but changes in object members will not be reflected.

db4o provides means to control update depth with very fine granularity. For our current problem we'll advise db4o to update the full graph for Car objects by setting `cascadeOnUpdate()` for this class accordingly.

```
[updatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart1]
```

```
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(Tru  
e)
```

```
[updatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart2]
```

```
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
found.Pilot.AddPoints(1)
db.[Set](found)
```

```
[updatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart3]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Ferrari[Somebody else/3]
```

This looks much better.

Note that container configuration must be set before the container is opened.

We'll cover update depth as well as other issues with complex object graphs and the respective db4o configuration options in more detail in a later chapter.

4.4. Deleting structured objects

As we have already seen, we call delete() on objects to get rid of them.

```
[deleteFlat]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
db.Delete(found)
result = db.[Get](New Car(Nothing))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]
```

Fine, the car is gone. What about the pilots?

```
[retrieveAllPilotsQBE]  
  
Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot(Nothing, 0)  
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)  
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
Rubens Barrichello/99
```

Ok, this is no real surprise - we don't expect a pilot to vanish when his car is disposed of in real life, too. But what if we want an object's children to be thrown away on deletion, too?

4.4.1. Recursive deletion

You may already suspect that the problem of recursive deletion (and perhaps its solution, too) is quite similar to our little update problem, and you're right. Let's configure db4o to delete a car's pilot, too, when the car is deleted.

```
[deleteDeepPart1]  
  
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(Tru  
e)
```

```
[deleteDeepPart2]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
db.Delete(found)
result = db.[Get](New Car(Nothing))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

0

Again: Note that all configuration must take place before the `ObjectContainer` is opened.

Let's have a look at our pilots again.

```
[retrieveAllPilots]

Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot(Nothing, 0)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

0

4.4.2. Recursive deletion revisited

But wait - what happens if the children of a removed object are still referenced by other objects?

```
[deleteDeepRevisited]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Pilot("Michael Schumacher",
0))
Dim pilot As Pilot = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Pilot)
Dim car1 As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
Dim car2 As Car = New Car("BMW")
car1.Pilot = pilot
car2.Pilot = pilot
db.[Set](car1)
db.[Set](car2)
db.Delete(car2)
result = db.[Get](New Car(Nothing))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
Ferrari[null]
```

```
[retrieveAllPilots]

Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot(Nothing, 0)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
0
```

Houston, we have a problem - and there's no simple solution at hand. Currently db4o does **not** check whether objects to be deleted are referenced anywhere else, so please be very careful when using this feature.

Let's clear our database for the next chapter.

```
[deleteAll]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Object))
For Each item As Object In result
    db.Delete(item)
Next
```

4.5. Conclusion

So much for object associations: We can hook into a root object and climb down its reference graph to specify queries. But what about multi-valued objects like arrays and collections? We will cover this in the [next chapter](#) .

4.6. Full source

```
Imports System
Imports System.IO
Imports com.db4o
Imports com.db4o.query

Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter2
    Public Class StructuredExample
        Inherits Util

        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)

            Dim db As ObjectContainer =
                Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)

            Try
                StoreFirstCar(db)
                StoreSecondCar(db)
                RetrieveAllCarsQBE(db)
                RetrieveAllPilotsQBE(db)
                RetrieveCarByPilotQBE(db)
            End Try
        End Sub
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```

RetrieveCarByPilotNameQuery(db)
RetrieveCarByPilotProtoQuery(db)
RetrievePilotByCarModelQuery(db)
UpdateCar(db)
UpdatePilotSingleSession(db)
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsPart1(db)
db.Close()
db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsPart2(db)
db.Close()
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart1(db)
db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart2(db)
db.Close()
db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart3(db)
DeleteFlat(db)
db.Close()
DeleteDeepPart1(db)
db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
DeleteDeepPart2(db)
DeleteDeepRevisited(db)
Finally
    db.Close()
End Try
End Sub

Public Shared Sub StoreFirstCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim car1 As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
    Dim pilot1 As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher",
100)
    car1.Pilot = pilot1
    db.[Set](car1)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub StoreSecondCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim pilot2 As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
    db.[Set](pilot2)
    Dim car2 As Car = New Car("BMW")
    car2.Pilot = pilot2
    db.[Set](car2)

```

```

    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllCarsQBE(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim proto As Car = New Car(Nothing)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllPilotsQBE(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot(Nothing, 0)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveCarByPilotQBE(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim pilotproto As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello",
0)

        Dim carproto As Car = New Car(Nothing)
        carproto.Pilot = pilotproto
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](carproto)
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveCarByPilotNameQuery(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Car))
        query.Descend("_pilot").Descend("_name").Constrain("Rubens Barrichell
o")

        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveCarByPilotProtoQuery(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Car))
        Dim proto As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 0)

```

```

        query.Descend("_pilot").Constrain(proto)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrievePilotByCarModelQuery(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim carQuery As Query = db.Query()
        carQuery.Constrain(GetType(Car))
        carQuery.Descend("_model").Constrain("Ferrari")
        Dim pilotQuery As Query = carQuery.Descend("_pilot")
        Dim result As ObjectSet = pilotQuery.Execute()
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllPilots(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim results As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Pilot))
        ListResult(results)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllCars(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim results As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
        ListResult(results)
    End Sub

    Public Class RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate
    Inherits Predicate
        ReadOnly _pilotName As String

        Public Sub New(ByVal pilotName As String)
            _pilotName = pilotName
        End Sub

        Public Function Match(ByVal candidate As Car) As Boolean
            Return candidate.Pilot.Name = _pilotName
        End Function
    End Class

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveCarsByPilotNameNative(ByVal db As

```

```

ObjectContainer)
    Dim pilotName As String = "Rubens Barrichello"
    Dim results As ObjectSet = db.Query(New
RetrieveCarsByPilotNamePredicate(pilotName))
    ListResult(results)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub UpdateCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
    Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
    found.Pilot = New Pilot("Somebody else", 0)
    db.[Set](found)
    result = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub UpdatePilotSingleSession(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
    Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
    found.Pilot.AddPoints(1)
    db.[Set](found)
    result = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsPart1(ByVal db
As ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
    Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
    found.Pilot.AddPoints(1)
    db.[Set](found)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsPart2(ByVal db
As ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub

```

```

UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart1(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(Tru
e)

    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart2(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
    Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
    found.Pilot.AddPoints(1)
    db.[Set](found)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub
UpdatePilotSeparateSessionsImprovedPart3(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
    ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub DeleteFlat(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("Ferrari"))
    Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
    db.Delete(found)
    result = db.[Get](New Car(Nothing))
    ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub DeleteDeepPart1(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(Tru
e)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub DeleteDeepPart2(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
    Dim found As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
    db.Delete(found)
    result = db.[Get](New Car(Nothing))
    ListResult(result)
    End Sub

```

```
Public Shared Sub DeleteDeepRevisited(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Pilot("Michael
Schumacher", 0))
    Dim pilot As Pilot = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Pilot)
    Dim car1 As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
    Dim car2 As Car = New Car("BMW")
    car1.Pilot = pilot
    car2.Pilot = pilot
    db.[Set](car1)
    db.[Set](car2)
    db.Delete(car2)
    result = db.[Get](New Car(Nothing))
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

End Class
End Namespace
```

5. Collections and Arrays

We will slowly move towards real-time data processing now by installing sensors to our car and collecting their output.

```
Imports System
Imports System.Text
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter3
    Public Class SensorReadout
        Private _values As Double()

        Private _time As DateTime

        Private _car As Car

        Public Sub New(ByVal values As Double(), ByVal time As
DateTime, ByVal car As Car)
            _values = values
            _time = time
            _car = car
        End Sub

        Public ReadOnly Property Car() As Car
            Get
                Return _car
            End Get
        End Property

        Public ReadOnly Property Time() As DateTime
            Get
                Return _time
            End Get
        End Property

        Public ReadOnly Property NumValues() As Integer
            Get
                Return _values.Length
            End Get
        End Property
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```

End Property

Public ReadOnly Property Values() As Double()
    Get
        Return _values
    End Get
End Property

Public Function GetValue(ByVal idx As Integer) As Double
    Return _values(idx)
End Function

Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
    Dim builder As StringBuilder = New StringBuilder()
    builder.Append(_car)
    builder.Append(" : ")
    builder.Append(_time.TimeOfDay)
    builder.Append(" : ")
    Dim i As Integer = 0
    While i < _values.Length
        If i > 0 Then
            builder.Append(", ")
        End If
        builder.Append(_values(i))
        System.Threading.Interlocked.Increment(i)
    End While
    Return builder.ToString()
End Function

End Class
End Namespace

```

A car may produce its current sensor readout when requested and keep a list of readouts collected during a race.

```

Imports System
Imports System.Collections

```

```

Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter3
    Public Class Car
        Private _model As String

        Private _pilot As Pilot

        Private _history As IList

        Public Sub New(ByVal model As String)
            Me.New(model, New ArrayList())
        End Sub

        Public Sub New(ByVal model As String, ByVal history As IList)
            _model = model
            _pilot = Nothing
            _history = history
        End Sub

        Public Property Pilot() As Pilot
            Get
                Return _pilot
            End Get
            Set
                _pilot = value
            End Set
        End Property

        Public ReadOnly Property Model() As String
            Get
                Return _model
            End Get
        End Property

        Public ReadOnly Property History() As IList
            Get
                Return _history
            End Get
        End Property

        Public Sub Snapshot()
            _history.Add(New SensorReadout(Poll(), DateTime.Now, Me))
        End Sub
    End Class
End Namespace

```

```

    End Sub

    Protected Function Poll() As Double()
        Dim factor As Integer = _history.Count + 1
        Return New Double() {0.1 * factor, 0.2 * factor, 0.3 *
factor}
    End Function

    Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
        Return String.Format("{0}[{1}]/{2}", _model, _pilot,
_history.Count)
    End Function

End Class
End Namespace

```

We will constrain ourselves to rather static data at the moment and add flexibility during the next chapters.

5.1. Storing

This should be familiar by now.

```

[storeFirstCar]

Dim car1 As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
Dim pilot1 As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100)
car1.Pilot = pilot1
db.[Set](car1)

```

The second car will take two snapshots immediately at startup.

```

[storeSecondCar]

```

```
Dim pilot2 As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
Dim car2 As Car = New Car("BMW")
car2.Pilot = pilot2
car2.Snapshot()
car2.Snapshot()
db.[Set](car2)
```

5.2. Retrieving

5.2.1. QBE

First let us verify that we indeed have taken snapshots.

```
[retrieveAllSensorReadout]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(SensorReadout))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1152088440091 : 0.2,0.4,0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1152088440091 : 0.1,0.2,0.3
```

As a prototype for an array, we provide an array of the same type, containing only the values we expect the result to contain.

```
[retrieveSensorReadoutQBE]

Dim proto As SensorReadout = New SensorReadout(New Double() {0.3,
0.1}, DateTime.MinValue, Nothing)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1152088440091 : 0.1,0.2,0.3
```

Note that the actual position of the given elements in the prototype array is irrelevant.

To retrieve a car by its stored sensor readouts, we install a history containing the sought-after values.

```
[retrieveCarQBE]

Dim protoReadout As SensorReadout = New SensorReadout(New Double()
{0.6, 0.2}, DateTime.MinValue, Nothing)
Dim protoHistory As IList = New ArrayList()
protoHistory.Add(protoReadout)
Dim protoCar As Car = New Car(Nothing, protoHistory)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](protoCar)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2
```

We can also query for the collections themselves, since they are first class objects.

```
[retrieveCollections]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New ArrayList())
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
2  
[]  
[BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1152088440091 : 0.1,0.2,0.3,  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1152088440091 : 0.2,0.4,0.6]
```

This doesn't work with arrays, though.

```
[retrieveArrays]  
  
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Double() {0.6, 0.4})  
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
0
```

5.2.2. Native Queries

If we want to use Native Queries to find SensorReadouts with matching values, we simply write this as if we would check every single instance:

```
Public Class RetrieveSensorReadoutPredicate  
    Inherits Predicate  
        Public Function Match(ByVal candidate As SensorReadout) As  
Boolean  
            Return Array.IndexOf(candidate.Values, 0.3) > - 1 AndAlso  
Array.IndexOf(candidate.Values, 0.1) > - 1  
        End Function  
  
End Class
```

```
[retrieveSensorReadoutNative]
```

```
Dim results As ObjectSet = db.Query(New  
RetrieveSensorReadoutPredicate())  
ListResult(results)
```

OUTPUT:

0

And here's how we find Cars with matching readout values:

```
Public Class RetrieveCarPredicate  
Inherits Predicate  
    Public Function Match(ByVal car As Car) As Boolean  
        For Each sensor As SensorReadout In car.History  
            If Array.IndexOf(sensor.Values, 0.3) > - 1 AndAlso  
Array.IndexOf(sensor.Values, 0.1) > - 1 Then  
                Return True  
            End If  
        Next  
        Return False  
    End Function  
End Class
```

```
[retrieveCarNative]
```

```
Dim results As ObjectSet = db.Query(New RetrieveCarPredicate())  
ListResult(results)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
```

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2
```

5.2.3. Query API

Handling of arrays and collections is analogous to the previous example. First, lets retrieve only the SensorReadouts with specific values:

```
[retrieveSensorReadoutQuery]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(SensorReadout))
Dim valueQuery As Query = query.Descend("_values")
valueQuery.Constrain(0.3)
valueQuery.Constrain(0.1)
Dim results As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(results)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
```

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1152088440091 : 0.1,0.2,0.3
```

Then let's get some Cars with matching Readout values:

```
[retrieveCarQuery]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Car))
Dim historyQuery As Query = query.Descend("_history")
historyQuery.Constrain(GetType(SensorReadout))
Dim valueQuery As Query = historyQuery.Descend("_values")
valueQuery.Constrain(0.3)
valueQuery.Constrain(0.1)
```

```
Dim results As ObjectSet = query.Execute()  
ListResult(results)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2
```

5.3. Updating and deleting

This should be familiar, we just have to remember to take care of the update depth.

```
[updateCarPart1]  
  
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(Tru  
e)
```

```
[updateCarPart2]  
  
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("BMW", Nothing))  
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)  
car.Snapshot()  
db.[Set](car)  
RetrieveAllSensorReadouts(db)
```

OUTPUT:

```
3  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/3 : 1152088440828 :  
0.30000000000000004,0.6000000000000001,0.8999999999999999  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/3 : 1152088440091 : 0.2,0.4,0.6  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/3 : 1152088440091 : 0.1,0.2,0.3
```

There's nothing special about deleting arrays and collections, too.

Deleting an object from a collection is an update, too, of course.

```
[updateCollection]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(Car))
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Descend("_history").Execute()
Dim history As IList = DirectCast(result.[Next](), IList)
history.RemoveAt(0)
db.[Set](history)
Dim proto As Car = New Car(Nothing, Nothing)
result = db.[Get](proto)
For Each car As Car In result
    For Each readout As Object In car.History
        Console.WriteLine(readout)
    Next
Next
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1152088440091 : 0.2,0.4,0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2 : 1152088440828 :
0.30000000000000004,0.6000000000000001,0.8999999999999999
```

(This example also shows that with db4o it is quite easy to access object internals we were never meant to see. Please keep this always in mind and be careful.)

We will delete all cars from the database again to prepare for the next chapter.

```
[deleteAllPart1]

Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(Tru
e)
```

```

[deleteAllPart2]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car(Nothing, Nothing))
For Each car As Object In result
    db.Delete(car)
Next
Dim readouts As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New SensorReadout(Nothing,
DateTime.MinValue, Nothing))
For Each readout As Object In readouts
    db.Delete(readout)
Next

```

5.4. Conclusion

Ok, collections are just objects. But why did we have to specify the concrete `ArrayList` type all the way? Was that necessary? How does `db4o` handle inheritance? We will cover that in the [next chapter](#).

5.5. Full source

```

Imports System
Imports System.Collections
Imports System.IO
Imports com.db4o
Imports com.db4o.query
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter3
    Public Class CollectionsExample
        Inherits Util
        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)
            Dim db As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
            Try
                StoreFirstCar(db)
                StoreSecondCar(db)
            End Try
        End Sub
    End Class
End Namespace

```

```

        RetrieveAllSensorReadouts(db)
        RetrieveSensorReadoutQBE(db)
        RetrieveCarQBE(db)
        RetrieveCollections(db)
        RetrieveArrays(db)
        RetrieveSensorReadoutQuery(db)
        RetrieveCarQuery(db)
        db.Close()
        UpdateCarPart1()
        db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
        UpdateCarPart2(db)
        UpdateCollection(db)
        db.Close()
        DeleteAllPart1()
        db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
        DeleteAllPart2(db)
        RetrieveAllSensorReadouts(db)
    Finally
        db.Close()
    End Try
End Sub

Public Shared Sub StoreFirstCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim car1 As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
    Dim pilot1 As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher",
100)

    car1.Pilot = pilot1
    db.[Set](car1)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub StoreSecondCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim pilot2 As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
    Dim car2 As Car = New Car("BMW")
    car2.Pilot = pilot2
    car2.Snapshot()
    car2.Snapshot()
    db.[Set](car2)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllSensorReadouts(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)

```

```

        Dim result As ObjectSet =
db.[Get](GetType(SensorReadout))
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveSensorReadoutQBE(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim proto As SensorReadout = New SensorReadout(New
Double() {0.3, 0.1}, DateTime.MinValue, Nothing)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveCarQBE(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
        Dim protoReadout As SensorReadout = New SensorReadout(New
Double() {0.6, 0.2}, DateTime.MinValue, Nothing)
        Dim protoHistory As IList = New ArrayList()
        protoHistory.Add(protoReadout)
        Dim protoCar As Car = New Car(Nothing, protoHistory)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](protoCar)
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveCollections(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New ArrayList())
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveArrays(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Double() {0.6,
0.4})
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveSensorReadoutQuery(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(SensorReadout))
        Dim valueQuery As Query = query.Descend("_values")
        valueQuery.Constrain(0.3)
    End Sub

```

```

        valueQuery.Constrain(0.1)
        Dim results As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(results)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveCarQuery(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(Car))
        Dim historyQuery As Query = query.Descend("_history")
        historyQuery.Constrain(GetType(SensorReadout))
        Dim valueQuery As Query = historyQuery.Descend("_values")
        valueQuery.Constrain(0.3)
        valueQuery.Constrain(0.1)
        Dim results As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        ListResult(results)
    End Sub

    Public Class RetrieveSensorReadoutPredicate
    Inherits Predicate
        Public Function Match(ByVal candidate As SensorReadout)
As Boolean
            Return Array.IndexOf(candidate.Values, 0.3) > - 1
Also Array.IndexOf(candidate.Values, 0.1) > - 1
        End Function
    End Class

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveSensorReadoutNative(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim results As ObjectSet = db.Query(New
RetrieveSensorReadoutPredicate())
        ListResult(results)
    End Sub

    Public Class RetrieveCarPredicate
    Inherits Predicate
        Public Function Match(ByVal car As Car) As Boolean
            For Each sensor As SensorReadout In car.History
                If Array.IndexOf(sensor.Values, 0.3) > - 1
Also Array.IndexOf(sensor.Values, 0.1) > - 1 Then
                    Return True
            End For
        End Function
    End Class

```

```

        End If
    Next
    Return False
End Function

End Class

Public Shared Sub RetrieveCarNative(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim results As ObjectSet = db.Query(New
RetrieveCarPredicate())
    ListResult(results)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub UpdateCarPart1()
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(Tru
e)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub UpdateCarPart2(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("BMW",
Nothing))
    Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
    car.Snapshot()
    db.[Set](car)
    RetrieveAllSensorReadouts(db)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub UpdateCollection(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim query As Query = db.Query()
    query.Constrain(GetType(Car))
    Dim result As ObjectSet =
query.Descend("_history").Execute()
    Dim history As IList = DirectCast(result.[Next](), IList)
    history.RemoveAt(0)
    db.[Set](history)
    Dim proto As Car = New Car(Nothing, Nothing)
    result = db.[Get](proto)
    For Each car As Car In result
        For Each readout As Object In car.History
            Console.WriteLine(readout)

```

```

        Next
    Next
End Sub

Public Shared Sub DeleteAllPart1()
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnDelete(True)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub DeleteAllPart2(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car(Nothing,
Nothing))
    For Each car As Object In result
        db.Delete(car)
    Next
    Dim readouts As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New
SensorReadout(Nothing, DateTime.MinValue, Nothing))
    For Each readout As Object In readouts
        db.Delete(readout)
    Next
End Sub

End Class
End Namespace

```

6. Inheritance

So far we have always been working with the concrete (i.e. most specific type of an object). What about subclassing and interfaces?

To explore this, we will differentiate between different kinds of sensors.

```
Imports System
Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter4
    Public Class SensorReadout
        Private _time As DateTime

        Private _car As Car

        Private _description As String

        Public Sub New(ByVal time As DateTime, ByVal car As Car,
ByVal description As String)
            _time = time
            _car = car
            _description = description
        End Sub

        Public ReadOnly Property Car() As Car
            Get
                Return _car
            End Get
        End Property

        Public ReadOnly Property Time() As DateTime
            Get
                Return _time
            End Get
        End Property

        Public ReadOnly Property Description() As String
            Get
                Return _description
            End Get
        End Property
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```

        End Get
    End Property

    Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
        Return String.Format("{0}:{1}:{2}", _car, _time,
        _description)
    End Function

End Class
End Namespace

```

```

Imports System
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter4
    Public Class TemperatureSensorReadout
        Inherits SensorReadout
        Private _temperature As Double

        Public Sub New(ByVal time As DateTime, ByVal car As Car,
        ByVal description As String, ByVal temperature As Double)
            MyBase.New(time, car, description)
            _temperature = temperature
        End Sub

        Public ReadOnly Property Temperature() As Double
            Get
                Return _temperature
            End Get
        End Property

        Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
            Return String.Format("{0} temp: {1}", MyBase.ToString(),
            _temperature)
        End Function

    End Class
End Namespace

```

```

Imports System
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter4
    Public Class PressureSensorReadout
        Inherits SensorReadout
            Private _pressure As Double

            Public Sub New(ByVal time As DateTime, ByVal car As Car,
                ByVal description As String, ByVal pressure As Double)
                MyBase.New(time, car, description)
                _pressure = pressure
            End Sub

            Public ReadOnly Property Pressure() As Double
                Get
                    Return _pressure
                End Get
            End Property

            Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
                Return String.Format("{0} pressure: {1}",
                MyBase.ToString(), _pressure)
            End Function

        End Class
    End Namespace

```

Our car's snapshot mechanism is changed accordingly.

```

Imports System
Imports System.Collections
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter4
    Public Class Car
        Private _model As String

        Private _pilot As Pilot

```

```

Private _history As IList

Public Sub New(ByVal model As String)
    _model = model
    _pilot = Nothing
    _history = New ArrayList()
End Sub

Public Property Pilot() As Pilot
    Get
        Return _pilot
    End Get
    Set
        _pilot = value
    End Set
End Property

Public ReadOnly Property Model() As String
    Get
        Return _model
    End Get
End Property

Public Function GetHistory() As SensorReadout()
    Dim history As SensorReadout() = New
SensorReadout(_history.Count) {}
    _history.CopyTo(history, 0)
    Return history
End Function

Public Sub Snapshot()
    _history.Add(New TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,
Me, "oil", PollOilTemperature()))
    _history.Add(New TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,
Me, "water", PollWaterTemperature()))
    _history.Add(New PressureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now, Me,
"oil", PollOilPressure()))
End Sub

Protected Function PollOilTemperature() As Double

```

```

        Return 0.1 * _history.Count
    End Function

    Protected Function PollWaterTemperature() As Double
        Return 0.2 * _history.Count
    End Function

    Protected Function PollOilPressure() As Double
        Return 0.3 * _history.Count
    End Function

    Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
        Return String.Format("{0} [{1}] / {2}", _model, _pilot,
            _history.Count)
    End Function

End Class
End Namespace

```

6.1. Storing

Our setup code has not changed at all, just the internal workings of a snapshot.

```

[storeFirstCar]

Dim car1 As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
Dim pilot1 As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100)
car1.Pilot = pilot1
db.[Set](car1)

```

```

[storeSecondCar]

Dim pilot2 As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
Dim car2 As Car = New Car("BMW")

```

```
car2.Pilot = pilot2
car2.Snapshot()
car2.Snapshot()
db.[Set](car2)
```

6.2. Retrieving

db4o will provide us with all objects of the given type. To collect all instances of a given class, no matter whether they are subclass members or direct instances, we just provide a corresponding prototype.

```
[retrieveTemperatureReadoutsQBE]

Dim proto As SensorReadout = New
TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.MinValue, Nothing, Nothing, 0)
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
4
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.0
```

```
[retrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBE]

Dim proto As SensorReadout = New SensorReadout(DateTime.MinValue,
Nothing, Nothing)
```

```
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 1.5
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.0
```

This is one more situation where QBE might not be applicable: What if the given type is an interface or an abstract class? Well, there's a little trick to keep in mind: Type objects receive special handling with QBE.

```
[retrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBEAlternative]
```

```
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(SensorReadout))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 1.5
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
```

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.0
```

And of course there's our SODA API:

```
[retrieveAllSensorReadoutsQuery]

Dim query As Query = db.Query()
query.Constrain(GetType(SensorReadout))
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 1.5
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/6 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:01 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.0
```

6.3. Updating and deleting

is just the same for all objects, no matter where they are situated in the inheritance

tree.

Just like we retrieved all objects from the database above, we can delete all stored objects to prepare for the next chapter.

```
[deleteAll]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Object))
For Each item As Object In result
    db.Delete(item)
Next
```

6.4. Conclusion

Now we have covered all basic OO features and the way they are handled by db4o. We will complete the first part of our db4o walkthrough in the [next chapter](#) by looking at deep object graphs, including recursive structures.

6.5. Full source

```
Imports System
Imports System.IO
Imports com.db4o

Imports com.db4o.query
Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter4
    Public Class InheritanceExample
        Inherits Util
        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)
            Dim db As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
            Try
                StoreFirstCar(db)
                StoreSecondCar(db)
                RetrieveTemperatureReadoutsQBE(db)
            End Try
        End Sub
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```

        RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBE(db)
        RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBEAlternative(db)
        RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQuery(db)
        RetrieveAllObjects(db)
    Finally
        db.Close()
    End Try
End Sub

Public Shared Sub StoreFirstCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim car1 As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
    Dim pilot1 As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher",
100)
        car1.Pilot = pilot1
        db.[Set](car1)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub StoreSecondCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim pilot2 As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
    Dim car2 As Car = New Car("BMW")
    car2.Pilot = pilot2
    car2.Snapshot()
    car2.Snapshot()
    db.[Set](car2)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBE(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim proto As SensorReadout = New
SensorReadout(DateTime.MinValue, Nothing, Nothing)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub RetrieveTemperatureReadoutsQBE(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim proto As SensorReadout = New
TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.MinValue, Nothing, Nothing, 0)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](proto)
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

```

```
Public Shared Sub
RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQBEOAlternative(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet =
db.[Get](GetType(SensorReadout))
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllSensorReadoutsQuery(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim query As Query = db.Query()
    query.Constrain(GetType(SensorReadout))
    Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllObjects(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Object())
    ListResult(result)
End Sub

End Class
End Namespace
```

7. Deep graphs

We have already seen how db4o handles object associations, but our running example is still quite flat and simple, compared to real-world domain models. In particular we haven't seen how db4o behaves in the presence of recursive structures. We will emulate such a structure by replacing our history list with a linked list implicitly provided by the `SensorReadout` class.

```
Imports System
Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter5
    Public Class SensorReadout
        Private _time As DateTime

        Private _car As Car

        Private _description As String

        Private _next As SensorReadout

        Protected Sub New(ByVal time As DateTime, ByVal car As Car,
ByVal description As String)
            _time = time
            _car = car
            _description = description
            _next = Nothing
        End Sub

        Public ReadOnly Property Car() As Car
            Get
                Return _car
            End Get
        End Property

        Public ReadOnly Property Time() As DateTime
            Get
                Return _time
            End Get
        End Property
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```

Public ReadOnly Property [Next]() As SensorReadout
    Get
        Return _next
    End Get
End Property

Public Sub Append(ByVal sensorReadout As SensorReadout)
    If _next Is Nothing Then
        _next = sensorReadout
    Else
        _next.Append(sensorReadout)
    End If
End Sub

Public Function CountElements() As Integer
    If _next Is Nothing Then
        Return 1
    End If
    Return _next.CountElements() + 1
End Function

Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
    Return String.Format("{0} : {1} : {2}", _car, _time,
_description)
End Function

End Class
End Namespace

```

Our car only maintains an association to a 'head' sensor readout now.

```

Imports System
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter5
    Public Class Car
        Private _model As String

```

```

Private _pilot As Pilot

Private _history As SensorReadout

Public Sub New(ByVal model As String)
    _model = model
    _pilot = Nothing
    _history = Nothing
End Sub

Public Property Pilot() As Pilot
    Get
        Return _pilot
    End Get
    Set
        _pilot = value
    End Set
End Property

Public ReadOnly Property Model() As String
    Get
        Return _model
    End Get
End Property

Public Function GetHistory() As SensorReadout
    Return _history
End Function

Public Sub Snapshot()
    AppendToHistory(New
TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now, Me, "oil",
PollOilTemperature()))
    AppendToHistory(New
TemperatureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now, Me, "water",
PollWaterTemperature()))
    AppendToHistory(New PressureSensorReadout(DateTime.Now,
Me, "oil", PollOilPressure()))
End Sub

Protected Function PollOilTemperature() As Double

```

```

        Return 0.1 * CountHistoryElements()
    End Function

    Protected Function PollWaterTemperature() As Double
        Return 0.2 * CountHistoryElements()
    End Function

    Protected Function PollOilPressure() As Double
        Return 0.3 * CountHistoryElements()
    End Function

    Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
        Return String.Format("{0} [{1}] / {2}", _model, _pilot,
CountHistoryElements())
    End Function

    Private Function CountHistoryElements() As Integer
        If _history Is Nothing Then
            Return 0
        End If
        Return _history.CountElements()
    End Function

    Private Sub AppendToHistory(ByVal readout As SensorReadout)
        If _history Is Nothing Then
            _history = readout
        Else
            _history.Append(readout)
        End If
    End Sub

End Class
End Namespace

```

7.1. Storing and updating

No surprises here.

```
[storeCar]

Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
Dim car As Car = New Car("BMW")
car.Pilot = pilot
db.[Set](car)
```

Now we would like to build a sensor readout chain. We already know about the update depth trap, so we configure this first.

```
[setCascadeOnUpdate]

Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(Tru
e)
```

Let's collect a few sensor readouts.

```
[takeManySnapshots]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
Dim i As Integer = 0
While i < 5
    car.Snapshot()
    System.Math.Max(System.Threading.Interlocked.Increment(i), i - 1)
End While
db.[Set](car)
```

7.2. Retrieving

Now that we have a sufficiently deep structure, we'll retrieve it from the database and

traverse it.

First let's verify that we indeed have taken lots of snapshots.

```
[retrieveAllSnapshots]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(SensorReadout))
While result.HasNext()
    Console.WriteLine(result.[Next]())
End While
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 4.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 2.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 1.2000000000000002
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 3.3
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 2.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.9
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 2.4
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.6000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 1.4000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 1.5
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
```

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.0
```

All these readouts belong to one linked list, so we should be able to access them all by just traversing our list structure.

```
[retrieveSnapshotsSequentially]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
Dim readout As SensorReadout = car.GetHistory()
While Not readout Is Nothing
    Console.WriteLine(readout)
    readout = readout.[Next]
End While
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 1.5
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.6000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 1.4000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
```

```
pressure : 2.4
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.9
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 2.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 3.3
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 1.2000000000000002
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 2.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 4.2
```

Ouch! What's happening here?

7.2.1. Activation depth

Deja vu - this is just the other side of the update depth issue.

db4o cannot track when you are traversing references from objects retrieved from the database. So it would always have to return 'complete' object graphs on retrieval - in the worst case this would boil down to pulling the whole database content into memory for a single query.

This is absolutely undesirable in most situations, so db4o provides a mechanism to give the client fine-grained control over how much he wants to pull out of the database when asking for an object. This mechanism is called *activation depth* and works quite similar to our familiar update depth.

The default activation depth for any object is 5, so our example above runs into nulls after traversing 5 references.

We can dynamically ask objects to activate their member references. This allows us to retrieve each single sensor readout in the list from the database just as needed.

```
[retrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyImproved]
```

```
Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
Dim readout As SensorReadout = car.GetHistory()
While Not readout Is Nothing
    db.Activate(readout, 1)
    Console.WriteLine(readout)
    readout = readout.[Next]
End While
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 1.5
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.6000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 1.4000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 2.4
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.9
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 2.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 3.3
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 1.2000000000000002
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
```

```
temp : 2.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 4.2
```

Note that 'cut' references may also influence the behavior of your objects: In this case the length of the list is calculated dynamically, and therefor constrained by activation depth.

Instead of dynamically activating subgraph elements, you can configure activation depth statically, too. We can tell our SensorReadout class objects to cascade activation automatically, for example.

```
[setActivationDepth]

Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(TemperatureSensorReadout)
).CascadeOnActivate(True)
```

OUTPUT:

```
[retrieveSnapshotsSequentially]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
Dim readout As SensorReadout = car.GetHistory()
While Not readout Is Nothing
    Console.WriteLine(readout)
    readout = readout.[Next]
End While
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
```

```
temp : 0.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.2
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 0.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.30000000000000004
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 0.8
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 1.5
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.60000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 1.40000000000000001
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 2.4
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 0.9
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 2.0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 3.3
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
temp : 1.20000000000000002
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : water
temp : 2.6
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/15 : Wed Jul 05 10:34:02 CEST 2006 : oil
pressure : 4.2
```

You have to be very careful, though. Activation issues are tricky. Db4o provides a wide range of configuration features to control activation depth at a very fine-grained level. You'll find those triggers in `com.db4o.config.Configuration` and the associated `ObjectClass` and `ObjectField` classes.

Don't forget to clean up the database.

```
[deleteAll]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Object))
For Each item As Object In result
    db.Delete(item)
Next
```

7.3. Conclusion

Now we should have the tools at hand to work with arbitrarily complex object graphs. But so far we have only been working forward, hoping that the changes we apply to our precious data pool are correct. What if we have to roll back to a previous state due to some failure? In the [next chapter](#) we will introduce the db4o transaction concept.

7.4. Full source

```
Imports System
Imports System.IO
Imports com.db4o
Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter5
    Public Class DeepExample
        Inherits Util
        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)
            Dim db As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
            Try
                StoreCar(db)
                db.Close()
                SetCascadeOnUpdate()
                db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
                TakeManySnapshots(db)
                db.Close()
                db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
                RetrieveAllSnapshots(db)
                db.Close()
                db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
```

```

        RetrieveSnapshotsSequentially(db)
        RetrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyImproved(db)
        db.Close()
        SetActivationDepth()
        db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
        RetrieveSnapshotsSequentially(db)
    Finally
        db.Close()
    End Try
End Sub

Public Shared Sub StoreCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
    Dim car As Car = New Car("BMW")
    car.Pilot = pilot
    db.[Set](car)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub SetCascadeOnUpdate()
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).CascadeOnUpdate(Tru
e)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub TakeManySnapshots(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
    Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
    Dim i As Integer = 0
    While i < 5
        car.Snapshot()
System.Math.Max(System.Threading.Interlocked.Increment(i), i - 1)
    End While
    db.[Set](car)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub RetrieveAllSnapshots(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
    Dim result As ObjectSet =
db.[Get](GetType(SensorReadout))
    While result.HasNext()
        Console.WriteLine(result.[Next]())
    End While
End Sub

```

```

        End While
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveSnapshotsSequentially(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
        Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
        Dim readout As SensorReadout = car.GetHistory()
        While Not readout Is Nothing
            Console.WriteLine(readout)
            readout = readout.[Next]
        End While
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub RetrieveSnapshotsSequentiallyImproved(ByVal
db As ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
        Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
        Dim readout As SensorReadout = car.GetHistory()
        While Not readout Is Nothing
            db.Activate(readout, 1)
            Console.WriteLine(readout)
            readout = readout.[Next]
        End While
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub SetActivationDepth()
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(TemperatureSensorReadout)
).CascadeOnActivate(True)
    End Sub

End Class
End Namespace

```

8. Transactions

Probably you have already wondered how db4o handles concurrent access to a single database. Just as any other DBMS, db4o provides a transaction mechanism. Before we take a look at multiple, perhaps even remote, clients accessing a db4o instance in parallel, we will introduce db4o transaction concepts in isolation.

8.1. Commit and rollback

You may not have noticed it, but we have already been working with transactions from the first chapter on. By definition, you are always working inside a transaction when interacting with db4o. A transaction is implicitly started when you open a container, and the current transaction is implicitly committed when you close it again. So the following code snippet to store a car is semantically identical to the ones we have seen before; it just makes the commit explicit.

```
[storeCarCommit]

Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
Dim car As Car = New Car("BMW")
car.Pilot = pilot
db.[Set](car)
db.Commit()
```

```
[listAllCars]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
```

However, we can also rollback the current transaction, resetting the state of our database to the last commit point.

```
[storeCarRollback]

Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100)
Dim car As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
car.Pilot = pilot
db.[Set](car)
db.Rollback()
```

```
[listAllCars]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
```

8.2. Refresh live objects

There's one problem, though: We can roll back our database, but this cannot automatically trigger a rollback for our live objects.

```
[carSnapshotRollback]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
car.Snapshot()
```

```
db.[Set](car)
db.Rollback()
Console.WriteLine(car)
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/3
```

We will have to explicitly refresh our live objects when we suspect they may have participated in a rollback transaction.

```
[carSnapshotRollbackRefresh]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
car.Snapshot()
db.[Set](car)
db.Rollback()
db.Ext().Refresh(car, Integer.MaxValue)
Console.WriteLine(car)
```

OUTPUT:

```
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
```

What is this ExtObjectContainer construct good for? Well, it provides some functionality that is in itself stable, but the API may still be subject to change. As soon as we are confident that no more changes will occur, ext functionality will be transferred to the common ObjectContainer API. We will cover extended functionality in more detail in a later chapter.

Finally, we clean up again.

```
[deleteAll]

Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Object))
For Each item As Object In result
    db.Delete(item)
Next
```

8.3. Conclusion

We have seen how transactions work for a single client. In the [next chapter](#) we will see how the transaction concept extends to multiple clients, whether they are located within the same VM or on a remote machine.

8.4. Full source

```
Imports System
Imports System.IO
Imports com.db4o

Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter5
    Public Class TransactionExample
        Inherits Util

        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)
            Dim db As ObjectContainer =
                Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
            Try
                StoreCarCommit(db)
                db.Close()
                db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
                ListAllCars(db)
                StoreCarRollback(db)
                db.Close()
                db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
                ListAllCars(db)
                CarSnapshotRollback(db)
                CarSnapshotRollbackRefresh(db)
            End Try
        End Sub
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```

        Finally
            db.Close()
        End Try
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub StoreCarCommit(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
        Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
        Dim car As Car = New Car("BMW")
        car.Pilot = pilot
        db.[Set](car)
        db.Commit()
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub ListAllCars(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](GetType(Car))
        ListResult(result)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub StoreCarRollback(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100)
        Dim car As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
        car.Pilot = pilot
        db.[Set](car)
        db.Rollback()
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub CarSnapshotRollback(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
        Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
        car.Snapshot()
        db.[Set](car)
        db.Rollback()
        Console.WriteLine(car)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub CarSnapshotRollbackRefresh(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = db.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
        Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)

```

```
        car.Snapshot()  
        db.[Set](car)  
        db.Rollback()  
        db.Ext().Refresh(car, Integer.MaxValue)  
        Console.WriteLine(car)  
    End Sub  
  
End Class  
End Namespace
```

9. Client/Server

Now that we have seen how transactions work in db4o conceptually, we are prepared to tackle concurrently executing transactions.

We start by preparing our database in the familiar way.

```
[setFirstCar]

Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
Dim car As Car = New Car("BMW")
car.Pilot = pilot
db.[Set](car)
```

```
[setSecondCar]

Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100)
Dim car As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
car.Pilot = pilot
db.[Set](car)
```

9.1. Embedded server

From the API side, there's no real difference between transactions executing concurrently within the same VM and transactions executed against a remote server. To use concurrent transactions within a single VM, we just open a db4o server on our database file, directing it to run on port 0, thereby declaring that no networking will take place.

```
[accessLocalServer]

Dim server As ObjectServer = Db4oFactory.OpenServer(Util.YapFileName,
```

```

0)
Try
    Dim client As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
    ' Do something with this client, or open more clients
    client.Close()
Finally
    server.Close()
End Try

```

Again, we will delegate opening and closing the server to our environment to focus on client interactions.

```

[queryLocalServer]

Dim client As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
ListResult(client.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
client.Close()

```

OUTPUT:

```

2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:03]
    Connection closed by client %.
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:03]
    '/tmp/formula158158.yap' close request
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:03]
    '/tmp/formula158158.yap' closed

```

The transaction level in db4o is *read committed*. However, each client container maintains its own weak reference cache of already known objects. To make all changes committed by other clients immediately, we have to explicitly refresh known objects from the server. We will delegate this task to a specialized version of our `listResult()` method.

```

Public Shared Sub ListRefreshedResult(ByVal container As
ObjectContainer, ByVal items As ObjectSet, ByVal depth As Integer)
    Console.WriteLine(items.Count)
    For Each item As Object In items
        container.Ext().Refresh(item, depth)
        Console.WriteLine(item)
    Next
End Sub

```

```
[demonstrateLocalReadCommitted]
```

```

Dim client1 As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
Dim client2 As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("David Coulthard", 98)
Dim result As ObjectSet = client1.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
car.Pilot = pilot
client1.[Set](car)
ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
client1.Commit()
ListResult(client1.[Get](GetType(Car)))
ListRefreshedResult(client2, client2.[Get](GetType(Car)), 2)
client1.Close()
client2.Close()

```

OUTPUT:

```

2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/0
2

```

```
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:04]
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:04]
Connection closed by client %.
Connection closed by client %.
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:04]
'/tmp/formula158158.yap' close request
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:04]
'/tmp/formula158158.yap' closed
```

Simple rollbacks just work as you might expect now.

```
[demonstrateLocalRollback]

Dim client1 As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
Dim client2 As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
Dim result As ObjectSet = client1.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
car.Pilot = New Pilot("Someone else", 0)
client1.[Set](car)
ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
client1.Rollback()
client1.Ext().Refresh(car, 2)
ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
client1.Close()
client2.Close()
```

OUTPUT:

```
2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
```

```

BMW[Someone else/0]/0
2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:04]
    Connection closed by client %.
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:04]
    Connection closed by client %.
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:04]
    '/tmp/formula158158.yap' close request
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:04]
    '/tmp/formula158158.yap' closed

```

9.2. Networking

From here it's only a small step towards operating db4o over a TCP/IP network. We just specify a port number greater than zero and set up one or more accounts for our client(s).

```

[accessRemoteServer]

Dim server As ObjectServer = Db4oFactory.OpenServer(Util.YapFileName,
ServerPort)
server.GrantAccess(ServerUser, ServerPassword)
Try
    Dim client As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost", ServerPort, ServerUser,
ServerPassword)
    ' Do something with this client, or open more clients
    client.Close()
Finally

```

```
server.Close()  
End Try
```

The client connects providing host, port, user name and password.

```
[queryRemoteServer]  
  
Dim client As ObjectContainer = Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost",  
port, user, password)  
ListResult(client.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))  
client.Close()
```

OUTPUT:

```
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:05]  
Server listening on port: '56128'  
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:05]  
Client 'user' connected.  
2  
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0  
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0  
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:05]  
Connection closed by client 'user'.  
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:05]  
'/tmp/formula158158.yap' close request  
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:05]  
'/tmp/formula158158.yap' closed
```

Everything else is absolutely identical to the local server examples above.

```
[demonstrateRemoteReadCommitted]  
  
Dim client1 As ObjectContainer = Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost",  
port, user, password)
```

```

Dim client2 As ObjectContainer = Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost",
port, user, password)
Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Jenson Button", 97)
Dim result As ObjectSet = client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing))
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
car.Pilot = pilot
client1.[Set](car)
ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
client1.Commit()
ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
client1.Close()
client2.Close()

```

OUTPUT:

```

[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:06]
  Server listening on port: '56128'
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:06]
  Client 'user' connected.
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:06]
  Client 'user' connected.
2
Ferrari[Jenson Button/97]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
2
Ferrari[Michael Schumacher/100]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
2
Ferrari[Jenson Button/97]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
2
Ferrari[Jenson Button/97]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]
  Connection closed by client 'user'.
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]
  Connection closed by client 'user'.
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]

```

```
'/tmp/formula158158.yap' close request  
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]  
'/tmp/formula158158.yap' closed
```

```
[demonstrateRemoteRollback]
```

```
Dim client1 As ObjectContainer = Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost",  
port, user, password)  
Dim client2 As ObjectContainer = Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost",  
port, user, password)  
Dim result As ObjectSet = client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing))  
Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)  
car.Pilot = New Pilot("Someone else", 0)  
client1.[Set](car)  
ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))  
ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))  
client1.Rollback()  
client1.Ext().Refresh(car, 2)  
ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))  
ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))  
client1.Close()  
client2.Close()
```

OUTPUT:

```
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]  
Server listening on port: '56128'  
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]  
Client 'user' connected.  
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]  
Client 'user' connected.  
2  
Ferrari[Someone else/0]/0  
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0  
2  
Ferrari[Jenson Button/97]/0  
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
```

```
2
Ferrari[Jenson Button/97]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
2
Ferrari[Jenson Button/97]/0
BMW[David Coulthard/98]/0
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]
    Connection closed by client 'user'.
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]
    Connection closed by client 'user'.
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]
    '/tmp/formula158158.yap' close request
[db4o 5.5.1 2006-07-05 10:34:07]
    '/tmp/formula158158.yap' closed
```

9.3. Out-of-band signalling

Sometimes a client needs to send a special message to a server in order to tell the server to do something. The server may need to be signalled to perform a defragment or it may need to be signalled to shut itself down gracefully.

This is configured by calling `setMessageRecipient()`, passing the object that will process client-initiated messages.

```
Public Sub RunServer()
    SyncLock Me
        Dim db4oServer As ObjectServer = Db4oFactory.OpenServer(FILE,
PORT)
        db4oServer.GrantAccess(USER, PASS)
        ' Using the messaging functionality to redirect all
        ' messages to this.processMessage
        db4oServer.Ext().Configure().SetMessageRecipient(Me)
    Try
        If Not [stop] Then
            ' wait forever for Notify() from Close()
```

```

        Monitor.Wait(Me)
    End If
Catch e As Exception
    Console.WriteLine(e.ToString())
End Try
db4oServer.Close()
End SyncLock
End Sub

```

The message is received and processed by a processMessage() method:

```

Public Sub ProcessMessage(ByVal con As ObjectContainer, ByVal message
As Object) Implements MessageRecipient.ProcessMessage
    If TypeOf message Is StopServer Then
        Close()
    End If
End Sub

```

Db4o allows a client to send an arbitrary signal or message to a server by sending a plain Java object to the server. The server will receive a callback message, including the object that came from the client. The server can interpret this message however it wants.

```

Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
    Dim objectContainer As ObjectContainer = Nothing
    Try
        ' connect to the server
        objectContainer = Db4oFactory.OpenClient(HOST, PORT, USER,
PASS)
    Catch e As Exception
        Console.WriteLine(e.ToString())
    End Try
    If Not objectContainer Is Nothing Then
        ' get the messageSender for the ObjectContainer

```

```

        Dim messageSender As MessageSender =
objectContainer.Ext().Configure().GetMessageSender()
        ' send an instance of a StopServer object
messageSender.Send(New StopServer())
        ' close the ObjectContainer
objectContainer.Close()
    End If
End Sub

```

9.4. Putting it all together: a simple but complete db4o server

Let's put all of this information together now to implement a simple standalone db4o server with a special client that can tell the server to shut itself down gracefully on demand.

First, both the client and the server need some shared configuration information. We will provide this using an interface:

```

Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter5
    ''' <summary>
    ''' Configuration used for StartServer and StopServer.
    ''' </summary>
    Public Class ServerConfiguration
        ''' <summary>
        ''' the host to be used.
        ''' If you want to run the client server examples on two
computers,
        ''' enter the computer name of the one that you want to use
as server.
        ''' </summary>
        Public Const HOST As String = "localhost"

        ''' <summary>
        ''' the database file to be used by the server.
        ''' </summary>
        Public Const FILE As String = "formula1.yap"
    End Class
End Namespace

```

```

    ''' <summary>
    ''' the port to be used by the server.
    ''' </summary>
Public Const PORT As Integer = 4488

    ''' <summary>
    ''' the user name for access control.
    ''' </summary>
Public Const USER As String = "db4o"

    ''' <summary>
    ''' the pasword for access control.
    ''' </summary>
Public Const PASS As String = "db4o"

End Class
End Namespace

```

Now we'll create the server:

```

Imports System
Imports System.Threading
Imports com.db4o
Imports com.db4o.messaging
Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter5
    ''' <summary>
    ''' starts a db4o server with the settings from
ServerConfiguration.
    ''' This is a typical setup for a long running server.
    ''' The Server may be stopped from a remote location by running
    ''' StopServer. The StartServer instance is used as a
MessageRecipient
    ''' and reacts to receiving an instance of a StopServer object.
    ''' Note that all user classes need to be present on the server
side
    ''' and that all possible Db4o.Configure() calls to alter the
db4o

```

```

    ''' configuration need to be executed on the client and on the
server.
    ''' </summary>
Public Class StartServer
Inherits ServerConfiguration
    Implements MessageRecipient
    ''' <summary>
    ''' setting the value to true denotes that the server should
be closed
    ''' </summary>
Private [stop] As Boolean = False

    ''' <summary>
    ''' starts a db4o server using the configuration from
    ''' ServerConfiguration.
    ''' </summary>
Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal arguments As String())
    Dim server As New StartServer
    server.RunServer()
End Sub

    ''' <summary>
    ''' opens the ObjectServer, and waits forever until Close()
is called
    ''' or a StopServer message is being received.
    ''' </summary>
Public Sub RunServer()
    SyncLock Me

        Dim db4oServer As ObjectServer =
Db4oFactory.OpenServer(FILE, PORT)

        db4oServer.GrantAccess(USER, PASS)
        ' Using the messaging functionality to redirect all
        ' messages to this.processMessage
        db4oServer.Ext().Configure().SetMessageRecipient(Me)
    Try
        If Not [stop] Then
            ' wait forever for Notify() from Close()
            Monitor.Wait(Me)
        End If
    Catch e As Exception
        Console.WriteLine(e.ToString())
    End Try
End Sub

```

```

        End Try
        db4oServer.Close()
    End SyncLock
End Sub

''' <summary>
''' messaging callback
''' see com.db4o.messaging.MessageRecipient#ProcessMessage()
''' </summary>
Public Sub ProcessMessage(ByVal con As ObjectContainer, ByVal
message As Object) Implements MessageRecipient.ProcessMessage
    If TypeOf message Is StopServer Then
        Close()
    End If
End Sub

''' <summary>
''' closes this server.
''' </summary>
Public Sub Close()
    SyncLock Me
        [stop] = True
        Monitor.PulseAll(Me)
    End SyncLock
End Sub

End Class
End Namespace

```

And last but not least, the client that stops the server.

```

Imports System
Imports com.db4o
Imports com.db4o.messaging
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter5
    ''' <summary>
    ''' stops the db4o Server started with StartServer.

```

```

''' This is done by opening a client connection
''' to the server and by sending a StopServer object as
''' a message. StartServer will react in it's
''' processMessage method.
''' </summary>
Public Class StopServer
Inherits ServerConfiguration
    ''' <summary>
    ''' stops a db4o Server started with StartServer.
    ''' </summary>
    ''' <exception cref="Exception" />
Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
    Dim objectContainer As ObjectContainer = Nothing
    Try
        ' connect to the server
        objectContainer = Db4oFactory.OpenClient(HOST, PORT,
USER, PASS)
    Catch e As Exception
        Console.WriteLine(e.ToString())
    End Try
    If Not objectContainer Is Nothing Then
        ' get the messageSender for the ObjectContainer
        Dim messageSender As MessageSender =
objectContainer.Ext().Configure().GetMessageSender()
        ' send an instance of a StopServer object
        messageSender.Send(New StopServer())
        ' close the ObjectContainer
        objectContainer.Close()
    End If
End Sub

End Class
End Namespace

```

9.5. Conclusion

That's it, folks. No, of course it isn't. There's much more to db4o we haven't covered yet: schema evolution, custom persistence for your classes, writing your own query objects, etc. The following, more loosely coupled chapters will look into more advanced

db4o features.

This tutorial is work in progress. We will successively add chapters and incorporate feedback from the community into the existing chapters.

We hope that this tutorial has helped to get you started with db4o. How should you continue now?

- Browse the remaining chapters.

- *(Interactive version only)* While this tutorial is basically sequential in nature, try to switch back and forth between the chapters and execute the sample snippets in arbitrary order. You will be working with the same database throughout; sometimes you may just get stuck or even induce exceptions, but you can always reset the database via the console window.

- The examples we've worked through are included in your db4o distribution in full source code. Feel free to experiment with it.

- If you're stuck, see if the FAQ can solve your problem, browse the information on our [web site](#), check if your problem is submitted to [Bugzilla](#) or visit our forums at <http://forums.db4o.com/forums/>.

9.6. Full source

```
Imports System.IO
Imports com.db4o

Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter5
    Public Class ClientServerExample
        Inherits Util
        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)
            AccessLocalServer()
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)
            Dim db As ObjectContainer =
                Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
        End Sub
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```

    Try
        SetFirstCar(db)
        SetSecondCar(db)
    Finally
        db.Close()
    End Try
    ConfigureDb4o()
    Dim server As ObjectServer =
Db4oFactory.OpenServer(Util.YapFileName, 0)
    Try
        QueryLocalServer(server)
        DemonstrateLocalReadCommitted(server)
        DemonstrateLocalRollback(server)
    Finally
        server.Close()
    End Try
    AccessRemoteServer()
    server = Db4oFactory.OpenServer(Util.YapFileName,
ServerPort)
    server.GrantAccess(ServerUser, ServerPassword)
    Try
        QueryRemoteServer(ServerPort, ServerUser,
ServerPassword)
        DemonstrateRemoteReadCommitted(ServerPort,
ServerUser, ServerPassword)
        DemonstrateRemoteRollback(ServerPort, ServerUser,
ServerPassword)
    Finally
        server.Close()
    End Try
End Sub

Public Shared Sub SetFirstCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Rubens Barrichello", 99)
    Dim car As Car = New Car("BMW")
    car.Pilot = pilot
    db.[Set](car)
End Sub

Public Shared Sub SetSecondCar(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
    Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100)

```

```

        Dim car As Car = New Car("Ferrari")
        car.Pilot = pilot
        db.[Set](car)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub AccessLocalServer()
        Dim server As ObjectServer =
Db4oFactory.OpenServer(Util.YapFileName, 0)
        Try
            Dim client As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
            ' Do something with this client, or open more clients
            client.Close()

        Finally
            server.Close()
        End Try
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub QueryLocalServer(ByVal server As
ObjectServer)
        Dim client As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
        ListResult(client.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        client.Close()
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub ConfigureDb4o()
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(Car)).UpdateDepth(3)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub DemonstrateLocalReadCommitted(ByVal server
As ObjectServer)
        Dim client1 As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
        Dim client2 As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
        Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("David Coulthard", 98)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = client1.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
        Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
        car.Pilot = pilot
        client1.[Set](car)
        ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        client1.Commit()
        ListResult(client1.[Get](GetType(Car)))
    End Sub

```

```

        ListRefreshedResult(client2, client2.[Get](GetType(Car)),
2)

        client1.Close()
        client2.Close()
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub DemonstrateLocalRollback(ByVal server As
ObjectServer)
        Dim client1 As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
        Dim client2 As ObjectContainer = server.OpenClient()
        Dim result As ObjectSet = client1.[Get](New Car("BMW"))
        Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
        car.Pilot = New Pilot("Someone else", 0)
        client1.[Set](car)
        ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        client1.Rollback()
        client1.Ext().Refresh(car, 2)
        ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        client1.Close()
        client2.Close()
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub AccessRemoteServer()
        Dim server As ObjectServer =
Db4oFactory.OpenServer(Util.YapFileName, ServerPort)
        server.GrantAccess(ServerUser, ServerPassword)
        Try
            Dim client As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost", ServerPort, ServerUser,
ServerPassword)
            ' Do something with this client, or open more clients
            client.Close()
        Finally
            server.Close()
        End Try
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub QueryRemoteServer(ByVal port As Integer,
ByVal user As String, ByVal password As String)

```

```

        Dim client As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password)
        ListResult(client.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        client.Close()
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub DemonstrateRemoteReadCommitted(ByVal port
As Integer, ByVal user As String, ByVal password As String)
        Dim client1 As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password)
        Dim client2 As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password)
        Dim pilot As Pilot = New Pilot("Jenson Button", 97)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing))
        Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
        car.Pilot = pilot
        client1.[Set](car)
        ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        client1.Commit()
        ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        client1.Close()
        client2.Close()
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub DemonstrateRemoteRollback(ByVal port As
Integer, ByVal user As String, ByVal password As String)
        Dim client1 As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password)
        Dim client2 As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenClient("localhost", port, user, password)
        Dim result As ObjectSet = client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing))
        Dim car As Car = DirectCast(result.[Next](), Car)
        car.Pilot = New Pilot("Someone else", 0)
        client1.[Set](car)
        ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
        client1.Rollback()
        client1.Ext().Refresh(car, 2)
        ListResult(client1.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))

```

```
ListResult(client2.[Get](New Car(Nothing)))
client1.Close()
client2.Close()
End Sub

End Class
End Namespace
```

10. SODA Evaluations

In the [SODA API chapter](#) we already mentioned *Evaluations* as a means of providing user-defined custom constraints and as a means to run any arbitrary code in a SODA query. Let's have a closer look.

10.1. Evaluation API

The evaluation API consists of two interfaces, *Evaluation* and *Candidate*. Evaluation implementations are implemented by the user and injected into a query. During a query, they will be called from db4o with a candidate instance in order to decide whether to include it into the current (sub-)result.

The Evaluation interface contains a single method only:

```
public void evaluate(Candidate candidate);
```

This will be called by db4o to check whether the object encapsulated by this candidate should be included into the current candidate set.

The Candidate interface provides three methods:

```
public Object getObject();  
public void include(boolean flag);  
public ObjectContainer objectContainer();
```

An Evaluation implementation may call `getObject()` to retrieve the actual object instance to be evaluated, it may call `include()` to instruct db4o whether or not to include this object in the current candidate set, and finally it may access the current database directly by calling `objectContainer()`.

10.2. Example

For a simple example, let's go back to our Pilot/Car implementation from the [Collections chapter](#). Back then, we kept a history of SensorReadout instances in a List member inside the car. Now imagine that we wanted to retrieve all cars that have assembled an even number of history entries. A quite contrived and seemingly trivial example, however, it gets us into trouble: Collections are transparent to the query API, it just 'looks through' them at their respective members.

So how can we get this done? Let's implement an Evaluation that expects the objects passed in to be instances of type Car and checks their history size.

```
Imports com.db4o.query
Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter6
    Public Class EvenHistoryEvaluation
        Implements Evaluation
        Public Sub Evaluate(ByVal candidate As Candidate) Implements
Evaluation.Evaluate
            Dim car As chapter3.Car =
DirectCast(candidate.GetObject(), chapter3.Car)
            candidate.Include(car.History.Count Mod 2 = 0)
        End Sub
    End Class
End Namespace
```

To test it, let's add two cars with history sizes of one, respectively two:

```
[storeCars]

Dim pilot1 As chapter3.Pilot = New chapter3.Pilot("Michael
Schumacher", 100)
Dim car1 As chapter3.Car = New chapter3.Car("Ferrari")
car1.Pilot = pilot1
```

```
car1.Snapshot()  
db.[Set](car1)  
Dim pilot2 As chapter3.Pilot = New chapter3.Pilot("Rubens  
Barrichello", 99)  
Dim car2 As chapter3.Car = New chapter3.Car("BMW")  
car2.Pilot = pilot2  
car2.Snapshot()  
car2.Snapshot()  
db.[Set](car2)
```

and run our evaluation against them:

```
[queryWithEvaluation]  
  
Dim query As Query = db.Query()  
query.Constrain(GetType(chapter3.Car))  
query.Constrain(New EvenHistoryEvaluation())  
Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()  
Util.ListResult(result)
```

OUTPUT:

```
1  
BMW[Rubens Barrichello/99]/2
```

10.3. Drawbacks

While evaluations offer you another degree of freedom for assembling queries, they come at a certain cost: As you may already have noticed from the example, evaluations work on the fully instantiated objects, while 'normal' queries peek into the database file directly. So there's a certain performance penalty for the object instantiation, which is wasted if the object is not included into the candidate set.

Another restriction is that, while 'normal' queries can bypass encapsulation and

access candidates' private members directly, evaluations are bound to use their external API, just as in the language itself.

10.4. Conclusion

With the introduction of evaluations we finally completed our query toolbox. Evaluations provide a simple way of assemble arbitrary custom query building blocks, however, they come at a price.

10.5. Full source

```
Imports System.IO
Imports com.db4o.query
Imports com.db4o

Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter6
    Public Class EvaluationExample
        Inherits Util

        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
            File.Delete(Util.YapFileName)
            Dim db As Global.com.db4o.ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
            Try
                StoreCars(db)
                QueryWithEvaluation(db)
            Finally
                db.Close()
            End Try
        End Sub

        Public Shared Sub StoreCars(ByVal db As ObjectContainer)
            Dim pilot1 As chapter3.Pilot = New
chapter3.Pilot("Michael Schumacher", 100)
            Dim car1 As chapter3.Car = New chapter3.Car("Ferrari")
            car1.Pilot = pilot1
            car1.Snapshot()
            db.[Set](car1)
        End Sub
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```
        Dim pilot2 As chapter3.Pilot = New chapter3.Pilot("Rubens
Barrichello", 99)
        Dim car2 As chapter3.Car = New chapter3.Car("BMW")
        car2.Pilot = pilot2
        car2.Snapshot()
        car2.Snapshot()
        db.[Set](car2)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub QueryWithEvaluation(ByVal db As
ObjectContainer)
        Dim query As Query = db.Query()
        query.Constrain(GetType(chapter3.Car))
        query.Constrain(New EvenHistoryEvaluation())
        Dim result As ObjectSet = query.Execute()
        Util.ListResult(result)
    End Sub

End Class
End Namespace
```

11. Constructors

Sometimes you may find that db4o refuses to store instances of certain classes, or appears to store them, but delivers incomplete instances on queries. To understand the problem and the alternative solutions at hand, we'll have to take a look at the way db4o "instantiates" objects when retrieving them from the database.

11.1. Instantiating objects

Db4o currently knows three ways of creating and populating an object from the database. The approach to be used can be configured globally and on a per-class basis.

11.1.1. Using a constructor

The most obvious way is to call an appropriate constructor. Db4o does *not* require a public or no-args constructor. It can use any constructor that accepts default (null/0) values for all of its arguments without throwing an exception. Db4o will test all available constructors on the class (including private ones) until it finds a suitable one.

What if no such constructor exists?

11.1.2. Bypassing the constructor

Db4o can also bypass the constructors declared for this class using platform-specific mechanisms. (For Java, this option is only available on JREs ≥ 1.4 .) This mode allows reinstantiating objects whose class doesn't provide a suitable constructor, However, it will (silently) break classes that rely on the constructor to be executed, for example in order to populate transient members.

If this option is available in the current runtime environment, it will be the default setting.

11.1.3. Using a translator

If none of the two approaches above is suitable, db4o provides a way to specify in detail how instances of a class should be stored and reinstantiated by implementing the Translator interface and registering this implementation for the offending class.

We'll cover translators in detail in the [next chapter](#) .

11.2. Configuration

The instantiation mode can be configured globally or on a per class basis.

```
Db4o.configure().callConstructors(true);
```

This will configure db4o to use constructors to reinstantiate any object from the database. (The default is *false*).

```
Db4o.configure().objectClass(Foo.class).callConstructor(true);
```

This will configure db4o to use constructor calls for this class and all its subclasses.

11.3. Troubleshooting

At least for development code, it is always a good idea to instruct db4o to check for available constructors at storage time. (If you've configured db4o to use constructors at all.)

```
Db4o.configure().exceptionsOnNotStorable(true);
```

If this setting triggers exceptions in your code, or if instances of a class seem to lose members during storage, check the involved classes (especially their constructors) for problems similar to the ones shown in the following section.

11.4. Examples

```
class C1 {  
    private String s;  
  
    private C1(String s) {  
        this.s=s;  
    }  
  
    public String toString() {  
        return s;  
    }  
}
```

The above class is fine for use with and without `callConstructors` set.

```
class C2 {  
    private transient String x;  
    private String s;  
  
    private C2(String s) {  
        this.s=s;  
        this.x="x";  
    }  
  
    public String toString() {  
        return s+x.length();  
    }  
}
```

The above C2 class needs to have `callConstructors` set to true. Otherwise, since transient members are not stored and the constructor code is not executed, `toString()` will potentially run into a `NullPointerException` on `x.length()`.

```
class C3 {  
    private String s;
```

```

private int i;

private C3(String s) {
    this.s=s;
    this.i=s.length();
}

public String toString() {
    return s+i;
}
}

```

The above C3 class needs to have `callConstructors` set to `false` (the default), since the (only) constructor will throw a `NullPointerException` when called with a null value.

```

class C4 {
    private String s;
    private transient int i;

    private C4(String s) {
        this.s=s;
        this.i=s.length();
    }

    public String toString() {
        return s+i;
    }
}

```

This class cannot be cleanly reinstated by db4o: Both approaches will fail, so one has to resort to configuring a translator.

12. Translators

In the last chapter we have covered the alternative configurations db4o offers for object reinstantiation. What's left to see is how we can store objects of a class that can't be cleanly stored with either of these approaches.

12.1. An example class

For this example we'll be using a hypothetical `LocalizedItemList` class which binds together culture information with a list of items.

`System.Globalization.CultureInfo` is particularly interesting because it internally holds a native pointer to a system structure which in turn cannot be cleanly stored by db4o.

```
Imports System.Globalization
Namespace com.db4o.fl.chapter6
    ''' <summary>
    ''' A CultureInfo aware list of objects.
    ''' CultureInfo objects hold a native pointer to
    ''' a system structure.
    ''' </summary>
    Public Class LocalizedItemList
        Private _culture As CultureInfo

        Private _items As String()

        Public Sub New(ByVal culture As CultureInfo, ByVal items As
String())
            _culture = culture
            _items = items
        End Sub

        Public Overloads Overrides Function ToString() As String
            Return
String.Join(String.Concat(_culture.TextInfo.ListSeparator, " "),
_items)
        End Function
    End Class
End Namespace
```

```
End Class
End Namespace
```

We'll be using this code to store and retrieve and instance of this class with different configuration settings:

```
Public Shared Sub TryStoreAndRetrieve()
    Dim db As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
    Try
        Dim champs As String() = New String() {"Ayrton Senna",
"Nelson Piquet"}
        Dim LocalizedItemList As LocalizedItemList = New
LocalizedItemList(CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("pt-BR"), champs)
        System.Console.WriteLine("ORIGINAL: {0}", LocalizedItemList)
        db.[Set](LocalizedItemList)
    Catch x As Exception
        System.Console.WriteLine(x)
    Return
    Finally
        db.Close()
    End Try
    db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
    Try
        Dim result As ObjectSet =
db.[Get](GetType(LocalizedItemList))
        While result.HasNext()
            Dim LocalizedItemList As LocalizedItemList =
DirectCast(result.[Next](), LocalizedItemList)
            System.Console.WriteLine("RETRIEVED: {0}",
LocalizedItemList)
            db.Delete(LocalizedItemList)
        End While
    Finally
        db.Close()
    End Try
End Try
```

End Sub

12.1.1. Using the constructor

```
[tryStoreWithCallConstructors]

Db4oFactory.Configure().ExceptionsOnNotStorable(True)
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(CultureInfo)).CallConstructor(True)
TryStoreAndRetrieve()
```

OUTPUT:

```
ORIGINAL: 42/Test: 4
onStore for 42/Test: 4
onStore for 42/Test: 4
onInstantiate for [Ljava.lang.Object;@11cb5d6
onActivate for 42/Test: 4 / [Ljava.lang.Object;@1e43069
RETRIEVED: 42/Test: 4
```

At storage time, db4o tests the only available constructor with null arguments and runs into a `NullPointerException`, so it refuses to accept our object.

(Note that this test only occurs when configured with `exceptionsOnNotStorable` - otherwise db4o will silently fail when trying to reinstantiate the object.)

12.1.2. Bypassing the constructor

```
[tryStoreWithoutCallConstructors]

Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(CultureInfo)).CallConstructor(False)
' trying to store objects that hold onto
' system resources can be pretty nasty
```

```
' uncomment the following line to see
' how nasty it can be
'TryStoreAndRetrieve();
```

This still does not work for our case because the native pointer will definitely be invalid. In fact this example crashes the Common Language Runtime.

12.2. The Translator API

So how do we get our object into the database, now that everything seems to fail? Db4o provides a way to specify a custom way of storing and retrieving objects through the `ObjectTranslator` and `ObjectConstructor` interfaces.

12.2.1. ObjectTranslator

The `ObjectTranslator` API looks like this:

```
public Object onStore(ObjectContainer container,
                    Object applicationObject);
public void onActivate(ObjectContainer container,
                    Object applicationObject,
                    Object storedObject);
public Class storedClass ();
```

The usage is quite simple: When a translator is configured for a class, db4o will call its `onStore` method with a reference to the database and the instance to be stored as a parameter and will store the object returned. This object's type has to be primitive from a db4o point of view and it has to match the type specification returned by `storedClass()`.

On retrieval, db4o will create a blank object of the target class (using the configured instantiation method) and then pass it on to `onActivate()` along with the stored object to be set up accordingly.

12.2.2. ObjectConstructor

However, this will only work if the application object's class provides some way to recreate its state from the information contained in the stored object, which is not the case for `CultureInfo`.

For these cases `db4o` provides an extension to the `ObjectTranslator` interface, `ObjectConstructor`, which declares one additional method:

```
public Object onInstantiate(ObjectContainer container,
                           Object storedObject);
```

If `db4o` detects a configured translator to be an `ObjectConstructor` implementation, it will pass the stored class instance to the `onInstantiate()` method and use the result as a blank application object to be processed by `onActivate()`.

Note that, while in general configured translators are applied to subclasses, too, `ObjectConstructor` application object instantiation will not be used for subclasses (which wouldn't make much sense, anyway), so `ObjectConstructors` have to be configured for the concrete classes.

12.3. A translator implementation

To translate `CultureInfo` instances, we will store only their name since this is enough to recreate them later. Note that we don't have to do any work in `onActivate()`, since object reinstatement is already fully completed in `onInstantiate()`.

```
Imports System.Globalization
Imports com.db4o
Imports com.db4o.config
Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter6
    Public Class CultureInfoTranslator
        Implements ObjectConstructor
        Public Function OnStore(ByVal container As ObjectContainer,
                               ByVal applicationObject As Object) As Object Implements
ObjectConstructor.OnStore
            System.Console.WriteLine("onStore for {0}",
```

```

applicationObject)
    Return (DirectCast(applicationObject, CultureInfo)).Name
End Function

Public Function OnInstantiate(ByVal container As
ObjectContainer, ByVal storedObject As Object) As Object Implements
ObjectConstructor.OnInstantiate
    System.Console.WriteLine("onInstantiate for {0}",
storedObject)
    Dim name As String = DirectCast(storedObject, String)
    Return CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture(name)
End Function

Public Sub OnActivate(ByVal container As ObjectContainer,
ByVal applicationObject As Object, ByVal storedObject As Object)
Implements ObjectConstructor.OnActivate
    System.Console.WriteLine("onActivate for {0}/{1}",
applicationObject, storedObject)
End Sub

Public Function StoredClass() As j4o.lang.Class Implements
ObjectConstructor.StoredClass
    Return j4o.lang.[Class].GetClassForType(GetType(String))
End Function

End Class
End Namespace

```

Let's try it out:

```

[storeWithTranslator]

Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(CultureInfo)).Translate(New
CultureInfoTranslator())
TryStoreAndRetrieve()
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(CultureInfo)).Translate(N
othing)

```

OUTPUT:

```
ORIGINAL: 42/Test: 4
onStore for 42/Test: 4
onStore for 42/Test: 4
onInstantiate for [Ljava.lang.Object;@65f0e7
onActivate for 42/Test: 4 / [Ljava.lang.Object;@1db4cbe
RETRIEVED: 42/Test: 4
```

12.4. Conclusion

For classes that cannot cleanly be stored and retrieved with db4o's standard object instantiation mechanisms, db4o provides an API to specify custom reinstantiation strategies. These also come in two flavors: `ObjectTranslators` let you reconfigure the state of a 'blank' application object reinstantiated by db4o, `ObjectConstructors` also take care of instantiating the application object itself.

12.5. Full source

```
Imports System
Imports System.Globalization
Imports com.db4o

Namespace com.db4o.f1.chapter6
    Public Class TranslatorExample
        Inherits Util

        Public Shared Sub Main(ByVal args As String())
            TryStoreWithCallConstructors()
            TryStoreWithoutCallConstructors()
            StoreWithTranslator()
        End Sub

        Public Shared Sub TryStoreWithCallConstructors()
            Db4oFactory.Configure().ExceptionsOnNotStorable(True)
            Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(CultureInfo)).CallConstructor(True)

            TryStoreAndRetrieve()
```

```

    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub TryStoreWithoutCallConstructors()
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(CultureInfo)).CallConstructo
r(False)
        ' trying to store objects that hold onto
        ' system resources can be pretty nasty
        ' uncomment the following line to see
        ' how nasty it can be
        'TryStoreAndRetrieve();
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub StoreWithTranslator()
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(CultureInfo)).Translate(N
ew CultureInfoTranslator())
        TryStoreAndRetrieve()
Db4oFactory.Configure().ObjectClass(GetType(CultureInfo)).Translate(N
othing)
    End Sub

    Public Shared Sub TryStoreAndRetrieve()
        Dim db As ObjectContainer =
Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
        Try
            Dim champs As String() = New String() {"Ayrton
Senna", "Nelson Piquet"}
            Dim LocalizedItemList As LocalizedItemList = New
LocalizedItemList(CultureInfo.CreateSpecificCulture("pt-BR"), champs)
            System.Console.WriteLine("ORIGINAL: {0}",
LocalizedItemList)
            db.[Set](LocalizedItemList)
        Catch x As Exception
            System.Console.WriteLine(x)
        Return
    Finally
        db.Close()
    End Try
    db = Db4oFactory.OpenFile(Util.YapFileName)
    Try
        Dim result As ObjectSet =
db.[Get](GetType(LocalizedItemList))

```

```
        While result.HasNext()  
            Dim LocalizedItemList As LocalizedItemList =  
DirectCast(result.[Next](), LocalizedItemList)  
            System.Console.WriteLine("RETRIEVED: {0}",  
LocalizedItemList)  
            db.Delete(LocalizedItemList)  
        End While  
    Finally  
        db.Close()  
    End Try  
End Sub  
  
End Class  
End Namespace
```

13. Configuration

db4o provides a wide range of configuration methods to request special behaviour. For a complete list of all available methods see the API documentation for the `com.db4o.config package/namespace`.

Some hints around using configuration calls:

13.1. Scope

Configuration calls can be issued to a global VM-wide configuration context with

```
Db4o.configure()
```

and to an open `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer` with

```
objectContainer.ext().configure()  
objectServer.ext().configure()
```

When an `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer` is opened, the global configuration context is cloned and copied into the newly opened `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer`. Subsequent calls against the global context with `Db4o.configure()` have no effect on open `ObjectContainers/ObjectServers`.

13.2. Calling Methods

Many configuration methods have to be called before an `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer` is opened and will be ignored if they are called against open `ObjectContainers/ObjectServers`. Some examples:

```
Configuration conf = Db4o.configure();  
conf.objectClass(Foo.class).objectField("bar").indexed(true);  
conf.objectClass(Foo.class).cascadeOnUpdate();  
conf.objectClass(Foo.class).cascadeOnDelete();  
conf.objectClass(typeof(System.Drawing.Image))  
    .translate(new TSerializable());  
conf.generateUUIDs(Integer.MAX_VALUE);  
conf.generateVersionNumbers(Integer.MAX_VALUE);
```

```
conf.automaticShutdown(false);
conf.lockDatabaseFile(false);
conf.singleThreadedClient(true);
conf.weakReferences(false);
```

Configurations that influence the database file format will have to take place, before a database is created, before the first #openXXX() call. Some examples:

```
Configuration conf = Db4o.configure();
conf.blockSize(8);
conf.encrypt(true);
conf.password("yourEncryptionPasswordHere");
conf.unicode(false);
```

Configuration settings are **not** stored in db4o database files. Accordingly all configuration methods have to be called **every time** before an ObjectContainer/ObjectServer is opened. For using db4o in client/server mode it is recommended to use the same global configuration on the server and on the client. To set this up nicely it makes sense to create one application class with one method that does all the db4o configuration and to deploy this class both to the server and to all clients.

Further reading

Some configuration switches are discussed in more detail in the following chapters:

- [Tuning](#)
- [Indexes](#)
- [Encryption](#)

14. Indexes

db4o allows to index fields to provide maximum querying performance. To request an index to be created, you would issue the following API method call in your global [db4o configuration method](#) before you open an `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer`:

```
// assuming
class Foo{
    String bar;
}

Db4o.configure().objectClass(Foo.class).objectField("bar").indexed(true);
```

If the configuration is set in this way, an index on the `Foo#bar` field will be created (if not present already) the next time you open an `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer` and you use the `Foo` class the first time in your application.

Contrary to all other [configuration calls](#) indexes - once created - will remain in a database even if the index configuration call is not issued before opening an `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer`.

To drop an index you would also issue a configuration call in your `db4o` configuration method:

```
Db4o.configure().objectClass(Foo.class).objectField("bar").indexed(false);
```

Actually dropping the index will take place the next time the respective class is used.

db4o will tell you when it creates and drops indexes, if you choose a message level of 1 or higher:

```
Db4o.configure().messageLevel(1);
```

For creating and dropping indexes on large amounts of objects there are two possible strategies:

(1) Import all objects with indexing off, configure the index and reopen the ObjectContainer/ObjectServer.

(2) Import all objects with indexing turned on and commit regularly for a fixed amount of objects (~10,000).

(1) will be faster.

(2) will keep memory consumption lower.

Further reading

To improve performance even further, consider reading about some of the [Tuning](#) options discussed elsewhere in this tutorial.

15. IDs

The db4o team recommends, not to use object IDs where this is not necessary. db4o keeps track of object identities in a transparent way, by identifying "known" objects on updates. The reference system also makes sure that every persistent object is instantiated only once, when a graph of objects is retrieved from the database, no matter which access path is chosen. If an object is accessed by multiple queries or by multiple navigation access paths, db4o will always return the one single object, helping you to put your object graph together exactly the same way as it was when it was stored, without having to use IDs.

The use of IDs does make sense when object and database are disconnected, for instance in stateless applications.

db4o provides two types of ID systems.

15.1. Internal IDs

The internal db4o ID is a physical pointer into the database with only one indirection in the file to the actual object so it is the fastest external access to an object db4o provides. The internal ID of an object is available with

```
objectContainer.ext().getID(object);
```

To get an object for an internal ID use

```
objectContainer.ext().getByID(id);
```

Note that `#getByID()` does not activate objects. If you want to work with objects that you get with `#getByID()`, your code would have to make sure the object is **activated** by calling

```
objectContainer.activate(object, depth);
```

db4o assigns internal IDs to any stored first class object. These internal IDs are guaranteed to be unique within one `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer` and they will stay the same for every object when an `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer` is closed and reopened.

Internal IDs **will change** when an object is moved from one `ObjectContainer` to another, as it happens during [Defragment](#) .

15.2. Unique Universal IDs (UUIDs)

For long term external references and to identify an object even after it has been copied or moved to another `ObjectContainer`, `db4o` supplies UUIDs. These UUIDs are not generated by default, since they occupy some space and consume some performance for maintaining their index. UUIDs can be turned on globally or for individual classes:

```
Db4o.configure().generateUUIDs(Integer.MAX_VALUE);  
Db4o.configure().objectClass(typeof(Foo)).generateUUIDs(true);
```

The respective methods for working with UUIDs are:

```
ExtObjectContainer#getObjectInfo(Object)  
ObjectInfo#getUUID();  
ExtObjectContainer#getByUUID(Db4oUUID);
```

16. Callbacks

Callback methods are automatically called on persistent objects by db4o during certain database events.

For a complete list of the signatures of all available methods see the `com.db4o.ext.ObjectCallbacks` interface.

You do not have to implement this interface. db4o recognizes the presence of individual methods by their signature, using reflection. You can simply add one or more of the methods to your persistent classes and they will be called.

Returning false to the `#objectCanXxxx()` methods will prevent the current action from being taken.

In a client/server environment callback methods will be called on the client with two exceptions:

`objectOnDelete()`, `objectCanDelete()`

Some possible usecases for callback methods:

- setting default values after refactorings
- checking object integrity before storing objects
- setting transient fields
- restoring connected state (of GUI, files, connections)
- cascading activation
- cascading updates
- creating special indexes

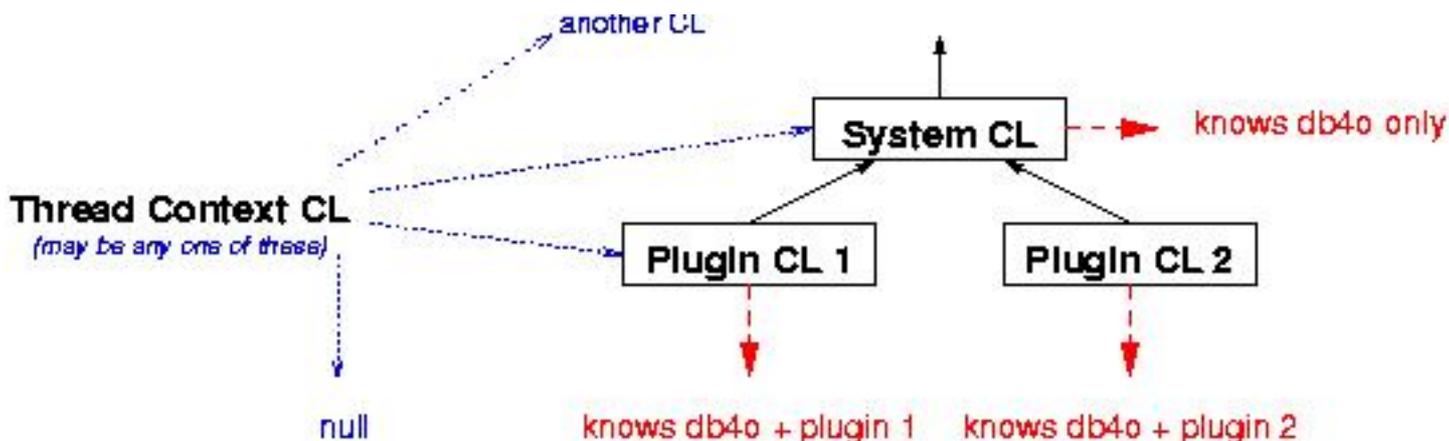
17. Classloader issues

Db4o needs to know its own classes, of course, and it needs to know the class definitions of the objects it stores. (In Client/Server mode, both the server and the clients need access to the class definitions.) While this usually is a non-issue with self-contained standalone applications, it can become tricky to ensure this condition when working with plugin frameworks, where one might want to deploy db4o as a shared library for multiple plugins, for example.

17.1. Classloader basics

Classloaders are organized in a tree structure, where classloaders deeper down the tree (usually) delegate requests to their parent classloaders and thereby 'share' their parent's knowledge.

A typical situation might look like this:



An in-depth explanation of the workings of classloaders is beyond the scope of this tutorial, of course. Starting points might be found here:

<http://www.javaworld.com/javaworld/javaqa/2003-06/01-qa-0606-load.html>

<http://java.sun.com/developer/technicalArticles/Networking/classloaders/>

<http://java.sun.com/products/jndi/tutorial/beyond/misc/classloader.html>

17.2. Configuration

Db4o can be configured to use a user-defined classloader.

```
Db4o.configure().reflectWith(new JdkReflector(classloader));
```

This line will configure db4o to use the provided classloader. Note that, as with most db4o configuration options, this configuration will have to occur before the respective database has been opened.

The usual ways of getting a classloader reference are:

- Using the classloader the class containing the currently executed code was loaded from. (*this.getClass().getClassLoader()*)
- Using the classloader db4o was loaded from. (*Db4o.class.getClassLoader()*)
- Using the classloader your domain classes were loaded from. (*SomeDomainClass.class.getClassLoader()*)
- Using the context classloader that may have been arbitrarily set by the execution environment. (*Thread.currentThread().getContextClassLoader()*).

To choose the right classloader to use, you have to be aware of the classloader hierarchy of your specific execution environment. As a rule of thumb, one should configure db4o to use a classloader as deep/specialized in the tree as possible. In the above example this would be the classloader of the plugin db4o is supposed to work with.

17.3. Typical Environments

In your average standalone program you'll probably never have to face these problems, but there are standard framework classics that'll force you to think about these issues.

17.3.1. Servlet container

In a typical servlet container, there will be one or more classloader responsible for internal container classes and shared libraries, and one dedicated classloader per deployed web application. If you deploy db4o within your web application, there should be no problem at all. When used as a shared library db4o has to be configured to use the dedicated web application classloader. This can be done by assigning the

classloader of a class that's present in the web application only, or by using the context classloader, since all servlet container implementations we are aware of will set it accordingly.

You will find more detailed information on classloader handling in Tomcat, the reference servlet container implementation, here:

<http://jakarta.apache.org/tomcat/tomcat-4.1-doc/class-loader-howto.html>

17.3.2. Eclipse

Eclipse uses the system classloader to retrieve its core classes. There is one dedicated classloader per plugin, and the classloader delegation tree will resemble the plugin dependency tree. The context classloader will usually be the system classloader that knows nothing about db4o and your business classes. So the best candidate is the classloader for one of your domain classes within the plugin.

17.4. Running without classes

Recently db4o has started to learn to cope with missing class definitions. This is a by-product of the work on our [object manager application](#). However, this feature is still quite restricted (read-only mode, etc.), incomplete and is under heavy development. If you like to play with this feature and help us with your feedback to enhance it, you are welcome, but we strongly recommend not to try to use this for production code of any kind.

18. Servlets

Running db4o as the persistence layer of a Java web application is easy. There is no installation procedure - db4o is just another library in your application. There are only two issues that make web applications distinct from standalone programs from a db4o point of view. One is the more complex classloader environment - db4o needs to know itself (of course) and the classes to be persisted. Please refer to the [classloader chapter](#) for more information.

The other issue is configuring, starting and shutting down the db4o server correctly. This can be done at the servlet API layer or within the web application framework you are using.

On the servlet API layer, you could bind db4o server handling to the servlet context via an appropriate listener. A very basic sketch might look like this:

```
public class Db4oServletContextListener
    implements ServletContextListener {
    public static final String KEY_DB4O_FILE_NAME = "db4oFileName";
    public static final String KEY_DB4O_SERVER = "db4oServer";
    private ObjectServer server=null;

    public void contextInitialized(ServletContextEvent event) {
        close();
        ServletContext context=event.getServletContext();
        String filePath=context.getRealPath(
            "WEB-INF/db/"+context.getInitParameter(KEY_DB4O_FILE_NAME));
        server=Db4o.openServer(filePath,0);
        context.setAttribute(KEY_DB4O_SERVER,server);
        context.log("db4o startup on "+filePath);
    }

    public void contextDestroyed(ServletContextEvent event) {
        ServletContext context = event.getServletContext();
```

```

    context.removeAttribute(KEY_DB4O_SERVER);
    close();
    context.log("db4o shutdown");
}

private void close() {
    if(server!=null) {
        server.close();
    }
    server=null;
}
}

```

This listener just has to be registered in the web.xml.

```

<context-param>
  <param-name>db4oFileName</param-name>
  <param-value>db4oweb.yap</param-value>
</context-param>
<listener>
  <listener-class>
    com.db4o.sample.web.Db4oServletContextListener
  </listener-class>
</listener>

```

Now db4o should be available to your application classes.

```
ObjectServer server=
```

```
(ObjectServer)context.getAttribute("db4oServer");
```

A more complex and 'old school' example without using context listeners comes with the samples section of the db4o3 distribution that's still available from our web site.

However, We strongly suggest that you use the features provided by your framework and that you consider not exposing db4o directly to your application logic. (There is nothing db4o-specific about these recommendations, we would vote for this in the presence of any persistence layer.)

19. Encryption

db4o provides built-in encryption functionality. This feature is easy to turn on or off, and must be configured before opening a database file.

db4o currently provides two different encryption algorithms, in addition to providing the ability for you to plug in your own encrypting IO Adapters.

19.1. eXtended Tiny Encryption Algorithm

The first included encryption algorithm is XTEA (eXtended Tiny Encryption Algorithm). We have chosen XTEA because this block cipher operates on a 64-bit block size with a 128-bit key. This is an extremely tiny but very fast (with cycles less than 32 rounds) encryption algorithm. It is supposed to be as secure as DES or IDEA. Since cryptography is beyond the scope of this tutorial you can find further information about XTEA here:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XTEA>

In order to encipher your data just perform the following steps:

- 1) Ensure you have downloaded at least db4o Version 5.1. This is the first version which includes the XTeaEncryptionFileAdapter (the encryption IoAdapter plug-in for db4o file IO that realizes XTEA).
- 2) Configure db4o to add this encryption mechanism:

```
Db4o.configure ().io(new XTeaEncryptionFileAdapter(password));
```

This is the simplest way to add the encryption adapter. But the XTeaEncryptionFileAdapter can also wrap other custom IoAdapters to use:

```
Db4o.configure ().io(new XTeaEncryptionFileAdapter(new  
myIoAdapter(), "password"));
```

- 3) Choose your own password and number of cycles. The security of XTEA can be enhanced by increasing the number of iterations. There are four possible values:

- 8 rounds guarantee highest speed of db4o and lowest security (iterations = XTEA.ITERATIONS8).
- 16 rounds assure high speed of db4o and sufficient security in the same time (iterations = XTEA.ITERATIONS16).
- 32 rounds are ample for most applications, this is the default value (iterations = XTEA.ITERATIONS32).
- 64 rounds achieve the best security but db4o will be about 20 per cent slower than without encryption (iterations = XTEA.ITERATIONS64).

```
Db4o.configure ().io(new XTeaEncryptionFileAdapter( password,
iterations) );
```

Or, if you wish to use your own IoAdapter:

```
Db4o.configure ().io(new XTeaEncryptionFileAdapter(new myIoAdapter(),
password, iterations) );
```

Keep in mind that all configurations must be set before opening the ObjectContainer.

Note that there are some limitations you should keep in mind:

There is no possibility of changing the password on an existing file. You will not be able to access your data if you lose the password. Thus please keep your key! And make sure that you always use the same password when subsequently opening your encrypted files. You can, however open a new file with a different password and [replicate](#) (or [defragment](#)) your objects from one database to the other.

Feel free to use XTeaEncryptionFileAdapter for your own purposes. You may modify the class XTEA (which implement the XTEA encryption algorithm) and KeyGenerator (for key generation), and replace them with other algorithms if you like. Feel free to post your own IoAdapters to the [db4o Community Forum](#).

19.2. Built-In Simple Encryption

The other encryption methods built-into db4o, is called simple encryption. To use it, the following two methods have to be called, before a database file is created:

```
Db4o.configure().encrypt(true);  
Db4o.configure().password("yourEncryptionPasswordHere");
```

The security standard of the built-in encryption functionality is not very high, not much more advanced than "subtract 5 from every byte". This is great for systems with limited resources, or where the encryption needs to be done as quickly as possible.

19.3. Custom Encryption Adapters

db4o still provides a solution for high-security encryption by allowing any user to choose his own encryption mechanism that he thinks he needs. The db4o file IO mechanism is pluggable and any fixed-length encryption mechanism can be added. All that needs to be done is to write an IoAdapter plugin for db4o file IO.

This is a lot easier than it sounds. Simply:

- take the sources of `com.db4o.io.RandomAccessFileAdapter` as an example
- write your own IoAdapter implementation that delegates raw file access to another adapter using the GoF decorator pattern.
- Implement the `#read()` and `#write()` methods to encrypt and decrypt when bytes are being exchanged with the file
- plug your adapter into db4o with the following method:

```
Db4o.configure().io(new MyEncryptionAdapter());
```

However, you'll have to keep in mind that db4o will write partial updates. For example, it may write a full object and then only modify one field entry later on. Therefore it is not sufficient to en-/decrypt each access in isolation. You'll rather have to make up a tiling structure that defines the data chunks that have to be en-/decrypted together.

Another method to inject encryption capabilities into db4o for instances of specific classes only is to implement and configure an en-/decrypting translator.

20. Refactoring and "Schema Evolution"

20.1. Introduction

By Refactoring, we mean anything that will change the shape of the class as it is stored on the disk. In the context of other databases (where the database structure is said to be a "Schema"), refactoring is also called Schema Evolution.

20.2. What db4objects does today automatically or easily

Db4o automatically handles the most common refactoring or schema evolution changes for you.

- Changing the interface or API to a class
- Adding a field
- Removing a field

In addition, Db4o can rename classes and fields simply:

```
- Db4o.configure().objectClass("package.class").rename("newPackage.newClass");
```

```
-
```

```
Db4o.configure().objectClass("package.class").objectField("oldField").rename("newField")
);
```

If you modify a field's type, db4o will internally create a new field of the same name, but with the new type. The values of the old typed field will still be present, but be hidden. If you change the type back to the old type the old values will still be there.

20.3. What is not yet automated

If you want to move a class to a new place in the inheritance hierarchy, you will need to follow the following procedure:

- Create the new class in the proper location using a temporary name
- Write manual code to create objects of the new class from the old ones
- Delete the old objects
- Run Defragment
- Rename the temporary class name back to the correct name

21. Tuning

The following is an overview over possible tuning switches that can be set when working with db4o. Users that do not care about performance may like to read this chapter also because it provides a side glance at db4o features with *Alternate Strategies* and some insight on how db4o works.

21.1. Enable Field Indexes

The fastest way to improve the performance of your queries is to enable indexing on some of your class's key fields. Indexing is discussed [elsewhere](#) in this tutorial.

21.2. Discarding Free Space

```
Db4o.configure().discardFreeSpace(byteCount);
```

Recommended settings for `byteCount`:

- `Integer.MAX_VALUE` will turn freespace management off
- Moderate range: 10 to 50
- Default built-in setting: 0

Advantage

will reduce the RAM memory overhead and the speed loss from maintaining the freespace lists.

Effect

When objects are updated or deleted, the space previously occupied in the database file is marked as "free", so it can be reused. db4o maintains two lists in RAM, sorted by address and by size. Adjacent entries are merged. After a large number of updates or deletes have been executed, the lists can become large, causing RAM consumption and performance loss for maintenance. With this method you can specify an upper bound for the byte slot size to discard.

Alternate Strategies

Regular defragment will also keep the number of free space slots small. See:

```
com.db4o.tools.Defragment
```

(supplied as source code insrc/com/db4o/tools)

If defragment can be frequently run, it will also reclaim lost space and decrease the database file to the minimum size. Therefore `#discardFreeSpace()` may be a good tuning mechanism for setups with frequent defragment runs.

21.3. Calling constructors

```
Db4o.configure().callConstructors(true);
```

Advantage

will configure db4o to use constructors to instantiate objects.

Effect

On VMs where this is supported (Sun Java VM > 1.4, .NET, Mono) db4o tries to create instances of objects without calling a constructor. On Java VMs db4o is using reflection for this feature so this may be considerably slower than using a constructor. For the best performance on Java it is recommended to add a public zero-parameter constructor to every persistent class and to turn constructors on. Benchmarks on .NET have shown that the default setting (`#callConstructors(false)`) is faster.

Alternate Strategies

Constructors can also be turned on for individual classes only with

```
Db4o.configure().objectClass(Foo.class).callConstructor(true);
```

There are some classes (e.g. `java.util.Calendar`) that require a constructor to be called to work. Further details can be found in the [chapter on Constructors](#).

21.4. Turning Off Weak References

```
Db4o.configure().weakReferences(false);
```

Advantage

will configure db4o to use hard direct references instead of weak references to control

instantiated and stored objects.

Effect

A db4o database keeps a reference to all persistent objects that are currently held in RAM, whether they were stored to the database in this session or instantiated from the database in this session. This is how db4o can "know" that an object is to be updated: Any "known" object must be an update, any "unknown" object will be stored as "new". (Note that the reference system will only be in place as long as an ObjectContainer is open. Closing and reopening an ObjectContainer will clean the references system of the ObjectContainer and all objects in RAM will be treated as "new" afterwards.) In the default configuration db4o uses weak references and a dedicated thread to clean them up after objects have been garbage collected by the VM. Weak references need extra resources and the cleanup thread will have a considerable impact on performance since it has to be synchronized with the normal operations within the ObjectContainer. Turning off weak references will improve speed. The downside: To prevent memory consumption from growing consistently, the application has to take care of removing unused objects from the db4o reference system by itself. This can be done by calling

```
ExtObjectContainer.purge(object);
```

Alternate Strategies

```
ExtObjectContainer.purge(object);
```

can also be called in normal weak reference operation mode to remove an object from the reference cache. This will help to keep the reference tree as small as possible. After calling `#purge(object)` an object will be unknown to the ObjectContainer so this feature is also suitable for batch inserts.

21.5. Defragment

```
new Defragment().run("db.yap", delete);
```

Advantage

It is recommended to run Defragment frequently to reduce the database file size and to remove unused fields and freespace slots.

Effect

db4o does not discard fields from the database file that are no longer being used. Within the database file quite a lot of space is used for transactional processing. Objects are always written to a new slot when they are modified. Deleted objects continue to occupy 8 bytes until the next Defragment run. Defragment cleans all this up by writing all objects to a completely new database file. The resulting file will be smaller and faster.

Alternate Strategies

Instead of deleting objects it can be an option to mark objects as deleted with a "deleted" boolean field and to clean them out (by not copying them to the new database file) during the Defragment run. Two advantages: (1) Deleted objects can be restored. (2) In case there are multiple references to a deleted object, none of them would point to null. To clean out objects during the Defragment run, the Defragment source code would have to be modified. `com.db4o.tools.Defragment` is **only supplied as source code** to encourage embedding maintenance tasks.

21.6. No Shutdown Thread

```
Db4o.configure().automaticShutdown(false);
```

Advantage

can prevent the creation of a shutdown thread on some platforms.

Effect

On some platforms db4o uses a ShutdownHook to cleanly close all database files upon system termination. If a system is terminated without calling `ObjectContainer#close()` for all open `ObjectContainers`, these `ObjectContainers` will still be usable but they will not be able to write back their freespace management system back to the database file. Accordingly database files will be observed to grow.

Alternate Strategies

Database files can be reduced to their minimal size with

```
com.db4o.tools.Defragment
```

(supplied as source code in /src/com/db4o/tools)

21.7. No callbacks

```
Db4o.configure().callbacks(false);
```

Advantage

will prevent db4o from looking for callback methods in all persistent classes on system startup.

Effect

Upon system startup, db4o will scan all persistent classes for methods with the same signature as the methods defined in `com.db4o.ext.ObjectCallbacks`, even if the interface is not implemented. db4o uses reflection to do so and on constrained environments this can consume quite a bit of time. If callback methods are not used by the application, callbacks can be turned off safely.

Alternate Strategies

Class configuration features are a good alternative to callbacks. The most recommended mechanism to cascade updates is:

```
Db4o.configure().objectClass("yourPackage.yourClass").cascadeOnUpdate  
(true);
```

21.8. No schema changes

```
Db4o.configure().detectSchemaChanges(false);
```

Advantage

will prevent db4o from analysing the class structure upon opening a database file.

Effect

Upon system startup, db4o will use reflection to scan the structure of all persistent classes. This process can take some time, if a large number of classes are present in

the database file. For the best possible startup performance on "warm" database files (all classes already analyzed in a previous startup), this feature can be turned off.

Alternate Strategies

Instead of using one database file to store a huge and complex class structure, a system may be more flexible and faster, if multiple database files are used. In a client/server setup, database files can also be switched from the client side with

```
((ExtClient)objectContainer).switchToFile(databaseFile);
```

21.9. No lock file thread

```
Db4o.configure().lockDatabaseFile(false);
```

Advantage

will prevent the creation of a lock file thread on Java platforms without NIO (< JDK 1.4.1).

Effect

If file locking is not available on the system, db4o will regularly write a timestamp lock information to the database file, to prevent other VM sessions from accessing the database file at the same time. Uncontrolled concurrent access would inevitably lead to corruption of the database file. If the application ensures that it can not be started multiple times against the database file, db4o file locking may not be necessary.

Alternate Strategies

Database files can safely be opened from multiple sessions in readonly mode. Use:

```
Db4o.configure().readOnly(true)
```

21.10. No test instances

```
Db4o.configure().testConstructors(false);
```

Advantage

will prevent db4o from creating a test instance of persistent classes upon opening a database file.

Effect

Upon system startup, db4o attempts to create a test instance of all persistent classes, to ensure that a public zero-parameter constructor is present. This process can take some time, if a large number of classes are present in the database file. For the best possible startup performance this feature can be turned off.

Alternate Strategies

In any case it's always good practice to create a zero-parameter constructor. If this is not possible because a class from a third party is used, it may be a good idea to write a translator that translates the third party class to one's own class. The download comes with the source code of the preconfigured translators in `src/com/db4o/samples/translators`.

The default configuration can be found in the above folder in the file `Default.java/Default.cs`

Take a look at the way the built-in translators work to get an idea how to write a translator. It just requires implementing 3 (4 for `ObjectConstructors`) methods and configuring db4o to use a translator on startup with

```
Db4o.configure().objectClass("yourPackage.yourClass").translate()
```

21.11. Increasing the maximum database file size

```
Db4o.configure().blockSize(newBlockSize);  
Defragment.main(new String[] {"mydb.yap"});
```

Advantage

Increasing the block size from the default of 1 to a higher value permits you to store

more data in a db4o database.

Effect

By default db4o databases can have a maximum size of 2GB. By increasing the block size that db4o should internally use, the upper limit for database files sizes can be raised to multiples of 2GB. Any value between 1 byte (2GB) to 127 bytes (254GB) can be chosen as the block size.

Because of possible padding for objects that are not exact multiples in length of the block size, database files will naturally tend to be bigger if a higher value is chosen. Because of less file access cache hits a higher value will also have a negative effect on performance.

A very good choice for this value is 8 bytes, because that corresponds to the slot length of the pointers (address + length) that db4o internally uses.

Alternate Strategies

It can also be very efficient to use multiple ObjectContainers instead of one big one. Objects can be freely moved, copied and [replicated](#) between Objectcontainers.

21.12. FlushFileBuffers(false)

```
Db4o.Configure().FlushFileBuffers(false);
```

Advantage

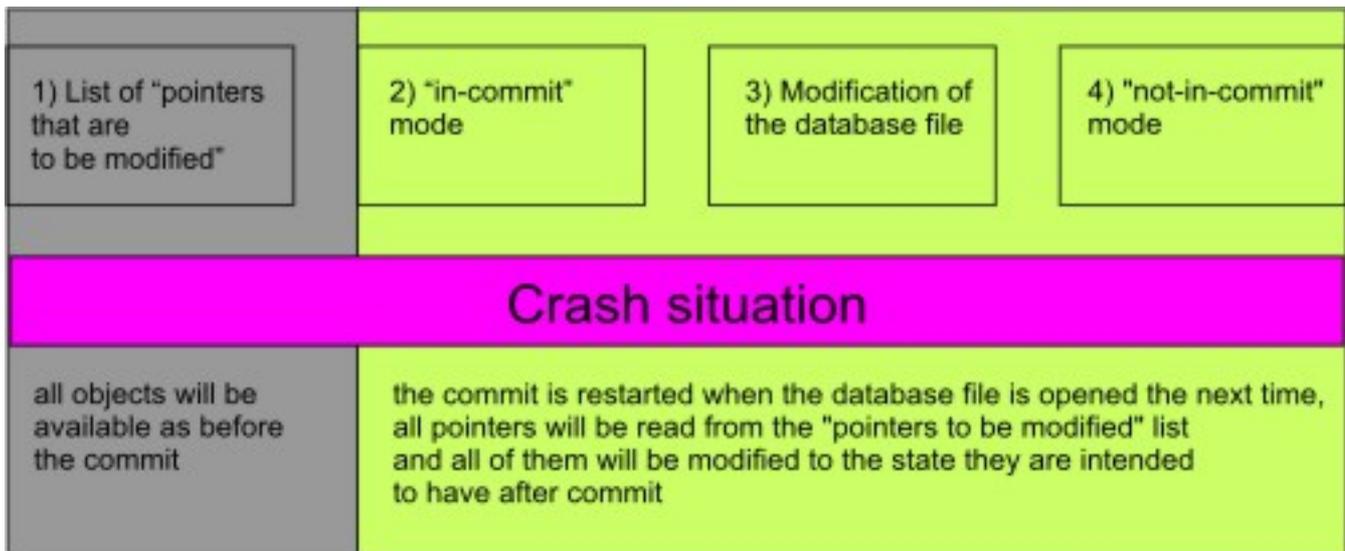
Setting FlushFileBuffers to false can considerably improve the performance saving time on physical disk access.

Effect

FlushFileBuffers setting is provided to ensure correct transaction flow in cases of hardware, power or operating system failures.

ACID transaction is ensured when disc writes are fulfilled in the following order.

- 1) a list of "pointers that are to be modified" is written to the database file;
- 2) the database file is switched into "in-commit" mode;
- 3) the pointers are actually modified in the database file;
- 4) the database file is switched to "not-in-commit" mode.



The `Configuration.FlushFileBuffers(true)` setting ensures that after each stage of commit process all the buffered data is written to the database file. The write process is comparatively slow and can have a strong impact on performance.

Setting `FlushFileBuffers(false)` reduces the time spent on transaction commit. From the other side this setting can be potentially dangerous on systems using in-memory file caching. The buffer cache is usually used to improve writing performance. Instead of carrying out all writes immediately, the kernel stores data temporarily in the buffer cache, waiting to see if it is possible to group several writes together. Cached file changes can also be reversed. For example, if the same place in a file was changed several times it is enough to write only the final change.

In case of transaction commit such cache management means that transaction data may be lost. Lets consider the case when crash occurs on stage 2-4 and list of "pointers to be modified" is still in cache (completely or partly). After the database file is reopened the commit will be restarted using the list of pointers that is supposed to be written to disc. But in fact we do not know, whether the list was written to disc completely or part of it was still in cache and lost during restart, - so the database can be corrupted.

Alternate Strategies

On operating systems that cache file access, this configuration has to be set to true to ensure each step of transaction being written in order.

```
Db4o.Configure().FlushFileBsuffers(true);
```

Otherwise file caching can be switched off in OS settings.

22. Native Query Optimization

Native Queries will run out of the box in any environment. If optimization is turned on, Native Queries will be converted to SODA queries whenever possible, allowing db4o to use indexes and optimized internal comparison algorithms.

If optimization is turned off or not possible for some reason, a Native Query will be executed by instantiating all objects, using [SODA Evaluations](#). Naturally performance will not be as good in this case.

The Native Query optimizer is still under development to eventually "understand" all valid C# constructs. Current optimization supports the following constructs well:

- compile-time constants
- simple member access
- primitive comparisons
- equality operator
- #Contains()/#StartsWith()/#EndsWith() for Strings
- boolean expressions
- arbitrary method calls (including property accessors) on predicate fields (without any arguments)
- candidate methods composed of the above
- chained combinations of the above

This list will constantly grow with the latest versions of db4o.

Note that the current implementation doesn't support polymorphism yet.

22.1. Enabling Native Query optimization on the CompactFramework 2.0

Due to some platform limitations, CompactFramework 2.0 users using the more convenient delegate based Native Query syntax that want their queries to be optimized are required to run the Db4oAdmin.exe command line utility on their assemblies prior to deploying them.

The utility which can be found in the /bin folder of this distribution is required because the CompactFramework API does not expose any of the delegate metadata needed by the Native Query optimizer. The tool works by augmenting the bytecode with the necessary delegate metadata and replacing ObjectContainer#Query<Extent> invocations with invocations to a lower level method that makes use of the additional information.

The tool can be easily integrated inside Visual Studio.NET 2005 as a Post Build tool by following the simple steps below:

- Right click the project you want to enable Native Query optimization for
- Select '**Properties**'
- In the Properties Page select the '**Build Events**' tab
- In the '**Post-build event command line**' text box insert the following text "<path-to-your-db4o-installation>/bin/Db4oAdmin.exe -cf2-delegates \$(TargetPath)" without the quotes and replacing <path-to-your-db4o-installation> to the correct value for your system.

A complete example can be found in the /src/instrumentation/Db4oAdmin.Example directory of this distribution.

22.2. Build Time Optimization for Native Queries

Db4oAdmin.exe can also be used to pre optimize the Native Queries in a given assembly. This makes it possible to deploy an application without Db4oTools.dll (the assembly where the Native Query runtime optimizer lives) while also possibly reducing Native Query execution time by dropping runtime analysis completely.

Execute the Db4oAdmin.exe command line utility without any arguments and check out the help information.

IMPORTANT: the tool is still in constant development and it currently does not support pre optimization of Native Queries expressed as delegates.

22.3. Monitoring optimization

This feature still is quite basic but it will soon be improved. Currently you can only attach event handlers to the ObjectContainer:

```
NativeQueryHandler handler = ((YapStream)db).GetNativeQueryHandler();
NativeQueryHandler handler =
((YapStream)container).GetNativeQueryHandler();
handler.QueryExecution += OnQueryExecution;
handler.QueryOptimizationFailure += OnQueryOptimizationFailure;
```


23. Maintenance

db4o is designed to minimize maintenance tasks to the absolute minimum. The stored class schema adapts to the application automatically as it is being developed. db4o "understands" the addition and removal of fields which allows it to continue to work against modified classes without having to reorganize the database file. Internally db4o works with a superset of all class versions previously used.

However there are two recommended maintenance tasks, that can both be fully automated remotely with API calls:

23.1. Defragment

Defragment creates a new database file and copies all objects from the current database file to the new database file. All indexes are recreated. The resulting database file will be smaller and faster.

`com.db4o.tools.Defragment` is **only supplied as source code** to encourage embedding custom maintenance tasks on objects.

23.2. Backup

db4o supplies hot backup functionality to backup single-user databases and client-server databases while they are running.

The respective API calls for backups are:

```
objectContainer.ext().backup(String path)
```

```
objectServer.ext().backup(String path)
```

The methods can be called while an `ObjectContainer/ObjectServer` is open and they will execute with low priority in a dedicated thread, with as little impact on processing performance as possible.

It is recommended to backup the current development state of an application (ideally source code and bytecode) along with the database files since the old code can make it easier to work with the old data.

24. Replication

db4o provides replication functionality to periodically synchronize databases that work disconnected from each other, such as remote autonomous servers or handheld devices synchronizing with central servers.

In order to use replication, the following configuration settings have to be called before a database file is created or opened:

```
Db4o.configure().generateUUIDs(Integer.MAX_VALUE);
Db4o.configure().generateVersionNumbers(Integer.MAX_VALUE);
```

(See the [section below](#) on how to enable replication for existing databases)

Both settings can also be configured on a per-class basis:

```
Db4o.configure().objectClass(Foo.class).generateUUIDs(true);
Db4o.configure().objectClass(Foo.class).generateVersionNumbers(true);
```

Now suppose we have opened two `ObjectContainers` from two different databases called "handheld" and "desktop", that we want to replicate. This is how we do it:

```
ReplicationProcess replication =
    desktop.ext().replicationBegin(handheld, new
ReplicationConflictHandler() {
    public Object resolveConflict(
        ReplicationProcess replicationProcess,
        Object a,
        Object b) {
        return a;
    }
});
replication.setDirection(desktop, handheld);
```

For conflict resolution the `ObjectContainer` on which `replicationBegin()` was called, is treated as container "A", the other one is container "B". Both `ObjectContainers` are treated equally in all other respects.

db4o replication is bi-directional by default. The `setDirection()` call above is used to ensure that changes will only be replicated from the "desktop" to the "handheld". In that case, replication is said to be "directed".

A conflict occurs when an object to be replicated has been modified in both `ObjectContainers`. db4o cannot arbitrarily pick one side, so the `ReplicationConflictHandler` we passed is called to resolve the conflict. If the `ReplicationConflictHandler` returns null, no changes are replicated. In the case of directed replication, such as our example above, a conflict also occurs when an object has been modified only in the destination container. In our example, the `ReplicationConflictHandler` always determines that the object from container "A" (desktop) will "win" the conflict, thus overriding any changes made in container "B" (handheld).

Do all objects always get replicated? No. How do we decide which objects get replicated? Like this:

```
Query q = desktop.query();
replication.whereModified(q);
ObjectSet replicationSet = q.execute();
while (replicationSet.hasNext()) {
    replication.replicate(replicationSet.next());
}
replication.commit();
```

That's all there is to it.

We are using a query that will return all objects but we could use any query we like to constrain the objects we want.

Calling `whereModified()` will add a constraint to the query so that it only returns the objects that have actually been modified since the last replication between both the containers in question.

After replication commit, all modified objects (INCLUDING THE ONES THAT WERE NOT REPLICATED) are considered to be "in sync" and will not show up in future "where modified" queries, unless they are modified again.

24.1. Under the Hood

Let's take a look at the necessary configuration calls to tell db4o to generate version numbers and UUIDs:

(1) An object's version number indicates the last time an object was modified. It is the database version at the moment of the modification. The database version starts at zero and is incremented every time a transaction is committed.

(2) UUIDs are object IDs that are unique across all databases created with db4o. That is achieved by having the database's creation timestamp as part of its objects' UUIDs. Manually copying db4o database files can produce duplicate UUIDs, of course.

When the replication process is committed, the lowest database version number among both databases is set to be equal to the highest. After replication commit, therefore, both databases have the same version number and are "in sync".

24.2. Replicating Existing Data Files

As we learned in the last sections, `Db4o.configure().generateUUIDs()` and `Db4o.configure().generateVersionNumbers()` (or its objectClass counterparts) must be called before storing any objects to a data file because db4o replication needs object versions and UUIDs to work. This implies that objects in existing data files stored without the correct settings can't be replicated.

Fortunately enabling replication for existing data files is a very simple process: We just need to use the Defragment tool in `com.db4o.tools` (source code only) after enabling replication:

```
Db4o.configure().objectClass(Task.class).enableReplication(true);
new Defragment().run(currentFileName(), true);
```

After a successful defragmentation our data files are ready for replication.

25. Semaphores

db4o Semaphores are named flags that can only be owned by one client/transaction at one time. They are supplied to be used as locks for exclusive access to code blocks in applications and to signal states from one client to the server and to all other clients.

The naming of semaphores is up to the application. Any string can be used.

Semaphores are freed automatically when a client disconnects correctly or when a clients presence is no longer detected by the server, that constantly monitors all client connections.

Semaphores can be set and released with the following two methods:

```
ExtObjectContainer#setSemaphore(String name, int waitMilliseconds);  
ExtObjectContainer#releaseSemaphore(String name);
```

The concept of db4o semaphores is very similar to the concept of synchronization in OO programming languages:

Java

```
synchronized(monitorObject){  
  
    // exclusive code block here  
  
}
```

C#

```
lock(monitorObject){  
  
    // exclusive code block here  
  
}
```

```
}
```

db4o semaphore

```
if(objectContainer.ext().setSemaphore(semaphoreName, 1000){  
  
    // exclusive code block here  
  
    objectContainer.ext().releaseSemaphore(semaphoreName);  
}
```

Although the principle of semaphores is very simple they are powerful enough for a wide range of usecases:

25.1. Locking objects

```
import com.db4o.*;  
import com.db4o.ext.*;  
  
/**  
 * This class demonstrates a very rudimentary implementation  
 * of virtual "locks" on objects with db4o. All code that is  
 * intended to obey these locks will have to call lock() and  
 * unlock().  
 */  
public class LockManager {  
  
    private final String SEMAPHORE_NAME = "locked: ";  
    private final int WAIT_FOR_AVAILABILITY = 300; // 300  
    milliseconds  
  
    private final ExtObjectContainer _objectContainer;  
  
    public LockManager(ObjectContainer objectContainer){  
        _objectContainer = objectContainer.ext();  
    }  
}
```

```

    }

    public boolean lock(Object obj){
        long id = _objectContainer.getID(obj);
        return _objectContainer.setSemaphore(SEMAPHORE_NAME + id,
WAIT_FOR_AVAILABILITY);
    }

    public void unlock(Object obj){
        long id = _objectContainer.getID(obj);
        _objectContainer.releaseSemaphore(SEMAPHORE_NAME + id);
    }
}

```

25.2. Ensuring Singletons

```

import com.db4o.*;
import com.db4o.query.*;

/**
 * This class demonstrates the use of a semaphore to ensure that only
 * one instance of a certain class is stored to an ObjectContainer.
 *
 * Caution !!! The getSingleton method contains a commit() call.
 */
public class Singleton {

    /**
     * returns a singleton object of one class for an
ObjectContainer.
     * <br><b>Caution !!! This method contains a commit() call.</b>
     */
    public static Object getSingleton(ObjectContainer
objectContainer, Class clazz) {

        Object obj = queryForSingletonClass(objectContainer, clazz);
        if (obj != null) {

```

```

        return obj;
    }

    String semaphore = "Singleton#getSingleton_" +
clazz.getName();

    if (!objectContainer.ext().setSemaphore(semaphore, 10000)) {
        throw new RuntimeException("Blocked semaphore " +
semaphore);
    }

    obj = queryForSingletonClass(objectContainer, clazz);

    if (obj == null) {

        try {
            obj = clazz.newInstance();
        } catch (InstantiationException e) {
            e.printStackTrace();
        } catch (IllegalAccessException e) {
            e.printStackTrace();
        }
    }

    objectContainer.set(obj);

    /* !!! CAUTION !!!
    * There is a commit call here.
    *
    * The commit call is necessary, so other transactions
    * can see the new inserted object.
    */
    objectContainer.commit();

}

    objectContainer.ext().releaseSemaphore(semaphore);

    return obj;
}

private static Object queryForSingletonClass(ObjectContainer

```

```

objectContainer, Class clazz) {
    Query q = objectContainer.query();
    q.constrain(clazz);
    ObjectSet objectSet = q.execute();
    if (objectSet.size() == 1) {
        return objectSet.next();
    }
    if (objectSet.size() > 1) {
        throw new RuntimeException(
            "Singleton problem. Multiple instances of: " +
clazz.getName());
    }
    return null;
}
}

```

25.3. Limiting the number of users

```

import java.io.*;
import com.db4o.*;

/**
 * This class demonstrates the use of semaphores to limit the
 * number of logins to a server.
 */
public class LimitLogins {

    static final String HOST = "localhost";
    static final int PORT = 4455;
    static final String USER = "db4o";
    static final String PASSWORD = "db4o";

    static final int MAXIMUM_USERS = 10;

    public static ObjectContainer login(){

        ObjectContainer objectContainer;

```

```

        try {
            objectContainer = Db4o.openClient(HOST, PORT, USER,
PASSWORD);
        } catch (IOException e) {
            return null;
        }

        boolean allowedToLogin = false;

        for (int i = 0; i < MAXIMUM_USERS; i++) {
            if(objectContainer.ext().setSemaphore("max_user_check_" +
i, 0)){
                allowedToLogin = true;
                break;
            }
        }

        if(! allowedToLogin){
            objectContainer.close();
            return null;
        }

        return objectContainer;
    }
}

```

25.4. Controlling log-in information

```

import java.util.*;
import com.db4o.*;
import com.db4o.config.*;
import com.db4o.ext.*;
import com.db4o.query.*;

/**
 * This class demonstrates how semaphores can be used
 * to rule out race conditions when providing exact and

```

```

* up-to-date information about all connected clients
* on a server. The class also can be used to make sure
* that only one login is possible with a give user name
* and ipAddress combination.
*/
public class ConnectedUser {

    static final String SEMAPHORE_CONNECTED = "ConnectedUser_";
    static final String SEMAPHORE_LOCK_ACCESS =
"ConnectedUser_Lock_";

    static final int TIMEOUT = 10000; // concurrent access timeout
10 seconds

    String userName;
    String ipAddress;

    public ConnectedUser(String userName, String ipAddress){
        this.userName = userName;
        this.ipAddress = ipAddress;
    }

    // make sure to call this on the server before opening the
database
    // to improve querying speed
    public static void configure(){
        ObjectClass objectClass =
Db4o.configure().objectClass(ConnectedUser.class);
        objectClass.objectField("userName").indexed(true);
        objectClass.objectField("ipAddress").indexed(true);
    }

    // call this on the client to ensure to have a ConnectedUser
record
    // in the database file and the semaphore set
    public static void login(ObjectContainer client, String userName,
String ipAddress){
        if(! client.ext().setSemaphore(SEMAPHORE_LOCK_ACCESS,
TIMEOUT)){
            throw new RuntimeException("Timeout trying to get access
to ConnectedUser lock");

```

```

    }
    Query q = client.query();
    q.constrain(ConnectedUser.class);
    q.descend("userName").constrain(userName);
    q.descend("ipAddress").constrain(ipAddress);
    if(q.execute().size() == 0){
        client.set(new ConnectedUser(userName, ipAddress));
        client.commit();
    }
    String connectedSemaphoreName = SEMAPHORE_CONNECTED +
userName + ipAddress;
    boolean unique =
client.ext().setSemaphore(connectedSemaphoreName, 0);
    client.ext().releaseSemaphore(SEMAPHORE_LOCK_ACCESS);
    if(! unique){
        throw new RuntimeException("Two clients with same
userName and ipAddress");
    }
}

// here is your list of all connected users, callable on the
server
public static List connectedUsers(ObjectServer server){
    ExtObjectContainer serverObjectContainer =
server.ext().objectContainer().ext();
    if(serverObjectContainer.setSemaphore(SEMAPHORE_LOCK_ACCESS,
TIMEOUT)){
        throw new RuntimeException("Timeout trying to get access
to ConnectedUser lock");
    }
    List list = new ArrayList();
    Query q = serverObjectContainer.query();
    q.constrain(ConnectedUser.class);
    ObjectSet objectSet = q.execute();
    while(objectSet.hasNext()){
        ConnectedUser connectedUser =
(ConnectedUser)objectSet.next();
        String connectedSemaphoreName =
            SEMAPHORE_CONNECTED +
            connectedUser.userName +
            connectedUser.ipAddress;

```

```
if(serverObjectContainer.setSemaphore(connectedSemaphoreName, TIMEOUT
)){
    serverObjectContainer.delete(connectedUser);
}else{
    list.add(connectedUser);
}
}
serverObjectContainer.commit();
serverObjectContainer.releaseSemaphore(SEMAPHORE_LOCK_ACCESS);
return list;
}
}
```

26. Messaging

In client/server mode the TCP connection between the client and the server can also be used to send messages from the client to the server.

Possible usecases could be:

- shutting down and restarting the server
- triggering server backup
- using a customized login strategy to restrict the number of allowed client connections

Here is some example code how this can be done.

First we need to decide on a class that we want to use as the message. Any object that is storable in db4o can be used as a message, but strings and other simple types will not be carried (as they are not storable in db4o on their own). Let's create a dedicated class:

```
class MyClientServerMessage {  
  
    private String info;  
  
    public MyClientServerMessage(String info){  
        this.info = info;  
    }  
  
    public String toString(){  
        return "MyClientServerMessage: " + info;  
    }  
  
}
```

Now we have to add some code to the server to react to arriving messages. This can be done by configuring a `MessageRecipient` object on the server. Let's simply print out all objects that arrive as messages. For the following we assume that we already have an `ObjectServer` object, opened with `Db4o.openServer()` .

```
objectServer.ext().configure().setMessageRecipient(  
  
    new MessageRecipient() {  
  
        public void processMessage(  
            ObjectContainer objectContainer,  
            Object message) {  
  
            // message objects will arrive in this code block  
  
            System.out.println(message);  
  
        }  
  
    });
```

Here is what we would do on the client to send the message:

```
MessageSender sender =  
    clientObjectContainer.ext().configure().getMessageSender();  
  
sender.send(new MyClientServerMessage("Hello from client."));
```

The MessageSender object on the client can be reused to send multiple messages.

27. .NET Specific Notes

27.1. Enums

When dealing with .NET enumerated types we must face the fact that they are nothing more than glorified integer numbers. In other words, everything we know about how db4o handles integer values also applies to .NET enumerated types: it does not make sense to store, delete or retrieve enumerated values directly but to always use them as fields of other types.

A very important implication of this similarity that might not be entirely obvious is in how db4o will handle enumerated values during a Query By Example. Let's consider the following (WRONG) example:

```
enum DoorState {
    Open,
    Closed
}

class Door {
    DoorState _state;
    public Door(DoorState state) {
        _state = state;
    }
}

class Example {
    public static ObjectSet FindOpenDoors(ObjectContainer container) {
        return container.get(new Door(DoorState.Open));
    }
}
```

The problem is in how the method FindOpenDoors tries to use the enumerated value DoorState.Open to retrieve only the specified subset of Door objects when the query in fact will return ALL Door instances regardless of their _state field value.

This might seem intriguing at first but it's just a matter of understanding two things:

1) QBE works by looking at the given prototype and filtering the system by only those fields which are not set to their default/null/zero value according to its underlying type;

2) the DoorState enum declaration in our first example really means:

```
enum DoorState {  
    Open = 0,  
    Closed = 1  
}
```

which implies that DoorState.Open is the default value for the DoorState type thus excluding it from the filter.

There are two main strategies to cope with this situation:

1) to use the SODA API and recode the Example class as:

```
class Example {  
    public static ObjectSet FindOpenDoors(ObjectContainer container) {  
        Query query = container.query();  
        query.constrain(typeof(Door));  
        query.descend("_state").constrain(DoorState.Open);  
        return query.execute();  
    }  
}
```

2) to always reserve the first slot of an enumerate value by either explicitly naming it:

```
enum DoorState {  
    Uninitialized,  
    Open,  
    Closed  
}
```

or explicitly setting the value of every element:

```
enum DoorState {  
    Open = 1,  
    Closed = 2  
}
```

27.2. Delegates and Events

Db4o rules for delegate fields are very straightforward: **delegates are simply not stored.**

Events and delegates are generally used for binding user interface elements and domain models together. The Db4o team felt that not storing delegate fields by default was more appropriate than opening what could potentially be a very nasty can of worms (just think of a text box bound to a `Customer.Changed` event).

After careful thought we can easily add delegate persistence to our domain model by either installing translators for the delegate types of interest or reconnecting the necessary objects upon activation using callbacks.

For details see the specific chapters on [Translators](#) and [Callbacks](#).

28. Data Binding

One common question we get from our users is:

Can I still take advantage of data aware control mechanisms with my objects?

The answer is quite simply yes. .NET data binding also works with plain objects. This is also to say that using db4o is completely orthogonal to the use of data binding.

The usual pattern would be something like the following:

- * the code asks db4o to retrieve the objects that must be presented to the user;
- * the UI controls are bound to the objects (no interaction with db4o here);
- * the user interacts with the objects through the controls (no interaction with db4o here);
- * when the user is done interacting with the objects or by his request, the application will ask db4o to persist his changes;

Let's take a very simple example that illustrates the points above.

Our business class:

```
namespace CSDataBinding
{
    /// <summary>
    /// A simple business class.
    /// </summary>
    public class Customer
    {
        string _name;
        string _phoneNumber;

        public Customer(string name, string phoneNumber)
        {
            _name = name;
            _phoneNumber = phoneNumber;
        }

        public string Name
```

```

        {
            get
            {
                return _name;
            }

            set
            {
                _name = value;
            }
        }

        public string PhoneNumber
        {
            get
            {
                return _phoneNumber;
            }

            set
            {
                _phoneNumber = value;
            }
        }
    }
}

```

The Form class:

```

using System;
using System.Drawing;
using System.Collections;
using System.ComponentModel;
using System.IO;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using com.db4o;

namespace CSDataBinding

```

```

{
    /// <summary>
    /// DataBinding form example
    /// </summary>
    public class MainForm : System.Windows.Forms.Form
    {
        internal System.Windows.Forms.TextBox _txtPhoneNumber;
        internal System.Windows.Forms.ComboBox _cmbCustomers;

        /// <summary>
        /// Required designer variable.
        /// </summary>
        private System.ComponentModel.Container components = null;

        internal System.Windows.Forms.Label _labelPhone;
        internal System.Windows.Forms.Label _labelName;

        private ObjectContainer _container = null;

        private ArrayList _customers = new ArrayList();

        public MainForm()
        {
            //
            // Required for Windows Form Designer support
            //
            InitializeComponent();

            OpenDataFile();
            SetupDataBindings();
        }

        void OpenDataFile()
        {
            string dataFile =
Path.Combine(Application.UserAppDataPath, "data.yap");
            _container = Db4o.openFile(dataFile);
        }

        void SetupDataBindings()
        {

```

```

        ObjectSet os = _container.get(typeof(Customer));
        if (0 == os.size())
        {
            // Generate some initial data
            _customers.Add(new Customer("John Cleese", "55-
98763333"));
            _customers.Add(new Customer("Herman Hesse", "32-
33335555"));
            _customers.Add(new Customer("Douglas Adams", "42-
42424242"));
        }
        else
        {
            while (os.hasNext())
            {
                _customers.Add(os.next());
            }
        }
        _cmbCustomers.DisplayMember = "Name";
        _cmbCustomers.DataSource = _customers;
        _txtPhoneNumber.DataBindings.Add("Text", _customers,
"PhoneNumber");
    }

    void PersistChanges()
    {
        foreach (Customer customer in _customers)
        {
            _container.set(customer);
        }
    }

    protected override void OnClosing(CancelEventArgs e)
    {
        PersistChanges();
        _container.close();
        base.OnClosing (e);
    }

    /// <summary>
    /// Clean up any resources being used.

```

```

    /// </summary>
protected override void Dispose( bool disposing )
{
    if( disposing )
    {
        if (components != null)
        {
            components.Dispose();
        }
    }
    base.Dispose( disposing );
}

#region Windows Form Designer generated code
/// <summary>
/// Required method for Designer support - do not modify
/// the contents of this method with the code editor.
/// </summary>
private void InitializeComponent()
{
    this._labelPhone = new System.Windows.Forms.Label();
    this._txtPhoneNumber = new
System.Windows.Forms.TextBox();
    this._labelName = new System.Windows.Forms.Label();
    this._cmbCustomers = new System.Windows.Forms.ComboBox();
    this.SuspendLayout();
    //
    // _labelPhone
    //
    this._labelPhone.Location = new System.Drawing.Point(8,
48);

    this._labelPhone.Name = "_labelPhone";
    this._labelPhone.Size = new System.Drawing.Size(72, 16);
    this._labelPhone.TabIndex = 9;
    this._labelPhone.Text = "Phone#:";
    //
    // _txtPhoneNumber
    //
    this._txtPhoneNumber.Location = new
System.Drawing.Point(96, 48);
    this._txtPhoneNumber.Name = "_txtPhoneNumber";

```

```

        this._txtPhoneNumber.Size = new System.Drawing.Size(184,
20);

        this._txtPhoneNumber.TabIndex = 8;
        this._txtPhoneNumber.Text = "";
        //
        // _labelName
        //
        this._labelName.Location = new System.Drawing.Point(8,
16);

        this._labelName.Name = "_labelName";
        this._labelName.Size = new System.Drawing.Size(72, 16);
        this._labelName.TabIndex = 7;
        this._labelName.Text = "Customer:";
        //
        // _cmbCustomers
        //
        this._cmbCustomers.Anchor =
((System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles)(((System.Windows.Forms.AnchorSty
les.Top | System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles.Left)
        | System.Windows.Forms.AnchorStyles.Right)));
        this._cmbCustomers.DropDownStyle =
System.Windows.Forms.ComboBoxStyle.DropDownList;
        this._cmbCustomers.Location = new
System.Drawing.Point(96, 16);
        this._cmbCustomers.Name = "_cmbCustomers";
        this._cmbCustomers.Size = new System.Drawing.Size(186,
21);

        this._cmbCustomers.TabIndex = 6;
        //
        // MainForm
        //
        this.AutoScaleBaseSize = new System.Drawing.Size(5, 13);
        this.ClientSize = new System.Drawing.Size(290, 79);
        this.Controls.Add(this._labelPhone);
        this.Controls.Add(this._txtPhoneNumber);
        this.Controls.Add(this._labelName);
        this.Controls.Add(this._cmbCustomers);
        this.FormBorderStyle =
System.Windows.Forms.FormBorderStyle.FixedSingle;
        this.Name = "MainForm";
        this.Text = "Db4o Data Binding";

```

```
        this.ResumeLayout(false);

    }
#endregion

/// <summary>
/// The main entry point for the application.
/// </summary>
[STAThread]
static void Main()
{
    Application.Run(new MainForm());
}
}
```

There are also some good tutorials on the

the use of Forms data binding [1], unfortunately most of them are focused only on binding controls to relational databases.

We - the software development community - still suffer from database atrophy[2] after all.

We - the db4o team along with the object oriented community - are working to change that so we can finally move on to the next level.

[1] <http://samples.gotdotnet.com/quickstart/winforms/doc/winformsdata.aspx>

[2] <http://www.people4objects.org/Klaus/2005/01/database-atrophy.html>

29. Object Manager

The db4o Object Manager is a GUI tool to browse and query the contents of any db4o database file. Object Manager currently provides the following features:

- Open either a local database file or a db4o database server
- Browse objects in a database
- Query for objects using a simple graphical query by example.

29.1. Installation

Object Manager has to be downloaded separately from the main db4o distributions. Please visit the [db4o Download Center](#) and choose the installation appropriate for your system. The following distributions are currently available:

- db4o ObjectManager for Windows IKVM (Java VM included)
- db4o ObjectManager for Windows no Java VM
- db4o ObjectManager for Linux

Once you have downloaded the appropriate Object Manager build, create a folder called Object Manager in any location of your choice and unpack the downloaded zip file there.

29.1.1. Running

29.1.1.1. Windows IKVM

Object Manager for Windows IKVM includes the open-source IKVM Java virtual machine in the download. Simply double-click the objectmanager.bat file to start Object Manager.

29.1.1.2. Windows no Java VM

This build assumes that your computer already has a Sun Java Virtual Machine version 1.3 or later installed and that your operating system path already lists the directory containing your java.exe file. If this is true, you can simply double-click the objectmanager.bat file to start Object Manager. Otherwise, you will need to edit objectmanager.bat and specify the full path and file name for your java.exe file on the first line.

29.1.1.3. Linux

This build assumes that your computer already has a Sun Java Virtual Machine version 1.3 or later installed and that your PATH variable already lists the directory containing the java binary. If this is not the case, you will need to edit the objectmanager.sh file and specify the full path and file name of the Java binary on the "export VMEXE" line". Since the zip archive does not preserve the executable permissions for objectmanager.sh, you will need

to 'chmod +x objectmanager.sh'. Once this is complete, running objectmanager.sh will start Object Manager.

29.1.1.4. Mac OS X

Currently there is no dedicated ObjectManager build for Mac OS X. To prepare the Linux or Windows NoVM build to run on OS X, you'll have to copy the respective native SWT files from an OS X Eclipse install to ObjectManager's lib directory. This list might look like this (but may vary depending on the Eclipse/SWT version):

- java_swt
- libswt-carbon-xxxx.jnilib
- libswt-pi-carbon-xxxx.jnilib
- libswt-webkit-carbon-xxxx.jnilib
- swt-pi.jar
- swt.jar

The startup script has to be modified to include the correct library path and the OS X specific jars on the classpath. If ObjectManager seems to hang on startup, you may also have to provide the VM parameter '-XstartOnFirstThread'.

29.2. Object Manager Tour

Upon opening, the Object Manager will look like the following:

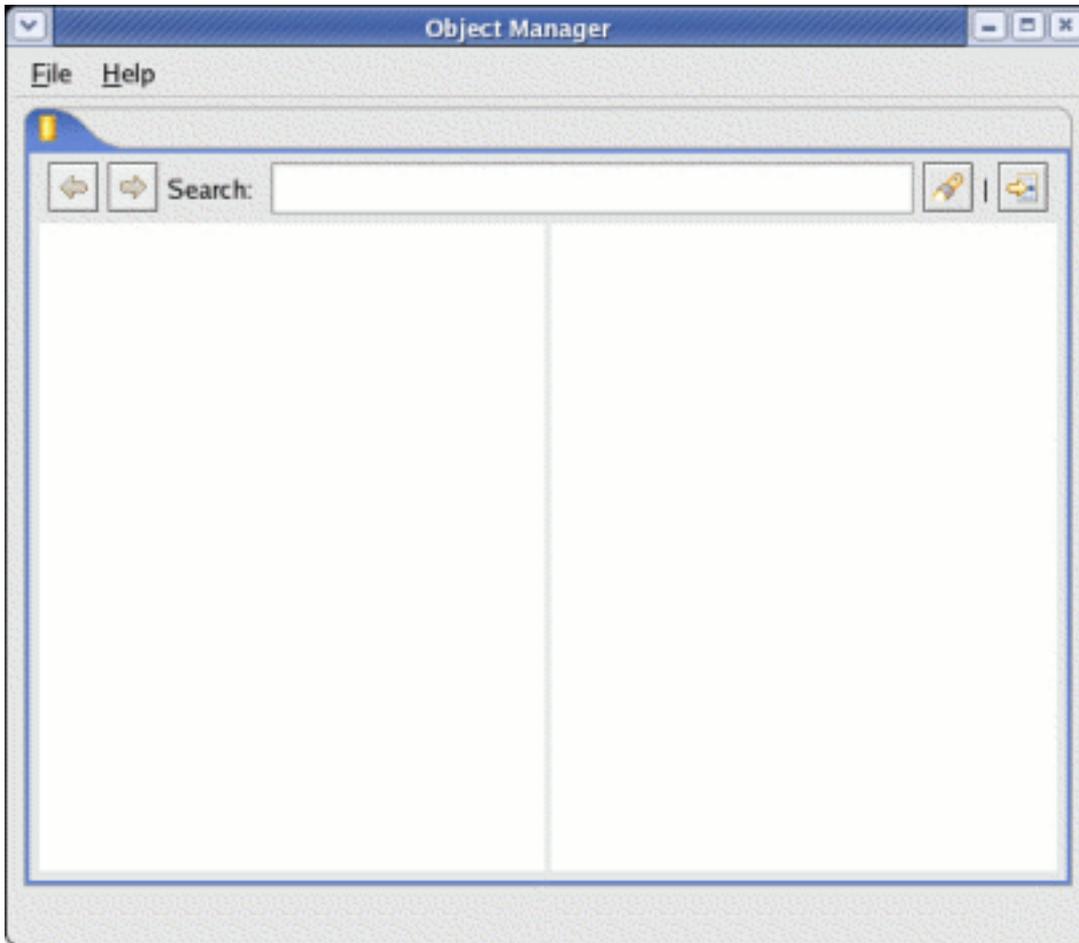
At this point, you can either

- Open a db4o database file
- Open a connection to a db4o database server

In order to open a db4o database file, simply choose "File | Open..." and choose the db4o database file to open.

In order to open a connection to a db4o database server, choose "File | Connect to server...", then enter a host name, port number, username, and password into the resulting dialog box.

When the database is open, the Object Manager will list all classes stored in the database in the left-hand tree pane. Expanding a tree item will show instances of objects in the class, then fields within the instance, etc. The right-hand pane will show the next level of detail for the item that is currently selected in the tree.



For example, loading the formula1 database created by chapter 4 of this tutorial produces the following:

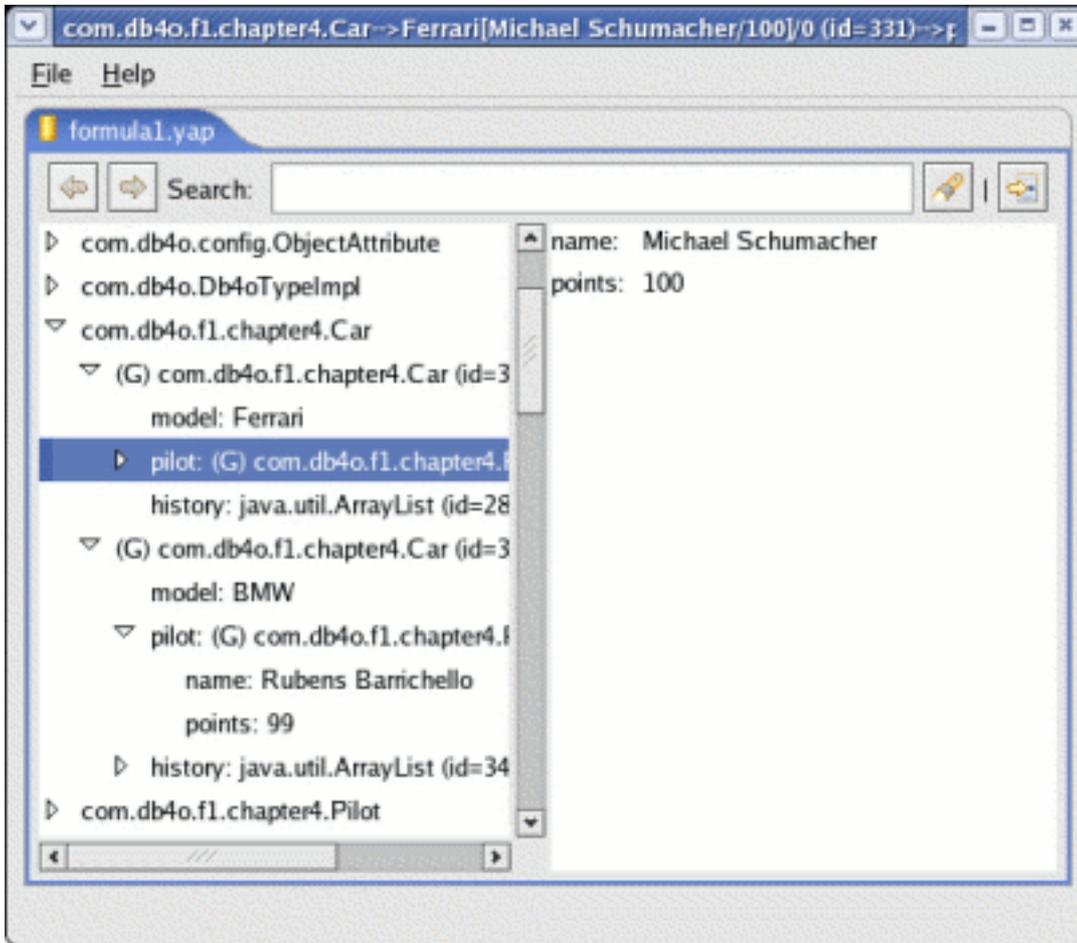
29.2.1. Generic reflector versus the JDK reflector

You will notice in the screen shot that all objects have (G) in front of them. This is because the Object Manager does not know the correct classpath in order to load the actual Java classes that these objects represent, so it is displaying them generically (using the generic reflector).

The Object Manager can display some data types more naturally if it has the class definitions available, so it provides a way to extend its classpath at runtime so that it can find the Java or .NET class definitions. This is done through the preferences dialog, accessed through "File | Preferences..."

Let's add the classpath of the db4o chapter 4 tutorial classes:

- Choose "File | Preferences..."
- Select the "Classpath" page of the preferences dialog box



- Choose the "Add directory..."
- Select the directory you have selected as your output directory for compiling the db4o tutorial files and click OK.

(You can add a Jar or zip file similarly.)

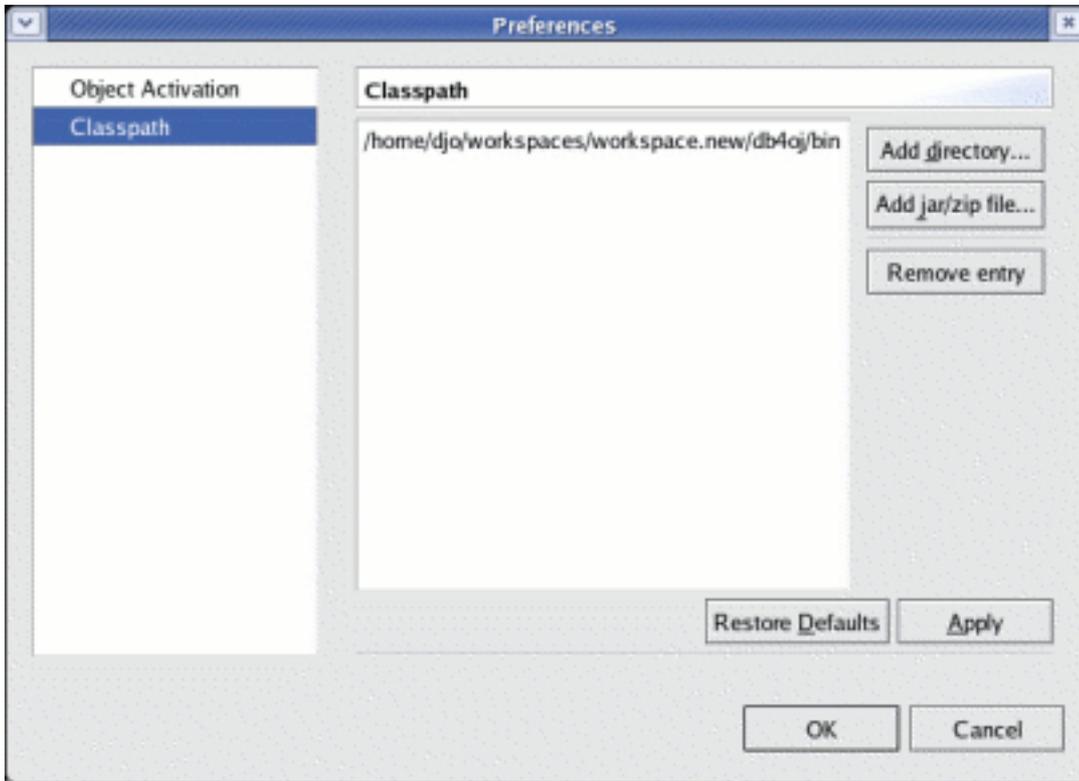
Your preferences dialog should look something like the following when you are done:

Click OK to close the Preferences dialog box. Now your tree will be refreshed, and you will notice that all of the (G)'s are gone. All of your preference settings, including your preferred classpath, are stored in a db4o database called .objectmanager.yap in your home directory.

29.2.2. Querying for objects

You may now want to query your object database for objects based on some criteria. This will work using either the generic or the JDK reflector.

You can open a query editor using any of the following methods:



- Double-click a class name in the tree view.
- Click the query button at the right side of the tool bar.
- Choose "File | Query..." from the menu.

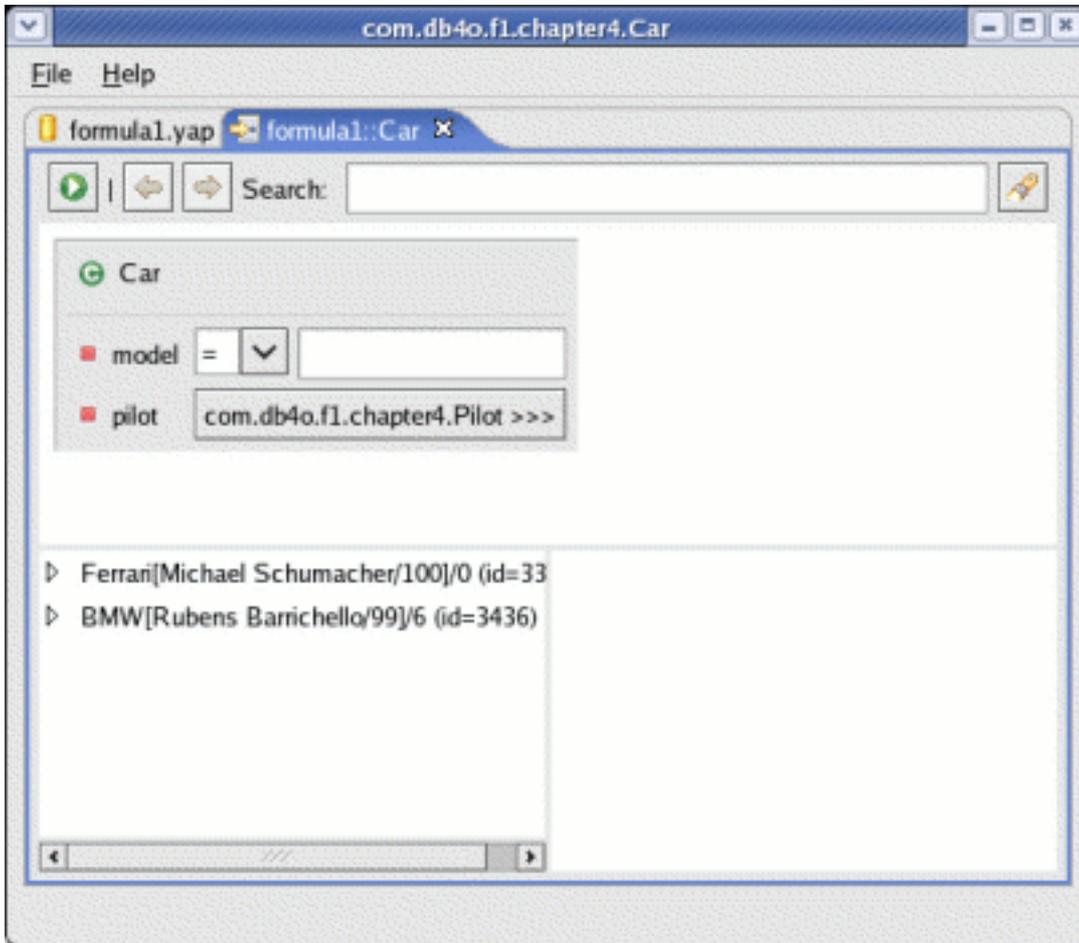
If you choose either of the latter two options, you will then be presented with a dialog box allowing you to choose a class to query. Select a class and click OK to proceed. Your new query will open in a new tab.

Let's query for Car objects in our formula1.yap file. Open a query editor using your favorite of the methods listed above. By default it will look like the following:

You may now query for a model name, or you can descend on the "pilot" field by clicking the button next to the pilot field to expand the query editor to include a Pilot object. If you accidentally expand a class that you didn't intend to expand, that isn't a problem. Just leave all of the fields blank and they will be ignored.

At this point, you can query for any combination of field values simply by filling appropriate values into each field. You can change the constraint type using the combo boxes next to each field. And you can run the query using the green "run" button at the top-left of the tool bar.

29.3. Known bugs and limitations



The following are known bugs and limitations in Object Manager and their workarounds:

- Object Manager currently operates in read-only mode only.
- If a database includes fields that have been renamed, Object Manager correctly browses both the old and new versions of the fields. However, queries on fields that have been refactored will randomly select the old or the new version of the field. The workaround is to browse a backup or defragmented database.
- The Generic Reflector still has trouble expanding certain types of objects. Currently, we recommend running Object Manager with all classes available at all times by using the Classpath preference page to set an appropriate classpath.

If something goes wrong when using Object Manager, there almost certainly will be detailed error messages in the Object Manager log file. This file is named `.objectmanager.log` and is stored in your user's home directory. If you post a question on the db4o newsgroups concerning a crash or failure in Object Manager, please also attach a copy of your Object Manager log file, so that we can efficiently diagnose the problem. This file is overwritten each time you run Object Manager, so please make a copy of it after an error occurs so that this diagnostic information is not lost.

30. License

[db4objects Inc.](#) supplies the object database engine db4o under a dual licensing regime:

30.1. General Public License (GPL)

db4o is free to be used:

- for development,
- in-house as long as no deployment to third parties takes place,
- together with works that are placed under the GPL themselves.

You should have received a copy of the GPL in the file db4o.license.txt together with the db4o distribution.

If you have questions about when a commercial license is required, please read our GPL Interpretation policy for further detail, available at:

<http://www.db4o.com/about/company/legalpolicies/gplinterpretation.aspx>

30.2. Commercial License

For incorporation into own commercial products and for use together with redistributed software that is not placed under the GPL, db4o is also available under a commercial license.

Visit the [purchasing area on the db4o website](#) or [contact db4o sales](#) for licensing terms and pricing.

30.3. Bundled 3rd Party Licenses

The db4o distribution comes with the following 3rd party libraries:

-[Apache Ant](#)(Apache Software License)

Files: lib/ant.jar, lib/ant.license.txt

Ant can be used as a make tool for class file based optimization of native queries at compile time.

This product includes software developed by the Apache Software Foundation (<http://www.apache.org/>).

-BLOAT(GNU LGPL)

Files: lib/bloat-1.0.jar, lib/bloat.license.txt

Bloat is used for bytecode analysis during native queries optimization. It needs to be on the classpath during runtime at load time or query execution time for just-in-time optimization. Preoptimized class files are not dependent on BLOAT at runtime.

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