Stored Procedures Contracts

Note that some of these contracts are used by the Data form wizard and should not be modified.

Support for stored procedures is one of the exciting database support enhancements in this release of Drumbeat. The command object is a new SmartElement specifically designed to hold the output parameter returned from a stored procedure, much in the same way that a recordset can hold the result set returned by a stored procedure or query.

Before working with the Stored Procedure contracts and the Command SmartElement, you may wish to review Chapter 16 of the User's Guide, which provides excellent examples of integrating command objects, stored procedures, and recordsets.

The Stored Procedure contracts will often be implemented in conjunction with SQL Parameter contracts. In such cases, the order of assigned contracts is important, as described below. To change the order of assigned contracts, select the command object or recordset, right click, and select "Assigned Interactions (ordered)" from the pop-up menu. The ordered activations will appear in the attic. Drag a given interaction into the order you desire.

Using the Stored Procedures Contracts

There are two Stored Procedures contracts: a single element activation for the command object and a interaction between the command object and a recordset.

- The command element activation entitled "Execute [source]" simply executes the stored procedure that provides content for the command object in question. Essentially, this contract is the means for a command object's main reason for living: to provide a mechanism for executing stored procedures that can, once executed, return output parameters to a Command object and/or result sets to recordset, which, in turn, can be used in your page. Be aware that SQL parameter contracts can be used to pass values from form elements to parameters in the Command object's stored porcedure. In such a case, you must call the SQL parameter contracts before calling the "Execute" contract.

- The "Link" contract is intended for a very specific scenario: when a recordset and a command element that share the same source stored procedure. The contract is an interaction between the command object and recordset that prevents opening duplicate connections to the database. It is important to remember that this contract requires that the Command object 'execute' the stored procedure first; thus, it should be called after the "Execute" contract on the command object.

For more detailed information on individual contracts, see the individual contract descriptions, which are found on the 'Description' tab of the Contract Properties Dialog. The Contract Properties dialog can be accessed from the Drumbeat Tools menu.