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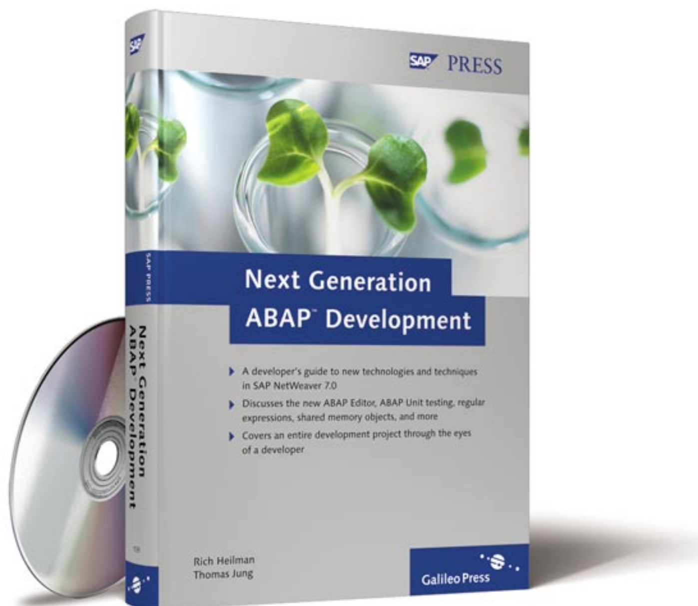
Next Generation ABAP™ Development



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Contents at a Glance

1 Workbench Tools and Package Hierarchy 23

2 Data Dictionary Objects 43

3 Data Persistence Layer 71

4 Consuming a Web Service 119

5 Shared Memory Objects 143

6 Model Class 163

7 ABAP and SAP NetWeaver Master Data Management 193

8 ABAP Unit 221

9 Exposing a Model as a Web Service 235

10 Exposing a Model as a Web Service Using SAP NetWeaver Process Integration 249

11 Classic Dynpro UI/ALV Object Model 273

12 Web Dynpro ABAP 303

13 Business Server Pages 345

14 Adobe Forms 375

15 SAP NetWeaver Portal 407

16 RSS Feed Using an ICF Service Node 449

17 Closing 465

A Code Samples 469

B The Authors 473

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Contents

Introduction 15

1 Workbench Tools and Package Hierarchy 23

1.1 Log on and Explore 24
1.1.1 Workbench Object Browser 24
1.1.2 Object Browser List 25
1.1.3 Workbench Settings 28
1.1.4 New ABAP Editor 28
1.1.5 Additional New Workbench Tools 32
1.1.6 Debugger 36
1.2 Package Hierarchy for the Project 39
1.2.1 Project Requirements 39
1.2.2 Package Hierarchy 40

2 Data Dictionary Objects 43

2.1 Designing Data Relationships 43
2.1.1 Table Relationship Graphic 44
2.1.2 SAP Data Modeler 46
2.2 Data Dictionary Fixed Value Domains 47
2.2.1 Single Value Domains 48
2.2.2 Interval Value Domains 48
2.3 Data Dictionary Text Tables 49
2.3.1 Data Elements and Domains 50
2.3.2 Transparent Table Creation and Relationships 51
2.3.3 Maintenance View 56
2.3.4 Generated Table Maintenance 58
2.4 Data Dictionary Data Tables 61
2.4.1 Enhancements 61
2.4.2 Indexes 62
2.4.3 Lock Objects 64
2.5 Search Helps 66

3 Data Persistence Layer 71

3.1 Persistent Objects 72
3.1.1 Creating the Persistent Object Class 73
3.1.2 Base Classes and Agent Classes 75

3.1.3 Persistent Data Mapper 77
3.1.4 Coding with a Persistent Object 79
3.2 Exception Classes 82
3.2.1 Advantages of Exception Classes 83
3.2.2 Creating an Exception Class 84
3.3 Business Object Classes 89
3.3.1 What Is a Business Object Class? 90
3.3.2 Business Object Class Structure 92
3.3.3 Multiple Object Selection 95
3.3.4 Select-Options as a Query Criteria 97
3.3.5 Complex Business Objects 100
3.3.6 Modification Operations 103
3.3.7 ZIP Compression 104
3.4 Data Load Programs 107
3.4.1 Test Data Generator 107
3.4.2 Backup and Recovery Program 112

4 Consuming a Web Service 119

4.1 Proxy Generation 121
4.1.1 Accessing the WSDL Document 121
4.1.2 Creating the Client Proxy 122
4.1.3 Logical Ports 125
4.1.4 Using the Client Proxy Object 127
4.1.5 Implementing into the Business Object Layer 128
4.2 Logical Ports 130
4.2.1 Runtime 130
4.2.2 Call Parameters 132
4.2.3 Operations 136
4.2.4 Errors 136
4.2.5 PI Receiver 137
4.2.6 Application-Specific Global Settings 138
4.2.7 Application-Specific Operations 138
4.3 Extended Protocols 140

5 Shared Memory Objects 143

5.1 Getting Started 144
5.1.1 Area Root Class Creation 144
5.1.2 Defining the Shared Memory Area 150
5.1.3 Testing the Shared Memory Object 152
5.1.4 Shared Memory Monitor 154

www.sap-press.com

5.2 Automatic Preloading 155
5.2.1 Adding the Interface 155
5.2.2 Modifying the Read Program 157
5.3 Implementing into the Business Object Layer 157
5.3.1 Developing a Test Program 158
5.3.2 Modifying the Business Object Class 159
5.3.3 Testing the Changes 162

6 Model Class 163

6.1 Class Overview 163
6.1.1 What Is Model View Controller? 164
6.1.2 Creating the Model Class 164
6.2 Transactional Methods 168
6.2.1 Read Method 169
6.2.2 Record Locking Methods 171
6.2.3 Save Method 172
6.2.4 Getters 173
6.3 Utility Methods 175
6.4 Emailing 177
6.4.1 Email Setup 178
6.4.2 Running an Email Test 182
6.4.3 Email Method 183
6.5 Regular Expressions 189

7 ABAP and SAP NetWeaver Master Data Management 193

7.1 What Is Master Data Management? 194
7.1.1 Technical Architecture 194
7.1.2 Clients 196
7.1.3 Basic MDM Administration 198
7.1.4 Modeling in SAP MDM 200
7.2 Configuring the SAP MDM ABAP API 201
7.2.1 Installation of the MDM API Add-on 202
7.2.2 Configuring the MDM API Connection 204
7.2.3 Authentication with the MDM API 205
7.3 Coding with the MDM ABAP API 206
7.3.1 Class-Based API 207
7.3.2 Function Module Based API 209
7.3.3 Non-Unicode ABAP Systems 211
7.3.4 Simple Read 212

7.3.5 Full Read 215
7.3.6 Integrating the MDM Repository into Your Business Object Class 217

8 ABAP Unit 221

8.1 Overview of ABAP Unit Tests 221
8.1.1 Test Classes 222
8.1.2 Test Attributes 222
8.1.3 Test Methods 225
8.1.4 Assertions 225
8.2 Creating ABAP Unit Tests 227
8.2.1 Creating the ABAP Unit Test Class 227
8.2.2 Fixture Implementation 229
8.2.3 Test Method Implementations 229
8.3 Executing the ABAP Unit Test 232

9 Exposing a Model as a Web Service 235

9.1 Web Service Definition 235
9.1.1 Service Definition Wizard 236
9.1.2 The Service Definition 240
9.1.3 Releasing the Web Service 241
9.2 Testing the Web Service 243
9.2.1 Web Service Administration 243
9.2.2 Using the Web Service Homepage 244

10 Exposing a Model as a Web Service Using SAP NetWeaver Process Integration 249

10.1 Modeling a Service in SAP NetWeaver Process Integration 250
10.1.1 Integration Builder 251
10.1.2 Simple Data Types 253
10.1.3 Complex Data Types 259
10.1.4 Message Types 261
10.1.5 Message Interface 263
10.2 Implementing the Service as a Server Proxy 264
10.3 Creating a Service Definition 270

www.sap-press.com

11 Classic Dynpro UI/ALV Object Model 273

11.1 ALV Object Model Overview 273
11.1.1 ALV Tool Overview 274
11.1.2 Display Types 276
11.2 Getting Started 276
11.2.1 Package Selection 277
11.2.2 Basic Program Coding 277
11.3 Modifying the ALV Output 281
11.3.1 ALV Functions 282
11.3.2 Modifying Column Attributes 283
11.3.3 Modifying Display Settings 285
11.3.4 Saving Layout Variants 286
11.4 Making the ALV Interactive 287
11.4.1 Adding Buttons 287
11.4.2 Defining Selections 289
11.4.3 Event Handling 290
11.5 Object Orientation with Classic Dynpro 294
11.5.1 Restructuring the Dialog Program 294
11.5.2 Creating the Controller Class 296
11.5.3 Enjoy Control Events 299
11.5.4 Dynpro Events 300

12 Web Dynpro ABAP 303

12.1 Overview of the Components 304
12.1.1 Course Frame Component 305
12.1.2 Faculty Detail Component 305
12.1.3 Faculty List Component 307
12.1.4 Course Details Component 308
12.2 Component Usage 309
12.3 General UI Features 311
12.3.1 Value Help 311
12.3.2 Required Fields 314
12.3.3 Change/Display Mode 317
12.4 ALV Component 320
12.4.1 ALV Component Usage 320
12.4.2 Context Mapping 321
12.4.3 ALV Implementation 322
12.5 Dialog Popup Window 325
12.5.1 Windows from the Same Component 325
12.5.2 Windows from an External Component Usage 327

12.6 Table Popins 332
12.6.1 What Is a Table Popin? 332
12.6.2 Designing the Table Popin 333
12.6.3 Context Design 334
12.6.4 Logic to Populate the Context for a Popin 335
12.7 File Upload/Download 336
12.7.1 File Downloads 336
12.7.2 File Uploads 339
12.8 Web Dynpro Debugger 341

13 Business Server Pages 345

13.1 Internet Facing BSP Application 346
13.1.1 Stateless versus Stateful 346
13.1.2 Application Layout 348
13.1.3 Custom Style Sheets 349
13.1.4 Course Overview Page 353
13.1.5 AJAX 356
13.2 BSP Extensions 363
13.2.1 Upload of Open Source Solution 363
13.2.2 Creating the BSP Extension 365
13.2.3 Creating the BSP Extension Element 366
13.2.4 Design Time Validation 369
13.2.5 Runtime Validation 370
13.2.6 Element Rendering 371
13.2.7 Testing the New Extension 373

14 Adobe Forms 375

14.1 Infrastructure and Setup 376
14.1.1 Adobe Document Services Infrastructure 376
14.1.2 Exposing the Service from the J2EE Engine 377
14.1.3 Configuring the Service Interface from ABAP 378
14.2 Function Module Based Forms 381
14.2.1 Creating the Interface 381
14.2.2 Form Interface to Context Mapping 383
14.2.3 Form Layout Editor 387
14.2.4 Coding Against the Form Function Module 389
14.3 Web Dynpro Based Forms 395
14.3.1 Web Dynpro View Creation 395
14.3.2 Form Design from Web Dynpro 397

www.sap-press.com

14.3.3 Table Output in Forms ... 398
14.3.4 Making the Form Interactive ... 401
14.4 Offline Forms ... 402

15 SAP NetWeaver Portal ... 407

15.1 Creating a System Configuration ... 407
15.1.1 User Mapping ... 414
15.1.2 System Test ... 415
15.2 Creating Portal Content ... 416
15.2.1 iView Creation ... 416
15.2.2 Role Assignment ... 420
15.2.3 Running Examples ... 421
15.3 Portal Eventing ... 424
15.3.1 Throwing a Portal Event ... 425
15.3.2 Catching a Portal Event ... 427
15.4 SAP NetWeaver Visual Composer ... 429
15.4.1 Consuming a Web Service ... 431
15.4.2 Consuming an RFC ... 432
15.4.3 Building the User Interface ... 436
15.4.4 Building Value Help ... 437
15.5 SAP NetWeaver Business Client ... 443

16 RSS Feed Using an ICF Service Node ... 449

16.1 What Is an ICF Service Node? ... 450
16.2 Handler RSS Feed ... 451
16.2.1 HTTP Handler Class Test Implementation ... 452
16.2.2 ICF Node Creation and Handler Association ... 453
16.2.3 RSS Handler Implementation ... 454
16.2.4 RSS Handler Application Logic ... 455
16.2.5 Handler for Attachment Downloads ... 461

17 Closing ... 465

Appendix ... 467

A Code Samples ... 469
B The Authors ... 473

Index ... 475

Introduction

This book represents 20 years of collective experience from real world ABAP Development projects. When setting out to write this book, our challenge was to share what it was like to be part of a cutting edge ABAP development project with our readers.

Ideally, our goal was for each reader to be able to sit down and observe an entire project from start to finish, and therefore learn the integral techniques of modern ABAP development. They would be able to see the latest ABAP technologies in action, in addition to examining the design and development processes used to maximize these technologies. Unfortunately, few developers ever get the opportunity to observe a project in this way. Too often they have to learn on the job, while dealing with unrealistic deadlines. Therefore, our objective was to allow you, the reader, to see and participate in the evolution of such a project in small incremental steps.

For that reason, this book is not your typical programming guide. Instead of focusing on just the technological aspects of developing in ABAP, we will study a fictional project so you can see how a project is developed. Each chapter will represent a phase or layer of this project's development, as well as one or two new key ABAP technologies. If you're interested in delving into these new technologies straightaway, you're welcome to skip to these respective chapters; however, we, the authors, encourage you to read this book in chronological order so that you'll have an opportunity to see the entire narrative of this project play out.

Fictional Project

Throughout the book, we'll be using a single fictional project for our practice scenario. This project takes place at a university, which is a long time SAP customer who runs their business systems on SAP R/3. For over four years, they've been running SAP R/3 4.6C and have used the Finance and Human Resources modules of SAP R/3 extensively, in addition to custom developing many modules of their own.

This university is in the middle of a typical upgrade cycle. They have begun the process of updating their SAP R/3 4.6C system to SAP ERP 6.0 (formerly named mySAP ERP 2005). SAP ERP 6.0 will run on top of SAP NetWeaver — specifically SAP NetWeaver 7.0 (formerly named SAP NetWeaver 2004s). They are also in the process of implementing the SAP NetWeaver Portal, as well as considering using SAP NetWeaver Process Integration (SAP NetWeaver PI — formerly known as SAP NetWeaver Exchange Infrastructure or SAP XI) and SAP NetWeaver Master Data Management (SAP NetWeaver MDM) in the near future.

This university has a small but strong IT team. Our story will focus on Russel, the lead developer of the IT team at this university. Russel has many years of experience in ABAP development to support the university's systems. Like many developers, he reads about the latest ABAP development technologies and techniques, but is somewhat constrained by the release level of the university's R/3 system. Consequently, he feels that his development skills are not up to date; for example, he has done very little ABAP Object-Oriented (ABAP OO) programming and has virtually no web-based development. Still, Russel is quite excited about the future upgrade to SAP ERP 6.0. He sees this as an opportunity to update his skills and learn about the newest ABAP development techniques.

Little does Russel know that he is about to get a crash course in ABAP development on SAP NetWeaver 7.0. In addition to the upgrade activities, the university is just beginning to offer a new distance learning curriculum. Like new offerings at many universities, this distance learning curriculum will offer online versions of many courses for people looking to complete their degrees, or take part in continuing education without disrupting their current career.

In support of this new curriculum, the university realizes that it will need significant new custom development. Their ERP system will house this development and ABAP will be the language in which the system is developed. This project will enable Russel to build the data access, business logic, and user interface aspects of this new system. This project will also be the first time that Russel will build something that entails *enterprise service-oriented architecture* (enterprise SOA).

Please note again that the context for the project that we're going to study throughout this book is fictional. It does not feature an actual university or SAP customer. The characters that we will meet, like Russel, are not real people; however Russel's experiences and reactions to events are based on our

(i.e., the authors) experiences, and hopefully will touch a familiar chord with many of you.

Structure of the Book

The structure of this book reflects the workflow of the development project. The first half of the book focuses on creating the data and application logic layers and then service-enabling them. The second half of the book focuses on creating the user interface layers.

- **Chapter 1: Workbench Tools and Package Hierarchy**
  Before we begin our project, we will review some of the changes and enhancements to the ABAP Workbench. In this chapter, we will look at the new ABAP Editor, the Refactoring Assistant, the new development tools perspectives in transaction SE80, and the new debugger. Lastly, we will create the packages and package hierarchies for the project.
- **Chapter 2: Data Dictionary Objects**
  In this chapter, we will model the data relationships and build the corresponding Data Dictionary objects. We'll study the tools for generating table maintenance, creating lock objects, and utilizing foreign keys. We'll also explore the new technology of strings and binary strings within transparent tables.
- **Chapter 3: Data Persistence Layer**
  In this chapter, we'll build the logic that controls the persistence of application data. We'll start by generating persistent object classes for the underlying data dictionary tables created in Chapter 2. Then, we'll build a set of business object classes to hide the inner technical details of the persistent objects. In addition to the new technology of Persistent Objects, we'll show you how to use ZIP compression on large strings.
- **Chapter 4: Consuming a Web Service**
  Not all project data will originate from one centralized system. For example, in the sample application, some data will be stored in a legacy system and accessed remotely via Web Services. In this chapter, we will examine the process for generating a Web Service proxy object and integrating this proxy into the data persistence layer.
- **Chapter 5: Shared Memory Objects**
  After some analysis, it will become apparent that the sample application has some static data that will be accessed repeatedly. In this chapter, we

will describe how you can provide the best performance by structuring the data access for this type of data into an ABAP Shared Memory Object.

- **Chapter 6: Model Class**
  In this chapter, we will begin to implement the core application logic, which is implemented as a Model Class. This same class will later be used as the business logic layer of all the UI technology examples. This chapter focuses primarily on object-oriented design patterns while introducing techniques for sending email and manipulating XML.
- **Chapter 7: ABAP and SAP NetWeaver Master Data Management**
  This is the first of our "What-If" chapters. Here, we look at an alternative approach to the project where our master data is modeled and stored in SAP NetWeaver Master Data Management, instead of the local Data Dictionary. This chapter will focus on how we would alter the data persistence layer to read this data via the SAP NetWeaver MDM ABAP application programming interface instead of directly from the local database.
- **Chapter 8: ABAP Unit**
  Before building any additional objects on top of the existing application logic, this is a good point in the project to unit test what has been completed. In this chapter, we'll look at the built-in unit test tool, ABAP Unit, and examine how unit test classes can be integrated directly into the model class.
- **Chapter 9: Exposing a Model as a Web Service**
  Not all the logic from the sample model class will be exposed via a user interface. Instead, some of the data was designed to be exposed as a Web Service so that it can be accessible to external systems as well. In this chapter, we'll examine the Inside-Out approach for generating Web Services.
- **Chapter 10: Exposing a Model as a Web Service Using SAP NetWeaver Process Integration**
  This is the second of the two "What-If" chapters. In the previous chapter, we looked at the Inside-Out approach of generating Web Services via remote enabled function modules. In this chapter, we'll look at the world of Enterprise Service Modeling. We'll show you how the same logic could be modeled in SAP NetWeaver Process Integration and then implemented as a server proxy in ABAP using the Outside-In approach.
- **Chapter 11: Classic Dynpro UI/ALV Object Model**
  In this chapter, we turn our attention to user interface logic. In the sample application requirements, there are a group of internal users who are full time SAP GUI users and who need powerful reporting tools. Therefore,

we'll learn how to build a classic Dynpro screen on top of the Model View Controller, which uses the ALV Object Model for its reporting output.

- **Chapter 12: Web Dynpro ABAP**
  Since most of the sample application's users are not SAP GUI users, we'll look at how you can build a Web Dynpro user interface for these users. This chapter will focus on real world Web Dynpro applications that contain multiple component usages, ALV integration, and table popins.
- **Chapter 13: Business Server Pages**
  The next user interface use case is for an Internet-facing application. This user interface needs to be highly customized and stateless for scalability. Therefore, in this chapter, we will use Business Server Pages in order to show the flexibility they provide for highly customized style sheets and AJAX integration.
- **Chapter 14: Adobe Forms**
  Adobe Forms technology offers an interesting paper-like alternative user interface. In this chapter, we'll look at each of the major types of Adobe Forms — print forms, online interactive forms, and offline interactive forms.
- **Chapter 15**: **SAP NetWeaver Portal**
  Although we have focused on ABAP as the primary development environment until now, it is also important to see how some of the SAP NetWeaver Portal technologies can be used with the best aspects of ABAP. In this chapter, we'll explore how to wrap each of our user interface examples in iViews within the SAP NetWeaver Portal and how portal eventing can be used for cross iView communication. We'll also look at how we can use SAP NetWeaver Visual Composer to build code-free applications that consume ABAP services.
- **Chapter 16: RSS Feed Using an ICF Service Node**
  In this chapter, we'll examine how Internet Communication Framework Service Nodes can be combined with XML processing in ABAP to produce interesting Web 2.0 type projects. As the final example of the book, we'll implement an RSS Feed using these technologies.
- **Chapter 17: Closing**
  In the final chapter, we will look back on the completed project and review the most important points of what has been discussed.

Prerequisites

Whether you are relatively new to ABAP development or an experienced veteran, there is something in this text for everyone. We do, however, assume that the reader is already familiar with the ABAP Workbench and has some development experience in ABAP as of the 4.x release level. We will primarily focus on new techniques and tools that were introduced in the 6.x and higher releases.

The state of the ABAP development environment described in this book is SAP NetWeaver 7.0 SPS10. As SAP ERP 6.0 has been announced to be the primary release of ERP for customers through 2010, SAP expects this to become the "go-to" ERP release for many years to come. Therefore, capabilities of ABAP in SAP NetWeaver 7.0 will likely become the base-line technology level for most customer development as well.

If you don't already have access to a SAP NetWeaver 7.0 system, you can always download the free trial edition from the SAP Developer Network (*https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/downloads*). This trial software has a full ABAP development environment, enabling you to recreate nearly all the examples contained within this book.

To help you follow along with the project as it unfolds in this book, we have also provided you with the source code for all examples in the book, as well as many supporting objects that are not discussed in detail on the accompanying CD. This should help to facilitate your skipping certain chapters if you want, without having to forego the prerequisite objects.

The source code on the CD is available in several different formats:

- First, there is a transport file. This is the simplest way to import all the development objects that are discussed in this book in their correct packages.
- Not all developers have the necessary security to import a transport file. For this reason, we have also included many of the development objects in SAPlink format (the open source XML based mechanism for exchanging ABAP development objects) and plain text files.

For complete instructions on how to work with each of these import formats, see the *ReadMe.pdf* file in the root directory of the CD or Appendix A.

In case you were wondering, please note that we won't forget about older releases just because our primary focus is on SAP NetWeaver 7.0. The technologies that we'll discuss were primarily released since SAP R/3 4.6C. As we

introduce each technology, we will try to indicate in which release it was first introduced, and, what differences, if any, there are between the releases.

As of SAP NetWeaver 7.0, SAP's ABAP foundation developers have not stopped innovating around the ABAP environment. As you read this book, dedicated teams are currently working on additional features and powerful new functions for the ABAP development environment. We will point out these anticipated features throughout the book; however they will simply be identified with the notation "Future Functionality."

With the direction of SAP ERP 6.0, SAP NetWeaver 7.0 will be an established release for many years to come. Therefore, some of this future functionality might find its way into SAP NetWeaver 7.0 via backports of the functionality delivered with support packages. Other new features may be too extensive to deliver in this way, and therefore be postponed until the next major release of SAP NetWeaver, or some other, as yet undetermined, delivery mechanism.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank my wife, Shonna, for her love and support during the entire project, and for understanding how important this project was to me. Additionally, I would like to thank my kids, Kearston and Gavin, for their unconditional love and understanding while Daddy was working. Thanks for putting up with the laptop on the table during dinner and the shortened play time. Without my family's support, the past few months would have been much more difficult.

Thanks to my parents, for giving me the necessary foundation that enabled me to be successful in life. Thanks to my sister, Angie, for her inspiration and support, which gave me the "can-do" attitude that this project required.

I would also like to thank our editor, Stefan Proksch, for enabling me to share my knowledge with the rest of the world. Thanks to the SDN community for supplying great content that allowed me to learn directly from the experts. Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank my co-author, Thomas Jung, for the opportunity to work together on this project.

York (PA), May 2007
Rich Heilman

I also must start off by thanking my wife, Shari. Without her support, I certainly couldn't have completed the work required to create this book. What is even more amazing to me is that this time, she knew exactly what she was getting herself into and yet, she still agreed to let me work on the project. As with all accomplishments in my life, they simply would not have been possible without her love and support!

To my children, Megan and Madison, I owe my thanks as well. To them, it probably seemed like Daddy was hardly around for the last few months, since most nights and weekends he disappeared into his office.

The main character in the book, Russel, is named after my father. It is ironic that when we are teenagers, we want nothing to do with our parents, but as we grow older, we realize that the greatest compliment is hearing someone say how much we are like our parents. Mom and Dad gave me so much while I was growing up. I only wish they could be here today so that I could thank them.

To my friend, Brian McKellar, thanks for getting me started writing on SDN and giving me the opportunity to learn from you during our first book project together. I do and will carry those lessons with me in everything I do.

To the old gang at Kimball, there certainly is a little bit of each of you in this book, as I learned so much from everyone that I have had the opportunity to work with over the years.

To my new colleagues in SAP NetWeaver Product Management, for a virtual team who only sees one another a few times a year, we are an amazingly close-knit group. Everyone is absolutely wonderful to work with and so willing to share his or her knowledge.

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To our editor, Stefan, thanks so much for giving us the opportunity to create this book. Your guidance and support have been instrumental in its completion.

Lastly, to my co-author, Rich, it has been a real pleasure working with you on this project, and to think it all started because you accepted an invitation to co-present with me at SDN Day at the SAP TechEd in Las Vegas in 2006.

Jasper (IN), May 2007
Thomas Jung

Russel has finished the programming for the database access layer. He now wants to optimize the read access to some of the data that is read frequently, but not updated often. For this, he will turn to the new shared memory objects technology that was introduced in SAP NetWeaver 2004.

5 Shared Memory Objects

Shared memory objects are ABAP Object Instances, which can be stored in the shared memory area on an application server. Instead of going to the database to retrieve the required data, the data is accessed through the shared memory, thereby providing faster data retrieval.

This shared memory area can be accessed by all of the ABAP programs running on that application server. Before the upgrade to SAP ERP 6.0, Russel used the `EXPORT`/`IMPORT` statements with the `SHARED BUFFER` or `SHARED MEMORY` extensions to access a similar memory buffer area. So what are the advantages of using this new functionality?

- First, it is read access to shared memory without the need to copy it into user session memory. Technically, an application does a remote attach to the memory segment within shared memory and directly interacts with it.
- Secondly, the new shared memory technique is implemented through ABAP Objects; therefore, you are provided with robust tools to interact with shared memory through code. Ultimately, you aren't just buffering raw sets of data; you're also providing a shared mechanism to access the business logic wrapped around this data.
- There are also dedicated tools for the monitoring and administration of these shared areas and the objects within them. Transaction SHMM, for example, provides tools to monitor the size and number of objects within a shared area, as well as enabling administrators to force objects out of memory if necessary.

5.1 Getting Started

Russel has spent a considerable amount of time developing the database access layer for this project and wants to ensure that performance is at an optimal level. He decides to leverage the shared memory objects functionality to increase performance when accessing some of the data in the database.

To use this feature of the ABAP runtime environment, Russel will have to create several new types of objects. Shared memory objects are implemented in two parts — the shared object *root* and *area* classes.

- The root class is the definition of the object that will be stored in shared memory. An instance (or multiple instances) of this class will reside in shared memory. Therefore this class's attributes should represent the data that you want cached and the methods of the class are the way that you access this data.
- The shared memory area class, on the other hand, will be a generated class. It abstracts a section of shared memory that is set aside for one or more instances of a particular root class. The methods of this area class provide the tools to attach to the shared memory area in order to read or manipulate it. The sole purpose of the area class is to return instances of the root class.

5.1.1 Area Root Class Creation

Russel decides that the `ZCS_COURSE` table would be a good candidate to create a shared memory object. Shared memory objects should primarily be used for objects that are read often, but updated infrequently. This is due to the locking mechanism that is used by shared objects. Although having multiple read locks across separate user sessions is possible and is the norm, any form of change lock is exclusive (i.e., it doesn't even allow parallel read locks on the same area instance).

This does make `ZCS_COURSE` a good fit. New courses are rarely created or changed during the school year. All updates are done all at once, before planning for the next semester begins. Technically, this means that this table will have frequent read accesses by students and teachers concurrently, but the data will rarely change.

Russel's first step in implementing a shared memory object to represent `ZCS_COURSE` is to create the area root class. This class implements the setter and getter methods, which are used to access the data to be stored in the shared

memory area. It could also include business logic that further manipulates the data during access operations. For instance, it might include calculations, the results of which could also be stored in shared memory. This is where the value of the shared memory object can extend well beyond the scope of just the buffering of data stored within the database.

Russel creates the class ZCL_CS_COURSE_SHMO_ROOT and assigns it to the ZCS_DDIC package using transaction code SE80 (see Figure 5.1).

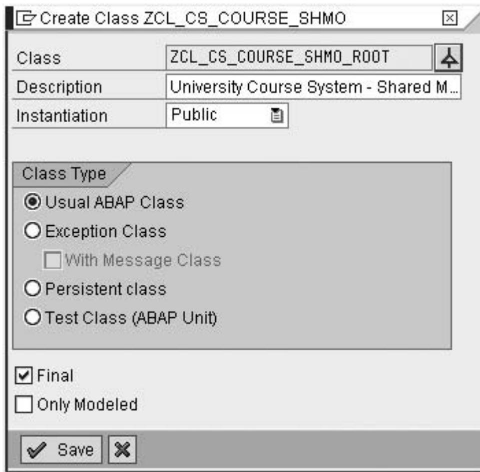

Figure 5.1 Root Class Creation

Russel then sets the **Shared Memory-Enabled** checkbox on the **Properties** tab (see Figure 5.2). This tells the system that the class is eligible to be used as a root class for a shared memory object.

The idea of using shared memory objects is to store data in memory, which can be used at runtime. Therefore, Russel needs to add an attribute to this class that will hold the data retrieved from the ZCS_COURSE database table.

Although it is technically possible to create public attributes of the root class that can be accessed directly from an instance of the class, Russel wants to follow good object-oriented designs and encapsulate all of his attribute accesses within methods. This gives him more control in case he wants to embed other operations within an access to this attribute. Therefore he defines the attribute as a **Private Instance** attribute (see Figure 5.3).

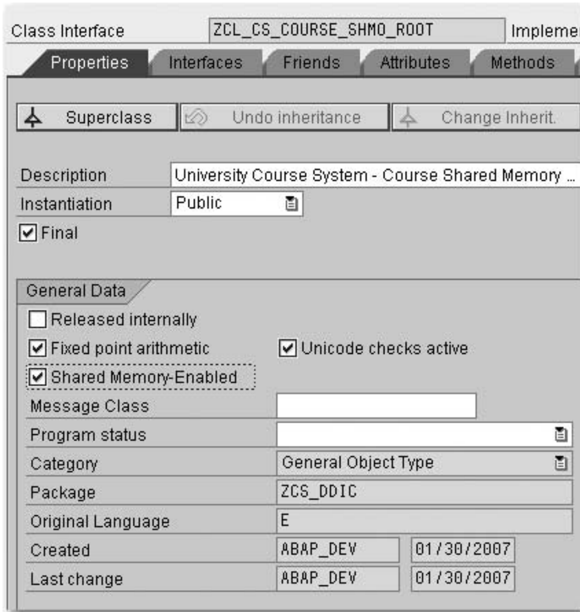

Figure 5.2 Root Class Properties

Figure 5.3 Define Attribute

The class now requires methods that can be used to populate or read this attribute. To start, Russel needs a SET method, which will be used to fill the COURSE_LIST attribute with all records in the database table. This method should be defined as a **Public Instance** method (see Figure 5.4).

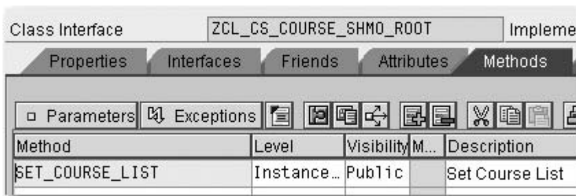

Figure 5.4 Define SET_COURSE_LIST Method

In the implementation of the SET_COURSE_LIST method, Russel leverages the persistent object for database table ZCS_COURSE to fill the instance attribute COURSE_LIST. As shown in Listing 5.1, Russel is simply borrowing some of the persistent object code from the method READ_ALL_COURSES of the class ZCL_CS_COURSE that he wrote in Chapter 3. He then loops through the objects and populates the returning parameter with the values.

```
METHOD set_course_list.
  DATA:  l_agent    TYPE REF TO zca_cs_course_pers,
         l_pers_obj TYPE REF TO zcl_cs_course_pers,
         l_objects  TYPE        osreftab.
  FIELD-SYMBOLS: <wa_object>  LIKE LINE OF l_objects,
                 <wa_course>  LIKE LINE OF course_list.
  DATA: query_manager TYPE REF TO if_os_query_manager,
        query         TYPE REF TO if_os_query.

  TRY.
    l_agent    = zca_cs_course_pers=>agent.
    query_manager = cl_os_system=>get_query_manager( ).
    query = query_manager->create_query( ).

    l_objects =
       l_agent->if_os_ca_persistency~get_persistent_by_query(
             i_query   = query ).
    IF LINES( l_objects ) = 0.
      RAISE EXCEPTION TYPE zcx_cs_course
         EXPORTING
           textid = zcx_cs_course=>bad_query.
    ENDIF.

    LOOP AT l_objects ASSIGNING <wa_object>.
      l_pers_obj ?= <wa_object>.
      APPEND INITIAL LINE TO course_list
        ASSIGNING <wa_course>.
      <wa_course>-syllabi = l_pers_obj->get_syllabi( ).
      <wa_course>-cost = l_pers_obj->get_cost( ).
      <wa_course>-course_id = l_pers_obj->get_course_id( ).
      <wa_course>-course_schedule =
         l_pers_obj->get_course_schedule( ).
      <wa_course>-course_sdesc =
         l_pers_obj->get_course_sdesc( ).
      <wa_course>-course_year =
         l_pers_obj->get_course_year( ).
      <wa_course>-credit_hrs = l_pers_obj->get_credit_hrs( ).
```

```
      <wa_course>-currency = l_pers_obj->get_currency( ).
      <wa_course>-deletion_flag =
          l_pers_obj->get_deletion_flag( ).
      <wa_course>-description =
          l_pers_obj->get_description( ).
      <wa_course>-end_time = l_pers_obj->get_end_time( ).
      <wa_course>-faculty_id = l_pers_obj->get_faculty_id( ).
      <wa_course>-major = l_pers_obj->get_major( ).
      <wa_course>-semester = l_pers_obj->get_semester( ).
      <wa_course>-start_time = l_pers_obj->get_start_time( ).
      <wa_course>-student_limit =
          l_pers_obj->get_student_limit( ).
    ENDLOOP.
  ENDTRY.
ENDMETHOD.
```

Listing 5.1 SET_COURSE_LIST Method Implementation

Russel also needs to define the GET methods, which will be used to retrieve the data. First, Russel needs a GET method to retrieve all the courses. The signature of this method will contain a RETURNING parameter, which is defined as the table type ZCS_COURSES_TT (see Figure 5.5 and Figure 5.6).

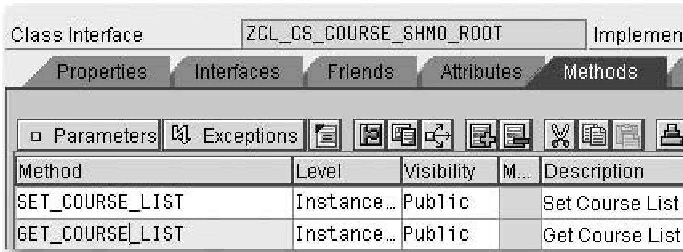

Figure 5.5 Define GET_COURSE_LIST Method

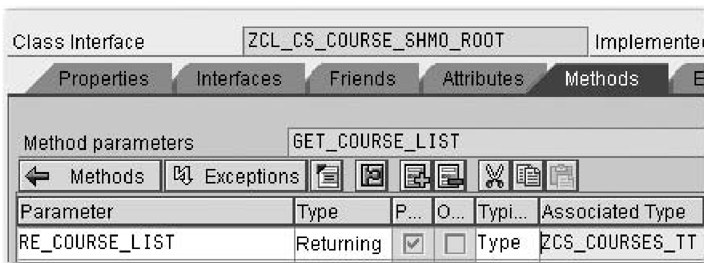

Figure 5.6 Define GET_COURSE_LIST Method Signature

Of course as soon as Russel uses a returning parameter, he negates one of the advantages of the shared memory object, namely, the copy free read. Imagine if you had a very large table that could either be exported to shared memory or placed in a shared memory object. In this example, you want to sort the internal table and then read a subset of the records.

With an internal table that was simply exported to shared memory, the entire table would have to be imported before any operations could be performed on it. This entails making a copy of the entire internal table and placing it into the internal session of the running application.

With a shared memory object, however, all of this logic could be placed within the shared object root class and only the resulting few records would be returned. This prevents you from having to copy anything, but the result set, out of shared memory and into the internal session.

In the shared object root class that Russel is building, he needs to support both kinds of accesses. He will eventually build a method that returns a single record, but some applications also need access to the entire course listing. For these applications, it doesn't make sense to keep a constant read attachment to the shared object instance, therefore, he decides to return a copy of the entire internal table attribute. Returning parameters are always marked as **Pass by Value** (see third column in Figure 5.6), making this copy operation happen automatically.

The `GET_COURSE_LIST` has a very simple implementation. Russel only needs to pass the instance attribute `COURSE_LIST` to the `RETURNING` parameter `RE_COURSE_LIST` (see Listing 5.2).

```
METHOD get_course_list.
  re_course_list = course_list.
ENDMETHOD.
```

Listing 5.2 GET_COURSE_LIST Method Implementation

Additionally Russel needs a `GET` method, which will be used to get a single course record. By clicking on the **Parameters** button, the signature of the method is displayed. The signature of this method contains an `IMPORTING` parameter for the `COURSE_ID`, which will be used to select the specific course. The second parameter is a `RETURNING` parameter, which will be used to return the course data. This `RETURNING` parameter is typed like `ZCS_COURSE` (see Figure 5.7 and Figure 5.8).

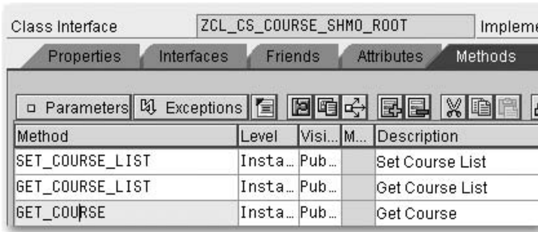

Figure 5.7 Define GET_COURSE Method

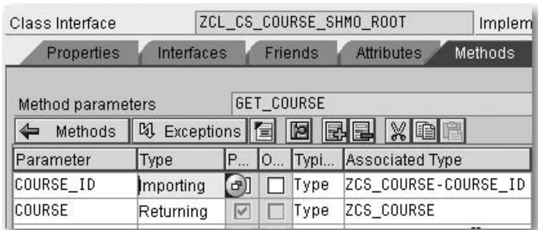

Figure 5.8 Define GET_COURSE Method Signature

Again, the implementation for the GET_COURSE method is fairly simple. A simple read statement will read the COURSE_LIST attribute and return the corresponding row based on the IMPORTING parameter COURSE_ID (see Listing 5.3).

```
METHOD get_course.
  READ TABLE course_list INTO course
              WITH KEY course_id = course_id.
ENDMETHOD.
```

Listing 5.3 GET_COURSE Method Implementation

5.1.2 Defining the Shared Memory Area

Russel now needs to create the shared memory area. The transaction code SHMA allows you to create the area and define its properties. When the shared memory area is created, a global class with the same name as the area is created automatically. Therefore, we recommend that you use the standard naming convention for classes, CL_* or ZCL_*, to name the memory area. This shared memory area class inherits from the class CL_SHM_AREA, which is a sub-class of CL_ABAP_MEMORY_AREA, giving it all the necessary methods for accessing area root class.

Russel uses transaction SHMA to create the shared memory area. The subsequent screen allows him to specify the properties of the area as well as the

root class that this area will be defined for (see Figure 5.9). For now Russel will leave the default properties that were suggested, no limits on the area size, lifetime, or number of versions. Later you will see how he can use some of these properties to set up automatic initialization of his shared object on the first read request.

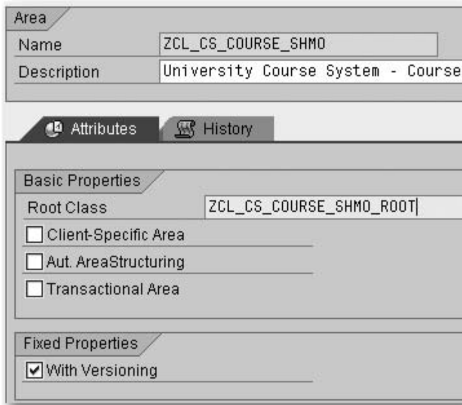

Figure 5.9 Area Properties

Now that the area class has been generated, Russel can look at the public methods that he will use to access the shared memory object (see Figure 5.10). The ATTACH methods will return *area handles*, which are instances of the area class.

Class Interface ZCL_CS_COURSE_SHMO Implement

Properties | Interfaces | Friends | Attributes | Methods

Method	Level	Visi...	M...	Description
_HAS_ACTIVE_PROPERTIES	Insta...	Pro...		
CLASS_CONSTRUCTOR	Stati...	Pub...		CLASS_CONSTRUCTOR
GET_GENERATOR_VERSION	Stati...	Pub...		Query Generator Version
ATTACH_FOR_READ	Stati...	Pub...		Request a Read Lock
ATTACH_FOR_WRITE	Stati...	Pub...		Request a Write Lock
ATTACH_FOR_UPDATE	Stati...	Pub...		Request a Change Lock
DETACH_AREA	Stati...	Pub...		Release all locks on all ir
INVALIDATE_INSTANCE	Stati...	Pub...		Active version of one insta
INVALIDATE_AREA	Stati...	Pub...		Active versions of all insta
FREE_INSTANCE	Stati...	Pub...		Deletion of an Instance
FREE_AREA	Stati...	Pub...		Delete all instances
GET_INSTANCE_INFOS	Stati...	Pub...		Returns the names of all
BUILD	Stati...	Pub...		Direct Call of Area Constr
SET_ROOT	Insta...	Pub...		Sets Root Objects

Figure 5.10 Methods of the Area Class

For example, the ATTACH_FOR_READ method will return an area handle, which can then be used to read the shared memory area. Similarly, the ATTACH_FOR_WRITE method will return an area handle, which will allow you to write to the shared memory area. The DETACH_AREA method removes the binding between the area class and the area handle.

5.1.3 Testing the Shared Memory Object

Russel wants to see the shared memory object in action before trying to use it directly in the rest of the course system. He decides to develop several short test programs to get a feel for how it all works. The first program will be a test write program, which will create the area instance of the area root class and place it into the shared memory area (see Listing 5.4).

```
REPORT  zcs_course_shmo_write.

DATA: course_handle TYPE REF TO zcl_cs_course_shmo,
      course_root   TYPE REF TO zcl_cs_course_shmo_root.

TRY.
    course_handle = zcl_cs_course_shmo=>attach_for_write( ).
    CREATE OBJECT course_root AREA HANDLE course_handle.
    course_handle->set_root( course_root ).
    course_root->set_course_list( ).
    course_handle->detach_commit( ).
  CATCH cx_shm_attach_error.
    ...
ENDTRY.
```

Listing 5.4 Write Test Program

Notice that fairly normal conventions are used for creating the COURSE_ROOT instance. Russel still uses the CREATE OBJECT syntax, but now with the new addition AREA HANDLE. These extra statements direct the ABAP runtime to instantiate the root class within shared memory instead of the internal session memory.

Russel writes a second program to test the reading of the data from the shared memory object (see Listing 5.5). This test program will allow Russel to ensure that the GET_COURSE_LIST method and the GET_COURSE method work properly. Before Russel runs this program, he must run the write program to load the memory area. Otherwise, he'll get an ABAP short dump when trying to access an unloaded memory area.

```
REPORT  zcs_course_shmo_read.

DATA: course_handle TYPE REF TO zcl_cs_course_shmo.
DATA: gt_courses TYPE zcs_courses_tt.
DATA: gs_courses TYPE zcs_course.

PARAMETERS: p_rad1 RADIOBUTTON GROUP grp1 DEFAULT 'X'.
PARAMETERS: p_rad2 RADIOBUTTON GROUP grp1.
PARAMETERS: p_csid TYPE zcs_course-course_id.

AT SELECTION-SCREEN.
  IF p_rad2 = 'X'
      AND p_csid IS INITIAL.
    MESSAGE e001(00) WITH 'Enter a course id'.
  ENDIF.

START-OF-SELECTION.

  TRY.
      course_handle = zcl_cs_course_shmo=>attach_for_read( ).
    CATCH cx_shm_attach_error.
  ENDTRY.

  CASE p_rad1.
    WHEN 'X'.
      gt_courses = course_handle->root->get_course_list( ).
    WHEN OTHERS.
      gs_courses = course_handle->root->get_course( p_csid ).
      APPEND gs_courses TO gt_courses.
  ENDCASE.

  course_handle->detach( ).

  LOOP AT gt_courses INTO gs_courses.
    WRITE:/ gs_courses-course_id,
            gs_courses-course_sdesc+0(20),
            gs_courses-faculty_id,
            gs_courses-semester,
            gs_courses-course_year,
            gs_courses-major,
            gs_courses-credit_hrs,
            gs_courses-student_limit,
            gs_courses-deletion_flag,
            gs_courses-start_time,
            gs_courses-end_time,
```

```
            gs_courses-course_schedule,
            gs_courses-cost,
            gs_courses-currency.

  ENDLOOP.
```

Listing 5.5 Read Test Program

5.1.4 Shared Memory Monitor

The shared memory monitor provides an interface in which you can monitor the area instances in the shared objects memory. The monitor allows you to view areas, area instances, versions, and locks. Drill-down functionality allows you to drill into these overviews via double-clicking on them.

Russel goes to transaction SHMM to check that the data has been written to the shared memory area by his test applications. He can see that there is one instance of the area class stored in the shared memory area `ZCL_CS_COURSE_SHMO` (see Figure 5.11). He can also see memory usage, number of instances, number of versions, and the status breakdown of the versions.

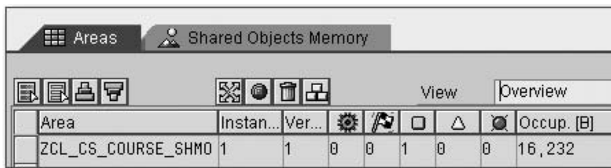

Figure 5.11 Shared Memory Monitor — Areas

If the `COURSE_LIST` attribute of the area root class was defined as **Public**, Russel could also see the data that is currently stored in the shared memory object. **Private** attributes, however, are not visible. This is also where he can delete shared memory areas.

For developers, the ability to delete a shared memory area within this transaction is probably one of the shared memory monitor's most useful functions. If you make any changes to the coding of the root class and reactivate it, the class will be given a new generation timestamp. The generation timestamp of the root class definition in the database is checked by the area class, whenever an access is made.

Therefore, if you make any changes to the root class after it has been stored within a shared area, this will cause an invalid version exception to be thrown every time you try to access the area. After each change to the root

class, you will have to delete any and all versions of the shared memory area before you can test your changes.

5.2 Automatic Preloading

Russel has reviewed what he has learned so far about shared memory objects and realizes that there are some weaknesses in his test applications. For example, it could be problematic if the shared memory area was read before it had been instantiated via a write operation. In other words, reading an unloaded shared memory area will only result in a short dump.

This can occur after the application server has been shut down and restarted. The shared memory areas are all cleared at this time. For the best reliability of his applications, Russel needs to find a way to preload the memory area at the time of the first read. Fortunately, the shared memory object implementation that SAP supplies has just the optional functionality he needs.

5.2.1 Adding the Interface

In order to take advantage of this functionality, he first must add the interface, `IF_SHM_BUILD_INSTANCE`, to the area root class `ZCL_CS_COURSE_SHMO_ROOT`. Once the interface is added, the `BUILD` method appears in the **Methods** tab (see Figure 5.12). This static method is automatically fired if any of the `ATTACH` methods of the area class are called and the shared memory area has not been loaded.

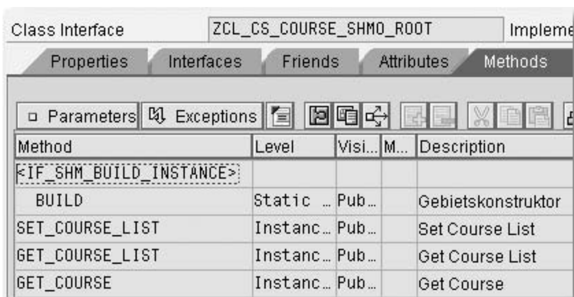

Figure 5.12 Build Method

Now Russel can copy and paste the code, which he wrote in the write test program `ZCS_COURSE_SHMO_WRITE` into the `BUILD` method (see Listing 5.6). This not only sets up the technical initialization of the root instance within

the area, but also provides an opportunity to preload all the data from the database via the call to the SET_COURSE_LIST method.

```
METHOD if_shm_build_instance~build.

  DATA: course_handle TYPE REF TO zcl_cs_course_shmo,
        course_root   TYPE REF TO zcl_cs_course_shmo_root,
        excep         TYPE REF TO cx_root.

  TRY.
      course_handle = zcl_cs_course_shmo=>attach_for_write( ).
    CATCH cx_shm_error INTO excep.
      RAISE EXCEPTION TYPE cx_shm_build_failed
                      EXPORTING previous = excep.
  ENDTRY.

  TRY.
      CREATE OBJECT course_root AREA HANDLE course_handle.
      course_handle->set_root( course_root ).
      course_root->set_course_list( ).
      course_handle->detach_commit( ).
    CATCH cx_shm_error INTO excep.
      RAISE EXCEPTION TYPE cx_shm_build_failed
                      EXPORTING previous = excep.
  ENDTRY.

  IF invocation_mode = cl_shm_area=>invocation_mode_auto_build.
    CALL FUNCTION 'DB_COMMIT'.
  ENDIF.

ENDMETHOD.
```

Listing 5.6 Build Method Implementation

Simply adding the BUILD method is not enough to have it triggered by the area class. Russel must return to transaction SHMM and adjust the properties on his area. He needs to set the flag for **Automatic Area Structuring** and the **Autostart** value for **Area Structure**.

Also he has to define the **Constructor Class**. This is the class where he implemented the BUILD method. Notice that no assumption is made that the BUILD method will be part of the root class. That is a common approach, but the BUILD method can actually belong to any global class.

5.2.2 Modifying the Read Program

Finally Russel needs to modify the read test program ZCS_COURSE_SHMO_READ. Although the static BUILD method of the root class will be called automatically now, it does so asynchronously.

Instead of simply calling the method ATTACH_FOR_READ, Russel needs to take into account the asynchronous BUILD method and modify the program so that it waits for the shared memory area to be loaded by the BUILD method. Then, he needs to call the ATTACH_FOR_READ method again. The BUILD method is actually fired in a different work process, which accounts for needing the WAIT statement (see Listing 5.7).

```
START-OF-SELECTION.
  TRY.
      course_handle = zcl_cs_course_shmo=>attach_for_read( ).
    CATCH cx_shm_no_active_version.
      WAIT UP TO 1 SECONDS.
      course_handle = zcl_cs_course_shmo=>attach_for_read( ).
  ENDTRY.
```

Listing 5.7 Read Program Modification

Russel can now use transaction SHMM to delete any shared memory areas that may still exist. Since Russel has modified the area root class ZCL_CS_COURSE_SHMO_ROOT, he must delete any existing shared memory areas for this root. If this isn't done, Russel will get an ABAP runtime exception stating an inconsistency is present.

Russel can now run the read program directly instead of having to first run the write program. The output proves that the preloading of the shared memory object is working correctly.

5.3 Implementing into the Business Object Layer

Russel has finally completed the programming required for the shared memory object and has tested that it works correctly. The next step is to implement this shared memory object in the business object layer of the course system.

The main goal is to swap out the persistent object code and replace it with the shared memory object code. When the exchange is complete, the changes should have no affect on any developments that use the business

object. This allows us to hide any complexities of using the shared memory object from the application logic. Activities like having to wait for the asynchronous BUILD method to complete will all be handled within the business object class now.

Example Source Code

It is important for you to understand that normally Russel (i.e., the developer) would be directly modifying the business object class ZCL_CS_COURSE to implement the shared memory object. In order to illustrate how the business objects change as we delve further into the development of the examples that accompany this book, we will show you how to implement the shared memory object in a copy of the ZCL_CS_COURSE business object class.

For a complete example of all of the changes that you need to make to the business object class ZCL_CS_COURSE, see the class ZCL_CS_COURSE_SHM_ACCESS.

5.3.1 Developing a Test Program

Russel wants to develop a simple program to test data retrieval using the business object class. This simple report program will retrieve all of the courses and write the data out to a standard list display (see Listing 5.8). Later he will use this same program to test the implementation of the shared memory object for the course database.

```
REPORT  zcs_course_obj_read.

DATA: gt_courses  TYPE STANDARD TABLE OF zcs_course_att.
FIELD-SYMBOLS: <gs_courses> LIKE LINE OF gt_courses.
DATA: gt_courses_obj TYPE zcs_courses_tbl.
FIELD-SYMBOLS: <gs_courses_obj> LIKE LINE OF gt_courses_obj.

START-OF-SELECTION.

  gt_courses_obj = zcl_cs_course=>read_all_courses( ).
  LOOP AT gt_courses_obj
          ASSIGNING <gs_courses_obj>.
    APPEND INITIAL LINE TO gt_courses
                   ASSIGNING <gs_courses>.
    MOVE-CORRESPONDING
           <gs_courses_obj>-course->course
                         TO <gs_courses>.
  ENDLOOP.

  LOOP AT gt_courses ASSIGNING <gs_courses>.
```

```
    WRITE:/ <gs_courses>-course_id,
            <gs_courses>-course_sdesc+0(20),
            <gs_courses>-faculty_id,
            <gs_courses>-semester,
            <gs_courses>-course_year,
            <gs_courses>-major,
            <gs_courses>-credit_hrs,
            <gs_courses>-student_limit,
            <gs_courses>-deletion_flag,
            <gs_courses>-start_time,
            <gs_courses>-end_time,
            <gs_courses>-course_schedule,
            <gs_courses>-cost,
            <gs_courses>-currency.
  ENDLOOP.
```

Listing 5.8 Course Object Test Program

5.3.2 Modifying the Business Object Class

Russel has proven that the current business object class ZCL_CS_COURSE works well using the persistent object for the course database. To keep things simple, we'll focus now on only those changes required for the READ_ALL_COURSES method. Listing 5.9 shows that the code for the persistent object has been removed, and the new code to retrieve the data from the shared memory object has been inserted.

```
METHOD read_all_courses.

  DATA: course_handle TYPE REF TO zcl_cs_course_shmo.
  DATA: lt_courses TYPE zcs_courses_tt.
  FIELD-SYMBOLS: <ls_courses> LIKE LINE OF lt_courses,
                 <wa_course>  LIKE LINE OF r_courses.
  TRY.
      course_handle = zcl_cs_course_shmo=>attach_for_read( ).
    CATCH cx_shm_no_active_version.
      WAIT UP TO 1 SECONDS.
      course_handle = zcl_cs_course_shmo=>attach_for_read( ).
  ENDTRY.
  lt_courses = course_handle->root->get_course_list( ).
  course_handle->detach( ).

  LOOP AT lt_courses ASSIGNING <ls_courses>.
    APPEND INITIAL LINE TO r_courses ASSIGNING <wa_course>.
    <wa_course>-course_id = <ls_courses>-course_id.
```

```
    CREATE OBJECT <wa_course>-course
      EXPORTING
        i_course = <ls_courses>.
  ENDLOOP.

ENDMETHOD.
```

Listing 5.9 READ_ALL_COURSES Method

Also notice that the variable being passed to the CREATE OBJECT statement has changed. Instead of passing the persistent object, Russel is now passing a flat structure, which contains the course data. This means that the signature of the CONSTRUCTOR method of the business object class must also be modified. The I_COURSE parameter must be typed like ZCS_COURSE (see Figure 5.13). Because the CONSTRUCTOR is private and only called via static factory methods, this sort of change has no effect on the applications that are using the business object class.

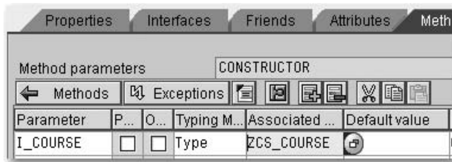

Figure 5.13 Constructor Signature

The CONSTRUCTOR implementation has changed a bit as well. Since Russel is now passing a flat structure to the I_COURSE parameter, the CONSTRUCTOR must do something with this data. Russel has added a new private instance attribute called SHMA_DATA. This attribute will hold the data that is passed from the I_COURSE parameter (see Listing 5.10).

```
METHOD constructor.
  me->shma_data = i_course.
  me->course_preq_pers =
     me->load_course_preqs( i_course-course_id ).
  me->map_shared_to_struc( ).
  me->load_supporting_details( ).
ENDMETHOD.
```

Listing 5.10 Constructor Modifications

Russel has also added a new method called MAP_SHARED_TO_STRUC that replaces the mapping from the persistent object, and will be used to map the data from the SHMA_DATA attribute to the COURSE attribute of the business object (see Listing 5.11).

```
METHOD map_shared_to_struc.

  course-course_id       = shma_data-course_id.
  course-course_sdesc    = shma_data-course_sdesc.
  course-faculty_id      = shma_data-faculty_id.
  course-semester        = shma_data-semester.
  course-course_year     = shma_data-course_year.
  course-major           = shma_data-major.
  course-credit_hrs      = shma_data-credit_hrs.
  course-student_limit   = shma_data-student_limit.
  course-deletion_flag   = shma_data-deletion_flag.
  course-start_time      = shma_data-start_time.
  course-end_time        = shma_data-end_time.
  course-course_schedule = shma_data-course_schedule.
  course-cost            = shma_data-cost.
  course-currency        = shma_data-currency.
  course-description     = shma_data-description.

* Load faculty using business object class
  TRY.
      course-faculty =
        zcl_cs_faculty=>read_faculty( course-faculty_id ).
    CATCH zcx_cs_faculty.
  ENDTRY.

  DATA l_syllabi TYPE xstring.
  l_syllabi = shma_data-syllabi.
  DATA izip TYPE REF TO cl_abap_gzip.
  IF l_syllabi IS NOT INITIAL.
    CREATE OBJECT izip.
    izip->decompress_text( EXPORTING gzip_in = l_syllabi
                 IMPORTING text_out = course-syllabi ).
  ENDIF.

  FIELD-SYMBOLS: <wa_pers> LIKE LINE OF course_preq_pers,
                 <wa_preq> TYPE zcs_course_preq_att.
  LOOP AT course_preq_pers ASSIGNING <wa_pers>.
    APPEND INITIAL LINE TO course-pre_req ASSIGNING <wa_preq>.
    <wa_preq>-preq_id = <wa_pers>-course_preq->get_preq_id( ).
  ENDLOOP.

ENDMETHOD.
```

Listing 5.11 MAP_SHARED_TO_STRUC Method Implementation

5.3.3 Testing the Changes

Now that Russel has completed the changes required to the business object class, he can use the test program, which he created earlier to see whether the data is being retrieved correctly. Again Russel would have directly modified the business object class ZCL_CS_COURSE, so there would be no changes required to the test program to make it work. For our purposes, we have implemented the changes in a copy of the business object class. Therefore, the test program ZCS_COURSE_OBJ_READ must be slightly modified to use the new business object class ZCL_COURSE_SHM_ACCESS.

Listing 5.12 shows that Russel is simply swapping out the table type used to receive the objects from the business object class, and the static call to method READ_ALL_COURSES.

```
REPORT  zcs_course_obj_read.
DATA: gt_courses  TYPE STANDARD TABLE OF zcs_course_att.
FIELD-SYMBOLS: <gs_courses> LIKE LINE OF gt_courses.
*DATA: gt_courses_obj TYPE zcs_courses_tbl.
DATA: gt_courses_obj TYPE zcs_courses_tbl_sma.
FIELD-SYMBOLS: <gs_courses_obj> LIKE LINE OF gt_courses_obj.

START-OF-SELECTION.

* gt_courses_obj = zcl_cs_course=>read_all_courses( ).
  gt_courses_obj =
         zcl_cs_course_shm_access=>read_all_courses().
```

Listing 5.12 Test Program Modifications

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Index

A

ABAP Debugger 292, 341, 342
ABAP Dialog Screen Painter 33
ABAP Editor 28
ABAP exception 454
ABAP JavaScript (AJS) 357
ABAP kernel 34, 203
ABAP language syntax 30
ABAP Objects 143
ABAP Trial Version 469
ABAP Unit 18, 26, 221
ABAP Workbench 17
ABAP+J2EE instance 376
abstract class 76
abstract provider 207
abstraction 71, 169
Action 310
addition
  FOR TESTING 222
Adobe 375
Adobe Document Services (ADS) 376–380, 390, 392, 404, 405
  user 379
Adobe Flex 304
Adobe Forms 19, 379, 381, 384, 390, 391, 395, 398, 422, 444
Adobe LifeCycle Designer 375, 381, 387, 398
  Table Assistant 398
Adobe Reader 377, 393, 394
ADS → see Adobe Document Services (ADS)
agent class 75
AJAX 19, 346, 356, 358, 361, 362, 443
  Handler 359
AJS → see ABAP JavaScript (AJS)
allow.ip 206
ALV → see SAP List Viewer (ALV)
append 62
application component 252
archive 200
ASCII7 26
assigned role 421
assigning 278
assistance class 166, 304, 310, 322
asynchronous 263
Asynchronous JavaScript and XML (AJAX) → see AJAX
attribute
  code 201
authentication 134
authorization group 58

B

BAPI → see Business Application Programming Interface (BAPI)
base class 75, 76
Basic Authentication 135, 379
Basic Authorization 238
Basis Support Package 30
BCS → see Business Communication Services (BCS)
binary string 37, 187, 393
binary table 115
binding 319
bookmark 30
Browser Selection 28
BSP → see Business Server Pages (BSP)
buffer memory 56
buffering 54, 56
  settings 52
Business Application Programming Interface (BAPI) 433
Business Communication Services (BCS) 178, 182, 185–188
business object 101, 102, 128, 347
business object class 89, 95, 163, 168–172, 279
Business Server Pages (BSP) 27, 33, 164–166, 303, 345, 403, 413, 416, 424–427, 444, 449
  BSP_UPDATE_MIMEREPOS 364
  COMPILE_TIME_IS_VALID 369
  controller 348, 353, 354
  data binding 369
  DO_AT_BEGINNING 371
  element 366
  element handler class 366

extension 27, 365, 425, 427, 428
extension element 165, 363
HTMLB Event Manager 373
model class 353
page attribute 429
PAGE->TO_STRING 360
portalEvent 427
RUNTIME_IS_VALID 370
server caching 361
server event 428
stateful 346
stateless 346
validator 369, 370
view 349

C

cardinality 321, 397
Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) 350, 352, 355, 360
casting 177, 215
central lock process 65
central master data hub 194
certificate 377
channel 457, 458
Chart View 436, 442
class
assistance class 166
CL_ABAP_GZIP 105
CL_ABAP_RANDOM 111
CL_ABAP_REGEX 190
CL_ABAP_ZIP 106
CL_BSP_CONTROLLER 354
CL_BSP_MIMES 386
CL_BSP_MODEL2 165
CL_CAM_ADDRESS_BCS 188
CL_GUI_ALV_GRID 282
CL_MDM_GENERIC_API 203, 207
CL_MIME_REPOSITORY_API 386
CL_SALV_COLUMN_TABLE 284
CL_SALV_DISPLAY_SETTINGS 285
CL_SALV_EVENTS_TABLE 291
CL_SALV_FUNCTIONS 282
CL_SALV_HIERSEQ_TABLE 274
CL_SALV_LAYOUT 286
CL_SALV_SELECTIONS 289
CL_SALV_TABLE 274, 279
CL_SALV_TREE 274
CL_SALV_WD_CONFIG_TABLE 323
CL_SAPUSER_BCS 188
CL_WD_COMPONENT_ASSISTANCE 166
CL_WD_DYNAMIC_TOOL 316
definition 184
Class Builder
Types tab 184
Class Type 73
class-based exception 89, 209
classic Dynpro 295, 422, 447
client dependent 53
client key 64
client proxy 121–124, 265
code
collapse 30
coloring 30
completion 31
page 180
sample 469
template 30
code-free environment 430
Collective Search Help 68
commit work 36
complex data type 61
complex type 259, 261
component 304, 309, 310, 331, 342
controller 320, 329
interface 329
INTERFACECONTROLLER 320
INTERFACECONTROLLER_USAGE 321
reuse 307, 310, 327, 331
SALV_WD_TABLE 307, 320
structure 38
usage 307, 309, 320, 327–329
compression 105, 106
connection test 415
connector category 413
connector property 410
console hierarchy 200
constructor 94
container control 276
Content Administration 416
context 38, 316, 335, 336, 342
attribute 317, 318
element 337
mapping 321, 383
control flush 36
controller 300, 395
controller class 296, 299

www.sap-press.com

controller context 395
cookies 138
CRUD methods (Create, Read, Update, Delete) 90, 168
CSS → see Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)
customer modification 63

D

data base layout 44
data binding 317, 340
data browser 46, 60
data buffering 52
Data Dictionary 17, 46, 212
- *domain* 47
- *object* 43, 44
- *Table Type* 98
- *Type* 313

data element 47, 50
data model 46, 196, 200
data persistence layer 72
data relationship 45
Data Service 434
data table 61
data type 252, 253
- *xsd:decimal* 258
- *xsd:string* 255, 257, 258

database lock 347
deadlock 65
debugger 36
Debugger XML Viewer 37
Default Port 126
deletion operation 104
Delivery and Maintenance 57, 58
delivery class 51
dequeue 172
desktop 36
detail option
- *maxLength* 255

development class 40
development coordination 41
dialog 27
- *popup* 331
- *popup window* 324
- *screen program* 295

Dictionary Search Help 314
Direct Type Entry 184
Display Worklist 24
distributed development 71
DIV tag 358
Document Object Model (DOM) 356
domain 48, 50
Drop Down List Box 48
Dynpro 19, 66, 67, 90
Dynpro Event 300

E

element set 336
elementary search help 66, 68
email 177, 185
endpoint type 236, 270
Enhancement Category 61
Enhancement Framework 26, 61, 63
Enhancement Info System 25
Enjoy Control Event 299
enqueue 171
Enterprise Service 26, 37, 91
Enterprise Service Browser 26, 250
Enterprise Service Modeling 18
Enterprise Service Repository 26, 250, 264
enterprise SOA 16, 91, 194
Entry Point 420
ERP system 196
event
- *CLEANUP* 209
- *namespace* 426
- *OK_CODE* 300
- *ONCLICK* 324
- *onSubmit* 402
- *PAI-based* 301
- *parameter* 427
- *receiver* 425
- *registration* 300
- *subscriber* 425

event handler 291, 299, 301, 310, 315, 324, 337
- *WDDoBeforeAction* 315, 316

event handler method 310
exception 170, 454
exception class 82, 83, 84, 111, 269
- *CX_DYNAMIC_CHECK* 86
- *CX_HTTP_EXT_EXCEPTION* 455
- *CX_MDM_MAIN_EXCEPTION* 209
- *CX_NO_CHECK* 86
- *CX_STATIC_CHECK* 86
- *CX_SY_CONVERSION_CODEPAGE* 211