2011

CODE ONTIME

COOKBOOK
Many-To-Many Fields

Let's set up a many-to-many field to the *Employees* page in a *Web Site Factory* application. As you can see below, the *EmployeeTerritories* junction table links together *Employees* and *Territories*.
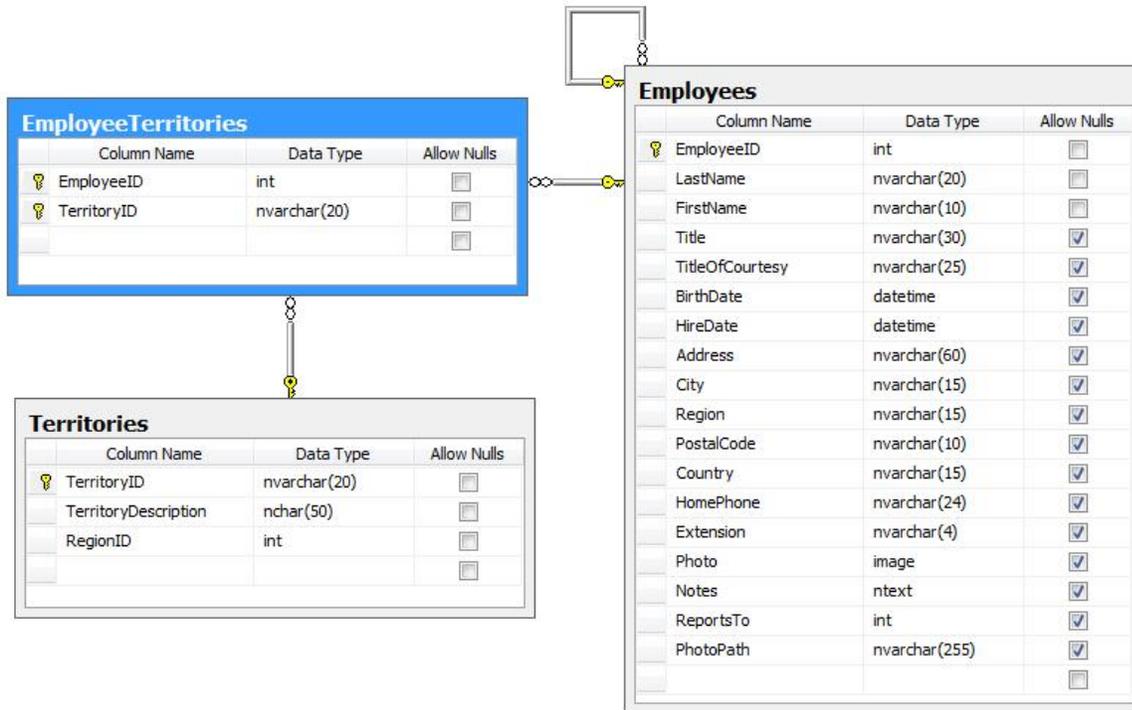
Below, you can see how the *Employees* page is presented in a non-customized *Web Site Factory* application. There is a long list of fields going down the page, and several tabs below for the child record lists. One of these lists contain all the relevant territories to the selected employee.

We would like to make the form more compact, and move the *Territories* directly onto the *Employees* form, as well as make *Territories* more easily editable.

Bring up *Code On Time Generator*, select the project name, and press *Design*. From the list of *All Controllers*, select *Employees*. First, let's make the presentation of the data more compact by switching to *Categories* tab. Change both *New Column* and *Floating* to "Yes" for both categories.
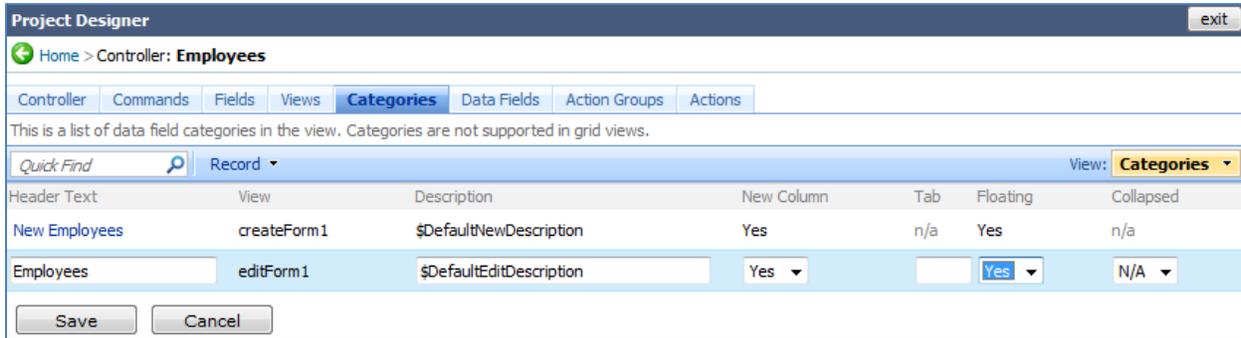
Now, switch to *Fields* tab and create a new *Field*. Give it the *Name* "Territories", *Type* "String", and enable "Allow null values". Enable "The value of this field is computed at run-time", and specify the *SQL Formula* of "NULL". *Label* will be "Territories".
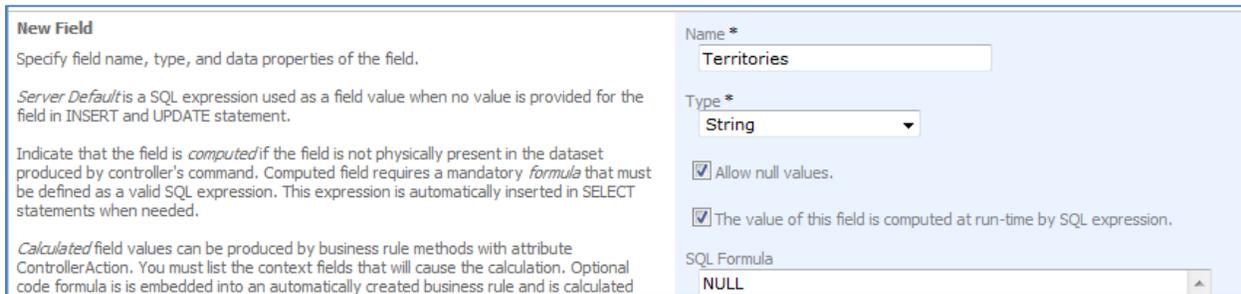
The last step will be to indicate how the items will be displayed. From *Items Style*, choose "Checkbox List". *Items Data Controller* will be "Territories", *Data Value Field* is "TerritoryId", and *Data Text Field* is "Territory Description". *Target Controller* will be "EmployeeTerritories". Save the field, and select it from the list.
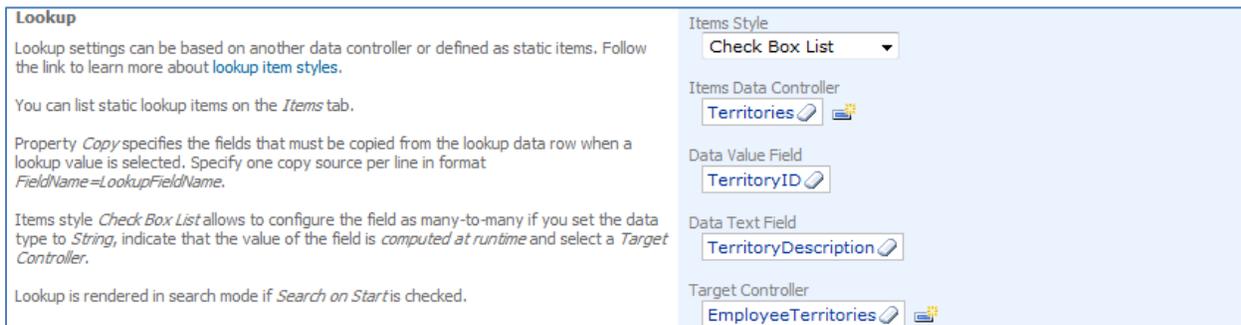
Select the field you just created, *Territories*, and then click on *Data Fields* tab. We will need to bind the new field to several views. Create a new data field with *View* of "createForm1", *Category* of "New Employees", and set *Columns* to "5".

Save this data field and create a new one. The next data field will be of *View* "editForm1", *Category* of "Employees", with *Columns* set to "5".

Save, and press the *Preview* button on the action bar.

The new *Employees* page will appear in a browser window. Select an employee and you can see that the detail view is much more compact. There is also a list of territories associated with that employee.

If you press the *Edit* button, then the fields will become editable. You will notice that the new *Territories* field becomes a list of checkboxes. You can mark however many selections, and the application will save your selection when you press *Ok*.