

Lookup Item Styles

Data Aquarium Framework provides a variety of presentation styles for lookup items in your grid and form views.

Consider the following screen shot fragment of *products* form view in application generated by Code OnTime Generator from *Northwind* database.



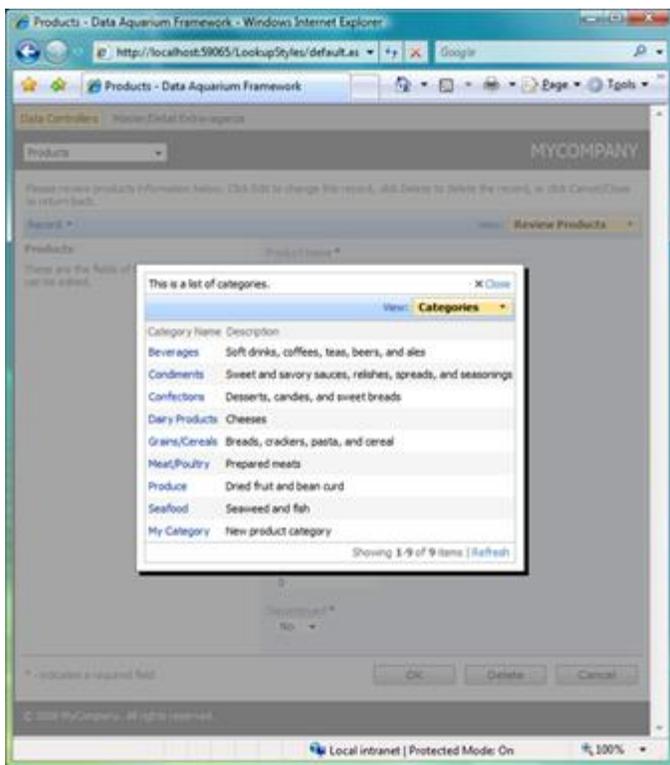
Products
These are the fields of the products record that can be edited.

Product Name *
Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning

Supplier Company Name
New Orleans Cajun Delights

Category Name
Condiments

Supplier company name and category names are allowing user to select *SupplierID* and *CategoryID* in a *products* table row. If user clicks on a link with category name then the following lookup control is presented.



Products - Data Aquarium Framework - Windows Internet Explorer
http://localhost:59065/LookupStyles/default.as

Products - Data Aquarium Framework

MYCOMPANY

Please review product's information below. Click Edit to change the record, Add Links to delete the record, or Click Cancel/Close to return back.

Review Products

Products

Product Name *

These are the fields of can be edited.

This is a list of categories.

View: Categories

| Category Name | Description |
|----------------|--|
| Beverages | Soft drinks, coffees, teas, beers, and ales |
| Condiments | Sweet and savory sauces, relishes, spreads, and seasonings |
| Confections | Desserts, candies, and sweet breads |
| Dairy Products | Cheeses |
| Grains/Cereals | Breads, crackers, pasta, and cereal |
| Meat/Poultry | Prepared meats |
| Produce | Dried fruit and bean curd |
| Seafood | Seaweed and fish |
| My Category | New product category |

Showing 1-9 of 9 items | Refresh

OK Delete Cancel

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Local intranet | Protected Mode: On 100%

The *eraser* icon will clear up the selected category.

This advanced lookup control is displayed thanks to the following configuration of *SupplierID* and *CategoryID* fields in `~/Controllers/Products.xml` data controller descriptor.

```
<field name="SupplierID" type="Int32" label="Supplier#">
  <items style="Lookup" dataController="Suppliers"
    newDataView="createForm1" />
</field>
<field name="SupplierCompanyName" type="String" readOnly="true"
  label="Supplier Company Name" />
<field name="CategoryID" type="Int32" label="Category#">
  <items style="Lookup" dataController="Categories" newDataView="createForm1"
  />
</field>
<field name="CategoryCategoryName" type="String" readOnly="true"
  label="Category Name" />
```

Style of items is set to *Lookup*.

The source of items is identified by *dataController* attribute that refers to a corresponding data controller descriptor.

You can change the style of items for *CategoryID* field by replacing *Lookup* with *DropDownList*.

This will translate into the following presentation.

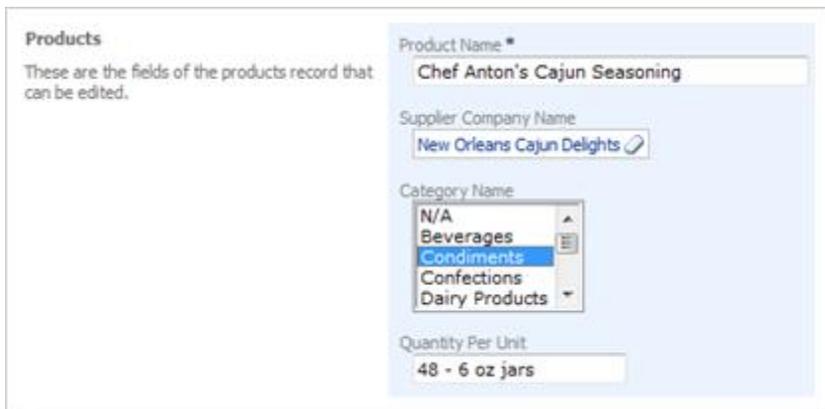


The screenshot shows a form titled "Products" with the subtitle "These are the fields of the products record that can be edited." The form contains the following fields:

- Product Name *: Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning
- Supplier Company Name: New Orleans Cajun Delights (with a search icon)
- Category Name: A dropdown menu is open, showing the following options: N/A, Beverages, Condiments (highlighted), Confections, Dairy Products, Grains/Cereals, Meat/Poultry, My Category, Produce, and Seafood.

Notice that *N/A* option is automatically added to the list since *CategoryID* field allows null values to be stored in the table column.

Here is how *ListBox* item presentation style is rendered.



The screenshot shows the same form as above, but with the "Category Name" field rendered as a list box. The list box contains the following items: N/A, Beverages, Condiments (highlighted), Confections, and Dairy Products. Below the list box, the "Quantity Per Unit" field is visible with the value "48 - 6 oz jars".

Another popular option is to have lookup items displayed as a radio button list.

Products
These are the fields of the products record that can be edited.

Product Name *
Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning

Supplier Company Name
New Orleans Cajun Delights

Category Name

- N/A
- Beverages
- Condiments
- Confections
- Dairy Products
- Grains/Cereals
- Meat/Poultry
- My Category
- Produce
- Seafood

Quantity Per Unit
48 - 6 oz jars

You can provide a more compact radio button list by adding *columns* property to the data field in *editForm1* form view as shown in the snippet.

```
<dataField fieldName="CategoryID" aliasFieldName="CategoryCategoryName"
  columns="3"/>
```

This is how the presentation of categories has changed.

Products
These are the fields of the products record that can be edited.

Product Name *
Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning

Supplier Company Name
New Orleans Cajun Delights

Category Name

- N/A
- Beverages
- Condiments
- Confections
- Dairy Products
- Grains/Cereals
- Meat/Poultry
- My Category
- Produce
- Seafood

Quantity Per Unit
48 - 6 oz jars

Grid view is also sensitive to the item style and automatically displays the data as prescribed in data controller file. Here you can see a *DropDownList* style of the lookup items of *CategoryID* field.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------|-----|----|----|-----|
| Aniseed Syrup | Exotic Liquids | Condiments | 12 - 550 ml bottles | \$10.00 | 13 | 70 | 25 | No |
| Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning | New Orleans Cajun Delights | Condiments | 48 - 6 oz jars | \$22.00 | 53 | 0 | 0 | No |
| Chef Anton's Gumbo Mix | New Orleans Cajun Delights | N/A | 36 boxes | \$21.35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Yes |
| Grandma's Boysenberry Spread | Grandma Kelly's Homestead | Confections | 12 - 8 oz jars | \$25.00 | 120 | 0 | 25 | No |
| Uncle Bob's Organic Dried Pears | Grandma Kelly's Homestead | Dairy Products | 12 - 1 lb pkgs. | \$30.00 | 15 | 0 | 10 | No |
| Northwoods Cranberry Sauce | Grandma Kelly's Homestead | Grains/Cereals | 12 - 12 oz jars | \$40.00 | 6 | 0 | 0 | No |
| Mishi Kobe Niku | Tokyo Traders | Meat/Poultry | 18 - 500 g pkgs. | \$97.00 | 29 | 0 | 0 | Yes |

A common requirement is to have a custom fixed list of values for certain fields in the database tables.

Redefine the items of *CategoryID* field as shown in the markup example below.

```
<field name="CategoryID" type="Int32" label="Category#">
  <items style="RadioButtonList">
    <item text="One" value="1"/>
    <item text="Two" value="2"/>
    <item text="Three" value="3"/>
  </items>
</field>
```

The presentation of the field will change to the following.

Products

These are the fields of the products record that can be edited.

Product Name *

Supplier Company Name

Category Name
 N/A
 One
 Two
 Three

Quantity Per Unit

If you retain the *dataController* attribute then both static and dynamic items will show up in a list.

Products
These are the fields of the products record that can be edited.

Product Name *
Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning

Supplier Company Name
New Orleans Cajun Delights

Category Name
 N/A Grains/Cereals Seafood
 Beverages Meat/Poultry Three
 Condiments My Category Two
 Confections One
 Dairy Products Produce

Quantity Per Unit
48 - 6 oz jars

Note that dynamic and static items are always sorted in alphabetical order regardless of their nature.

Lookup style is not supported for static items.

Additional display style *CheckBox* is provided to support fields with *boolean* data type only.