

Lookup Item Styles

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

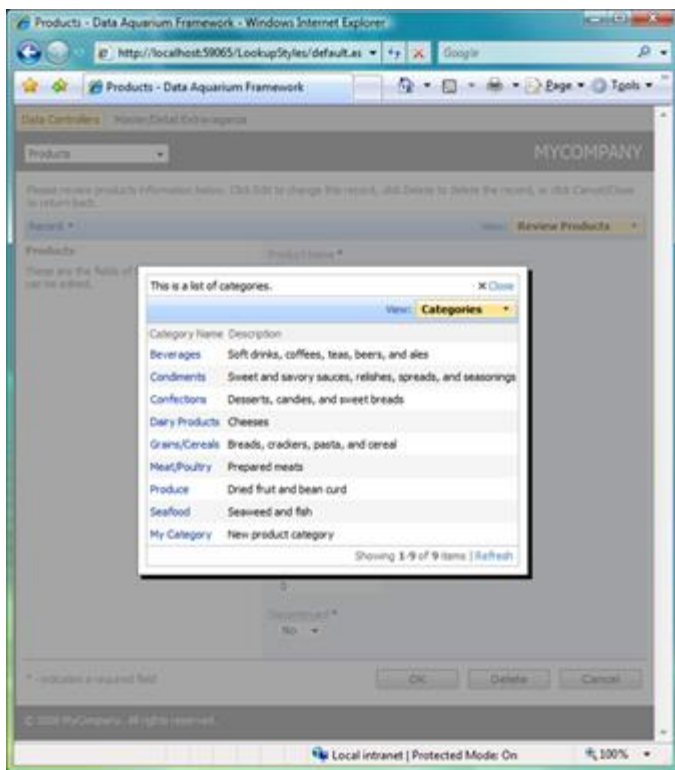
Consider the following screen shot fragment of *products* form view in application generated by Code OnTime Generator from *Northwind* database.



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

- Product Name ***: A text input field containing "Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning".
- Supplier Company Name**: A text input field containing "New Orleans Cajun Delights" with a small edit icon to its right.
- Category Name**: A text input field containing "Condiments" with a small edit icon to its right.

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.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a "Products" form. A modal dialog box is open, titled "This is a list of categories:", with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog has a "View:" dropdown menu set to "Categories". It displays a list of categories with their descriptions:

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

At the bottom of the dialog, it says "Showing 1-9 of 9 items | Refresh". The background form is partially visible, showing a "Product Name" field and a "Supplier Company Name" field. The browser's address bar shows "http://localhost:59065/LookupStyles/default.aspx".

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.

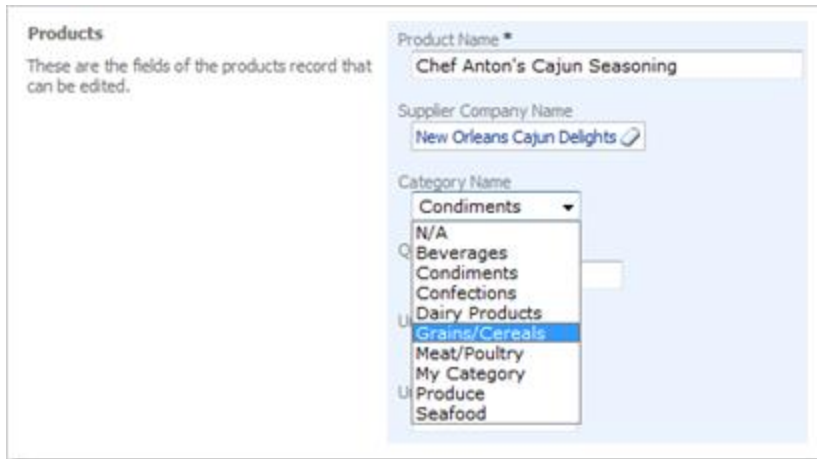
```
<field name="SupplierID" type="Int32" label="Supplier#">
  <items style="Lookup" dataController="Suppliers"
    newDataView="createForm1" />
</field>
<field name="SupplierCompanyName" type="String" readOnly="true"
  label="Supplier Company Name" />
<field name="CategoryID" type="Int32" label="Category#">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

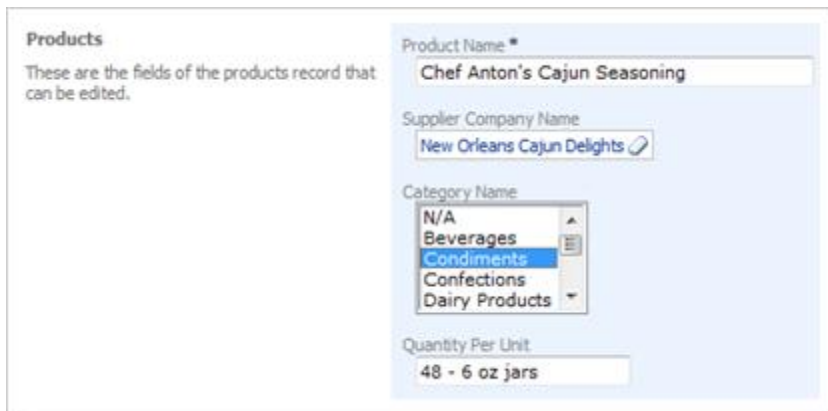


The screenshot shows a form titled "Products" with the subtitle "These are the fields of the products record that can be edited." The form contains the following fields:

- Product Name ***: A text box containing "Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning".
- Supplier Company Name**: A text box containing "New Orleans Cajun Delights" with a search icon.
- Category Name**: A dropdown menu with the following options: "N/A", "Beverages", "Condiments", "Confections", "Dairy Products", "Grains/Cereals" (highlighted), "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
- Dairy Products

Below the list box, the "Quantity Per Unit" field is visible, containing the text "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.