

# Smart Access

Solutions for Microsoft® Access® Developers

## Access: Your New .NET Report Writer

Danny J. Lesandrini

2002

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In the May 2002 issue of *Smart Access*, Danny Lesandrini showed how easy it is to migrate existing Access reports to the Web using the ExportXML function of Access 2002. A little tinkering with this feature of Access has revealed its potential as a .NET report-writing tool. Follow along as he shows how to create complex reports for .NET applications using your favorite development tool, Microsoft Access.

**W**HY talk about .NET in a Microsoft Access publication? Because some day, Microsoft Office is going to be “DotNetified” and we might as well get ready for it. While it’s true that the next version of Office isn’t a .NET product, competitive Access developers will use this reprieve to prepare for .NET. Now is the time to identify ways to leverage your current Access skills and find your own .NET niche.

### Can you fit into this niche?

I’ve commented before that, in my opinion, reporting is one of the greatest features of Microsoft Access. The Access report designer is so powerful and intuitive that even novice Access users can create complex reports in minutes. For years now, it’s been possible to export these reports as static Web pages and, with some difficulty, as report snapshot files that can be integrated into Web pages.

Starting with Access 2002, reports could also be exported as XML/XSL transformed HTML pages. The advantage of this over the Export as HTML function in previous versions of Access is twofold:







- All user-defined presentation formatting is preserved.
- Since the XML data file is updatable, the formerly static report is now dynamic.

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