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Copy a DataTable in ADO.NET 2.0

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<http://davidhayden.com/blog/dave/archive/2006/02/07/2792.aspx>

I have been spending some time each day answering questions on the MSDN Forums. It is a great way to help people as well as a great learning experience because I often need to double-check if something actually works as expected. I particularly like the questions about [ADO.NET 2.0](#) concerning DataTables, DataAdapters, etc. because I don't normally get to play with these on a daily basis as I tend to use classes and collections.

I thought I would start sharing some of the questions and answers on my blog thinking they would perhaps be useful to others.

A question came up on the best way to copy a **DataTable** and my gut was that the **DataTable** probably had a **Copy** method for this, but I wasn't sure. Turns out it does, and it indeed makes a copy of a **DataTable** based on my test shown below:

```
string connectionString =
    "...NorthwindConnectionString...";

DataTable categories = new DataTable("Categories");

using (SqlConnection connection =
    new SqlConnection(connectionString))
{
    SqlCommand command = connection.CreateCommand();
    command.CommandText = "SELECT [CategoryID],
        [CategoryName] FROM [Categories]";

    connection.Open();
    categories.Load(command.ExecuteReader
        (CommandBehavior.CloseConnection));
}
```

```
DataTable copyOfCategories = categories.Copy();

categories = null;

// copyOfCategories is not null at this point,
// so this will work...
```

When I set the original **DataTable**, called **Categories**, to **null** after the copy, the new **DataTable**, called **copyOfCategories**, still contains the original schema and data.

That's a handy method :)

Source: [David Hayden](#) ([Florida .NET Developer](#))

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