In previous chapters, you’ve seen the basics of the ADO.NET model and its components. Visual Studio (VS) .NET provides design-time support to work with data components. In this chapter, you’ll learn how to use these data components in VS .NET at design-time to create database applications. Using these components is similar to using any Windows control. You just drag the component to a form, set its properties and methods, and you’re up and running.

In this chapter I’ll start with the Server Explorer, a useful tool for database applications. I’ll focus on developing database applications quickly, using data components in VS .NET without writing a lot of code. I’ll also show you a step-by-step tutorial to help you develop and run a project. After that, I’ll discuss data connection, data adapter, data command, dataset, and data view components in more detail. After finishing this chapter, you’ll have a good understanding of data components and how to work with them in VS .NET.

Creating Your ADO.NET Project

Begin your project by launching VS .NET and choosing New ➤ Project from the Project menu. Choose Visual C# Projects from Project Types and then pick the Windows Application template. If you like, type an appropriate name into the Name field for your first ADO.NET application and click OK (see Figure 4-1).
Figure 4-1. Creating a new project

Using the Server Explorer

The Server Explorer is new to Visual Studio .NET. You can open the Server Explorer by clicking the View ➔ Server Explorer menu item, as shown in Figure 4-2.