This chapter is a prerequisite for the next, where we will actually begin to work with the XML features of SQL Server 2000. Before we can begin working with XML, we need to install IIS. This chapter gives an overview of IIS explaining what it is, and how we can use it.

We will cover the installation of IIS on both Windows 2000 and Windows NT. After installation, we will walk through creating a virtual directory in IIS for the web site that we will set up and also for SQL Server. A virtual directory is a directory on your hard drive that is designated as a share point in IIS, meaning that IIS points to a directory on your hard drive that is usually shared.

It should be noted that, in order to complete this chapter and the next, you need to be running SQL Server 2000 on Windows NT 4.0 or Windows 2000 Professional. The IIS Virtual Directory Management for SQL Server utility requires one of these operating systems.

So, in this chapter we will:

- Conduct an overview of IIS
- Cover the installation of IIS on Windows 2000 and Windows NT
- Create a virtual directory for a web site
- Create a virtual directory for SQL Server

**IIS Overview**

Microsoft *Internet Information Server (IIS)* is an Internet service that can also be used on a private intranet. It allows you to view and share information using a standard protocol called *HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP)*. Using this protocol you can access and view information in web pages such as those pages that end with the `.htm`, `.html`, `.shtml`, and `.asp` file extensions.
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The web pages themselves can provide links to other web pages and to documents that can be viewed in a web browser such as Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE). For example, a web page can contain a link to a Microsoft Word document and when you click on the link, the Word document will be displayed in your browser (if you have Microsoft Word installed on your machine).

A web page itself can display HTML (HyperText Markup Language), DHTML (Dynamic HyperText Markup Language), and XML (Extensible Markup Language), or a combination of the three.

IIS processes HTTP requests from the URL (Uniform Resource Locator) that was entered in a browser or sent from a web page. A URL (essentially an address such as http://www.apress.com/about/ordering.html) specifies the virtual directory name of the web site and the page that you want to access. For example, assume you had a virtual directory set up called Controls installed on your machine, and you wanted to access the web page named Tasks.htm. You could enter the following URL in your browser:

http://localhost/Controls/Tasks.htm

IIS would look in the virtual directory named Controls for the web page named Tasks.htm. If IIS found the page, it would send the requested information back to the browser that requested it.

IIS runs as a service to provide web server capabilities in Windows 2000 and Windows NT; it also provides many more features than we have space to discuss. In Windows 2000 (all editions), IIS comes as part of the operating system; however, for Windows 2000 Professional edition it must be installed before it can be used. It is installed by default on the Server editions. In Windows NT 4.0 IIS comes as part of the Windows NT 4.0 Option Pack that must also be installed before IIS can be used.

Requirements

In order to be able to use the XML features of SQL Server 2000, you must install IIS 4.0 or higher, or alternatively, Personal Web Server (PWS) 4.0 or higher on Windows NT Workstation 4.0. Both IIS and PWS can be installed from the Windows NT 4.0 Option Pack, which can be found on the Visual Studio Professional and Enterprise installation CDs or can be downloaded at:


For Windows 2000 Professional edition, the Administrative Tools pack (Admnpak.msi) must be installed. This file can be found in the i386 folder on all Windows 2000 Server editions' CDs only.

IIS Installation for Windows 2000

Installation of IIS on this platform is a simple process, which is performed by the Windows Component Wizard. To invoke this wizard and begin the installation of IIS:

1. Click on the Start button on the task bar, then click on Settings, and then click on Control Panel.

2. In the control, find and double-click on Add/Remove Programs.