

Demystifying IM.AddInstance

The definition for the Instance Manager's addInstance method is as follows:

```
addInstance( [BOOLEAN param] )
```

Personally, I find the word *param* a little vague. I think it should be called *merge* instead because that would give a clearer indication as to what it stands for: Essentially, if the data you've merged into your form has a repeating section that you've bound to a repeating (dynamic) subform and not all instances of this repeating data section have been merged into the form's layout, you can control whether the new instance of the dynamic subform pertaining to that repeating data section will get merged with the next section or not by specifying *true* (merge — the default) or *false* (don't merge — show empty instance) as the parameter value.

Usually, this doesn't make a difference because you typically merge all instances of a repeating data section into your form and once there are no more data instances to merge, addInstance(true) will yield the same results as addInstance(false): a new empty (no data merged-in) instance.

Consider, however, the case where your form is a report and you'd like to show only a glimpse of the data instead of loading all 2000 instances of a repeating section. If your data was sorted from the most important to the least important, you could significantly **improve the performance** of your report (with respect to load time) by limiting the number of instances of that repeating data section that are initially merged into your form. Once your form is loaded, it could provide ways for the reader to get more instances if they wish to do so.

This can be achieved by using the Max property on the dynamic subform's Binding tab in the Object palette along with addInstance(**true**).

Here's a sample which has a data connection to an XML Data File that lists movies. There are 16 movies in total but the form limits the number of movies initially displayed to 10 and provides a *Show More* button. When this button is pressed, the movie dynamic subform's Max count property, initially set to 10, is incremented by 1 and a new movie instance is added using *true* as the parameter.

[Download Sample \[zip\]](#)

Minimum Requirements: Designer 7.0, Acrobat 7.0.

Note: If you open the form in Acrobat, don't forget to import the data into it using the "File | Form Data" menu.

Posted by Stefan Cameron on July 8, 2006 04:32 PM | [Permalink](#)