

# JDBC Support for Dynamic Entry Lists and Value Help in Visual Composer

## Applies to:

Visual Composer for NetWeaver 7.0, SP Stack 13.

## Summary

This “How To” guide explains how to use JDBC stored procedures as a data source for dynamic entry lists and Value Help.

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## Table of Content

Introduction .....	3
Creating a JDBC-Based Dynamic Entry List.....	3
Defining JDBC-Based Value Help .....	6
Conclusion .....	8
Copyright.....	9

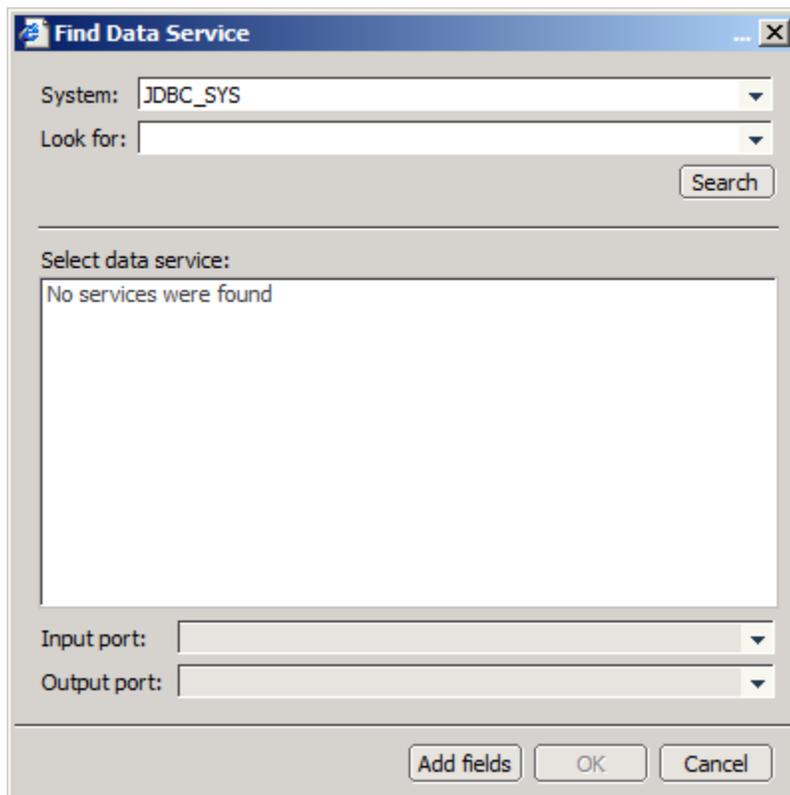
## Introduction

In many companies, developers using Visual Composer to model applications assume that they can use their own databases as their main data services in the models. Until NetWeaver 7.0 SP Stack13, the use of JDBC stored procedures as a data source for dynamic entry lists and value help was not supported. As of SP13, it is!

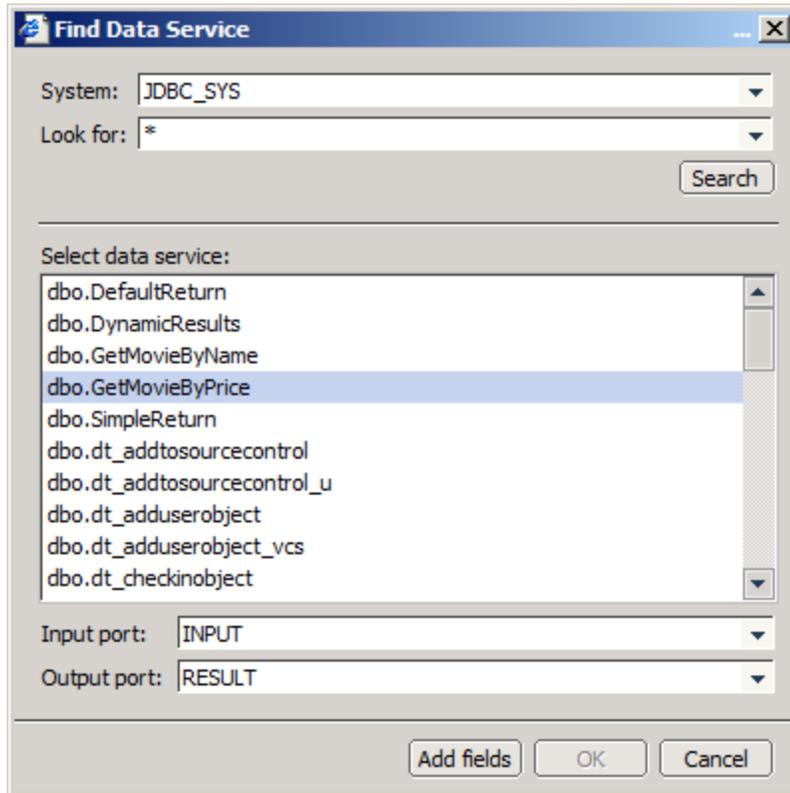
In this article, I describe how to use JDBC-based stored procedures as the data source for both dynamic entry lists and value help. The two processes are quite similar, but certain differences need to be pointed out.

## Creating a JDBC-Based Dynamic Entry List

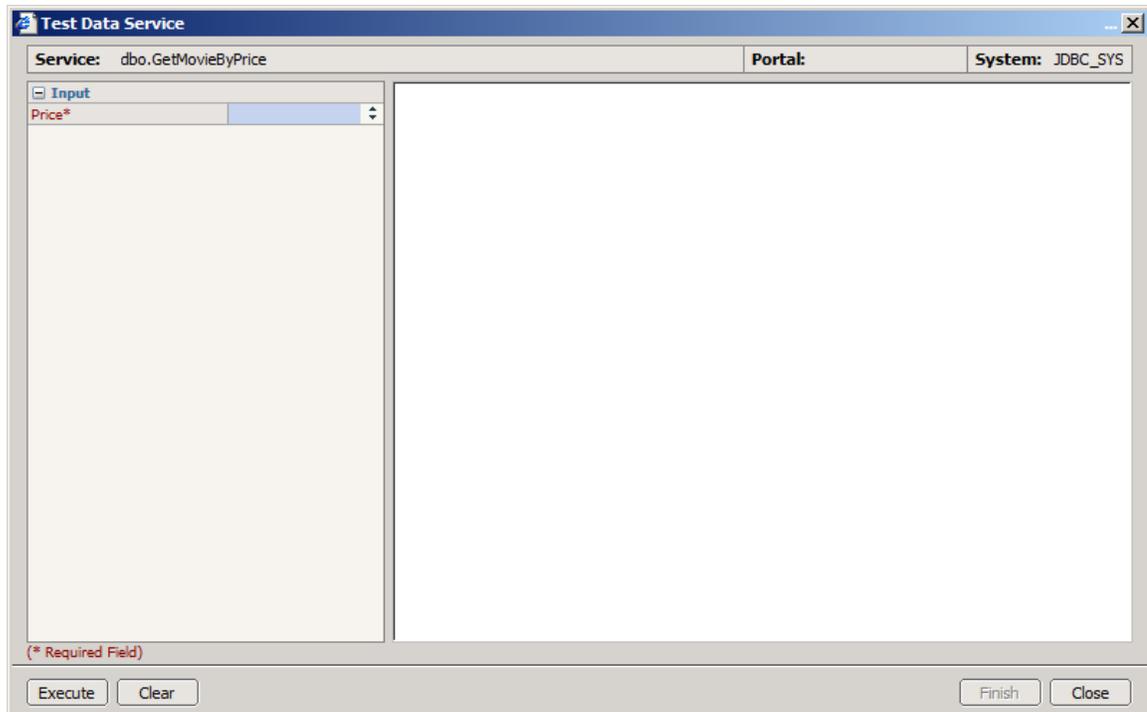
1. On the Layout board in Visual Composer, create any control that uses a dynamic entry list (dropdown, bulleted list, combo box, numbered list and list box).
2. Right-click the new control and choose Properties to open the Control Properties dialog box.
3. In the Entry List tab, check the Dynamic radio button. The Find Data Service dialog box is displayed.



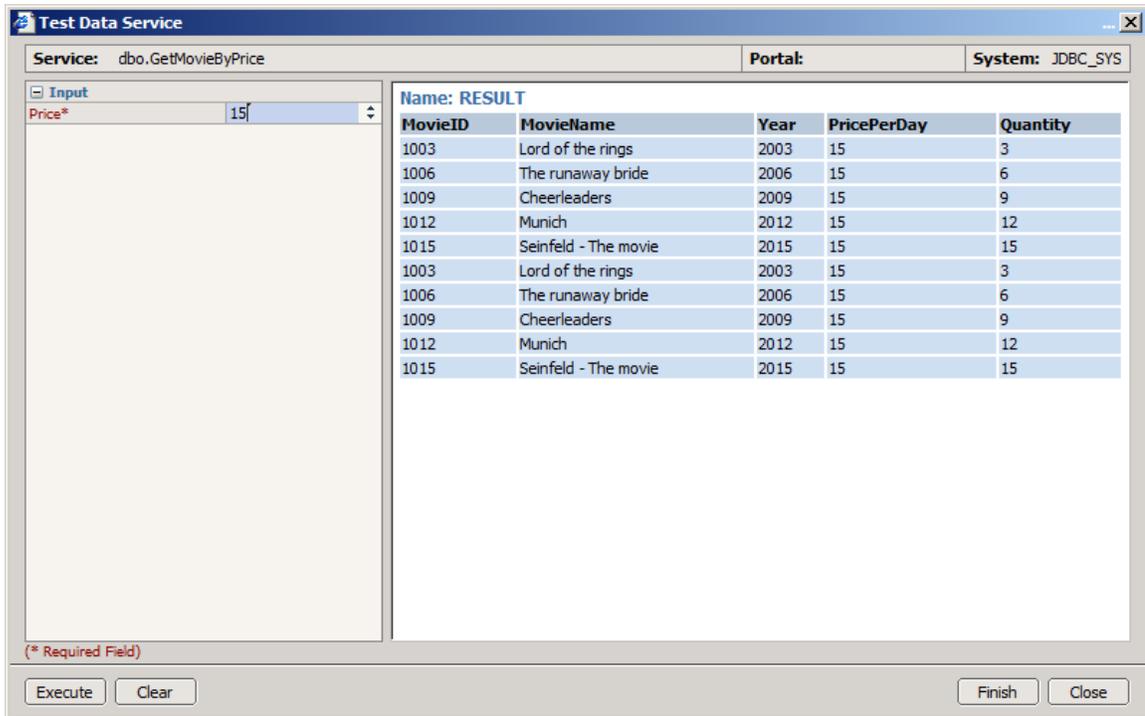
4. From the System drop-down list, choose the JDBC system that contains the stored procedure that you require.
5. Search for the stored procedure. In the Look for combo box, you can enter an asterisk (\*) or the name of the stored procedure (just be sure not to include the owner prefix of the stored procedure; for example, use **myStoredProcedure** rather than **dbo.myStoredProcedure**).
6. From the results list, select your stored procedure.
7. Use the *Input port* and *Output port* drop-down lists to define which ports to use for the returned data. This means that if your stored procedure requires an input, the *Input port* should always be set to **INPUT**. If it does not require any input, the **Input port** will be disabled. If your stored procedure returns a result set, you should choose **RESULT** as the *Output port* and if it returns a single value, choose **OUTPUT** instead.



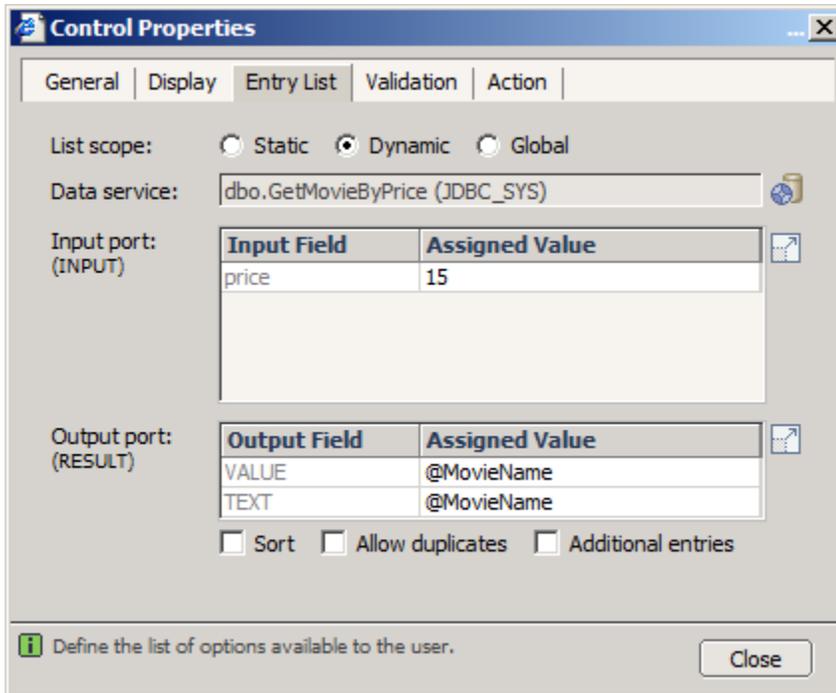
8. Next, click *Add Fields*. The Test Data Service dialog box (similar to the standard Test Data Service dialog box in Visual Composer) is displayed in order to define the fields of the stored procedure for Visual Composer.
9. Enter all required input data (if your stored procedure requires such data).



10. Click *Execute* to run the stored procedure.



11. Once you get the desired output, click *Finish* to close the dialog box and return to the *Entry List* tab. As you will see, the entry list will have the input value that you entered in the last dialog box as its input (in the *Assigned Value* column). You can change it to any dynamic parameter that you want.

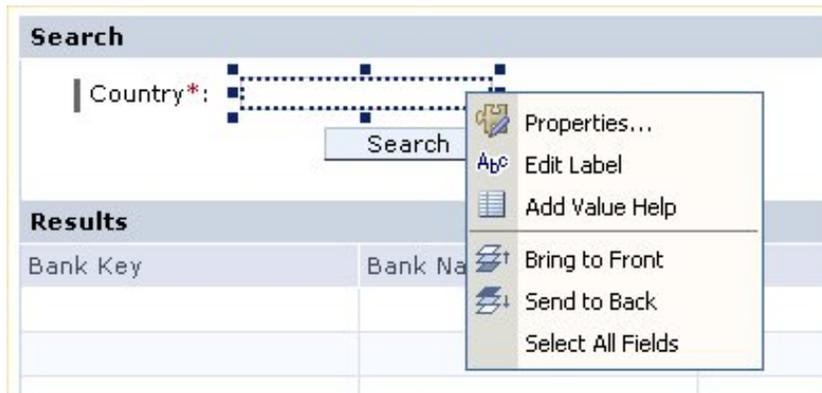


12. Finally, click *Close* to complete the definition of the dynamic entry list.

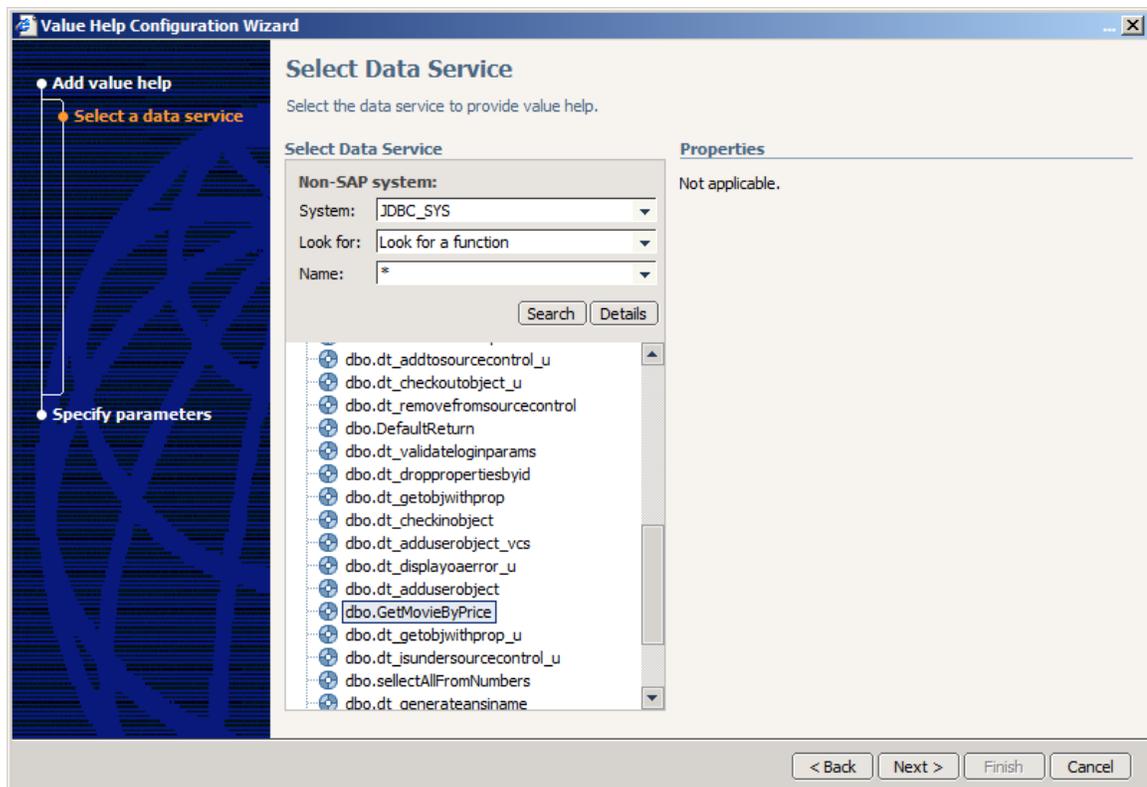
## Defining JDBC-Based Value Help

Value help is available only for input field controls.

1. On the Layout board, right-click the control for which you want to define value help and choose *Add Value Help* from the context menu.



2. The Value Help Configuration Wizard is displayed. In the entry screen, click *Next*.
3. In the Select Data Service screen, use the *System*, *Look for* and *Name* drop-down lists to search for the stored procedure to be used for the value help. Then select the name of the stored procedure from the results list and click *Next*.



- In the Test Data Service screen, enter any input data that the stored procedure requires (if any) and click *Execute*.

Service: dbo.GetMovieByPrice      Test Data Service      System: JDBC\_SYS

Input  
Price\* 15

Name: RESULT

MovieID	MovieName	Year	PricePerDay	Quantity
1003	Lord of the rings	2003	15	3
1006	The runaway bride	2006	15	6
1009	Cheerleaders	2009	15	9
1012	Munich	2012	15	12
1015	Seinfeld - The movie	2015	15	15
1003	Lord of the rings	2003	15	3
1006	The runaway bride	2006	15	6
1009	Cheerleaders	2009	15	9
1012	Munich	2012	15	12
1015	Seinfeld - The movie	2015	15	15

(\* Required Field)

Execute    Clear    Finish    Close

- Once you get the desired results, click *Finish*. The Specify Data Service Runtime Parameters screen is displayed for you to configure the input and output ports of the stored procedure data service.
- In this example, the *price* field of the input port should contain either the value or formula that you entered in the previous screen. The *Search field ID* field is used to automatically create an input field and a *Submit* button for searching dynamically for a value. This means that even if you entered **15** as the price value, the user will be able also to search for any other price value he/she wants.

The output port should be the **RESULT** port in this example. Once you choose this port, you will be able to choose the fields that the stored procedure returns.

**Value Help Configuration Wizard**

**Specify Data Service Runtime Parameters**  
Specify runtime parameters of the data service that provides the value help.

- Input

Port\*: INPUT

(*)	Field ID	Assigned Value
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	price	

Search field ID: dbo.GetMovieByPrice.@price

Search field name: price

- Output

Port\*: RESULT

?	Field ID	Field Text
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MovieID	Movieid
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MovieName	Moviename
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Year	Year
<input type="checkbox"/>	PricePerDay	Prisnerdav

Key field\*: Movieid

< Back   Next >   Finish   Cancel

- Finally, click *Finish*. Check that a pop-up window has been created automatically in your model, and that it contains the elements that you defined.

## Conclusion

I hope you find this article useful. If you have any questions or ideas, please post them in the [Visual Composer Forum](#). I would be happy to receive any suggestions and feedback.

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