

ADF Code Corner

74. Hands-on: How to use the ADF URL Data Control for parametrized queries

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Abstract:

This hands-on tutorial shows how to use the ADF URL Data Control to access the Oracle JDeveloper twitter account to display recent messages in an ADF Faces table. It also shows how to change the ADF URL Data Control configuration to show messages of other twitter users.

Duration: 60 Minutes

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Oracle ADF Code Corner is a loose blog-style series of how-to documents that provide solutions to real world coding problems.

Disclaimer: All samples are provided as is with no guarantee for future upgrades or error correction. No support can be given through Oracle customer support.

Please post questions or report problems related to the samples in this series on the OTN forum for Oracle JDeveloper: <http://forums.oracle.com/forums/forum.jspa?forumID=83>

Introduction

This Oracle JDeveloper hands-on steps the user through the basic steps required to work with the Oracle ADF URL Data Control. It also explains the data control behavior beyond of this exercise.

At runtime, a table is displayed that contains most recent Oracle JDeveloper tweets.

Note This hands-on focuses on the functional part and not how-to create a good looking page. All the steps to follow are the minimum it takes to build a little sample that accesses Twitter from the URL Data Control and show the query results.

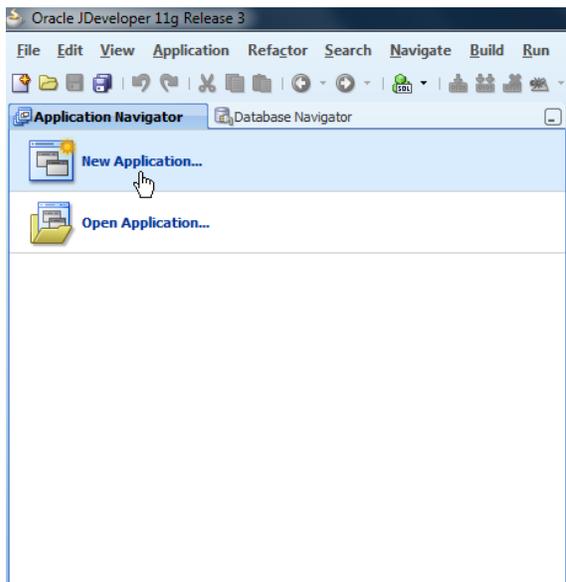
created_at	text	in_reply_to_screen_name	retweeted	id
Wed Oct 27 02:50:...	How to add FavIcon to the ADF page http://dlvr.it/7bWSD		false	28853295244
Wed Oct 27 01:47:...	A public API to get the value originally read from the database http://...		false	28848213614
Wed Oct 27 00:45:...	ADF Faces: How to Prevent Closing of Dialog When Pressing Enter Key http://dlvr.it/7bLYL		false	28843030963
Tue Oct 26 23:42:...	oracle.jbo.InvalidObjectNameException: JBO-25005 http://dlvr.it/7bGDT		false	28837505667
Tue Oct 26 22:40:...	ADF-BC Master-Detail/Tree Application http://dlvr.it/7b9w8		false	28832267490
Tue Oct 26 21:38:...	Working with Dates in the Model Layer http://dlvr.it/7b58G		false	28827597854
Mon Oct 25 23:23:...	Enabling Validation for Table Filters http://dlvr.it/7XRsw		false	28735480334
Mon Oct 25 22:20:...	Porting existing Forms application with C(R)UD stored procedures to ADF http://dlvr.it/7XLqJ		false	28730358427
Mon Oct 25 21:08:...	Iterating/traversing arrays in BPM http://dlvr.it/7XFXX		false	28725128169
Mon Oct 25 20:06:...	Exporting/Importing MDS Metadata and Promoting MDS Labels for Oracle ADF 11g and Orad...		false	28721055521
Mon Oct 25 18:32:...	Classic Mistakes with Oracle ADF Internal APIs - Part 2 http://dlvr.it/7WzTJ		false	28715179373
Mon Oct 25 17:28:...	Classic Mistakes with Oracle ADF Internal APIs - Part 1 http://dlvr.it/7WsdF		false	28710872855
Mon Oct 25 17:24:...	ADF Insider: Classic Mistakes with Oracle ADF Internal APIs - Part 1. http://bit.ly/dlQw6R		false	28710551253
Fri Oct 22 22:25:0...	OOW'10 Video Recording - Developing Large Oracle Application Development Framework 11g...		false	28445134063
Fri Oct 22 21:36:2...	How to Create WSDL Web Services with Oracle AS Adapter for Oracle Applications http://dlvr...		false	28441838415
Fri Oct 22 19:33:0...	ADF 11g inputNumberSpinbox: Changing Value When Value is Null http://dlvr.it/7PKb5		false	28433615708
Fri Oct 22 18:30:0...	How-to use the optimized component search in Oracle ADF Faces http://dlvr.it/7PDZQ		false	28429237913
Fri Oct 22 17:28:2...	SDO: Implementing a HashMap like Service Data Objects http://dlvr.it/7P77y		false	28424901080
Thu Oct 21 18:47:...	Selecting a node on an ADF Tree control sets the current record in a different data source ht...		false	28051260422
Thu Oct 21 17:46:...	Setting up JRebel with JDeveloper http://dlvr.it/7LZzN		false	28047155294

Note: If you experience problems to connect to the Twitter website during the hands-on, try setting or unsetting the Oracle JDeveloper proxy configuration and re-start JDeveloper. The browser proxy settings can be changed using the Tools | Preferences | Web Browser and Proxy

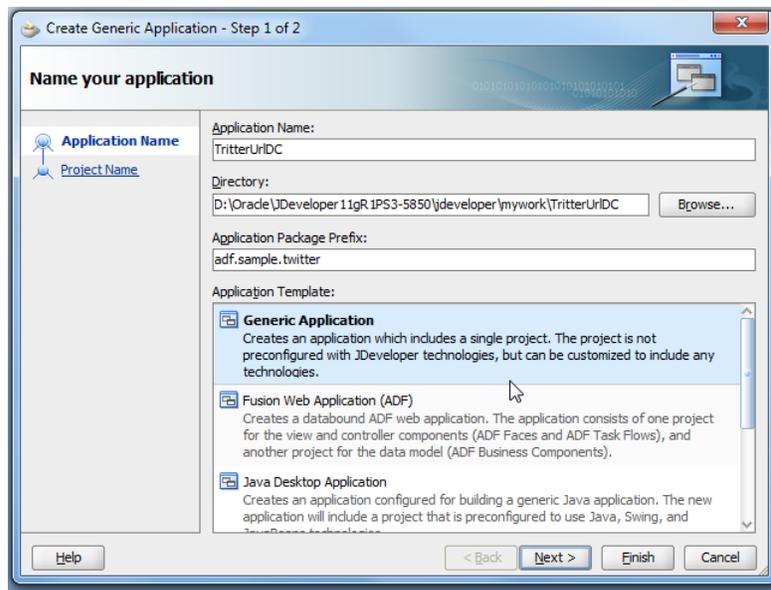
To complete this Oracle JDeveloper hands-on requires a recent version of Oracle JDeveloper 11g and the twitter.xsd schema file.

Building the URL Data Control Model

1. Open Oracle JDeveloper and start with a new application. You do this by selecting "New Application" in the Oracle JDeveloper Application Navigator or choosing File | New | Applications from the menu.
2. Select the "Generic Application" option, which allows us to define and configure projects as we need them.

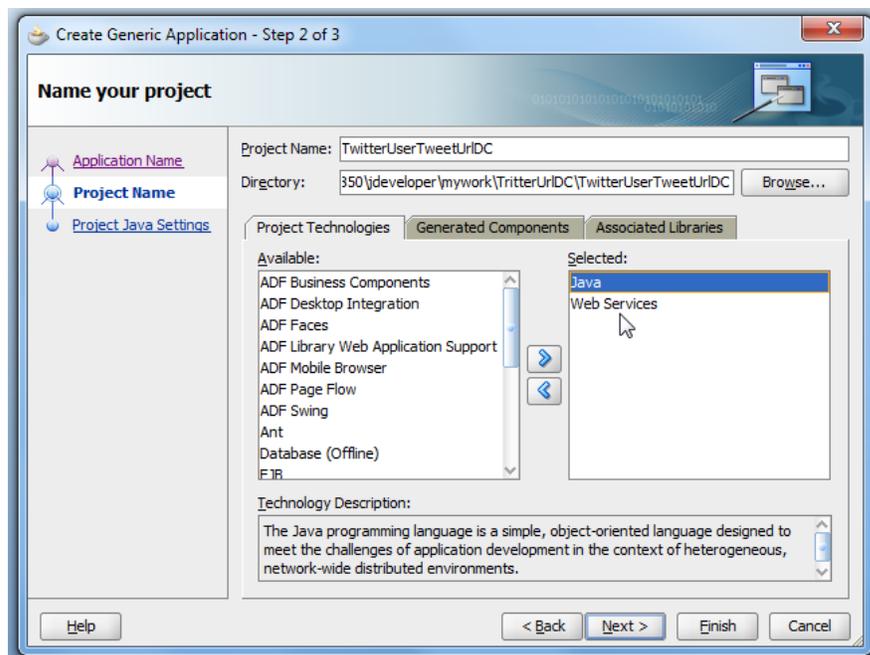


3. Provide "TwitterUrIDC" as the Application name and "adf.sample.twitter" as the package prefix.
4. Press Next.

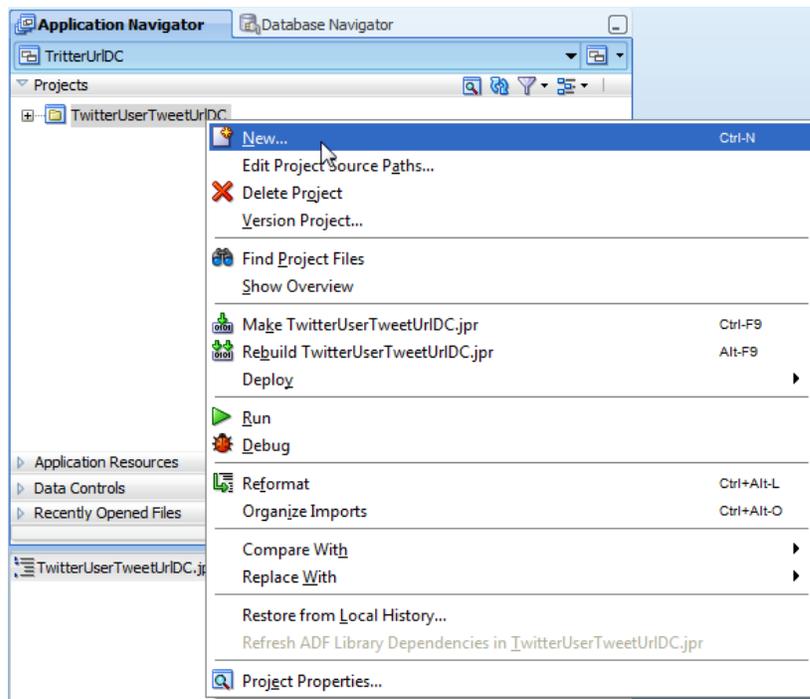


5. Enter "TwitterUserTweetUrIDC" as the project name. Note that the project name also determines the project folder the Java classes and metadata files are saved in.

4. The URL Data Control is part of the ADF Web Service binding. Select "Web Services" in the "Available" list and move it to the "Selected" list. The "Java" technology scope is automatically added.

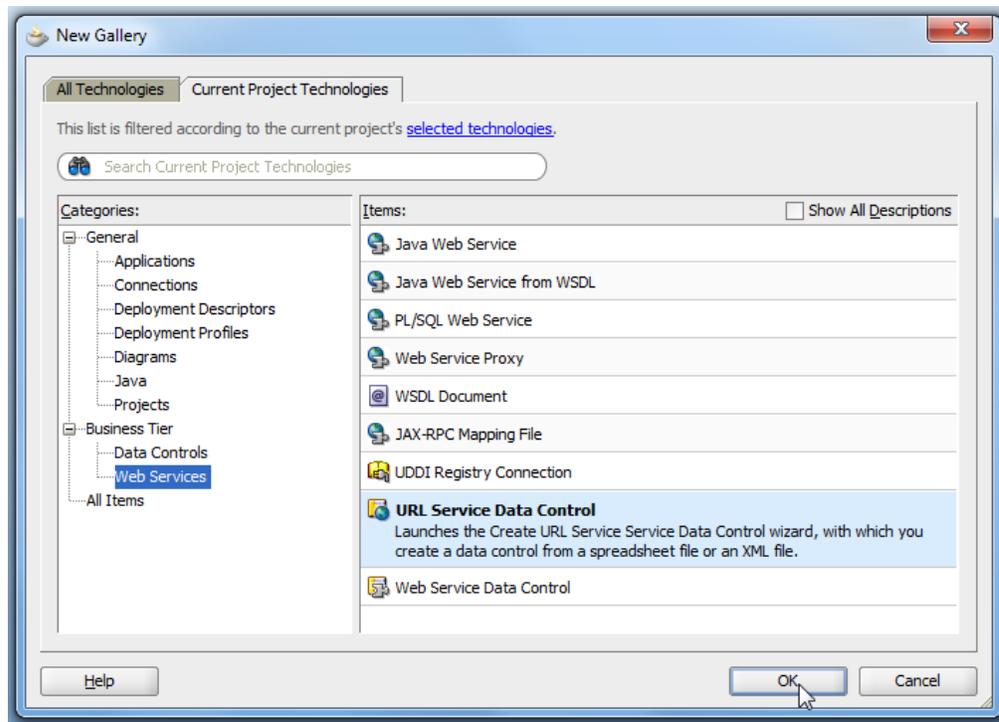


5. Press "Finish" to complete the project creation. The new project is configured with the required Java EE libraries for Web Services and Java development

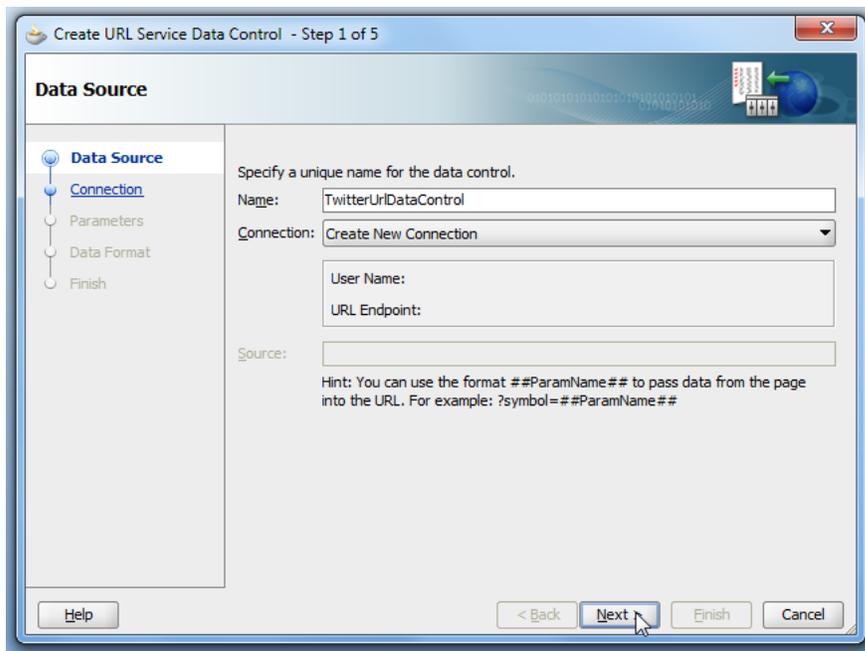


6. With the project selected, choose "New" from the right mouse button context menu.

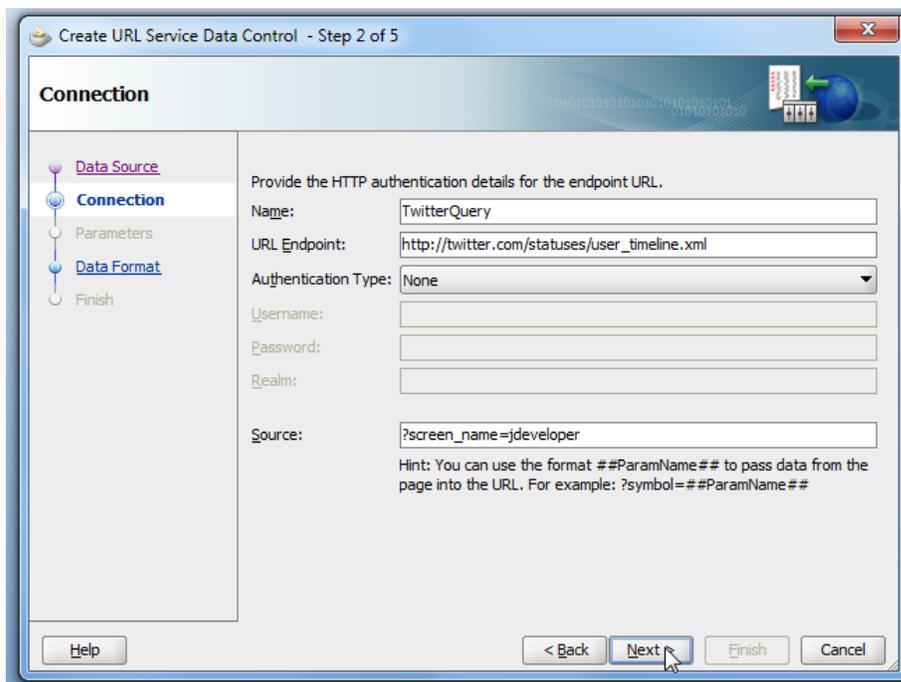
7. Select the Business Tier | Web Services category and choose the "URL Service Data Control" entry.



8. Name the Data Control "TwitterUrIDDataControl" and press the "Next" button



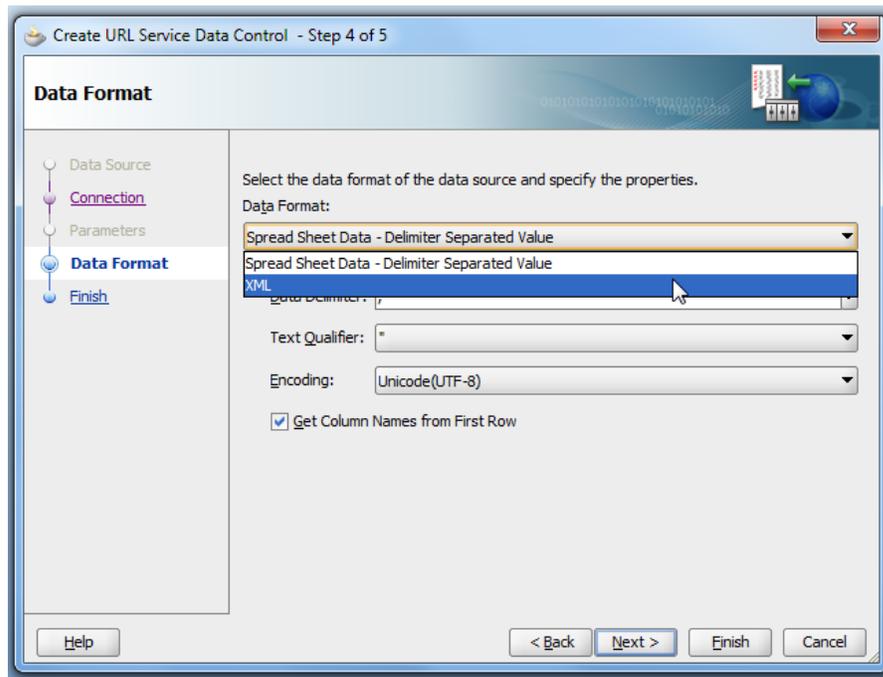
9. Provide a name for the end point configuration and (optional) authentication. This information is stored in a connection registry and is identified by the name you provide. As the connection name, enter "TwitterQuery".



10. As the "URL Endpoint", type `http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline.xml` (without the quotes). Twitter provides this API to access public tweets

11. Add `?screen_name=jdeveloper` (without the quote) into the "Source" field. This specifies the query parameters for the tweet to lookup.

12. Press "Next"



Note: If you can't connect to the URL, check your Oracle JDeveloper proxy setting in Tools | Preferences | Web Browser and Proxy. You may also test the Twitter API by typing

`http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline.xml?screen_name=jdeveloper`
into the browser URL field

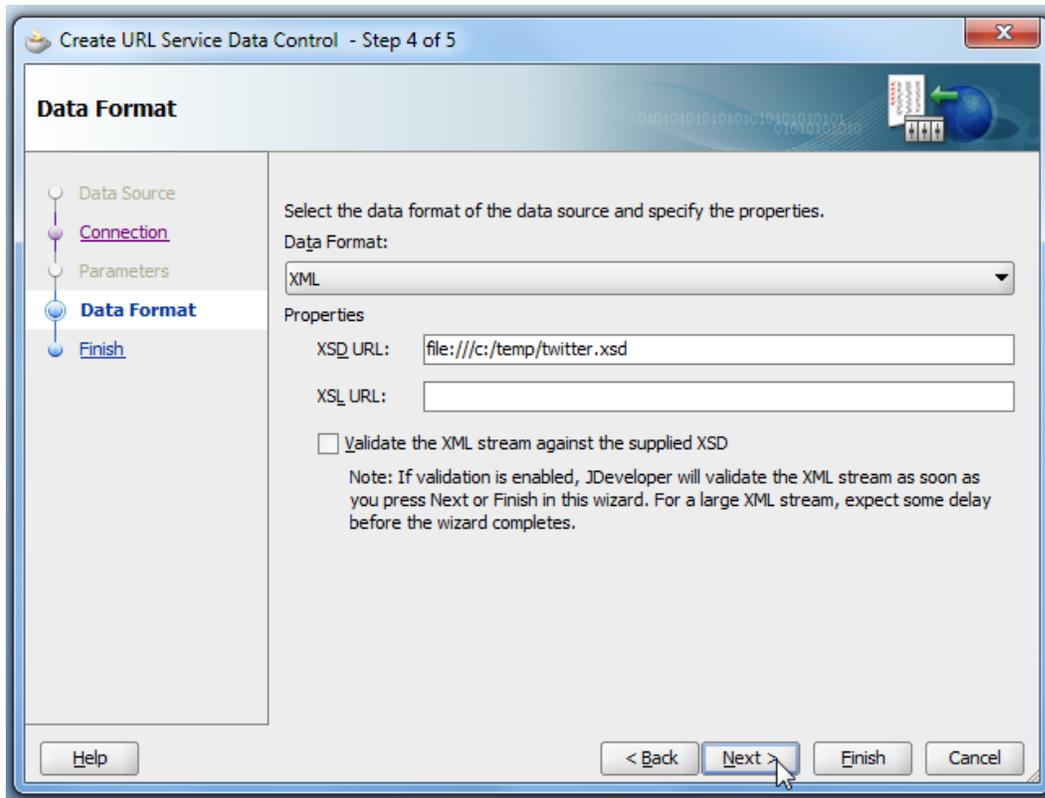
13. Choose XML as the Data Format of the expected result set. As a result of selecting XML as the Data Format, the editor layout changes as shown in the next image.

14. In the XSD URL field, type the location you copied the twitter.xsd file to. Use the following entry, assuming twitter.xsd is located in the c:\temp directory

```
File:///c:/temp/twitter.xsd
```

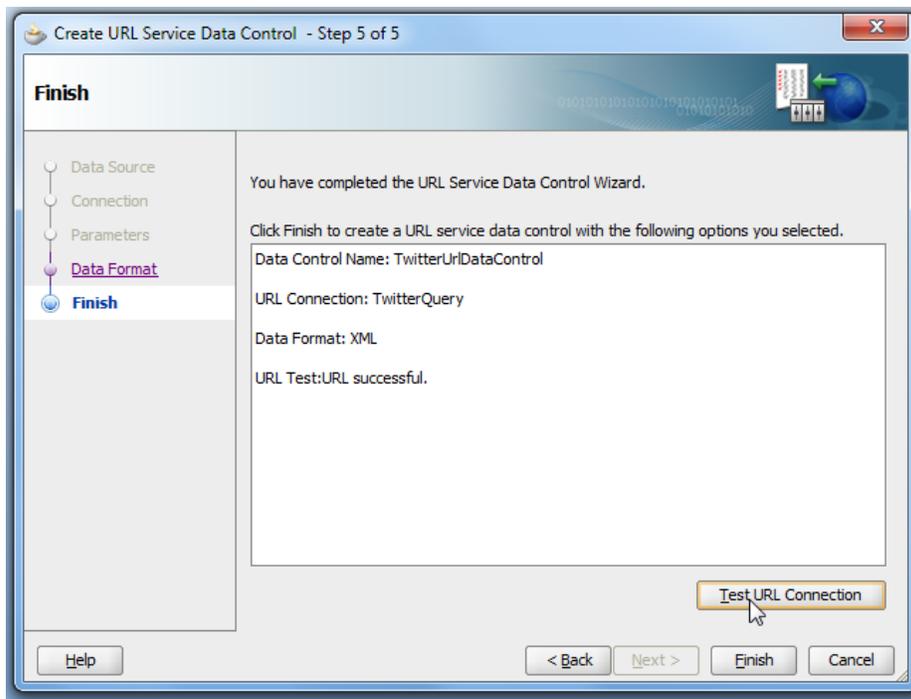
The XS file is only used at design time for the Data Control to define the data structure. At runtime it is no longer needed so that this file does not need to be saved or deployed with the application.

15. Press "Next"



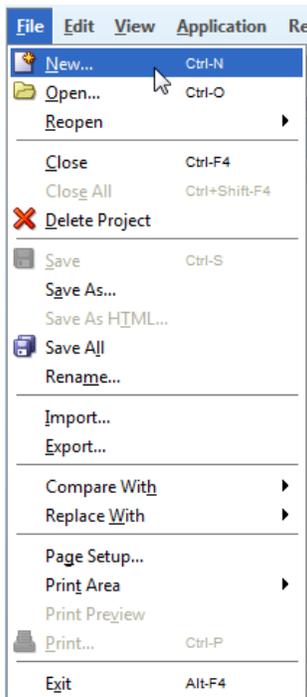
What you should know: Twitter does not provide XML schema for their metadata service. For this how-to, the XSD is generated using "Trang" (<http://www.thaiopensource.com/relaxng/trang.html>). You may find other more up to date tools to generate XSD from XML content.

16. Click "Test URL Connection" to verify your configuration

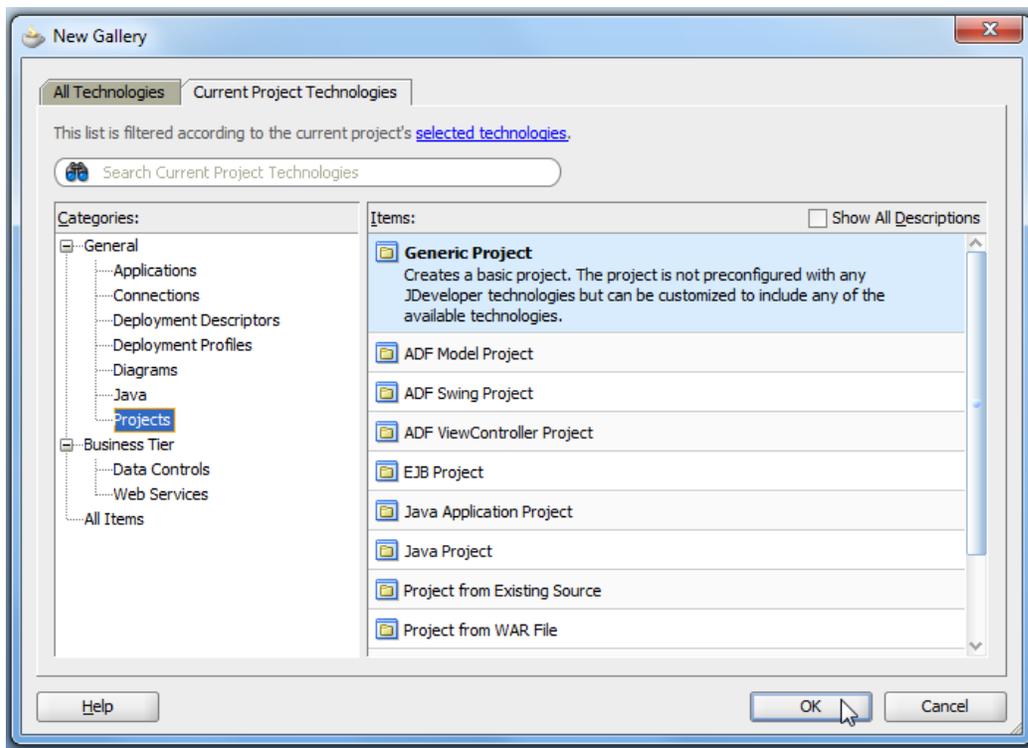


Creating the ADF Faces View Layer

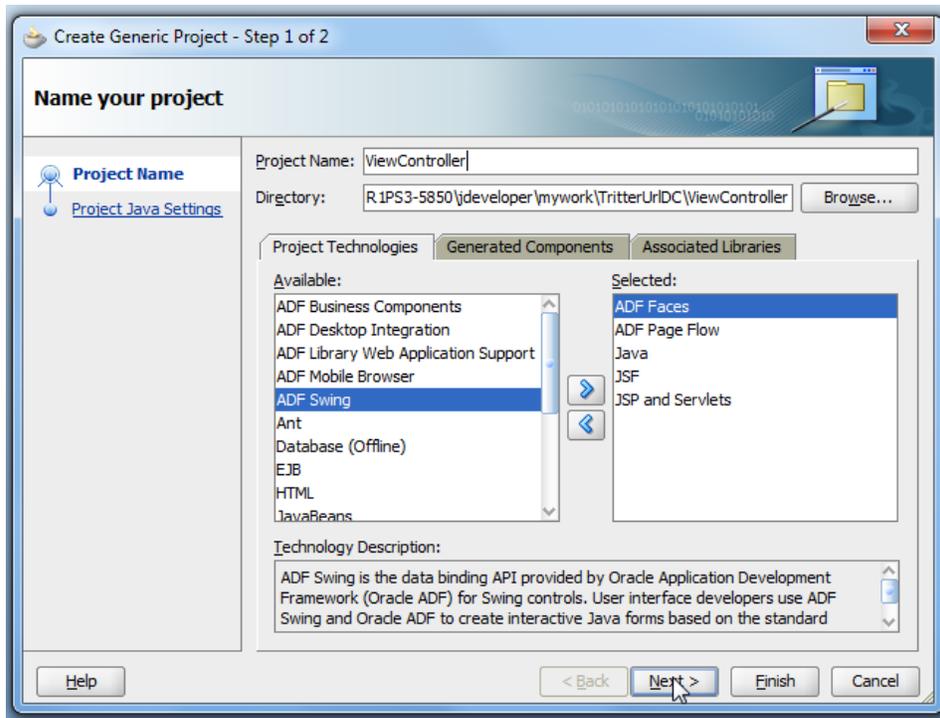
With the URL Data Control in place, it is time to build the user interface to display the Oracle JDeveloper tweets in a table.



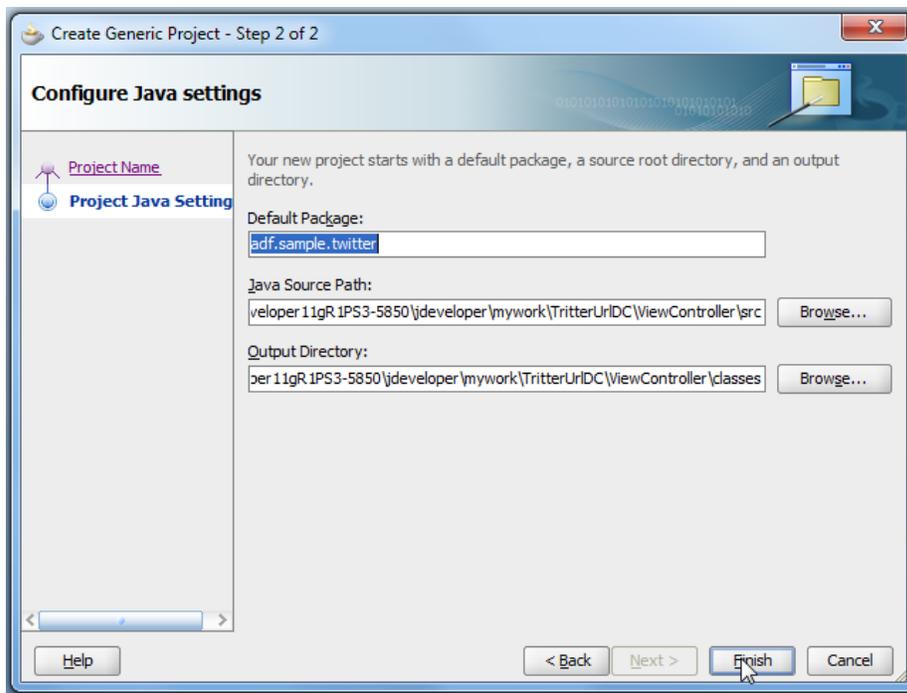
1. Choose File | New | General | Projects from the Oracle JDeveloper menu to create a new "Generic Project"



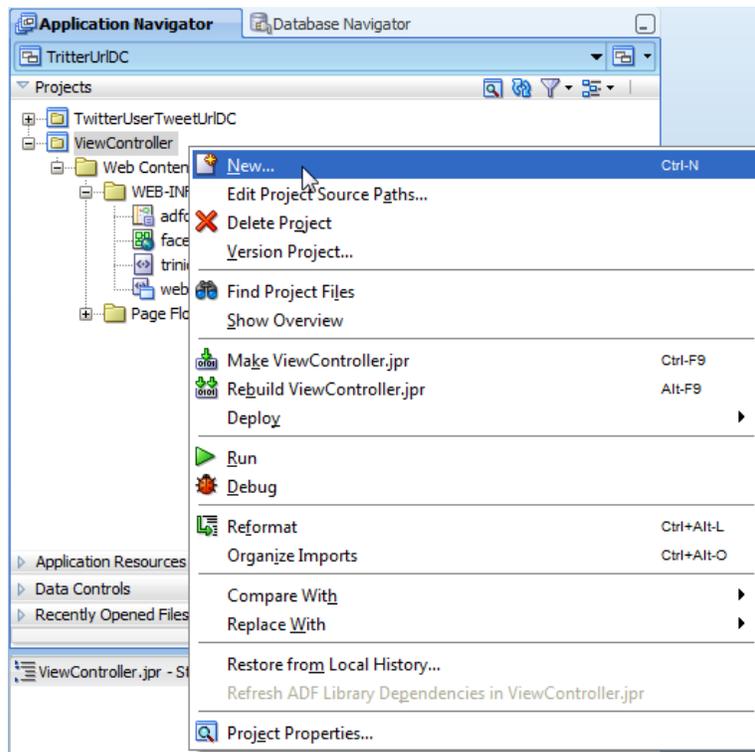
2. Name the new project "ViewController" and select the "ADF Faces" and "ADF Page Flow" technologies. Move the selected technologies to the "Selected". The "JSF, JSP and Servlet and Java" entries are automatically added.



3. Define a default package name, like "adf.sample.twitter"

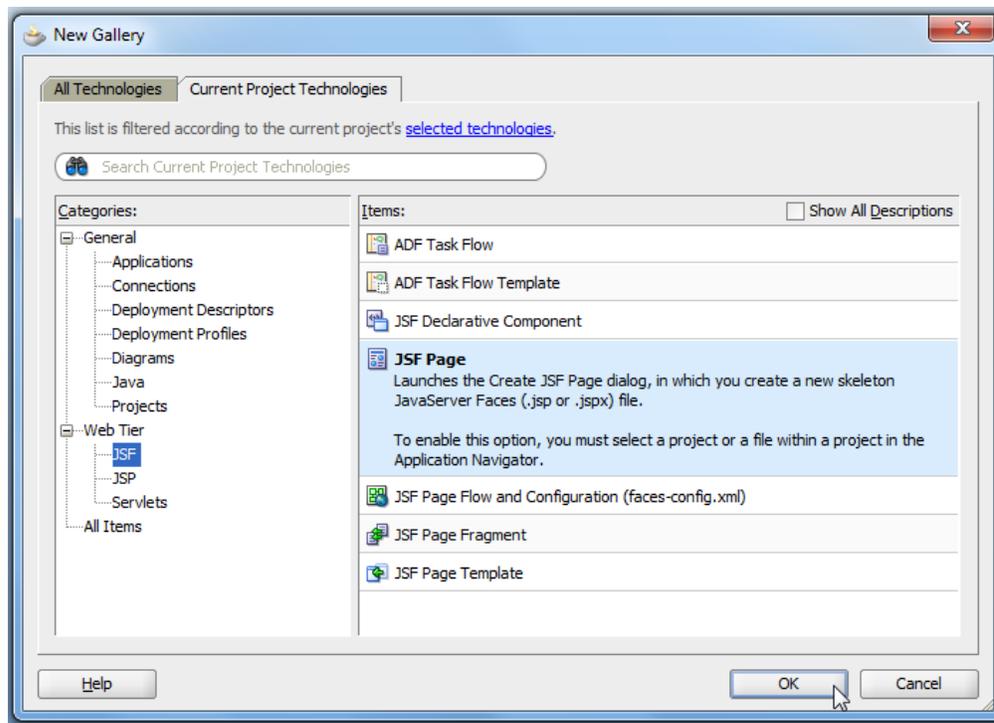


4. Press "Finish" to create the new project

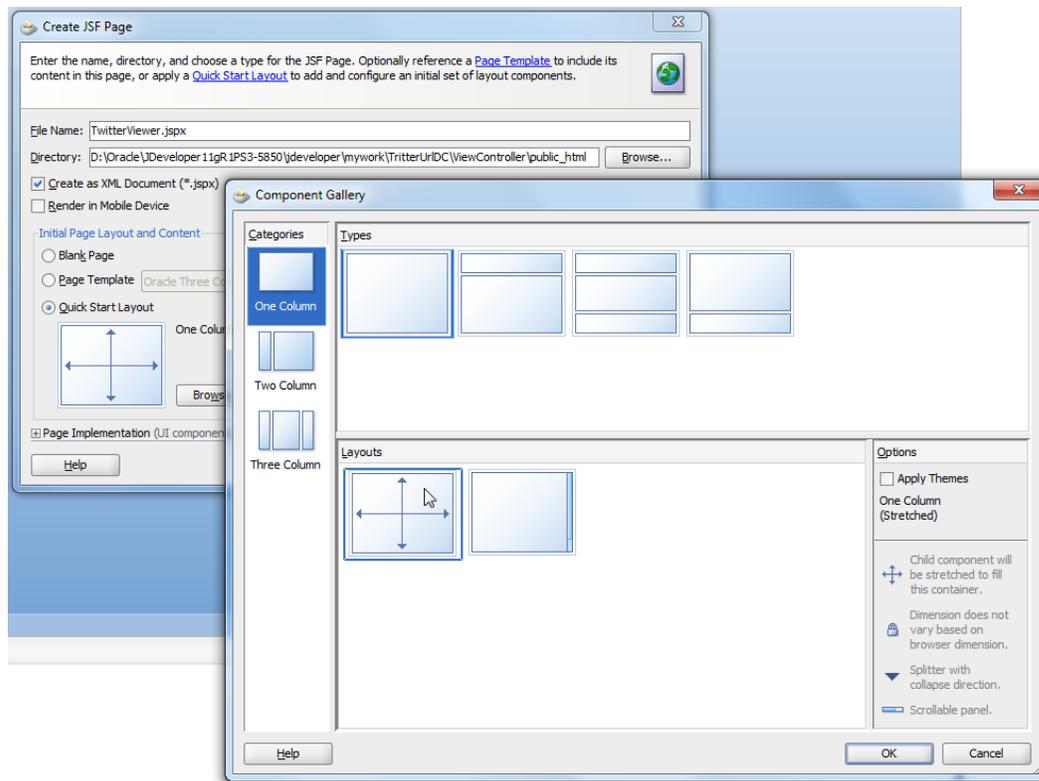


5. Select the ViewController project and choose "New" from the right mouse context menu

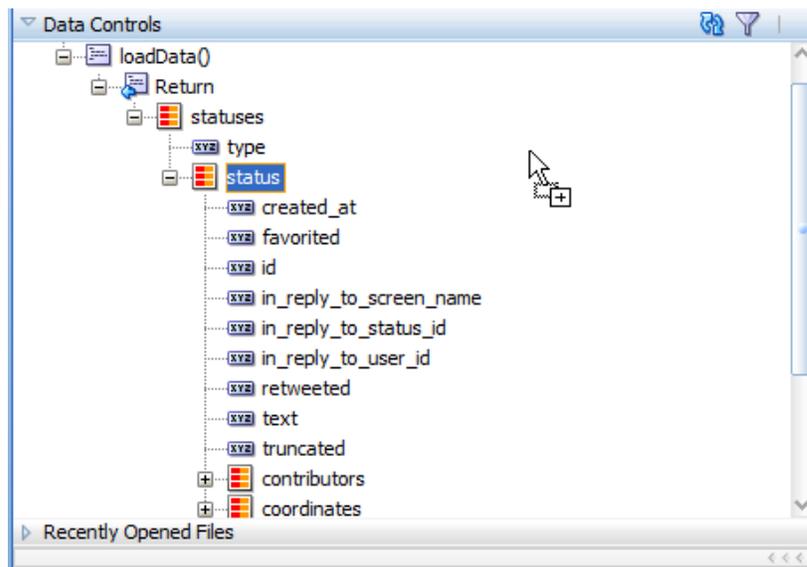
6. Select Web Tier | JSF from the New Gallery and choose "JSF Page"



7. Press "Ok" to open the Create JSF dialog

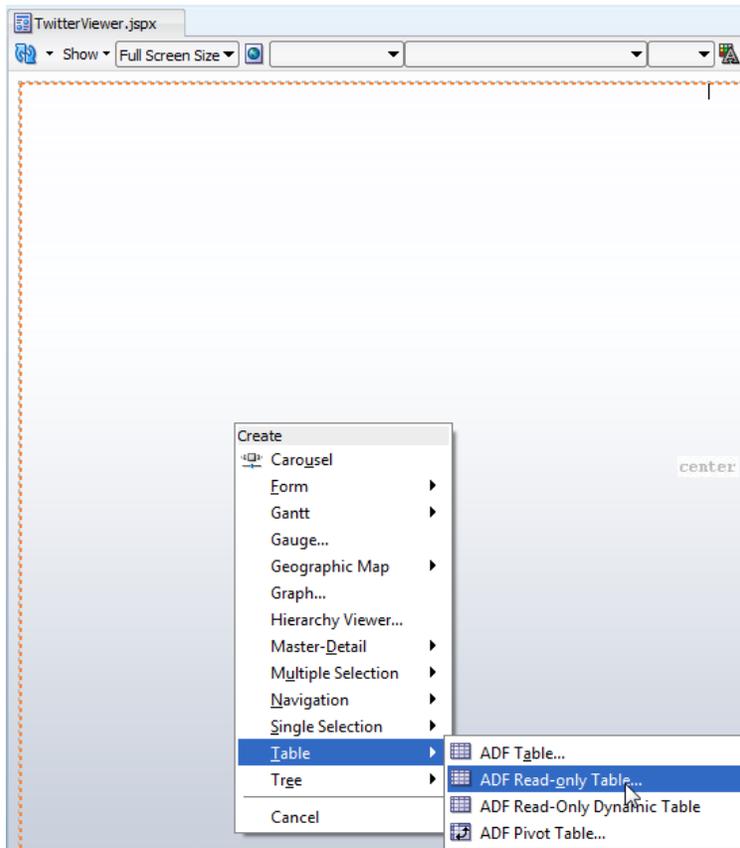


8. Provide "TwitterViewer.jspx" as the page name and choose a one column Quick Layout. This will help you layout the page by automatically stretching the table that you will put on this page later in the tutorial

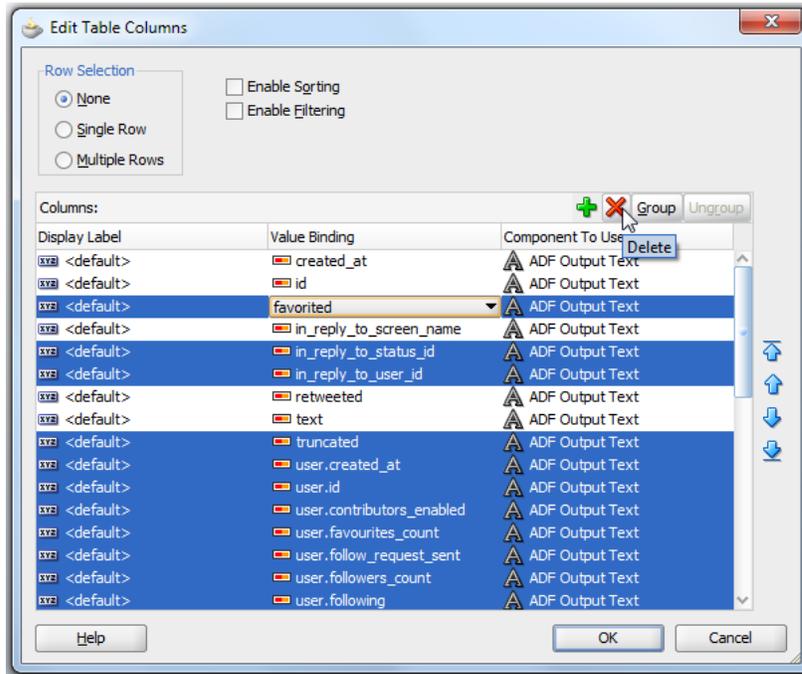


9. Expand the DataControl panel and expand the "TwitterUrlDataControl" entry. If you don't see the Data Control entry, press the blue refresh icon.

10. Drag the "status" collection from the Data Controls panel and drop it on the JSF page



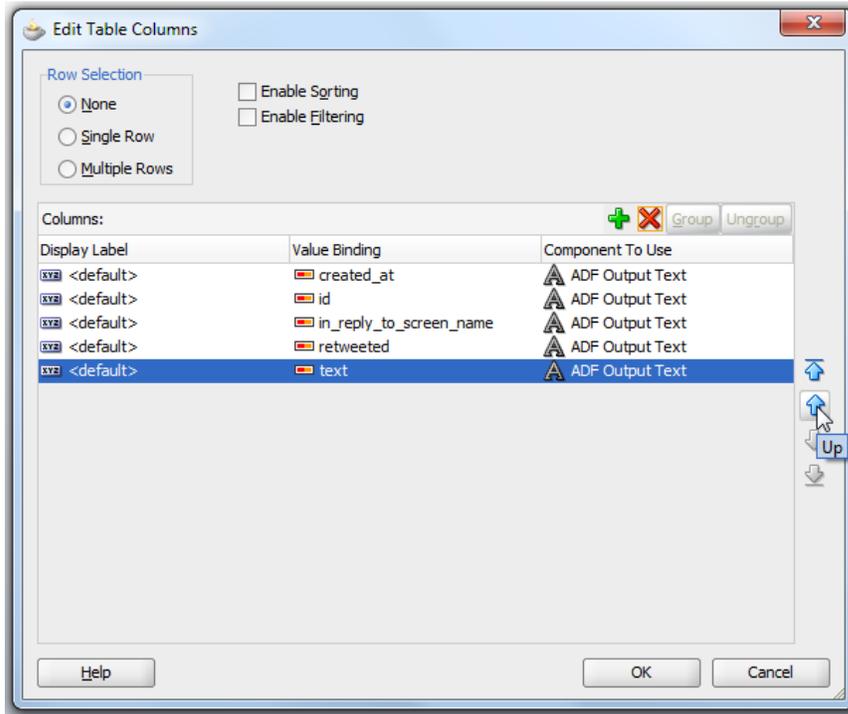
11. In the opened context menu, choose Table | ADF Read-only Table



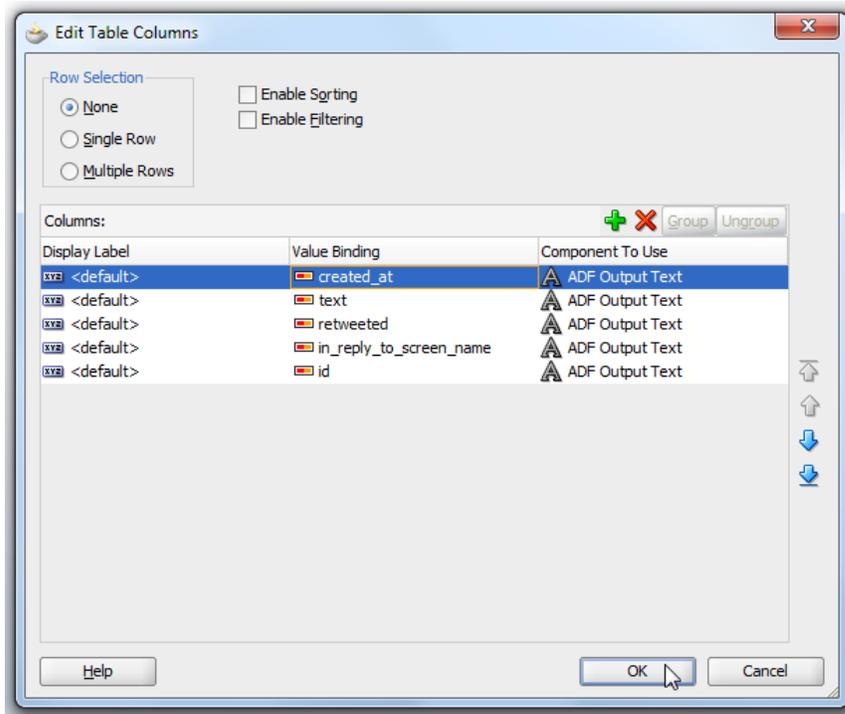
12. In the table editor, select all attributes except "created_at", "id", "in_reply_to_screen_name", "retweeted" and "text".

Note: the UI of the dialog has changed between Oracle JDeveloper 11.1.1.3 and Oracle JDeveloper 11.1.1.4. So if the dialog you see differs from the screen shot, there is no need to worry

13. Delete the selected attributes

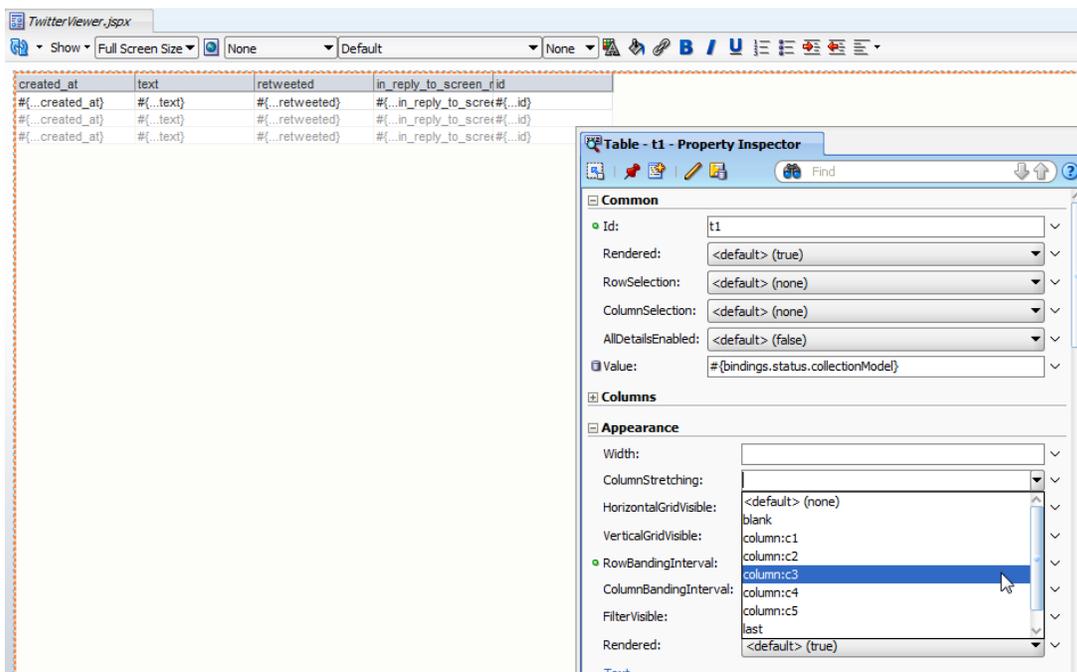


14. Reorder the attributes as shown in the image below



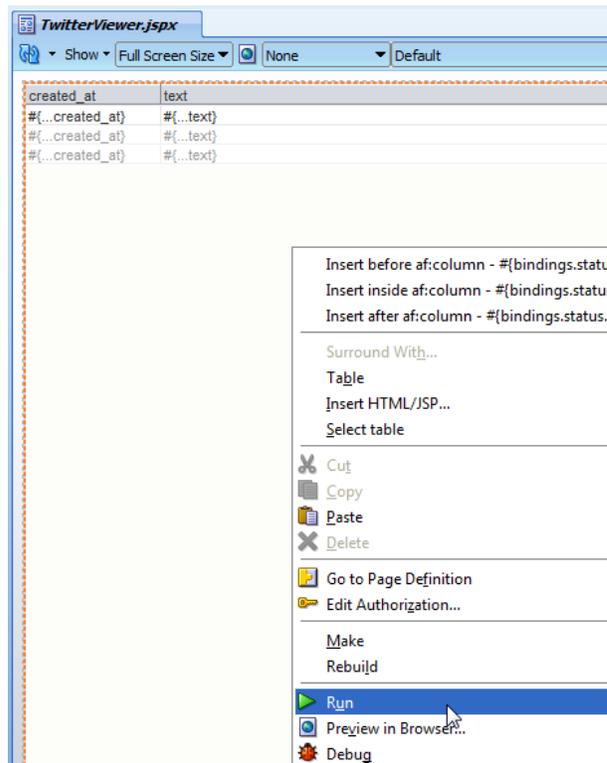
15. Press "Ok"

16. Select the table in the visual editor or the Structure Window and open the Property Inspector (ctrl+shift+I)



17. Search for the "ColumnStretching" attribute and select the "text" column as the column to stretch. In the screenshot shown above, this was the 3rd column for us when creating the hands-on. This may be a different column index for you (you may have to try it out)

18. Click onto the JSF page in the visual editor and choose "Run" from the context menu



The browser should show the Twitter table as shown below.

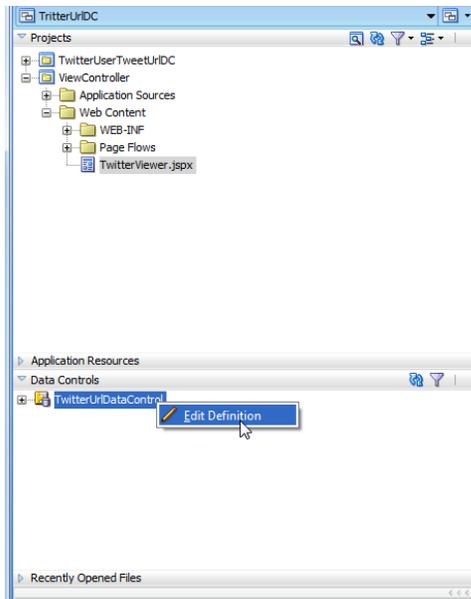
created_at	text	retweeted	in_reply_to_screen_rid
Wed Oct 27 02:50:	How to add Favicon to the ADF page http://divr.it/7bWSD	false	28853295244
Wed Oct 27 01:47:	A public API to get the value originally read for an Entity Attribute from the database http://...	false	28848213614
Wed Oct 27 00:45:	ADF Faces: How to Prevent Closing of Dialog When Pressing Enter Key http://divr.it/7bLYL	false	28843030963
Tue Oct 26 23:42:	oracle.jbo.InvalidObjectNameException: JBO-25005 http://divr.it/7bGDT	false	28837505667
Tue Oct 26 22:40:	ADF-BC Master-Detail Tree Application http://divr.it/7b9wB	false	28832267490
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Mon Oct 25 22:20:	Porting existing Forms application with C(R)UD stored procedures to ADF http://divr.it/7XLqJ	false	28730358427
Mon Oct 25 21:08:	Iterating/traversing arrays in BPM http://divr.it/7XFXx	false	28725128169
Mon Oct 25 20:06:	Exporting/Importing MDS Metadata and Promoting MDS Labels for Oracle ADF 11g and Oracl...	false	28721055521
Mon Oct 25 18:32:	Classic Mistakes with Oracle ADF Internal APIs - Part 2 http://divr.it/7WzTj	false	28715179373
Mon Oct 25 17:28:	Classic Mistakes with Oracle ADF Internal APIs - Part 1 http://divr.it/7WsDF	false	28710872855
Mon Oct 25 17:24:	ADF Insider: Classic Mistakes with Oracle ADF Internal APIs - Part 1. http://bit.ly/dlQw6R	false	28710551253
Fri Oct 22 22:25:0:	OOIW'10 Video Recording - Developing Large Oracle Application Development Framework 11g...	false	28445134063
Fri Oct 22 21:36:2:	How to Create WSDL Web Services with Oracle AS Adapter for Oracle Applications http://divr...	false	28441838415
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Thu Oct 21 17:46:	Setting up JRebel with JDeveloper http://divr.it/7LZzN	false	28047155294

Note: If you wanted to refresh the table view to see recent Tweets posted by the account, drag and drop the loadData() method to the JSF page and add it as a command button. Pressing the button then re-executes the Data Control query. However, a similar use case is handled in a later section in this hands-on.

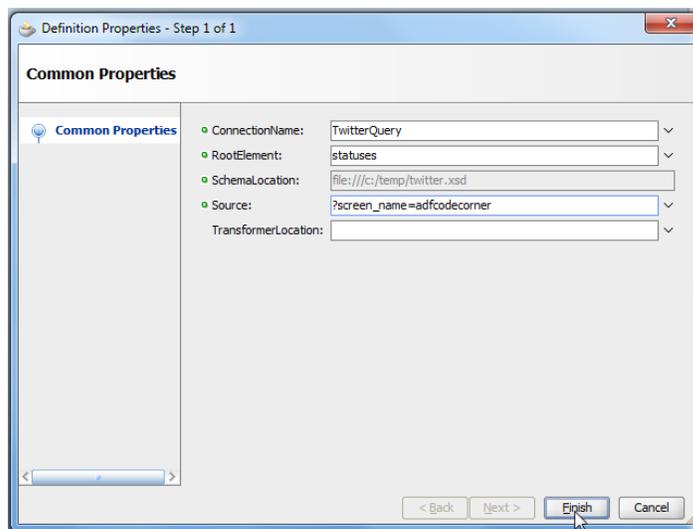
Changing the URL DC endpoint query

In this section, you will change the tweets displayed in the table to be read from the "adfcodcorner" Twitter account, or you may try your own Twitter account instead.

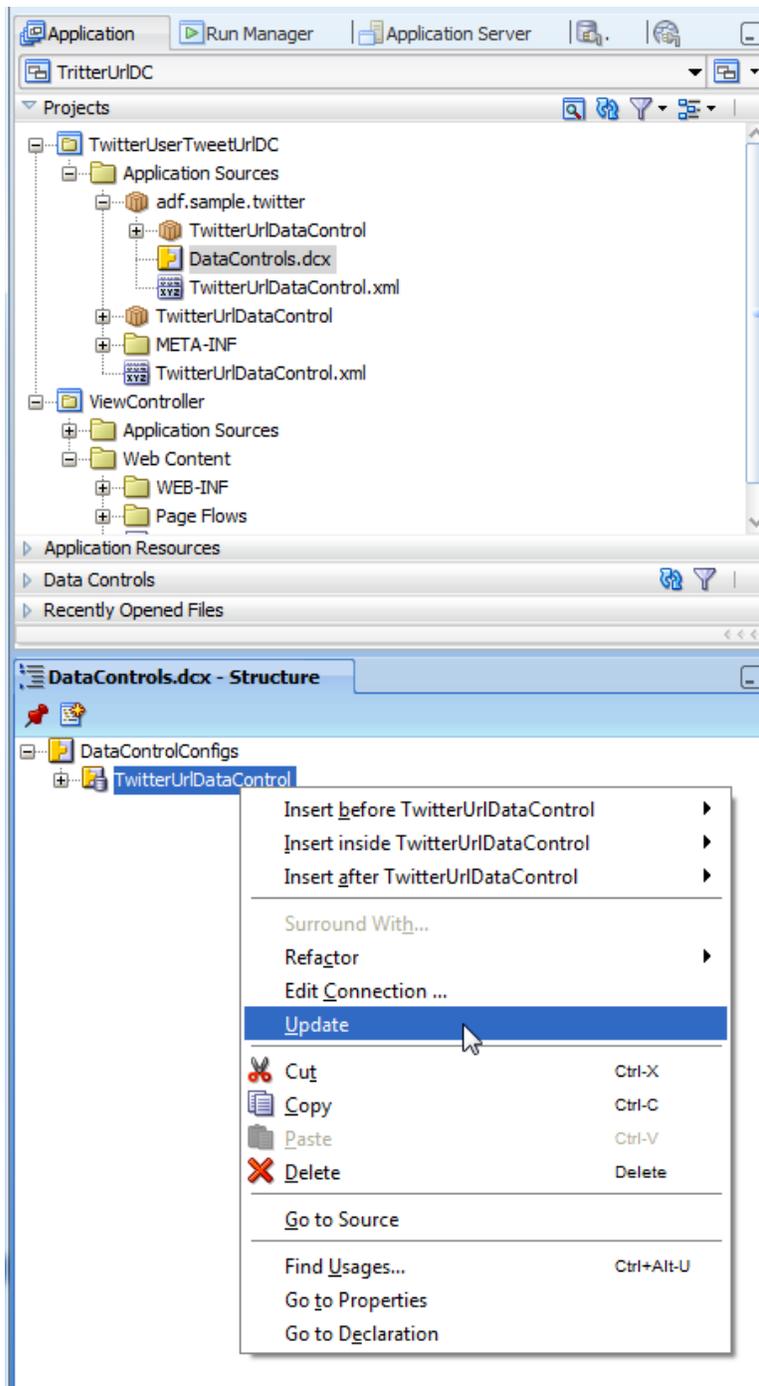
1. Select the TwitterViewer.jspx entry in the Oracle Application Navigator
2. Expand the Data Controls panel and select the "TwitterUrlDataControl" entry.
3. Choose "Edit Definition" from the context menu



4. Change the "Source" field to read
`?screen_name=adfcodcorner`



5. In the Application Navigator, select the DataControls.dcx entry and open the Structure Window



6. Select the "TwitterViewer.jspx" page entry and choose "Run" from the context menu to see the changed data.

Changing the Twitter account dynamically

What we have not covered in this tutorial so far is the ability to specify variables in the query string you add as the "Source" information when configuring the URL Data Control. For example, instead of "hard coding" the twitter account to "jdeveloper" shown below

```
?screen_name=jdeveloper
```

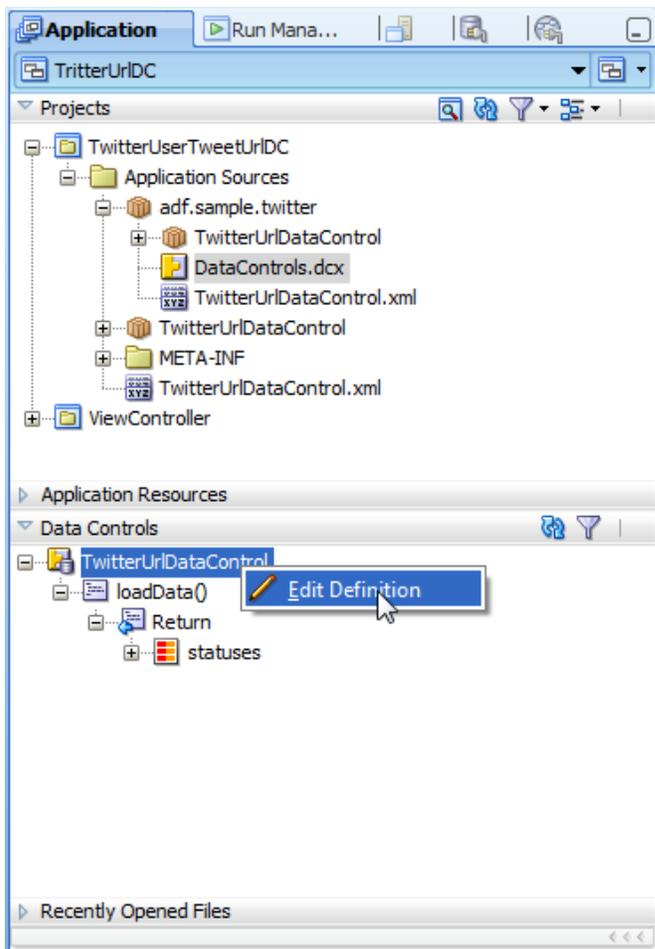
you could use a variable `##screenName##` instead

```
?screen_name=##screenName##
```

Variables in the ADF URL DataControl are in the form of `##variable_name##`. You could have defined a variable when building the ADF URL Data Control.

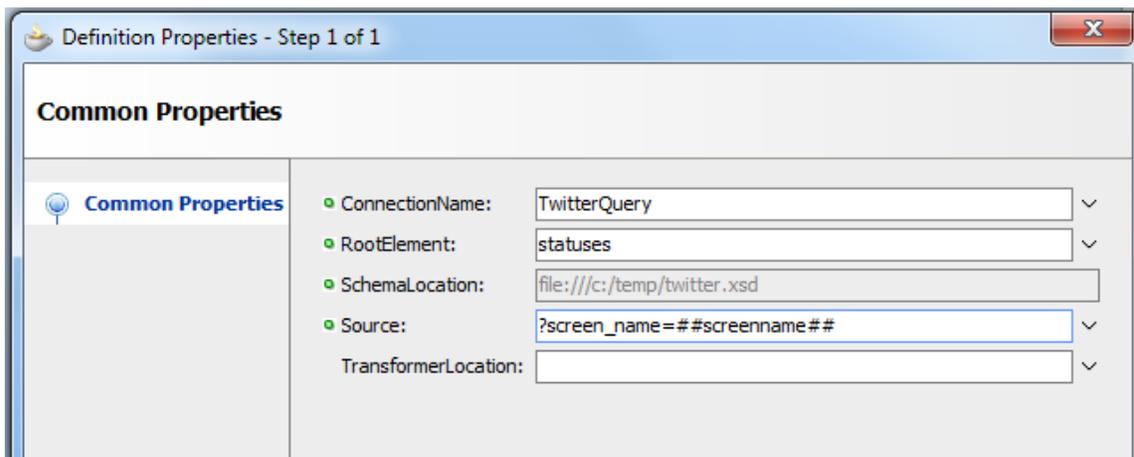
Note: Oracle JDeveloper attempts to verify the URL, which in the case of Twitter does not work well because Twitter does not accept requests to accounts that don't exist or non-public accounts. The empty variable string thus is bounced as unauthorized by Twitter. However, in this tutorial you will learn how to add variables after URL Data Control creation

1. In the Application Navigator, select the DataControls.dcx file
2. Expand the Data Controls panel and select the "TwitterUrlDataControl" entry. Choose "Edit Definition" from the context menu

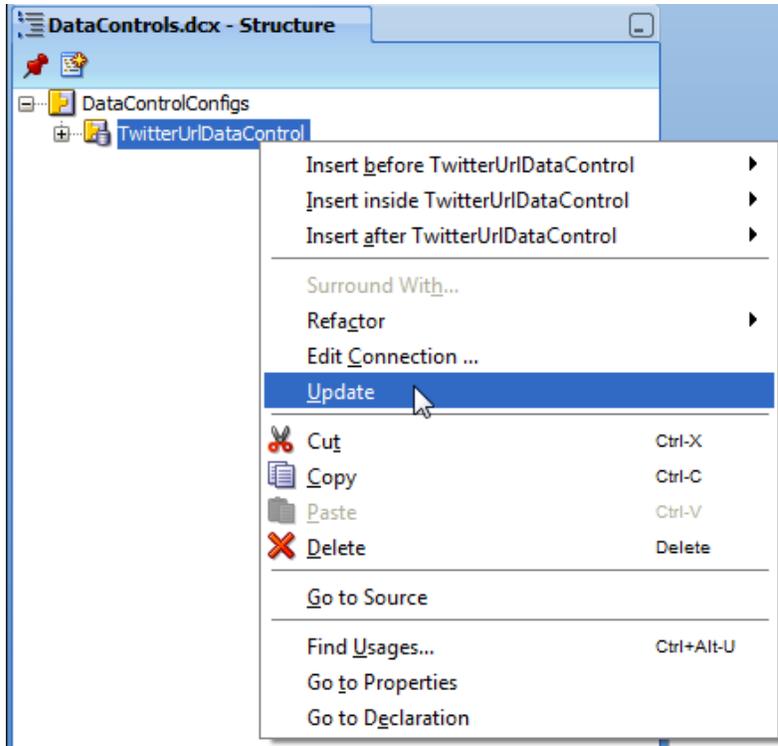


3. In the opened dialog, change the "Source" string and replace the screen_name value from a string to the ##screenname## variable.

4. Finish the dialog



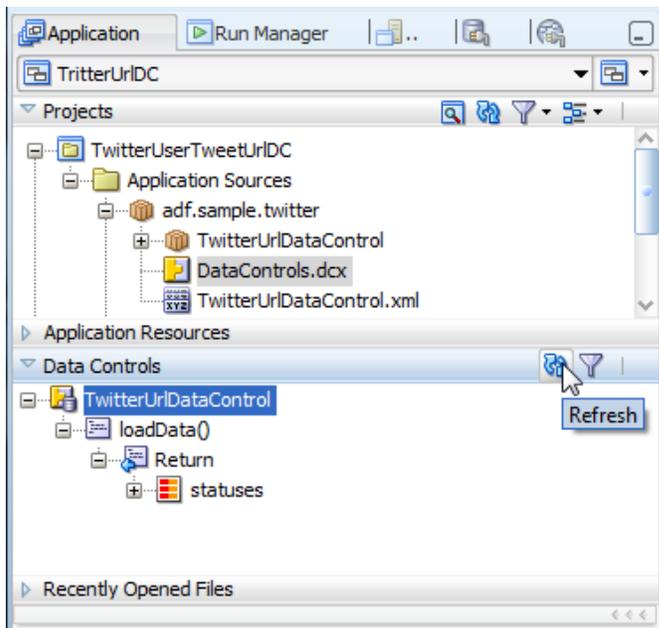
5. With the DataControls.dcx file selected in the JDeveloper Application Navigator, select the "TwitterUrlDataControl" entry in the Structure Window. Choose "Update" from the context menu to refresh the data control definition.



6. Save the Data Control project

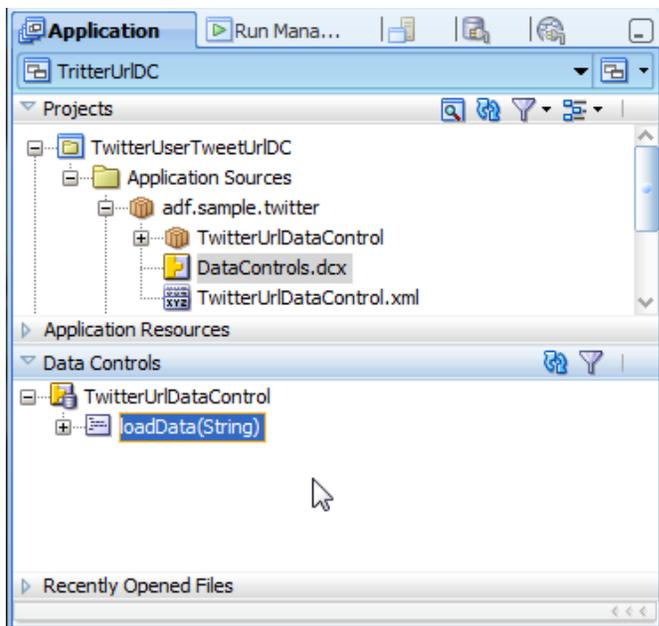
7. Expand the Data Controls panel, which to this time shows the "loadData()" entry as it is not yet aware of the Data Control signature change.

8. Press the refresh icon on the Data Control panel

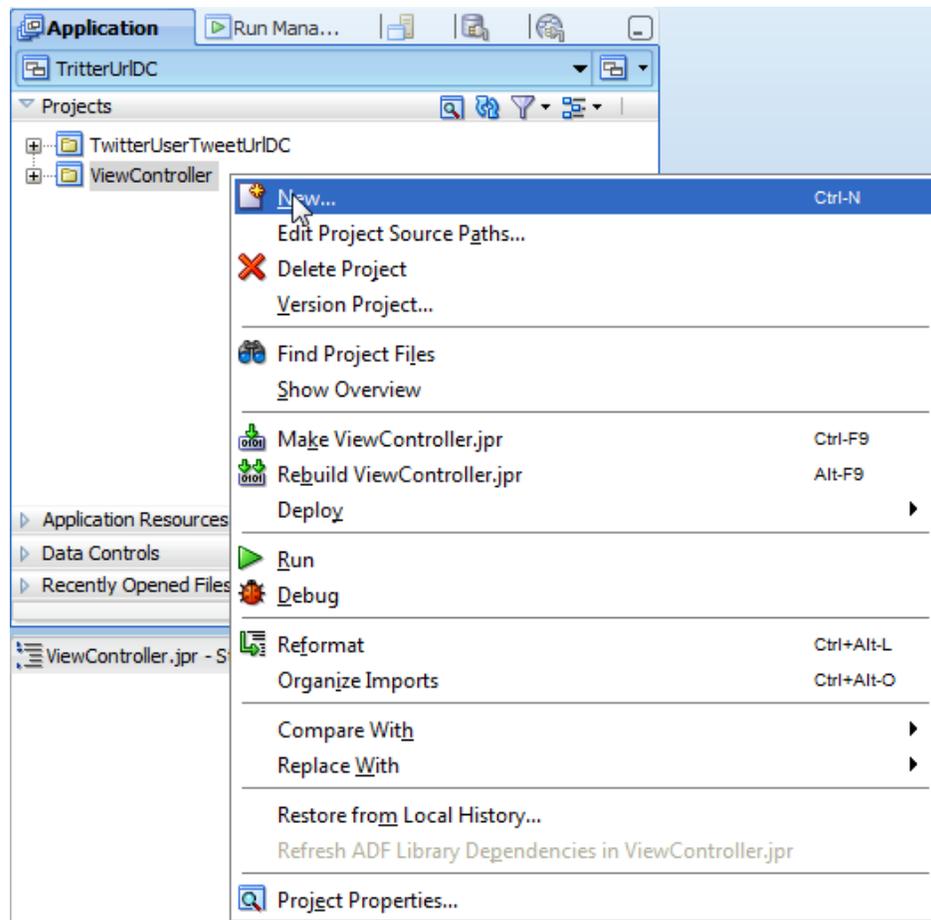


9. The "loadData" method should change after the refresh showing a String argument. If this is not the case ensure you saved the URL Data Control project after adding the variable to the "Source" configuration.

Note: You may have to refresh the Data Control panel more than once. Sometime JDeveloper doesn't seem to recognize the change at the first refresh.

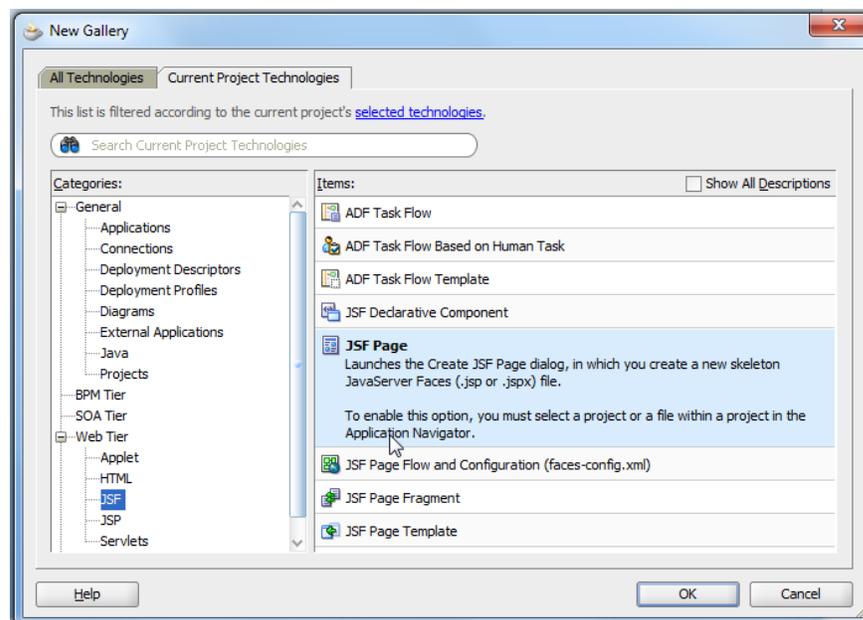


Note: the previously TwitterViewer page no longer works after this change because it does not provide an input argument for the loadData() method. You can fix the binding later if you want. For the learning experience in this hands-on you are going to build a new JSF page for the dynamic Twitter access.

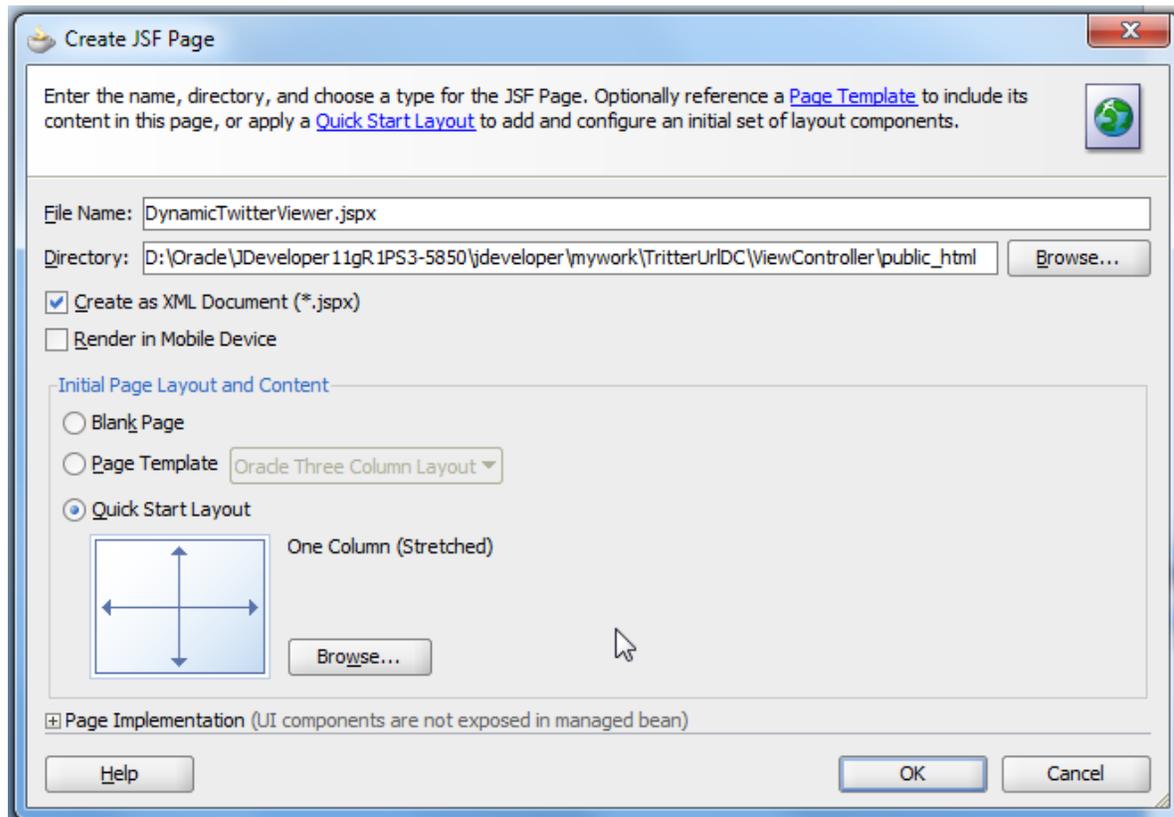


10. Select the View Controller project and choose "New" from the right mouse context menu

11. In the New Gallery, select Web Tier | JSF | JSF Page to create a new ADF Faces page

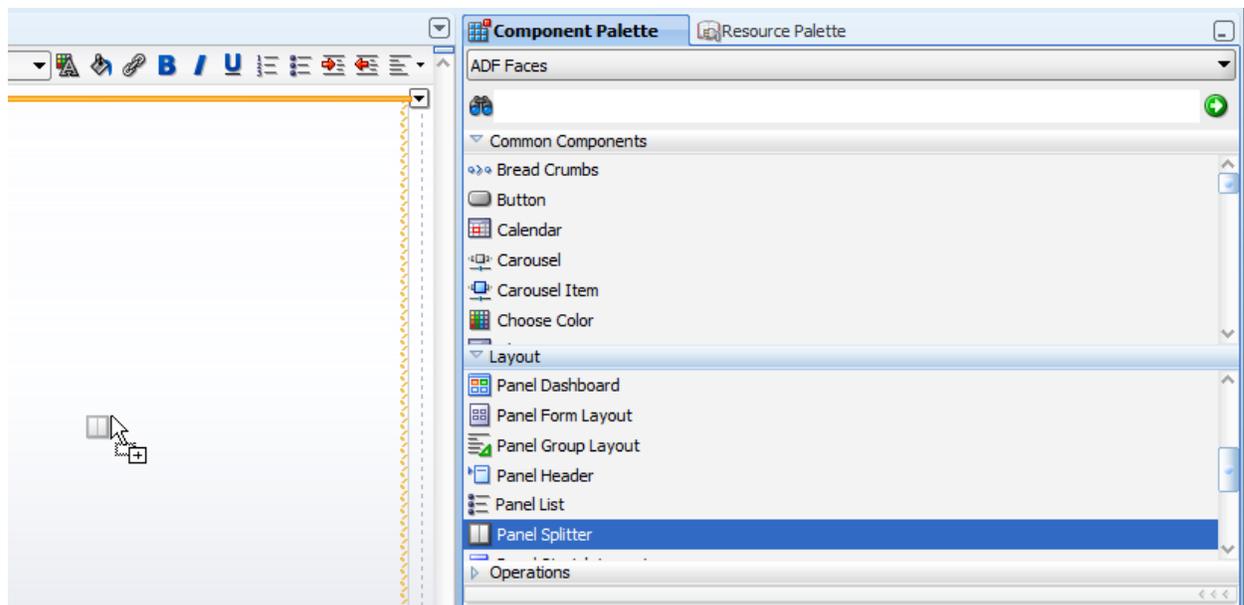


12. Name the page "DynamicTwitterViewer.jspx" and choose the one column QuickStart layout

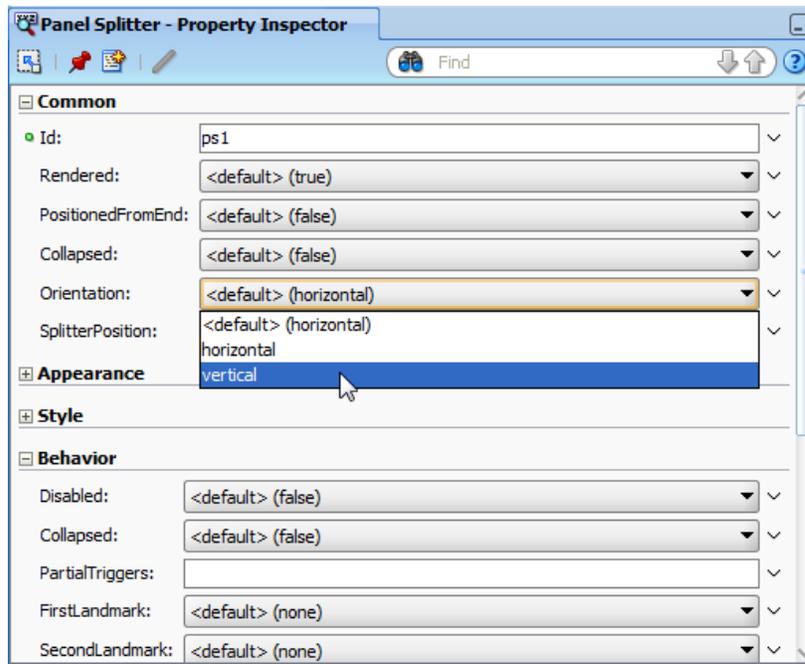


13. Open the "Layout" section of the ADF Faces component list in the JDeveloper component palette [ctrl+shift+P]

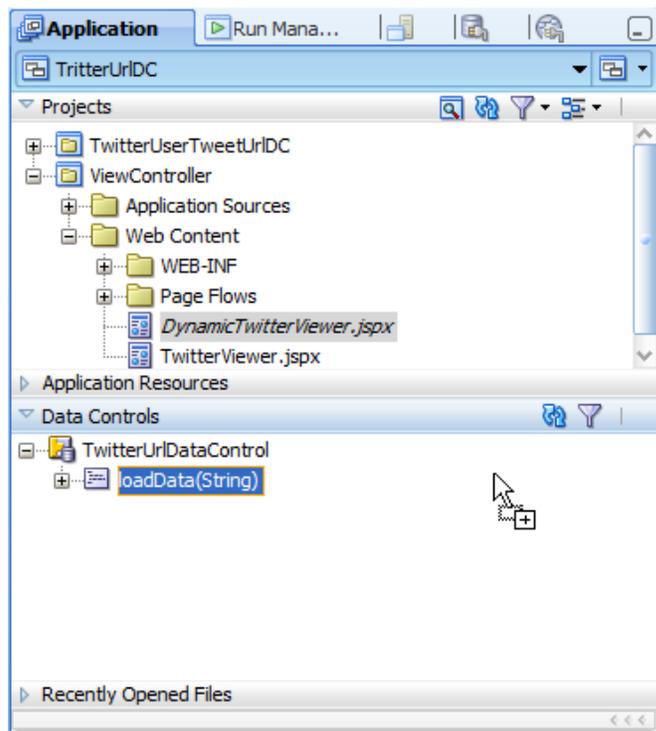
14. Select the Panel Splitter component and drag it onto the JSF page



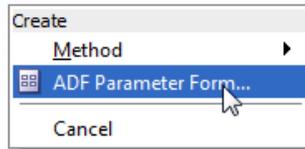
15. Select the Panel Splitter component in the visual editor or the Oracle JDeveloper Structure Window and open the Property Inspector
16. In the Property Inspector search for the "Orientation" property
17. Set the orientation to "vertical"



18. Drag the loadData(String) method to the upper panel of the JSF page

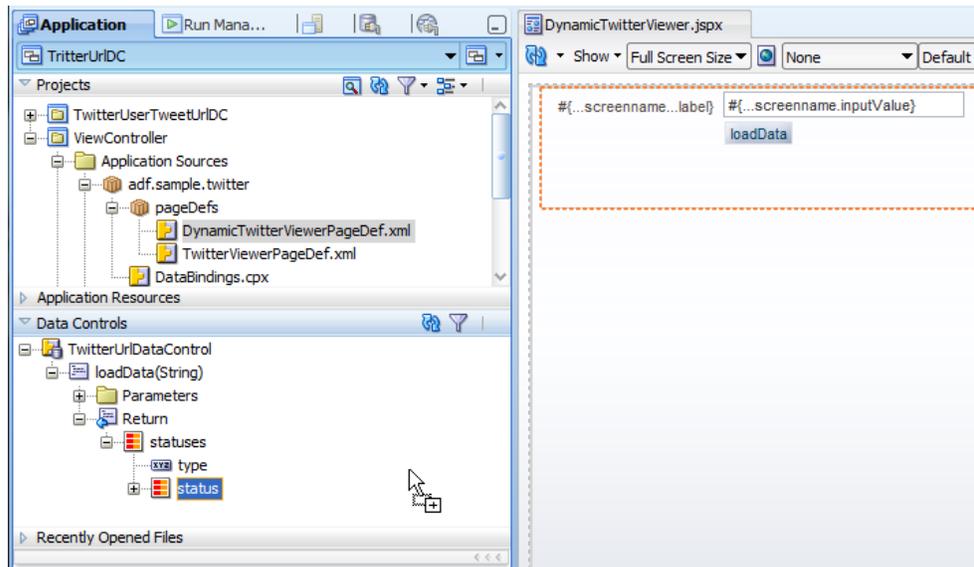


19. Choose ADF Parameter Form from the context menu



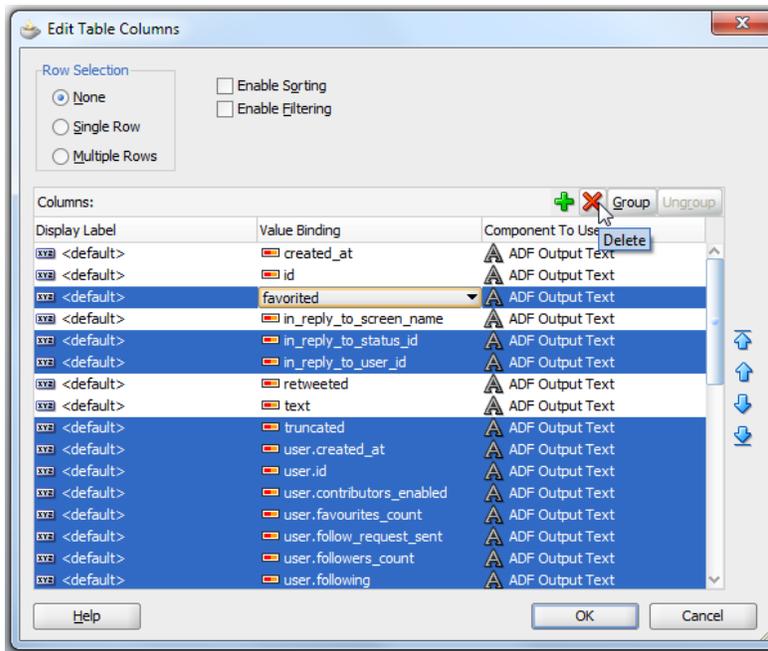
20. In the Data Controls panel, select the "status" collection and drag it to the page

21. In the opened context menu, choose the Table | Read Only Table option

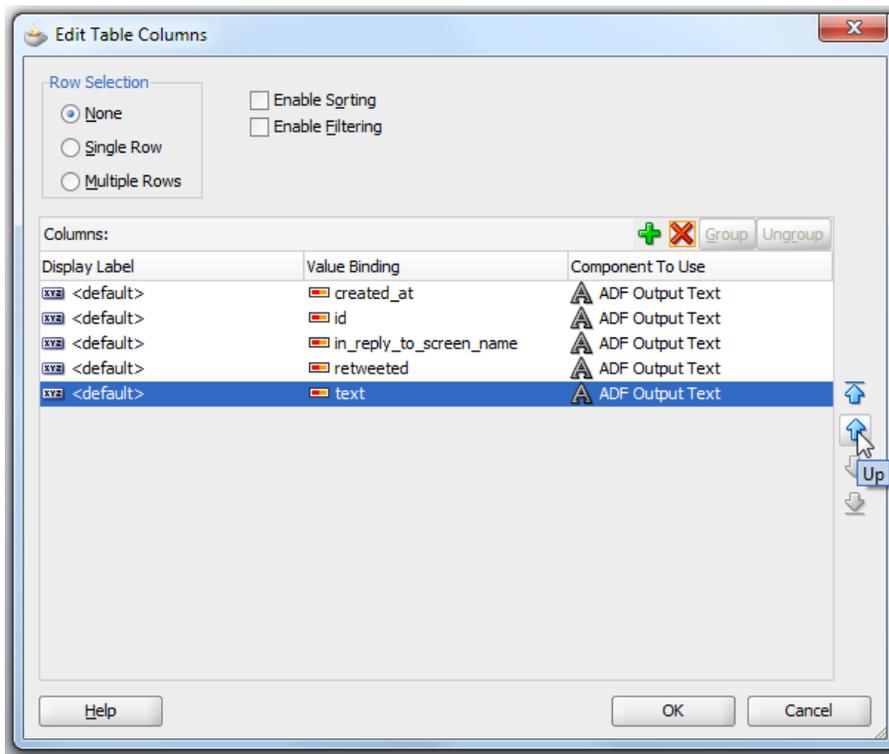


22. In the table configuration dialog, select all columns, except "created_at", "id", "in_reply_to_screen_name", "retweeted" and "text"

23. Delete these columns by pressing the delete icon



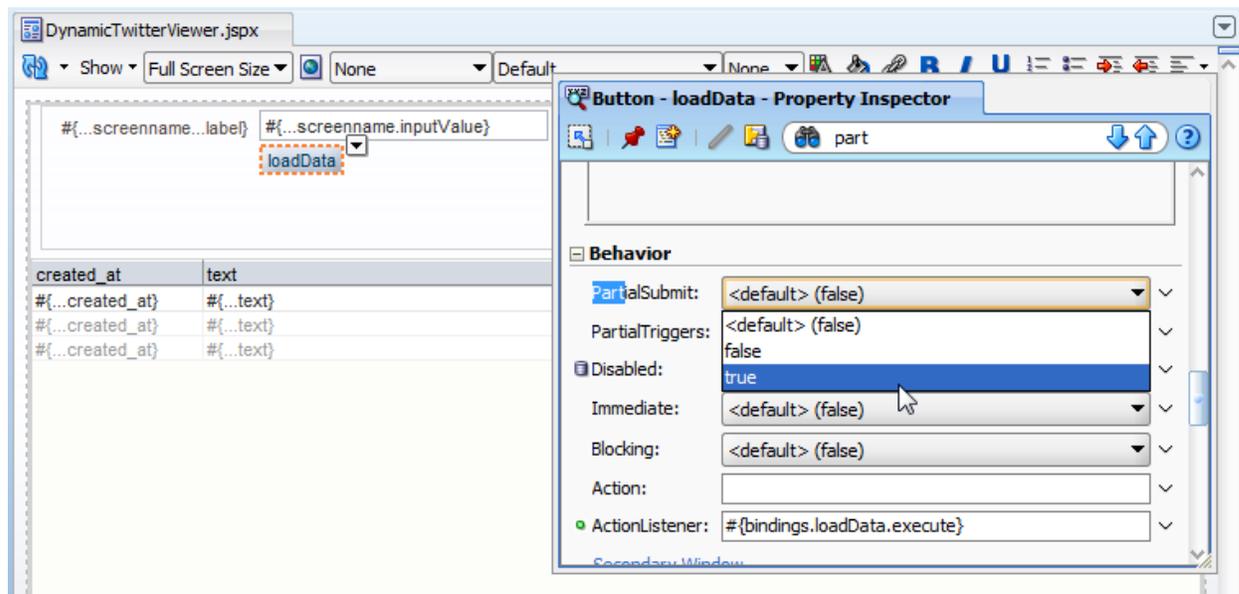
24. Rearrange the column order and make the "text" column becoming second after the "created_at" column



25. OK the dialog

26. Select the "loadData" button and open the Property Inspector.

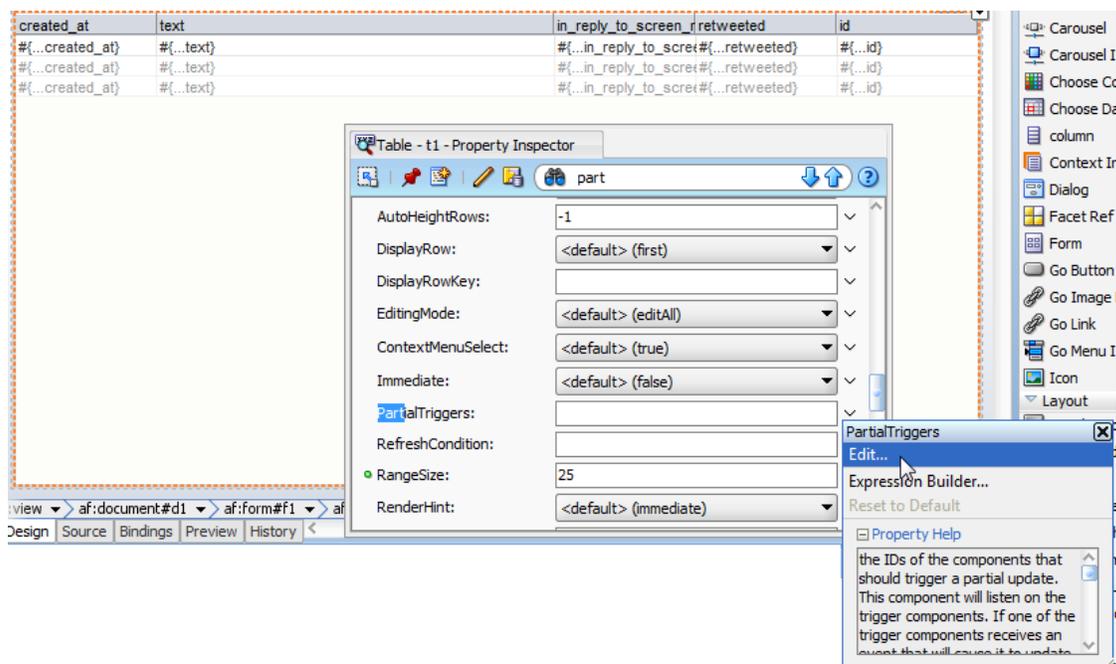
27. Find the "PartialSubmit" property and set it to "true". This ensures the JSF page is not fully reloaded when pressing it



28. Select the table component and find its "PartialTriggers" property in the PropertyInspector.

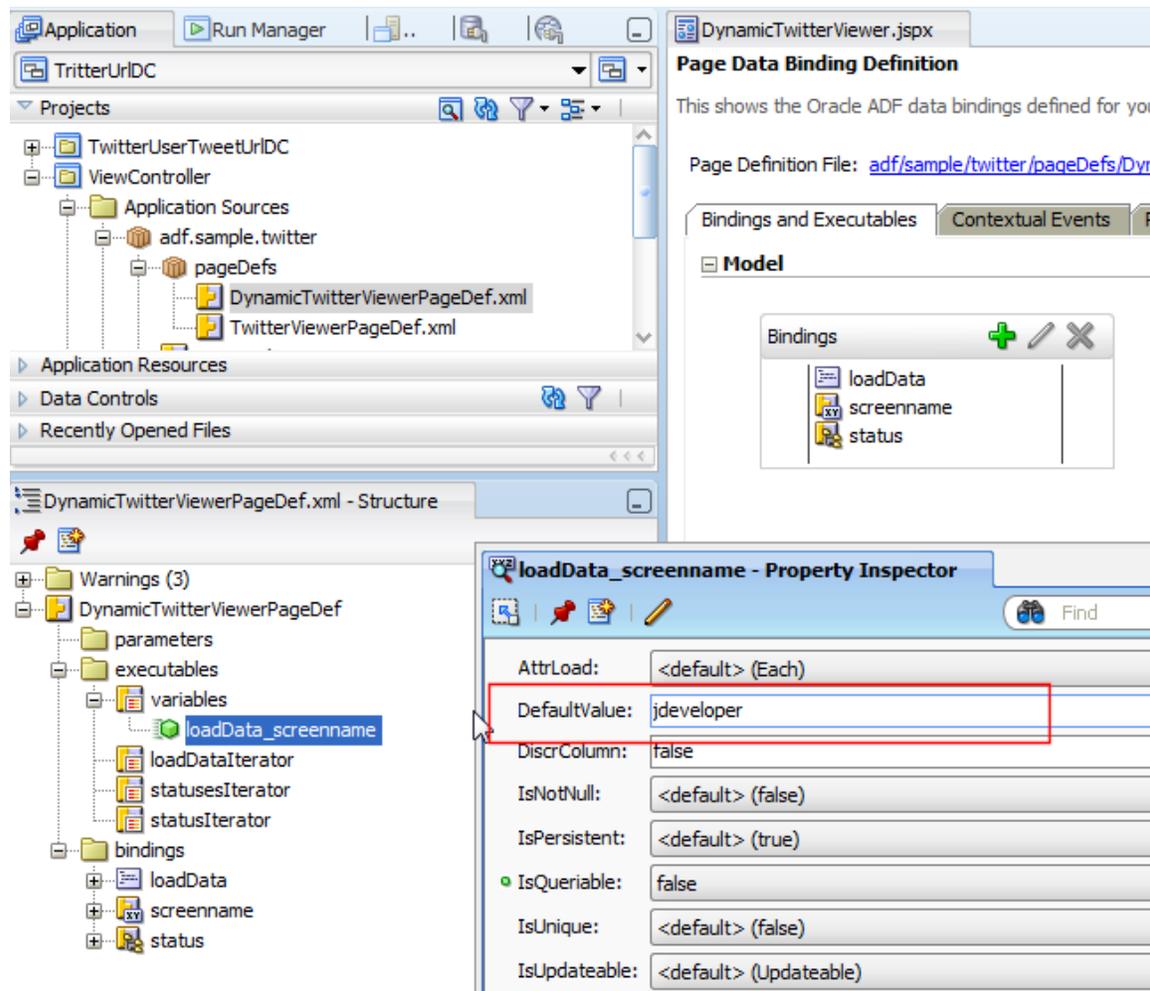
Note: Make sure you selected the table and not a single column. Best is to verify this in the Oracle JDeveloper Structure Window

29. From the context menu of the "PartialTriggers" property, choose the "Edit" link.

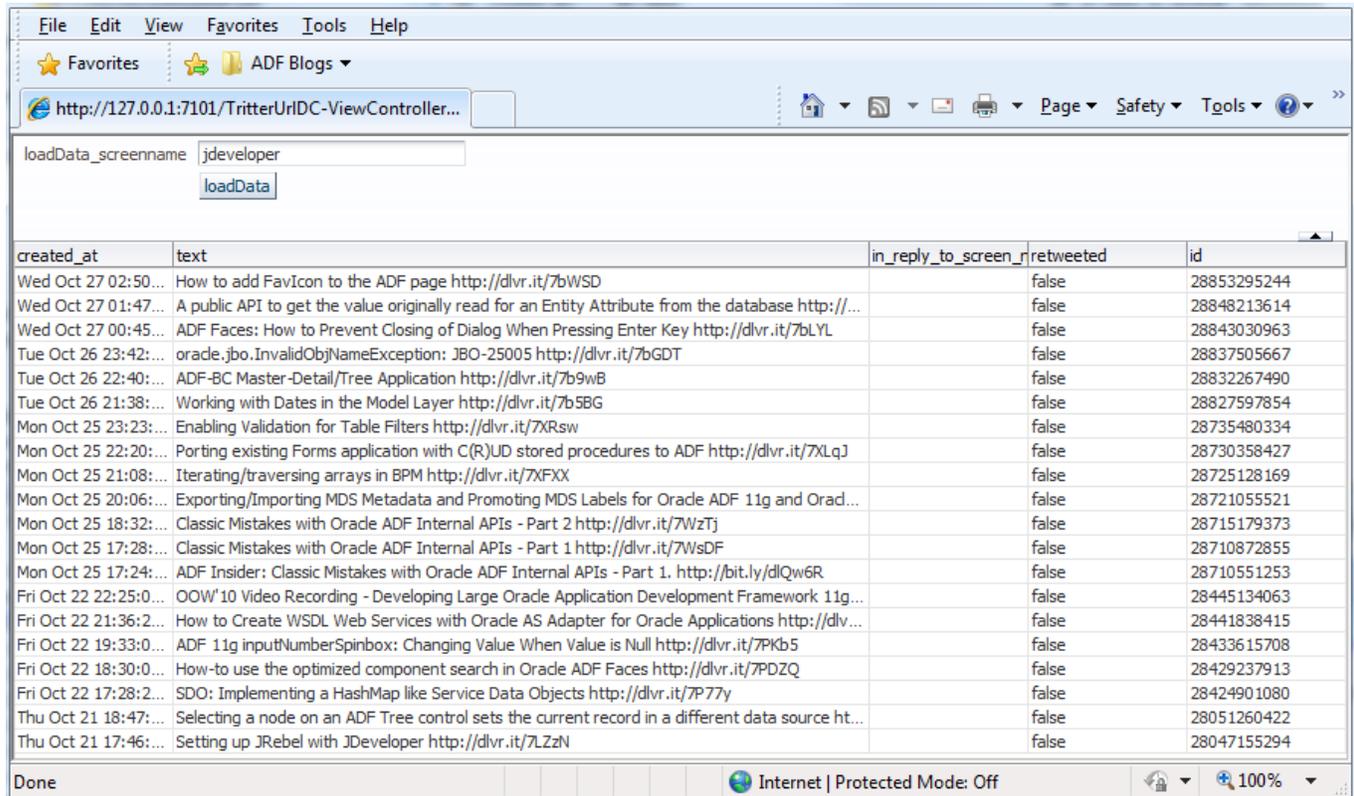


30. In the Edit Property dialog, find the "loadData" command button and move it to the "Selected" list.

Note: The load data button is not shown with its label in the "Edit Property" dialog, but its Id.



33. Select the PageDef file in the Application Navigator and open the Structure Window to see the binding details
34. Expand the executables | variables node and select the loadData_screenname entry
35. Open the Property Inspector and set the DefaultValue property to "jdeveloper" (without the quotes)
36. Save the project
37. Click onto the page in the visual editor or the Application Navigator and choose the "Run" option from the right mouse context menu
38. The screen renders with the table showing tweets of the "jdeveloper" account. Add "adfcodecorner" or your Twitter account name into the input field and press the loadData button.



Download

A zip file containing additional instructions and a completed solution can be downloaded as sample #74 from the ADF Code Corner website at:

<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/developer-tools/adf/learnmore/index-101235.html>

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