

Using an Array as a Data Source

The following example generates a Word file from a template that contains the merge fields ProductName, CompanyName, and URL. The WordWriter code gets the values for these fields from an array of objects.

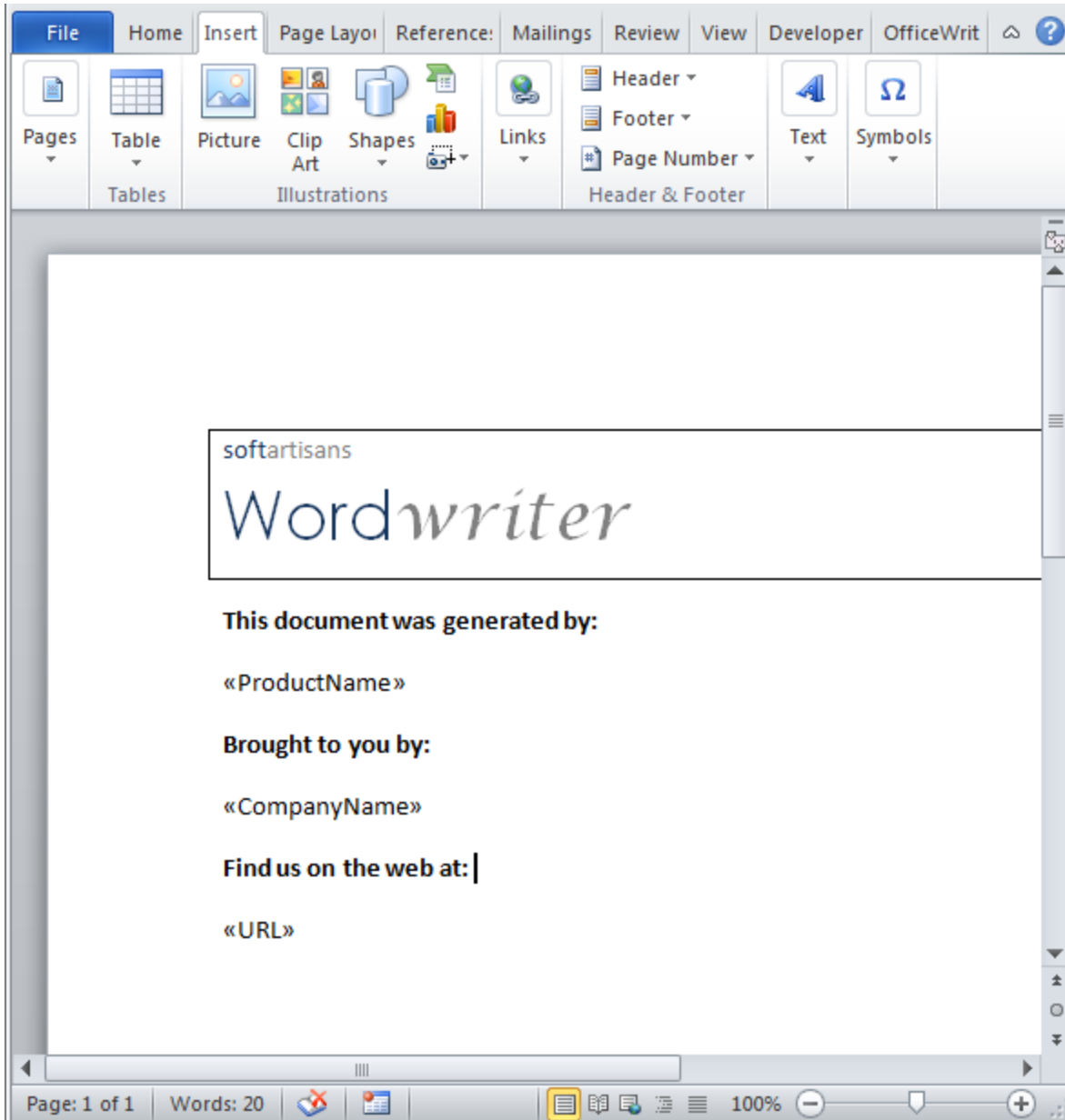
To set a template's data source to an array, first create an object array of field values and a string array of field names:

```
//--- Create an object array of field values
object[] arrValue = {"SoftArtisans", "WordWriter", "http://www.softartisans.com"};

//--- Create a string array of field names
string[] arrName = {"CompanyName", "ProductName", "URL"};
```

```
'--- Create an object array of field values.
Dim arrValue As Object() = {"SoftArtisans", "WordWriter",
"http://www.softartisans.com"}

'--- Create a string array of field names.
Dim arrName As String() = {"CompanyName", "ProductName", "URL"}
```



Each merge field in the template will bind to a field name/field value pair. When creating field name and field value arrays to use as a data source, remember:

- The two arrays must contain the same number of elements.
- Each name in the array of field names must be the same as the corresponding merge field name in the template.
- The number of unique merge fields in the template may not exceed the number of values in the data source. The data source must provide a value for each merge field in the template.
- The number of values in the data source may be greater than the number of merge fields in the template.

First, create the WordTemplate object and open a template file:

C#

```
string templatePath;  
WordTemplate wt = new WordTemplate();  
wt.Open(templatePath);
```

VB.NET

```
Dim templatePath As String
Dim wt As New WordTemplate()
wt.Open(templatePath)
```

You can call the `SetDataSource` method before or after opening the template (that is, before or after calling `Open`). When you call `SetDataSource`, pass the two arrays you created to the method as parameters:

C#

```
wt.SetDataSource(arrValue, arrName);
```

VB.NET

```
wt.SetDataSource(arrValue, arrName)
```

The `Process` method enters the array values in the template's merge fields:

C#

```
wt.Process();
```

VB.NET

```
wt.Process()
```

The `Save` either saves the new Word file on the server, or streams it to the browser. In this example, `WordWriter` streams the generated file to the client:

C#

```
wt.Save(Page.Response, "ArrayVarsOutput.doc", false);
```

VB.NET

```
wt.Save(Page.Response, "ArrayVarsOutput.doc", False)
```

On the client, a File Download dialog will ask the user to open or save the Word file. Since the `Save` method's third parameter - `OpenInBrowser` - is set to `False`, if the user chooses to open the file, it will open in Microsoft Word.