

Information passed from this tier to other tiers can be format for easy acceptance. For example, a *dataset* (similar to a table or spreadsheet) can be returned to the interface tier for display in a table or list box existing on a web page. A dataset could also be sent to the data tier to be inserted into a database.

Dataset—A dataset is a structure that can hold multiple data tables. A data table is similar to a table in a database (with rows, columns, and data) or a spreadsheet. Datasets are commonly used to pass information between tiers and between methods.

The business rules tier returns values to the tiers that request it. The tier does not provide any GUI interfaces or forms of any kind. Interfaces are not needed because the tier has no direct contact with the user at any time. All communication to the business rules tier is handled either through the interface tier or the data tier. Like the interface tier, the business rules tier does not directly update stored information in databases. All storage updates occur in the data tier.

Do	Don't
Manipulate data	Display information
Format data	Save data on secondary device
Store data in memory	Display error messages
Raise exceptions	
Verify data	

Do It

1. What tasks can business rule tier code accomplish that is similar to a task accomplished by code in the interface tier? Why is this code possibility duplicated in both tiers?
2. How does the business rules tier pass and receive data (information)?
3. Why must the business rules tier talk indirectly through the interface tier to provide information to the users?