

## Re: Calculated Value will not store in Table

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"tonyaims" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message  
news:1a4d01c499f1\$28aa1620\$a401280a@phx.gbl...

> *Albert,*

>

> *Thanks for the suggestions. What is a "left" join?*

>

> *Tony*

Ah...gee, you had to ask..huh!!!

A left join means that a query will return the "parent" records when the  
child table HAS NO correspond record.

So, if we have Customers, and Invoices tables, a left join would give us:

CustomerName	InvoiceNumber
AppleBee	
Donought Shop	1234
Doughnut Shop	1344

Note how AppleBee does NOT yet have a invoice number in the invoices  
table..but the query still returns the record. You have to use left joins  
for lookup values when you drop in many tables (can't use standard joins in  
this case).

So, with a left join, the corresponding child record DOES NOT have to exist.  
Just think of "left" side can exist...but the right side does NOT have to !

A middle join, or so called inner join is the standard join, and BOTH tables  
have to have a value for the join. The above would produce:

CustomerName	InvoiceNumber
Dounought Shop	1234
Doughutn Ship	1344

So, in the above inner join, our customer name of Applebee does not show,  
since that customer does NOT yet have a invoice record in the invoice table.

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To make a left join, you drop in the tables (in the query builder, or the relationship designer), and draw the join line to the appropriate field between each table. You then double click on the join line. You then click on the join type button

You get three options:

Only include rows where the joined fields from both tables are equal (this standard default inner join)

Include ALL records from "Customers" and only those records from "Invoices" where the joined fields are equal (this is our left join. So, our main table Customers will be returned in this query, REGARDLESS if the child records (invoices in this example) exist, or not!. This is left join

Include ALL records from "Invoices" and only those records from "Customers" where the joined fields are equal  
This is obviously a right join....

Now, the concept of a left join is NOT very important for you combo box lookups, except for the fact that it don't work unless you use left joins!!

However, for forms, and sub-forms, and related tables, left joins are quite important. Keeping in mind that related tables, and your above problem are different problems, there read the following as to why you want to be aware of left joins:

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If you look at the following screen shot, you can see that most relationships are this left join, and RI is enforced.

<http://www.attcanada.net/%7ekallal.msn/Articles/PickSql/Appendex2.html>

tblBgroup (booking group) for example may, or may not have payments made (tblPayments). Thus, you can add a booking group, and NOT have to add child records. However, full RI is enforced, and you can see the side ways & "omega" sign AND THE ARROW HEAD. The simple lookup fields are simply just a arrow drawn, and no "1", or omega sign exists (tblPayments to tblHowpaid for example is a simple lookup).

The tables that MUST have a child records can also clearly be seen. If you go from the tblBgroup to the its parent table, you will see table tblBooking. You can easily see that there is a 1 to many here also, but NO ARROW head exists. Thus, when I create a booking, my designs will ALWAYS ASSUME that a child records in tblBgroup (booking group) will exist (ie: I must code, and assume that when I add a tblBookin records, my code also assumes that a tblBGroup will also have to be added).

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So, the ER diagram can convey a lot about your designs. Down the road, I can now look at that diagram, and when writing code, I will know if the design can, and does assume if child records are required. If you look at that table, it is VERY RARE that I require the child record. That application has about 60 tables, and I think only 1 or 2 in the whole thing is NOT a left join. Hence, you most certainly should set the relation in the window for future reference, and also it will help you when you create a query, or a report.