

Pasting text into a combo-box for browsing

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.forms/2004-09/1655.html>

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Date: 09/15/04

Date: Tue, 14 Sep 2004 18:08:48 -0700

Here's the situation:

I have a garden plant database. I'm trying to improve the searching functionality on it.

I have a form based on a query that displays botanical name (txtBotName) and common name.

The Botanical Name is the concatenation of Genus, Species, and Variety names. The query does this concatenation and is sorted ascending on Botanical Name.

I want to find and display a record that contains a specified search word/phrase (e.g., coral) in any of those fields (essentially Botanical Name and Common Name).

So far, so good: I can clunk through this with Edit->Find and locate the record I want, and do FindNext to look at another one.

However, in many cases the user will want to directly browse the Botanical Names surrounding the one found by FindRecord. To do this, I added to the form an unbound combo box cbxBrowseBotName whose control source is the same as that of the form, and the only column in it is the Botanical Name.

To browse, I do all this with the mouse after Finding a record: I highlight the txtBotName value, Ctrl-C, highlight cbxBrowseBotName value, Ctrl-V and then hit the drop-down arrow and . . . Voila! I see the nearby Botanical Names in the drop-down. I have an AfterUpdate event on the cbx to find the any newly selected record, and that works fine.

It seems, though, that I should be able to produce the cbx dropdown either using a macro or VBA code without all that highlighting and cutting and pasting, but I can't figure out how to do it.

I need some help with that. Or, if you see a better way to achieve the same functionality, I'd sure be open to that as well!

TIA

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Gary