

Re: Populating a list -- learning Access

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- *From:* strive4peace <"strive4peace2006 at yahoo dot com">
 - *Date:* Tue, 13 Jun 2006 21:35:26 -0400
-

Hi Kass,

Thanks, Kass. I am flattered, of course. Like you, I am constantly learning more about Access. Although I have been using Access for more than a decade and programming for about 30 years, there is soooo much to know, Access is truly a remarkably powerful application. I am in awe of others who are so incredibly amazing and they are MY mentors. I do not often ask questions, but I do search and read posts written by the many people that I admire.

Until a couple years ago, I didn't even know public forums like this existed! Most of what I know is self-taught. I am one of those people who got used to learn in alphabetical order :) Back when software came with manuals, before I used an application, I read the documentation from cover-to-cover. I like to read printed pages better than a screen, so when I really want to understand something, I print it out and take notes in the margins.

If you start reading the help in Access from the beginning of the Table of Contents, you will find that it is very well written.

There is really no way for me to help you directly on the forums -- what I mostly do is look for unanswered posts to see if I can be of assistance. I will keep my eyes peeled for your name, though -- but I cannot make any promises as my volunteer time is limited and if someone else is already giving you assistance, I do not want to step on any toes -- if I can add something, I will if I see it.

My business is custom training and programming -- mostly over the phone and through email. If you contact me directly (email address in my siggy), I assume you are interested in information about that.

I am writing a book on VBA and send the chapters that are done to anyone who requests it -- email me if you want them.

I am thrilled that you are getting a grip on SQL and happy that I put you on your path. It is kinda funny -- I started using databases in the early 80's with dBase and, for years, never knew that I knew SQL! I heard the term, but it was like a mysterious cloud! When I finally LOOKED at an SQL statement, I laughed! ... couldn't believe that I was so intimidated by it when it was something I already knew -- just had never known what to call it!

Programming itself is simple logic -- the main thing you need to be successful is a strong foundation and a logical approach. Once you become familiar with syntax, it makes total sense! With Access, the most important thing to get right is the data structures -- that is like the foundation of your building -- it matters not what color the walls are (the reports) -- the foundation is what determines how high you can go.

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Another thing about Access -- it is OBJECT-ORIENTED. Just like in the real world, every object has properties and methods.

Properties describe an object
Methods define actions an object can do

For instance, you are a human and have properties such as hair color, eye color, height, weight, ... and methods such as eat, run, jump,...

If you become familiar with the different types of objects that Access can use and the properties that define them and the methods they can do (and what triggers them), you will be on your way!

When you are in the design view of anything, keep the properties window showing. Turn on/off the Properties window --> View, Properties from the menu

Then click on various objects.

You can get help about any property by pressing F1 while in the property you want more information on.

If you are on a form or report, the most important property is the NAME, because that is how you refer to it in code. If the name is ambiguous, change it!

Explore the property sheet. Get familiar with how properties are grouped on the tabs (where applicable) and the different properties available for different objects.

For general help about Access, I find it interesting and informative to read the help starting from the beginning of the Contents. In fact, if you have the desire to print a ream of paper, it would be good to print it like a book and read it.

I wish you continued success!

Warm Regards,
Crystal
Microsoft Access MVP 2006

*

Have an awesome day ;)

remote programming and training
strive4peace2006 at yahoo.com

*

Kass wrote:

Crystal,

Thanks! I had made a report already and figured out about adding the "Product Footer" as you say. But this put the Product on one line and the Product count on the line below it. This was workable, but I really wanted them both on the same line for clarity and to save space. So after reading your response, I dragged the Product field into the Product Footer section and it

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is just perfect! Thanks for all your help! This is working just as I need it to! Again I appreciate all you have helped me with and I'm so excited because thanks to your SQL summary info, I'm finally starting to understand this better.

If I have a problem in the future, is there a way to direct a question to you. I don't mean to pester you, but you seem to explain things so I can understand them. I have always appreciated the responses on the board, whether my question or just searching, but sometimes I just don't click with the way some of these guys explain things. If it is not possible or feasible, I certainly understand... just that I'd inquire.

Thanks for everything!

Kass

"strive4peace" <"strive4peace2006 at yaho" wrote:

Hi Kass,

thank you :)

make Product one of your report groupings and choose YES for Group footer so you create a section

from the menu --> View, Sorting & Grouping

hide the detail

in the Product footer, put the product and the count

Warm Regards,
Crystal
Microsoft Access MVP 2006

*

Have an awesome day ;)

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*

Kass wrote:

Crystal,

You have been so helpful and I really appreciate it! I don't mean to skip your response below, but thanks to your help

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with SQL, I was able to get the query to pull the info the way I needed. I have one report complete, "Book & Activities Report". It takes a summary from a select query and gives the following data:

Book Name : Pawnee Elementary Grade 5
Activity 1 – Product 1
Product 22
Product 3
Product 18

Activity 2 – Product 22
Product 44
Product 66

Activity 3 – Product 3
Product 18
Product 55
Product 12
Product 22
ECT...

Now I need a similar report, Book & Parts Report. I need it however to make a count of the Products... something like this:

Book Name : Pawnee Elementary Grade 5
Product 1 1
Product 3 2
Product 12 1
Product 18 1
Product 22 3
Product 44 1
Product 55 1
Product 66 1

The report will put the Products in order, with no gaps (I tried Hide Duplicates... but it leaves gaps) and a summary count of each of the products. This will help my client not only know what which Activities and what Products go into which Books, but also give them a summary of the Products and how many of each go into each Book.

If you know this off hand, let me know. If it is alot of trouble on your end, I'll just keep doing some digging. Seems like I've done this before, but can't remember if I had to do it within a query or in the report itself.

Take Care!

Kass

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"strive4peace" <"strive4peace2006 at yaho" wrote:

Hi Kass,

you are welcome :)

In order to help you, I need to better understand your structure. This is what I have surmised -- please make corrections...

Products

PID, autonumber
Product, text

Activities

AID, autonumber
Activity, text

Kits

KitID, autonumber
AID, long integer
Kit, text

KitProducts

KPID, autonumber
KitID, long integer
PID, long integer

Books

BookID, autonumber

BookKits

BKitID, autonumber
BookID, long integer
KitID, long integer

Warm Regards,

Crystal

Microsoft Access MVP 2006

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Kass wrote:

Crystal,

I REALLY appreciate you sending this info. You are right, this clears up a lot of issues and jargon with SQL. I think you just have to work with this stuff for a bit to start grasping how it all works together. I'm SLOWLY getting there.... but at least I can feel progress none the less.

I have the database about where I want it. I have one more hurdle. I have the Products with their product IDs (PID)... I have the Activities with their activity IDs... I have the Kits with their IDs (KitID). The Kit is an Activity and its ID with all the Products it takes to perform that Activity. So KitID 1 may have Activity 24 which includes Products 4, 8, 10, and 22. I also have the Books with their book IDs (BID) and the Book Kits (BKitID). Each Book Kit has an individual BKitID number and name and takes a Book ID and seeds all the KitIDs and AIDs and Activity Names that go into making that Book. So a BKitID will have with it a KitID and all its associated AIDs+PIDs for each Activity included in the Book. All of this is now working great. I can seed and lookup Activities and all the Products that make

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up the individual Activities.
I can also look up the Books
and all the Activities that
make up that book.

Now the next step. To
somehow get in a report....
If we look up a Book, it tells
us the Activities that are
included in that book and all
the Products that go into
making up those Activities
that make up that Book. I
think I'll have to try to get a
query that will take the
BKitIDs and the KitIDs and
bring that information
together. If you have any
great ideas, let me know!

Anyway, I really appreciate
all your help... I love the
info on SQL!

Thanks again!

Kass

"strive4peace"
<"strive4peace2006 at yaho"
wrote:

Hi Kass,

here you
are!

Don't let the
SQL
acronym
intimidate
you, it is
not tough to
learn the
basics.

~~~~~

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SQL  
background  
~~~~~

SQL is
Structured
Query
Language

It is a
statement to
get data out
of one or
more
tables/queries.
This is what
Access
stores for:

1. Queries
(just shows
the QBE
grid for
convenience
--
choose
View, SQL)

2.
RowSource
for
Comboboxes
and
Listboxes
(if list does
not
come
directly
from a table
since a
query is
actually an
SQL
statement)

3.
RecordSource
for Reports
and Forms
(if list does
not come

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directly
from a
table)

Queries can
be different
types, for
instance:

1. Select
2. Crosstab
3. Make-Table
4. Update
5. Append
6. Delete

Select and
Crosstab
queries
show data
while the
others are
"action"
queries" and
do not
display data
-- so you
cannot use
them for
record
sources or
for row
sources.

To expand
and
reiterate:

Queries are
a very
powerful
tool in
Access --
you can do
far more
than simply
use them to
select data

.... Queries
can be

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ACTION
Queries...they
DO things,
not show
you things

they can
add data to
a table -->
APPEND
Query

they can
make
changes to a
table -->
UPDATE
Query

they can
delete
records
from a table
--> Delete
Query

they can
make tables
-->
Make-Table
Query

they can
transpose
data -->
Crosstab
Query
(which is
also,
actually,
SELECTing
data from a
table since
there is not
action)

Internally,
Access
stores an
SQL
(Structured

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Query
Language)
statement
for
queries*,
not the
visual
representation
you see
when you
design
queries --
the QBE
(Query-By-Example)
grid is for
your
benefit, so
you can use
drag-n-drop
and pick
methods
and visually
look at
things
better.

*this is why
it is so
important to
get
comfortable
with
looking at
SQL
statements

A great way
to become
more
familiar with
SQL is to
LOOK at
the SQL
everytime
you make a
query. Until
you actually
start to
look, you
never
realize how

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easy and
sensible it
actually is...
and It really
helps to use
Aliases
(short
abbreviations)
for
tablenames
as it makes
the SQL
statement
shorter.

~~~~~  
SELECT  
~~~~~

BASIC
SQL
SYNTAX

SELECT
fieldlist

FROM
tablename

IN
anotherdatabase.mdb
WHERE
conditions
GROUP
BY fieldlist
HAVING
conditions
for fields
that are
grouped
ORDER
BY fieldlist;

~~~~~  
APPEND  
~~~~~

An Append
Query is a
select query
preceeded
by

```
INSERT  
INTO  
Tablename  
(field1,  
field2, etc )
```

```
~~~~~  
UPDATE
```

```
~~~~~  
An Update  
Query first  
identifies  
the tables  
that are  
used
```

```
UPDATE  
table1  
INNER  
JOIN table2  
ON  
table1.keyfield  
=  
table2.keyfield
```

Then
identifies
what to
change

```
SET  
table1.fieldtochange  
=  
expression
```

Then, if you
have
criteria...

```
WHERE  
table.strField  
=  
'somevalue'  
AND
```

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```
table.numField
= 99
AND
table.dateField
= #1/1/06#

~~~~~
MAKE
TABLE
~~~~~

SELECT
fieldlist
INTO
tablename
IN
c:\path\anotherdatabase.mdb
```

```
FROM
tablename
```

```
WHERE
conditions
to process
before
recordset is
made
GROUP
BY fieldlist
HAVING
conditions
for fields
that are
grouped
ORDER
BY fieldlist;
```

```
~~~~~
DELETE
~~~~~
```

```
DELETE
A.*
```

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```
FROM  
tblArticles  
AS A
```

```
WHERE  
(A.somefield=2);
```

```
~~~~~  
CROSSTAB  
~~~~~
```

```
TRANSFORM  
Count(B.Fieldname1)  
AS  
FieldAlias
```