

Re: Query vs form with child & parent: Deleting rows

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First, I have not set up any relationships at all in this database. I understand that it's recommended, and why, and I expect that I will someday. For now, though, I can be sure cascading deletes are not an issue because I deliberately omitted all automatic relationships.

Second, I forgot to say at the outset last time that I'm sort of a newbie at this. I've been writing in various computer languages professionally for decades, and I've been tweaking this database in VBA for a year or so — but I never took a class in VBA, I had to learn it from manuals, and mostly when I wanted to do something that I couldn't figure out, I just kept whacking away until I found something that worked. Therefore I'm quite sure I've taught myself a few techniques that are either stupidly inefficient or likely to cause problems. Don't assume I'm writing my code sanely, in other words.

Now, you seem to be saying (correct me if I'm mistaken) that it makes a difference which table I name first in my join. That doesn't accord with my experience, which is why I think I may be misreading you. I'll show you the actual query so you can see what ~I~ think is happening.

The parent Table is called "Who"; each record represent either a company, or an individual who works for one of those companies. In my application I display the Who records in a continuous main form called [Company list]. In that form's detail section each record has a button I can push that opens a second form (not a sub-form) displaying any Who records that might be subordinate to that record, that is, all individuals (and sometimes child companies) whose Owner field contains the record key of the parent company. That second form (named clCoSub) is fed by this query:

```
SELECT *  
FROM Who AS parent INNER JOIN Who AS child ON child.Owner=parent.ID  
WHERE child.Owner=Forms![Company List]!ID
```

No problem so far. But I have a child table called "Channel"; each record there is an email address, a phone number, a URL or some other way of contacting the company or individual represented by its parent Who record. In clCoSub's detail section is a button labeled "Channels", which displays a third form (named clCoSubChan) that is fed by this query:

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```
SELECT *  
FROM Channel AS c LEFT JOIN Who AS w ON w.ID=c.Owner  
WHERE c.Owner In (Forms!clCoSub!CoID,Forms!clCoSub!ID)
```

This query displays every channel that is owned either by the individual whose button I clicked (clCoSub!ID), or the company (clCoSub!CoID) to which that individual is subordinate. Let's pretend this query displays five records:

Company X : Fax number
Company X : URL
Bob Barcy : Office phone
Bob Barcy : Cell number
Bob Barcy : Email address

The form displays the correct five channels. But if in that form I delete, say, Bob Barcy's cell number, Access deletes not just that Channel record but also the parent -- Bob Barcy's Who record -- leaving Barcy's office phone and email address orphaned. (I know, setting relationships for referential integrity would delete the two orphaned records, but let's not lose sight of the ball; what I want to know is why Access is deleting Barcy's Who record).

I'd expect that since the form acts that way, the query would do the same -- that is, if I display the query in Datasheet mode and delete the record for Barcy's cell phone, it'll act the same way as in the form. But no, when I delete that record in the query's datasheet display, it deletes just the Channel record. That's what I want the form to do, too.

Furthermore, it all acts correctly in clCoSub. Remember that form? It displays Who records that are subordinate to another Who record; if in that query I delete a record, Access deletes just the child Who record, not the parent Who record -- AND LIKEWISE IN THE FORM!, that is, I can delete a child record in clCoSub and lose just the child Who record and keep the parent Who record, which is what I wanted in the first place. So why doesn't it work that way in clCoSubChan?

You spoke of "main table" in a join, and seemed to say that it's the table you mention first, whether your join is inner or outer. But I already tried varying the JOINS in that way and it didn't make any difference. If I didn't misunderstand you, how sure are you of that theory? You sound pretty certain, but it isn't working that way at this end.

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