

## Re: Validating ComboBox Entries

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.formscoding/2006-06/msg00461.html>

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  - *Date:* Thu, 8 Jun 2006 05:49:01 -0700
- 

Sorry, Duncs, but we are right back where we started. You can't have it both ways. Either the project is going to show in the combo box or not. What you are asking seems totally illogical. You don't want someone to enter time against a project with no budget, so they should not see the project in the combo, but if you are looking at historical data you want it in the combo.

I guess the questions now are how do you select historical data and should a time entry form also be used for looking at history?

So, I see two ways to accomplish your needs. First, as I suggested earlier, When a user selects a project, present a message box warning that this project can have no charges against it and lock the controls so they can't enter anything. You would still be able to see it when looking at history. The other way would be to restrict this form to time entry only and present only active projects and create a different form for view history.

"Duncs" wrote:

If I filter out all expired projects from the combo, viewing historical records—which go back to the start of the financial year—does not show the projects that have expired.

For example, "Project Alpha" has been worked on every day during the month of May by two employees and it has a "Valid Until Date" of 1st June, 2006. On the 31st May, when I view all records within the database, the project name is displayed in the Combo control.

However, on the 1st June, when I view the combo, "Project Alpha" isn't listed. However, when I view all records for the month of May, where the employees have worked on "Project Alpha", the Combo control is blank. This is using the RowSource value of:

```
RowSource SELECT tblProjects.ProjectDescription,  
tblProjects.fldProjectID,  
tblProjects.fldValidUntilDate  
FROM tblProjects
```

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```
WHERE tblProjects.fldValidUntilDate > Date()  
ORDER BY tblProjects.fldProjectID;
```

What I need to happen on the 1st June, is:

1. The project to no longer appear in the list of available projects, to avoid an employee accidentally selecting a workstream that no longer has a budget
2. The entries in May to show "Project Alpha" in the Combo control, for the two employees who worked on it.

With the RowSource above, part 1 of my needs is fulfilled. However, part 2 does not happen. The Combo Control is blank.

In your final comment, you say "Now I am confused as to why you think you need them to show in the combo list if they should never be selected." I guess I don't need them to show in the combo control if they are expired, but I do need them to show for all entries where they have been selected, prior to the Valid Until Date.

Duncs

Klatuu wrote:

Effectively, you are filtering out expired contracts. The list of projects in the combo cannot be viewed until the combo has the focus. When it gets the focus, you filter out expired contracts so they will not be seen. Then the removing the filter in the Lost Focus puts them back, but again they will never be seen. So the effect is, you are filtering out expired contracts.

Now I am confused as to why you think you need them to show in the combo list if they should never be selected. I just don't understand your intent.

"Duncs" wrote:

Klatuu,

I may have solved it. It may not be the best way of doing it, but it seems to work.

The Combo Control defaults to a RowSource of:

```
RowSource SELECT tblProjects.ProjectDescription,  
tblProjects.fldProjectID,  
tblProjects.fldValidUntilDate
```

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```
FROM tblProjects  
ORDER BY tblProjects.fldProjectID;
```

This ensures that ALL entries, expired or not, are displayed in the control.

In the "GotFocus" event of the control, I alter the RowSource to:

```
RowSource SELECT tblProjects.ProjectDescription,  
tblProjects.fldProjectID,  
tblProjects.fldValidUntilDate  
FROM tblProjects  
WHERE tblProjects.fldValidUntilDate > Date()  
ORDER BY tblProjects.fldProjectID;
```

and then requery the control. This ensures that the control only displays those projects that have not expired.

Finally, in the "LostFocus" event of the control, I reset the RowSource back to:

```
RowSource SELECT tblProjects.ProjectDescription,  
tblProjects.fldProjectID,  
tblProjects.fldValidUntilDate  
FROM tblProjects  
ORDER BY tblProjects.fldProjectID;
```

Which will show all project information in the field.

As I say, I don't know whether it is advisable to do this or not, but it works and suits my purposes.

Duncs

Klatuu wrote:

There is one other thing I thought of that may help if you want expired project to be viewed by prevent any time from being entered into them would be rather than presenting a message box in the After Update event would be to lock the controls on the forms so nothing could be entered.

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"Duncs" wrote:

Klatuu,

Many thanks for your reply.

The main reason I want to prevent employees selecting a project that has expired, is one of budgets. Previously, employees have accidentally selected an invalid project code, then at the end of the month when we pass the details to our accountants for re-charging, we find that several hours have been charged to a now invalid project. As the one employee can work on several projects at the same time, it becomes impossible for them to tell what project the time SHOULD have been logged against.

So, the idea of the "Valid Until Date" or "Project Expiry Date" was born. The employee can work on the project up to and including the expiry date, but after that date there is no more money in the budget for work, so no more time can be spent on it.

Given your scenario listed below, if I were to use the "AfterUpdate" event, I would have to display a Message Box or something similar to the user, advising them of the invalid selection. The

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project,  
although expired, would still  
appear in the list and would  
still be  
selectable by an employee.  
What I wanted to do was  
remove the project  
from the list display, since it  
has passed its expiry date.  
This would  
prevent the user from  
selecting the project, either  
accidentally or  
intentionally, and would  
subsequently prevent me  
from displaying a  
message box if they have  
selected an invalid project  
code.

From the  
four  
scenarios  
you have  
listed  
below, only  
1 & 2 are  
valid.

Whether or not a project has  
work completed on it within  
the last month  
or not, is really of no  
relevance to anything.

Many thanks for your reply,  
and would welcome any  
other ideas you may  
have.

Duncs

Klatuu wrote:

You really  
can't have it  
both ways.  
Either it is  
included in

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the combo  
row  
source or it  
is not;  
however, if  
what you  
are after is  
to restrict  
processing  
based on the  
Valid Thru  
Date, then  
rather than  
filtering  
your row  
source on  
the date,  
you may  
want to  
consider  
filtering in  
on whether  
or not  
someone  
has  
worked on  
the project  
in prior  
months. It  
appears you  
want four  
situations.

1. The  
project is  
Active =  
ValidThruDate  
<= Date
2. The  
project is  
Inactive =  
ValidThruDate  
> Date
3. The  
project is  
Inactive, but  
had work in  
prior month
4. The  
project is  
Inactive,  
but had no

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work in  
prior month

I don't  
know if the  
rules for 3  
and 4 or  
correct or  
what you  
want to do  
with  
time, but, I  
can suggest  
that rather  
than filter  
on the date,  
use the  
After  
Update  
event of the  
combo box  
to  
determine  
what to do:

```
If  
Me.MyCombo.Column(2)  
> Date  
Then  
'Do  
Whatever  
you need to  
deal with  
inactive  
projects.  
End If
```

"Duncs"  
wrote:

I  
have  
a  
form  
that  
contains  
a  
ComboBox  
control,  
which

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displays  
the  
following  
information:

Project  
Description  
Project  
Code  
Valid  
Until  
Date

The  
table  
definition  
is  
as  
follows:

```
tblProjects.fldProjectDescription  
tblProjects.fldProjectID  
tblProjects.fldValidUntilDate
```

What  
I  
want  
to  
happen,  
is  
when  
a  
project  
reaches  
its  
ValidUntil  
date,  
it  
should  
no  
longer  
appear  
in  
the  
drop-down  
list.  
However,  
where  
an  
employee  
has

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created  
a  
valid  
entry  
in  
the  
past,  
the  
project  
description  
should  
still  
be  
displayed.

I  
have  
created  
my  
Combo  
Control  
as  
follows:

```
ControlSource  
tblTimeSheet.fldProjectID  
RowSource  
SELECT  
tblProjects.ProjectDescription,  
tblProjects.fldProjectID,  
tblProjects.fldValidUntilDate  
FROM  
tblProjects  
WHERE  
tblProjects.fldValidUntilDate  
>  
Date()  
ORDER  
BY  
tblProjects.fldProjectID;
```

```
BoundColumn  
2
```

With  
this  
setup,  
the  
drop-down  
does  
indeed

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restrict  
the  
entries  
to  
those  
with  
a  
ValidUntil  
date  
in  
the  
future.  
However,  
it  
does  
not  
display  
an  
entry  
in  
the  
ComboBox  
control  
for  
those  
projects  
that  
have  
passed  
their  
ValidUntil  
date.  
For  
example,  
if  
"Project  
Alpha"  
has  
a  
Valid  
Until  
date  
of  
1st  
June,  
2006,  
"Project  
Alpha"  
would  
not  
appear

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in  
the  
drop-down.  
However,  
if  
any  
employee  
has  
worked  
on  
"Project  
Alpha"  
in  
the  
month  
of  
May,  
the  
project  
details  
will  
not  
be  
displayed.

Can  
anyone  
suggest  
a  
way  
of  
doing  
what  
I  
want  
the  
control  
to  
do?

Many  
thanks  
&  
regards

Duncs

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