

Re: Where to declare variables

Source:

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Well, Scope IS the answer to your question. Where and how will the variable be used? There is very little reason to declare a variable globally when it is only used in one subroutine. Also, you can reuse variables that are declared at the subroutine level.

For instance, I use "i" a lot as a counter variable. Suppose I have a routine with a "FOR i = 1 to <somevalue> NEXT Loop. Further, suppose that in that loop, I have a call to another subroutine that also has a counter. If "i" is declared globally, I can't use that in my other routine. So I would have to create a different variable, even though that counter is only used in one routine.

A similar problem develops with object variables: database objects or recordset objects. If I use "rs" as a recordset variable, I could not use that again anywhere in the database. Using it again, even to reference the same dynaset, could have serious consequences. So I would have to have rs1, rs2, ... etc. even to view essentially the same data.

In addition, good structured programming practice says that your variables should have the smallest scope possible. This leads to the least amount of confusion. I disagree that it would be easier to keep track of in a global module. It is much easier to keep track of when it is as close as possible to the code that uses it.

Lastly, in Access, Global Variables have a nasty habit of vanishing, especially when errors occur. To get around this, I most often store global variables (when I use them, which is not often) in a control on a hidden form or in a temp table. They have more permanence there.

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--Roger Carlson
  www.rogersaccesslibrary.com
  Reply to: Roger dot Carlson at Spectrum-Health dot Org
"Harlan" <Nevermind@ddd.com> wrote in message
news:eCpkcErhEHA.3944@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...
> I understand the difference in Dim, Private, Public (Global) as to the
SCOPE
> of the variable and where it can be used.
>
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microsoft.public.access.gettingstarted: Re: Where to declare variables

> My question is: What are the pros and cons of keeping a variable private
as
> apposed to declaring all variables as Public in one module. I am working
on
> an application which will end up with a large number of variables and it
> seems it would be "easier" to keep track of them if I declared them all in
> one place instead of at the form or procedure level.
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> Thanks
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