

Re: Controlling Data Formatting

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.gettingstarted/2005-04/msg01033.html>

- *From:* John Nurick <j.mapSoN.nurick@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 22 Apr 2005 20:45:02 +0100
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Hi Robert,

A date field can only store a date (to be precise, a number that represents a point in time) or a special value called Null (which usually represents an unknown value).

One way around the problem is to use a special date that would not otherwise be encountered (such as 1/1/1900) to mean "this person does not need this training item".

But the fact that you've hit this snag means that your database structure doesn't fit the real-world situation you are modelling. Getting the structure right is the most important single thing in databases. Here, it sounds as if you have something like this:

Persons
Training items
For each person,
Training items the person is required to take
Training items that the person has actually taken

One way of modelling this would be with three tables:

tblPersons
PersonID (e.g. a serial number or other unique identifier)
Name
other stuff

tblTrainingItems
TrainingItemID
Name
Description
other stuff

tblPersonsTrainingItems
PersonID
TrainingItemID
Required (Yes/No)
DateCompleted

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other stuff, maybe

In this structure, a record in tblPersonsTrainingItems like this:

XXX, YYY, Yes, 04/04/2005

mean that Person XXX completed required Training Item YYY on 4 April;

XXX, YYY, Yes, Null

would mean that Person XXX requires Training Item YYY but has not completed it; and

XXX, YYY, No, 04/04/2005

would mean that Person XXX didn't require item YYY but completed it anyway.

On 22 Apr 2005 08:39:19 -0700, "Robert" <wukichra@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

>Good Morning Everyone

>

>A bit of background first:

>

>I created this database so that I can not only track personnel and

>training, also force users to utilize a standard data entry method.

>Prior to this implementation we would have 5 seperate date forms, three

>ways of indicating not applicable, etc.

>

>What I need to figure out now is a way to override some of these

>settings. For example: I add a new person to my database, that person

>does not require certain training items. My training items are set as

>medium dates because if they do not have the training it would

>naturally be blank and easily locatable. I have some personnel that do

>not need to do the training. Therefore since they would not have the

>date entered they would be listed as not having done it. I need to

>figure out how to make this read Not applicable or something similar.

>

>I hope this made sense! I will clarify as needed.

>

>Thanks again, as always

>

>Robert A. Wukich, Sr

>Sgt/USMC

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John Nurick [Microsoft Access MVP]

Please respond in the newgroup and not by email.

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• *References:*

◆ *Controlling Data Formatting*

◇ *From:* Robert

Re: Controlling Data Formatting

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