

Re: Lookup Table Field Retrieval / Separating Databases

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- *From:* "Jeff Boyce" <nonsense@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
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On the first issue, lookup tables are essential to a smoothly-running application. Lookup DATATYPES within a table are the anathema of which you've heard.

On the second, I'm not sure what you're proposing. Be aware, however, that a database (e.g., Access) gives you a way to keep records related to other (table's) records. You can keep each client's records "separated", using forms, but store them all together.

Regards

Jeff Boyce
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"dfowler-engineer" <u25079@uwe> wrote in message <news:6483724deca6a@xxxxxx>

Hi, I'm new to the boards and also a fairly new Access user. I am building a database that will be used to store process equipment information for clients that we work with. I have come across two issues that I need advice on.

The first issue has to do with a Lookup table. I have read that lookup tables are generally not the best practice to use, but I believe it would be the best thing to use in this particular situation. I have a form where I wish for the user to enter general Physical and Performance data such as "Length", "Weight", "Output Pressure", etc.. For each attribute, there is a text box to enter the numerical value, and a pull down menu (combo box) to select the units (for example, in the pull down for "Weight", the user could select "Pounds", "Kilograms", "Tons", etc.). The combo box for the units is pulling the selections from a table I created called "Units_Lookup". The "Units_Lookup" table has an autonumbered Primary Key field (which is

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essentially useless in this instance), and a field/column each for the unit classifications ("Weight", "Length", "Pressure", and so on) has a list of the units that could be used in the various units selection combo boxes back on the Performance Data form. I did this so users could potentially add a new unit to the list ("I wish this pull down had 'Grams'") and it would update any combo box referencing the Weight field on the "Units_Lookup" table. Well, once I set it up, the pull downs work exactly the way I want them to – they show the units from my lookup table. The problem is this – when it writes the information that the user inputs in the Performance data form back to the Performance data table, it doesn't write back "Pounds" that the user selected in the combo box, it writes back the autonumbered Primary Key to the table. So when the user views a report, it will say "2" for Weight Units instead of "Pounds". I cannot understand why the actual selection in the combo box isn't being written back to the table correctly. Any insight would be appreciated.

My second issue is as follows... The database and forms that I have setup for this equipment information is basically a template. I want each of our engineers to use this template that I have created instead of maintaining the information in Excel. We are an engineering firm that works with several clients, and I want to keep the data for each client completely separate. Is the best way to do this to keep a master template with no records, and create a copy and rename it to use for each client? Or is there a way to store all of the recorded tables for a client in a separate file, stow it away, and start a new set of tables for another client? I'm kind of ignorant on the best approach here, so any advice would be most appreciated.

Thank you in advance for any help,
David