

Re: Sorting on mixed text-numeric

Source:

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On Sat, 30 Jun 2007 12:21:45 -0700, wizard_chef <wizard_chef@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

In an Access query I am trying to sort on a text field containing strings like mx1, mx2, ... mx9, mx10, mx11, ...
What I get is a sort like: mx1, mx10, mx11, ... etc. It seems I need to convert these to numeric but I have tried cInt and a number of other VBscript conversion functions, and I always get a type-conflict error.

How can I convert this field in the query so that it will sort treating the numeric part of the string as numeric rather than alphabetic?? i.e., mx1, mx2, mx3, ... mx9, mx10, mx11, ... and so on.

If the alphabetic part is always two characters, you can use a calculated field

Sortkey: Val(Mid([textfield], 3))

to extract a Number datatype value which will sort correctly.

If the number can occur in variable places in the text string... you may want to consider redesigning your table. Fields should be "atomic" with only one value; it seems this field has a text portion and a number portion, which ideally should be in two fields (which can be concatenated at will for data display).

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