

## Re: Format report, fixed height for entries that must shrink?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Microsoft.Public.Access.GettingStarted/2007-11/msg00000.html>

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- *From:* Darwinlady <[Darwinlady@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Darwinlady@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 31 Oct 2007 15:36:01 -0700
- 

Thank you very much for your help. It will take me some time to redesign my database using your suggestions, but I think it will be worth the time if it all goes as planned. I may have to re-post with some follow up questions once I get further along.

Jennifer

"John Spencer" wrote:

In the long run, you should have another table where you store the items picked up and a table of items.

Donor table looks good

Transactions table should be pared down to

PUNum

PickupDate

CallDate

Truck

Notes

Order

Donations table

DonationId (autonumber)

ItemTypeID

Amount

ItemTypes Table

ItemTypeId

ItemName – This stores the Name of all the item fields

With this structure you select an ItemType (from a drop down) and enter an amount. The data entry form would contain a continuous subform displaying a combobox to choose the item type and a control to enter the amount (or count).

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The proposed interim solution would build a "field" in the query that would have all the items and the count associated with the item in one field with each item on a new line. ONLY the items where the number was more than zero would show. So your report would have one field that showed all the items in the list that were donated.

```
Public Function strListItems(PickupNumber) As String
Dim strSQL As String
Dim rstAny As DAO.Recordset
Dim I As Long
Dim strReturn As String

'You need to modify the select to list all the item types
strSQL = "SELECT BoxesOfMisc, Sofa, LoveSeat, Rocker, ... " & _
" FROM Transactions " & _
" WHERE [PU#]= " & PickupNumber

Set rstAny = CurrentDb().OpenRecordset(strSQL)

'This will add a line for each item that has a count of
'one or more in the field, along with the name of the field
If rstAny.RecordCount > 0 Then
For I = 0 To rstAny.Fields.Count - 1
If Nz(rstAny.Fields(I), 0) > 0 Then
strReturn = strReturn & vbCrLf & _
rstAny.Fields(I).Name & ": " & _
rstAny.Fields(I)
End If
Next I
strReturn = Mid(strReturn, Len(vbCrLf) + 1)

End If

strListItems = strReturn
End Function
```

So in the query design view you would have your Donors table and your Transactions table  
— Select the donor fields you want on the report  
— Select any of the non-item fields you want from the transactions table  
— In a blank field area enter  
Field: DonationList: strListItems([Pu#])

If I've coded the above function correctly you should get something back for the Donation list that could look like the following. Anything that was blank or had zero or a negative number would not show up in the list.

```
BoxesOfMisc 3
LoveSeat 1
```

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Piano 1  
Television 2

=====  
John Spencer  
Access MVP 2002–2005, 2007  
Center for Health Program Development and Management  
University of Maryland Baltimore County  
=====

Darwinlady wrote:

Thanks so much for your help. I chose the 2 linked tables ("donors" and "transactions") for a number of reasons; primarily because many of our customers donate regularly, and I only want 1 entry per donor, even if they make 12 donations in a year. The donor list is more like a mailing list, with different physical and mailing addresses, etc. Then, too, when we schedule donations for repeat donors the donor info is already entered and only the transaction details have to be typed in (date of donation, items, special instructions, etc.) Then we can always pull up a donation history for any one person, do just a large thank-you mass mailing to everyone on the list, or even just count how many bags of clothing are donated in a year.

I'm building this to replace our old system, which was an old Fox program written specifically for us to route our home pick-ups. We got a fancy new GPS routing program to route our 60–80 stops per day, but it's not able to store any donor or donation info in a permanent database, hence my brilliant plan to use Access. (These donor receipts are only my final of about 8 steps; I've created other reports and queries I'll use to print for each truck driver, and import into the routing program to make maps.) We also plan to purge this about once per year, and keep only current or repeat donors. I managed to dig into the old program's databases and import 1 year's worth of donor info to start with, which is about 9,000 names.

DONOR table fields:

DonorID  
First  
Last  
Company  
Address  
Zip  
&etc.

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TRANSACTIONS table fields:

PU# (pickup number; just an auto-number to make it unique)  
DonorID (pulled from above)  
PickupDate  
CallDate  
BoxesofMisc  
Sofa  
Loveseat  
Rocker  
&etc& (54 different items; all number fields just meant to contain 1-2 digit quantity)  
Notes (for special driver instructions)  
Truck (see below)  
Order (see below)

Our receptionist uses an intake form when someone calls to schedule a pick-up; it's a form for donor information with a sub-form with transaction details. With a quick search by address they can easily populate the donor fields if someone is a repeat. Every day when the route fills up they just go through a routine run the queries, routing import and the report printing. The Truck and Order fields remain empty until after the daily route query is mapped in our mapping program, giving us the info for which truck (1, 2 or 3)

gets which addresses, and then their order on the route. They have to be manually entered as the last step, unfortunately. (When I started this project it did not seem that it would end up this complex; I'm sure my setup is messier than if I had been more seasoned to begin with.)

Does this make sense, and does it seem that it will jive with the recommendation you made to me? And if so, might you be able to clarify for me the "modifications" I will need to make in the code, and where exactly to post it? And, can you tell me exactly what this will do? (As in, is this meant to solve my problem leaving the current report design as-is, with one long column of items in the detail section?)

Thank you, thank you so much for your help.  
Jennifer

"John Spencer" wrote:

Your first problem seems to be that your data structure is wrong.

You should really have a table that records the item donated, the person donating, and the quantity.

With that structure it would straight forward to list the number of items

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and the amounts donated without hiding/showing a lot of fields. Plus if you add another donation category you won't have to rewrite all your forms, codes, queries, and reports.

You need a table for  
Donors  
ItemsDonatedByDonor  
DonationItemType

If you have to live with the current structure then you would need to use some vba to pull the information into one field. Would you care to post your data structure. I am guessing you have something like  
DonorId  
DonorName  
Cups  
Plates  
Saucers  
Apples

And then you enter the number of cups in the Cups field, the number of Apples in the apples field. IF that is the case, you could copy and paste the following expression (with the needed changes) into a VBA module and then call it from your query.

```
Field: ListOfItems: strListItems([DonationID])
```

Assumptions:

- Number field that identifies the donation
- Field names are the names of the items to be donated
- The fields are number fields and contain

```
Public Function strListItems(DonationID) As String  
Dim strSQL As String  
Dim rstAny As DAO.Recordset  
Dim I As Long  
Dim strReturn As String
```

```
strSQL = "SELECT Cups, Plates, Saucers, Apples " & _  
" FROM YourDonationTable " & _  
" WHERE DonationID= " & DonationID
```

```
Set rstAny = CurrentDb().OpenRecordset(strSQL)
```

```
If rstAny.RecordCount > 0 Then
```

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```
For I = 0 To rstAny.Fields.Count - 1
If Nz(rstAny.Fields(I), 0) > 0 Then
strReturn = strReturn & vbCrLf & rstAny.Fields(I).Name &
": " &
rstAny.Fields(I)
End If
Next I
strReturn = Mid(strReturn, Len(vbCrLf) + 1)

End If
strListItems = strReturn
End Function
```

--  
John Spencer  
Access MVP 2002–2005, 2007  
Center for Health Program Development and Management  
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..

"Darwinlady"  
<Darwinlady@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in  
message  
[news:E8F52C25-9798-40F4-A061-BD98865D6370@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:E8F52C25-9798-40F4-A061-BD98865D6370@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Please forgive the length, I will try to  
condense this explanation as much  
as  
possible while still conveying the essentials.  
I am trying to create a  
report which prints 2-to-a-page "receipts,"  
essentially, to hand out to  
customers when they donate items to our  
organization. I have been  
struggling  
for several weeks to find a way to format  
this report so that each entry  
is  
exactly 1/2-page, so I can print out a daily  
report (~20–30 pages) and cut  
the stack in half with a paper cutter. The  
report pulls from a query  
which  
pulls from 2 tables, customer info and  
donation info (detail section.)

Formatting the detail section was the first  
problem. When the order is  
taken from a list of about 55 items, a  
quantity is typed in for which

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items  
they are donating, and I only want those  
entries with a quantity to show  
up  
on the report, the other ones to disappear and  
the whole section to  
collapse  
so there's not empty space. Ideally, the list  
would be arranged in 4  
columns  
for a cleaner layout, but I couldn't figure out  
how to make items from all  
4  
columns align up to the top, squeezing out  
the empty space left by the  
items  
not showing. I solved this by designing the  
report with all 55 items in  
one  
long column to the left, aligning them all to  
the top, and setting  
everything  
to Grow/Shrink, then using  
"Me!item\_Label.Visible = Not  
IsNull(Me!item) on  
format (one for each item in the list).

Problem is, this solution allowed each entry  
to shrink up and not take up  
extra space, but I can't set the section to a  
fixed height because the  
single-column list of items in the design  
view cannot fit within that  
height.  
Between the header and footer for each entry  
and all the donation info, I  
absolutely cannot get the design of the report  
to fit within a 5.5"  
height,  
even though each receipt in print view will  
always be less because most of  
that column disappears (there's usually only  
quantities entered for a  
handful  
of items on the list.)

I even tried setting the report to landscape so  
the 2-to-a-page are side  
by  
side, hoping some kind of column formatting  
would work, but I can't get

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that  
to go either.

Is it possible to either set a fixed height for the print layout only, or modify my 55-item list into 4 columns so that they tidy themselves up properly when I'm only printing a receipt with a few items? (The horizontal shrink seems to be the hangup.) I built this project because I thought I had a decent knowledge of access, but unfortunately I don't know VB and did not think I would need it... so please forgive me in advance but I must request