

RE: linking data from one table to another

Source:

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Firstly I'd suggest you make sure the four tables are set up correctly before tackling the form. Getting the 'logical model' right is the key to a successful database. Designing the interface then becomes pretty straightforward.

The Clients, Employees and Projects tables (or whatever you choose to call them) are easily set up as they are just lists of each, Clients having one row per client, Employees one row per employee and Projects one row per project. Give each an autonumber primary key column, ClientID, EmployeeID and ProjectID. Other columns in each represent their attribute types, such as the names of clients and employees, and project descriptions.

The WorkAllocations table, which models the relationship type between the other three is what pulls everything together. In this you should have three foreign key columns, ClientID, EmployeeID and ProjectID again, but this time not autonumbers, just straightforward long integer number data types. Other columns in this table will represent other attributes as I said, such as the date when a project is allocated to an employee.

Enter some data into the Clients, Employees and Projects tables. Lets say you have rows with the a ClientID of 1, an EmployeeID of 2 and a ProjectID of 3. Now enter a single row into WorkAllocations with a ClientID of 1, an EmployeeID of 2 and a ProjectID of 3. This row represents the fact that project 3 for client 1 has been allocated to employee 2.

Now create a query which joins these four tables, joining WorkAllocations to Clients, Employees and Projects on the ClientID, EmployeeID and ProjectID columns respectively. Add suitable fields such as the client's names and address, the employee's names and the project name or description to the design grid in query design view and then open the query. You should see a row with the relevant names etc for project 3, client 1 and employee 2. This shows your logical model is set up correctly.

As far as the form is concerned I notice that in my earlier reply I put tblEmployees rather than Employees as the table name in RowSource property for the combo box. This is because I took the example from a n earlier reply for someone who