

Re: Search Form – Take 2

Source:

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- *From:* Walt <Walt@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 1 Apr 2009 05:42:01 -0700
-

Thanks Douglas....

"Douglas J. Steele" wrote:

While in Design mode, highlight all of the fields you want to include in the primary key (click in the gray box to the left of the field name while holding down the Shift key) Click on the "key" icon to add all of the selected fields to the primary key.

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Doug Steele, Microsoft Access MVP
<http://I.Am/DougSteele>
(no e-mails, please!)

"Walt" <Walt@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:E3212960-45DE-4A02-AE9F-1C558C335D58@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi ken and thank you again for assisting me. One question, how do I set up a composite key in Access 2003? I've never heard of it before. I've done web searches on it but haven't found anything that spells it out.

Thanks

"Ken Sheridan" wrote:

Assuming that by 'keyword' you mean a substring with the value of the description column in Recommendations or Accomplishments you'll have some difficulty doing this without writing SQL as you'd need to use subqueries

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to restrict the result set for the reports. This stems from a basic design flaw as its due to the fact that the columns in master allow Nulls. This is not a good design as the three columns in combination should be the primary key of master, but a primary key cannot contain a Null. The solution is to include in each of the Sources, Recommendations and Accomplishments tables an extra row with a value of 0 as the ID and a value of N/A or similar as the description. Then use update queries to update all Nulls in master to 0. Then make the three columns the composite primary key of Master. Then create relationships between Master and the other three tables or amend existing relationships, ensuring that referential integrity is enforced.

From then on the solution is pretty much the same as in my reply to your earlier post, but to reiterate, taking into account your wish to avoid writing any SQL:

1. Create an unbound dialogue form with the combo box and text boxes, cboSource, txtRec and TextAcc say. Set the combo box up as follows:

```
RowSource: SELECT [ID], [Description] FROM Sources  
ORDER BY Source;
```

```
BoundColumn: 1  
ColumnCount: 2  
ColumnWidths: 0cm;8cm
```

If your units of measurement are imperial rather than metric Access will automatically convert the last one. The important thing is that the first dimension is zero to hide the first column and that the second

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is at
least as
wide as the combo box.

2. Create a query in which the Master table is joined to each of the other three.

3. Add the SourceID and Description columns from Master to the query and each Description column from the others three tables.

4. In the criteria row of the ID column from Master enter:

Forms!YourForm!cboSource OR
Forms!YourForm!cboSource IS NULL

5. In the criteria row of the Description column from Recommendations enter:

LIKE "*" & Forms!YourForm!txtRec & "*" OR
Forms!YourForm!txtRec IS
NULL

6. In the criteria row of the Description column from Accomplishments enter:

LIKE "*" & Forms!YourForm!txtAcc & "*" OR
Forms!YourForm!txtAcc IS
NULL

7. Save the query. Then test it by opening YourForm (you'll need to change the above to its real name of course). Select a source from the combo box and open the query. It should give you the rows for that source. Repeat with various permutations of values in the other controls and with leaving some of the controls Null. If the query is returning the correct rows proceed as follows:

8. Create a report based on the query.

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9. Back in the dialogue form in design view add a command button to open the report. The button wizard will generate the necessary code for you.

You should now be able to open the form, select or enter values in any of the controls, and then click the button to open the report.

A couple of further comments:

1. If you create a query like the one above in design view, you'll find that if you reopen it again in design view after saving, Access will have moved things around quite a bit. The underlying logic will be the same and the query will work just the same, but you might find it a little tricky to make any amendments should you need to.

2. If you are allowing free text in the description columns and relying on substrings of this as 'keywords' this is not very reliable as a user might well enter the same 'keyword' slightly differently, possibly as a simple typo. A more reliable solution is to have fixed set of keywords as distinct values in separate tables which can be referenced by the Recommendations and Accomplishments tables, enforcing referential integrity so that only legitimate values can be entered in these tables. Data entry of these keywords would be via subforms in the form based on the Master table, using a combo box to select each keyword, and the combo box's NotInList event procedure can be brought into play for adding new keywords when necessary.

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Ken Sheridan
Stafford, England

"Walt" wrote:

Hi again, I'm battled with creating a search form. What I'm trying to do is create a form with a drop down menu and two text boxes that can be used for keyword searches.

I have 4 tables: Sources, Recommendations, Accomplishments, and Master

The first three tables contain 2 fields: ID and Description

The last table (Master) has 3 fields that cross reference the IDs and looks like this:

Source01	Rec01	Acc01
Source01	Rec01	Acc02
Source01	Rec02	
Source02	Rec03	Acc05

As you can see, I have duplicates and blanks in this table.

1) What I'm want to do is have the dropdown menu on my form contain the source descriptions from the source table. If someone selects a source they can hit the Go command button and get a report with all the recommendations and accomplishments linked to that source, even if the accomplishment is blank.

2) Next is the text boxes. I want to tie the text boxes to the Recommendations and Accomplishments for keyword searches. So, when someone selects a source, they can put a keyword in the Recommendation box and

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/ or

Accomplishments box and when they hit Go they will get a report on that Source that contains the recommendation and / or accomplishment based on their keyword.

I don't know sql or VB and am hoping this is something that can be done without code. I posted this request previously and had to rethink my database tables and relationships (now many to many).

I appreciate any help.