

## A little OT – Quite a rant on microsoft.public.sqlserver.olap

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**From:** RD (*progr\_at\_ming.zen*)

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While looking for an answer for my question about breaking code I ran across this. The guy, Aaron, goes into quite a rant but he says some pretty pertinent stuff about MS's support for and direction of Access. To point this up, the guy Aaron was talking to (Mosha, I think) had never heard of ADP.

I started building apps with Access 95 and here in 2005 I'm still using Access. Aaron points out that Excel is overused everywhere. I couldn't agree more. I've actually lost good job opportunities because I lack the Excel chops. Nevermind that these companies are using Excel spreadsheets to do things they were never intended to do, things that Access *\*was\** designed to do.

I think MS has been listening to the dba snobs and doesn't take Access seriously. I want to add my voice to Aaron's and ask MS why that is.

Anyway, I feel Aaron's pain and his rant really made me smile.

RD

<begin post>

Posted by aaron\_kempf@hotmail.com on microsoft.public.sqlserver.olap

SQL authentication doesn't work for SQL Server to anywhere. it just isn't functional— because it isn't secure.

it isn't secure— people chew me out for wanting to use it. this product has been out 4 years.. can't you fix it??

i just wish that you guys would fix it— make it so that it is secure.

i've worked in a lot of environs— like novell— and SQL

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authentication is  
just SOOOOOO Much easier to use than NT authentication.

ADP (access data projects) are the best product that MS has ever put out..

I've developed dozens of them.. And it is REALLY buggy.

It is basically a way for access developers to start writing all of their queries on the SQL side.. it is very important.. and it is very powerful.

I swear that every beancounter in the world should be developing their reports in ADP; but somehow it's not getting traction.

I swear the product is buggy— i have a whole list— but it's like they're not taking me seriously.

i've worked with as400/RPG developers; and I've seen the pain that they go thru in order to create forms and reports against a database. that's all im talking about.. a simple platform for Small and Medium Businesses to enter data into a database. It is maybe scalable enoug to go to 50 or 100 users; and it is fast (if written correctly)

ADP is that same market. It is critically important. Just a simple mechanism for getting data into the database (bound SQL Server platform) and pulling it out via reporting.

it is about 10x more powerful than reporting services.. but it is really buggy.. and i'm tired of hearing excuses about why it is buggy; and when it is getting fixed.

I can't get anyone in the Office dept to fix problems i find.. and I've encountered the create proc bug every day. My co-workers make sprocs using the create proc syntax.. and it just craps out on me when i go to use it in ADP.

It's like— if i create proc with create proc or create procedure— it should work either way.

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I just love usign ADP for reporting; and it breaks my heart that you guys aren't taking it seriously— i assume that is because you guys think that RS is going to replace Access Reporting.. and I dont' know if that is going to happen.

the most important part about ADP is that the tools in an Access Data Proejct are better for writing stored procedures and SQL udfs.

\_THAT\_ is what this is all about... ADP is more powerful than other tools for writing sprocs. it's like— i haven't seen the same functionality anywhere.

you can open a portion of a proc in design view— you can take a subquery and open it in design view.. and this has been a part of office for \_YEARS\_ and nobody uses it because it's so buggy.

There is definitely a need for this application. Access isn't ever 'just going to go away'. Just like Excel isn't going to go away. So start taking it seriously.

A lot of us got our starts in Access... The default repository in AS 2000 is MDB. I wrote MDB with forms and reports for 2 years before getting into SQL Server.. I was able to get into SQL Server, because of my background in Access. I was able to become a SQL Server developer today— solely because I fell in love with ADP 4 years ago... and with every release of Office, you guys just break my heart.

I \_know\_ that ADP and DAP must be a really big money pit— but the alternative— where your customers are heading— is a much more dangerous path.

I see hundreds of spreadsheets every where I go. I see hundreds of spreadsheet developers— and the problem is a marketing problem with Access.. Marketing— because you guys won't come out and lay out a roadmap for Access that goes 10 years down the road.. And start responding to complaints about bugs and stuff.. I mean— the usability of Access has gone DOWN in the past few years.

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Some \_LOSER\_ decided that it was ok to prompt end-users a half-dozen times to run macros in Access. That isn't acceptable. Excel Macros are just as much of a threat as Access Macros— Excel only prompts you ONCE about macros, but Access prompts you once for the 'Jet Sp8 bs' and once for 'are you surce you want to run this, it has macros; it could be dangerous.

Isn't this the same warning??

Can't you guys get a clue and start being CONSIDERATE of access; and respect the Access development community?

I know you're going to laugh— but Access is on the path to SQL Server; and Excel geeks are \_NEVER\_ going to get into SQL Server.. Us DB Developers are overworked as it is... Every beancounter in the world should be writing reports in ADP instead of Access. Crystal Reports has a 20% market share.

Reporting Services doesn't compete with Crystal Reports. RS competes with Crystal Enterprise. All we need is the ability to make canned reports— that we can print and customize— using VBA.

We need to be able to control the layout of a report.. create them programmatically.. We need to be able to refer to controls on different levels— in Access; it is easy to calculate a percentage of group— or whatever kind of calculation you want. RS and SQL 2000— they're just not as powerful as Access MDB has been for the past 8 years.. Microsoft SQL 2000 doesn't have a LOT of the features that were present in Access 95 and 97..

And instead of fixing the problems in the current version of Access; now you're trying to sell us on this infopath/sharepoint BS.

Cut the crap and start taking Access seriously.

Access is more powerful than TSQL— the Crosstab Query— i mean SQL 2005 is

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And VB.net 2005 \_might\_ be good enough to compete with Access forms—

there is a saying (among us Access Developers) that if something takes me 1 hour to write in Access, it would take a 'normal vb developer' 3 hours to write; and 4 hours to write in ASP/ASP.net.

It's a statistic, a motto and a way of life.

Access is the best platform in the world for doing simple data entry and reporting tasks.

It is a separate product than SQL2000— I understand this.

but they're not responding; and I don't care who needs to do what— I need to hear a 'Yes, Sir' when I tell you that Create Proc bug is going to drive someone crazy someday.

I mean— 'Create Proc SpHappy as select \* FROM sysobjects'

Open it in ADP; change it in design view; and then save the changes.

'The parameter is incorrect'— What kind of error message is that???

Create Proc Procname is listed in SQL Books Online.. can't we \_please\_ make it work correctly with ADP sprocs??

We would all love to get rid of \_everything\_ and start fresh with SQL Reporting Services.. But with the way that you guys introduce new products every 6 months; and you drop existing products.. I just feel like you guys aren't supporting your most important products at a time when you need to be doing this.

Reporting Services doesn't suck.. I am sorry for saying that.. It is just obnoxiously difficult to get used to..

I've never seen .net outside of Redmond.. and it's difficult for Microsoft to convince me to run out and learn a new language every 2 years.

It isn't on my agenda— I have code to write; not code to learn.

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And I really wish that you guys had come out with a more polished product in RS 2000. I swear I've had problems where I save reports; and the save isn't committed. I swear, the OLAP debugger— you guys have to be able to do something about it's ability to debug MDX statements.. in SQL 2000.

I swear, I've had hangs and crashes with VS2003— I lock my PC and come back from lunch and VS2003 is hung.. It worked before hand; it's not workign now.. It's just not production ready..

And I wish that maybe things would have been different these past few years...

All I know is that this nightmare that i'm having today.. it looks an awful lot like the same nightmare that I had in 1999— people use spreadsheets too much; and there is a stigma — even within Microsoft— that Excel is the right platform for everything to be written in.

I've seen spreadsheet problems soo complex that they make me sick.

Do you know how much more fun this OLAP game would be if every beancounter were writing MDB (or ADP) reports and tables instead of in XLS?

I mean— It is SOOOOOOOOO inefficient to have meeting notes in a xls; and schedules in an XLS and goals and all of this— in an XLS.

And i think that there is a problem that Microsoft isn't recognizing— I think that Microsoft isn't responding to complaints about USABILITY issues for Access.. that woudl surely drive one crazy.

I'm about at that point, if I get that prompt ONE MORE TIME i swear... and the reason that you guys won't fix it is:

- a) the marketing problem regarding Access is WORSE even with Microsoft
- b) beancounters rule the roost at Microsoft— so some PM sneers— 'why do we even MAKE access anymore'
- c) because you're too busy working on Access 12 to fix problems that have

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been around since Office 2000.

Spreadsheets are a disease— a one-way street for data to get buried  
in  
formatting and formulas...

You guys aren't responding to this problem because you guys have a  
marketing  
problem with Access.

i'm just frustrated; since my co-workers always use the crate proc  
syntax..  
and i always have to recreate sprocs using the create procedure  
syntax..

it's just kinda ridiculous..

and i can't get anyone on the access side to admit it's annoying..  
it's  
like— totally impossible to convince them.

I shouldn't have to convince them— they should say 'yes sir, we will  
fix  
that right now, thank you'.

i just don't appreciate the attitude i've seen.. it's like you guys  
are  
willing to accept bugs.. and I say that MS is big enough and  
successful  
enough that they can raise the bar a little bit..

if a label doesn't update; then you should hide the label— call it  
connection1 and connection2 if you must..

I'm just frustrated that things aren't moving faster on the SQL2000  
front;  
and I see soooooo many people having problems with OLAP patches and  
drivers.. and i'm like— it's simpler than this guys.. if something is  
wrong, bitch about it until it gets fixed.

well here i am; saying that you have problems— where SQL is barely  
useable.. because of security concerns.

SQL authentication is a REQUIREMENT, not an afterthought. We  
shouldn't have  
to change our domains just because you guys decide to make 'NT  
Authentication' the \_preferred\_ way to do things in SQL 2000????

Well, that ISN'T ACCEPTABLE. TRY GIVING ME A DIFFERENT ANSWER.

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That doesn't mean that you can accept SQL authentication like it has been.

Make wizards for protecting against dictionary attacks in SQL Server 2000.

Make it so that we can add a certificate to a SQL login; and then we don't

have to use Windows authentication \_or\_ drop our shields.

Make your existing products easier to use, less buggy, more reliable.. and more secure.

The product isn't finished when it ships out the door.

I have seen problem after problem after problem with SQL Server.. and a lot of times; I have problems with NT authentication.

A lot of times, my SQL JOB FAILS because some lame Windows Admin is rebooting some server or upgrading hard drives and my SQL jobs fail because of it.

That is when NT authentication proves that it isn't reliable enough to get the job done.

I just know that you guys have the resources to start fixing problems; and to improve your attitude— take an attitude that you are going to get these products to ZERO BUGCOUNT because you have the \_ABILITY\_ to do it.

Raise the bar.

Don't accept mediocrity.

And when something is broken; fix it.

–aaron