

# Re: Please Help...Using the column function within a query field

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.queries/2006-03/msg02768.html>

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- *From:* John Vinson <[jvinson@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jvinson@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 31 Mar 2006 10:20:01 -0700
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On Thu, 30 Mar 2006 19:12:02 -0800, newsneakers  
<[newsneakers@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:newsneakers@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

I think I am trying to do something similar. I'm getting all mixed up with the form controls. And trying to get the value of a field instead of the underlying number –

The value of the field, as stored in your Table, \*IS\* the number.

That simple fact is concealed from your view by Microsoft's misdesigned, misleading, and all but useless Lookup Wizard misfeature.

Your table CONTAINS the number; the lookup field connects that number to a text value \*in a different table\*, the Lookup table.

See <http://www.mvps.org/access/lookupfields.htm> for a critique of the Lookup Field type.

Basically I have this:

A table called Projects with seven columns (ProjName, City, ProjEng, ProjPhase) etc. In the table, I have assigned all the data types as "text", except ProjEng – which I created as a number – because it's taking that data (that populates the Projects.ProjEng field) from an Contacts table.

Correction; it's not "taking" that data from a contacts table. It's \*linking to\* the data in the contacts table. The text exists in the Contacts table, and only in the Contacts table.

Everything worked just fine thus far.

Then I added a Projects Form with a link from Issues Table, to edit the Projects.

What sort of "link"?

When all of the fields in the Projects Form were text-only, everything was fine. However I changed the fields on the form to combo boxes in order to limit the selection to a list (to prevent typographical errors in the Projects Table, hoping to prevent duplicate records because of typos. Again, all of the drop down lists (on the Projects Form) work fine (pulling the data from the Projects Table to the combo drop down list- and -also updating the selection back to the Projects Table according to the selection. However, since the ProjEng column is a number-type in the Projects Table it is showing as a number in the drop down list - instead of the names.

Change the ColumnWidths property of this combo box so that the column width of the number field is 0. E.g. if your combo is based on a query selecting the ProjEng ID and the Contacts LastName, you can use a ColumnWidths property of

0;1

to conceal the ID and display the name.

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