

Re: how to append into multiple tables at same time?

Source:

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- *From:* GeorgeAtkins <GeorgeAtkins@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 31 Mar 2006 13:38:03 -0800
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Well, I had no intended to overburden my original message with all of these details, of which you are 100% correct. For my mesage, I was simply assumnig that the names were new (as they are in most of the cases). It is unfortunate that there are, in fact, no other verifications available for each mother, other than name. Even the address could have changed over time, of course. And it was my idea to try and add births to matched moms.

HOWEVER, let's assume that the moms are always new. Matching of new moms is not an issue. Now what? Since I do not know what the PK is for each mom, I'm stuck trying to figure out how to add an import record into both the Mom and Baby table. Are you saying that I would have to add the moms first, then go back and match the moms to enter the babies with the correct Mother PK?

"Tom Ellison" wrote:

Dear George:

This is an example, in my opinion, of another case where surrogate keys (autonumbers) confuse an issue, and where the absense of a natural key will be fatal.

One of the things I presume about your database is that you expect each mother to be in the Mom table exactly once, with the babies in the Baby table related to the same mother when it really is the same mother. Now, how do you expect this to happen? You don't want the same mother added twice, right? You want the a mother to be found and not added again when she is already in the table. On what basis will you do this?

These are columns in the Baby table, right?

BabyPK (autonumber)
MomFK (numeric,long)

There is a PK in the Mom table, too, right? That's where all this starts.

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Now, if the FirstName and LastName are always typed exactly correctly and identically, then you can use that as the natural key to make this work. Of course, it won't be.

Look at you incoming Mom data as having 4 types of rows.

- 1) rows where the FirstName / LastName match an already recorded Mom and it is the same person
- 2) rows where the FirstName / LastName match an already recorded Mom but it is a different person
- 3).rows where there is no FirstName / LastName match, but it is a person already in the Mom table
- 4) rows where there is no FirstName / LastName match, and it is a new Mom

None of the above can be determined automatically.

Now, after you have somehow, magically or labouriously, added the Moms that need added and identified the ones that are already added, you can use the name matches to obtain the autonumber values of the mothers to put into the baby table.

The computer can show each new mother/baby one at a time and try to find the proper (possibly) existing mother record, using FirstName, LastName, and address. More things on which to match would be a good thing. Social Security Number, Maiden Name, City of Birth, etc. Things that don't change in a lifetime. First names change, or nick names are used. Marriage changes last names. People move to a different address. What you have is very slim to make any identification.

I'm a bit pessimistic that you will be able to make reliable matches at a high rate. Try it manually for a while first. Is there a single reliable method?

Tom Ellison

"GeorgeAtkins" <GeorgeAtkins@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:BC4B9DB1-3A89-4CEA-AB23-37CF39E36CBF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I must have been away too long or my memory is kaput.
I have a flat-file (Excel) I import in Access 2003.
Some of the fields of each record go into a master table, while the other fields go into a related table.

For example, the imported table contains records consisting of:
Mom FirstName, Mom LastName, Mom Address, Baby DOB, Baby BirthPlace, and

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BabyGender.

*The Mom information goes into the master Mom table.

* The Baby information goes into a related Baby table, linked by Mom's primary key (as defined below):

BabyPK (autonumber)

MomFK (numeric,long)

...other Baby fields

So, hit me upside the head and tell me how to append data from the imported table into the linked Mom and Baby tables. Can I do this at one time? If not, how to I append them in and keep the data correctly linked?

Rats. Where did my brains spill?! Thanks for any help.

George