

Re: Parsing data

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.queries/2006-12/msg00793.html>

- *From:* "Geoff" <geoff@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 11 Dec 2006 01:08:41 -0000
-

Hi Eric,

I am using Outlook but do not understand how I would approach this. Do I write VBA to parse the data and insert it directly to an Access table through an ADODB connection or is there some other method?

Not through an ADO connection, no. You would write the VBA code either in Access or Outlook, using Automation, which allows VBA to control another application.

If you were writing the VBA code in Access, your code would start Outlook, get the data from Outlook and insert the data into the appropriate Access table. (In this scenario, Access is known as the Automation Client and Outlook is the Automation Server, ie Outlook is serving up the data to Access. You would need to create a reference to the Outlook object model – Tools, References in VBA.)

Alternatively, if you were writing the VBA code in Outlook, your code would start Access, open the appropriate Access table and write new records to the appropriate table. (In this second scenario, Outlook is the Automation Client and Access is the Automation Server. You would need to create a reference to the Access object model.)

If this is a VBA solution would it be easier to do the VBA in Access (having imported the file to a table from Outlook) and then delete this original table having inserted the parsed data to a new table?

Deciding which is the easier place to write your code depends on several things. It might be easier to write the code in Access and use Outlook as the Automation Server. There are some issues when using Access as an Automation Server. (The experts have written class modules to simplify using Access as a Server.)

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The other factor to consider is where the emails are in Outlook and what you are prepared to do with them after their data has been captured into Access. What is acceptable to you so that an email's data is only transferred to Access once? The easiest solution might be to put all the emails awaiting to be processed in one Outlook folder and move them (automatically using VBA during processing) to a different Outlook folder after their data has been transferred.

I was hoping that there was a method using a query where I could select data from a Memo field – do you know if this is possible?

I see why you posted to this newsgroup.

This might be theoretically possible, but I don't think it would be the right approach. It would add an unnecessary degree of complexity and the problem is complicated enough.

In outline, to extract the relevant data from all the emails in one Outlook folder, your VBA code in Access would need to do the following:

1. Start Outlook.
2. Point an Outlook MAPIFolder object variable to the Outlook folder that contains the emails.
3. Loop through all the emails in the folder. (Emails are known as MailItems in Outlook's object model.)
4. In the loop, point an Outlook MailItem object variable to each email in turn.
5. Capture the MailItem's Body property into a string variable. The Body property returns the plain text of the email message.
6. Examine the string variable for the lines containing the data you want to capture.
7. Use ADO or DAO to add records to the appropriate Access table.

As you see, there are a number of steps to be performed. None of it is too difficult, but it can take a while to get it all in place. Obviously, you need to decide whether it's worth it given the number of emails you have to process.

The Sue Mosher book would have all the code you need. I expect there's tons of stuff on the net too.

Geoff.

"Eric" <Eric@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:9543CCAD-C115-464C-95FE-93FC894F527B@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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"Geoff" wrote:

Eric,

You could achieve your objective if Microsoft Outlook were your email client. Outlook (not Outlook Express) supports Automation.

Programming Outlook can seem odd because Outlook's object model is unique.

One good resource to get you started would be "Microsoft Outlook Programming, Jumpstart for Administrators, Developers and Power Users" by Sue Mosher.

Geoff

"Eric" <Eric@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:37E4FD96-E89A-48D9-A953-71613A51AEC0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I receive regular e-mails of the same basic format with which I would like to create an access DB,

The body of the mail will contain something like:

Name: Someone's name (unknown length)
Email: someones@email (unknown length)

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etc, etc.

When i import the data into Access 2003 the e-mail body forms a single field, and I would like to get the data out into a new table where the fields are:

Name
Email

etc, etc.

Any ideas?

All suggestions appreciated.