

## Re: Concatenate and Null Values -- Features

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.reports/2007-01/msg00421.html>

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- *From:* strive4peace <[strove4peace2006@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:strove4peace2006@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 11 Jan 2007 17:57:20 -0500
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Hi Bruce,

IMHO, every table should have an autonumber primary key (even if you do not need it for a relationship) and it is not a good idea to use meaningful data for relationships.

On the field with 07-01, 07-02, etc, you could set a Unique index so duplicates would not be allowed. If you HAVE the date this comes from, there is really no reason to store it because it can always be calculated.

"embarrassed by some of my early attempts"

I know how you feel! Every day, I learn more about Access -- each application is better than the last ...

I learned Access by teaching it; I had been programming with DOS-based databases for about 10 years when I was approached to teach Access running under Windows 3.0 <g> ... they just asked if I could do it, not if I had ever used it ;) So I crammed like crazy and no one ever knew that the teacher was as new as the students! I researched every question that anybody had, and was usually making handouts for the afternoon during my lunch break. Teaching is a great way to learn.

Warm Regards,  
Crystal

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(: have an awesome day :)

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BruceM wrote:

I've only been doing this for a few years (and not full-time at that), and am already embarrassed by some of my early attempts. I am aware of Michael Hernandez' Database Design for Mere Mortals, which I will be acquiring as soon as I get organized enough to order it. The light has come on for me, but I'm still squinting a lot. I'm also trying to decide how much improvising I can do. For instance, I have a situation in which a number increments 07-01, 07-02, etc., then starts over with 08-01 etc. next year. It is a unique number, so I

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could make it the PK, but I would be storing part of the date, which is already in another field. I could either add a PK field, combine two fields into a PK (although I'm not sure what the other field would be), or just go ahead and store 07-01, etc. In the first case I am creating a new field in the parent table (autonumber, maybe); in the second I am creating a new field in the child table, since a two-field PK needs a two-field FK (as I understand it); in the third case I have one PK and one FK, but arguably some redundancy in the date. So I ask myself if storing part of the date like that is less redundant than adding a field just so I can avoid storing part of the date. I've about decided to store 07-01, but my point is that I am thinking about this in a way that would not have been possible a year ago.

"Tom Wickerath" <AOS168b AT comcast DOT net> wrote in message  
[news:D088C525-31BB-4DB7-AF4A-167A33ED48B5@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:D088C525-31BB-4DB7-AF4A-167A33ED48B5@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hi Bruce,

For what it's worth, I floundered like a fish out of water for a few years with Access. I had been attempting to work with Access since version 2 was released. The light finally came on for me one evening back in '96 (or perhaps '97) when I was at a meeting of the Pacific NW Access Developer's Group. The speaker was Michael Hernandez, that author of the paper I cited in my previous post. Several of the examples of problems he showed were the exact types of problems I had been encountering. I made an effort to start studying database design after that, even though the subject can be a bit dry. The effort really payed off.

Tom Wickerath  
Microsoft Access MVP

[http://www.access.qbuilt.com/html/expert\\_contributors.html](http://www.access.qbuilt.com/html/expert_contributors.html)  
<http://www.access.qbuilt.com/html/search.html>

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"BruceM" wrote:

Hoopster, this is a lot of stuff being tossed your way, but it is really good stuff. The people who have added to this thread since you posted the table structure are very skilled and knowledgeable (excepting this posting; I can claim only that I am making decent progress for a relative beginner, but I know good advice when I see it). I urge you not to be daunted by all of the new information. Once you start to get the hang of relational databases you will have a powerful tool at your disposal.

