

Re: Give a man a fish?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.reports/2007-03/msg00280.html>

- *From:* "Allen Browne" <AllenBrowne@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 10 Mar 2007 00:32:38 +0900
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Good question, Dan.
Big one though. :-)

The first (and most crucial) concept to grasp is the idea of how to break the data into related tables, creating one-to-many relations. Some of these are obvious, e.g. one client has many orders over time. Some are obvious once you get them, e.g. one order has many line items. And you need to use a junction table to break the many-to-many down into a pair of one-to-many relations. Quite honestly, this process (normalization) is the most important design choice in getting a database off the ground. Starting point:

<http://allenbrowne.com/casu-06.html>

More articles:

<http://home.bendbroadband.com/conradsystems/accessjunkie/resources.html#DatabaseDesign101>

As you start to develop a feel for that, you are already designing queries. Make sure you understand outer joins and nulls. Starting point:

<http://allenbrowne.com/casu-02.html>

You can actually learn much about SQL just by switching your queries to SQL view.

More info:

<http://www.sqlcourse.com/intro.html>

Next, you will be learning about forms, and the various controls you can put on them (text boxes, combos, subforms, ...) The controls and the form both have events that fire when something happens. You need to know which are the crucial events to become familiar with. Form_BeforeUpdate is the most important (for validating the record.) Starting point:

<http://allenbrowne.com/xbase-02.html>

Reports are fairly easy, because you already know about queries and about controls (like on forms.)

Macros are sometimes handy to get you started, but they are quite limited. You find yourself wanting to do things where you need VBA code. If you have never programmed before (like most people starting out in Access), there are core concepts to learn (loops, branches, variables, procedures, events, data types, ...) It can feel like tackling a foreign language, and you soon learn how dumb computers are, i.e. they do whatever stupid thing you told them to do, not what you intended. :-) It is quite a learning curve.

Functions such as the Space() in your example are part of the VBA code, but you can use them in contexts outside of code. In your example, you used the function in the Control Source of a text box. You can also use them in query expressions. There are a few key functions to become aware of, such as DLookup():

<http://allenbrowne.com/casu-07.html>

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The answer to your question about using SQL in VBA is a resounding yes. You use SQL statements (or sometimes parts of the SQL statement such as the WHERE clause) incessantly in your code. Example: <http://allenbrowne.com/ser-62.html>

Access courses vary in quality and depth. Some just introduce people to what tables are, what queries are etc. While that's okay for an introduction, it won't take you far enough to design a database structure, let alone build an application. So you may benefit from a course, and you will need some books. There are some new ones about to come out for Access 2007. Zac Woodall has prepared a list here:

<http://blogs.msdn.com/clintcovington/archive/2007/02/15/new-access-2007-books.aspx>

Based on the previous edition, I expect the "Inside Out" one (John Viescas and Jeff Conrad) will be a good balance between covering the basics, yet really taking you places without wasting your time.

Access is an amazing product, combining many products into one:

- a database engine (tables and queries)
- a user interface (forms, DAPs) and report generator (reports)
- scripting (macros) and a full programming language (VBA.)

Little wonder that mastering Access involves heaps of learning: reading, applying, experimenting, fiddling, finding out what works and what doesn't, and which of the 6 ways to do anything will be the most efficient.

So, be patient, and enjoy the journey. If you love this kind of thing, and see yourself working in the field, it's worth the effort.

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Allen Browne - Microsoft MVP. Perth, Western Australia

Tips for Access users - <http://allenbrowne.com/tips.html>

Reply to group, rather than allenbrowne at mvps dot org.

"Dan Goble" <dangoble@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:i9eIh.3500\\$Gr.127@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](news:i9eIh.3500$Gr.127@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

You can give a man a fish and he can eat for a day but if you teach him to fish he will eat forever.

At the chance of showing my ignorance I must ask some questions and would like anyones input to put me on the right track.

I want to learn more than just the simple stuff. I want to help those like me like you guys have been helping me. Here are the questions

I intend to learn to write the stuff you guys have been providing. But I dont completely understand what to learn. SQL I know is behind the queries and there is a code area and I think that is Visual basic. Macros are built in software that writes the VB for you.

Correct me when Im wrong

Is there code in SQL that work in VB?

=Space(100) & [SomeField] was the answer to a recent question. It was placed in the properties of a control. Is this VB?

I want to enroll in a course at my local college or online or something. What do you suggest

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and what do I ask for?

Please point me in the right direction

Thanks

Dan