

Re: Populating Databse

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On Sat, 8 Apr 2006 11:35:50 -0400, "News" <vinootz@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I have just recently re-designed a Database that I inherited.
The old had Major problems, one table, 500 Fields.

Well, that wasn't an Access database for sure! (limited to 255 fields in any one table). And good on ya for redesigning it – that's just what it needed.

It was too confusing, for me anyway, to fix.
I instead designed a new one, many of the same fields, but naturally, with many more relating tables and different field names than the old one (i.e: Old- [Last Name] New-[txtLastName]

My question is:
What is the best method to Import the data from the old DB to the new database?
I was thinking exporting from old in csv file and then importing to new (am I totally off?)

I'd suggest using File... Get External Data... Link (rather than Import) to connect to the monster table (what was it, two one-to-one related tables??), and running Append queries.

Issues:
Old was mostly Text format, even Date Fields were written in text.
New one using Date/Time (Medium Date). Same with SSN and so on.

SSN *SHOULD* be text, as should telephone numbers, zipcodes, and any other identifiers which just happen to consist of digits. You'll never

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ever be doing arithmetic with SSN or zipcode values – just use Text(9) for SSN, etc.

Should expect a decent amount of errors?

Depends on whether you had angels, human beings, or demons doing data entry in the old database. Angels will have made very few or no errors. The only difference between the human and the demonic errors is that most of the demonic errors will look perfectly REASONABLE and be very hard to catch. <wry grin>

Yes. You'll have errors. You may want to (at least try to) fix some of them up first. You can run a Query on your table such as

```
SELECT thisfield, thatfield, datefield1, datefield2, datefield3
FROM wideflat
WHERE IsDate([Datefield1])=False
OR IsDate([Datefield2])=False
OR IsDate([Datefield3])=False;
```

to identify records which will cause errors when appending data into a date field. Alternatively, you can use the Append query; rather than appending a dubious quality text date into your new datefield you could use an expression like

```
AppDate: IIF(IsDate([datefield]), [datefield], #12/31/9999#)
```

to append some clearly unreasonable date into the datefield (which you can then fix up manually).

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