

## Re: Which field to use

---

*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.tablesdbdesign/2006-11/msg00191.html>

---

- *From:* "Jamie Collins" <[jamecollins@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jamecollins@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 10 Nov 2006 02:21:51 -0800
- 

On Nov 10, 5:25 am, "Allen Browne" <[AllenBro...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:AllenBro...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

I agree with your approach of using the 4 number fields.  
It's atomic, and handles different types of domains sensibly.

So you would take a single atomic fact and split it into parts that only have meaning when considered as a whole, for which you must concatenate (generally an expensive operation) and change data type in the process? Having to convert data every time your retrieve is always a strong indication that your are storing it wrong.

Why not make it CHAR(15) and make the column/field Validation Rule

[0-9][0-9][0-9].[0-9][0-9][0-9].[0-9][0-9][0-9]

and probably some other rules beyond the basic pattern.

Jamie.

--

.