

Help with Design

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.tablesdbdesign/2007-01/msg00261.html>

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 - *Date:* Wed, 17 Jan 2007 21:41:01 GMT
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Hello

I have a customer who has been using Paradox and they have requested that I transition them from Paradox to Access. I have no idea about Paradox but it seems to not follow normal database conventions – at least the way my customer explains some its processes.

My question is as follows...

Currently in Paradox my customer has about 8 tables that contain identical fields. Each table is for a different client and therefore only contains data for that particular client. Each table has a predefined name say 8162, 8163,8164,8165 etc. These names are associated directly with billing codes that are required to be changed on a yearly bases. Since there is no association of data in the table (no field in the table that contains "8162" etc.)with the table name, the only way for my customer to know which table the data came from is to name the extraction file. These tables are not linked, so when my customer needs to query all activuty for 2006, he must extract data from each table.

Originally my customer requested that I keep the same design in Access yet they also wanted to be able to consolidate the data from each table to allow the creation of reports without having to first extract data from each table. My customer also requested that if I were to consolidate the tables into one that I provide the ability to allow data entry without having to remember which "Billing code" they were entering data for. To accomdoate these requests, I consolidated all the tables into one table provided filtered views of each billing codes data. When data entry is necessary, I have a hidden text box that is bound to the underlying source table and populates automaticly with the billing number of the view they are in. The new record then contains the billing number without the individual user having to input the billing number for each new record.

Secondly:

Since the customer is required to change the billing number each year, I created a form to allow the customer to change the menu item on the form to a new billing number which will then update all the old billing numbers to the

Help with Design

new billing number. i.e. 8162 needs to be changed to 8172. My code queries all records in the table where 8162 is the current billing number and updates each to 8172.

My delimma,

The customer does not want to lose the old billing numbers! I don't know a way around this except to create a historical table and add all the transaction to the table before updateing the billing number. My customer doesn't seem to be happy with the idea of having 2 tables and having to remember which one to go to for information. I know, they are currently using more then 2. I think it's just that they are use to Paradox. Any ideas? I can't help but wonder if I am going about this the wrong way. I think that Paradox doesn't change the record billing number only because the billing number never gets updated at the record level. I say I think becuse I haven't actually worked on the Paradox database and I am unfortuneatly dependent upon my clients descriptions. All I know is that it looks like a DOS screen – big white letters with an awful blue background.

Any help/insights would be appreciated.

Thanks

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Message posted via <http://www.accessmonster.com>

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