

Re: Survey Design

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.tablesdbdesign/2007-04/msg00102.html>

- *From:* "Roger Carlson" <RogerCarlson@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 11 Apr 2007 14:34:03 -0400
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It is an Incredibly Bad Idea to design your database based on a form. Ease of entry or not, you are setting your self up for huge problems with reporting your data if you store it in a non-normalized fashion. And then what's the use of ease of entry if you can't get the data back out to report it?

You would not believe the horrible databases I've seen which were created by slavishly copying the form. Here's an example:

<http://www.rogersaccesslibrary.com/download3.asp?SampleName=ReallyBadDatabase.mdb>.

My suggestion is to use a normalized data model (ala AtYourSurvey) and simply train your data entry people.

If you absolutely MUST have a data entry form that looks like the survey, create one that enters the data into a non-normalized table which you then transform (via code) into a normalized structure. The specifics of how you do that will depend on the details of your database, but I have a simplified example here that might get you started:

<http://www.rogersaccesslibrary.com/download3.asp?SampleName=NormalizeDenormalize.mdb>

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--Roger Carlson

MS Access MVP

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<http://peach.ease.lsoft.com/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=ACCESS-L>

<men@xxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:5plo139bl682ssmntfb3j1brbu5s97r5cs@xxxxxxxxxx

Apologies, I am asking for quite a bit of help. I have been working on this in spurts for about 1 month. I feel like if I ever could just devote a several hour long session to this that I could figure it out myself. But, as many, I just can't seem to find a long stretch of uninterrupted time like this.

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Now I am 1 week away from the deadline of needing to get this done and I am hoping that somebody in this group would be knowledgeable, have time and be nice enough to help me with this.

I have looked and struggled through comprehending AYS, it has taught me about proper field use (normalization) and several other aspects of design but I need to do this one from scratch based on duplicating a paperform for proper data entry by untrained people.

I am trying to design a survey where a patient (client) fills out a questionnaire every few months which tracks his mood changes. There are 5 categories made up of a total of 22 questions and each question can only have 1 out of 5 possible answers and each answer has a preset value. for example:

Question 1)

Do you feel Discouraged or hopeless?

Possible answers are:

0–Not At All (value = 0)

1–Somewhat (value=1)

2–Moderately (value=2)

3–A Lot (value = 3)

4–Extremely (value=4)

So far I have the following tables:

tblClients w. ClientID as primary key

(fields are FirstName, LastName, DateofTest, QuestionID, AnswerID)

tblQuestions w. QuestionID as primary key

(fields are Question, AnswerID, ClientID)

tblAnswers w. AnswerID as primary key

(fields are Answer, QuestionID, ClientID)

I have a lookup table for the 22 questions tied to the "Question" field in the tblQuestions and a lookup table for the 5 answers tied to the "Answer" field in tblAnswer.

First, is this a good design?

Second – Are my relationships correct?

"tblClient" one to many "tblQuestions"

"tblClient" one to many "tblAnswers"

"tblQuestions" one to many "tblAnswers"

Third – I am not sure what to do with referential integrity, enforce update and delettions and join type. I guess I just don't understand

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this part well enough, yet to know what settings matter and which way they should be set.

Fourth – I have reproduced the paper form for input. There are the 22 questions (as labels) running one under another straight down the left column of the page. In line with each question is an option box with 5 mutually exclusive radio buttons (which makes a column of 22 option boxes exactly (size and layout-wise) the same, On top of the option box column are vertically arranged labels with each label for each question.

I can't figure out how to logically tie this form to the tables so that it works as a data entry tool. I get bits and pieces but just have not been able to clearly understand how to tie all this together.

Fifth – I need to have a calculated total based on the answers and track each clients pro/regress over the time they have participated in the survey.

The final result would be something like: Client X has taken the survey Y number of times on the following dates and in the Category of "Depression" his scores have been as follows and in the Category "Anxiety" his scores have been as follows. Therefore client X has shown improvements in his Depression and his Anxiety has increased or decreased. So these 22 questions represent 5 such categories and I have to report on pro/regress for each client on each category.

Thanks for staying with me. Hopefully you have enough time to help me get this finished.