

## Re: Deleting duplicate parents and grouping children to single par

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.tablesdbdesign/2008-06/msg00180.html>

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- *From:* "Allen Browne" <[AllenBrowne@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:AllenBrowne@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 12 Jun 2008 09:39:19 +0800
- 

You will need VBA code to do this. You will need to build the action query as a SQL statement to execute.

To reassign 24 to 18, and then kill 24, this is the basic code:

```
Dim db As DAO.Database
strSql = "UPDATE tblChild SET ParentID = 18 WHERE ParentID = 24;"
db.Execute strSql, dbFailOnError
strSql = "DELETE FROM tblParent WHERE ParentID = 24;"
db.Execute strSql, dbFailOnError
```

In practice, you will concatenate the values into the string, perhaps from text boxes, so the line will be like this:

```
strSql = "UPDATE tblChild SET ParentID = " & [TextNewNum] & " WHERE ParentID = " & [TextOldNum] & ";"
```

If you are automating this to keep the lowest ID value from among duplicates, you will need to use a subquery. Here's a start on that:

<http://allenbrowne.com/subquery-01.html>

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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.

"Jonathan" <[Jonathan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Jonathan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:8EAC07B9-6FF4-43E0-BDCE-846B91DB966A@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:8EAC07B9-6FF4-43E0-BDCE-846B91DB966A@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Allen,

Thanks for the response. I figured the building would be complex; by simple I meant I want to keep the steps and decisions for the user as clear as possible. And while I think I'm capable of the encoding (at least by using macros and calculations and so forth, VB is beyond me) all the necessary steps weren't clear to me.

So, after import, the user clicks a button which opens the find duplicates query (displayed in a form), if they agree that everything but the first in each series of duplicates can be trashed, a click of another button can run

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first the update query and then the delete query. I think I have to presume that the older parent record, i.e. the first one in the find duplicate query, will always be the one kept. None of this would involve programmatically building additional table or queries (unless I suppose I wanted to save the deleted parents for safety)? For the user then, this is two steps, while for me it's three steps or so (at least, three independent queries).

Two things I'm uncertain of, but can probably work through, is the exact expressions for reassigning the ParentID. I think I can group by the duplicate fields and then use a MIN function to identify the first ParentID in the group and reassign all the group to that. Then in the delete query I can select for all parents that lack child records.

Am I understanding this all correctly? One of the issues is that, while I have a fair amount of experience with access, I have never had to build in action queries for regular use by the user.

Thanks,

Jonathan

"Allen Browne" wrote:

It's not exactly simple, Jonathan.

Firstly, you need a way to identify "duplicate" parents. If the data is identical, you can use the Find Duplicates query wizard to find those records for you. But chances are that the data is not identical, e.g.:

title could be Ms or Mrs

Address could be slightly different:

7 Fourth St

7 Fourth Street

7 Forth St

7 Forth Way

And so on. Typically only a human eye can make the decision.

Once you have identified duplicates, the next task is to decide which one of the 2 to keep, to reassign the children of the other to this one, and then delete the other. To automate that will require some coding experience.

Essentially you will execute an Update query to change the ParentID of the affected children, and then execute a Delete query to kill off the undesirable parent record. Ideally you will execute that in a transaction (particularly if there are other related tables for the parents.)

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Allen Browne – Microsoft MVP. Perth, Western Australia

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"Jonathan" <Jonathan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

Re: Deleting duplicate parents and grouping children to single par

news:F2733CDB-57EE-4DA4-A996-EC178485A8CD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

> So here is my question. I'm building a rather simple db consisting of a  
> parent child and child table in a one-to-many relationship (based on > the  
> Parent's ID and the Child's "ParentID" field). For the intended  
> workflow,data  
> will be regularly entered by importing or cutting and pasting records >  
from  
> an  
> Excel worksheet. The worksheet rows will contain both parent data and  
> child  
> data and I've set up a query so this can proceed smoothly. But the > result  
> is  
> that much of the parent data is duplicated. Is there a way for me to  
> automate  
> the process whereby, after import, duplicate parent records are > identified  
> (say, by one or two matching fields, perhaps more) and the children of >  
the  
> duplicate parent records can have their ParentID field reassigned to > the  
> first of the duplicate parent records?  
>  
> This is a problem I've never dealt with before and intrigues me. My > users  
> all have very little experience so it needs to be simple (one or two  
> clicks  
> perhaps?)  
>  
> Let me know if I need to explain further.  
>  
> AND very importantly, an unfortunately, this has to be implemented in  
> Access  
> 2000, though in 6 months I might be upgrading.  
>  
> Thanks much,  
>  
> Jonathan