# Re: Larger field than thought?

***Source:***
http://www.tech−archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.tablesdbdesign/2008−08/msg00057.html

- *From*: Jacqueline <Jacqueline@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date*: Sun, 3 Aug 2008 14:05:00 −0700

John,
This is unrelated to this post, but after reading it I thought you might be able to help me. I need to generate automated account numbers for a new database. I am thinking of using Autonumber and seting at 7 diget number to start the accounts.

It was suggested that I create code to look at the last number used in the field and add one. But I an not that up on VB and I thought that you could not have calculated fields in a table. Any suggestions??
Thanks
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Jacqueline Staley

"John W. Vinson/MVP" wrote:

> On Fri, 1 Aug 2008 14:28:10 −0700, "Tim" <noemail@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:
>
> > But since the actual count is only a numeric 1 pulled from the counter file,
> > I check to make sure the number generated gets filled with preceeding zeros
> > so all part numbers have the same lengths.
> >
> > As I see it, I can change the above routine to check for 4 digits, instead
> > of the 3 it currently does when new parts are generated. However, I would
> > like to convert all existing part numbers over to the 4 digits so that all
> > parts would have a new 10 digit part number instead of the current 9 digit.
> >
> > So B−APP−001 would turn into B−APP−0001.
> >
> > Adding new numbers is an easy fix, but changing all existing part numbers in
> > the system, can I run a query update that would take all part numbers (4,000
> > part numbers) and just have it add the extra ZERO?
> >
> > IE: Some form of loop to go through all parts in the database

> Get next part number in database
> New part number Left(6) + "0" + Right(3)
> Loop back to get next part
>
> Can anyone give an example of code to put in an update query (if that is the place I should do this) so that I can change all my part number from 9 digits to the new proposed 10 digits?

Steve's suggestion is a good one. You have what's called an "Intelligent Key" − and unfortunately that's not a compliment! Storing multiple different pieces of information in one field as you are doing is a bad idea, for the very reason you have now encountered.

Fortunately you can either split the field into two or three fields (as Steve suggests) and concatenate them for display; or if you prefer, just change the Text field size from 9 to 10 (these *are not numbers!!!!*) and run an Update query updating the field to

Left([PartNumber], 6) & "0" & Right([PartNumber], 3)

This will split the field into pieces "B−APP−" − the first six characters; append a literal 0 character; and then put on the last three characters.

Back up your database first of course!!!!!

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John W. Vinson/MVP

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