

## Re: ACCESS 2007: need help in database breakdown and table creatio

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.tablesdbdesign/2008-10/msg00404.html>

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- *From:* "Larry Daugherty" <[Larry.NoSpam.Daugherty@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Larry.NoSpam.Daugherty@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 20 Oct 2008 23:31:09 -0700
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Hi Bob,

There is a lot to learn about developing applications and beyond that there is a lot to learn about Relational Database Management Systems and still more to learn about Access. Not for the faint of heart but well worth the trip.

The hardest thing for people making the transition from managing data with Excel to doing it with Access is that you must unlearn a lot of what works so well for you in Excel in order to learn how to do it with Access.

Properly designed and implemented there will be no need to remove historical data. It will become useful to you in the future. Don't ask anyone's permission; just do it that way. When your design is complete and rolled out \*no one should ever see the tables\*. They should see and interact with the Forms you design that are based on Queries on those Tables. You will create Reports based on Queries on Tables. People will see the data organized as you have designed the report.

Microsoft and the Access development team are working hard to push Access down to the level that unsophisticated users can do useful things with it. In the process of doing that they've created and implemented several dysfunctional traps. Those nifty things they do will allow a novice Access user to quickly create some applications that seem OK to the unsophisticated eye and judgement. The applications produced are expensive or impossible to maintain or enhance if you use those dysfunctional shortcuts. Try to hold yourself to a higher standard. Poke around at [www.mvps.org/access](http://www.mvps.org/access) for lots of useful insights and guidance.

Your boss is wrong in what s/he thinks is the right way to design your schema (tables and relationships). What s/he said to do amounts to coding data in table names. That is not to be done. Tables are named for entities in play in your application. There will be one and only one Table for any given entity type. By implication, every entity of

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that type belongs in that one table.

Do not accept micromanagement and technical direction from anyone who knows less about the technology in question than you do. A crude analogy to what you've been told to do follows: You will build an automobile tracking system for a car dealership. Your boss would have tblRedCars, tblBlueCars, tblWhiteCars, etc. From what's given just above you know that there should be a single tblCars and that every car would be in that table. Color would be a single field in the record for a car. You can then run a query to retrieve the records for cars of just one color if you choose.

There should not be a tblComments unless comments are a really big issue to be tracked separately. Just about every table should have a notes field in it. If the notes for a single record can exceed 255 characters then the datatype should be Memo.

You can use a Make Table Query to create a table.

Post back with questions as they arise.

HTH

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-Larry-

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"Bob76" <Bob76@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
news:998DB255-07E0-4C8B-8ED0-D8640EC7055B@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi Larry & Kelvan,

Thanks so much for your input and suggestions.. Larry, you're right

about

the construction business being cyclical. I do have an Excel file w/

the

terminated employees, moved from the main Empl file as soon as

he/she is laid

off/quit. I've had to move it back when re-hired. Also have an

Excel file of

Employee Evaluations (done 2x a yr by the PL's) w/c my boss falls

back on

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when time comes to lay off or rehire people.

Will have to start from scratch re: tables... What I've created for

the past

month are not working out..very frustrating, esp to do w/ creating relationships. Then I created this latest one:

1: TblEmployees w/ Empl#, LastName, FirstName, DateHired,

ProjLeader,

Jobsite.

2: Tbl PayRates w/ Empl#, PrevPay, CurrentPay, Date of Raise, Level, AppSchool Start, AppSchool End.

3: TblComments w/ Empl#, Comments.

4: TblEvaluations: Empl#, Date, Evaluation, Jobsite, Evaluated By:

My boss wants subdatasheets so that when bring up an employee, can

cascade

to diff subdatasheets for the pay, comments, evaluations. But then

he wants

separate tables for each ProjLeader w/ his own employees/jobsites.

So had 3

TBLEmployees for each PL, but the Tables Payrates, Comments and Eval

include

all employees. I created relationships and this is where I got

stuck.

Is there a way I can create a table from a query? I was thinking of creating queries for each PL as criteria, so that when a worker

moves from 1

PL to another, it will be automatic move in the their respective

tables Hope

this makes sense.

I will try out your suggestions and see where it takes me. Hope

it's okay

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to bombard you guys w/ questions again when I encounter problems

during this

process. Thanks

Totally confused, BOB76

"Larry Daugherty" wrote:

The JobSite table will be a lookup table. It is incorrect as  
given.

The first two fields are correct. The second two fields don't  
belong

in that table. I would add a couple of fields:

JobSiteDescription,

text and JobSiteNotes, memo.

The pay table should only have fields for PayRate and  
PayEffectiveDate

and PayNotes. That will allow you to track that person's rate of  
pay

for every date from initial hire to the present or to final  
retirement

or other termination.

In tblEmployee there should be a field for DateSeparated and a  
field

for ReasonForSeparation. There could be a lookup table:  
tblReasonForSeparation that might have values like: Lay off,

Leave of

Absence, Termination for cause, etc.

Also, since the construction trades tend to be highly cyclical you

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might want to allow for the possibility of several hire and

separation

dates. For example; a person might be laid off due to lack of

work.

During the hiatus that person finds employment with another organization. When your organization might next desire his

services

he isn't available. At some later date that person might be

available

and hired to meet a need.

tblEmployee records should have information only about the

employee,

nothing else. If you might track training events and skills and

skill

levels then other, related tables must be used for that purpose.

For the next few years, don't worry about there being too much

data in

your application. You'll probably find that you won't fill the allowable space in an Access BackEnd (2 Gigabytes) in this

application

during your career unless you're storing images. With proper

design

you'll be able to retain old data for a long time. Believe it or

not,

as your application becomes more useful to your users they'll be asking you for historical information.

Be patient with yourself while getting over the worst of the

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first

major learning curves in learning Access.

Post back with specific technical issues; one per thread.

HTH

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-Larry-

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"Bob76" <Bob76@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:2367538B-0DEC-462A-AED6-EFB4290D499F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:2367538B-0DEC-462A-AED6-EFB4290D499F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Thanks for your reply.. I don't quite get the need for the

Jobsite

table

though. I also don't know how the pay table can track pay  
over

time.

Please

explain. thanks

"Lord Kelvan" wrote:

i would have something like

tblemployee  
Employeeid,autonum  
LastName,text  
FirstName,text  
DateHired,date/time  
ApprenticeLevel,text or number depending  
on format of field  
PreviousRate,currency  
CurrentRate,currency  
DateofRaise,date/time  
ApprenticeSchoolStartDate,date/time  
ApprenticeSchoolEndDate,date/time  
Comments,memo or text depending on  
length

tbljobsite  
jobsiteid,autonum

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Jobsitename,text  
employeeid,number  
ProjectLeader,yes/no

if you want to track the pay increases over  
time not juts the

last

pay

increase you need another table

tblpay  
payid,autonum  
employeeid,number  
PreviousRate,currency  
CurrentRate,currency  
DateofRaise,date/time

so you would stick everyone in the employee  
table including

project

leaders i added the ProjectLeader,yes/no  
field to job site but

this is

only useful if an employee can be both a  
project leader and a

normal

employee on another site. if this is not the  
case then the  
projectleader,yes/no would be added to the  
employee table

instead.

i hope this makes sence

Regards  
Kelvan

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