

# Re: Distribution List Resolution with new Contact List

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Outlook/microsoft.public.outlook.program\\_vba/2006-10/msg00075.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Outlook/microsoft.public.outlook.program_vba/2006-10/msg00075.html)

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- *From:* Hal <[Hal@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Hal@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 2 Oct 2006 19:30:01 -0700
- 

open a dl and select a member and add them to your dl.

if you click on the member you are on their information from the address book.

if you add use the objdlist.addmember with a recipient object with a valid address from the OAB then it doesnt point back. I want it to point back.

"Eric Legault [MVP – Outlook]" wrote:

Hey, what happened to Dave? :-)

Resolves differently how? FYI, you \*can't\* obtain a ContactItem object from an AddressEntry object. The latter you get from a Recipient object, and every new e-mail contains all To, Cc and Bcc names/addresses in the MailItem.Recipients collection. The Recipient.Resolve method is actually fairly useless – if you enter a valid e-mail address and there is no matching address in any of your Outlook Address Books, it will still resolve. If the name resolves against the OABs, it will resolve.

What is so important about resolving recipients? Why do you need to reference items in a Contacts folder?

—  
Eric Legault (Outlook MVP, MCDBA, MCTS: Messaging & Collaboration)  
Try Picture Attachments Wizard for Outlook:  
<http://www.collaborativeinnovations.ca>  
Blog: <http://blogs.officezealot.com/legault/>

"Hal" wrote:

Eric

Re: Distribution List Resolution with new Contact List

When resolving an address I notice that it resolves differently then if I select a member from the list on known contact. When I resolve using a name and address it does not point back to the item in the address book. When I select a member from the contacts it will. How do I make this happen via vba ?

Hal

"Eric Legault [MVP – Outlook]" wrote:

Key question: are you using Exchange? If so, simply create a Contacts folder in your Public Folders hierarchy, and configure it on each Outlook client to be used as an Outlook Address Book. Create as many Distribution Lists as you want in that folder, containing unique sets of Contacts from that same folder. Very, very easy to share. You don't need to duplicate these addresses in a database at all.

I don't see anything advanced or unsupported regarding your use of Distribution Lists if you use existing Outlook functionality. Start a new e-mail, begin typing the name of your DL in the To: line and resolve the address; you'll get a choice of possibilities if it doesn't resolve right away.

--

Eric Legault (Outlook MVP, MCDBA, MCTS: Messaging & Collaboration)

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"davyb" wrote:

Eric,

Glad to hear you got the sample code. I would have attached it to the posted explanation but I'm not sure how to do that. If you run the code it will create an Outlook contact list

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and some distribution lists. The problem is that all the names do not resolve (if it is reproduced on your machine). In particular LastName1 and LastName2 do not resolve. Can you confirm or deny that? I originally thought that the problem was with address book order, but at least part of it is that resolution of similar names such as LastName1 and LastName10 does not work. (Run the test module program to gen the data.)

The business problem is to share distribution lists with the members of a group that want to communicate with each other. The distribution lists allow each member of the group to quickly and easily send information to other members of the group or subgroup. Creating a contact list with embedded distribution lists is a good candidate for automating since it involves many repetitive operations in Outlook. Outlook's distribution list handling is poor to non-existent for this purpose, or is there a positive answer to my question on this? Sending the members of the group an application that allows them to have the distribution list with a single click and to use the associated set of distribution lists seems like a good idea, or am I barking up the wrong tree? Maybe Outlook programming really is a "...mixed experience..." and I should wait for Outlook 2007?

Thanks,

Dave

Eric wrote:

You sent me your code separately, but with no direction as to what I should be looking for nor details on

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what you are trying to do.

I briefly looked at it and noticed you have a table with e-mail addresses. What is the purpose of duplicating information that's stored in an Outlook Contact list?

Also, what exactly are you trying to achieve with Contact Distribution Lists? I'm having a really hard time understanding the business problem that you are trying to solve and the purpose of your solution.

--

Eric Legault (Outlook MVP,  
MCDBA, MCTS:  
Messaging & Collaboration)  
Try Picture Attachments  
Wizard for Outlook:  
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Blog:  
<http://blogs.officezealot.com/legault/>

"davyb" wrote:

Eric,

That is easy  
and only  
took me a  
day to  
implement  
and make a  
little more  
user  
friendly in  
VBA  
(Access).  
Now the  
same  
question for  
distribution  
lists, which

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are more  
useful in  
some ways  
than the  
overly  
verbose  
contact list  
items. They  
should  
consist of a  
name and  
an email list  
and you  
should be  
able to  
export  
them,  
import them  
and modify  
them in  
between as  
needed.  
How does  
one do that?

The setting  
of the  
contact list  
property to  
ShowAsOutlookAB  
has helped  
the resolve  
process  
work  
without  
having each  
user dive  
into  
changing  
the address  
book order,  
however, it  
has at least  
one bug  
with similar  
names. See  
separately  
forwarded  
code and  
the failure  
to resolve

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Lastname1  
and  
LastName2  
-- notice it  
succeeds for  
LastName3.

Dave

Eric wrote:

You  
can  
easily  
export  
a  
Contacts  
folder  
to  
a  
.pst  
file  
that  
you  
can  
e-mail  
to  
another  
user.  
Choose  
"Import  
and  
Export..."  
from  
the  
File  
menu  
in  
Outlook.

However,  
if  
you  
are  
both  
in  
the  
same  
Exchange  
organization,  
you

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can  
share  
access  
to  
your  
default  
Mailbox  
folders  
(Contacts,  
Tasks,  
etc.)  
through  
the  
Delegates  
tab  
in  
Outlook's  
Options  
dialog.  
Then  
other  
users  
can  
open  
your  
folder  
from  
"File  
->  
Open  
->  
Other  
User's  
Folder...".  
They  
can't  
use  
a  
shared  
Contacts  
folder  
as  
an  
Outlook  
Address  
Book  
for  
address  
resolution  
though.  
A

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better  
alternative  
is  
to  
put  
shared  
Contacts  
in  
a  
Public  
Folder,  
which  
CAN  
be  
used  
as  
an  
Outlook  
Address  
Book.

--

Eric  
Legault  
(Outlook  
MVP,  
MCDBA,  
MCTS:  
Messaging  
&  
Collaboration)  
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for  
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"davyb"  
wrote:

Eric,

Here's  
a  
quick

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response  
(more  
to  
follow  
---  
including  
source  
code):  
Access  
VBA  
fits  
in  
since  
I  
haven't  
been  
able  
to  
export  
a  
contact  
list  
from  
the  
Outlook  
GUI  
and  
share  
it  
with  
others.  
Perhaps  
Outlook  
doesn't  
fit  
my  
needs  
because  
I'm  
ignorant  
---  
that's  
a  
given  
---  
so  
let's  
just  
say,  
show  
me

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how  
to  
export  
a  
contact  
list,  
make  
a  
few  
addtions  
and  
corrections  
to  
it  
and  
then  
email  
it  
to  
someone  
else  
so  
they  
can  
import  
it  
and  
use  
it.

One  
problem  
with  
using  
the  
existing  
order  
for  
resolution  
is  
duplicates  
in  
the  
Contacts  
folder.  
I  
want  
to  
provide  
the  
latest

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information  
relevant  
to  
the  
Project  
is  
a  
new,  
separate  
Contacts  
folder.  
(Don't  
get  
me  
started  
on  
duplicates  
--  
adding  
them  
more  
than  
once  
seems  
to  
result  
in  
random  
behavior  
by  
the  
target  
Contact  
list.)

Thanks,

Dave

Eric  
wrote:

You  
mentioned  
that  
you  
have  
tried  
to  
rearrange  
the

Re: Distribution List Resolution with new Contact List

order  
of  
the  
address  
lists  
programmatically  
–  
I'd  
be  
very  
interested  
in  
hearing  
how  
you  
are  
doing  
this;  
could  
you  
post  
some  
sample  
code  
please?

You  
are  
also  
being  
very  
quick  
to  
shoot  
down  
Outlook  
in  
terms  
of  
being  
unable  
to  
meet  
your  
needs,  
but  
I  
am  
still  
at  
a

Re: Distribution List Resolution with new Contact List

loss  
to  
understand  
what  
your  
key  
difficulty  
is.  
If  
you  
want  
to  
ensure  
that  
addresses  
are  
resolved,  
ensure  
that  
it's  
containing  
list  
is  
published  
as  
an  
Outlook  
Address  
Book.  
If  
you  
want  
to  
ensure  
that  
certain  
addresses  
are  
resolved  
first,  
use  
the  
GUI  
to  
control  
this  
on  
a  
per-profile  
basis.  
However,

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as  
long  
as  
you  
don't  
have  
duplicate  
information  
the  
order  
of  
resolution  
shouldn't  
really  
matter  
as  
long  
as  
addresses  
are  
resolved,  
which  
they  
will  
if  
they  
exist.

Furthermore,  
Contacts  
in  
Outlook  
are  
only  
as  
unwieldy  
as  
you  
make  
them  
out  
to  
be.  
Views  
can  
be  
customized  
to  
only  
display  
frequently

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used  
fields,  
and  
the  
Contact  
forms  
themselves  
can  
be  
designed  
to  
show  
only  
frequently  
used  
fields.

How  
exactly  
does  
Access  
fit  
into  
this?  
Are  
you  
linking  
Outlook  
Address  
Books  
as  
a  
table  
in  
the  
database?  
Are  
you  
using  
Access  
VBA  
to  
control  
Outlook  
for  
sending  
e-mails?  
Please  
give  
me  
some

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more  
specifics  
as  
to  
the  
functionality  
of  
your  
current  
solution  
and  
I'll  
endeavour  
to  
address  
any  
pain  
points.

--

Eric  
Legault  
(Outlook  
MVP,  
MCDBA,  
MCTS:  
Messaging  
&  
Collaboration)  
Try  
Picture  
Attachments  
Wizard  
for  
Outlook:  
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"davyb"  
wrote:

Eric,

I  
see  
your  
problem,  
it's

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not  
for  
myself.  
The  
Access  
application  
has  
been  
distributed  
to  
the  
corporate  
team  
working  
on  
a  
particular  
project,  
call  
it  
Project  
X.  
The  
team  
members  
need  
to  
communicate  
with  
others  
on  
the  
Project  
X  
Contacts  
List.  
The  
distribution  
list  
feature  
of  
the  
Access  
application  
is  
a  
key  
feature.  
Each  
member  
should

Re: Distribution List Resolution with new Contact List

be  
able  
to  
send  
email  
information  
to  
a  
set  
or  
subset  
of  
the  
Project.  
This  
is  
called  
"collaboration".

As  
a  
team  
leader  
on  
Project  
X,  
I  
find  
the  
contacts  
features  
in  
Outlook  
to  
be  
difficult  
to  
use  
--  
the  
multitude  
of  
fields  
in  
the  
contacts  
list  
is  
\_never\_  
used  
beyond

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a  
few  
key  
ones  
like  
name  
and  
telephone  
numbers  
and  
...  
\_the\_  
key  
field  
--email  
address--  
is,  
in  
many  
Outlook  
usage  
scenarios,  
half  
buried  
in  
unusable  
(ie  
cut  
and  
paste  
doesn't  
work!)  
MAPI  
clutter.

So  
to  
reiterate:  
The  
Access  
application  
is  
distributed  
to  
each  
member  
(about  
a  
hundred)  
in  
a

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useful  
table  
with  
fields  
for  
name,  
telephone#,  
email  
address,  
organization,  
building,  
role  
etc.  
The  
Access  
application  
has  
a  
switchboard  
with  
"View"  
and  
"Export  
to  
Outlook".

Never  
had  
to  
explain  
my  
application  
to  
get  
a  
technical  
explanation,  
is  
this  
stuff  
secret?  
You  
can  
send  
the  
answer  
to  
me  
privately  
if  
it

Re: Distribution List Resolution with new Contact List

shouldn't  
be  
shown  
to  
the  
great  
unwashed  
masses.  
Is  
it  
changing  
dramatically  
and  
rapidly?  
In  
the  
conservative  
corporate  
IT  
world,  
we  
just  
migrated  
from  
Office  
97  
to  
Office  
2003  
last  
week  
,  
so  
no  
worries  
there.

Or  
is  
the  
real  
answer  
that  
Outlook  
is  
such  
a  
patched  
mess  
that  
it

Re: Distribution List Resolution with new Contact List

can't  
be  
done  
programmatically?

Dave

PS  
By  
the  
way  
the  
"Global  
Address  
Book",  
is  
not  
global  
across  
these  
project  
team  
members  
in  
case  
you  
want/need  
a  
justification  
for  
every  
feature  
of  
the  
application  
before  
answering.  
The  
GUI  
method  
works,  
but  
trying  
to  
rearrange  
the  
order  
programmatically  
seems  
to  
give

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an  
access  
violation  
and  
I'm  
not  
sure  
which  
list/cache  
is  
used  
to  
do  
the  
"resolution".  
A  
reasonable  
answer  
might  
involve  
updating  
a  
"cache"  
somewhere  
as  
well  
as  
explaining  
how  
the  
order  
of  
the  
resolution  
list  
is  
manipulated.

Eric  
wrote:

What  
I  
don't  
understand  
is  
**WHY**  
you  
have  
to  
change

Re: Distribution List Resolution with new Contact List

the  
order  
of  
address  
books/name  
resolution  
programmatically,  
if  
you  
can  
do  
it  
in  
the  
UI  
and  
if  
this  
is  
just  
for  
yourself.

--

Eric  
Legault  
(Outlook  
MVP,  
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Attachments  
Wizard  
for  
Outlook:  
<http://www.collaborativeinnocent.com>  
Blog:  
<http://blogs.officezealot.com>

"davyb"  
wrote:

Hi,

I'll

try  
the  
properly,  
thanks.

Not  
sure  
why  
the  
answer  
to  
my  
question  
on  
how  
to  
control  
the  
order  
of  
address  
books  
has  
come  
back  
twice  
now  
that  
it  
can  
be  
done  
in  
a  
GUI  
dialog.  
1)  
I  
said  
that  
I  
can  
do  
that  
from  
the  
beginning.  
2)  
The  
reason  
for

asking  
the  
question  
in  
the  
VBA  
programming  
section  
of  
Outlook  
is  
to  
find  
out  
how  
to  
do  
that  
programmatically  
in  
VBA.

The  
reason  
I  
mention  
the  
Contacts  
folder  
is  
that  
this  
is  
already  
on  
the  
address  
resolution  
list.  
However  
if  
the  
Global  
List  
is  
first  
then  
there  
is  
still  
some

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problem  
in  
resolving  
myDistribution  
List.

I  
really  
want  
to  
set  
the  
resolution  
order  
so  
that  
myDistribution  
list  
is  
resolved  
to  
addresses  
in  
myContact  
folder.

If  
this  
is  
still  
unclear  
and  
doesn't  
have  
a  
programmatic  
answer,  
I'll  
put  
some  
sample  
code  
here.

Thanks  
for  
your  
patience.

Dave

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Eric  
wrote:

The  
MAPIFolder  
property  
allows  
you  
to  
programmatically  
specify  
whether  
any  
given  
Contacts  
folder  
is  
displayed  
as  
an  
Outlook  
Address  
Book.

Also,  
Contact  
folders  
local  
to  
your  
Mailbox  
or  
.pst  
cannot  
be  
resolved  
by  
other  
users  
(not  
sure  
if  
this  
is  
what  
you're  
implying),  
although  
I  
believe  
a

shared  
Contacts  
folder  
can  
be  
used  
as  
an  
Outlook  
Address  
Book.

Furthermore  
only  
Exchange  
administrato  
can  
control  
what  
goes  
into  
the  
Global  
Address  
List,  
whether  
they  
are  
entries  
or  
additional  
address  
lists.  
You  
can  
also  
control  
which  
address  
list  
is  
displayed  
first  
and  
in  
which  
order  
address  
lists  
are  
used

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for  
resolution  
in  
the  
Addressing  
dialog  
from  
the  
Tools  
->  
Options  
menu  
in  
the  
Address  
Book.

--  
Eric  
Legault  
(Outlook  
MVP,  
MCDBA,  
MCTS:  
Messaging  
&  
Collaboration)  
Try  
Picture  
Attachments  
Wizard  
for  
Outlook:  
<http://www.c>