

Re: Join to one of two tables (based on a value in the source table)

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.programming/2004-08/4893.html>

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"Scott Lyon" <scott.RED.lyon@WHITE.rapistan.BLUE.com> wrote in message news:OOv7J3TiEHA.2448@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...

>
> "Joe Celko" <jcelko212@earthlink.net> wrote in message
> news:u2L3zaSiEHA.2848@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...
>>> .. bit .. uniqueidentifier .. table1 and table2 do not have the same
>> structure .. fields .. I want to do a select from tableSource, that will
>> join to table1 or table2 .. depending on whether chooseTable is 0 or 1
>> . VARCHAR(50). <<
>>
>> Okay, you want to use an assembly language level bit construct to give
>> yourself a query that returns apples or octopi.
>>
>> Have you asked yourself just what this kind of query would mean in a
>> data model? If it is meaningful, then this attribute is split over two
>> tables and you have some serious design problems. If it is not
>> meaningful, then you have some serious programming problems.
>>
>> Since you mention having a uniqueidentifier and VARCHAR(50) columns,
>> this looks like an ACCESS port in which no redesign work was done.
>> While it is possible that something is really VARCHAR(50), 80-90% of the
>> time I find this is the quickie kludge of a newbie, so my warnign light
>> goes on.
>>
>> What are you trying to do? You have told us HOW you want to do it.
>> Where is the DDL?
>>
>> --CELKO--
>> =====
>> Please post DDL, so that people do not have to guess what the keys,
>> constraints, Declarative Referential Integrity, datatypes, etc. in your
>> schema are.
>>
>> *** Sent via Developersdex <http://www.developersdex.com> ***

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> > *Don't just participate in USENET...get rewarded for it!*
>
>
> *In a nutshell, what I need to do is create a stored procedure or view that
> will return data from one table, and then joined to another table (which
> table it joins to is dependant on the bit I mentioned in the first table).*
>
> *The reason, is there is a lookup table that's in another database, to
which
> I have read-access (in other words, I do not have ownership of that table,
> or the database in which it resides). In my database, I need to have my
own
> table to store similar information, for items not found in that lookup
> table.*
>
> *Then I need to be able to call a stored procedure or view to see the data,
> so it won't look like it's coming from two tables, but rather from one
> source.*
>
>
> *Let me throw together a better example (sticking to just one database, to
> simplify things a little), to explain this.*
>
> *Here's the table structure:*
>
>
> *CREATE TABLE [dbo].[tableLists] (
> [ListID] [int] IDENTITY (1, 1) NOT NULL ,
> [UnitName] [char] (4) COLLATE SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS NOT NULL ,
> [chooseTable] [bit] NOT NULL
>) ON [PRIMARY]
> GO*
>
> *CREATE TABLE [dbo].[tableLists_lookup1] (
> [UnitName] [char] (4) COLLATE SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS NOT NULL ,
> [UnitDescription] [varchar] (50) COLLATE SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS NOT
> NULL ,
> [UnitWeight] [float] NULL ,
> [UnitLength] [float] NULL ,
> [UnitPrice] [money] NULL
>) ON [PRIMARY]
> GO*
>
> *CREATE TABLE [dbo].[tableLists_lookup2] (
> [UNITNM] [char] (4) COLLATE SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS NOT NULL ,
> [UNITDSC] [varchar] (50) COLLATE SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS NOT NULL ,
> [UNITPRC] [money] NULL
>) ON [PRIMARY]
> GO*
>
>

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>
> *For this example, tableLists is what is driving my query, and*
> *tableLists_lookup1 is the table that I own that I want to join to (if the*
> *chooseTable bit is set to 0), joining tableLists.UnitName to*
> *tblLists_lookup1.UnitName. The tableLists_lookup2 table is the one that I*
do
> *not own, and that I want to join to if the chooseTable (from tableLists)*
bit
> *is set to 1, joining tableLists.UnitName to tblLists_lookup2.UNITNM.*
>
> *The thing is, tblLists_lookup1.UnitDescription is the same field*
(basically)
> *as tblLists_lookup2.UNITDSC. I want to return one value in my query (call*
it
> *UnitDescription, for example), that will be populated by either lookup1 or*
> *lookup2 based on the chooseTable value.*
>
>
> *Same goes for lookup1.UnitPrice and lookup2.UNITPRC*
>
>
> *So as you see, it's not so much a design issue as much as a situation*
where
> *I have data in two locations, and I want to be able to choose from which*
> *location that data is retrieve.*

Don't misunderstand me... If there is a better way to do this, I'm open to suggestions. However, I am restricted to the facts that:

- 1) I need data from a table that doesn't belong to me
- 2) For my application to be able to add data, I need to add that data to a table that DOES belong to me
- 3) It needs to seamlessly return data from both of those tables as if they were one source.