

Re: Map shape text to custom property?

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Visio/microsoft.public.visio.general/2004-10/0429.html>

From: HLM (HLM_at_no-email.com)

Date: 10/25/04

Date: Mon, 25 Oct 2004 20:44:38 +0200

LOL – ok, I will since I see there's someone that would read it and maybe comment on my solution.

What I've done, in Visio Pro 2003, is copied a server shape from the rack stencil into my own stencil so I can modify it. I then placed the server shape on a drawing, added a couple custom properties to the shape such as "ServerName", and ran the database wizard to connect this shape to an access database. I had to create the ODBC DSN and the access database via this wizard. Once I completed the wizard I opened the shapheet for the shape and modified the value for the custom property I wanted to "tie" to the shape's text to be "=GUARD(SHAPETEXT(TheText))" (minus the quotes.) and then I made sure the custom property I assigned to be the index or KEY in the database had no value.

I then dragged the shape back to the stencil and saved it as a new master. Now, when I drag this shape onto a drawing, I am prompted to enter a value for the index property (the KEY field in the database). After I enter the value the shape is dropped on the drawing. When I double-click the shape I get the textbox edit field and the custom property page pops open. As I type the text into the shapes textbox I can see the custom property I "tied" it to update as I type. Since I used the "GUARD" function in the value on the shapheet the shape is not allowed to change this value to anything else. It is forced to be the value of the shapes text no matter. However, once the shape is synched to the database, the actual value is stored in this property rather than the formula.

Why did I do this? I wanted to be able to place a new server in a rack, have it automatically tied to my server database and have it's name displayed as the default shape text on my drawing. This is only good for placing a new shape on the drawing too since once the shape is synched with the database the value for this property will be the real value, rather than the initial formula.

I haven't worked out the details yet, but I think I'll have one shape for adding a brand new server to my drawing which is tied in this way so I can more easily add the server's name to a new shape and database record. Then create a copy of the shape for adding a server to the drawing that already has an entry in my server database. This copy would be configured to grab

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the server name from the database and update the shape's text with this value as it is dropped onto the drawing.

Really just did this as a learning experience as I embark on building a "smart" visio drawing of all our rack elevation diagrams which is tied to a server configuration database. Hopefully, I can have a floor plan of our server room, click on a particular rack and have that rack's elevation diagram open up. Then one step further, a click on a particular server will bring up all it's pertinent information for review and or modification.

Ok, now that I've typed this all out can someone tell me the "two-click" method to do all this :]

Huey

"Maxarian" <Maxarian@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:45E98902-C697-435F-A074-DC57E954E905@microsoft.com...

> *Please explain in detail?*

>

> *"HLM" wrote:*

>

>> *Aahh, just had to make sure the custom property used for the KEY in the database was empty and then make the value for the property I wanted to save*

>> *the shape text in:*

>> *=SHAPETEXT(theText)*

>>

>> *Saved the master shape and now when I drag it over to my drawing I am prompted for a KEY value and then when I double click the shape I type the*

>> *text and the custom property updates as I type. waaay cool....*

>>

>> *If any of this drivvle inerests anyone just post a reply, I'll give more details.*

>>

>> *Huey*

>>

>>

>> *"HLM" <HLM@no-email.com> wrote in message*

>> *news:uuPaIIduEHA.1132@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...*

>> >

>> > *Any quick answers? also want to link this to a database field. I have the*

>> > *link for a custom property working like a champ, but I want the default text property to reflect the value in a custom property.*

>> >

>> > *help?*

>> >

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