

Re: Mail Merge relative reference to data source

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Word/microsoft.public.word.vba.general/2007-05/msg00552.html>

- *From:* "Peter Jamieson" <pjj@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 20 May 2007 01:09:10 +0100
-

Answering the bits that I can for now...

When you say 'for a Word document as data source, we just need the path name' does this mean that we need something more for an Excel sheet?

A Word .doc can only contain one data source as far as I know, so the only way you can modify it is to provide some SQL that does the simple sorts and filters supported by Word's very simple internal SQL dialect.

An Excel .xls workbook is much more like a "database" that can have several "tables" (e.g. worksheets and named ranges). There are several different possible ways to connect to a workbook, and if you connect using ODBC or OLE DB (the default in Word 2003) you get to use the Jet dialect of SQL which is in a different league than the simple built-in Word dialect. However, if you just specify the workbook name in the OpenDataSource Name parameter, you will probably see the data from the first sheet in the workbook, and you will probably get the data via OLE DB. However, there is another problem when connecting to OLE DB data sources which is that one way or another Word uses a connection string that, sooner or later, will be truncated to 255 characters. If the full path name of the Excel file is long, you may find that the connection string is truncated and the open fails.

I can't really understand why this would be the case as everything seems set up right. I'm sure there's a proper way of doing this but I made a little test thing to print variables:

```
MsgBox ( ActiveDocument.MailMerge.DataSource.Name)
```

Two possibilities spring to mind, neither of them particularly convincing:

a. Do you need to implement the registry change described in

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/825765>

b. does it make any difference if you set a variable to the active document, .e.g.

```
Dim objMMMD As Word.Document  
' or Dim objMMMD As Object ' if you're scripting
```

Re: Mail Merge relative reference to data source

Set objMMMMD = ActiveDocument

Then /only/ reference the Mail Merge Main Document using objMMMMD. Certainly, after a MailMerge.Execute, the ActiveDocument will change to be the output document if you have specified output to a new document.

Peter Jamieson

"Chris Slowe" <20footduck@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1179492546.745755.61210@xx

(have tried to post this with Google groups but it's not having it—
last try!)

That's great stuff Peter— and it almost works!

When I run the script it opens the correct excel worksheet and
completes the script without complaint. But when I switch back from
the VBA editor to word the sheet hasn't been attached. Checking in the
Mail Merge Helper the data source is still blank.

I can't really understand why this would be the case as everything
seems set up right. I'm sure there's a proper way of doing this but I
made a little test thing to print variables:

MsgBox (ActiveDocument.MailMerge.DataSource.Name)

when within the 'with .MailMerge' it outputs the correct path. When
placed outside that statement it returns a blank. Any ideas?

A couple more questions...

When you say 'for a Word document as data source, we just need the
path name' does this mean that we need something more for an Excel
sheet?

Also can i just check that I'm putting the scripts in the correct
place— separate modules for the disconnect script and connect script.
rather than using the ThisDocument section?

thanks for your help

Chris

On May 14, 2:33 pm, "Peter Jamieson" <p...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote:

You relaly have to do at least two thing:

- a. make sure that the Mail Merge Main Document is never saved with any
data
source information – otherwise, when you re—open it, the first thing that
Word does is to try to locate the existing data source. You can't write a
macro that intercepts Word before this point and you can't really guarantee

Re: Mail Merge relative reference to data source

to avoid the dialog boxes that will appear if the data source is not found.
b. use an AutoOpen macro to connect to the new data source, as you mention.

To disconnect a datasource from its datasource before saving it, you can use

```
ActiveDocument.MailMerge.MainDocumentType =  
wdNotAMergeDocument
```

You will lose the source name, connection information and any sort/filter selections, but not any of the fields in the document.

IN Word 2003 you can also do
ActiveDocument.MailMerge.DataSource.Close, but
I know little about the consequences of that approach.

Here's a sample AutoOpen for you:

```
Sub AutoOpen()  
Dim strDataSource As String  
Dim strConnection As String  
Dim strQuery As String  
  
' this is a simple example for a data source which is a Word document  
' set this to be the file name of your data source  
strDataSource = "kt.doc"  
  
' set this to be the connection string for your data source  
'strConnection = ""  
  
' set this to be the query for your data source  
' strQuery = ""  
  
With ActiveDocument  
strDataSource = .Path & "\" & strDataSource  
' for a Word document as data source, we just need the path name  
With .MailMerge  
.OpenDataSource _  
Name:=strDataSource  
' use the type you need  
.MainDocumentType = wdFormLetters  
' use the destination you need  
.Destination = wdSendToNewDocument  
  
' NB the above code does not execute the merge.  
End With  
End With  
End Sub
```

Peter Jamieson

"Chris Slowe" <20footd...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

Re: Mail Merge relative reference to data source

news:1179079633.578633.13540@xx

> Hi

> I've been trying to find out over the last few days how exactly create/
> fake a relative reference (as opposed to an absolute eg C:\blah\blah
> \blah) to an Excel spreadsheet I'm using as a data source. It sounds
> possible from some things I've read online, and I think I understand
> the theory but unfortunately I'm not proficient in VBA to do it, and
> nobody has posted the code anywhere (and as this is the only vb I'll
> be touching it's not worth learning the whole caboodle).

> It sounds like you have to create an AutoOpen macro (that kicks in on
> opening the doc) that changes the path of the MailMerge datasource to
> a combination of the file path of the word document and the file name
> chosen for the spreadsheet. I cobbled together some code that looked
> ok, and it seemed to work... but only once. on moving the duplicate
> folder it reverted to referring to the original again.

> I'm sure the code must be simple but I'm not having any luck

> would appreciate some help. typically the project somewhat relies on
> me finding a fix for this and will be seriously hampered without one!

> thanks in advance

> Chris