

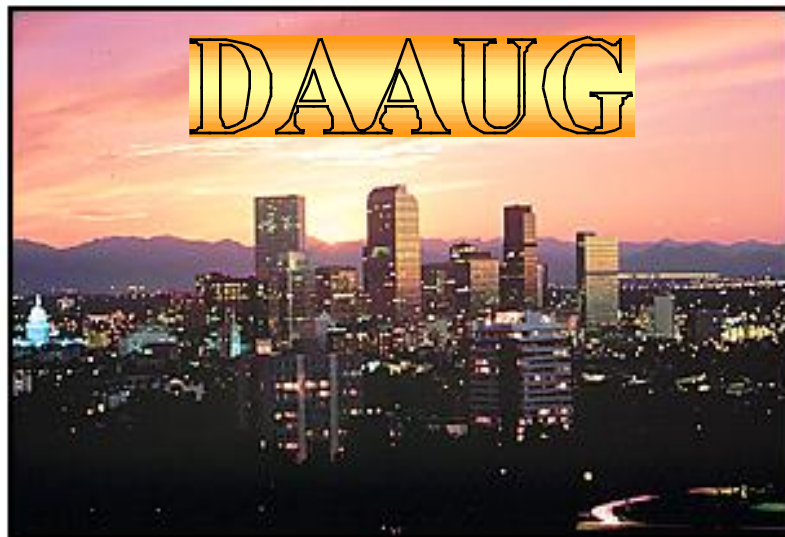
Denver Area Access
Users Group

Newsletter

September 11, 2001

Patricia Chase Riley
Newsletter Editor

[DAAUG's Website](#)



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Regular Monthly Meetings

Normal Meeting Locations:

Date: 2nd Thursday of each month.

Time: 6:30 to 8:15 pm

Locations: alternate between 2 different locations.

Odd-numbered months (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) we meet

Downtown at:

ING Security Life Building

1290 Broadway (SE Corner of 13th & Broadway - across the street from the Main Library)

In even-numbered months (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) we meet in **Highlands Ranch** at:

Red Rocks Federal Credit Union

200 W. Plaza Drive (C-470 to Broadway, South to 2nd light - West (right) on Plaza Drive 2 blocks - building is on your left)

Monthly Lab Meetings

Date: 4th Wednesday of each month

(except December! - No Lab in December)

Time: 6:30 to 8:15 pm

Location: [New Horizons Computer Learning Centers](#)

Denver Tech Center Location

10333 E. Dry Creek Rd.

Suite 100

Englewood, CO 80112

303-745-0100

(Updated 08/30/01)

Directions From Downtown Denver:

Head South on I-25 toward Colorado Springs. Drive through the Denver Tech Center, and take the Dry Creek Exit. Head East (left) on Dry Creek, 3 lights, to Inverness Drive East. Left on Inverness Drive East to Opus building parking area. [See map.](#)

“President’s Corner”

by Jim Pilcher

This month our feature presentation will be performed by yours truly. The topic is “Using Form Controls Effectively.” I did the first part of this presentation late last year and received favorable feedback from the DAAUG membership. I recall that we had so much fun discussing form properties that we short-changed discussion of many control properties available to the Access designer. We will take care of that this month. This discussion will *not* be a programmer’s presentation. In fact, this will be a relatively VBA-free discussion. We will discuss the myriad of control properties that you can set at design time. In many cases, proper use of many of these properties can *reduce* your reliance on VBA programming. We lost our lab space last month when ExeucTrain went out of business in the Colorado Springs and Denver areas. Through the diligent work of several DAAUG board members, we have come up with a new lab sponsor. Our next lab will be September 26th at 6:30 P.M. The location will be

New Horizons Computer Learning Centers
Denver Tech Center Location
10333 E. Dry Creek Rd.
Suite 100

Thanks to New Horizons for their sponsorship!

Last month I put out a request for our general membership to find us a PC projector we can use in October when we once again meet at Red Rocks Credit Union. Ideally we can get a commitment from you to use the projector every other month through 2002--about six times. We received no offers. I once again ask you to contact Bruce Benninghoff or me ASAP so we can avoid the \$250 rental fee.

This Month’s Presenter

Our presenter this month is our very own President. Jim is from on high at DataOne, our premier front range Microsoft Access consulting firm. Using only experienced relational database consultants specializing in Microsoft Access, they do data modeling, application design, and application development. DataOne also converts old databases and spreadsheet applications to Microsoft Access. Their client list spans the telecommunications, insurance, publishing, and other industries. Join us this Thursday evening for **Jim Pilcher**’s sage comments on everything we need to know about control properties.

Synchronizing Combo Boxes

by Sco Scofield

Last month’s mini-topic was supposed to be about synchronizing combo boxes. At the meeting I promised to get the relevant knowledge base articles for the newsletter. Below is a list of articles and their links broken down by version.

1. Q97624 -

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q97/6/24.ASP>

SUMMARY: Requires basic macro, coding, and interoperability skills.

This article shows you how to synchronize two combo boxes so that when you make a selection in the first combo box, the selection limits the choices in the second combo box.

NOTE: This article explains a technique demonstrated in the sample files, FrmSampl.exe (for Microsoft Access for Windows 95 version 7.0) and FrmSmp97.exe (for Microsoft Access 97).

2. Q98660 -

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q98/6/60.ASP>

SUMMARY: This article describes how to create a combo box that is filtered to list only those items that are related to an item selected in a previous combo box.

3. Acc2K: Q209595 – Access 2000

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q209/5/95.ASP>

4. Q209576 -

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q209/5/76.ASP>

5. Acc2K2: Q289670 -

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q289/6/70.ASP>

Some of the above articles have links to sample databases that demonstrate the techniques. Be sure to download them and take a look.

Also of interest is "Support WebCast: Microsoft Access: Combo Box Survival Guide" at

<http://support.microsoft.com/servicedesks/Webcasts/WC080300/wcblurb080300.asp>.

The Q article instructions are step-by-step and there is a downloadable database with working samples. How much easier can it get?

Believe it or not, there is also some limited information in the help file if you search for "synchronizing combo boxes".

Days in the Month Function

by Jim Pilcher

Q: How do I find the number of days in a month?

A: Put the following function in a VBA module...

```
Public Function DaysInMonth(pvarAnyDate as
variant) As Variant
    Dim dtmNextMonth As Date

    If IsDate(pvarAnyDate) Then
        dtmNextMonth = dateadd("m",1,pvarAnyDate)
        DaysInMonth = Day(dtmNextMonth -
Day(dtmNextMonth))
    Else
        DaysInMonth = Null
    EndIf
End Function
```

End Function

Call the function like so:

```
intDaysInMonth = DaysInMonth(#1/17/2001#)
```

The example above returns 31. This function can also be used in Access queries.

```
"The Prez"
```

New Lab Location

by Bruce Benninghof

A few days before the August lab we cancelled it because we learned that the Denver and Colorado Springs ExecuTrain franchises were out of business and packing up shop.

Not wanting to cancel any more labs, we set out to find new facilities. [New Horizons](#), Englewood location, also an IT Training provider, stepped forward and will provide us with lab facilities. They even managed to fit us into their schedule on the 4th Wednesday of each month (except December). They will provide a classroom of 15-18 PC's with Access 97 & 2000 available. The schedule remains the same. Only the location changes. See their [DTC](#) location [map](#) and the [driving directions](#) to 10333 E. Dry Creek Road, Suite 100.

Our new host, New Horizons, is the largest *independent* IT training company in the world, and the world's third largest computer training company behind only IBM and Oracle. They offer three modes of training - Classroom, Online LIVE and Online ANYTIME. Their courses cover Desktop application and technical training courses on products from Microsoft®, Novell®, Cisco®, Citrix® and more. Visit their web site to learn more about them at <http://www.nhcolorado.com>.

Thank you New Horizons.

Just for Fun

Can you convert this old program to VBA?

```
* REMEMBER.PRG
* Sometimes we forget . . .
*
Use Yourself
Set talk off
Clear
*
Do While Alive
    Store "love" TO heart
    Store "health" TO body
    Store "peace" TO mind
    Store "compassion" TO others
    Store "esteem" TO self
    Store "trust" TO humanity
    Store "faith" TO God
Replace Negative WITH Positive,
Judgment WITH Acceptance,
Resentment WITH Forgiveness
Hopelessness WITH Choice,
Procrastination WITH Participation,
Separation WITH Connection,
Lack WITH Abundance,
Sorrow WITH Celebration
```

```
@ all time SAY your_truth
```

```
If its_time
    EXIT
```

```
EndIf
EndDo
```

```
*
Save TO Always
```

```
Clear All
Return
```

```
*
*End of file: Remember.prg
```

Here's a start.

```
Module1
Option Explicit
Sub Remember()
    ' Because sometimes we forget . . .
    '
```

```
Dim Love as variant . . .
```

Recap of Last Month's Meeting

Carl Dubler wowed us with the wonders of Data Cubes. This is what we do after we gather all that data – analyze it, drill it!

The winners of the giveaways last month were: Michelle Haarhues selected the Harley Mouse Pad, Kevin Bell selected [Mastering Access 2002](#), Jim Peyton won the CDR's, and Patricia Chase Riley won [Access 2002 for Dummies](#). Congratulations!

Referential Integrity in Access Databases

By Jim Pilcher

Once you have the relationships established in an Access database, you must consider referential integrity. You've all seen that little checkbox in the Relationship window when you try to create a relationship between two tables. It says "Enforce Referential Integrity." If you've never put a check mark in the box, you've missed out on one of the extremely powerful things a relational database engine can do for you. Merely checking that box can provide you a fully automatic means of maintaining data integrity between related tables.

Let's assume that you have table of Scottish Clans (tblClan). Since most clans have more than one member, we also have a table of clan members (tblClanMember) that links back to tblClan. Each clan has an ID and each member has a clan ID as part of its record. Imagine going into the Relationships view, bringing up both tables, and dragging ClanID from tblClan to ClanID in tblClanMember. Up pops the Relationship window. By checking the "Enforce Referential Integrity" box you are telling Access (actually, Jet) to do a lot of down and dirty data validation for you. Your database of Scottish Clans and their members is in fine shape.

Once you have established referential integrity, it is impossible for anyone to create a child record that has no parent. In this case, no clan member can exist in your database without belonging to an existing clan. The user is forced to create a new clan or assign a new member to a pre-existing clan! This is not a trivial thing folks. By checking that tiny little box we have assured ourselves that there cannot be orphan clan members in the database. If there were, I guess they'd be Irish.

That's not all though. Referential integrity also prevents the user from deleting a parent record if it has any children in a related table. If you try to delete the MacDonald clan with 45 members, Access will scream at you and not permit the action. You must delete the 45 members first. This works whether you do it in table view, in an action query, or through VBA code. The database engine does all the work of protecting your data. Again, all this is yours by merely checking that little box.

I know that some of you are thinking, "But there's that other little box marked 'Cascade Delete Related Records' that becomes available as soon as I choose referential integrity. I can just use that and Access won't have to scream at me." True, check that box and you can delete any clan you wish and all of its clan members will follow along happily, just like lemmings over a cliff. You will never see them again. As you might surmise from the way I worded the previous sentences, I advise you to be extremely judicious with your use of cascading deletes. Sometimes cascading deletes makes sense. Most times they do not. For example, if you have a lookup table of state codes related to the addresses in your customer table, it's great to establish referential integrity to make sure no customer resides in a make-believe state. On the other hand, with cascading deletes enabled, if Joe Hotshot goes into the lookup table and accidentally deletes California, all of

your California customers are history. Not a good thing, huh? On the other hand, maybe that's what you really want to do if the "big one" hits and California falls into the Pacific Ocean. It's your call.

I was called to task after last month's general meeting when I chastised the thought of anyone not using the referential integrity option in Access. One person said he has a database in production that does not use referential integrity and everything works just fine. True, you can get along without enforcing referential integrity. Or can you? By using combo boxes on your forms that require that picks be made from the list you are enforcing referential integrity manually at the form level. The same goes for when you use a list box to populate a field in an underlying table. That's right, believe it or not, referential integrity is being enforced, but you are the one doing it, not Access. It's kind of like doing spreadsheets on paper instead of using Excel. Why bother? The application does a better job. Use the referential integrity option in Access.

I promised last month to discuss inner and outer joins as well as how to establish relationships between queries and tables. Unfortunately, I've run out of space and time. I'll tackle those topics next time around.

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Library Notes

We no longer have charge account access, so remember to bring your checkbook if you want anything from the library. To check an item out of the library, you must leave a check for value of the item as the deposit. Your check will not be

deposited if you bring the library item back when you agreed to return it. Come see what books and other learning materials are available at the next meeting.

Mark Evans, Librarian

Schedule of Presentations – subject to change

Updated 9/11/01 6:32 PM	Location	Meeting Date	Main Presentation Topic	Presenter	10-Minute Topic
September-01	ING Building	13-Sep	Properties of Controls	Jim Pilcher	XML for Smarties Mel Harris
October-01	Red Rocks Credit Union	11-Oct	Speed Ferret and Total Access Analyzer 9.5	Dan Lesandrini	Hidden Columns in Combo Boxes
November-01	ING Building	8-Nov	Beyond Macros (Intro to VBA)	Sco Scofield	Cascading Combo Boxes
December-01	Red Rocks Credit Union	13-Dec	Holiday Party	<none>	<none>

January-02	ING Building	10-Jan	Table and Field Design	Jim Pilcher	New Features of Access 2002
February-02	Red Rocks Credit Union	14-Feb	Access/Jet Security Model	Jim Pilcher	New Features of Access 2002
March-02	ING Building	14-Mar	Joins - Tables & Queries	Sco Scofield	
April-02	Red Rocks Credit Union	11-Apr	Intermediate VBA	Jeff Geller	
May-02	ING Building	9-May	So You Want To Be An Access Consultant?	Pilcher et al	
June-02	Red Rocks Credit Union	13-Jun	Pivot Tables	TBD	
July-02	ING Building	11-Jul	Creating & Manipulating Record Sets in VBA	TBD	
August-02	Red Rocks Credit Union	8-Aug	Designing Access Projects With Conversion to SQL Server In Mind	TBD	
September-02	ING Building	12-Sep	Custom Queries By Form Using VBA	TBD	
October-02	Red Rocks Credit Union	10-Oct	Stupid Report Tricks	Jim Pilcher	
November-02	ING Building	14-Nov			
December-02	Red Rocks Credit Union	12-Dec	Holiday Party	<none>	<none>