



Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 16, 2005

Time: 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM - Networking
6:30 PM to 9:00 PM - Main Meeting

Location: Microsoft Rocky Mountain Office
4643 South Ulster Street Suite 700
Denver, CO 80237

Directions: [Microsoft Offices](#)

This Month's Presentation

"Using Access Data with Office Smart Documents"

Presenter: J. Mel Harris

Your clients most likely have Office on their desktop. Have they asked you how to get information from their database into a Word or Excel document? Specifically into the task pane along side their document. The mystery will be exposed. It is easy using the Office Research Pane SDK, and Visual Studio Tool for Office 2005, but can also be done using VB6 implementing the ISmartDocument interface. We will look at these tools and technologies.

Our presenter is Mel Harris, long time DAAUG user group supporter and the founder of the "Toolman" educational series for Microsoft. He has presented many times at this and other user groups as well as for major Microsoft events. He is an MVP and MCSD and is the principle presenter for the OnLion Training Group, LLC which hosts online training on the practical use of Microsoft tools and technologies to improve productivity.

This Month's Thirty Minute Topic

"It Depends - Conditional Formatting in Access"

Presenter: Jim Pilcher

Impress your clients by displaying information with data-driven colors, backgrounds, and styles--all without VBA programming. Watch Jim Pilcher reveal the secrets of Access/Jet conditional formatting with a live demonstration.

Next Month

“My First Access Database - Believe it or not!”

Presenter: David Nealey

A Message from the Prez

"Involuntary Ways to Make Life Interesting"

If any of you have tried to email me at president@daaug.org in the past month, I have not received your email. Early in May we had a storm of virus-laden material hit all of the board member accounts. I was downloading 50-150 viruses per day through Outlook. My antivirus software sucked up massive amounts of CPU and alerted me regarding every single virus it found. I gave up, disabled my DAAUG account and did not check it again until June 3rd. The problem at ViaWest, our ISP, has been resolved. I access the president's account via the web today and mass deleted 932 emails, most of which had viruses and/or were (for some reason) in German.

So, if you sent me anything important in the past three to four weeks, please send again and I promise to give your request the attention it deserves.

On another note, we have lost our lab facilities. New Horizons has cut back its hours. Evening activities are no longer possible. We are looking for suitable digs, but the days of finding a lab with computers ready and waiting for us seem to be over. Your lab director, Art Thayer, and I are kicking around some ideas. One of mine is that we meet at the Borders Books in the Park Meadows area. Bring your laptop, buy coffee and scones, and work together in that setting. Borders also offers wireless Internet to subscribers and on a day-pass basis. Let me know if you like the idea or if you have a better one. I want to hear from you.

Your President,

Jim Pilcher

A Message from Our V.P.

"Speakers"

No. Not the kind that you plug into your stereo but the kind that stands up in front of our group and talks about Access. A couple of you out there have approached me at meetings about doing this. I've asked for an email from you. The only one that I've heard from is Louie Walker. I'm tiring to get our calendar filled and I need to hear from you.

Please email me at VicePresident@daaug.org.

Thanks,

Sco

New Event Calendar Website

There's a new website in town! It's MS Colorado Events at www.MSColoradoEvents.com.

To find user group meetings and other programmer related events in the Denver metro area and throughout Colorado, be sure to check out www.MSColoradoEvents.com.

If you know of a user group that is not posting their meetings, please let them know about www.MSColoradoEvents.com and have them contact the administrator at administrator@mscoloradoevents.com.

Sample page from www.MSColoradoEvents.com:

<< June 2005 >>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 ☛ Denver Area Access Users Group: Using Access Data with Office Smart Documents	17	18
19	20	21	22 ☛ Denver Area Access Users Group Lab	23	24	25
26	27 ☛ Denver Visual Studio User Group: New Enhancements for C# 2.0, Plus: Design Patterns Solutions	28 ☛ Boulder Visual Studio User Group: Declarative Unit Testing by Kathleen Dollard	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Monday, June 06, 2005

Welcome New, Renewing, and Returning Members

Joetta Andersen
Sam Northington

Last Month's Giveaway Winners

Kevin Bell – \$20 Softpro Certificate

Alan Ruff – MS Office Access 2003 Step By Step

Alan Shrater – Programming MS Office Access 2003

Louie Walker – Programming MS Visual Basic.net for MS Office Databases

Access Tip of the Month

“Filling Combo Boxes in Code”

Sometimes you just can't figure out how to fill a combo box with a SQL SELECT statement (query). A typical example is when you need to present a list of years to the user and you always want the current year to be at the top of the list. Additionally, when January 1st rolls around, you want the new-year to automatically be at the top of the list without the user having to call you for a programming change.

In the code below, I fill a combo box with the ten most recent years, the current year (whatever it is) being at the top of the list and being the default selection.

```
Private Sub Form_Load()  
    Dim intYear As Integer  
  
    With Me.MyCombo  
        .RowSourceType = "Value List"  
        .DefaultValue = Year(Date)  
  
        For intYear = Year(Date) To Year(Date) - 9 Step -1  
            .AddItem CStr(intYear)  
        Next intYear  
  
    End With  
  
End Sub
```

There you go. Whenever a simple query will not fill a combo or list box for you, a little VBA and creative thinking can get the job done.

Jim Pilcher, DAAUG President

Do you have a favorite Access tip you'd like to share with others? Send it to the newsletter editor at Communications@DAAUG.org.

Data Modeling by Clark Anderson

Please read Clark Anderson's article outlining Data Modeling with a Microsoft Access database. This bonus article for June contains over two pages of useful information. It begins starting on the first page following the Message from the Editor section. Don't miss it.

Denver Visual Studio User Group

As a service to our sister group...

Date: June 27, 2005.

Time: 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Rocky Mountain Office

“New Enhancements for C# 2.0”

C# 2.0 will have several exciting new features such as Anonymous Methods, Generics, Iterators, Nullable Types, and Partial Types. Joe will take you on a deep-dive into these new features, explaining what they are and what it means to the C# developer. You'll learn about the implications and tradeoffs of each feature so you can make intelligent design decisions when building applications.

Come with plenty of questions and prepare to see lots of code.

Presenter: Joe Mayo

For our complete agenda and e-mail, join the Denver Visual Studio Users Group™ at www.DenverVisualStudio.net.

Speaking Opportunity

We are now having a second, mini-presentation, at each meeting known as the "Thirty Minute Topic." Have you been afraid to sign up to be a main presenter because of your limited speaking experience? Haven't had the time to prepare a one and a half hour presentation? Have an idea that won't fill an hour and a half? Some other reason? Or excuse? :-) Then a "Thirty Minute Topic" (TMT) may be the answer for you!

- Short – only 30 minutes! You only need 15 to 20 minutes of content. The rest of the time will be used up in Q & A.
- Informal – We don't expect a polished presentation or speaker
- A trial – See what it's like to present to the group
- Fun – You are not being judged. DAAUG members and guests are courteous and would like to hear what you have to say.
- Designed to be useful - Present your favorite tip or two that others can take with them and use in their Access projects.

If you are interested, see our Vice-president, Sco (VicePresident@daaug.org,) or our President, Jim (President@daaug.org,) at a meeting or email one of them with "DAAUG TMT" in the subject line.

Special Request

The Access User's Group (AUG) in the Children's Hospital of Denver is still looking for speakers for their "brown-bag" noon hour sessions. They typically have 12 to 20 people in attendance. If you are interested, please contact:

Bob DiLaura
Bioinformatics Manager
Pediatric General Clinical Research Center

The Children's Hospital - Denver
University of Colorado Health Science Center
Email: dilaura.bob@tchden.org
Phone: 303-764-8373
Pager: 303-855-4604

Member to Member

Do you have something that might be of interest to other DAAUG members? Have a service? Something to sell? Looking for something? Then this new section is for you. And no, it doesn't need to be computer or Access related.

This section will be on a space available basis. (This is email! :-) Postings will be limited to members only. Please send your message as plain or RTF text in the body of an email. Messages with attachments will be deleted without being read. Also, include a contact phone number in case of problems. The editor reserves the right to edit or refuse any message.

Send your listings to Communications@daaug.org with "Member to Member" in the subject line.

Access classes by Microsoft Access MVP Sco Scofield

Check out our online schedule at <http://www.scobiz.com/ClassSchedule.asp>. We offer classes at all levels from beginning to advanced. To find the right class for you, check out our web site, call Sco at 303-757-7768, or send an email to Training@ScoBiz.com.

Be sure to ask for the special DAAUG member discount.

Database Consulting from Linx Consulting, Inc.

[Linx Consulting, Inc.](http://www.linxco-inc.com) offers database application development for small to medium sized organizations. For more information on how we may serve you please visit our Website at www.linxco-inc.com.

A Message from the Editor

We are always looking for speakers and topic ideas for our monthly meetings. To volunteer to be a speaker or to suggest a topic, see our Vice President, Sco Scofield (VicePresident@daaug.org) or our President, Jim Pilcher (President@daaug.org) at a meeting. You may also email one of them with "DAAUG Speaker" or "DAAUG Topic" in the subject line.

We are always looking for articles for our monthly newsletter. Send your articles to Communications@daaug.org with "DAAUG Article" in the subject line.

As always, for the latest DAAUG news, visit our web site at www.DAAUG.org.

This newsletter is being sent to everyone on the DAAUG mailing list, including members, past members, and people that have been associated with the group. If you are a non-member and wish to be removed from our list, please send an email to Communications@daaug.org with "REMOVE" in the subject line.

Data Modeling 101

by Clark Anderson

A small software development company is having some difficulties managing the hours spent on the variety of projects. The CFO has suggested creating a database for this purpose. They hired a consultant to facilitate this data modeling process.

The consultant set up a conference for all of the people involved: The CFO, it was her idea, the President, he is paying for it, the Bookkeeper, he has to run the reports, the Project Manager, she has to budget the hours and the Programmer, he has to record his hours spent.

The conference room was set up with a projection screen and individual terminals for each attendee to privately enter their input. This arrangement filters out any political pressures. When they are all done, each has had their input, can feel ownership and will enthusiastically work with the end result.

They agreed on several important Entities:

- 1) Position. Each of them served in their own unique position within the organization.
- 2) Project. These are the major activities for the organization's revenue. They also agreed that this could incorporate the specialized activities also necessary to the organization.
- 3) Task. It was brought up that most Projects need to be broken down into more manageable Tasks. A given Task may be appropriate for multiple Projects, (especially Software Development Projects).
- 4) LaborRecord. They needed a place to record the hours spent working on each Task within each Project.

A table was planned for each of these Entities. The consultant was careful to suggest names that described clearly the purpose in the company's everyday language.

They agreed that the Position Title would be expected to be unique, but there may be reason, in the future, to change it without really changing the meaning and purpose. To resolve this, a system assigned number will be the Primary Key and the Position Title will be an Attribute of the Position table. This same approach made sense for the Project and Task tables.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Task</u>
PositionID	ProjectID	TaskID
PositionTitle	ProjectName	TaskName

The discussions, next, turned to the relations between the tables.

- 1) A Project may be divided into (be related to) more than one Task.
- 2) A Task may be performed in (related to) more than one Project.

These two yes answers identify a many-to-many relation between Project and Task. To represent this, a relation table is created:

ProjectTaskAssignment table contains a list of all Tasks performed in each of the Projects. The Primary Keys from Project and Task are brought into the ProjectTaskAssignment table as Foreign Keys and combined to form its Primary Key.

<u>Project</u>		<u>ProjectTaskAssignment</u>
ProjectID	<-1-----oo-	ProjectID
		<u>Task</u>
		TaskID <-1--oo- TaskID

The next relation involves the Position table.

- 1) A ProjectTaskAssignment may require the labors of (be related to) more than one Position.
- 2) An individual Position may be asked to work on (be related to) more than one ProjectTaskAssignment.

Another many-to-many relation is identified. To represent this, another relation table is created:

ProjectTaskPositionAssignment table contains a record of all Positions assigned to the list of ProjectTaskAssignments. The Primary Keys from ProjectTaskAssignment and Positions are brought into the ProjectTaskPositionAssignment table as Foreign Keys and combined to form its Primary Key.

```

ProjectTaskAssignment      ProjectTaskPositionAssignment
ProjectID <-1-----oo-   ProjectID
TaskID <-1-----oo-     TaskID

      Position
      PositionID <-1--oo- PositionID

```

Every Data Model can have a virtual Entity called Time. Consider Time as a virtual table with one row for each point in the time period of interest. This virtual Time table does not have to be created for us to use its Primary Key (e.g.: Date) as a Foreign Key in another table as a Time Relation.

The next relation makes use of this virtual Time table.

- 1) A ProjectTaskPositionAssignment may be worked on (be related to) more than one Date.
- 2) On a specific Date, work may be done for (be related to) more than one ProjectTaskPositionAssignment.

This identifies another many-to-many relation. To represent this, another relation table is created:

LaborRecord table contains a record of all Dates having work done on the list of ProjectTaskPositionAssignments. The Primary Keys from ProjectTaskPositionAssignment and virtual Time table (Date) are brought into the LaborRecord table as Foreign Keys and could be combined to form its Primary Key. A decision was made, however, to create a system assigned number to use as the Primary Key, instead.

```

ProjectTaskPositionAssignment      LaborRecord
ProjectID <-1-----oo-           LaborRecordID
TaskID <-1-----oo-             ProjectID
PositionID <-1-----oo-         TaskID
                                   PositionID
                                   LaborRecordDate

```

All of the important Entities and their Relations have been defined by a set of tables. There are some other bits of information (Attributes) that must be put somewhere. This is done by, examining each of the Entity tables and Relation tables to find the most suitable home for these Attributes.

The total budgeted hours for a Project was added to the Project table as ProjectBudgetHours.

```

Project
ProjectID
ProjectName
ProjectBudgetHours

```

These budgeted hours must be divided amongst the tasks assigned to a Project, so they were added to the ProjectTaskAssignment table as ProjectTaskBudgetHours.

```

ProjectTaskAssignment
ProjectID
TaskID
ProjectTaskBudgetHours

```

In a similar sense the budget hours assigned to a ProjectTask must be divided amongst the Positions assigned to that ProjectTask. This was added to the ProjectTaskPositionAssignment table as ProjectTaskPositionBudgetHours.

```

ProjectTaskPositionAssignment
ProjectID
TaskID
PositionID
ProjectTaskPositionBudgetHours

```

The ideal place to record the each day's hours of work by each Position on their assigned Project/Task was in the LaborRecord table as ActualHours.

LaborRecord
LaborRecordID
ProjectID
TaskID
PositionID
LaborRecordDate
ActualHours

With this Data Model, every one was satisfied that hours of effort could be budgeted and tracked at the Project, Task and individual Position levels.