



## Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007

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

Location: **Microsoft USA - Rocky Mountain District**  
7595 Technology Way  
Suite 400 (4th Floor)  
Denver, CO 80237  
([driving directions](#))

DAAUG Website: [www.DAAUG.org](http://www.DAAUG.org)

## This Month's Presentation

### "SQL Server Express and Access "

**Presenter: Kevin Bell**

Although Access can provide a very robust database, there are times when it just doesn't have enough scalability or security for an application and alternatives need to be explored. In the past SQL Server was a viable solution, but it comes at an expense. Now there is a free version SQL Server 2005 called Express that is a free option that does not have the limitations that the previous free versions of SQL Server had. In this month's main presentation we will learn about some of the advantages and pitfalls of upgrading your database from Access to SQL Server Express.

Kevin has been developing custom business solutions with Access since version 1.0 and SQL Server since version 4.21. Over the years he and his partner Wendell, have deployed more than 100 production databases in Colorado and other cities around the world. Visit their web site at [www.access-experts.com](http://www.access-experts.com) for an Access tip of the day.

## Short Demonstration

To be announced at the main meeting.

## Next Month's Topic (May 17th, 2007)

To be announced.

If **you** are interested in presenting to the group, please contact Kevin Bell at [vicepresident@daaug.org](mailto:vicepresident@daaug.org).

## A Message from the Prez

### “Stuff”

Where do I start? How about something cool? The latest version of Virtual PC, Virtual PC (VPC) 2007, is a huge improvement over the previous (2004) version. I had pretty much given up on VPC until I got a quad core, 4 gigabyte pc. Out of boredom, I loaded VPC 2007 when it came out. Was I ever surprised! The performance was excellent. I was running Windows 2003 Server with SQL Server in the VPC on my Windows XP machine. I was amazed that it was almost as responsive as my native Windows 2003 Server machine.

If you haven't tried VPC, now is the time. This is a great way to test apps and try trial software in a "sandbox" that won't corrupt your computer. The VPC home page is <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/winfamily/virtualpc/default.msp>. This page has information about the product and a link to the download. The best part is that it's still free.

Next, we are in dire need of presenters, both for main presentations and for short topics. If we don't get anyone stepping forward, we will be starting the query series again. After all, it has been 2 1/2 years since the series was presented last. Talking to you before the meetings, during breaks, and after the meetings, a lot of you have told me about a lot of cool stuff that you're doing. It's time some of you step forward and tell the rest of the group what you're up to.

Now, for the bad news. Our Vice President, Kevin Bell, has tendered his resignation for personal reasons. Kevin, we will miss your participation.

Our door is always open.

This means that we now have an open board position. Anyone out there crushed that you weren't able to win a position with the group last January? Your group needs you!

Until we get a new Vice President, I have temporarily taken on those duties.

If anyone wants to do a presentation, long or short, or become Vice President, please send me an email at [President@daaug.org](mailto:President@daaug.org).

See you next Thursday,  
Sco

## New Members

The Denver Area Access Users Group gives thanks to our new members for supporting our user group.

Al Blair  
Thomas Sorg

## Access Tip of the Month

### “Database Speed with Linked Tables”

Most serious Access developers split their databases into the “front end” and “back end.” I call these pieces the Code and the Data. The Code portion of the database houses queries, forms, reports, macros, VBA modules, and VBA class modules. The Data portion contains just the tables and *nothing else*. The developer links the Data to the Code using “File/Get External Data/Link Tables” and he is off to the races. Now the developer can modify and distribute program changes without having to disrupt the data sitting out in a folder on the network.

Some performance problems exist with linked tables though. It’s a fact that linked tables, although useful, do not perform as quickly as tables residing in the same MDB as the code. This has to do with the concept of Connections. Access does not automatically keep a persistent connection to each linked table. Each time a linked table is addressed by Access, a connection must be created. The constant forging and breaking of connections to linked tables can seriously impact performance in an Access application, particularly in a multi-user networked installation.

If you have a sluggish linked-table application, I offer a potential solution. Below is some code that establishes a persistent connection to every linked table in a Code MDB. The code is completely generic and should work in any Access front end file. I use this in a database with 66 linked tables and it takes about 0.5 seconds to open 66 persistent connections. Take a quick look at it. I discuss the code below.

```
Public grsPC(0 To 99) As DAO.Recordset 'PC =  
    "PersistentConnection"  
  
Public Sub OpenPersistentConnections()
```

```

Dim tdf As DAO.TableDef
Dim intX As Integer

On Error GoTo ErrorHandler

For Each tdf In DBEngine(0)(0).TableDefs
    If Left$(tdf.Connect,10) = ";Database=" Then
        Set grsPC(intX) = DBEngine(0)(0).OpenRecordset(tdf.Name)
        intX = intX + 1
        If intX > 99 Then Exit For
    End If
Next tdf

ExitProc:
    Set tdf = Nothing
    Exit Sub
ErrorHandler:
    MsgBox Err.Description, vbOkOnly+vbExclamation, "Error " &
Err.Number
    Resume ExitProc
End Sub

```

OK, here are some comments about my code:

- 1) **Important!** Put this code in its own standard VBA module. Call the Sub during your startup procedure. That could be from a startup form's Load event or from a line in your AutoExec macro. Do **not** put this code behind a form or a report. When the form or report closes, the array of recordsets will go out of scope and you will lose your persistent connections.
- 2) You will notice that I open the recordsets in an array. That is an uncommon methodology in Access/VBA, but highly useful in this case.
- 3) You don't actually have to use these recordsets for anything. They exist only to keep the line of communication open between your Code MDB and a specific table in the Data MDB. When Access needs to talk to the table, it will use an existing connection if it exists—*your* connection!
- 4) I chose an array of 100 possible persistent open tables. You can choose any number you wish. If you notice, I have an escape in the loop just in case there are more linked tables than I planned on referencing. I could have counted the number of linked tables at run time and dynamically created an array of the proper size. I leave that exercise to you.
- 5) Because this code and the array exist in their own module, they will be loaded at the time the Sub is first called and will remain active until your application closes. Even if you call this procedure from a form which subsequently closes, your connections persist
- 6) There is no need to explicitly close these connections. When Access closes, the connections close. There are no residual considerations. It's all very clean.

Now you have a way to potentially increase speed in your linked-table applications. I will be happy to hear from any DAAUG member that tries this technique. I have noticed some nice speed improvements. Will you?

Your Lab Director, 2006-2007,  
**Jim Pilcher**  
**DataOne, Inc.**  
**(720) 301-0479**

## Last Month's Giveaway Winners

Unfortunately, the list of giveaways went missing near the end of the March meeting. If someone finds the list, please turn it in to Dean Haze so we can publish it in the next newsletter.

## The New Denver Microsoft Visio User Group

There is a new Microsoft Visio user group forming in Denver. It will meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Microsoft office. There will be a networking/gathering time from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM with the meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Please see the Colorado Event Calendar Website for meeting dates.

## Colorado Event Calendar Website

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](http://www.MSColoradoEvents.com).

If you know of a user group that is not posting their meetings, please let them know about [www.MSColoradoEvents.com](http://www.MSColoradoEvents.com) and have them contact the administrator at [administrator@mscoloradoevents.com](mailto:administrator@mscoloradoevents.com).

## Denver Visual Studio User Group

*As a service to our sister group...*

Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month)  
Networking & Refreshments 5:30 p.m., Meeting 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: [Microsoft, Desert Mountain](#) (Denver)

**“Why Workflow?”**

## **Presenter: Stan Spilman**

As developers we often find ourselves developing applications supporting business processes. In so doing we rely on people to initiate the process, approve documents the process uses, resolve situations that arise, and more. It is often possible to specify a discrete series of steps. Each step most likely is a result from breaking down a problem into manageable parts. These parts are known as activities. Activities together with steps are ingredients to workflow.

Microsoft offers a strong framework to help the developer spend more time solving real business problems and less time building a workflow. While building activities for Workflow are encouraged Microsoft offers many activities out of the box.

"Now is the time to explore the power of .NET 3.0 and Windows Workflow."

For our complete agenda and e-mail, join the Denver Visual Studio Users Group™ at [www.DenverVisualStudio.net](http://www.DenverVisualStudio.net).

## **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 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](mailto:Communications@daaug.org) with "Member to Member" in the subject line.

### ***Access classes by M.L. "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](mailto:Training@ScoBiz.com).

Be sure to ask for the special DAAUG member discount.

### ***Linx Consulting, Inc. would like to help your organization***

[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 call Patrick Headley at (303) 916-5522 or visit our Website at [www.linxco-inc.com](http://www.linxco-inc.com). The entire site contains examples of what we can do for your database application or Website. Please take a look.

# A Message from the Editor

## “Presentations and Presenters”

As with Sco, I too use Virtual PC 2004 and 2007. He's right. VPC2007 does perform better, even when it's running in the background. It's more stable too. I was unable to successfully run more than two VPCs with 2004 but I have run three VPCs with 2007. The thing stopping me from running more VPCs at the same time is memory; oh, and the fact that the more machines running on the host the harder it is to keep track of everything that's going on. Take advantage of Microsoft's free offer. It may not last forever and it's well worth using.

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, Kevin Bell ([vicepresident@daaug.org](mailto:vicepresident@daaug.org)) or our President, Sco Scofield ([president@daaug.org](mailto:president@daaug.org)). You may also email one of them with "DAAUG Speaker" or "DAAUG Topic" in the subject line of your message.

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

Please visit [www.DAAUG.org](http://www.DAAUG.org) for the latest news, consultant lists, officer email addresses and more.

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](mailto:Communications@daaug.org) with "REMOVE" in the subject line.