



Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2006

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](#)
DAAUG Website: www.DAAUG.org

Dear DAAUG Members,

We have received sad news that the mother of Dean Haze has recently passed away. Dean is a long-time member of DAAUG and serves on the Board of Directors as Secretary/Treasurer. Please keep Dean and his family in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this time of grief.

This Month's Presentation

“Hitting for the Cycle with Outlook and Access”

Presenter: Mike Nindorf

This month's presentation will demonstrate an application that uses Outlook, Access, Word and Adobe (writer) to create a Bankruptcy (PDF) Invoice. This process reads and modifies Outlook forms while storing the information in an Access database. The process will then pull correct bill information from an Oracle database, calculate the percentage used for the bankruptcy invoice, do the calculations and finally create the appropriate Word and PDF files. A form will then display for the Analyst to verify/change the results and give the option to send the required PDF file back to the requestor.

Our presenter, Mike Nindorf, is currently employed at Sprint and has been automating business processes since 1985- yes, that is pre Windows. Programming knowledge base include VBA, Holo, Excel and SQL. An expert in data-mining and with innovative way of solving business problems, his most recent accomplishments include automating an automated tool that will unzip, balance and burn to CD "electronic bills" for over 2,000 customers per month.

Product Demonstration

“A Double Play of Access Tools”

Presenter: Kevin Bell

In keeping with this month's baseball theme, we will look at a pair of tools to help polish up your Access code and forms. Smart Indenter from Office Automation is a utility to tidy up VBA code by rebuilding the indentation of each line. Consistently indented code makes it easier to read and debug. AAD Consulting's Custom Form and Report Design Toolbar is a handy Custom Toolbar for Access, for faster and less tedious resizing and positioning of form and report controls.

Next Month

“You don't need to be a web guru to use a Web Service”

Presenter: Danny J. Lesandrini

A Message from the Prez

“Office 2007 – It's New, It's Exciting – And Now We Can Talk About It!”

Hello Members and Friends,

Member Mel Harris and I were in Redmond for the “Microsoft Office System Developers Conference” last month. The good news is that this was not a “Non-disclosure Agreement” (NDA) event. This means that pretty much everything about the “2007 Microsoft Office System” is now public information and that we can talk about it freely. One thing that was made very clear is that SharePoint is a big part of document sharing with all of the products. There will be many features in the products that will not work without it. Fortunately, those of us making simple desktop databases should not be affected by this. We saw some excellent demos of the new XML document formats in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. (Something else not affecting Access.) The new file formats are very cool. Now you will be able to build one of these documents from scratch without having to have the program available. (Although you could, I don't really recommend using NotePad for this! ☺) This will save a step and the overhead of using automation to build an Office document.

The Access team heard loud and clear from the developers in the alpha and beta-1 programs about using Access as a development tool. It looks like there are going to be lots of whitepapers available. The big topic is of course controlling the user interface (UI); specifically, how you can customize the ribbon. Customizing the ribbon will require using XML. Something else we'll be seeing more of is using Access with Visual Studio. Now that we can talk about the new Access features, we are going to start working in some mini-presentations on them at the meetings.

I talked to a couple of the Access product managers and they sounded very interested in doing a couple more “Live Meeting” presentations for us this year. We'll let you know who, when, and what topics as soon as they are lined up.

See you at the meeting.

Your President,

M.L. "Sco" Scofield

Welcome New, Renewing, and Returning Members

We missed Greg Holle in our last newsletter. Welcome to the group Greg.

Look for the list of new, renewing and returning members for March/April in the May newsletter.

Last Month's Giveaway Winners

Jim Hutto - Softpro \$20 cert

Duane Hanstein - MS Press - Access 2003 Step by Step

Galen Moore - MS Press - Building Access 2003 Applications

Ed Dowd (your new DAAUG Webmaster) - 256k memory drive

Mark Evans – Multi-color LED Night Light

Danny Lesandrini - Scofield Business class 25% discount

David Joseph - WROX - SQL Server 2005 Programming

Carolyn Johnson - WROX - Expert One on One Access Application Development

Eric Blommel - WROX - Beginning Access 2003 VBA

Marty Bolt - Sybex - Mastering VBA

Access Tip of the Month

“Make VBA Properties Your Property”

Most VBA programmers pretty much ignore the Property Let, Get, and Set procedures that are allowed in code behind a form or report. The concept behind these types of procedures can be very valuable, so let's briefly explore *Property Get* this month.

A *Public Property Get* procedure allows other code in your application to find out something about the form where the property is defined. Commonly it will return a validated value. But a *Property Get* procedure is a rare animal in VBA code. A typical programmer will create a public variable in the form's code module to hold a value he wants the outside world to see. That technique will generate a line of code something like this at the top of the form's code module:

```
Public MyDate as Variant          'allow nulls
```

Then the calling code elsewhere in the application can reference the property like this:

```
Dim varDate as Variant  
varDate = Form_MyForm.MyDate
```

This is all well and good if the original form actually puts a value in that module level variable. Merely defining it does nothing to populate the variable. The programmer will have to figure out the proper time and place to put a value into that public variable. If he forgets to do it, the calling code can fail.

Now look at the Property Get procedure. This is a possible procedure from that same original form:

```
Public Property Get MyDate() as Variant

    If IsDate(Me.txtDateOfBirth.Value) then
        MyDate = CDate(Me.txtDateOfBirth.Value)
    Else
        MyDate = Null
    Endif

End Property
```

Here we have a simple procedure that not only returns MyDate, but it does a little checking to be sure that a real date or a Null is being returned from a date text box on the form. It also forces an explicit conversion to a date value when Null is not returned. All sorts of validation can be put into a routine like this to make sure that the calling code gets what it is really expecting. Having the desired value's host form do all of the validation saves a lot of time and prevents programming errors in the future. The programmer does not have to validate the value each time he retrieves it in his application. Also, the property code is not executed unless the property is invoked. In the case of the public variable example above, any validation code must be run every time the value is set, whether used or not by other code. The *Property Get* approach can be more efficient.

As you can see, the ability to use VBA to return the value of a form or report custom property can be very powerful. Custom properties have more uses than the simple example I've shown you here. Later this year I plan to do a presentation on the full range of Property Let, Get, and Set procedures.

Your Lab Director,

Jim Pilcher

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

Denver Visual Studio User Group

As a service to our sister group...

Date: Monday, April 24, 2006
Time: 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Location: Microsoft Rocky Mountain Office

“Three Cool Namespaces: XML, Regex, and Crypto”

Presenter: Rod Stephens

The .NET Framework 2.0 defines more than 160 namespaces! This talk provides a brief introduction to three very useful but often-overlooked namespaces that let you do cool things that are absolutely needed:

XML, RegularExpressions, and Cryptography.

Book Donations

“Wiley/Sybex/Wrox Become Major Supporters of DAAUG”

Please remember the generous donations made by Wiley/Sybex/Wrox when you go shopping for your next technical book.



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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 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.

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. The Website has been redesigned with a new, consistent look and new “Of Interest” items have been added. The entire site contains examples of what we can do for your Website. Please take a look.

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.

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.

A Message from the Editor

“Wanted – New DAAUG Logo”

Your DAAUG Board of Directors is considering a new or additional logo for the Denver Area Access Users Group. The current logo is the one you saw at the top of this newsletter. We like this logo but it looks best as a header. We would like a logo that anyone would recognize at any size or any location in a document. A suggestion that I came up with was a dog (get it, DAAUG), similar to the one that walks across the screen on my Website at www.linx-co.com. However, the logo doesn't have to be a dog or any animal. It should be easy to fit into a small rectangle and it should be easily resized. If you have a good idea for a new DAAUG logo and/or if you are an artistic person who would like to help your group, please reply with an email to communications@daaug.org or talk to Patrick Headley or another board member at the next meeting.

“Presentations and Presenters”

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) or our President, Sco Scofield (president@daaug.org). 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.