



Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 17th, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM - Networking
6:30 PM to approx. 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

This Month's Presentation

“Database Show ‘N Tell”

Presenters: Duane Hanstein, Jim August, and Bruce Handley

Remember how fun Show ‘N Tell was in kindergarten? Well this month you can re-live a bit of your youth. Come to the Denver Area Access Users Group database Show ‘N Tell! We will have short presentations by three members who have volunteered to show off a few cool features in an Access database that they have created.

- Duane Hanstein of Dynamic Association Mapping, (DAM) will demonstrate using Access to update a Geographic Information System GIS.
- Jim August of CORE, Inc. will talk about his company's reliability database application.
- Bruce Handley of Handley Computer Corp. will demonstrate some features of one of his company's products called ClientMinder.

Short Presentation

Due to this month's meeting format, there will be no product demonstration or Access tip.

Next Month's Topic (*September 21, 2006*)

“Access 2007 Ribbon Extensibility”

Presenter: Michael McCormack
Program Manager for Microsoft Office Access
Redmond, WA

September will be another Live Meeting presentation from Redmond, WA.

If you are interested in presenting to the group, please contact Kevin Bell at vicepresident@daaug.org.

A Message from the Prez

“A Broken Promise?”

For those of you wondering what's going on with my statement last January that I was not going to do any more presentations this year, here's the scoop. Last month was a special case. First, Kevin was not available to do one of his product reviews. Second, and this may seem like nitpicking, but it wasn't a regular presentation. It was a short, tip presentation. In fact, based on a couple of comments last month, I'm going to have to do another one on variable declarations. It seems that a few of us have forgotten that Public does not always mean global. I plan on doing “A Variable Declaration Review and Class Module Properties” either next month before the webcast or in October. Stay tuned.

I have committed to the current V.P. (and the group) that I will do four main presentations next year. The last query presentation that I did was in September 2004, almost two years ago. Are you ready for more queries? Do you want more VBA? Something else? Send me an email at President@daaug.org and let me know what you'd like me to present next year.

Anybody else willing to step up and make a long term commitment to your group? Kevin would love to get next year's presentations lined up now so that next year's V.P. will not have to suffer month-to-month like he has this year.

Your President,

M.L. "Sco" Scofield

Welcome New, Renewing, and Returning Members

Ed Bade *Renewing*
Julie Graham *New*
Dean Haze *Renewing*
Daryl Jacobs *Renewing*
David Joseph *Renewing*
Danny Lesandrini *Renewing*
Galen Moore *Renewing*
William Morrill *Renewing*

Last Month's Giveaway Winners

Pro Soft \$20 Certificate -- John Pirnat
Dura Pro Flash Light -- Eric Blommel
256 Mb Jump Drive -- Julie Graham
Night Light -- Bill Morrill
Sybex Lunch Box -- Galen Moore
Sybex Lunch Box -- Robert Loomis
Inside MS SQL 2005 Programming -- David Joseph
Inside MS SQL 2005 Programming -- Ted Shinn
Document Design -- Dale Tweden

Our Founder is a TV Star!

Did any of you see Colorado & Company Monday (8/7/2006) morning? Our group's founder, Diane Winger, was one of the guests. She was there promoting her website and blog at www.Colorado-for-Free.com.

Check it out. There is a lot of cool stuff going on in our wonderful state. Thank you Diane for putting it in one, easy to find place.

DAAUG Library

“Want to Use the DAAUG Library but You Don’t Know How?”

The Denver Area Access Users Group has a library of learning materials and you are welcome to use it for free, as part of your DAAUG membership. If you know of a specific learning resource that would benefit you but it’s not in the Library, you may also make a request to get that item and we will see what we can do to get it for you.

To request an item for check-out from our Library, perform the following steps:

- 1) Go to www.daaug.org.
- 2) Click on the Library link.
- 3) Browse through the list of items in our library. If you want to know more about a particular item, click on the Info link next to the item. The item description will open in a separate browser window.
- 4) When you find the item you want, make note of the title, author and deposit amount. Then, click the Librarian's hyperlink that's just above the item list. This will open a new email where you may complete your request to our Librarian, [Mark Evans](#).
- 5) Mark will bring your requested item to the next main meeting for you to check-out. Please bring a check for the deposit amount made payable to DAAUG. Your check will be held per the rules outlined at the top of the Library Web page.

Access Tip of the Month

“Make-Table Queries—Bane or Boon?”

I recently inherited a sizeable Access application that uses a dozen make-table queries to perform its special form of magic. I was intrigued with the programmer's style because I've used Access since version 1.1 and I never include make-table queries in a delivered application. To be sure, they have their uses, but I don't consider a production application to be one of them.

As I poured over the application it became obvious to me that the programmer had used make-table queries as a crutch to circumvent learning more about advanced query design. I was able to replace every single make-table query with a different kind of query (two union queries, one crosstab query, and nine select queries) that performed as well or better than the original. My feeling that a make-table query should not be in a production environment was only reinforced after this exercise.

I use make-table queries occasionally, but only during development or when trying to knock out some information in a throw-away database. During serious development, these queries are extremely useful to pull a lot of data and dump it into a prototype table: one that serves as the beginning of a permanent table in the database. Often I'm pulling that data from linked Excel sheets or FoxPro tables. Once created, I modify the prototype table fields to better match the data, add a primary key, add indexes, and add descriptions to all fields. I delete the make-table query and never use it again. It is sometimes replaced with two queries: a delete query that removes some or all records, and an append query that adds a new set of records to the now-permanent table.

I'll lay out the advantages and disadvantages for make-table queries here:

Advantages:

1. Quickly create a table full of data

Disadvantages:

1. No control over duplicate records because there is no primary key or any other indexes.
2. Data types are generally not optimum: Text typically is 255 characters, Integers can come in as the Double data type, Yes/No as Integer, etc.
3. None of the fields have descriptions attached to them.
4. No validation rules are in place if the table is going to be used for updates in the future.
5. The table is not related to any other table in the database, which allows violation of potential referential integrity rules enjoyed by all other tables in the database.
6. The data in a table created as a result of a make-table query is merely a duplicate of data elsewhere in the database. If at all possible, you are better off using a real query to present the data, not a new table with duplicated data.

I'm sure there are other disadvantages and, yes, even an advantage or two that I overlooked. But I think you get the general idea here that using make-table queries have far more down sides than up. My advice: Always use permanent tables, even for temporary data. The ability to use precise data types and define a primary key is worth the effort alone. Save the make-table queries for interactive use and during development.

Cheers.

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.

The DAAUG Laptop Lab Report

Unabashed Promotion

Your DAAUG lab has been fabulously successful this year. We meet every fourth Wednesday at Caribou Coffee, 5198 South Broadway from 6:30 P.M. until closing. The July lab saw twelve members enjoying an evening of coffee, food, and Microsoft Access. This is your opportunity to show your stuff as a consultant, or learn your stuff as a budding developer. Several professional Access developers attend every meeting and let the knowledge flow. For those small problems that can be addressed in an evening, it truly is free consulting.

Rules of the Game

Unfortunately, the olden days of a lab with computers set up for DAAUG are gone. This is a laptop lab that depends upon members' laptop computers. In this day and age though, that has not been a problem. If you want some help but do not own a laptop computer, bring a USB flash drive with your application on it. Someone is sure to be able to load it and help you. Wireless Internet access is available—a 24 hour pass is approximately \$3. We may see free wireless access sometime early next year. And, because Caribou Coffee is kind enough to host a gathering like ours, we always encourage you to purchase a cup to support the shop.

When Does It Happen Again?

The next lab will be August 23rd. The remainder of 2006 will be September 27th and October 25th. We do not host a lab in November and December because of the proximity to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

I look forward to seeing you at your Laptop Lab this month. It's great fun and a way to socialize with the Access development community.

Your Lab Director,

Jim Pilcher

Denver Visual Studio User Group

As a service to our sister group...

Date: Monday, August 28th, 2006
Time: 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Location: Microsoft Rocky Mountain Office

**“LINQ, the Language INtegrated Query for .NET --
will change the way you interact with your database!”**

Presenter: **Joe Mayo**

LINQ makes query, set, and transform operations, like SQL statements first class citizens in .NET languages like C# and VB. Find out about the general-purpose query facilities added to the .NET 2.0 Framework that apply to all sources of information, not just relational or XML data.

After two decades, the industry has reached a stable point in the evolution of object-oriented (OO) programming technologies. Programmers, like you, now take for granted features like classes, objects, and methods. In looking at the current and next generation of technologies, it has become apparent that the next big challenge in programming technology is to reduce the complexity of accessing and integrating information that is not natively defined using OO

technology. The two most common sources of non-OO information are relational databases and XML.

Rather than add relational or XML-specific features to our programming languages and runtime, with the LINQ project the better approach adds general purpose query facilities to the .NET Framework that apply to all sources of information, not just relational or XML data.

FMI: [LINQ on Channel9](#) and [LINQ Project Overview](#)

Joe Mayo, will show you how LINQ works and makes data access more intuitive than the ADO.NET code you use today. Plus, you'll also learn about two LINQ extensions, DLINQ and XLINQ, that allow you to query SQL and XML data.

Joe Mayo is an author, independent consultant, trainer, and speaker specializing in .NET technologies. He opened the [C# Station](#) web site on July 4, 2000, and has been working with C# and .NET since the pre-beta. Joe's been programming for over 18 years and is currently a consultant and instructor, serving customers in the Denver area.

He has worked on main frame, desktop, and communications systems. In addition to varied software developer positions, he has fulfilled roles as a Software Architect, Project Manager, and Operations Center Supervisor. Joe is a Microsoft MVP - C#, MCSA, and MCT.

For our complete agenda and e-mail, join the Denver Visual Studio Users Group™ at 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 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 database application or 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.

Please visit 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 with "REMOVE" in the subject line.