



Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 12th, 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

“Normal Forms”

Presenter: Jim Pilcher,

DAAUG Lab Director

Everything you ever wanted to know about database normalization and referential integrity.

Jim Pilcher is a prominent Microsoft Access developer in the Colorado front range area, having worked with Access professionally since 1992. A Microsoft Certified Professional, Jim's company, DataOne, Inc., maintains a broad clientele base providing Access & SQL Server solutions for local enterprises and large international companies.

See Jim's company profile on our DAAUG web site in the Consultant list and on his web site at www.DataOneDenver.com.

Product Demonstration

“New Field Types in Access 2007”

Presenter: Kevin Bell,

DAAUG Vice President

Keeping with this month’s theme of data normalization, we will look at the new field types in Access 2007 and see how they might change your relational design approach.

Next Month’s Topic (November 16, 2006)

“Word Automation from Access”

Presenter: Alan Ruff

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

A Message from the Prez

“Laying a Solid Foundation”

After being rescheduled several times, we are finally going to have the presentation from our Lab Director and past President, Jim Pilcher, titled “Normal Forms.” No, this is not a presentation about making and/or improving data entry forms. Jim will be talking about database normalization. This is an important topic that anyone using a database, whether it be Access or some other database product, must understand.

As an article that I pass out in my classes says, *“You may not be able to produce the reports you want even though all of the data is there, simply because of poor database design.”* Normalization is an important step in getting a database designed properly. After all, what's the point of putting information in a database if you can't get it back out again in a useful format? Like a house built on a poor foundation, a database built on a poor foundation is sure to crumble.

See you Thursday.

Your President,

M.L. "Sco" Scofield

Welcome New, Renewing, and Returning Members

Haishon Ellis
Chris Nesinger
Linda Huff
Mark Evans
Ramon Martin
Mart Trevithick

Last Month's Giveaway Winners

\$20 Softpro Certificate - Tom Breay
Nightlight - George Mosteller
Flashlight - Bill Morrill
256 Jump Drive - Clark Anderson
Visual Basic 2005 - Linda Huff
Access Application Development - David Joseph
Mastering SQL Server 2005 - Ramon Martin

Access Tip of the Month

“Fix a Corrupted Access Form”

Sometimes Microsoft Access does strange things that even the most experienced user cannot understand. I was writing code the other day to store in a table the properties of all conditional formats in my database. My intent was to open the table, modify some of the conditional formats, and then have other code put back the modified formats. It seemed like an easier way than to move from form to form, looking for and changing any errant format conditions. The problem I encountered occurred when putting back the modified formats. Several forms would not save using the DoCmd.Save acform “MyFormName” line of code. I got a message saying that Access was unable to complete the operation. I compacted and repaired the database to no avail. I decompiled the database and only two of the problematic forms were corrected and saved properly when I re-ran my routine. I was stumped, almost.

I recalled two undocumented VBA functions that I thought might save the day. They are SaveAsText and LoadFromText. Used together, they allow a programmer to convert a form or report to a text file (yes, you read that correctly) and save it on the hard drive. You can delete the saved object from the database, compact and repair, and re-import the object from the text file. This save and restore process can virtually always eliminate strange behavior that no other approach can.

Here are the two VBA functions that I wrote to help me out:

```

Public Function SaveText() As Boolean
    Const cstrPath As String = "D:\Clients\Boeing\SaveAsText\"
    Const cstrFormName As String = "fsubRefSched"

    On Error Resume Next
    Kill cstrPath & cstrFormName
    On Error GoTo 0

    SaveAsText acForm, cstrFormName, cstrPath & cstrFormName
    DoCmd.DeleteObject acForm, cstrFormName

End Function

Public Function LoadText() As Boolean
    Const cstrPath As String = "D:\Clients\Boeing\SaveAsText\"
    Const cstrFormName As String = "fsubRefSched"

    On Error GoTo 0

    LoadFromText acForm, cstrFormName, cstrPath & cstrFormName

End Function

```

And here is how you use my code to fix a corrupted form:

1. Make a backup copy of your database, just in case. This is a must.
2. Create a folder on your hard disk that matches the cstrPath constant in the code. You could have the procedure do that, but I chose not to do so in this case.
3. Put the name of the form you want to fix into the cstrFormName variable.
4. Execute my VBA SaveText() function.
5. Compact and Repair the database to get rid of the remnants of the old form. Remember, merely deleting an object does not remove it from the database file. You must compact and repair to complete that process.
6. Execute my VBA LoadText() function.
7. Immediately compile your database code, before any attempt to save objects or close the file.
8. Compact and Repair the database once again. You are set. Your form will very likely exhibit no further strange behavior.

Of course, you want to be sure that the strange behavior you are trying to eliminate is not of your own doing. More than once I've tried this Save/Load process only to find that some stray code was actually causing my problems. This process will not fix programmer error!

I have written very extensive code using these functions. I have even saved and restored entire Access databases, including queries, forms, reports, macros, and

modules using these functions. The process can be tedious and really requires a written script because there are several steps that cannot be programmed, as you may have gathered from my instructions above. But the process can work wonders on database objects that seem to have that undiscoverable error that continues to baffle.

Oh, by the way. My Access form *was* corrupted and invoking these procedures soothed my nerves. I'll bet you thought I had forgotten to tell you the end of my story, right?

Until next time,

Jim Pilcher, Lab Director 2006

Denver Visual Studio User Group

As a service to our sister group...

Date: Monday, October 30th, 2006

Time: 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Rocky Mountain Office – (***) the new location (***)

“Security - The Identity Metasystem, Active Directory Federation Services (ADFS), and Windows CardSpace (formerly 'InfoCard')”

Presenter: **Keith Brown**

"You'll take away from this session fresh ideas about how to authenticate and authorize users in your Web applications and Web services. You'll also learn how important it is to avoid creating more identity silos!"

The Identity Metasystem is a new way of representing digital identity. It's a claims-based identity backplane that can be used for authentication and authorization on the Internet. This session will introduce these concepts in a very concrete way including demos of **ADFS, Active Directory Federation Services**, that show how you can reap the benefits of federated and claims-based identity in your own Web applications. We'll follow up with a discussion of **Windows CardSpace** (formerly 'InfoCard'), which surfaces the metasystem to end users and puts them in control of their identities.

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

"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.