
Subject: Finding a structure in a structure

Posted by [timothy.williams](#) on Mon, 07 Jan 2002 21:09:10 GMT

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I have an application that is using Dataminer to access a database, one of the functions being to display the tables in the database. So far, my database has been Oracle on a Sun, where my IDL on a PC. I'm now migrating over some of the tables to Access on the PC. I now have a problem because one of my fields has a date in it which was a STRING before, but in the Access database is the structure ODBC_SQL_TIMESTAMP. I'm getting an error that structures can't contain other structures.

My plan now is to write code to convert this structure to a string so I can put the date in the table widget structure.

How? I can do a tag_names(recordset, /structure_name) and test for 'ODBC_SQL_TIMESTAMP', but I'm not sure how to search through each member in the database recordset structure. I don't know how to handle the errors I will have when I call tag_names() with the members that aren't structures.

Thanks for any help.

Subject: Re: Finding a structure in a structure

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 08 Jan 2002 16:47:31 GMT

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Tim Williams wrote:

>

> By rectifying this directly in Access, do you mean converting the
> format of the
> field from Date/Time to Text? I tried that, but Access reformatted the
> data from the Medium Date format, which is what I had in the original
> table, to the General Date.

This is not exactly IDL, but...

You have full control over Access date -> string conversion. In fact, VBA FORMAT function is completely intuitive and can return dates formatted exactly as you'd like. You can look it up in Access VBA help, or email me directly because we are about to get flamed for polluting IDL NG with MS stuff :)

> I don't want to change the format of the
> data, so I guess I have to do it myself. The Access people over here
> say I can't change the way Access converts Dates to Text. (I suppose
> this is another example of Bill making your decisions for you.)

Those people are mistaken, I think. I have not yet seen one thing that you can't do in Access (except, maybe, making your computer walk over your desktop) - it is just that you need to dig through a lot of stuff to find out *how* to do it.

- > I don't really know as much as I should about Access, (or Oracle
- > either for that matter), but I'll have databases on both, so I don't
- > want to depend on either. It just depends on which database the user
- > connects to as to which tables will be available.

I think that for database control and management you will be better off using Access (as compared with IDL). I don't know Oracle - sorry. IDL ODBC in my opinion is merely the means for pulling data out of a DB for processing in IDL. But I find Access very easy to learn - you can have a simple application up and running in 3-4 days, starting from scratch (that is, having no pre-existing knowledge of VBA and Access). It is even faster if you have a sample database to play with. Of course, advanced stuff and high performance features will come later.

Good luck,
Pavel
