

Hi [FirstName],

# Simply Access Tips

## Issue 1 – 2008

January 4<sup>th</sup> 2008

Welcome to the first edition of Simply Access Tips for 2008.

Housekeeping, as usual, is at the end of the Newsletter so, if you need to know how to unsubscribe, white-list, etc., then scroll to the bottom.

### Weekly Update

Hi [FirstName],

Just a reminder, back issues of Simply-Access Tips can be found at:

<http://www.simply-access.com/SimplyAccessTipsNewsletter1.html>

Yes, I am up-to-date, apart from the last couple.

First of all, welcome to all the new subscribers and to my regular subscribers, a big 'Hello' to you all. I hope 2008 will be a great year for you.

I sent out 23 Newsletters last year, not quite the 26 I had aimed for. Let's see how I go this year.

A quick update as to where I am up to:

For those of you who do not know, I have bought into a hairdressing salon with my sister and her daughter – nothing new to report here, it is progressing along reasonably well.

Our black Labrador is still with us. He is up and down like a Yo-Yo. One day I think this is it, time to ring the vet, the next day he bounces back.

My family is well, Christmas activities went smoothly. We have the big family thing and this year it was at my sister's place. We all usually contribute something to the meal, which makes it easy on everyone; although the person who has it seems to contribute the most.

We still need rain, not much we can do about that though. Although, no rain does have its advantages, we can plan to our hearts content for out door activities and the chances it will rain are extremely remote. We have also got very lazy about leaving things outside as we don't have to worry that they will get wet. This though, catches us off-guard at times and there is then a quick run-around to bring things in if it does rain.

Cheers,

Julie

## Questions

Unfortunately, I am unable to answer individual questions, personally, via email. Purely due to the fact that all I would do is answer questions. You do, though, have three other options for me to answer your questions:

- 1) I can include them in an edition of Simply Access Tips (if you do not mind your question being shared). There may be a wait before they are included, depending on how many I have.
- 2) You can go to All Experts and post your question there; I answer one question per day from All Experts (this helps to keep control of the questions):

<http://www.allexperts.com/browse.cgi?catLvl=3&catID=1440>

If I am not available, there are many other experts.

- 3) Or, you can subscribe to my Question Subscription Service, \$23.95 AUD per month, for unlimited questions:

<http://www.simply-access.com/MicrosoftAccessQuestions.html>

## Learn VBA

You may have noticed I have used VBA code in some of my answers. If you would like to learn this valuable skill to enable you to expand the flexibility of your Microsoft Access database, then click below to get your first lesson free, or cut and paste into your URL Address bar. You will need to scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your information into the form.

<http://www.simply-access.com/LearnVBA.html>

## Tips

**NOTE:** If you are copying code from the tips and find it is not copying correctly – i.e. the html is also being copied, then copy them into NotePad first (not Microsoft Word, as Word keeps the formatting) then copy from NotePad into Microsoft Access.

### ***Tip 1: Importing a Text Data Type into a Date Field***

#### **Question**

I need to change a text field to date/time field in a MS Access query. The text is from a linked table (linked to a txt file). The field value is like this

Wed Jul 11 14:27:05 2007

#### **Answer**

Try this as one possible solution:

Create a new table, with all the same fields as the text file, but add another field called datefield. Make this a date/time data type with the format as general number.

Create an append query (open the query in design view) and add the linked text table. Add all the fields to the query design grid. In the next available column, type the following in the top row:

```
Mid([textdate],9,2) & " " & Mid([textdate],5,3) & " " & Right([textdate],4) & " " & Mid([textDate],12,8)
```

This will display the date in the correct order to be appended to the new table. Change [textDate] to the name of the field that stores the date to be converted.

To append, on the toolbar > Query > append Query - follow the prompts, choosing to append to the new table.

This will add a new row in your query design grid - 'Append To', these should all be filled in, if you have named your columns exactly the same as the field names in the text file; except for the last column - add 'datefield' here to the 'append to' row.

Run the query by clicking on the red exclamation mark. This will append your data to a new table, with the date field completed.

## **Tip 2: Averaging Time Durations**

### **Question**

Subject:

Question: I have both Starttime and StopTime fields in a query and am using this expression to get the duration Expr1: Format([StartTime]-1-[EndTime],"Short Time")in the same query. When I try to use the Expr1 in another Query for the average duration of the records in the first query I get a data mismatch error. I have tried to reformat all fields the same but the last query does not offer format options. It's like it is text that can't be used as a number

### **Answer**

Because you have used the Format function, you are correct in guessing the field is being stored as text - try using the DateDiff function instead:

DateDiff(interval, date1, date2)

Intervals can be:

yyyy Year

q Quarter

m Month

y Day of year

d Day

w Weekday

ww Week

h Hour

n Minute

s Second

but, enclose the interval in "" i.e. "h".

### **Tip 3:      *Displaying a Photo for a Related Record***

#### **Question**

This is my first Access 2000 form & I need to add a photo of a product, the path to the photo depends on the product ID -> "C:/photos/{product ID}.jpg".

For example, Product Ash07-001 would use photo "C:/photos/Ash07-001tmb.jpg"

The path needs to be generated on the fly for each record.

Do I need to do this using a field in the database, or can I do it in the form itself?

#### **Answer**

I think I understand your question. Try this - add an unbound image to your form - add a picture - any picture.

Then, right-click in the upper left-hand corner of the form and select 'properties' from the drop-down list.

Click on the Event tab and place your cursor next to 'on current'. Click on the '...' button and select code builder from the options.

You will have these two lines of code:

```
Private Sub Form_Current()
```

```
End Sub
```

In between these two lines of code, type the following:

```
Me!Image11.Picture = "C:\YourPath\" & Me![Product ID] & ".jpg"
```

Change Image11 to the name of your image and change the path.

Close the code window by clicking on the outer-most right-hand X.

Now when you open your form and move from record to record, the correct picture should be displayed.

## ***Housekeeping***

Once again, just a quick reminder: Please ensure the following email address is white-listed with your ISP:

julie@simply-access.com

This will ensure the weekly arrival of this Newsletter.

## **Unsubscribe**