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Pro Access 2007

Get up and running with Access 2007, VBA classes, WSS, and MOSS

*Access 2007 offers you different approaches to building applications.
This book looks at many options including classes with VBA and
Windows SharePoint Services.*

Martin WP Reid

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Pro Access 2007



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*To my wife, Patricia,
and our children, Aine, Liam, Maeve,
Emer, Roisin, and Eoin*

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Introduction

Many people ask, “Why write a book?” Usually, I respond by saying it’s an ego trip; it’s certainly not for the money, as John Colby recently pointed out. I wrote this book because I had something to say about Access, the most maligned database development environment on the market. In my view and the view of people I consider to be some of the best programmers in the world, this is an attitude based mostly on ignorance of the software and what it can do. I also wrote this book in response to the “Access is dead” argument. Access is a long way from dead, and I believe this book goes some way to showing that. Access is moving forward, perhaps in a direction many developers don’t like. It’s moving toward the Internet, .NET, and SharePoint. I hope this book helps you accompany it on that journey.

Who This Book Is For

This book is intended for intermediate-to-experienced Microsoft Access developers, but it will also provide value to those just starting out with Access. It also provides a solid grounding in Access 2007 and the new feature set, including coverage on using Windows SharePoint Services as the back-end data store.

How This Book Is Structured

Following is a brief rundown of what each of the chapters in this book covers:

- *Chapter 1, “Access 2007: What’s New?”*: This chapter provides a high-level overview of the new features available in Access 2007 and lays the groundwork for the more detailed material in succeeding chapters.
- *Chapter 2, “Text and Templates”*: This chapter begins looking at how you can save Access 2007 objects as text files, which leads into a discussion of the new template tools available in Access 2007. You learn the structure of existing templates and how to create your own.
- *Chapter 3, “Getting Up and Running with RibbonX”*: Here we look at the new navigation system in Access 2007, RibbonX. Following a short introduction to the RibbonX, it’s straight into creating your own custom Ribbons and changing existing Ribbons in Access.
- *Chapter 4, “Data Collection Using Microsoft Outlook 2007”*: Starting off with a high-level overview of the new data collection feature, the chapter moves on to look at the structures used to enable this feature, including a section on beginning the process of executing data collection tasks via VBA.

- *Chapter 5, “Introduction to Classes in VBA”*: Here you will get an introduction to class programming and VBA. This chapter provides you with the skills required to take the next steps in your programming with Microsoft Access.
- *Chapter 6, “RAD Development for SQL Server 2000/2005 Express”*: Using SQL Server as the data store and Access 2007 as the front-end application, I discuss some of the issues and problems you will face together with techniques and code examples to resolve many common problems.
- *Chapter 7, “Working with the SQL Server 2005 Express Tool Set”*: Following on from Chapter 6, we take a closer look at working with data held on SQL Server 2005 Express including stored procedures, Access Data Projects, and linked tables.
- *Chapter 8, “DAO, Complex Data Types, and Macros”*: This chapter provides programming techniques and material covering the new data types added to Access 2007.
- *Chapter 9, “Introduction to SharePoint Server”*: One of the major changes in Access is the use of SharePoint as the back-end data store. This chapter introduces you to Windows SharePoint Server and explains how it is structured and introduces how to work with WSS data from Access 2007.
- *Chapter 10, “Access and SharePoint Applications”*: Working with SharePoint as a data store, here we look at the various features within Access and SharePoint, including working with list data offline, caching, and linking to WSS via VBA.
- *Chapter 11, “Access, SharePoint, and SharePoint Designer”*: This chapter gives an overview of using Microsoft SharePoint Designer to work with existing WSS web sites. This chapter introduces you to some of the features of the software used to customize WSS sites.
- *Chapter 12, “Getting Started with .NET Tools”*: Many developers are often asking when Access will work with managed code. In this chapter, we look at two of the .NET tools available when working with Microsoft Access 2007: Visual Basic 2005 Express and Visual Web Developer 2005 Express. While not directly working inside Microsoft Access, the example projects demonstrate the features of managed code.
- *Chapter 13, “Code You Can Steal!”*: Here you’ll find examples of real-life DAO and ADO from the AccessD database developers group, the highlight of which is a trip to Area 51 from within Microsoft Access 2007.
- *Appendix, “RibbonX and Custom Add-Ins”*: The appendix is based on materials provided to me by Patrick Schmid, one of the best exponents of RibbonX. This appendix provides you with design guidelines to follow when working with RibbonX, particularly if you are considering designing your own Microsoft Access add-ins.

Prerequisites

For the Windows SharePoint examples, you will need access to Windows SharePoint Services running on Windows Server 2003. Both products can be downloaded freely from <http://www.microsoft.com>. In the case of Windows Server 2003, a timed-out demo is available. For the web and .NET example applications, you will require Visual Web Developer 2005 Express and Visual Basic 2005 Express.

Downloading the Code

Example code will be available from the Apress site (<http://www.apress.com>). To download it, click the Source Code/Download link and select the title of this book from the list on the page that appears.

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