Best Way to Synchronize Multiple Excel Files to MS Access Table

Asked 16 years, 1 month ago   Modified 16 years, 1 month ago

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We have a number of Excel-based membership rosters for a non-profit organization and we need to merge these into one master MS Access table. From time to time, we receive updated copies of the Excel-based membership rosters and I need to synchronize these with the master MS Access table.

I'm looking for the optimal way to accomplish this. Since I am not a huge fan of Access VBA, I was thinking of writing a C# console app,leveraging Marcos Meli's [FileHelpers](#) library to communicate between Excel and Access. Do you have any recommendations for either a good approach for building myself or something off-the-shelf that could be used to accomplish this objective?

`c#`   `excel`   `ms-access`

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asked Nov 8, 2008 at 21:37

Dave Johnson
782 ● 1 ● 7 ● 17

If you're only using the Access MDB as a data store, then you're not using Access, but only Jet. That makes it a completely different kind of question. I'd say it's much easier to do the whole thing in Access, rather than trying to muck around with automating *two* apps simultaneously.

– David-W-Fenton Nov 9, 2008 at 0:59

2 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ⬍

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You haven't said how big the membership lists are.

If they aren't too massive, and if you aren't doing anything too complex, then simply linking the Excel files to the Access database would allow you to replace the Excel files with new ones (with the same names) and then the database would use the new data automatically and you don't need any updating software at all.

I'm also thinking that a non-profit wouldn't have much IT budget, so the simpler the better.

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edited Nov 8, 2008 at 23:54

answered Nov 8, 2008 at 22:23

dbb
2,877 ● 19 ● 16

Even if they are massive and complex, it's still the best way to start, no matter how you do the merges, which usually is a

matter of exercising garden-variety database skills and techniques. – dkretz Nov 8, 2008 at 23:03

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Typically, what I've done in the past was import the excel file into a staging table, and then pruned out duplicated, and then copied the resulting list into the master table.

You might have to cull ex-members from the your master table, in which case, maybe it's easier to delete all the members that came from member organisation and reload the entire list. But then you have to record which organisation they came from.

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answered Nov 9, 2008 at 17:54