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**APT 1040**

**Connecting HTML to a database**

How to Connect an HTML Page to a Microsoft Access Database

Summary

A data access page is an HTML page that has an Office Web Component embedded into it. The Office Web Component stores connection information about a data source. This article describes how to use data access pages to connect an HTML page to tables in a database.

Requirements

Prior knowledge required:

* Database concepts
* Familiarity with Microsoft Access concepts and user interface

Create the Microsoft Access Database

1. Start Microsoft Access, and then create a new blank database named "HTMLAccess.mdb".
2. Create a new table named "Contacts" by following these steps:
   1. Under **Objects**, click **Tables**.
   2. Double-click **Create table by using wizard**. The **Table Wizard** dialog box appears, and you are asked what types of fields you want to create.
   3. In the **Sample Tables** list, click **Contacts**. Click the single chevron button (**>**) 10 times to copy the first 10 items from the **Sample Fields** list into the **Fields in my new table**list. Click **Next**.
   4. Accept the defaults on the second page of the wizard, and then click **Next**.
   5. Select the **Enter data into the table using a form the wizard creates for me** check box, and then click **Finish**.
3. Verify that a new table named "Contacts" has been created. Also verify that a new form named "Contacts" has been created.
4. Type information for two contacts in the form (you do not need to type Contact ID values). Use the TAB key to move from one field to the next.
5. Click the **Close** button on the **Contacts** form. Save the form as **Contacts**.

Method 1: Create the Data Access Page by Using the Wizard

To create the data access page by using the wizard, follow these steps:

1. Start Microsoft Access. Under **Objects**, click **Pages**. Double-click **Create data access page by using wizard**. The **Page Wizard** dialog box appears.
2. Verify that the "Contacts" table is selected in the **Tables/Queries** list box. Click the double chevron button (**>>**) to copy all the fields into the **Selected Fields** list box. Select **ContactID**, and then click the single chevron (**<**) to cancel the selection of this field. Click **Next**.
3. The second page of the wizard allows you to organize your data into groups, such as organizing contacts by country. To keep the design simple, click **Next**. The third page asks for the sort order of the records. Click **Next**.
4. The final page asks for the title of the HTML page and allows you to apply a theme to the HTML page. Click **Open the Page**, and then click **Finish**. The data access page is now created and displayed.
5. Use the record navigation bar at the bottom of the data access page to move through the records and to create two more contacts.
6. On the **File** menu, click **Save**. Save the data access page as "Contacts.htm" in the My Documents folder.
7. Read the message that appears, and then click **OK**. Close the data access page.

Method 2: Create the Data Access Page by Using an Existing HTML Page

To create the data access page by using an existing HTML page, follow these steps:

1. Start Notepad, and then type the following HTML:

<html>  
 <head>  
 <h1>Accessing Data through HTML and Access</h1>  
 </head>  
 <body>  
 Looking at Excel Web Components to create a DAP  
 </body>  
</hmtl>

1. Save the file as MyHTML.htm in your My Documents folder.
2. In Windows Explorer, double-click **MyHTML.htm**. The HTML page appears in Microsoft Internet Explorer. Quit Internet Explorer.

To create the data access page link, follow these steps:

1. Start Microsoft Access. Under **Objects**, click **Pages**. Double-click **Edit Web page that already exists**. The **Locate Web Page** dialog box appears. Click **MyHTML.htm** in the My Documents folder, and then click **Open**. The HTML page opens in Design view.
2. Click at the end of the line "Looking at Excel Web Components to create a DAP", and then press ENTER to create a new paragraph.
3. Create a hyperlink to the Contacts HTML page by following these steps:
   1. On the **Insert** menu, click **Hyperlink**. The **Insert Hyperlink** dialog box appears.
   2. In the **Text to display** text field, type   
      Click here to view Contacts HTML Page.
   3. Click the HTML file **Contacts.htm** in the My Documents folder.
   4. Click **OK** to return to the data access page.
4. Click at the end of the newly inserted text, and then press ENTER to create a new line on the data access page.

To edit and test the data access page, follow these steps:

1. With the data access page open in Design view, select items from the **Field List**. If you cannot see the **Field List**, click **Field List** on the **View** menu. In the **Field List**, expand the **Contacts** table.
2. Drag the **FirstName** and **LastName** fields onto the data access page, under the last line of text. Two pairs of labels and text boxes will be created, as well as a record navigation bar.
3. Drag the **Contacts** table from the **Field List** onto the data access page, and then drop it after the last text box. The **Layout Wizard** dialog box appears. Click **Office Spreadsheet**, and then click **OK**.
4. The Relationship Wizard appears. Accept the relationship, and then click **OK** to return to the data access page. An Office Web Spreadsheet component will be created and displayed.
5. On the **View** menu, click **Page View** to test the page.
6. Click **New** on the record navigation bar to clear the **First Name** and **Last Name** text boxes. Type a new first name and last name. Click **Save**on the record navigation bar. The new data will be displayed in the spreadsheet control.
7. Save and close the data access page. In Microsoft Access, click **Tables**, and then double-click the **Contacts**table. Verify that the new data was added to the Contacts table, and then quit Microsoft Access.

Verification

To open the data access page, follow these steps:

1. Open Internet Explorer. In the My Documents folder, open the file MyHTML.htm.
2. Test all parts of the page.
3. Click the hyperlink to verify that it links to the Contacts.htm file.   
     
   **NOTE**: Before you publish this data access page to the Web server, verify that all paths are correct, and change the hyperlinks to URLs.

To change a connection, follow these steps:

1. Start Microsoft Access. In the data access page Design view, open the MyHTML.htm file.
2. If the **Field List** is not visible, click **Field List** on the **View** menu.
3. In the **Field List**, click the **Page** connection properties icon that appears under the title bar of the Field List pane. The **Data Link Properties** dialog box appears.
4. Verify that the connection corresponds to the correct path to the database.
5. If you scale the database up to Microsoft SQL Server, verify that the OLEDB Provider is correct on the **Provider** tab.
6. Click **OK** to complete the connection property changes.

To change a URL, follow these steps:

1. Select the friendly text for the hyperlink.
2. On the **Insert** menu, click **Hyperlink**. The **Edit Hyperlink** dialog box appears.
3. Type a URL in the **Address** box, and then click **OK**.

References

Sample data access pages are available in the Northwind database.  
  
**NOTE**: The Northwind database is installed with a full installation of Microsoft Office XP Professional.