

Concept for Using the Query Designer to Map Fields Visually for Append Queries

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In the previous company I worked for, we received vendor data with variations. We set up a standard table to import the data into. We set up append queries for the common vendors. Usually this worked. Sometimes the vendors would change the header cols in their csv/excel files or would get data from a new vendor and would need to create or modify an existing query.

The issue with append queries is that if the field names don't match exactly, the append to row is blank for that field. The user must then click and scroll through the list of fields to find the field to map to.

To add to that, if the field names are similar, how to decide which one to select? "First Name" to FName, that is straightforward. What about Email, is it Email, PrimaryEmail? Address is that Address1, PrimaryAddress1, etc?

Query1

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Access Query Designer interface. At the top, a box titled "ThirdPartyData" contains a list of fields: Zip, Email, OtherEmail, PrimaryAddress1, PrimaryAddress2, and PrimaryEmail. Below this, a table grid is visible with columns for "Field:", "Table:", "Sort:", "Append To:", "Criteria:", and "or:". The "Table:" row shows "ThirdPartyData" for all columns. The "Append To:" row shows a dropdown menu with "City" selected for the "City" column, and "State" for the "State" column, and "Zip" for the "Zip" column. The "Criteria:" row shows "tbIMasterList.*" for the "City" column. The "or:" row shows a list of fields: ID, ListID, FName, LNAME, Phone, Address1, Address2, City, State, Zip, and Email. The "City" column is highlighted in yellow.

Field:	First Name	Last Name	Phone No	City	State	Zip
Table:	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData
Sort:						
Append To:				City	State	Zip
Criteria:	tbIMasterList.*					
or:	ID					
	ListID					
	FNAME					
	LNAME					
	Phone					
	Address1					
	Address2					
	City					
	State					
	Zip					
	Email					

As I was doing this, I kept thinking it would be nice if I can visually map the fields. Looked into various options via a form and seemed to add complexity. Then I thought if only it could be as simple as

dragging fields across the same way you do when creating a join between tables. It wasn't until after I was no longer with that company that it finally clicked about how to accomplish. Although, it does require a form, to select the tables and generate the sql string, now the query designer can be used to map the fields to append.

Note: Since I am no longer with this company and my current job does not entail lots of vendor imports, haven't fully developed the process beyond what is shown

Step 1: Select the Source Table (from vendor)

Step 2: Select the Destination Table (where the data will be appended to)

The screenshot shows the 'frmMapper' application window. On the left is a sidebar with a tree view containing 'Tables' (tblMasterList, ThirdPartyData), 'Forms' (frmMapper, highlighted), and 'Modules' (modFunctions, modMapper). The main area contains three dropdown menus: 'Source Table', 'Destination Table', and 'QueryLines', all of which are currently empty. Below these are three buttons: 'Map Fields', 'Preview Mapping', and 'Map Lines'. At the bottom, there is a status bar with 'Record: 1 of 1', 'No Filter', and a 'Search' field.

Step 3: Click on Map Fields to bring up the query designer along with the tables to be mapped for appending

This screenshot shows the 'frmMapper' application window after the 'Map Fields' button was clicked. The 'Source Table' dropdown now contains 'ThirdPartyData' and the 'Destination Table' dropdown contains 'tblMasterList'. The 'QueryLines' dropdown remains empty. The 'Map Fields', 'Preview Mapping', and 'Map Lines' buttons are still present. The status bar at the bottom shows 'Record: 1 of 1', 'No Filter', and a 'Search' field.

Step 4: Drag fields from Source table to the Destination Table

qrymapperNEW

ThirdPartyData

*

First Name

Last Name

Phone No

Address1

Address2

City

State

Zip

Email

OtherEmail

PrimaryAddress1

PrimaryAddress2

PrimaryEmail

tblMasterList

*

ID

ListID

FNAME

LNAME

Phone

Address1

Address2

City

State

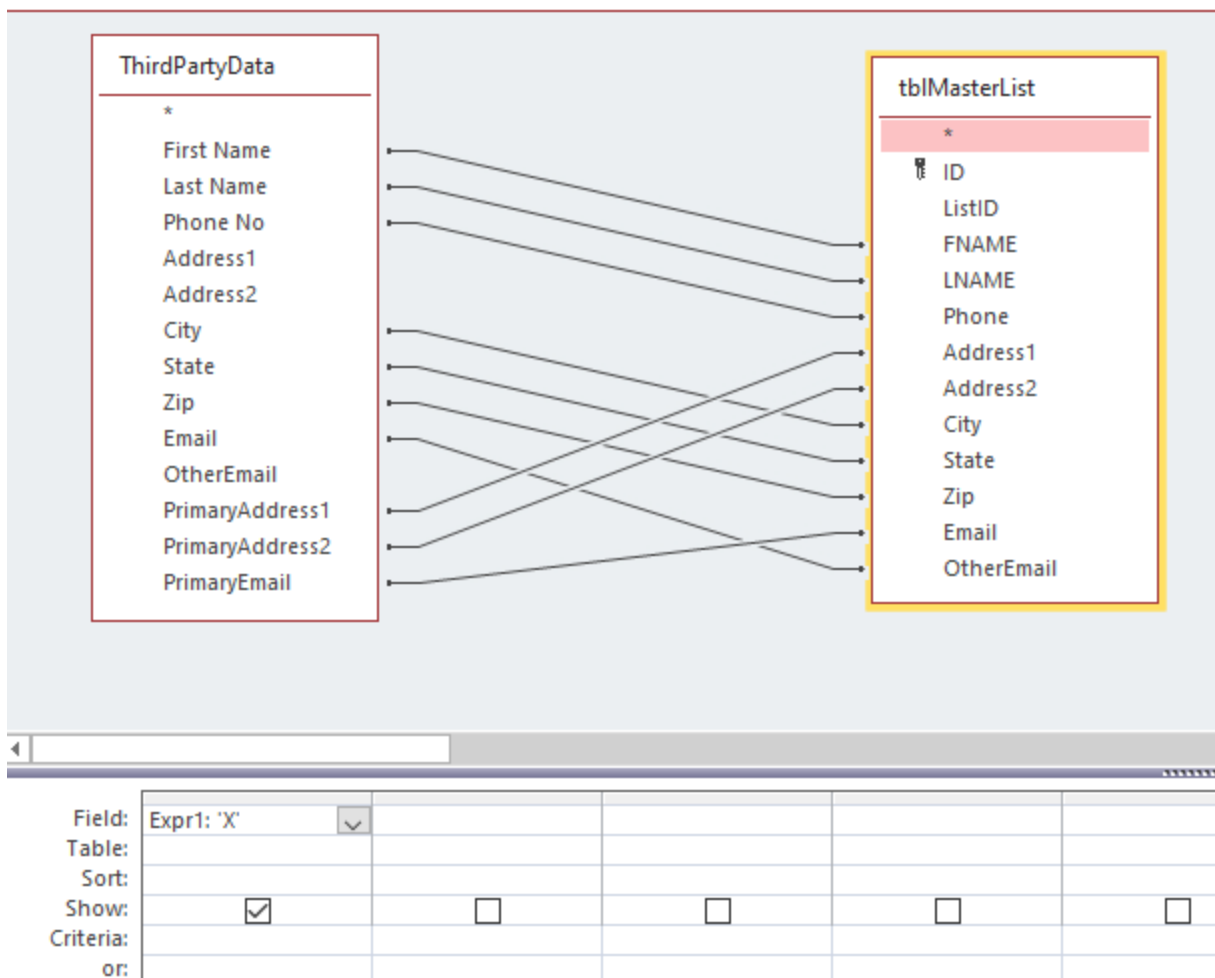
Zip

Email

OtherEmail

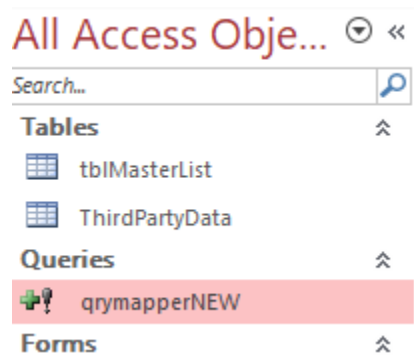
Field:	Expr1: 'X'				
Table:					
Sort:					
Show:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Criteria:					
or:					

Note: Do not type or edit anything on the query grid



Step 5: After mapping, close the query and click Yes when prompted to Save

Query now shows up in the list of queries and can be run as is.



Alternatively, the query can be reviewed and modified by Clicking on the Preview Mapping button as shown below

The screenshot shows a window titled 'frmMapper'. It contains the following elements:

- Source Table:** A dropdown menu with 'ThirdPartyData' selected.
- Destination Table:** A dropdown menu with 'tblMasterList' selected.
- Map Fields:** A blue button.
- Preview Mapping:** A blue button.
- QueryLines:** A dropdown menu.
- Map Lines:** A blue button.
- Footer:** A status bar showing 'Record: 1 of 1', navigation icons, 'No Filter', and a 'Search' input field.

The screenshot shows a window titled 'qrymapperNEW'. It features a list of fields for 'ThirdPartyData' and a mapping table at the bottom.

Fields List:

- *
 - First Name
 - Last Name
 - Phone No
 - Address1
 - Address2
 - City
 - State
 - Zip
 - Email
 - OtherEmail
 - PrimaryAddress1
 - PrimaryAddress2
 - PrimaryEmail

Mapping Table:

Field:	First Name	Last Name	Phone No	PrimaryAddress1	PrimaryAddress2	PrimaryEmail	City
Table:	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData	ThirdPartyData
Sort:							
Append To:	FNAME	LNAME	Phone	Address1	Address2	Email	City
Criteria:							
or:							

Edit/Map/Remap

See next page:

To edit an existing append query and map or remap fields:

- Select a query from the QueryLines combobox
- Click on the Map Lines button

Note: The code would need to be modified in order to handle more complex variations such as an append query that already has a joined table. As written, this code will wipe out the join. As mentioned above haven't developed this since currently don't have a need.

The screenshot shows the 'frmMapper' application window. On the left is a navigation pane with three sections: 'Tables' containing 'tblMasterList' and 'ThirdPartyData'; 'Forms' containing 'frmMapper' (which is highlighted in red); and 'Modules' containing 'modFunctions' and 'modMapper'. The main area of the window contains the following controls:

- 'Source Table' and 'Destination Table' are dropdown menus.
- 'Map Fields' and 'Preview Mapping' are blue buttons.
- 'QueryLines' is a dropdown menu.
- 'Map Lines' is a blue button.

At the bottom of the window is a status bar with the text 'Record: 1 of 1', navigation icons, 'No Filter', and a 'Search' input field.