

Master detail Lookup Components

Introduction

The standard Delphi DBlookup objects cannot be linked to a TTable that has a MasterSource assigned to it. This is a serious limitation when designing master-detail relations that require the use of a Combobox. Several solutions are available (i.e. PowerObjects of Woll2Woll), but have performance limitations. Moreover they require additional coding. I have developed a component that uses the standard TTable/TDataSource objects. I named them TmdDBLookupCombo and TmdDBLookupList (md stands for Master-Detail). They are both modification of the standard TDBLookupCombo and TDBLookupList components and are used the same manner.

Procedure

1. Create a TTable object and link it to a database and select a Tablename.
2. Link the TTable to a MasterSource and join a field to a field in the master table.
3. Select an IndexName or IndexFields
4. Create an mdDBLookupCombo object and link the datasource to a Master field.
5. Connect the LookupSource to the TTable object.
6. Select the LookupField from the list. Only the detail index is shown ! (Here is where this object differs from the standard Delphi component: this shows only the MasterKey).
7. Select a LookupDisplay field.

That's all there is. The Listbox is used the same way.

Additionally there is a field "ButtonShow", which enables or disabled the combo button. It also has a third state: "Auto". When selected the button is only show when the combo is not in readonly mode.

As an extra, instead of a TTable, also a TQuery can be used, however with a limited functionality: dynamic use does not show the correct selected item. This problem will be worked on.

File contents

Unzip the following files to a directory named "COMBDEMO".

MDDBCOMB.DCU	The Delphi unit with the two objects.
MDDBCOMB.DCR	A file with bitmaps to display in the panel.
MAINFORM.*	A simple sample application
PROJCOMB.*	
PROJECTS.*	A simple Paradox database used by this application.
COMPANY.*	
MANAGER.*	
MDCOMBO.WRI	This file.

From within Delphi you can open the project "PROJCOMB" in the COMBDEMO directory and try and modify the application yourself.

Installation

1. Copy the two MDDBCOMB files to a directory of your choice.
2. In the Delphi menu bar select Options, Install components.
3. Choose "Add" and browse to the directory where you copied the two files into.
4. Choose OK to install.

Disclaimer

For legal reasons I have to put this disclaimer. The use of this package is for your own risk. No responsibility can be accepted for malfunctioning of this product.

Ordering

This is an evaluation version. It's use is limited to the Delphi development environment. To order this component, send me a cheque of 25\$. The full featured version, including the source-code will be sent by e-mail.

My address is:
Herman Steigstra
De Haaghe 13
NL-6641 JA Beuningen
The Netherlands
(CompuServe 100637,1276)

Herman Steigstra