

Contents

Acknowledgments	x
Introduction	xxv
Part I: Programming Access Applications	1
Chapter 1: Overview of Programming for Access	3
Writing Code for Access	3
The Access Object Model	4
The DAO Object Model	4
The ADO Object Model	4
Object-Oriented Thinking	4
Windows API Programming	5
Working with Managed Code	5
What Is Managed Code?	6
Versions of Visual Studio	6
Writing Managed Code Libraries to Use with Access	6
Referencing the Access Object Model from Managed Code	7
Referencing Other Applications	7
Discovering References	8
Adding References to Office Applications	8
Summary	9
Chapter 2: Extending Applications Using the Windows API	11
Windows API Overview	11
Why Use API Functions	12
API Resources	12
Writing Declare Statements	13
Example Conversion	17
Error Messages from API Functions	18
Retrieving System Information	19
Return the User Name in Different Formats	19
Return the Computer Name in Different Formats	21
Retrieve the Command Line	21
Windows Shell Functions	24
Get the Path to a Special Folder	24
Show the Property Dialog Box for a File	25
Determine Whether a Computer Is Connected to the Internet	27
Determine Whether a User Is an Administrator	27

Contents

Controlling Processes and Threads	28
Determining the Current Process ID	28
Pausing Code Execution	29
Quitting a Process	29
Waiting for a Process to Complete	32
Windows Vista Task Dialogs	35
Introduction to Task Dialogs	35
A Simple Message Box Replacement	37
More Complex Task Dialogs	40
Icons	56
Miscellaneous API Functions	57
Creating a GUID	58
ShellExecute Tricks	59
Summary	60
Chapter 3: Programming Class Modules	63
Overview of Class Modules	63
Why Use Class Modules?	64
Class Module Members	65
Code Reuse in VBA	73
Subclassing	76
Subclassing Access Forms and Reports	76
Sinking Form Events	77
Interfaces	80
Inheritance in VBA	81
Specialization	83
Testing the Type of an Object	83
Collections	85
Writing the Standard Collection Class	86
An Alternate Implementation for the Add Method	89
Setting a Default Member	91
For Each Enumeration	91
The ICollectionEx Interface	92
Events	96
Why Write Custom Events?	96
Creating Custom Events	97
Listening for Custom Events	98
Design Considerations	99
Copying a Class Instance	100
Exposing the Interface of a Derived Type	101
Raising Errors	102
Summary	104

Contents

Chapter 4: Debugging, Error Handling, and Coding Practices	105
Debugging	106
Using Watches	106
Using the Watches Window	108
Using the Immediate Window	109
Using the Locals Window	110
Viewing the Call Stack	110
Building a Call Stack Using Code	111
Assertions	115
Creating a Debug Build	120
Error Handling	123
Handling Errors Inline	123
Categorizing Errors	124
System Error Codes and HRESULTS	124
Creating an Error Handler Class	125
Logging Errors	129
Using the Error Handling Class and Logging	135
Coding Practices	136
Readability	136
Version Control	139
Refactoring	139
Code Reviews	142
Summary	142
Part II: Data Manipulation	145
Chapter 5: Parsing Data	147
File Input/Output	147
Using VBA I/O statements	148
Using FileSystemObject	157
Determining Whether a File Is ANSI, Unicode, or UTF-8	160
Splitting Strings	164
The VBA String Handling Functions	165
Replacing Tokens in Strings	169
Formatted Token Replacement	170
Parsing into Data Types	171
An End-to-End Example	174
Splitting Names	178
Address Element Granularity	180
Phone Number Granularity	182

Contents

Creating HTML	182
Exporting HTML Files	182
Why Create HTML Using Code?	187
Creating HTML Files	188
Summary	192
Chapter 6: Using SQL to Retrieve Data and Manipulate Objects	193
Where SQL Can Be Used in Access	194
Form and Report Recordsets	194
Partial SQL Properties	194
The Various Types of SQL Queries	195
The SELECT Query	196
Project Your Columns: the Field List	197
Choose Your Tables: The FROM Clause	203
Filter Your Data: The WHERE Clause	205
Sort Your Results: The ORDER BY Clause	216
Add Data from More Than One Table Using Table Joins	218
Inner Joins	219
Outer Joins	220
Joining More Than Two Tables Using Nested Joins	222
Self Joins	224
Cartesian Products	225
Prompt Users for Data with Parameters	227
Add Data from Other Databases Using the IN Clause	230
Selection Predicates	231
ALL Predicate	231
TOP Predicate	231
DISTINCT Predicate	233
Aggregating Data	234
Bucket Your Data: The GROUP BY Clause	234
Filter Your Data Based on Bucketed Data: the HAVING Clause	237
Action Queries	238
Make Table Query	239
Append Query	240
UPDATE Query	243
DELETE Query	245
Crosstab Queries	246
Ordering Column Headings	248
Common Expressions Used with Crosstab Queries	249
UNION Queries	251
Sorting a UNION Query	252
Using the Designer to Create Union Queries	253

Contents

Subqueries	253
Data Definition Queries	254
Create Table	255
Alter Table	257
Drop Table	258
Create Index	258
Drop Index	259
Alter Database Password	259
SQL Pass-Through Queries	259
Running Ad Hoc SQL Pass-Through Queries	260
ANSI Mode	261
String Pattern Matching Using ANSI-92 Syntax	261
Summary	261
Chapter 7: Managing Data	263
Finding Data	263
Find Methods	264
Seek Method	266
Move Methods	268
Search Optimization Tips	271
Categorization and Sorting	272
Categorization Using the Choose Function	273
Using a Custom Sort Order Field	273
Backup and Restore	276
Using Checksum Functions	278
MD5 Algorithm	279
Mod-10 Checksum	279
Access 2007 Specifics	285
Locale-Agnostic Parser for ColumnHistory Function	285
Getting a List of Attachments in an Attachment Field	289
Searching for Records with Attachments	292
Searching for Specific Attachments	294
Summary	296
Part III: Interacting with the Application	297
Chapter 8: Using Code to Add Advanced Functionality to Forms	299
Working with Form Events	299
How to Determine When Data Is Added	300
How to Determine When Data Is Changed	301

Contents

How to Determine When Data Is Deleted	301
Validating Form Data	302
Suppressing Access Error Messages	304
How to Determine If a Modifier Key Is Pressed	305
Periodic Backups Using the Timer Event	306
Moving a Form Without a Border	307
Customizing ControlTipText	308
Working with Controls	309
Validating Control Data	309
Disabling all Controls	310
Reusing a Subform Control	310
Extended List Box Functionality	311
Custom Progress Bars	319
Custom Up/Down Buttons	321
Displaying Multiple Attachments Onscreen	322
Common Forms for Your Applications	324
Dynamic Menu Forms and Dashboards	324
Splash Screens	349
About Dialog Boxes	351
Kiosk Forms	351
Custom Form Navigation	352
Navigation Bars	352
“I Need To” Drop-Down	354
Keyboard-Driven Navigation	355
Summary	356
Chapter 9: Using Code to Add Advanced Functionality to Reports	357
Interactive Reports Using Access 2007	357
Sorting a Report Using Controls on a Report	358
Filtering a Report Using Controls	360
Drill-Down	363
Navigating to a Map Dynamically	365
Report Scenarios	366
Creating a Report with Data Bars	366
Creating a Calendar Report	370
Displaying Images Using an Attachment Field	377
Displaying Images Dynamically Using a Path	378
Creating a Report Manager	379
Creating the Reports Table	380
Implementing Report Manager Features	381
Summary	386

Chapter 10: Using Automation to Add Functionality	387
Automation Basics	387
When to Automate	388
Shell Function	388
CreateObject vs. GetObject	389
Early Binding vs. Late Binding	389
Discovering Object Models Using Built-in Tools	390
Automating Windows	391
The Shell Object	392
Windows Scripting Host	395
Automating Office Applications	409
Determining If an Office Application Is Installed	409
Word: Creating a Formatted Letter with Data	412
Excel: Creating an Excel Chart with Data	421
Outlook: Create Appointments from an Events Database	429
Automating Internet Explorer	432
Opening a URL in a New Tab in IE7	432
Common Web Queries	433
Parsing HTML from Internet Explorer	435
Summary	440
Chapter 11: Creating Dynamic Ribbon Customizations	441
Overview of Ribbon Customizations in Access	441
Development Tips	442
How to Write Ribbon Customizations	444
Loading Ribbons	446
Using the USysRibbons Table	447
Using the LoadCustomUI Method	448
Programming the Ribbon	449
Ribbon Objects	449
Using Callback Routines	449
Refreshing Controls	452
Organizing Ribbon Items	453
Tabs	453
Contextual Tabs	453
Groups	454
Ribbon Controls	454
Buttons	455
Toggle Buttons	455
Check Boxes	456

Contents

Combo Boxes and Drop-Downs	457
Labels and Edit Boxes	458
Menus	458
New Types of Controls	460
Dialog Box Launcher	460
Gallery	461
Split Button	462
Dynamic Menu	462
Images	462
Images Included with Office	462
Loading Images from External Files	463
Loading Images from an Attachment Field	468
Moving Functionality into the Ribbon	469
The NotInList Event — Ribbon Style	470
Form Navigation	472
Managing Filters Using a Dynamic Menu	477
Creating a Split Button That Sticks	482
Other Ribbon Modifications	484
Modifying the Office Menu	484
Overriding Commands and Repurposing Controls	485
Summary	486
Part IV: Finalizing the application	489
Chapter 12: Configuration and Extensibility	491
Localization	491
Locale Settings	492
Determining the Current Language of Office	494
How to Create Localized Access Applications	494
Application Options	506
Storing Options in Tables	508
Storing Options in the Registry	508
Creating a Class to Work with Options	509
Creating Options Forms	513
Displaying Options in the Ribbon	516
Creating Form Themes	518
Theming Forms	518
Summary	523

Chapter 13: Personalization and Security	525
What Is Security?	525
Authentication	526
Authorization	527
What Is Personalization?	527
Overview of Security in Access 2007	527
Database Encryption	527
Disabled Mode	528
Office Trust Center	529
Digital Signatures	531
Signed Packages	531
Access 2007 Navigation Pane	533
Customizing the Navigation Pane	533
Restricting the View of the Navigation Pane	536
Hiding the Design Surface of Objects	539
Password-Protecting Objects	539
Creating the User Table	540
Creating the Login Form	540
Prompting for Password with Forms and Reports	544
Creating a Password Protected Form Object	545
Windows Integration	546
Determining the Logon Name	547
Locking the Computer	548
Receiving Notifications When the Computer Is Locked or Unlocked	548
Simulating Record Level Security	551
Limiting the View to a Particular User	551
Locking Records Based on Logon	552
Database Encryption with DAO and ADO	553
Creating an Encrypted Database with DAO	553
Changing the Database Password with DAO	553
Adding a Database Password to a Database with DAO	554
Changing the Database Password with ADO	555
Best Practices	556
Using a Client-Server Database to Protect Data	556
AllowBypassKey Property	556
Using an ACCDE or MDE File	557
Using an ACCDR File	557
File Format Selection	557
Summary	558

Contents

Chapter 14: Deployment	559
Creating an Automated Build	559
Creating the Visual Studio Project	560
Building the Application	571
Handling Application Dependencies	578
Installing Files from an Attachment Field	579
Updating References	581
Testing Reference Fix-Up	583
Late Binding	584
Licensing Your Applications	585
Creating a Limited-Use Application	585
Registering an Application	590
Miscellaneous Deployment Scenarios	596
Updating Your Applications	596
Programmatically Creating DSNs	607
Ensuring an Application Runs Locally	610
Summary	612
Chapter 15: Help and Documentation	613
Documentation via Built-in Properties	613
Using the Description Property	614
End SubSetting the Status Bar Text	619
Using the Tag Property	620
Setting the Control Tip	620
Database Documenter	621
Providing Help to Users	621
Storing Help Text in a Table	621
Creating a Help Form	622
Trapping the F1 Key	623
Alternatives to a Floating Help Window	624
External Approaches	625
Writing HTML Content for Help	625
Mapping HTML Files to Objects	627
Opening the Browser	628
Creating Compiled HTMLHelp Files	631
Summary	635

Contents

Appendix A: Programming Tips and Tricks	637
Dynamically Running Code	637
CallByName	637
Application.Run	641
Eval	641
Object Helper Functions	641
Object Initialization	642
Object Termination	643
Global Object Properties	644
Date Data Type Tricks	644
Looping Through Dates	645
Arrays of Dates	646
Determining Dates Dynamically	646
Miscellaneous Tips	647
Categorizing Constant Values	647
Comparing Class Instances	648
Add Number of Retries to a Code Block	649
Add a Timeout to a Code Block	650
Tools for the Immediate Window	651
Clearing the Immediate Window	652
Displaying the Watch Window	652
Displaying the Locals Window	652
Making a Backup of Objects	653
Closing All Code Windows	654
Appendix B: Query Performance	657
The Query Optimizer	657
Designing Tables for Performance	658
Use the Smallest Appropriate Data Type	658
Indexes	658
Designing Queries for Performance	659
Reduce the Amount of Data	659
Other Performance Considerations	662
Bulk Edits	662
Minimize Network Traffic	662
Database Maintenance	663
Hard Drive Maintenance	663
Microsoft Access Performance Analyzer	663

Contents

Appendix C: Pattern Reference	665
Introducing Patterns	665
What Is a Pattern	665
Why Use Patterns?	666
Patterns Used in This Book	666
Gang of Four Patterns	666
VBA Object Patterns	667
Other Patterns	669
Working with Strings	670
Where and How to Find Patterns	671
Index	673