

This slideshow will show examples of VBA from the Access/VBA application I created for the Minnesota Astronomical Society (MAS). It is a membership management database for the organization's 500+ members. I chose this application as the source of VBA examples to publish because its VBA does not reveal sensitive business information. I also had complete control over standards and conventions, so it shows how I prefer to code. By no means does it represent the typical business processes I automate professionally.

The examples I have chosen require the least amount of explanation of business processes. These consist of code that:

- Tests user-composed SQL, including logic tests on the WHERE clause.
- Centralized error handling.
- Automatic composition of email messages.
- Simulating a mail merge in MS Word from MS Access (the reason for simulating will be explained).

Early binding or late binding?

As a rule, like most VBA developers, I use <u>late</u> binding for application variables when developing for business clients. It lets the app be used with earlier versions of MS Office. However, for this project I chose to use <u>early</u> binding. Why?

- First, I was developing this on my own time when I was already working 50-60 hours per week. Early binding let me use intellisense to save me from time-consuming debugging later.
- Secondly, as Microsoft says "[e]arly binding is the preferred method. It is the best [sic] performer because... there is no extra
 overhead in doing a run-time lookup. In terms of overall execution speed, it is at least twice as fast as late binding."* Because this
 app would be used on someone's home PC, I wanted to avoid memory problems and complaints of slowness. The price of usage
 for any future user was to possibly upgrade MS Office.



VBA SAMPLE: TESTING A USER-COMPOSED/EDITED SQL STRING

In the slides that follow, we will look at the VBA behind the "Test SQL" button (see green circle below). Besides testing the SQL for errors by running it, the VBA will also look for logical errors. For example, if the contact list in question is intended for emailable people, does the SQL's WHERE clause pull only those members with an email address.





Privat	te Sub cmdTest_SQL_Click()
	<pre>' Procedure : cmdTest_SQL_Click ' Author : Will Beauchemin (Himself@WillBeauchemin.com) ' Date : 8/2/2014 Except for simple procedures and functions, all VBA code has a header.</pre>
	' Purpose : Lets user test the SQL by opening a query to view the results. Useful for initial verification of this feature and ' : for any manual edits made to the SQL. Also determines if WHERE clause contains EMAILABILITY test (if applicable). 'Editing : '
	Dim db As DAO.Database Dim qdf As DAO.QueryDef Dim strSQL As String Dim lngID As Long Dim strCommo As String Dim strWHERE As String
5140	If gboolError_Handling = True Then On Error GoTo Err_Handler To disable error handling during debugging and to later enable it, a If gboolError_Handling = True Then On Error GoTo Err_Handler global variable, gboolError_Handling, is used.
5150	Set db = CurrentDb()
5160 5170 5180	'Save any changes that the user made on the screen (especially in the Me!SQL_For_List text box we are about to test). If Me.Dirty Then Me.Dirty = False End If
	'' If something is recorded in the "Procedure_To_Run" control, then this contact list is not meant to use user-defined SQL.
5190 5200 5210 5220	<pre>If Trim(Me!Procedure_To_Run & "") <> "" Then MsgBox "This list is generated with VBA and not SQL. Nothing to test." GoTo Exit_Now Rather than use Exit Sub/Function in the body of my code, my convention is to always jump to an exit routine (Exit_Now) where object closing and other clean-up can be performed.</pre>



	' QA: If no SQL, let user compose some if they want.
5230 5240 5250 5260	<pre>If strSQL = "" Then 'Let user design a query. MsgBox "There's no SQL to preview, but if you are proficient with creating queries in Access, create one and copy-and-paste the SQL back here." GoTo Exit_Now End If</pre>
	QA: ID field must always be present, even if not used —— Comments explain what each block does. (used for recording contact history)
5270 5280	<pre>If strSQL Like "*Members.ID,*" = False And strSQL Like "*Members.ID *" = False Then MsgBox "Your SQL's SELECT statement must include the member ID number field, Members.ID. " & "Even if it is not used in your output, it is used to record contact history for " & "each recipient."</pre>
5290	GOTO Exit_Now
5500	
	1
	' QA: Examine WHERE clause in SQL: Is list specific to EMAILABLE members?
5310	strCommo = Nz(Me!lstMeans Of Communication.Value, "")
5320	strWHERE = funExtract_WHERE_Clause(strSQL) 'return the WHERE clause of the SQL.
	'Just for the comparison we are about to do, remove all parentheses in the stringe (they would complicate our string comparisons).
5330	<pre>strWHERE = Replace(strWHERE, "(", "")</pre>
5340	<pre>strWHERE = Replace(strWHERE, ")", "")</pre>
5350 5360	<pre>If strCommo Like "EMAIL*" And strWHERE Like "*Email_Address*" = False Then MsgBox "Your list is for EMAILABLE members, but your WHERE clause does not look for EMAILABLE members. " & _ "Add an EMAILABILITY test to your SQL or change the list's Means Of Communication.", _ vbCritical, "WHERE clause problem"</pre>
5370	GoTo Exit_Now
5380	End If



' Run test by applying SQL to our "generic" query def. 5390 Set qdf = db.QueryDefs("qryOutput SQL") gdf.SQL = strSQL 5400 5410 db.QueryDefs.Refresh DoCmd.OpenForm "popSQL Preview" 'Open a pop-up form that displays the SQL. We use a pop-up so the user can close it without the Ribbon and "X" buttons visible. 5420 Exit Now: Exit routine. Rather than using "Exit Sub/Function" in the body of the procedure, we jump to here so that objects 5430 On Error Resume Next can be closed and set to nothing. Of course, an error will occur if we try to close an object that has not been set. We 5440 Set gdf = Nothing Set db = Nothing 5450 address that with "On Error Resume Next" --- a rare instance where this should be used. We then clear any errors 5460 Err.Clear 5470 Exit Sub just before we exit the procedure. Err Handler: 5480 If Err.Number = 2501 Or Err.Number = 3420 Then '"RunCommand was cancelled (2501) or Object invalid or no longer set (3420); the latter happens when you test SQL before record saved. Resume Next 5490 5500 End If 5510 procGeneric Err Handler "cmdTest SQL Click", Err.Number, Err.Description, Erl 'display an error message; also, turn off hourglass and reset warnings and echo. 5520 Resume Exit Now Error handling is centralized for the most part. "procGeneric_Err_Handler" is the procedure that does this. We will look at that in the next slide. End Sub



VBA SAMPLE: CENTRALIZED ERROR HANDLING

In the slides that follow, we will look at the centralized error handling performed by the procedure "**procGeneric_Err_Handler**", saved as "Public" in a standard module so it is available everywhere in the application. It is called by a procedure/function's error handling routine --- but only if error handling has been turned on in the application (i.e., global variable gboolError_Handling = True).

The procedure below shows how "procGeneric_Err_Handler" gets called.

Error handling is centralized for the most part. "procGeneric_Err_Handler" is the procedure that does this. We will look at that in the next slide.

Private Sub Form_Current()

5530 If gboolError_Handling = True Then On Error GoTo Err_Handler

'Run the code the displays or hides the output options based on the means of communication selected.

5540 lstMeans_Of_Communication_Click

'Run the code that runs when the user decides between running with SQL or procedure.

5550 frameRun From Procedure AfterUpdate

Exit Now:

5560 Exit Sub

Err Handler:

5570 procGeneric_Err_Handler "Form_Current", Err.Number, Err.Description, Erl 'display an error message; also, turn off hourglass and reset warnings and echo. 5580 Resume Exit Now

End Sub

The centralized error handler we are about to look at. "procGeneric_Err_Handler" is passed several arguments, including the line number where the error occurred.



Shown below is the beginning of the standard module that contains our centralized error handler, the procedure "procGeneric_Err_Handler."

Option Compare Database	
Option Explicit This is the global vari	able that determines whether or not error handling is on. In the application we
'@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@	riable is used rather than a constant: the end user has the ability to set the value re in the GUI, letting the end-user do their own debugging. This was necessary
'The following is used to turn e since the non-profit t	hat uses this has no on-site maintenance person. In most business applications
'It's value is set when the data	a constant defined have
'when the form frm Admin Setting NOWEVER, I WOULD USE	
Public gboolError Handling As Boolean	
'0000000000000000000 Public Sub procGeneric_Err_Handler(ByVal strProcedure ByVal strError As Optional ByVal str	As String, ByVal intError As Integer,
<pre>' Procedure : procGeneric_Erx_Handler ' Author : Will Beauchemin ' Date : 2/22/2012 ' Purpose : Prepare an Outlook email to repor ' : Also, to turn off annoying set ' Editing : Made gboolError_Handling and email</pre>	 The central error handler. As we will see on the following slides, this performs the following tasks: Handling specific, anticipated errors. Turns off Hourglass and turns on Echo and SetWarnings. Close any open recordsets.
Dim strBody As String, strMsg As String, strTo Dim strSource_Db As String, strSource_DB_Short Dim strVersion As String Dim strEmail_DB_Repairer As String Dim strLive_Or_Test As String	 Prepare an on-screen error message for the user to see. Prepare an email message the user can send the off-site database maintainer (me) with details about the error. In other applications, I might include creating an entry in an error log table. In this instance, with
	no on-site database maintainer, an error log would be pointless.



Public Sub procGeneric Err Handler(ByVal strProcedure As String, ByVal intError As Integer, ByVal strError As String, ByVal lngLine As Long, Optional ByVal strForm As String)

' Procedure : procGeneric Err Handler	
'Author : Will Beauchemin	
' Date : 2/22/2012	
' Purpose : Prepare an Outlook email to report them, and give user a message.	
' : Also, to turn off annoying settings that could be left on when	an error occurs (e.g., hourglass)
' Editing : Made gboolError_Handling and email recipient be fed from new table	e admin_Settings.
·	
Dim strBody As String, strMsg As String, strTo As String, strSubject As String	
Dim strSource_DD As String, strSource_DB_Short As String	
Dim strversion As String	
Dim stremail DE Repairer AS String	
Dim strlive_or_lest As string	
34960 If Err.Number = 3044 Then 'x "is not a valid path"; will happen the first time a	a new user opens the db and admin settings point to previous user's folders.
34970 Err.Number = 0	
34980 MsgBox "Hello. You must be new to the MAS Member Database. We can't link t	to Member data (LIVE or TEST) until you specify where to find that data." &
Chr(13) & Chr(13) &	
"After you close this message, go the " & Chr(34) & "Admin Settings &	i Info" & Chr(34) & " tab and specify where to find your LIVE and your TEST data." 5
Chr (13) & Chr (13) &	
"You'll also need to specify the folder locations and file names for	the Contact Lists on the " & Chr(34) & "Lists - Standard" & Chr(34) & " tab." &
Chr(13) & Chr(13) &	
"Welcome to the MAS Member Database.", vbInformation, "Welcome to MAS	3 Member Database"
34990 End	
35000 GoTo Exit_Now	Describe this new worfit even institute descript have an endited database
35010 End If	Because this non-profit organization does not have an on-site database
	maintainer, the end user needs to email me with any problems. Rather than
35020 strEmail_DB_Repairer = DLookup("[Email_DB_Repairer]", "[admin_Settings]")	
	nard-code my email address here, I have it updatable in an Admin feature of
1	the GUL At this point in the VBA, we are looking up that email address
' Reset options that would cause problems if left as-is due to the code having b	
1	
35030 With DoCmd	NOTE: Luse a DLOOKUP here rather than a recordset search because the
35040 .SetWarnings True	
35050 .Echo True	table "admin_Settings" consists of only one record. DLOOKUP is far simpler
35060 .Hourglass False	and has no adverse effect on speed
35070 End With	una nas no daverse encer on speca.
25020 If IgLoaded ("frmMag Dloage Wait" ageom) - True The	
35000 II Isloaded ("Innussg Flease Wart", actorm) - Ifde Inen	
35100 End of Should the error ha	we left Hourglass Echo, and SetWarnings in a mode that would cause problems
35110 If Isloaded ("nonProgress Bar" acForm) = True Then	in the second seco
35120 Docad Clope actors "popprograms Bar" we reset them here	e. Similarly, we close inconsequential pop-up forms should they be open.
35130 Boddet Clube across, popriogress_Bdr"	
55150 Ellu 11	

error: a new person has assumed the role of end user, but has not configured the admin settings for their computer's folder structure.



	1				
	Prepare the details about this error (which we will record, d	isplay, and output in var	rious ways)		
35140	strSource_Db = CurrentDb.Name 'Database name				
35150	'Database "Version_ID" is a custom property set in zzzProgramme strVersion = funDatabase_Version	r_Toolbox module. It is o	date-time.		
35160 35170	'LIVE or TEST mode. strLive_Or_Test = DLookup("[LIVE_Or_TEST]", "[admin_Settings]") 'Get the short name of the source db by stripping out the path strSource_DB_Short = funCurrent_DB_Location("File")	from the string.	An on-screen mest for the user.	sage	
	Prepare message box text for the user				
35180	strMsg = "An unexpected error occurred:" & Chr(13) & Chr(13) & intError & Chr(13) & "Description: " & strError & Chr(lngLine & Chr(13) & "DB version: " & strVersion	"Error #: " & _ 13) & "At line #: " & _			
35190 35200 35210	If Nz(strForm, "") <> "" Then strMsg = strMsg & Chr(13) End If				
35220 35230	'If a form name was passed, include that in our message. If Nz(strForm, "") <> "" Then strBody = strBody & vbCrLf & " Occured in form: " & Chr(Chr(34) & ". "	34) & strForm & _			
35240	End If				and an email
35250	'Display message on the screen about this error. strMsg = strMsg & Chr(13) & Chr(13) & "An email message with these details has been prepared for "Add any comments you want and send it to the Database Admi "been importing when this error occurred." 'Display the Access message box. MsgBox strMsg, vbCritical, "An error occurred"	' Produce our emai '	il message but don't s DR REPORT from " & Chr(34) DB_Repairer atabase " & Chr(34) & strS " & strVersion & vbCrLf & " & vbCrLf & " Procedure	send it (so user can address it and add comments) & strSource_DB_Short & Chr(34) Source_Db & Chr(34) & vbCrLf & & vbCrLf & "Error #" & intError & ": " & e/function: " & Chr(34) & strProcedure &	composed that can be sent to the designated database maintainer. Note the details that
	There is a function for composing an Outlook email message. The function returns a value of True if there are no errors. We will see this function in a later slide.	Chr(34) & vbCr Now() & vbCrLf "Data mode was 35300 If funEmail Compos 35310 strMsg = "An C "They Chr(1 strBc 35320 End If	<pre>cLf & " Line #: " & lng f & vbCrLf & _ s: " & UCase(funLive_Or_Te se(strSubject, strBody, st Dutlook email message shou refore, take a screenshot 13) & Chr(13) & _ ody</pre>	gLine & vbCrLf & " Occurred at: " & est_Choice) crTo, "", "") = False Then ald have been generated with details about this e of this message you are reading and paste it int	rror, but that attempt failed. " & _



Exit_Now: 35330 On Error Resume Next 35340 Close Any Open Recordsets trun t 35350 Err.Clear 35360 Exit Sub	recordset is left open due to an error, ould prevent Access from closing, cing the user to use Task Manager to so. To avoid this, we call a procedure	nd db objects and closes them.
Err_Handler:		
35370 If Err.Number = 3420 Then 'Object in 35380 Regume Exit Now	ivalid or no longer set (because user decided t	to close email message without sending).
35390 ElseIf Err.Number = 0 Then		
35400 Err.Clear		Public Sub Close_Any_Open_Recordsets()
35410 Resume Exit_Now		' Procedure : Close Any_Open_Recordsets
35420 End If		<pre>'Author : Will Beauchemin (Himself@WillBeauchemin.com) 'Date : 1/15/2015</pre>
		' Purpose : Loop through any and all recordsets and close them. Useful for close-of-db
35430 MsgBox "Error " & Err.Number & ": "	& Err.Description & _	<pre>' : code to prevent application from failing to close due to open recordsets. 'Editing :</pre>
" This occurred in line " & " of procedure proceering Fa	Eri &	1
35440 Resume Exit Now	II_handlel.	Dim db As DAO.Database
Even an error har	ndler could	Dim rst As DAO.Recordset
End Sub have errors Since	e this is	Dim wsp As Workspace
		35500 If gboolError_Handling = True Then On Error GoTo Err_Handler
most likely to hap	open to me	35510 For Each wsp In Workspaces
while I develop, I	simply	
report that error	with a	35520 For Each db In wsp.Databases 35530 For Each rst In db.Recordsets
		35540 rst.Close
message box and	so avoid a	35550 Set rst = Nothing 35560 Next /rst
circular error.		35570 db.Close
		35580 Next 'db
		35600 Set wsp = Nothing
		35610 Next 'wsp
		Exit_Now: 35620 Exit Sub
		Err_Handler: 35630 procGeneric_Err_Handler Err.Number, Err.Description, Erl, "Close_Any_Open_Recordsets" 35640 Resume Exit_Now
		End Sub



VBA SAMPLE: GENERATING EMAIL

In the application we are considering, there are several occasions when an email would need to be composed, such as to remind members of the approaching expiration of their membership. We have already seen when email messages are composed to report errors to me.

Regardless of the purpose of the email, I have my VBA call this function, right, to <u>compose</u> the email. I never want to automatically send email, however.

Note that the function includes the ability to have attachments added.

If no errors are encountered, this function returns a value of True.

Note that the Err_Handler of this email generator calls the centralized error handling code, which includes generating an email message about the error. This would seem to be inviting a circular error. However, funEmail_Compose is so simple that the most likely cause of errors would be with the arguments that are being passed --- and any error handling-related email messages would have different, proven arguments. Public Function funEmail_Compose(strSubject As String, strBody As String, strTo As String, strCC As String, strBCC As String, Optional strAttachment As String) As Boolean

- ' Procedure : funEmail Compose
- 'Author : Will Beauchemin (Himself@WillBeauchemin.com)
- ' Date : 7/24/2014
- ' Purpose : Generate an email using the particulars passed as arguments.

Dim olookApp As Outlook.Application Dim olookMsg As Outlook.MailItem Dim olookAttachments As Outlook.Attachments

34630 If gboolError_Handling = True Then On Error GoTo Err_Handler

34640 Set olookApp = New Outlook.Application 34650 Set olookMsg = olookApp.CreateItem(olMailItem)

34660 If strAttachment <> "" Then 34670 Set olookAttachments = olookMsg.Attachments 34680 olookAttachments.ADD strAttachment 34690 End If

34700 With olookMsg 34710 .Subject = strSubject 34720 .Body = strBody 34730 .To = strTo 34740 .CC = strCC 34750 .BCC = strBCC 34760 End With

34770 olookMsg.Display 34780 Set olookApp = Nothing

'If we get this far, there were no errors. 34790 funEmail Compose = True

Exit Now:

34800 On Error Resume Next 34810 Set olookMsg = Nothing 34820 Set olookApp = Nothing 34830 Err.Clear 34840 Exit Function

Err_Handler:

34850 Select Case Err.Number Case -2147418107 'Automation error due to problems with Outlook "being in filter mode" (related to Voltage Security add-in). 34860 Resume Exit_Now 34870 Case 429, 462 'Outlook was not already running, so we need to create an instance. 34880 Set olookApp = New Outlook.Application 34890 Resume Next 34900 Case 2486 'Can't perform task at this time. 34910 Resume Next 34920 Case Else 34930 procGeneric_Err_Handler "funEmail_Compose", Err.Number, Err.Description, Erl 34940 End Select 34950 Resume Exit Now

End Function



VBA SAMPLE: SIMULATING A MAIL MERGE IN WORD

Beginning with Office 2010, you cannot use VBA to initiate a mail merge in MS Word if that VBA is being run from the same database as the mail merge's record source. Microsoft has not explained this lost functionality, but it would seem to be a security precaution (like so many lost features that MS does acknowledge)

In the application we are considering for VBA samples, there are several mail merges the user needs to perform. To run those from this application (which is also the record source for the mail merge), I had to find an alternative to the MS Word mail merge. I did: bookmarks.

Using named bookmarks in an MS Word template (rather than mail merge fields) gives the same results as before --- and actually makes template creation and editing easier.

Although it is not necessary, I chose to identify my bookmarks in the template using angle brackets enclosing the bookmark name. The visible name is merely cosmetic; it is the *defined* name that drives my VBA, an excerpt of which is shown right.

47620	Powerle Net ret FOF Excernt of Access V/BA that runs "mail marge"	' in Word
47620	LACEIPT OF ACCESS VBA that fully main merge	in vvoru.
47640	atrMomborabin Timo = ratiMomborabin Timo	
17650	strendersnip_iype - istrendersnip_iype	
17650	STITUTE - ISTITUTE UND INIT UN)	TALLAN (D)
47670	straining and the straining an	<< CINAMES
17690	strikurie - Istrikurie strikuri - Format (natifunination Data Ummun d. uuuul)	<< ADDRES
47600	strEmpilation - Format (dependence) - Adde, "Mummund, yyyy")	< <addres< td=""></addres<>
1/090	StERMAIL - IS:EMAIL Address	< <city>>,</city>
47700	Set wdDog = wdApp.Doguments.ADD(strRenewal Form Template)	
47710	With wdDoc	
	' Replace bookmarks with info on this member:	Vour membership in
47720	.Bookmarks("Member ID").Range.Text = lngID	your only notice. To
47730	.Bookmarks("FNAME").Range.Text = strFNAME	you only nouce. To
47740	.Bookmarks("LNAME").Range.Text = strLNAME	- Andrew Construction of the
47750	.Bookmarks("Organ").Range.Text = Nz(rst!ORGAN, "")	
47760	.Bookmarks("Address1").Range.Text = rst!ADDRESS1	
47770	.Bookmarks("Address2").Range.Text = Nz(rst!ADDRESS2, "")	- Constant of the second secon
47780	.Bookmarks("City").Range.Text = rst!CITY	If you prefer you may
47790	.Bookmarks("State").Range.Text = rst!STATE	PayPal at: www.mna
47800	.Bookmarks("ZIP").Range.Text = rst!ZIP	Have any gu
47810	.Bookmarks("Membership Type").Range.Text = UCase(strMembership Type)	
47820	.Bookmarks("Expiration").Range.Text = strExpiration	Please return the e
	1	
47830	.Bookmarks("NAME_FULL").Range.Text = strFNAME & IIf(strMID_INIT = "", " ", " "	< <name_full></name_full>
47840	.Bookmarks("Organ_2").Range.Text = Nz(rst!ORGAN, "")	< <ukgan_2>></ukgan_2>
47850	.Bookmarks("Address1_2").Range.Text = rst!ADDRESS1	<< ADDRESSI_25
47860	.Bookmarks("Address2_2").Range.Text = Nz(rst!ADDRESS2, "")	< <city 2="">> <<8</city>
47870	<pre>.Bookmarks("City_2").Range.Text = rst!CITY</pre>	TT D1
47880	.Bookmarks("State_2").Range.Text = rst!STATE	Home Phone: < <r< td=""></r<>
47890	.Bookmarks("ZIP_2").Range.Text = rst!ZIP	ALL 1
47900	.Bookmarks("HPHONE").Range.Text = Nz(rst!HPHONE, "")	
47910	.Bookmarks("CELL_PHONE").Range.Text = Nz(rst!CELLPHONE, "")	Yes, please ser
47920	.Bookmarks("Email_Address").Range.Text = strEmail	I Yes, please list
	1	addr.)
		I Yes, I want to
	'Remove any empty lines. We'll do this by replace any double manual line break	ABOUT GEMINI:
47930	With wdDoc.Content.Find	may opt for the pape
47940	.ClearFormatting	
47950	.Replacement.ClearFormatting	
47960	.Text = "^1^1"	\$65.00 - Patron Me
47970	.Replacement.Text = "^1"	deductible.
47980	.Forward = True	\$20.00 - Kegular N \$13.00 - Student N
47990	.Wrap = wdFindContinue	\$15.00 - Student IV
48000	.Format = False	\$9.00 – Optional
48010	.MatchCase = False	\$32.95 - Option
48020	.MatchWholeWord = False	Optional subscri
48030	.MatchWildcards = False	Ontinuel travel 1
48040	.MatchSoundsLike = False	Optional tax ded
48050	.MatchAllWordForms = False	Member ID# <<1
48060	.Execute Replace:=wdReplaceAll	
48070	End With	

'Prepare file name and save this letter.



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