

Appending Queries

The objective of this newscast is to highlight issues encountered while using the Append Query. You may not be familiar with Append Queries. If not, this feature is taught in the “Designer” class or Cabri’s exclusives “Advanced Brio Tricks and Techniques for the Power User” class. This newscast is directed towards those individuals already familiar with Append Queries.

Recently, I was working with the Append Query feature and it wasn’t performing the way I thought it should (or maybe better put, how I wanted it to function). I did a number of small tests to understand clearly how the feature works. Here are my observations and insights:

1. You cannot append tables from one database to another database.
2. I next tried creating local results then appending them to a table. You cannot use the append query feature with local results.
3. You can append multiple tables within a database.
4. You need to append the same number of columns from each of the tables that you want to append.
5. The Brio interface requires the tables to be appended has a join. The joins and the number of joins don’t seem to matter. (Editorial comment: It seems unnecessary to have the joins since you are appending the tables not joining them.) This seems to be corrected in R6.2.1 and above.
6. The columns of each table you join must have the same datatype. This can be misleading in Brio. For example, when I looked up datatype it was shown to be a number. However, when I was in MS Access, the datatype of a field was a number but the field size could be: Byte, Integer, Long Integer, Single, Double. If the field size in one table is different than the field size in another table (on the columns you want to append) the Append Query feature won’t work. You must be VERY careful to confirm the datatypes are identical.
7. It doesn’t matter if the column names are different in the tables when it appends.
8. It doesn’t matter if the number of columns in the first table being appended has 10 columns and the number of columns in the second table has 5 columns. In other words, you must select the same number of columns to append, say 3 columns from table one and 3 columns from table two.
9. UNION appends the tables without duplicates. UNION ALL appends the tables but includes duplicate rows
10. After you create an Appended query, the results can be used in another query as local results.

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Email: cabri@cabri-ltd.com
Web Site: www.cabri-ltd.com
Phone: 206-463-5157
Fax: 425-952-0165