

Smart Access

Solutions for Microsoft® Access® Developers

Understanding Access with the Workflow Designer for SQL Server

Mike Gunderloy



Microsoft offers more development tools than anyone can easily keep track of. Some of them even work with Access. In this article, Mike Gunderloy takes a look at the little-known Workflow Designer for SQL Server, a part of the Microsoft Office XP Developer package. Despite its name, this tool actually depends on Access for integration into your business processes.

MICROSOFT has released many development tools over the years. Not surprisingly, some of these tools remain largely a mystery to many developers. It's impossible to be an expert in the entire range of Microsoft development tools, from writing VBScript to control WMI objects, to customizing the transforms inside of BizTalk Server. But what you can (and should) do is become familiar with as many of these products as you can. The more you learn about what's out there, the better chance you have of finding the appropriate tool for any given design job.

In this article, I'm going to look at one of the lesser-known parts of the Microsoft Office family of tools: the Workflow Designer for SQL Server. This product started life as a project codenamed "Grizzly" back in the Office 2000 timeframe, and was initially released as the Access Workflow Designer, a free add-on for Microsoft Office Developer 2000. With the release of Microsoft Office XP Developer, the product is now in the MOD box and renamed as Workflow Designer for SQL Server. Despite the name change, though, Access still remains an essential part of working with this product. As you'll see, the

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