

# Smart Access

Solutions for Microsoft® Access® Developers

## Send Data Without Attachments!

Richard A. Hunt



Access has always provided a way for you to send data via e-mail, but your data has to go out as an e-mail attachment. As Richard Hunt points out, using attachments creates its own set of problems. In this article Richard provides an alternative to using attachments.

**F**OR a long time, I've wanted to be able to send the results of a query by e-mail without having to attach the query result as a separate file.

There are plenty of articles and tips on how to output a query to Excel and send it as an attachment. Unfortunately, virus-checking software at the recipient's end will create difficulties when receiving a document (like Excel) that can contain macros. If you want to avoid file types that support macros, your alternative is text files—and losing all your formatting. In my job, I've created several systems that send numerous database event logs to me (and others). It can grow tiresome to open eight or 10 attachments from different automated Access databases just to make sure everything ran according to schedule. Personally, I've never been a big fan of having to surf through attachments at the best of times.

No matter where I looked, I couldn't find an example that demonstrated a method—simple or otherwise—for sending a recordset in the actual body of an e-mail. So I set out to find a way and came up with an elegant solution that works with any query. I've started using this system myself to deliver quick shots of data to users through e-mails. My users arrive in the morning and find their morning data-gram waiting for them in a format that they can read or ignore.

### Technologies and software

First, a controversial statement: The solution that I came up with uses DAO. I've worked with DAO for years, and I prefer it when working in Access.

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