

Online Databases with Front Page and Access

Day 1

Even though the web offers up easily updated information to your audience in static HTML pages, the true power comes with dynamically updated pages, especially those interfacing with a database. This interfacing has become much easier with the development of newer web editing packages such as MS FrontPage.

Today if you have ever created a form in MS Word, you would be about 2-3 steps away from developing an online form on the web. The greatest thing about this is that the online form results would end up in a MS Access Database.

So let's get started. We will start with a simple form that submits some student information.

(Use the exact field names provided otherwise parts of the exercise will fail)

Create a Simple Form

1. Open a new page and save it in the designated location as "**StudentInfo.asp**"

(In order for these web pages to work with databases you must save them as "asp" pages. ASP stands for Active server pages)

2. Select "Insert" from the menu bar, "Form" from the drop down menu and "Form" from the pop up Menu

(You can also float/dock the form menu pop up so that it will always be available as a tool bar)

3. On your Student Info page you will now have dotted box which contains both a submit and reset button

(This is the inserted form and any information that you wish to collect must reside inside the dotted box)

4. Place the insertion point before the submit button inside the inserted form and press the Enter key a few times to create some empty space in the form

5. At the top of the form type and center the title **Student Information Form** and press enter

6. Type **First Name** and press the space bar twice

7. Select Insert-Form-Textbox or the textbox button from the docked form menu



8. Double click on the inserted textbox and set the Name property to **FirstName** no spaces and the tab order to **1**

9. Continue that process with the following

Label (Form Labels)	Text Box Properties	
	Name	Tab Order
Last Name	LastName	2
Address	Address	3
City	City	4
State	State	5
Zip	Zip	6
Phone	Phone	7

(Now that this is done it would be nice if the labels and text boxes lined up)

10. Still inside the inserted form, Insert a table with 2 columns 7 rows with the width set to about 40% and centered. *(table – insert – table)*
11. Place the labels and the text boxes in the table
12. Save your work
13. Right click on an empty portion of the form and select Form Properties
14. Select Send to Database and click on the Options button
15. Click on Create Database
16. Click on the OK button when the database was created successfully.

(Notice that the database connection name is the same as the asp file name. If you want give the database and database connection to have a different name then the asp file you would need to originally name the asp file with the name you want for the database and after you have created the database and saved the page just rename the asp page to what you want and front page will still maintain the connections to the database)

17. Click OK two more times. Save the page

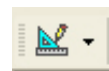
(You now have a global.asa file and an fpdb folder added to your web site. The fpdb folder contains the access database files which your forms will submit their data to and the global.asa file contains the database connection controls.)

18. Open the form in a browser window *(preview in browser)* and add some data to the database (only two or three records)

19. Open the database and verify that the information has indeed been added to the database

(Open the fpdb folder and double click the studentinfo.mdb file)

20. While you still have the results table open, switch to design view by clicking on the 1st button on the tool bar



21. You need to add another field with the name **classPeriod** and it should be a text field.

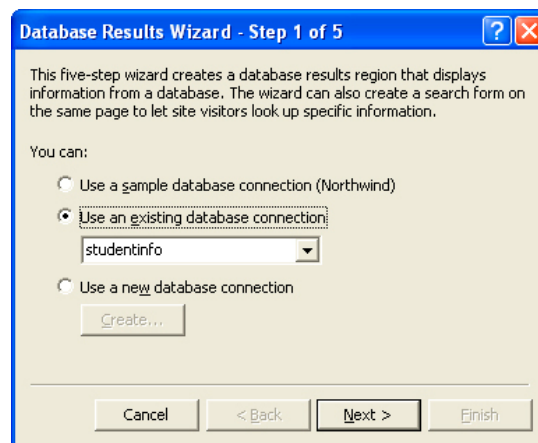
(I added this field after the phone field by right clicking on the Remote_computer_name field and selecting insert row)

22. Close the results table not the Database
(make sure you save the changes to the table)
23. Import “Master Student Table” spreadsheet into database
 - a. File – Get external data – Import from the menu
 - b. Find / select the spreadsheet and click on Next
 - c. Select “First Row Contains Column Headings” and click on Next
 - d. Choose to import data into existing table, choose the Results table and click on Next
 - e. Click on Finish and click on OK.
 - f. Close Access
 - g. Wait until database is completely closed.
24. Make sure you have saved all your work.

Create a Database Results Page

Now that we have data collected in you web based database, we need to get this information out without using FrontPage or without opening the database.

1. Open a new page and save it as **StudentResults.asp** in the designated location
2. Type **Student Information Report** centered at the top of the page, make it a Heading One style, and press the enter key
3. Select Insert from the menu bar and this time select Database from the drop down menu and Results from the pop up menu
4. Select the “Use an existing database connection” radio button from Step 1 of the “Database Results Wizard” dialog box



5. Select the correct database connection. (It should be called “StudentInfo”) Click Next

6. The record source should be Results. Click next
(In Step 3 of the “Database Wizard” you can choose which fields you want in the output and in what order they will appear but we will leave the defaults for now)
7. Click the More Options button and click the Ordering button
8. Sort by LastName and click OK, OK, and Next
9. On step 4 of the Wizard accept the defaults and click Next
10. Select the “Display all records together” radio button and click finish
11. Save the page and preview it in the browser
(Remember this is “Preview in Browser” not the preview tab at the bottom of the page)

More Form Elements

Let’s return back to the Student Information Form page and add some more form elements.

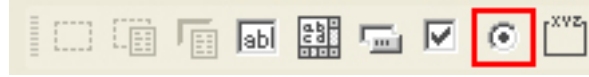
1. Open the StudentInfo.asp file
2. Click below the table (inside the form) and select Insert – Horizontal Line from the menu
(Just to create some visual separation)
3. Type and Center **Extracurricular Activities** and press the enter key
4. Insert a table with four rows and two columns 60% width and centered
5. Click in the first cell and select Insert–Form–Checkbox or the checkbox button from the docked form menu
6. Press the spacebar and type Band
7. Double click on the check box to set the properties
8. Name is band, Value is Yes, it should be “Not Checked” and the tab order should be 8. Click OK
9. Do the same for Choir, Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track, Tennis, and UIL



Label / Field Name	Tab	Label / Field Name	Tab
Choir	9	Basketball	10
Football	11	Baseball	12
Track	13	Tennis	14
UIL	15		

10. Add another centered heading below this table called Gender and press enter

11. Select Insert–Form–Option Button or the “Option button” button from the docked form menu



12. Press the spacebar and type Male

13. Double click on the radio button and set the properties as follows; Group Name=Gender, Value=Male, Not Selected, Tab Order 16. Click OK

14. Add another radio button for Female with the Group Name remaining as Gender, the Value as Female and Tab Order set to 17.

(With radio buttons of the same group name, only one value can be selected and that is what is submitted to the database)

15. Add a new centered heading for Class Period below the gender buttons and press the enter key

16. Select Insert–Form–Drop Down Box or the “Drop Down Box” button from the docked form menu

17. Double Click on the drop down box and set the properties as follows; Name=ClassPeriod, Height=1, Tab Order=18, Multiple Selection=No

18. To add possible choices from which your visitor can select from you will click the Add button. Add the following items.

- **Make a Selection** – Selected
- **First** – Not Selected
- **Second** – Not Select
- Continue through **Sixth**

19. Click the Validate Button

20. Select the “Disallow First Choice” check box

21. Click OK and OK

22. We now need to Update the database

(Right click in the form and select Form Properties. Click on Options and select Update Database. Click OK, OK, OK)

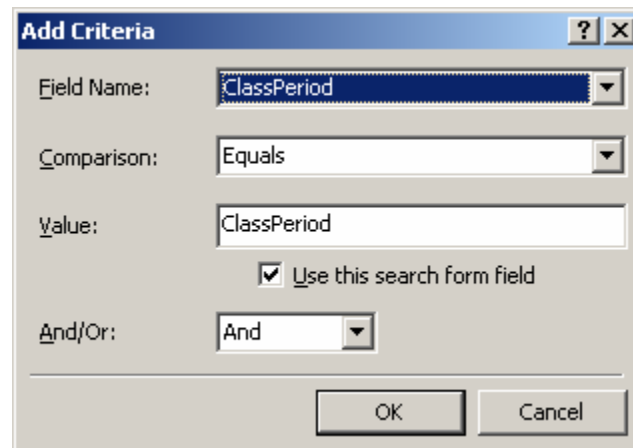
23. Save your Work

Adding Search Capabilities to Your Database Results Pages

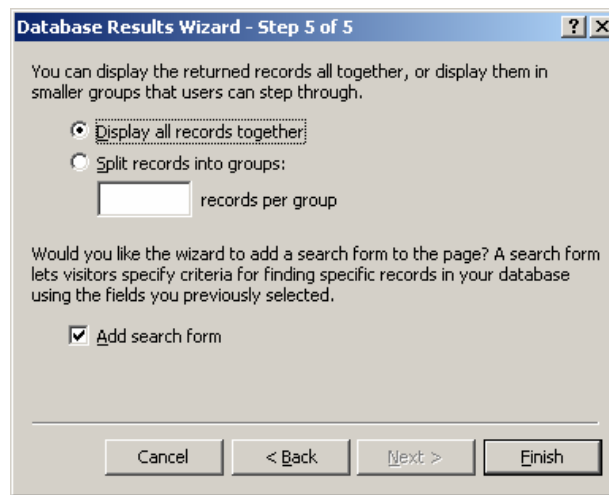
We will now create a database results page that is based on some search parameters.

1. Open a new page and save it **classPeriodQuery.asp**
2. Types in **Class Period Report** centered with a heading one style at the top of your new page and press the enter key.

3. Select Insert – Database – Results
4. Use the existing connection (studentInfo) and click Next
5. Record Source is “Results” table
6. Click Edit List and remove all the fields but FirstName, LastName and ClassPeriod. Click OK.
7. Click More Options and in the More Options dialog box click Criteria.
8. In the Criteria dialog box Click Add and set the criteria as follows



9. Click OK for Add Criteria, OK for Criteria
10. Click on Ordering and set ordering as LastName First and FirstName Last
11. Click OK for Ordering
12. Click OK for More Options and Next for Step 3 of the Database Results Wizard
13. On step 4 accept the defaults and click Next
14. On step 5 set the properties as follows



(The Add search form option will add a text box where you visitor will enter their choice for the search parameter)

15. Click Finish for Step 5, save your work and preview this form in your browser
16. Type in a class period and press the submit query button
17. Type in another class period and click the submit query button again

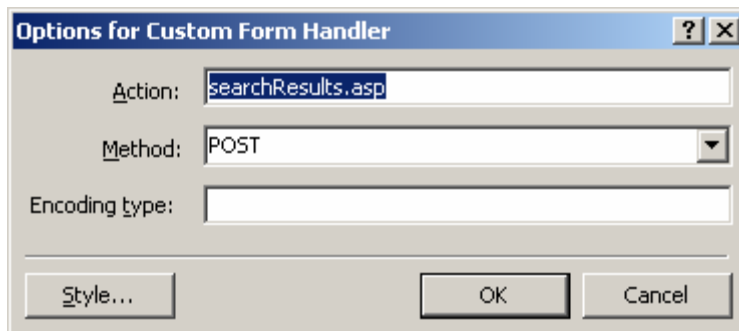
Let's now create another database results page that has two search criteria.

18. Create another new page and save this as **queryByName.asp**. Follow the steps above and in step 8 you will add two criteria, **FirstName equals FirstName and LastName=LastName**. The rest of the steps should be the same.

Search Page that Submits Information to another Page

If you look at the results of the last 2 pages you will see both the search query parameters and the resulting search. You can eliminate the search parameters from the output by having your search query parameters sent to another page where only the results will be displayed. So let's begin.

1. Open a new page and save it as **searchByName.asp**
2. Follow the steps in the previous section to create a form that provides two search criteria, FirstName and LastName.
(Take querybyname.asp and save as searchbyname.asp to save time)
3. Now you will need to create a new page and save it as **searchResults.asp**
4. On the searchByName.asp page, click anywhere in the results table and select Table–Select–Table from the menu
5. Select Edit–Cut from the menu
6. Return to the searchResults.asp page and select Edit–Paste from the menu to paste the results table onto this page
7. Return to the searchByName.asp page and right click in the form *(inside the dotted box)* and select Form Properties
8. Select the “Send to Other” radio button and click the Options button
9. Set the options as pictured below



10. Click OK for the Options dialog box, Click OK for form properties and save both pages

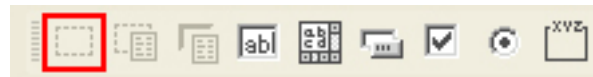
(File-Save All from menu)

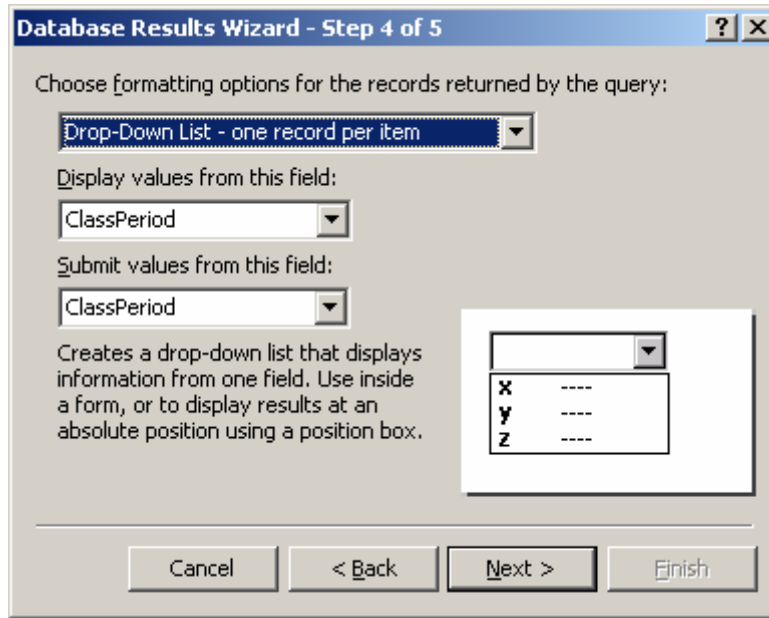
11. Open the searchByName.asp page in a browser and enter the first and last name of someone you have put in the database
12. Press the enter key to view the results

Search Page that uses Drop Down and Submits Values to another Page

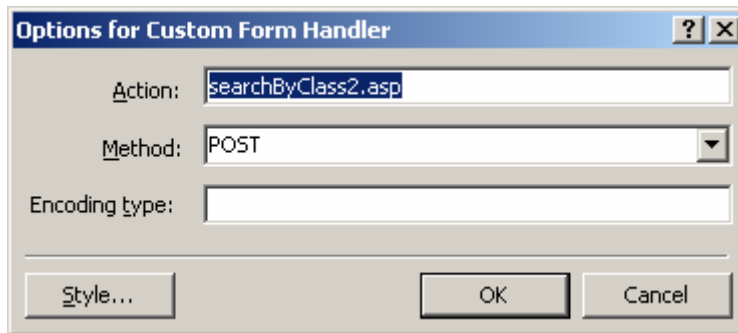
Your visitors may have had a problems finding the list of names for a class period with your class period results page because they entered 1st instead of first or 2nd instead of second ... This is a common problem and this could be avoided by using a dropdown box with only the acceptable choices.

1. Open the studentInfo database
2. Create a new table in design view by clicking on the new button and then selecting Design View in the New Table dialog box and clicking OK.
3. This table will need only one text field named **ClassPeriod** and you will save the table under the name **ClassPeriodTable** (select no for creating a primary key)
4. Open the table in datasheet view by just double clicking on ClassPeriodTable and enter First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth for the classperiod values
5. Close the table and database
6. Create two new pages and naming one searchByClass.asp and the other searchByClass2.asp
7. On the first page (searchByClass.asp), select Insert-Form-Form from the menu or use form button on the docked form menu bar and press the enter key a couple of times
8. Click near the top and inside the form and type **Please make class period selection** and press the enter key
9. Select Insert-Database-Results from the menu
10. In Step 1 make sure that Use an existing database connection radio button is selected with studentInfo as the connection listed and click on Next
11. In Step 2 select the Record source radio button making sure ClassPeriodTable is the record source listed and click on Next
12. Step 3 of the wizard needs no changes so click Next
13. Set step 4 of the wizard in accordance with the following illustration





14. Click Next for step 4 and Finish for Step 5
15. Right click inside the form and select Form Properties
16. Select the “Send to Other” radio button and click the Options button
17. Set the options in accordance with the illustration below

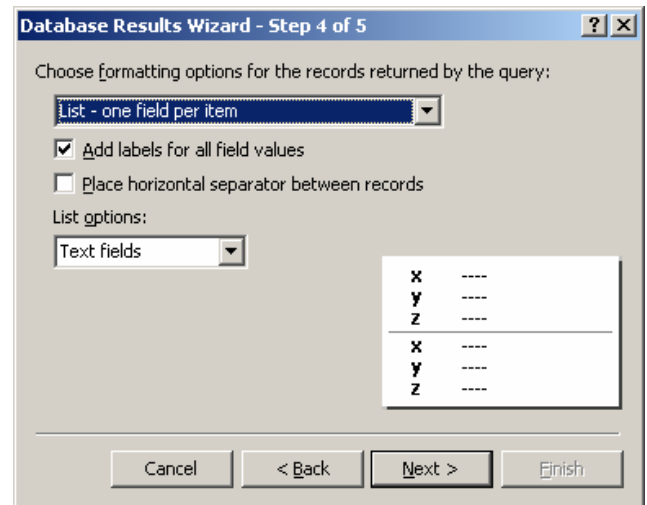
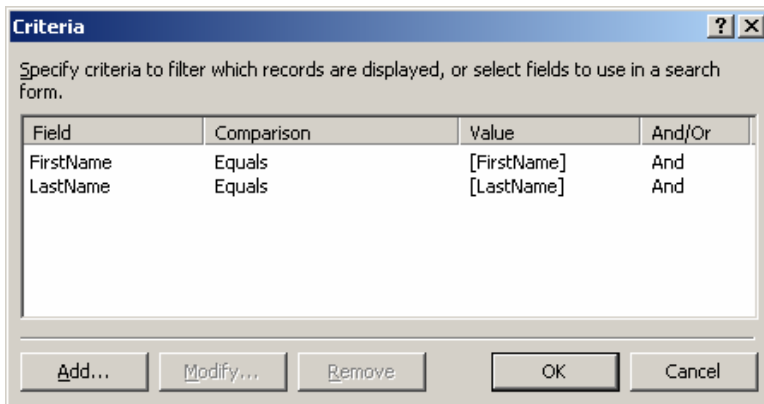


18. Click OK for the options dialog box and OK for the Form properties dialog box
19. Save your work
20. Open or switch to the searchByClass2.asp file
21. Select Insert – Database – Results from the menu
22. Select the studentInfo database connection for step 1. Select the Results record source for step2. Edit the list to only include FirstName, LastName & ClassPeriod information. Under More Options set the Criteria to ClassPeriod = ClassPeriod. Set step 4 to List, remove Add Labels, leave horizontal separator and select Paragraphs for list options. In step 5 select to display all records together and remove Add search form.
23. Open the searchByClass.asp file and select a class period. Click the submit button.

Create a Form that Submits to a Form that Submits to a Database

The following forms will be the most complicated that you have created so far. You are going to create a form with a database result that gathers some options for you from one database, then submits those values to another form, which has some additional fields which will be filled in and then all of it will be sent to a different database.

1. Create a new file and save it as silly.asp
2. Place two separate database results inside a single form. They will both use the studentInfo database connection, the Results for the record source and the field list is edited to include only FirstName, LastName, and ClassPeriod. Step 4 of the wizard is set to Drop-Down List with FirstName for “Display” and FirstName for “Submit” values on the first database results and LastName for both “Display” and “Submit” values on the second database results. Leave the default values for step 5.
3. Set the form properties to send to other with the options set to Post the data to silly2.asp
4. Save your work
5. Create a new file and save it as silly2.asp
6. Insert a database results into a new form on this page, select the studentInfo connection, the Results record source, include only FirstName, LastName, and ClassPeriod in the field list. Set the criteria under more options and step 4 of wizard in accordance with the illustrations below.



7. On step 5 of the Database Results Wizard make sure to select the Display all records together radio button and uncheck Add search form
8. If your Database Results region on the page contains a submit query and reset button, select and delete them.
9. Click below the database results and create a 4-row 2-column table with these questions and a drop down list for each question. The drop down lists should be named toe, tongue, finger, and bellybutton.

Which one of your toes is the longest?	<input type="text"/>
Can you roll your tongue?	<input type="text"/>
Can you bend any finger at the first knuckle?	<input type="text"/>
Is your belly button an inee or an outee?	<input type="text"/>

10. Set the form properties to Send to database under options create a new database (silly2)
11. Save all your work
12. Open the silly.asp file in the browser and select a name. (Remember, the first and the last name must be a matched pair.) Submit the form.
13. On silly2.asp, fill out the additional information for the person that you selected on silly.asp and then click the submit button to send that data to the silly2 database.
14. Open the silly2 database and verify that the information is there.