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Remove the Datasheet View Wizard in Microsoft Access



Here's a neat tip for smarter Microsoft Access programming.

By Mike Groh, Access-VB-SQL Advisor Magazine technical editor

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I'd like to share a neat tip for Access developers. I hope no serious developer actually uses the Datasheet View wizard for creating Access tables. Building tables using Datasheet View only leads to poorly designed databases and complete disregard for relational theory and other design concerns. Yet, Access insists on making Datasheet View the default option when you add a new table to an Access database.

Here's how to get rid of this useless wizard forever. You'll have to use Regedit to drill into the system registry. (Use the Start > Run dialog, and type "regedit" into this dialog).

This is the path to the registry location holding the Access wizard information:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\<version>\Access\Wizards\Table Wizard\Index value - Set to zero for "Datasheet View"

Double-click on the Index registry key, and change it's value to or some other high value, then set the Index value for Design View to 0 (figure 1).

To be extra tidy, change the Index value for each of the other wizards to 1, 2, and 3 in the order you want them to appear in the New Table dialog (figure 2).

Notice that "Datasheet View" doesn't even appear in the New Table dialog.

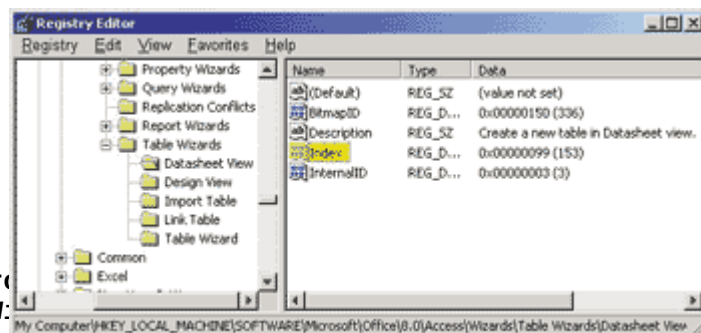


Figure 1: Wizard registry entries -- Set the Datasheet View wizard's index to a high number.

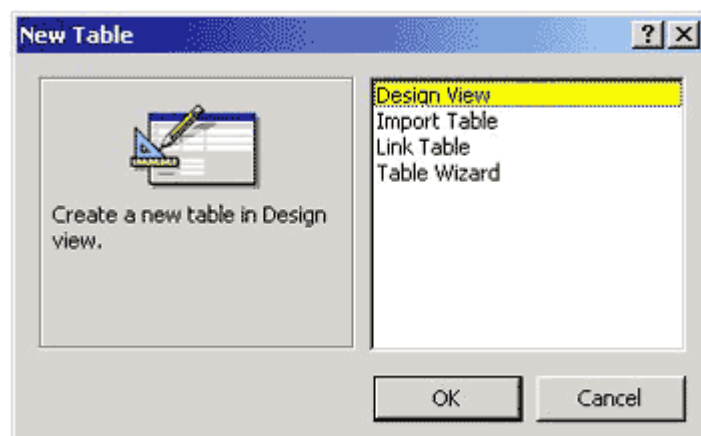


Figure 2: New Table dialog -- No more Datasheet View.

The only problem I've encountered using this technique is when there's more than one version of Access installed on the computer. Switching between different versions seems to force Access to reassert the default registry values for the selected version, including the table wizard indexes.

As always, be aware that using RegEdit to modify registry entries carries the risk that you'll make a catastrophic change to the registry that renders your computer unbootable, so be careful!

-- Mike

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