

Part I

Access Building Blocks

Each part of this book builds on previous parts, and the chapters in each part contain examples that draw on techniques explained in previous parts and chapters. As a developer, your applications will benefit from the skills you acquire by reading the chapters and practicing the examples contained in this book.

But everyone has to start somewhere when they approach a new discipline, and Part I of this book presents the fundamental skills necessary for anyone to succeed at database development with Microsoft Access. The topics covered in this part explain the skills and techniques that are necessary to successfully use the Microsoft Access capabilities documented in the remaining parts of this book.

The chapters in this part provide the information that you'll need to build strong applications with Microsoft Access. These chapters go well beyond simply describing how to build tables, forms, and reports with Access. They give you the essential skills necessary to normalize data and plan and implement effective tables. Not the least of these essential skills is choosing the data types for the fields in your tables and providing strong, descriptive names for these important database objects. You'll also examine the steps necessary to properly create relationships between tables and specify the characteristics that govern those relationships.

If you're already familiar with the steps involved in database design, you may want to skim these chapters to learn how to perform these operations with Access 2007. Even if you're familiar with earlier versions of Access, you have a lot to learn from these chapters because so much has changed in the Access developer environment. And if you're new to Access, you'll want to read carefully the chapters in this part and spend enough time working through the examples to gain a thorough understanding of these important topics.

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