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This tutorial will guide you through the steps for sending information into a Microsoft Access Database using a Flash form and ASP as a server side script. You will also learn some basic and very useful ASP syntax. The example will be using Flash MX 2004. First download the following zip file http://www.sorbose.com/db_example.zip

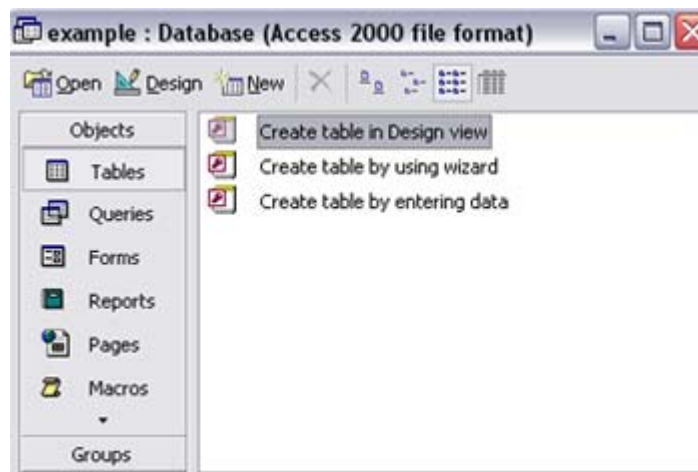
Steps:

1. Create the database
2. Create the Flash form and send variables to our ASP page
3. Retrieve variables from flash and insert the information into our database

Creating the Database

We will not go into great detail about creating a database in Microsoft Access, but will walk you through it.

- i. Create a new database by going to File > New and save it in your _root directory for now. We will later move the database outside your _root folder for security purposes.
- ii. Create a table in design view and save it with the name contacts:



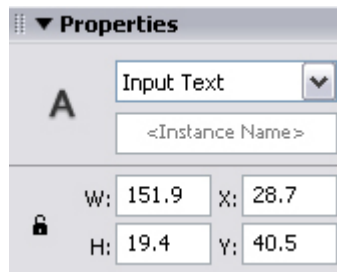
- iii. You will then need to create the field names and datatypes. Yours should match the list below:

Field Name	Data Type	
ID	AutoNumber	*primary key
FirstName	text	
LastName	text	
Email	text	
Message	Memo	

- iv. Ok, your done creating your database, save your file and let's open up Flash.

Creating the Flash Form

- i. Open a new document.
- ii. Create four input textfields with either the text tool or ActionScript, and a submit button. Make sure all textfields are set to input in your properties panel.



- iii. Make sure to give your input textfields variable names. We used:

fname
lname
email
message

You should now have a form similar to this:

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Message:

For now what we are going to do is use the `getURL()` syntax so we can test our ASP page. Later, when we know everything is working, we will then change the `getURL()` syntax to `loadVariablesNum()`. You may be very surprised to see that we will only be using 1 line of actionscript to send our data to the ASP page.

```
on(press){
  getURL("http://yourSite.com/processForm.asp",0,"pc
}
```

Remember you can simply use the `loadVariablesNum()` syntax, so if your bold go ahead, but you won't be able to really test your asp page until your done.

```
on(press){
loadVariablesNum("http://yourSite.com/processForm
"}

```

Creating the ASP Page

If your familiar with PHP you will quickly notice that the process to enter information into a database is the same. The steps we will need to take are as follows:

1. Retrieve the data from Flash
2. Connect to our database
3. Create a SQL query to insert the data we previously obtained
4. Execute the SQL query.

Receive the Data from Flash

- i. Open notepad or a similar editing program.
- ii. Lets start with the basics of ASP, first save your document as processForm.asp
- iii. Let's first define what scripting we are using. ASP scripts are surrounded by the delimiters `<%...%>`. Here is the syntax:

```
<%@language = "VBScript" %>
```

- iv. Now lets capture the variables from our Flash form we created and give them. Your code show read as follows:

```
<%@language = "VBScript" %>
<%
```

```
strFirst = Request.Form("fname")
strLast = Request.Form("lname")
strEmail = Request.Form("email")
strMessage = Request.Form("message")
```

```
%>
```

All we are doing here is setting up variable names and giving them the values we retrieved from Flash. So when we want to refer to those values we will be using the new names we just gave them.

(Note this will also work with an HTML form.)

It's always a good idea to trouble shoot as you go. So let's make sure were actually receiving the information before we go ahead and try to do anything with it. So let's print our variables to the browser. Add this code to your ASP file.

```
Response.Write(strFirst) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strLast) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strEmail) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strMessage)
```

So now when we test our file the page should display the information you typed into the Flash form. So far this is what your code should look like.

```
<%@language = "VBScript" %>
<%

strFirst = Request.Form("fname")
strLast = Request.Form("lname")
strEmail = Request.Form("email")
strMessage = Request.Form("message")

Response.Write(strFirst) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strLast) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strEmail) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strMessage)

%>
```

Connecting to our Database

Great, now that we have our data captured let's go ahead and connect to the database. Here is the syntax that allows us to connect to the database we created:

```
MyPath=Server.MapPath("example.mdb")
Set conn = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")
conn.Open "Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};" & _
"DBQ=" & MyPath
```

Let's test our page and make sure we don't get any errors. Your final code should look like this:

```
<%@language = "VBScript" %>
<%

strFirst = Request.Form("fname")
strLast = Request.Form("lname")
strEmail = Request.Form("email")
strMessage = Request.Form("message")

Response.Write(strFirst) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strLast) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strEmail) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strMessage)

MyPath=Server.MapPath("example.mdb")
Set conn = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")
conn.Open "Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};" & _
"DBQ=" & MyPath

%>
```

Creating the SQL Query

If your not familiar with SQL the syntax for INSERTING is:

```
INSERT INTO table_name
VALUES (value1, value2,....)
```

Our full SQL query will read as follows:

```
SQL = "INSERT INTO contacts(FirstName, LastName, Email, Message) VALUES
("&strFirst&","&strLast&","&strEmail&","&strMessage&")"
```

Again let's avoid future troubleshooting and print our SQL statement your code should read as follows:

```
<%@language = "VBScript" %>
<%
```

```
strFirst = Request.Form("fname")
strLast = Request.Form("lname")
strEmail = Request.Form("email")
strMessage = Request.Form("message")
```

```
Response.Write(strFirst) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strLast) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strEmail) & "<br>"
Response.Write(strMessage)
```

```
MyPath=Server.MapPath("example.mdb")
Set conn = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")
conn.Open "Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};" & _
"DBQ=" & MyPath
```

```
SQL = "INSERT INTO contacts (FirstName, LastName, Email, Message) VALUES
("&strFirst&","&strLast&","&strEmail&","&strMessage&")"
```

```
Response.Write(SQL)
%>
```

Executing the SQL Query

Now that everything is working let's go ahead and execute our SQL query. The syntax is as follows:

```
conn.Execute(SQL)
```

At this point we really don't need our asp page to print out our variables and SQL statement. So let's clean up our ASP unless you don't want to or just comment out the Response.Write lines. (the ' character is used to comment in ASP)

Final Code:

```
<%@language = "VBScript" %>
<%
```

```
strFirst = Request.Form("fname")
strLast = Request.Form("lname")
strEmail = Request.Form("email")
strMessage = Request.Form("message")
```

```
MyPath=Server.MapPath("example.mdb")
Set conn = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")
conn.Open "Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};" & _
"DBQ=" & MyPath
```

```
SQL = "INSERT INTO contacts (FirstName, LastName, Email, Message) VALUES  
("&strFirst&","&strLast&","&strEmail&","&strMessage&")"  
conn.Execute(SQL)  
%>
```

Ok that's it. If you've gotten this far you've done a nice job. If you are getting errors or if your information isn't getting stored in the database retrace your steps, and remember to always **print** before you execute. One final thought is about security. If you keep your database inside the `_root` folder of your site, your database can now be accessed by anyone. You should always keep your databases outside the `_root` of your web folder. The only thing you will need to change is the path to the database in your ASP script.

Change:

```
MyPath=Server.MapPath("example.mdb")
```

To something like:

```
MyPath=Server.MapPath("../database/example.mdb")
```

Good Luck!

SorBose, Inc.