

SimulateTabbed

(Q) Can I easily simulate a tabbed interface (like in Calc ... ?) in a database form ?

tags:
HowTo

(R) A tabbed interface is for building wizards stepping from a page to the next or hiding/unhiding portions of a form when a button is clicked. This feature is builtin In a **dialog**. See the **Page** property of dialogs and/or dialog **controls**.

However in a form we will have to be more creative by:

- making use of the concept of *sections* (remember that a database form is finally a Writer document ...). Indeed *sections* can be made programmatically hidden or visible very simply.
- managing them by mixing the *Access2Base* and *UNO* API's

You have to understand that a *section* in a Writer document is nothing else than a set of contiguous paragraphs.

If we anchor a control on the form to a paragraph, and if that paragraph is included a a *section*, when hiding the *section* the control will be made hidden as well.

The concept has been derived from a topic from the (french) [OpenOffice forum](#).

In next example we have put the main form - except its 2 top buttons *Orders* and *Details* -, in the first section, and a subform in the second one. This allows us to obtain next result:

TT NorthWind.odt : Orders_Tabbed - LibreOffice Base: Database Form

File Edit View Insert Format Table Tools Window Help

Orders Details

CustomerID: WILMK

EmployeeID: 5

OrderDate: 04/07/96 00:00

RequiredDate: 01/08/96 00:00

ShipAddress: 59 rue de l'Abbaye

ShipCity: Reims

ShipCountry: France

ShipPostalCode: 51100

OrderID: 10248

Record 1 of 41 *

Page 1 / 1 Default Style 100%

and after having pressed the *Details* button:

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Orders Details

Discount	OrderID	ProductID	Quantity	UnitPrice
0	10248	11	12	14
0	10248	42	10	9,8
0	10248	72	5	34,8

Record 1 of 41 *

Page 1 / 1 Default Style 100%

The code behind the top buttons

```

Public Sub SelectTab(Optional poEvent As Object)
Dim oEvent As Object, oForm As Object
Set oEvent = Application.Events(poEvent)
Set oForm = Forms("Orders_Tabbed")
If oEvent.Source.Name = "btnOrders" Then
oForm.Component.TextSections.getByIndex(1).IsVisible = False
oForm.Component.TextSections.getByIndex(0).IsVisible = True
oEvent.Source.Value = True
oForm.Controls("btnDetails").Value = False
Else
oForm.Component.TextSections.getByIndex(0).IsVisible = False
oForm.Component.TextSections.getByIndex(1).IsVisible = True
oEvent.Source.Value = True
    
```

```
        oForm.Controls("btnOrders").Value = False
    End If
End Sub
```

The code manages

- the visibility of each section : see the *TextSections* property of text components;
- the toggle status of the upper buttons : see the **Value** property of command buttons.

Refer to ...

Basic module	Form	Form event	Control	Control event	Comments
Tabbed	Orders_Tabbed		btnOrders btnDetails	Execute action	

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