

# Access Studio Guide

## **To add Access Studio to your application:**

1. Place the .accde in a convenient folder
2. Open your application (the front end in the case of a split database)
3. Open the VBE
4. Go to Tools>References
5. Then browse to the .accde (select file type as .accde if required) and select Access Studio v1 32 or 64 bit as required
6. Now go to the immediate window and type 'openAccessStudio'
7. You can now close the VBE
8. The Access Studio main form will open maximised and as a popup. You can resize as required.
9. An icon will also appear in the taskbar so easy to find the form again if minimised or hidden behind other windows. The icon is removed from the task bar when the form is closed
10. To close just close the window using the X on the window bar.

Once installed you can create a sub or function which can be called as and when required or as a click event to a button or some other control.

## **Or you can add a tab to the ribbon.**

Use this method to create a tab on the ribbon to open Access Studio. You will also find these instructions in access studio by clicking on SQL Templates and selecting 'Guide to create ribbon'. If you execute it, it will create and populate the usysRibbons table.

If you are already using custom ribbons, you can adapt the following to your requirements

1. Create a Table called UsysRibbons with the following fields
  - ID – autonumber
  - RibbonName – text
  - RibbonXML - longtext/memo

populate RibbonName with 'Access Studio' and copy and paste the following XML to the RibbonXML field (see associated text file)

```
<customUI xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office/2006/01/customui">

  <ribbon startFromScratch="false">
    <tabs>
      <tab id="MyCustomTab" label="Access Studio" insertAfterMso="TabView" >
        <group id="customGroup1" label="Options">
          <button id="customButton1" label="Open Access Studio" imageMso="HappyFace" size="large"
onAction="ribAccessStudio" />
        </group>
      </tab>
    </tabs>
  </ribbon>
</customUI>
```

2. In a standard module, create the following public function

```
Function ribAccessStudio(Control)
```

```
    OpenAccessStudio
```

```
End Function
```

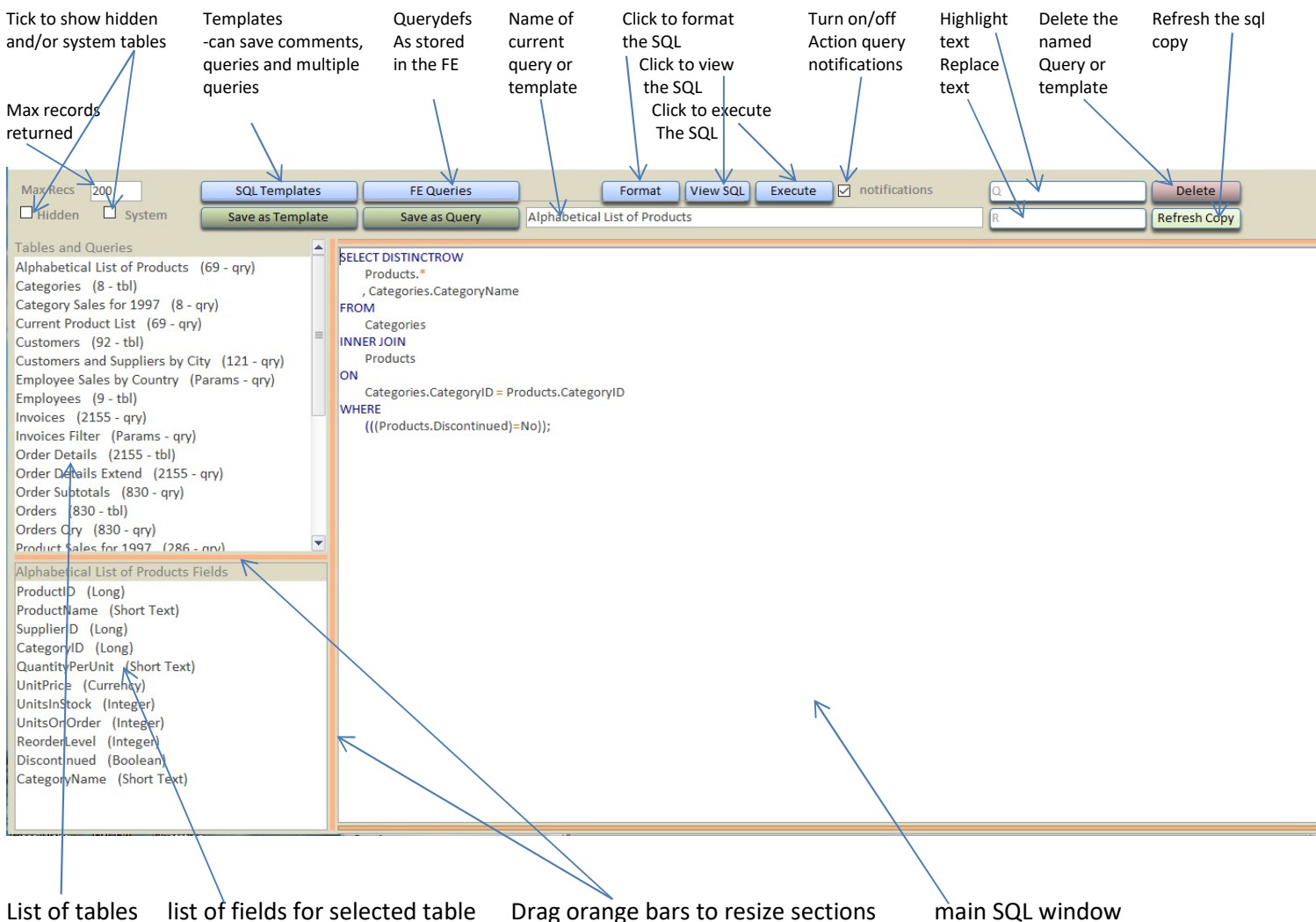
3. Compile and compact/repair

4. Now go to File>Options>Current Database and in the Ribbon and Toolbars section, select Access Studio for Ribbon Name in the dropdown

5. Finally close and reopen the database. You should now see an Access Studio tab. Click on it and then click the happy face to open Access Studio

## Quick tour of Access Studio

Note: much of the following can be found in SQL Templates as 'Guide to Access Studio'



## Tables and Queries window

- Shows table or query names, recordcount and whether it is a query or table.
- If a linked table it will also indicate what it is linked to
- Only Select and Xtab queries are shown as these are potential sources for data
- 'Params' means there are parameters in the query which cannot be identified to determine a recordcount
- Double clicking copies the table name to the SQL window – make sure you have clicked on the SQL window first to indicate where you want it to appear. Table names with spaces or non alphanumeric characters will be enclosed in square brackets
- In any event, the fields for the selected table/query will appear in the Fields window
- In this version it is not possible to sort or filter

## Fields window

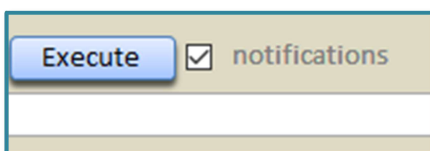
- Displays the field name, index and type associated with the field, together with the datatype
- Double clicking copies the field name to the SQL window – make sure you have clicked on the SQL window first to indicate where you want it to appear. Field names with spaces or non alphanumeric characters will be enclosed in square brackets
- The name will be preceded with a comma since this is frequently required. Manually remove if not required
- In this version it is not possible to sort or filter

## Main SQL window

- Note that the right click menu is disabled so use ctrl-C and ctrl-V to copy/paste
- Select a FE query or template by clicking on the relevant button and select from the dropdown
- If no selection is made, click on the relevant button again to hide the dropdown
- Or just start typing or copy/paste from another source
- Selections from querydefs will automatically be formatted when loaded
- Click the format button to format your typed or pasted code
- SQL templates retain the format they were saved with
- SQL only will be saved to querydefs – any comments will be stripped out. The SQL must also be valid
- SQL (including invalid code) saved to templates will retain comments and formatting
- Any formatting done using the richtext format menu will be retained in SQL Templates – but if used will be stripped out if the format button is clicked.
- You can include more than one query (use copy paste to copy a query into another one). Note that multiple queries can only be saved to templates. This example shows two select queries.

```
SELECT DISTINCTROW
    Products.*
    , Categories.CategoryName
FROM
    Categories
INNER JOIN
    Products
ON
    Categories.CategoryID = Products.CategoryID
WHERE
    (((Products.Discontinued)=No));
SELECT
    [Product List].ProductID
    , [Product List].ProductName
FROM
    Products AS [Product List]
WHERE
    ((([Product List].Discontinued)=No))
ORDER BY
    [Product List].ProductName;
```

- Click the Execute button to execute both queries – results will appear at the bottom. Action queries generate a message box notification which can be turned off by unticking the notifications checkbox before executing.
- In the event that notifications are turned off, if the last query to run is not a select or Xtab query a message box will still appear to advise that execution is complete.



- Queries do not need to be formatted to run. Use the orange bars to resize. Right click menus work on the results to filter/sort.

```

SELECT DISTINCTROW
  Products.*
  , Categories.CategoryName
FROM
  Categories
INNER JOIN
  Products
ON
  Categories.CategoryID = Products.CategoryID
WHERE
  (((Products.Discontinued)=No));
SELECT
  [Product List].ProductID
  , [Product List].ProductName
FROM
  Products AS [Product List]
WHERE
  ((([Product List].Discontinued)=No))
ORDER BY
  [Product List].ProductName;

```

ProductID	ProductName	SupplierID
1	Chai	1
2	Chang	1
3	Aniseed Syrup	1
4	Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoni	2
6	Grandma's Boysenberry Spi	2
7	Uncle Bob's Organic Dried I	3
8	Northwoods Cranberry Saur	2
10	Ikura	4

ProductID	ProductName
3	Aniseed Syrup
40	Boston Crab Meat
60	Camembert Pierrot
18	Carnarvon Tigers
1	Chai
2	Chang
39	Chartreuse verte
4	Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoni

- You can highlight one query (or a subquery) and just execute that one (you must select valid sql). Note this makes use of the clipboard and occasionally it does not get cleared. If this is the case, select all text which should correct the issue.

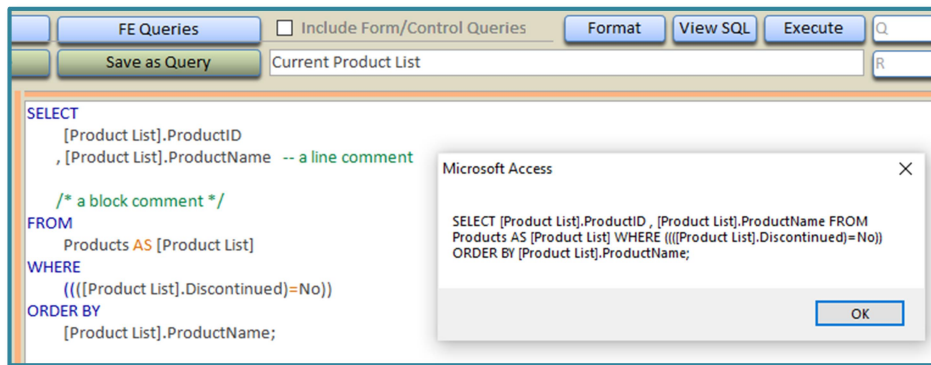
```

SELECT DISTINCTROW
  Products.*
  , Categories.CategoryName
FROM
  Categories
INNER JOIN
  Products
ON
  Categories.CategoryID = Products.CategoryID
WHERE
  (((Products.Discontinued)=No));
SELECT
  [Product List].ProductID
  , [Product List].ProductName
FROM
  Products AS [Product List]
WHERE
  ((([Product List].Discontinued)=No))
ORDER BY
  [Product List].ProductName;

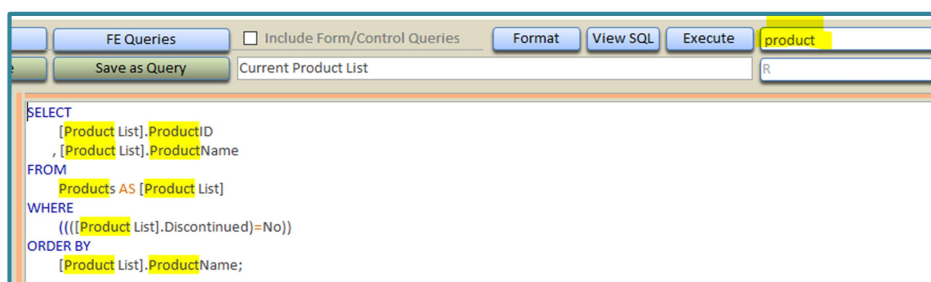
```

ProductID	ProductName
3	Aniseed Syrup
40	Boston Crab Meat
60	Camembert Pierrot
18	Carnarvon Tigers
1	Chai
2	Chang
39	Chartreuse verte
4	Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoni

- To view the sql without comments and unformatted, click the View SQL button to see the results in a message box

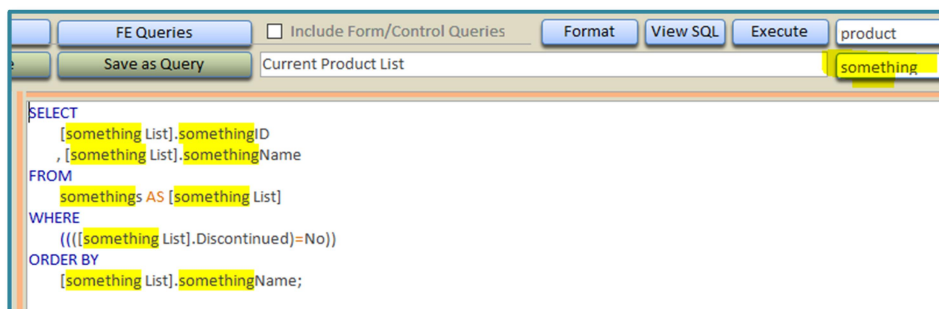


- To find some text use the find box - Just enter some text and press return. Found text will be highlighted in yellow



Click the format button to remove highlighting

- To replace text, enter the replacement in the replace box and press return. Replacement text remains highlighted. Use ctrl-Z to undo



- To delete a query or template, select it from a dropdown if not already selected, then click the Delete button

- Use of comments:

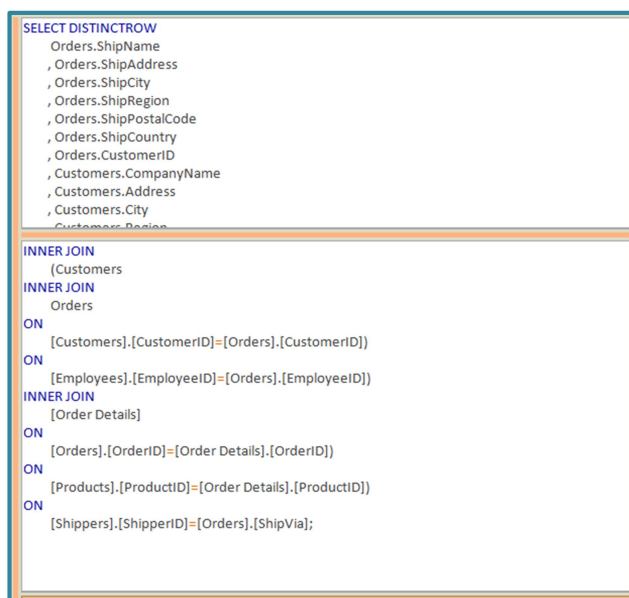
There are two types of comments, line comments and block comments, both highlighted in green

- Line comments are identified with a double hyphen (--) as the identifier and all text after it on the same line will be ignored.
  - Useful if you want for example to temporarily exclude a field from a query or to explain some point about a field or table.
  - You can also use line comments to force a carriage return if for example you wanted to break a function across several lines - see other templates for examples
- Block comments are identified with /\* and end with \*/ and can cover multiple lines.
  - Useful if you want for example to exclude a section of code or provide more detailed explanations or a change history
- Comments can only be saved in templates. See examples in Templates..

- Second view.

The sql is presented in a vertical format. So sometimes you will find yourself scrolling up and down.

To assist with this you will see an orange bar above the sql window. This can be dragged down to provide a second view of the sql which can be independently scrolled.



Note that changes cannot be retained in this other window. Make you changes in the main SQL window then click the Refresh button to update the second view.

See guides and examples in SQL Templates for different ways of utilising Access Studio.

## What's Next?

It is not intended to extend the functionality of this free version of Access Studio, although any bugs discovered will be investigated.

Further development will continue on the (pay for) professional version which I hope to be able to release around August 2022 with an expected cost of around £100.

The professional version will have the same general look and feel of the free version but with more functionality. In addition to the below I will be very happy to receive feedback regarding other functionality which you consider to be desirable.

- Ability to manage multiple databases from one location
- Ability to modify the formatting rules so you can change the way Access Studio formats SQL
- Ability to change the default colours, fonts and font sizes
- Ability to change the max records value
- Addition of a 'scratch pad' – somewhere to put reference notes
- Ability to float sections off the main form (for example so you can view fields from different tables at the same time – alternative to the QBE)
- and/or addition of a QBE
- Addition of some new commands such as
  - Createdatabase
  - Createquerydef
  - Deletequerydef
  - Ability to store SQL templates in deep hidden table in your front end or back end
    - will enable your app to execute multiple queries through a single function (code provided)
    - Option for the sql to be encrypted

I hope you enjoy using Access Studio and it helps to improve your productivity

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