

Dialog@Site Technical Note 3 - Calculating Total Search Time

Calculating time spent searching databases using data from the Access.Log file.

Usage:

To calculate the combined total time spent searching each database.

Method:

1. Copy the Access.log file to a convenient location, renaming it to, say, 0600Access.CSV (note the CSV file extension), or create a restricted data set (see " Filtering Data Using Microsoft Excel's Advanced Filtering")
2. Open the file in Excel.
3. You may now wish to sort the table to give concurrent connections per database at a given time. To do this:

From the menu select "Data|Sort"

This brings up a wizard.

Select:

Sort By:	Database ID	Ascending
Then By:	Date	Ascending
Then By	Time	Ascending

4. In the next available spreadsheet column, and on the first data row, type the following formula:

$$=IF(Ex=Ey,(IF(Fy="DB Connect",Hx-By,IF(Fy="DB Disconnect",Hx+By,Hx))),-By)$$

(Where **y** = the first data row number, **x** = y-1, and assuming **B**= Time, **E**=Database ID, **F**=Action columns, and **H**=current column)

Note: Be careful entering the parenthesis. There must be as many closing parenthesis as opening.

5. Press "Enter"
6. Hilight the entire column, and change the format to "Time" - eg xx:xx:xx .
7. Now copy the function in step4 down the entire column. This can be achieved by clicking onto the box in the bottom right corner of the cell containing the formula, and dragging the outline to the bottom row of the data set. The formula is then automatically copied, changing the cell references as appropriate. Alternatively – ctrl-C the cell, ctrl-shift-arrowdown, followed by ctrl-V .
8. Label the Column "Search Time" or similar.

You should now have total search time by each database.

Note: Some rows will show ##### in the column. This is because the time has changed to a negative value and is invalid. You can safely ignore these cells.

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If you wish to produce a neat report showing access by database then you can use a **pivot table**.

To do this:

1. Position the cursor in the data set to be analysed.
2. Click Data|PivotTable Report (the PivotTable Wizard now starts)
3. Select Microsoft Excel list or database
4. Click "Next" (your data range should now be highlighted)
5. Click "Next" if range is correct.
6. Drag the label for DatabaseID into the row place holder
7. Drag the label of the column for "Search Time" or whatever you called it into the Data placeholder.
8. Double click on the field name "Search Time" (in this example)
9. Select - Summarise by: Max
10. Type a sensible name for the table e.g. "Search Time"
11. Click "Number" button.
12. Select Category: "Time" and choose Type: xx:xx
13. Click "OK"
14. Click "OK"
15. Click "Finish"

You should now have an attractive report that can be emailed or printed as required.