

71 Searching information in a different file

Written by Dave Terry

Published Date March 2, 1988

Search command allows the user to search on information in a linked record

On page 152 of the Command Reference a function is used in a **Search** command that allows the user to search on information in a linked record. This tech note explores this concept and gives further examples.

In the example a search is performed of the type

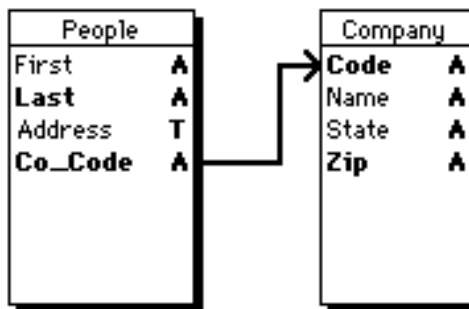
Search([Filename];MyFunc)

where *MyFunc* is the global procedure

```
LOAD LINKED RECORD([Invoice]CustomerID)
$0:=(Substring([Customer]ZipCode;1;2)="94")
```

which returns a boolean **True/False**. In the example the function is hard coded to do a search for zip codes starting with "94". However, it is possible to create much more flexible functions that can even be used in the User environment.

Look at the following structure:



One improvement would be the ability to pass to the function the value the field in the linked record should match, for example:

```
SEARCH([People];LinkSearch1("CA"))
```

where *LinkSearch1* is

```
LOAD LINKED RECORD([People]Co_Code)
$0:=([Company]State=$1)
```

in this example the string "CA" is passed to *LinkSearch1* and is used in the search. This procedure could even be employed in the User environment using the Search by Formula command.



Now taking this a step further we can have

```
SEARCH([People];LinkSearch 2("[People]Co_Code";"[Company]State";"CA"))
```

where *LinkSearch2* is

```
EXECUTE("Load Linked Record("+ $1 +")")  
EXECUTE("x:="+ $2 + "=" + Char(34) + $3 + Char(34) + ")")  
$0:=x
```

in this example everything is passed to *LinkSearch2* . This includes the linking field name, the linked field to be compared and the value it is to be compared to. This procedure assumes nothing about the files or fields being worked on and can search linked information from any file given the right parameters. One drawback would be the speed loss due to the two **EXECUTE** statements. The \$0 variable cannot be assigned in the **EXECUTE** statement.

A similar method can be used with a **SEARCH BY INDEX** command. In the above structure, it might be useful to find all companies that currently have people associated with them. This can be done with the following search:

```
SEARCH([Company];FindRecs1)
```

where *FindRecs1* is

```
SEARCH BY INDEX([People]Co_Code=[Company]Code)  
$0:=(Records in selection([People])>0)
```

this search would return all companies that currently have people and is a fairly fast search.

