

How to compare contents of two tables?

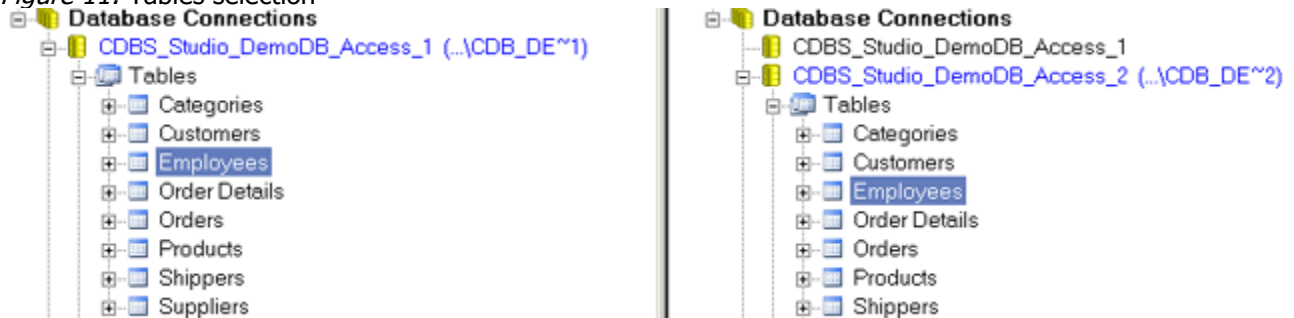
Key Points:

- Data comparison of the two selected tables is being performed on the basis of the **IDENTITY KEY**.
- IDENTITY KEY is a value that uniquely identifies a data row
- Values in a specific table column or group of columns are used as rows IDENTITY KEY
- The columns used as IDENTITY KEY can be assigned manually by user, automatically selected by the software according to primary keys or unique indexes assigned to the table, or it can be cancelled.
- User can define the rules of data comparison (i.e. case sensitivity, ignore leading/trailing white spaces, and etc.) as well as the rules relating to the creation of the comparison-results report (i.e. include identical rows, include different rows, and etc.).

The Comparison Procedure:

1. Select the tables intended for comparison from the left and right panels.

Figure 11: Tables selection



2. Use **Compare > Table/View Data** menu command

The program will compare the data stored in the selected tables, displaying the results of the comparison on the screen in a separate window:

Figure 12: Comparison results window



The screenshot shows a window titled 'Table Data Differences' with two side-by-side data grids. The left grid shows 9 records from the 'Employees' table in the first database, and the right grid shows 10 records from the 'Employees' table in the second database. The records are compared based on EmployeeID, LastName, FirstName, Title, and TitleOfCourtesy. The status bar at the bottom indicates: Identical - 6, Different - 3, and 0 - Missed - 1.

Emplo...	LastName	FirstName	Title	TitleOfCour
2	Fuller	Andrew	Vice Preside...	Dr.
3	Leverling	Janet	Sales Repre...	Ms.
4	Peacock	Margaret	Sales Repre...	Mrs.
5	Buchanan	Steven	Sales Mana...	Mr.
6	Suyama	Michael	Sales Repre...	Mr.
7	King	Robert	Sales Repre...	Mr.
8	Callahan	Laura	Inside Sales...	Ms.

EmployeeID	LastName	FirstName	Title	TitleOfCourtesy	BirthDate	HireDate	Address	City
Left Side 5	Buchanan	Steven	Sales Mana...	Mr.	1955-03-04	1993-10-17	14 Garrett Hill	London
Right Side 5	Buchanan	Steven	General Ma...	Mr.	1955-03-04	1993-10-17	14 Garrett Hill	London

The window is divided into three panes:

- The left pane shows the data stored in the table selected on the left pane of the main application window.
- The right pane shows the data stored in the the table selected on the right pane of the main application window.
- The bottom pane refines the found differences between the rows of the selected data rows pair.

Each line of the displayed grid represents a pair of the corresponding (i.e. having same value of IDENTITY KEY) data records in the compared tables.

- The lines representing two different records are marked by red color.
- The lines representing two identical records are marked by black color.
- The lines representing one record only - no corresponding data row is found in the other table - are marked by blue color.

In order to generate comparison report file, select the *Report comparison result into file* mode using the appropriate button on the toolbar of the main application window:

If this button is used, the comparison results of ALL of the comparison procedures will be stored into a file.
 Figure 13: An example of a comparison report

Comparison Report. Created by Cross Database Software created: 2010-12-02 14:00:00

Trial version www.dbbalance.com

Expand all Collapse all Legend: Fixed records Different records Different only

Connection info

Differences of Tables Data (Employees --- Employees)

Table - 'Employees'													Table - 'Employees'					
EmployeeID	LastName	FirstName	Title	TitleOfCourtesy	BirthDate	HireDate	Address	City	Region	PostalCode	Country	HomePhone	Extension	ReportsTo	EmployeeID	LastName	FirstName	Title
1	Deello	Nancy	Sales Representative	Ms.	1965-12-08 00:00:00	1992-05-01 00:00:00	527 - 2221 Ave. E. Apt. 2A	Seattle	WA	98122	USA	(206) 555-9877	5467	2	1	Deello	Nancy	Sales Representative
2	Fuller	Andrew	Vice President, Sales	Dr.	1972-02-18 00:00:00	1992-08-14 00:00:00	908 W. Capital City	Tampa	FL	33603	USA	(813) 555-6482	3452	(Null)	2	Fuller	Andrew	Vice President
3	Levelling	Jane	Sales Representative	Ms.	1963-08-30 00:00:00	1992-04-01 00:00:00	722 Pine Bay Blvd.	Kirkland	WA	98033	USA	(206) 555-3412	3385	2	3	Levelling	Jane	Sales Representative
4	Peacock	Hargard	Sales Representative	Mrs.	1959-09-19 00:00:00	1992-05-03 00:00:00	9210 Old Redmond Rd.	Redmond	WA	98052	USA	(206) 555-8122	5176	2	4	Peacock	Hargard	Sales Representative
5	Buchanan	Steven	Sales Manager	Mr.	1955-03-04 00:00:00	1989-10-17 00:00:00	14 Cornhill Hill	London	(Null)	SW1E 6JH	UK	(71) 555-4444	3453	2	5	Buchanan	Steven	General Manager
6	Suzanne	Michael	Sales Representative	Ms.	1963-07-02 00:00:00	1992-10-17 00:00:00	Coventry House 11th Rd.	London	(Null)	EC2 3SR	UK	(71) 555-7773	428	5	6	Suzanne	Michael	Sales Representative
7	King	Robert	Sales Representative	Mr.	1968-05-09 00:00:00	1992-01-02 00:00:00	Emmanuel House Winchester Way	London	(Null)	W12 8NP	UK	(71) 555-5598	445	5	7	King	Robert	Sales Representative
8	Callahan	Leora	Inside Sales Coordinator	Ms.	1959-01-09 00:00:00	1994-02-05 00:00:00	4726 - 12th Ave. N.E.	Seattle	WA	98105	USA	(206) 555-1189	3344	2	8	Callahan	Leora	Inside Sales Coordinator
9	Dodsworth	Anne	Sales Representative	Ms.	1969-07-02 00:00:00	1994-11-15 00:00:00	7 Monkswell Rd.	London	(Null)	W12 7LT	UK	(71) 555-4444	452	5	9	Dodsworth	Anne	Sales Representative
10	Chousberg	Valery	Programmer	Ms.										10	Chousberg	Valery	Programmer	

Setting comparison options

In order to alter the comparison settings of the table indices, use the **Tools > Comparison Options...** command of the main application window menu.

Switch to the **Indexes Comparison** tab in the **Comparison options** dialog box and confirm or cancel the needed options for the comparison of the indices.

Figure 14: Comparison options available

