SKILLBUILDERS SAVE VALUE ON CASCADE

A DYNAMIC ACTION PLUG-IN FOR ORACLE APPLICATION EXPRESS (APEX)
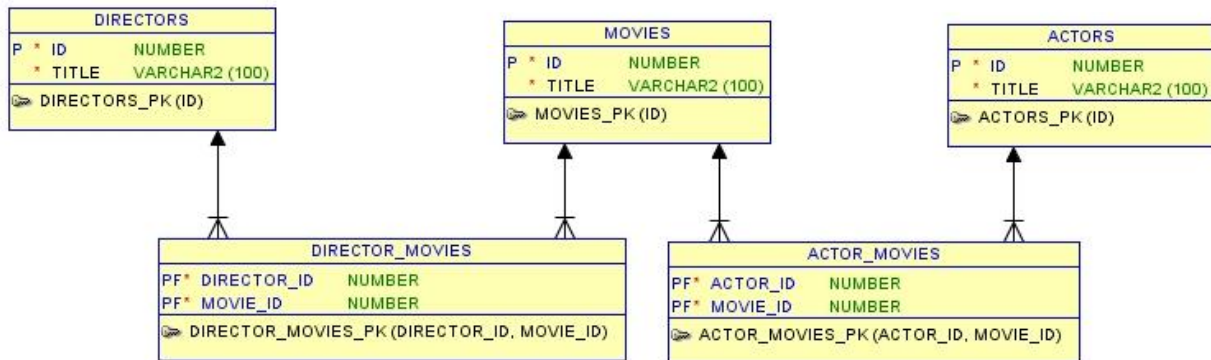
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Overview

Intro

APEX supports declarative cascading LOVs. In certain scenarios the value of a parent item can generate some of the same values for child items. Consider the following database design:

And these corresponding select lists in a form:

In this example, changing Movie to another in the Indiana Jones series would again yield Harrison Ford in the Actor select list. Despite the same value being available, the selected value of any child items will be cleared when the parent value changes. The SkillBuilders Save Value on Cascade plug-in was designed to preserve the selected value of child item if the same value exists after refreshing.

Note: On APEX 4.0, only cascading select lists and shuttles are supported. Radio buttons and checkboxes should work with APEX 4.1.

Version History

- 1.0 (2/24/2011)
    - Initial release.
- 1.1 (6/13/2011)
    - Updated to work with shuttles. Big thanks to Matt Nolan for this update!
    - Added debug code.

Feature Requests and Bugs

If you would like to see additional functionality added to the plug-in, or if you have found a bug, please let us know by emailing support@skillbuilders.com.

License

The SkillBuilders Save Value on Cascade plug-in is currently available for use in all personal or commercial projects under both MIT and GPL licenses. This means that you can choose the license that best suits your project and use it accordingly. Both licenses have been included with this software.

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Installation and Configuration

Installation

With this installation package there is a plug-in installation file named:

- dynamic_action_plugin_com_skillbuilders_sbdp_save_value.sql

Navigate to "Shared Components > Plug-ins" and click **Import >**. From there you can follow the menu to upload and install the plug-in using the file above. After the plug-in has been installed successfully you will be redirected to the plug-in edit screen.

Once installed, this plug-in can be used as a native APEX component. See Configuration Settings for details on how the application and component settings affect the plug-in.

Configuration

Navigate to a page that has cascading select lists for which you would like to save the child value when possible.

1. Create a new Dynamic Action
   a. Using the Tree View, scroll to the bottom of Page Rendering and right-click **Dynamic Actions**, then left-click **Create**.
   b. Using the Component View, scroll down to the bottom of Page Rendering and left-click the Create button in the Dynamic Actions region (looks like a "+").
2. Select **Advanced**.
3. Click **Next >**.
4. Enter a name for the Dynamic Action.
5. Click **Next >**.
6. Set **Event** to **Page Load**.
7. Click **Next >**.
8. Set **Action** to **SkillBuilders Save Value on Cascade [Plug-in]**.
9. Click **Next >**.
10. Set **Selection Type** to **Item(s)**.
11. Set **Item(s)** to include the items for which values should be saved when cascading.
12. Click **Create**.

About SkillBuilders and the Author

About SkillBuilders

SkillBuilders is known for excellent IT training and consulting. Our instructors are always industry-tested experts and outstanding teachers who have set an unsurpassed standard of excellence. SkillBuilders' roots can be traced to 1985 when our founder, Dave Anderson, embarked on his career as an independent IT consultant, instructor and author. Dave and his colleagues built a small, energetic and growing company, headquartered in South Kingstown, RI.

About the Author

Dan McGhan

Dan is a Senior Developer and Instructor with SkillBuilders. He suffers from Compulsive Programing Disorder which is believed to be linked to his balding. Having started his development career in the land of MySQL and PHP, he was only too happy to have stumbled upon APEX. Since then, he's dedicated his programming efforts to learning more about Oracle and web based technologies in general.

Dan is an Oracle Application Express Certified Expert, as well as an Oracle PL/SQL Developer Certified Associate. In addition to his "day job", he is one of the top contributors to the APEX forum, maintains his own Oracle and APEX blog, and is a regular presenter at various events and user group meetings including ODTUG Kaleidoscope and APEXposed, the New York, New England, and Suncoast Oracle User Groups. His most recent addiction, as you may have guessed, is developing plug-ins for APEX.

When not programming, Dan may be found studying languages other than those used for development, notably Spanish and Italian. He's also been sited at various venues dancing Salsa with his fiancée, Sonia, and even enjoying an occasional cigar, a time when Sonia prefers not to be around.