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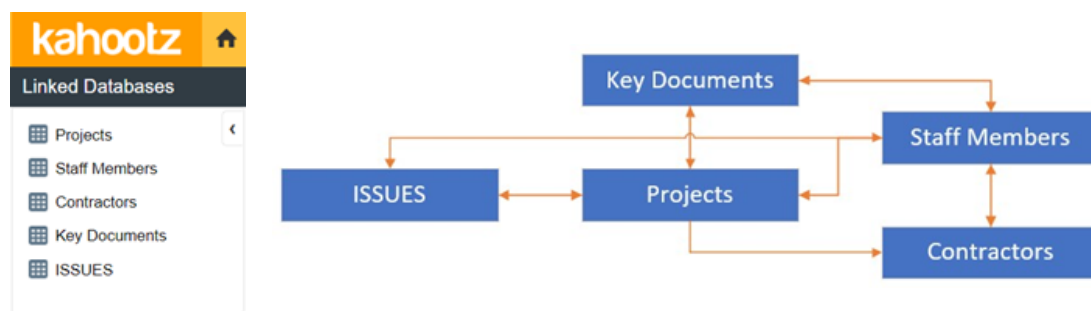
How-To use Linked Databases

Chris Holt - 2022-03-31 - [How-To](#)

This KB article will provide step-by-step guidance regarding our newly released “Linked Databases” along with some useful tips & how-to create/add these columns to your current/new databases within your own Kahootz site.

Linked Database Columns allow you to link entries stored in one Kahootz database with other entries stored in the same and completely separate Kahootz databases, allowing you to view the data with a single click of a button.

Kahootz Tip: Both databases must be in the same workspace.



Please review our [Linking Databases Together](#) KB article for full details.

How to Create/Setup and Manage Linked Database Columns

You can only add a “linked database column” to an existing database; therefore, please refer to this [KB article](#) on how to create a database.

If you’ve already done that, please continue with the below steps.

Once you have your database/s built with added row entries, lets now add some linking between them.

In this example, I will use a “**Projects**” database and a “**Contractors**” database to demonstrate the linking.

Projects

Name/Title	Completion Date ▲	
Data Migration	01 Mar 2020	
Office Move	31 Mar 2020	
ISP Contract	01 Apr 2020	
ISO27001	30 Apr 2020	
Christmas Party	25 Dec 2020	
		Modify Delete
		<input type="text" value="Quick search"/>

Contractors

As shown above, you can now see the “**Main Contractor**” linked database column within the Projects database, therefore, now open the database linked to it, and you’ll see the reciprocal column called “Working on Which Projects” has been added automatically.

Database.

Contractors

Company Name	Phone Number	Email Address	Location	Working on Which Projects		
CJH Ltd	01256 777 777	CJH@K.com	Basingstoke	ISO27001	ISP Contract	👁️ ✎️ 🗑️
				Office Move		
GT Dev	01420 987789	GT@A.com	Andover	Data Migration	ISO27001	👁️ ✎️ 🗑️
				ISP Contract		
PKJ Local	01488 123456	PKJ@I.com	Newbury	Christmas Party	ISO27001	👁️ ✎️ 🗑️
				Modify	Delete	
				Quick search		🔍

It’s now as easy as clicking on the link “**Office Move**” to review the information.

An entry in Projects	
Name/Title	Office Move
Completion Date	31 Mar 2020
Main Contractor	CJH Ltd

You can then click on “**CJH Ltd**” from the previous pop-out and view all the details about that particular entry as shown below.

An entry in Contractors	
Client ID	C-77123107
Company Name	CJH Ltd
Phone Number	01256 777 777
Email Address	CJH@K.com
Location	Basingstoke
Working on Which Projects	ISO27001
	ISP Contract
	Office Move

Linking & Unlinking Linked Database Columns

When you click “**Link to an entry**” it’ll display a list of entries that you can select. You can search through the list to find the desired value more quickly; however, if you cannot find it, then I’m afraid you’ll need to add the entry via the other database first. Once you’ve done that, come back and link the value.

Link to an entry

To Link, an entry, click on the “**Link to an entry**” button and select from the list shown.

Search for existing entries		
Name/Title	Completion Date	Main Contractor
Office Move	31 Mar 2020	CJH Ltd
Name/Title	Completion Date	Main Contractor
ISP Contract	01 Apr 2020	CJH Ltd GT Dev
Name/Title	Completion Date	Main Contractor
ISO27001	30 Apr 2020	CJH Ltd GT Dev
Name/Title	Completion Date	Main Contractor
Christmas Party	25 Dec 2020	PKJ Local

To unlink an entry, **edit** the row and under the Linked Database Column, click the 'X' that you would like to unlink.

Working on Which Projects		
Name/Title	Completion Date	Main Contractor
Office Move	31 Mar 2020	CJH Ltd

You can also point linked columns to the same database.

Kahootz Tip: Once you delete the entire column it cannot be restored and all links are broken.

Create a Reciprocal Column in the Linked-To Database

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☒

Reciprocal Column Name

If you select "yes" to this option, it'll automatically add a Reciprocal Column to the linked database of which will automatically update both database columns. Please note if you DO NOT create this at the time of creating the linked database column and later on find you want it added to the other database, it won't be automatically linked/updated.

Allow Multiple Values to be Selected

Allow Multiple Values to be Selected

☒ Yes ☐ No

When this toggle is unchecked, if you've already added a linked entry to a row, then you won't see the "Plus + Buttons" that allows you to bring up the linked entry picker. It helps to ensure that you don't accidentally add multiple links to a column when you're trying to represent one-to-one relationships, however, if you don't allow multiple entries to be selected, then you're only allowed to choose one.

Kahootz Tip: If you toggle off "Allow multiple values to be selected" in a column where multiple entries have already been linked, none of the entries will be removed when you save but you won't be able to add more.

Also, if a linked column is limited to only one entry, it can potentially end up with more entries than that because the column could have values added to it from the other linked “reciprocal column” database.

i.e. when you manage the “**Contractors**” database, you can only link (Office Move) to one project, however when you modify the “**Projects**” database (CJH Ltd) can end up managing various projects (**Office Move & ISP Contract**). Therefore, when you go back to the “**Contractors**” database, you’ll now see (**CJH Ltd**) has been assigned to two projects, even know you could only add one from the “Contractors” database.

Allow users to click on a Linked Entry to see More Details.

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☒ Yes ☐ No

If you select “yes”, the linked data is shown as a pop-out window that you can easily click on to review the details directly from the linked database instead of having to change databases, a convenient and helpful feature.

If you select “no” then the linked data is shown as plain text, this can also be useful if you wish to use one database as a lookup list for another; however, this means you have to view the linked data from the other database manually.

Changing the “Main Column” that is Linked-To the Database

As shown in this example, the “**Main Contractors**” linked column shows the [Names] CJH Ltd GT Dev

Whereas instead, you may need to use their Customer Number, PO, Client Ref or Unique ID. Whatever it maybe you can easily change the **Main Column**.

Go to the database and click “**Manage database**” followed by “**Modify permissions and column display**” which you’ll see a section called (**Column Display and Access Controls**) where you can change the “**Main Column**” value.



Kahootz Tip: At the moment, only “text, long text, numeric, email or row number” can be classed as main columns which we’ll look to extend in future releases along with the main column cannot be a locked column.

The Main Column is used as the value to display when another database is linked to this database.

Name	Type	Display	Locked	Main Column
Client ID	Text	Detail view ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Company Name	Text	Always ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>

As shown, I’ve changed the “**Main Column**” radio button from [**Company Name to Client ID**] which now updates the database linked column to use the Client ID instead of their name of which you can see in the below screenshot.

Projects

Name/Title	Completion Date ▲	Main Contractor	
Data Migration	01 Mar 2020	G-43219034	   
Office Move	31 Mar 2020	C-77123107	   
ISP Contract	01 Apr 2020	C-77123107 G-43219034	   
ISO27001	30 Apr 2020	C-77123107 G-43219034 P-13579246	   
Christmas Party	25 Dec 2020	P-13579246	   
			<div> <div>Modify</div> <div>Delete</div> </div> <div>Quick search </div>

Kahootz Tip: If there is no “Main Column” then the Row ID is displayed by default, however, as soon as a new column is added to that database, it’ll be marked as the main column if it is a valid main column type.

Access Control

When you view a database, you’ll see the value for the “Main Column” on linked databases even if you don’t have the permissions to view the linked contents or even the linked database. However, you will not be able to click through to see the actual “pop-up” details when clicking on the linked entry.

When you edit an entry, you can only link to entries in a linked database that you have visibility rights to see.

Searching

When you search a linked column, the search is a text search instead of a select drop-down.

Useful Information / Notes

- Editing of linked columns is not available on the “edit multiple entries” page at present (May 2020)
- Linked Database columns cannot be calculated columns.
- If you delete any linked data like the main or reciprocal columns, you cannot link them back together, you would have to delete them and recreate.
- The reporting functionality doesn’t work for linked databases at present (May 2020)
- The Import/Export functionality isn’t working at present (May 2020)

Related Content

- [Evaluated Columns in a Database](#)
- [Calculated Columns in a database](#)