

PHPquery – the leanest way to query your MySQL Database from VB or VBA

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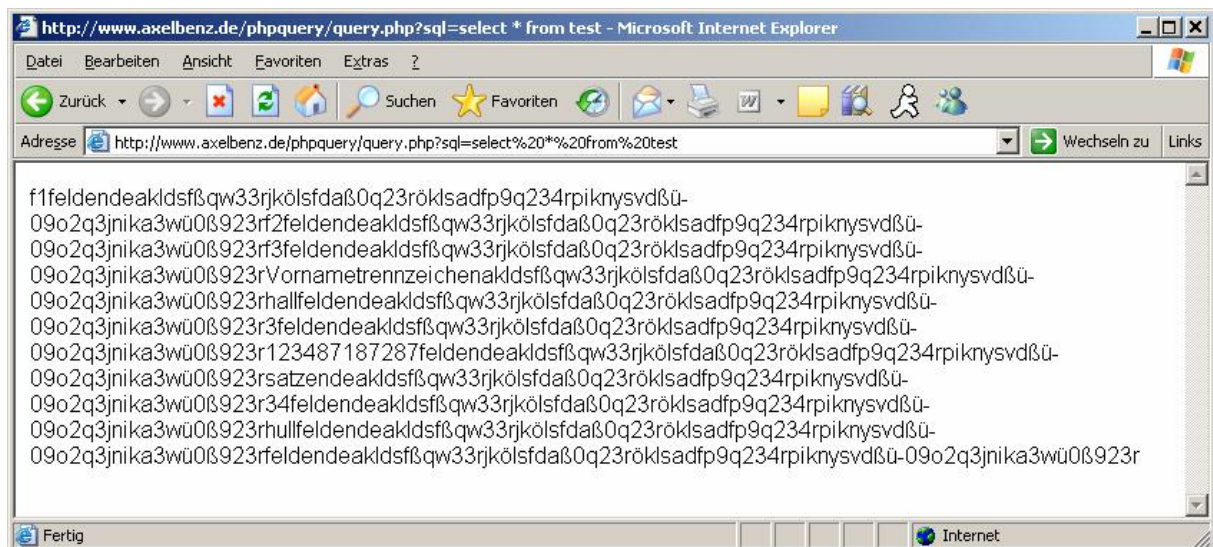
Problem: You have Web Space with PHP and MySQL. You cannot access your MySQL database directly because of Firewalls. You want to access the database with VBA from Excel.

Solution: PHPquery

Installation:

Server side:

- Unzip the package.
- Edit phpquery/includes/config.php (should be easy to understand)
- Copy the folder “phpquery” in your webspace root
- Create a table “test” in your MySQL database, add some columns and rows
- Test phpquery: Open a Browser, call
http://your_server_address/phpquery/query.php?sql=select * from test
- You should see something like:



Client Side:

- Open an Excel document.
- Add phquery.xla as add-in to your Excel.
- Open the VBA development center in Excel.
- Browse to EasyQuery-phpquery and edit the ServerName constant.
- You can leave out user and password for the moment.
- Comment out the “Safe login”-line. Uncomment the “Unsafe-login”-line. We will care form security later.

Try to access your Database using the following code:

Option Explicit

```
Sub main()  
Dim erg As Variant  
Dim row As Variant  
Dim item As Variant  
  
Set erg = phpquery.query("select * from test")  
  
    For Each row In erg.items  
        For Each item In row.items  
            MsgBox (item)  
        Next  
    Next  
  
End Sub
```

You should see the contents of your table, field for field, row for row, in message boxes.

phpquery gives back each row in a dictionary, indexed with field names. All rows are put together in another dictionary.

If the result is null or the query is wrong, phpquery gives back an empty dictionary.

Adding some security

Now, everybody can query your database. That is probably not what you want. To add some security, we use .htaccess and .htpasswd.

Server side

- Add a .htaccess and .htpasswd-file to your phpquery folder. Creating the appropriate files is the most difficult part. Sample files (which must be edited) are included in the “security”-subdirectory for a user “ayur” with password “ayurayur”.
- You have to at least edit the following line:
In .htaccess:
 - AuthUserFile must point to the local, absolute path of the .htpasswd file. To find out this path can be difficult. Ask your web space provider’s support.
- If you want to change the user and the password you can let create the entry in the .htpasswd file e.g. at http://www.clockwatchers.com/htaccess_tool.html.
- Don’t forget to change the user also in .htaccess.
- Test the server side by calling
http://your_server_adress/phpquery/query.php?sql=select * from test in a browser.
You should be asked for user and password before the page is displayed.

Client side

Edit the “user” and “password” constant appropriately phpquery.xla.

Comment out the “unsafe login” line, uncomment the “safe login” line.

That’s it. Have fun with phpquery.

Hint

phpquery is not at all optimized towards performance, but for all sensible usages, it should to it.

Comments and Suggestions

Are allways wellcome at axel.benz@freenet.de