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ASK ADVISOR

Visual FoxPro 3.0

Q: How do you add an array as a property to a form in Visual FoxPro?

In trying to populate a listbox control with an array scoped to the form, I've established an array property for the form, aListItems. I've entered the array name using the New Property dialog in the Form Designer entering the array name as "aListItem[1]", and set the ListBox's RowSource to aListItems:

```
List1.RowSource=aListItems
```

but the form will not load reporting an "aListItems is not an array" error.

Am I trying to do something that isn't possible?

–Steve Sawyer (via CompuServe)

A: What you want to do is possible. It just requires you (and me, too) to remember a new bit of syntax that seems more difficult when dealing with arrays than with other properties.

You've correctly added the array property to the form. To have it recognized as an array, you do need the brackets and a size. You can either create the array with appropriate size initially, for example:

```
aMyArrayProperty[37,4]
```

or, as you've done, create just one element now and plan to resize it in a method:

```
aMyArrayProperty[1]
```

The piece you're missing is that properties, unlike the memory variables we're all familiar with, must be addressed with the appropriate scope. Within the form, this means prefacing the array name with THIS or THISFORM (depending whose method you're in). I can't tell you how many times I've forgotten to do this myself. Somehow, with an array, it just doesn't seem natural.

To set the array property as the RowSource for the listbox, use:

```
THISFORM.List1.RowSource = THISFORM.aListItems
```

If the line is in a method of the form (perhaps the Init), you can change THISFORM to THIS:

```
THIS.List1.RowSource = THIS.aListItems
```

Similarly, to refer to individual array elements, you need THIS or THISFORM. In the list's Click event, for example, you would refer to the element corresponding to the currently highlighted item as:

THISFORM.aListItems[THIS.Value]

-Tamar