

Filtering a Recordset to Create a Detail Page (Add a SQL WHERE Clause)

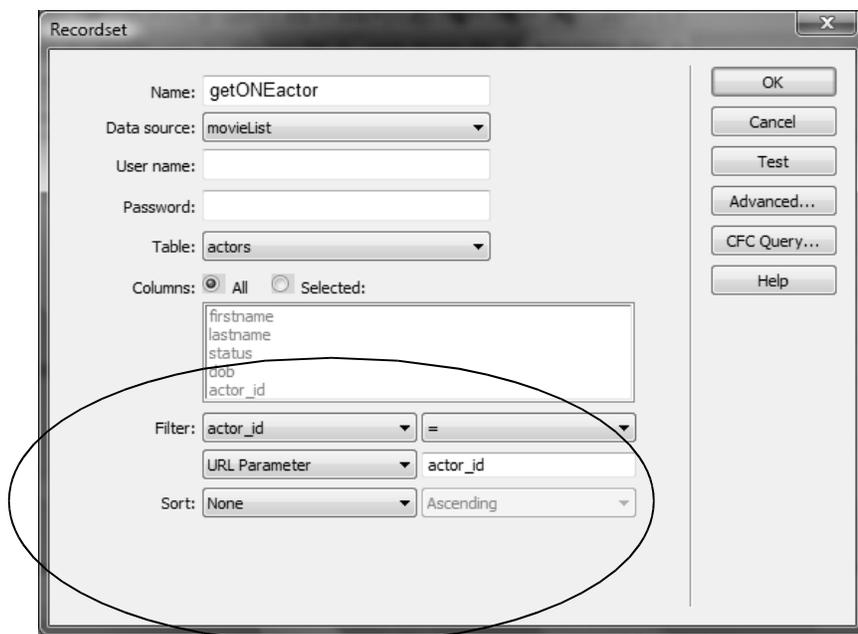
In the last exercise, you created a link that passes a variable to a second page – a details page. Now, let's create that details page. It will need to be able to accept that ID variable and use it in a database query to ask the database for information about the appropriate record. Prior to this exercise, each database query simply requested all records from a table. We will now be *filtering* the database queries.

Simple Recordset with Filter

The simple Recordset window has the capability to pull variables from URLs, FORM variables (using the POST method), Cookies, Session variables and more. This is called a filter. Instead of pulling *all* movie or actor information, it will only pull records which match that one particular id number.

To create a filter, use the “Filter” section of the Recordset dialog box. Select the variable that is being passed from the first page (often a unique id). In this case, the variable will be passed through the URL; therefore it is a URL Parameter.

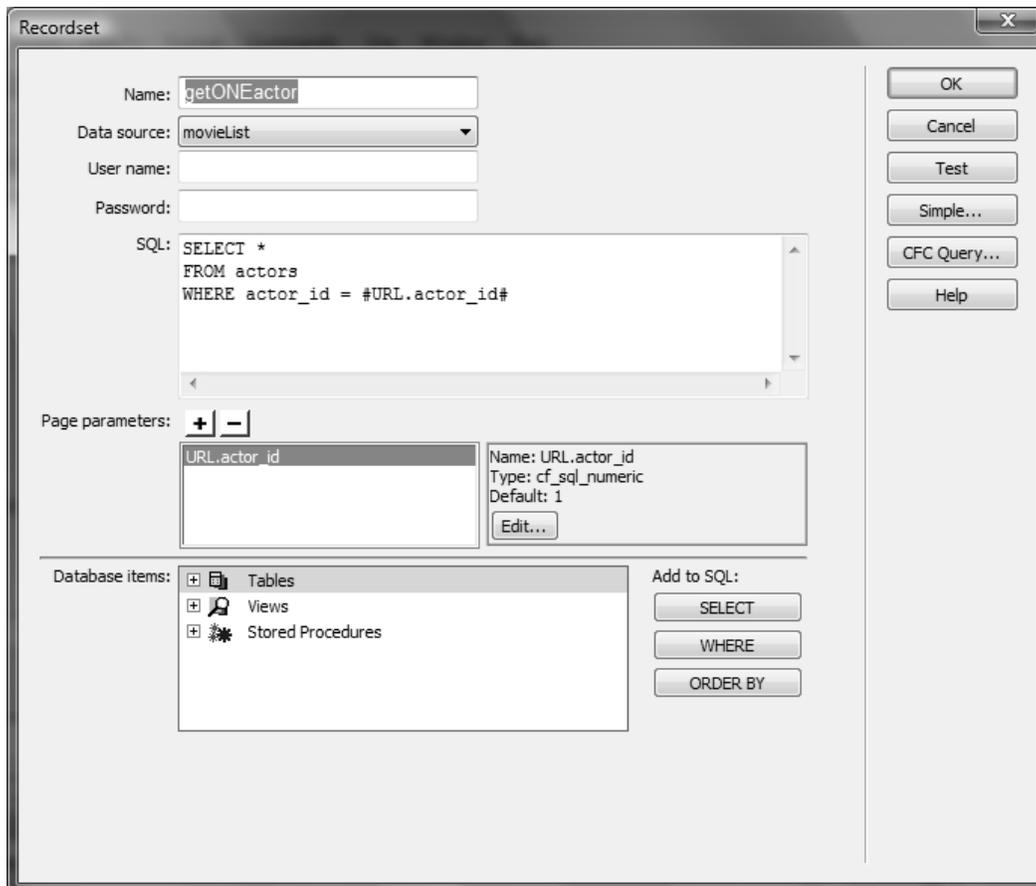
Read in plain English, this means “Give me all of the fields from the database where the actor_id in the database matches the actor_id that is visible in the URL.”



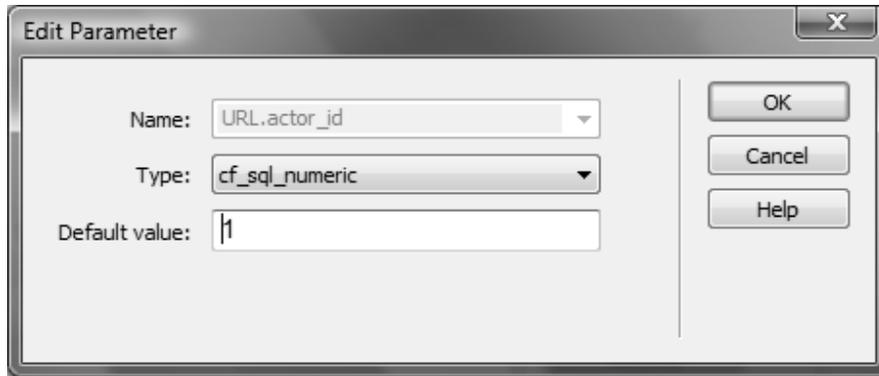
View Query in Advanced Recordset

If you are familiar with the database language SQL, you might prefer the Advanced Recordset window. In it, a customized SQL statement may be written or edited. And, we can see the SQL statement that Dreamweaver has written.

Be careful when editing the SQL statement! If you make an error in editing, it might not let you back to the Simple window.

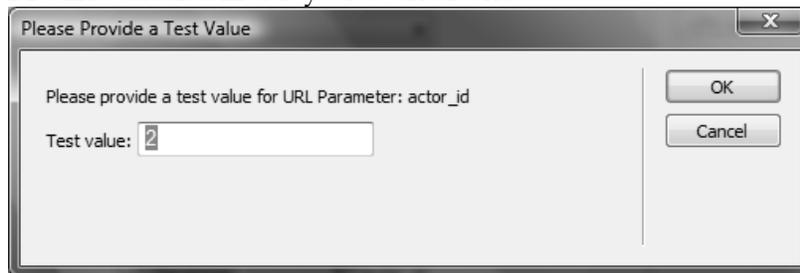


You can set a default value for a variable if desired, as shown below. Click "Edit..." to modify the Page Parameters section.

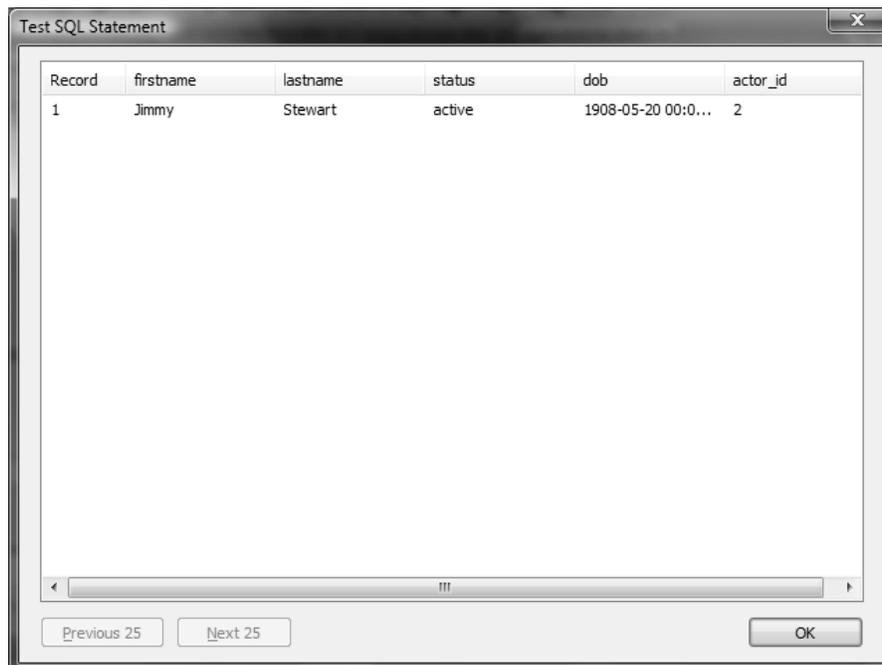


Test the Query

Be sure to test your query. Because this query will normally require that actor_id is passed as a URL Parameter, Dreamweaver will ask you to enter one:

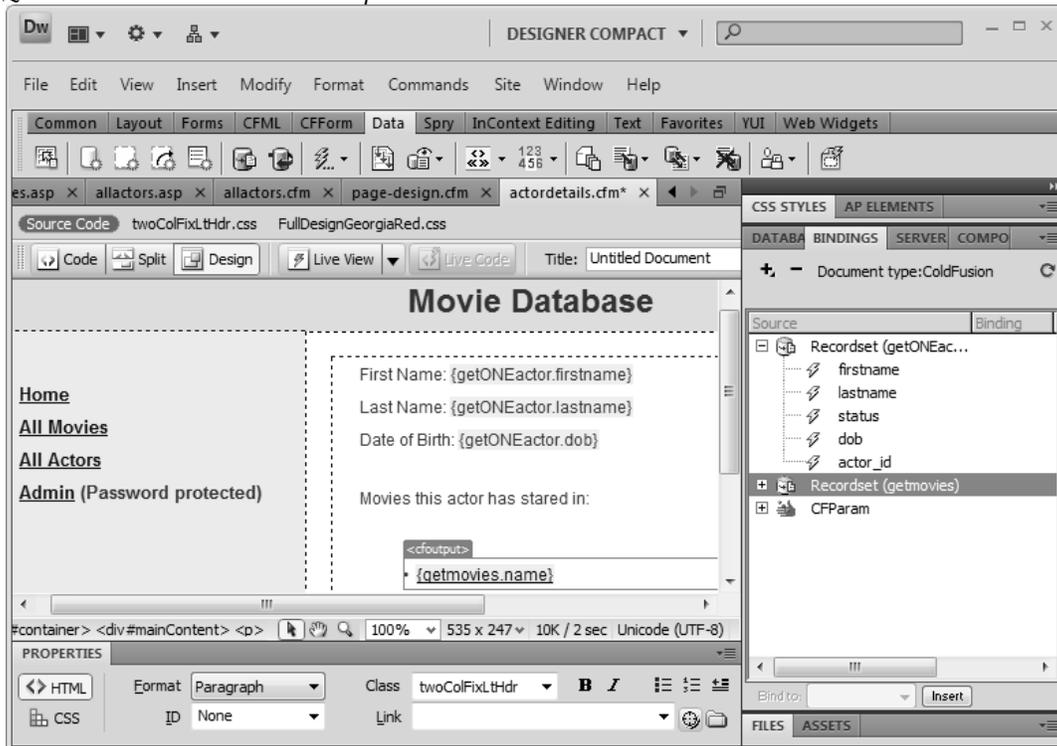


The resulting data is displayed in a dialog box such as the following:

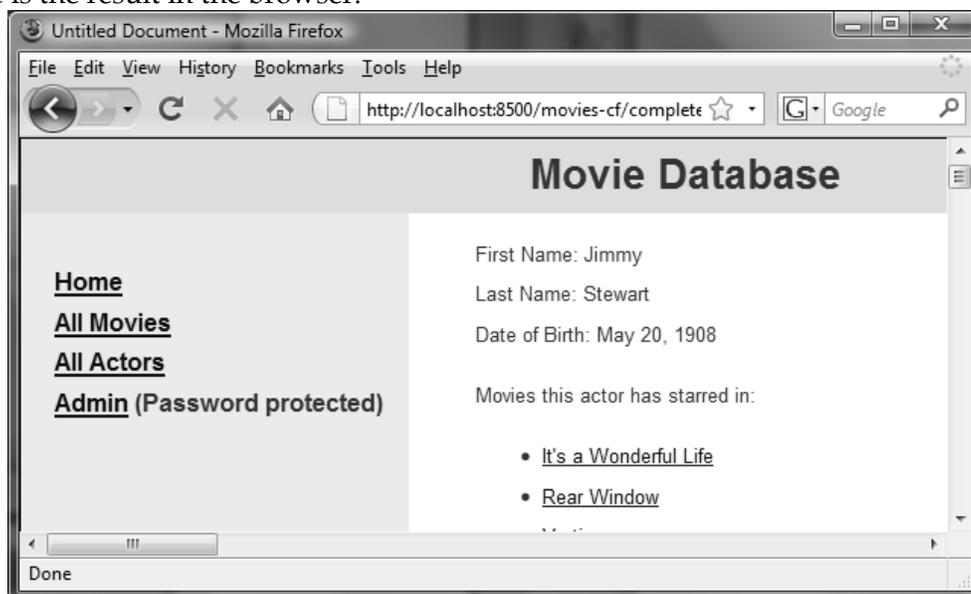


The recordset is complete, but you will have to build the display portion of the page – like we did earlier. This means typing any text, adding tables, lists – any HTML element you want to format the page. And, importantly, drag the variables from the Bindings Tab.

In the actor details page, we have also added a second recordset which lists all of the movies this actor has been in. *Note: This is possible without a second recordset by using a SQL join, but that is more SQL than I want to cover at this point!*

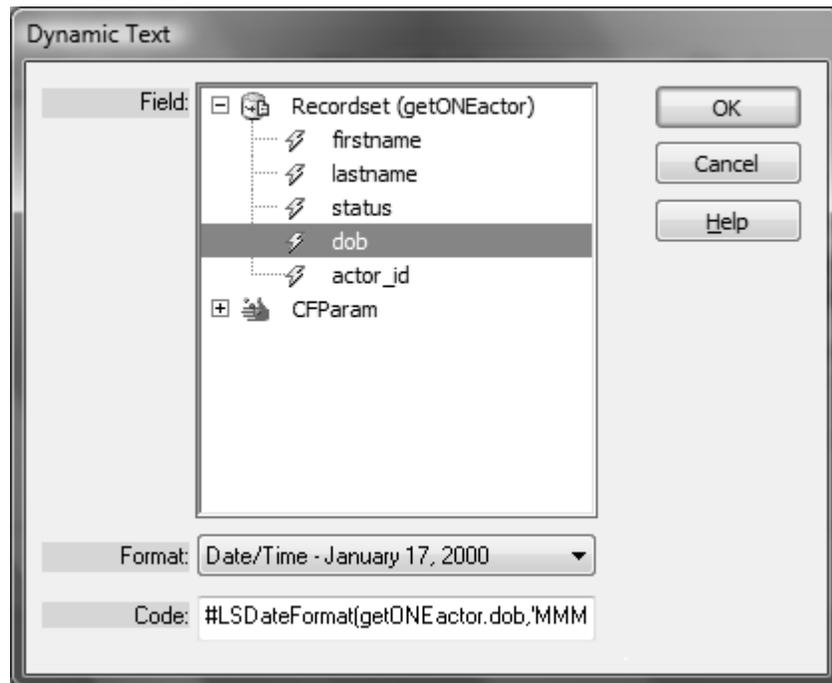


And, here is the result in the browser:



Formatting the Date

Most programming languages have built-in functions which allow for common formats for dates, numbers, currency, and more. Dreamweaver has support for many of these formats. To access these, click on the text on the screen and open the Dynamic Text pane

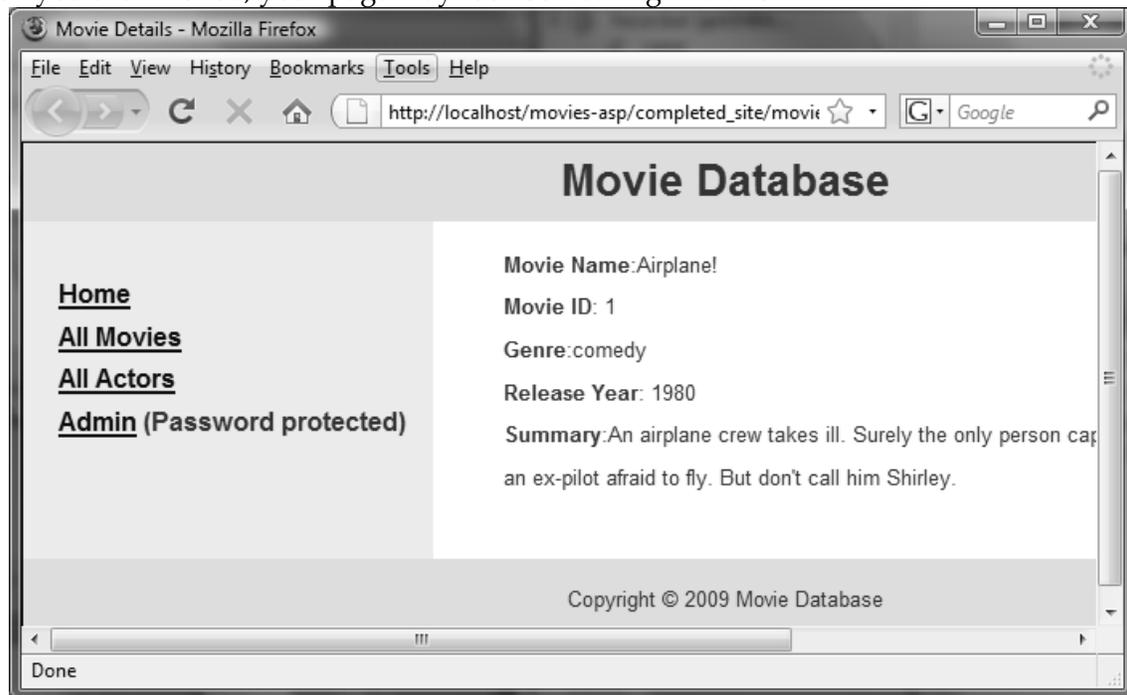


Exercise 8: Create a Detail Page

15 to 20 minutes

This exercise completes the two-part section began in Exercise 7. The links that you added to the **allmovies** page will point to the page you create in this section.

When you are finished, your page may look something like this:



1. Create a new page using your **page-design**. Save the page as **moviedetails** (.cfm, .asp, or .php based on your server-side technology)
2. Build the basic structure of the page including headings for all the fields that you will be displaying (Movie ID, Movie Name, Review and Genre, for example).
3. Add a Recordset that filters on the movie_id that was passed to this page as a URL Parameter.
4. Drag all desired fields from the Bindings Panel.
5. Save and test your page.

Important note: *This page cannot work on its own. In order to accurately test it, you must begin with the allmovies page and click on one of the links.*

Challenge

- Set a default value for the URL Parameter. What happens if no value for Movie_ID is passed?
- What happens if an incorrect type of value is passed through (like a word: movie_id=Hello)

*For a possible solution to this exercise you may open the "done_versions" folder and open **moviedetails-ex08-done**.*