

Grow Your Own Script

Introduction

This lesson discusses how a Sumac Administrator can set up the Grow Your Own module in Sumac to enable Sumac to manage data records with content completely customized to your needs.

Before viewing this video, you should view:

Lesson 1 *Sumac Basics for All Users*, and

Lesson 6 *Administrator Tasks*

Most modules created using Grow Your Own do not use formulas. But because they are one of the more advanced features, the sample module created in this training video shows how you can use formulas to do several calculations during data entry.

Grow Your Own

Since all modules in Sumac operate very similarly, Sumac allows you to create one of your own, which then fits in and behaves just like all the other modules. This feature is called Grow Your Own.

The first step to making a Grow-Your-Own module is to give a name to the records that will be stored and managed using the module. Use the Preferences command, click the Grow Your Own tab, then enter the name. For this exercise, assume you rent space in some meeting rooms and you wish to manage these rentals using Sumac. The name of each entry in the list is *Rental*.

Next you must specify the fields in the Rental records. Choose the Grow-Your-Own command from the Administrator menu. The resulting list shows that we have not defined any fields in Grow-Your-Own records.

Start by defining a field to hold the contact who is doing the rental. The internal field types indicate what type of data the field can hold. Choose a contact ID field, give it a name, and an entry order. Entry order is an integer which tells Sumac the ordering of the fields in the dialog that will present your Rental records. I usually enter them in increments of 10, so that if later I need to insert a new fields between two existing fields, it is easy to give it an entry order number without having to edit other fields.

Now specify the room being rented. They can come from a drop-down menu. **20**

Specify two dates for the first day and the last day of rental. **30, 40**

Perhaps you hire out staff with the rentals. Define a field to hold the number of staff

required. **50**

Add a field that calculates how many days the room is being rented **60**. This calculation is: **$(\text{when2} - \text{when1}) / 86400 + 1$** . 86400 is the number of seconds in a day – Sumac does date arithmetic in seconds.

You can add an amount field **amount1** that calculates the cost of staff **70**. Perhaps a person costs \$200 per day, so the formula computes the number of days times the number of staff times the daily rate. **$\text{count1} * \text{count2} * 200$**

Next, set up a field **amount2** to calculate the cost of the room **80**. Assume the room is \$300 per day. So the room costs **$\text{count2} * 300$** .

Finally, define a field **amount3** to total the staff cost and the rental fee **90**. The formula is **$\text{amount1} + \text{amount2}$**

Recall that you used Lookup List 1 to identify the room being rented. Add entries to the list. Use the Lookup Lists command, choose the Grow-Your-Own area, and specify rental rooms (**board room, gym, break-out room**).

Before you can use Grow-Your-Own objects, you must quit Sumac and restart it so that Sumac will configure the Grow-Your-Own module correctly. Now that Sumac knows about the Rental records, you have to give appropriate users the ability to work with the newly-configured Grow-Your-Own records. For training purposes, just give yourself the ability to use the Grow-Your-Own records, and restart Sumac again for it to reload your user settings.

Now there is a Rentals button in the Sumac console. Click it, and enter a new rental. Notice how calculated fields are filled in automatically as other fields are specified.

Conclusion

In this lesson you learned how to set up and use the Grow Your Own module.

You should now proceed to other Sumac lessons to learn more about how Sumac can help you every day.