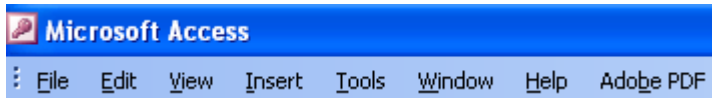


### OverView:

If you stop to think about it, all you need to make Access 2007 function like 2003 are Menus and SubMenus. That is, In 2003 we had the familiar Menu names at the top of the screen like this:



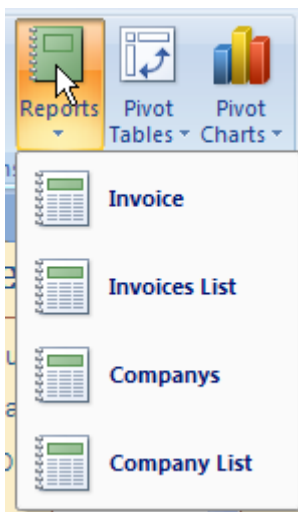
Now we have Ribbons like this:



So what's the difference? Well the new Ribbons look a lot nicer and once the user gets used to the layout, they are generally more pleasant to use. However, it complicates things considerably for the programmer. But, things don't have to be complicated unless we make it so.

To my mind there is basically no difference going from the old to the new, once you figure out Menus and Sub Menus. You still have Menus in Access 2007, they just look different. For example, in the Ribbon above there is a group on the left called Forms/Reports/Views. I created this group myself. Inside this group are what look like five buttons, but they are not. They are actually Menus. You can tell the difference between a button and a menu by the little down arrow below a Menu.

When you click on the Reports Menu it does the same thing the old menus did in 2003. It gives the user a list of things to choose from; other items that can be clicked on.



Whether in Access 2003 or Access 2007, Menus are really just portals or gateways for accessing another part of your application. Menus in 2007 are harder for the developer to deal with, but only marginally so. Once you get past a small learning curve it's all copy and paste. I have written another white paper on this called "Access 2007 and the Ribbon – "It's no Big Deal". This article may be found at this webpage: <http://microsoftaccesssacramento.weebly.com/programmers-corner.html>

But, this is not the subject for this white paper. This white paper has to do with Sub Menus. Once you know the XML syntax Sub Menus are easy to implement in Access 2007. What is surprising is how hard it is to find that syntax; at least it was for me. I have enquired in several places about this, and even in the best of the Books I have been unable to find the solution. But, here it is, and after all the smoke clears it really amounts to nothing.

### The Solution:

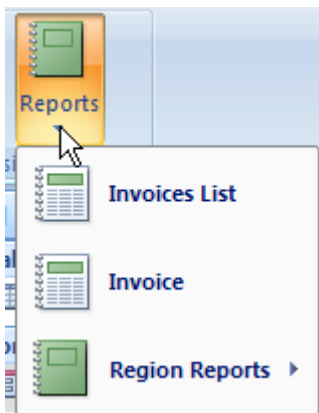
The solution is to include a Menu in side of another menu in your RibbonX (XML) code; like this:

```
<menu id="mnuBudgetReports" label="Region Reports" imageMso="ViewsReportView" >
  <button
    id="cmdRegionWest"
    label="West Coast"
    tag="West Coast"
    imageMso="CreateReport"
    onAction="onClickReportsMenu"/>

  <button
    id="cmdRegionEast"
    label="East Coast"
    tag="East Coast"
    imageMso="CreateReport"
    onAction="onClickReportsMenu"/>

</menu>
```

With the code above you get a Menu that looks like this:



Compare this to the Reports drop down shown earlier in this document. The Ribbon above includes a sub menu. The sub menu is indicated by the dark green icon and the arrow pointing to the right. When this sub menu is selected you see an additional fly out with additional choices, like this:



It's Easy!. And with the functionality of Menus and Sub Menus, you basically have everything you need for a good interface. Can you get fancier? Of course, but in most cases the user doesn't care *how* they get to where they want to go, as long as they do get there. Menus and Sub Menus solve 90% of your problems, but in cases that call for more, there are other options. For example, you may have an application with lots and lots of reports. In that case, you may want to replace the Menu object in the Ribbon with a Button Object. When the user clicks on the button he is given a form of report options.

Report Dialog

Company Reports

Close

AES Report		Shipping Checklist	
BLX Instructions		Packing list	
Booking Lists		Other Certifications	
Certificates 1		Trucking Dispatch	
Certificates 2		Vessel Certifications 1	
Next Year Revenues			
Last Year Revenues			
Hazzardous Materials			
First Quarter			
Second Quarter			
Income Budget			
Invoice Support Rpt			

This document is part of a zipped file. Included in the zip file, along with this document, is a small Access 2007 database and an XML file containing the RibbonX code to produce the Above Ribbon. It should be, for the most part, self explanatory. If not, review the document already mentioned called "Access 2007 and the Ribbon – It's no big deal. See the "Programmers Corner" tab on my web site at the site below.

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