QGIS Application - Feature request #554
identify - some varchar column displayed instead of the key column

2007-01-26 04:46 AM - Redmine Admin

Status:	Closed		
Priority:	Low		
Assignee:	Tim Sutton		
Category:	Vectors		
Pull Request or Patch supplied:		**Resolution:**	worksforme
Easy fix?:	No	**Copied to github as #:**	10613

Description

When I'm querying a GRASS vector I get a strange result that a varchar column (which is not the key column) is mentioned twice - see the attached picture.

Please note that the key column is "cat", not the "name":

```
$ v.db.connect -p cieki12_2zl
Vector map <cieki12_2zl> is connected by:
layer <1> table <cieki12_2zl> in database </home/grassdata/caves_utm33/melio2/dbf/> through driver <dbf> with key <cat>
```

Maciek

History

#1 - 2007-01-26 05:02 AM - Redmine Admin

This problem is not reproducible with all GRASS vectors - usually a correct key is reported.

To reproduce it use the attached GRASS vector "wrong_key" form location/mapset "wrong_key/wrong_key".

Maciek

#2 - 2007-02-25 07:31 PM - Tim Sutton

Moved to milestone 0.8.2 since we wont be fixing any further issues before the 0.8.1 release

#3 - 2008-03-12 07:05 AM - leolami -

You can obtain the same behavior also with other OGR vector (es. shapes)

#4 - 2008-08-02 01:55 AM - Tim Sutton

- Status changed from Open to In Progress

Hi

I believe this is in fact intended behaviour as the [[QgsVectorLayer]] author implemented it :

```
207   // If fldName is provided, use it as the display field, otherwise
208   // determine the field index for the feature column of the identify
209   // dialog. We look for fields containing "name" first and second for
210   // fields containing "id". If neither are found, the first field
211   // is used as the node.
```

Unless I am completely misunderstanding the issue...

One thing I did notice is that when I tried to change the display field to 'cat' using the test dataset provided above, the display field only showed 'name' as an option. Perhaps we need to allow display field to be set to non string fields. I will investigate futher.

In the meantime please clarify any misunderstanding I have - I would like to move this ticket from bug to enhancement and from status major to enhancement and remove must fix annotation. I await your feedback.

Regards

Tim

#5 - 2008-08-02 02:21 AM - Tim Sutton

- Status changed from In Progress to Closed

- Resolution set to fixed

Hi

Ok another update on this. I found the problem causing display field combo box issues in vector props dialog (applied as . For me the issue is resolved now following this procedure:

- load supplied 'wrong key' dataset
- open vector properties
- select general tab
- select 'cat' for display field
- close vector properties
- use identify tool to select a feature

Result is shown in the attached screenie (https://trac.osgeo.org/qgis/attachment/ticket/554/ticket_554.jpeg).

I'm marking this ticket as fixed now. Please reopen if it does not work for you.

Regards

Tim

#6 - 2008-08-11 09:28 AM - Maciej Sieczka -

- Status changed from Closed to Feedback

- Resolution deleted (fixed)

Replying to [comment:6 timlinux]:

> *For me the issue is resolved now following this procedure:*
>
> *- load supplied 'wrong key' dataset*
>
> *- open vector properties*
>
> *- select general tab*
>
> *- select 'cat' for display field*
>
> *- close vector properties*
>
> *- use identify tool to select a feature*

You did not understand the issue. It is that QGIS fails to recognise the **real** key column of the GRASS vector's dbf table. In case of the example vector map the key column is **cat**, not **name**. See the output of a command which confirms it:

$ v.db.connect -p wrong_key

Vector map <wrong_key@wrong_key> is connected by:
layer <1> table <wrong_key> in database </home/grassdata/wrong_key/wrong_key/dbf/> through driver <dbf> with key <cat>

In case of GRASS the id is "category" and nothing else ("category" is the official name in GRASS lingo). If the vector map has a table attached, the table contains a "key column" where "categories" are stored, and which lets link the vector features having "categories" with their attributes in the table. Usually the "key column" name is "cat", but it can be **anything**. v.db.connect -p can be used to detect the "key column" name.

Anyway, in case of GRASS vectors it would be best to just use the "category" number as the node and not bother with detecting the "key column" at all (mind that GRASS allows multiple features to have the same "category", which provides the same functionality as Shapefile's or [[PostGIS]] multi-feautures). If that's not possible now, please at least default to the **real** key column.

I don't know what would be the right approach for other formats, but it looks very strange when in case of a Shapefile which has e.g. 2 columns 'area' and 'length' one of them is used for the node. Wouldn't the "OGRFeature" be a better node candidate?

#7 - 2009-08-19 02:37 PM - Jürgen Fischer

- Resolution set to worksforme

- Status changed from Feedback to Closed

Replying to [comment:7 msieczka]:

> *Replying to [comment:6 timlinux]:*
>
> > *For me the issue is resolved now following this procedure:*
> >
> > *- load supplied 'wrong key' dataset*
> >
> > *- open vector properties*
> >
> > *- select general tab*
> >
> > *- select 'cat' for display field*
> >
> > *- close vector properties*
> >
> > *- use identify tool to select a feature*
>
> *You did not understand the issue. It is that QGIS fails to recognise the **real** key column of the GRASS vector's dbf table. In case of the example vector map the key column is **cat**, not **name**.*

I don't see the problem here. In the identify dialog you don't see the key at the top, you see the display field.

So there's no relation between the key and the display field.

Files

doubled_columns.png	5.88 KB	2007-01-26	Redmine Admin
wrong_key.tar.bz2	27 KB	2007-01-26	Redmine Admin
ticket_554.jpeg	8.34 KB	2008-08-02	Tim Sutton