

QGIS Application - Feature request #9689

Joins should be more mindful of DBF field name length limitations

2014-03-02 03:49 PM - Emilio G

Status: Closed	
Priority: Normal	
Assignee:	
Category: Vectors	
Pull Request or Patch Supplied:	Resolution: fixed/implemented
Easy fix?: No	Copied to github as #: 18254
Description	
<p>When performing a "join" between a DBF file and a shape file, QGIS will prepend the field names with the name of the DBF layer name followed by an underscore.</p> <p>Surprisingly, layers can have blank names, so that saves some characters. But I still get every field prepended with an underscore.</p> <p>The table manager plugin will not let you edit field names for those fields that have just been joined; the shape file must be saved and reopened at which point all names have been cropped to the (11?) character limit.</p>	

History

#1 - 2014-03-04 12:26 AM - Giovanni Manghi

- Category set to Vectors
- Target version changed from Version 2.2 to Future Release - Nice to have
- Operating System deleted (Windows 7 x64)

Not an easy task, the prefix is necessary to avoid attributes with the same name, then shapefiles have a 10 chars column name limit. Of course the vector with the joined table can be exported to a more advanced format, like spatialite or postgis where such limitation does not exist.

How do you suggest to solve the issue with shapefiles?

#2 - 2014-03-04 07:13 AM - Emilio G

The software should simply check if the name is a duplicate. If not, leave it as is. It cannot simply prepend the layer name and hope that this is not a duplicate, so it must be doing some level of checking now, no?

#3 - 2014-03-04 07:56 AM - Jürgen Fischer

Emilio G wrote:

The software should simply check if the name is a duplicate. If not, leave it as is. It cannot simply prepend the layer name and hope that this is not a duplicate, so it must be doing some level of checking now, no?

It doesn't. There is no restriction before you decide that you want to save the data in a shapefile. And the mapping of arbitrary field names to attributes in shapefiles handled (although it's not as nice as going without a prefix, if that's not necessary for unique field names).

Not sure, if it isn't a bug in the table manager plugin, that it shows joined fields on a shapefile. I believe it wouldn't work with those, even if the names were 11 characters or less.

#4 - 2014-03-05 12:42 AM - Giovanni Manghi

- Status changed from Open to Feedback

Emilio G wrote:

The software should simply check if the name is a duplicate. If not, leave it as is. It cannot simply prepend the layer name and hope that this is not a duplicate, so it must be doing some level of checking now, no?

how other software does?

#5 - 2014-05-02 04:03 PM - Antonio Locandro

When you open the attribute table it shows the join fields as they are unless duplicate I believe it adds a _1 or something to distinguish

Now when doing a Query it adds the layer name + "." + Field to be able to make a difference of one to another

This helps when you save a layer with a join, since the attribute table have the same column names as the join fields if possible

#6 - 2016-06-13 06:36 PM - Nyal Dawson

- Resolution set to fixed/implemented

- Status changed from Feedback to Closed

QGIS supports custom prefixes for joined layers, so this should be fixed now