

MICROSOFT ACCESS DATABASE, BEST USE FOR OFFICE WORK?

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Why choose *Microsoft Access* for your database development needs? This discussion will help you to identify the requirement of using Microsoft Access database as your software development system. Let us discuss why Microsoft Access is required for your company's database development platform: MS Access is the most widely used desktop database system in the world. Access integrates well with the other members of the Microsoft Office suite of products (Excel, Word, Outlook, etc.). It is available with the Microsoft Office Professional suite of business products. Therefore no additional database software is required to purchase. On the whole no extra cost for maintaining MS-Access. MS Access database is likely to be available and supported for years to come because Microsoft is the premier software company in the world. If database support is important for you, then Access may be your best choice because it has more support and development consultants than any other desktop database system. It is significantly cheaper to implement and maintain compared to larger database systems such as Oracle or SQL Server. Fairly complex databases can be setup and running in 1/2 the time and cost of other large database systems (the simpler the database the greater the cost advantage).

When designed correctly, Access databases can be ported (usually with some difficulty) to SQL Server or Oracle. This is important if you want to start small or develop a pilot database system and then migrate to the larger database management systems.

The following are some reasons why Microsoft Access **may not** be your best choice for your company's database application management. In some cases your computer systems may not be reliable enough to handle any database management system safely.

- The Microsoft Office suite of software products is not in your company's approved technology set.
- You need to capture time critical transactions - e.g., from a lab instrument
- Any single table in your database could have more than 1 million large to medium-width records, or 5 million small-width records (i.e. 3-4 numeric or short text fields)
- You would regularly have more than 15 people **actively** using the database at the same time - for example quick data entry and/or queries and reports.
- Your database servers experience periodic, unexpected crashes - e.g. more than 1 per month (in this case you'll have problems with any database system).
- You require extensive database security because of the highly sensitive nature of the data. (Although you can get around this issue by using SQL Server as the database engine with an Access front-end.)
- Your company needs to run multiple access databases, some with Access security enabled and some without.
- You will be sharing the database with mixed operating systems (Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows 2000, Windows XP, etc).

In spite many use Excel and other spreadsheet applications available in the market for maintaining database which need security and proper handling. This can be again because administrator if not knowing database management handling then it may a cause why not Excel instead of Access. But a good layman will always prefer using Access for maintaining Real time database.