

getting data from a shopping cart mysql database

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In short – What is a good way to do daily updates from a webstore's mysql database into an Access database?

I am a novice-level Access user.

I am working with a friend who has a webstore. The purchase transactions are stored in two tables — `tbl_trans` and `tbl_details`. The first table is the order basics (who, when, total) and the second table holds the details of what was ordered (one record per item ordered). They are related via a unique `order_id` number.

Up to now, each day two downloads are done to get new order records from each table and that data is then imported in two imports into Access 2000.

Instead, what we would like to do is "connect" to the mysql database each day and have all new records from `tbl_trans` and `tbl_details` added automatically to the local Access database (which has lots of additional tables and queries for store management and order fulfillment). These new records would be appended to the local transaction and detail tables.

(In a perfect world, this probably would be a single integrated database, but the store will be using a new off-the-shelf shopping cart and that is a limiting factor.)

So, some questions:

1. Is this approach generally practical — using Access to connect to the mysql db to get new records? If not, is there a "standard/good" way to do this?
2. If this can be done, will Access lock the mysql database when it is connected — will it prevent the store from operating because the shopping cart cannot connect to the db?
3. While I understand how to combine data from two tables in a single db, here it seems that we are trying to combine data from two

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databases. How does/can that work?

4. The above steps anticipate a read-only connection to the mysql db. Can Access also update a field in a mysql table?

5. Do any of these answers change if Access 2007 is being used? If that would help a lot, I think I can inspire my friend to spring for it.

Advice and/or suggestions would be appreciated. And, if you happen to know of a good link describing the process involved, that would be great. Thanks. — Jesse

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