

RE: Access limitations/suitability

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- *From:* Klatuu <Klatuu@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 31 Jan 2008 06:42:01 -0800
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Sorry for my delayed response. I have been out of town.

I think Tony has some great thoughts on upsizing as to when and how. In my experience, an important consideration is your indexing structure. We recently did a conversion on an application and one query that does a mass delete actually become much slower in SQL Server 2005. After investigating the problem, we found a large multi field, multi data type primary key was causing the delay because it has to rebuild the indexes after every delete. We deleted the index and changed to an autonumber primary key and it went from over 20 minutes to a few seconds.

—

Dave Hargis, Microsoft Access MVP

"Leif" wrote:

Klatuu,

Thanks for your reply. The other hard limit I'm aware of is 255 (or 256) simultaneous users.

Your advice applies for existing applications. But what about a new application where you "think" it "might" work in Access, and you expect it to be well short of 2 GB and 255 users? Anyone have experience where due to performance they had to convert to something like SQL Server? If so, what were the issues? Size? Users?

Regards,
Leif

"Klatuu" wrote:

If your application is running smoothly and user response time is acceptable, the only walls would be if your back end databaes starts to get to the 2Gb maximum size or if you add additional users and response begins to suffer.

Converting the SQL is not too hard, but not a breeze, either. The upsizing

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wizard give you a start, but I have found you have to do some clean up work afterwards.

—

Dave Hargis, Microsoft Access MVP

"Leif" wrote:

I know this is a difficult question to answer, since there are many factors that come into play. Things such as amount of data, speed of server/network/user systems, how well designed, complexity of application, etc. come into play. However, as a rule of thumb, how do you determine if an application is suitable to Access?

I've seen that MS recommends at maximum of about 5 users at once for Access. I think this is well below a reasonable capability. I'm running a department database that is about 60 MB with about 20 users at one time. It is running smoothly. However, some are wondering when we might "hit the wall".

What has been your experience, and if wrong what did you do? Convert to SQL Server as a backend? If you converted was it difficult?

Regards,
Leif