

Re: Tools to remotely manage Access 2K

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"helveticus" <msch.prv@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:a3c4fb3d-186a-4168-8945-62869c9a2a36@xx

For a site, I plan on using ASP.NET 3.5 tied to Access 2K db because of licensing reasons.

What tools could I use to remotely manage this DB ? Could it be accessed via a simple ODBC connection?

No you can not use an ODBC connection over the net to a jet backend mdb database file. The reason for this is jet is not a socket based system like the SQL server, and therefore you can't connect over a tc/ip connecton *unless* you use windows networking. If you look closely at any odbc connection strings, they ****always**** resolve to an absolute full file path location sitting on a computer.

That means the software accessing data from that file must be able to physically see the file sitting like a regular windows file in a computer directory. You can no more use ODBC to connect to word, PowerPoint either. In other words you must be able to physically open the file like any other power power file, a word document, or a plain Jane windows file. There's no database server when using JET, but just the fact that you are opening a file. You are simply using the windows file system to open the file.

What alternatives do exist (I have read some posts warning against ADP)?

An ADP will not work in this case unless you are using SQL server (adp ONLY works with sql server). On the other hand, if you're using SQL server, then you can connect you mdb front end now via odbc. unless I completely misread your question, you said that you're not using SQL server at all here, and are only going to be using jet. (is absolute critical that you have this issue clarified here).

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If ODBC is adequate, I presume a simple Access client app that resides on my local PC will be ok. Are there any networking issues to be aware of? Thanks for any pointers.

MS access in fact does not use ODBC to connect to the back end (unless you're talking about linked tables to SQL server). Note that you can write code on your local machine that uses a odbc driver, but you're ****still**** physically using the windows file system to open and access that jet file in all cases. Jet does not run as a separate thread or process from your code that you using to develop your software with. It becomes part of the actual code library that you're using.

Your only choice is to manage this file are:

1)
You use DDL commands (drop table, create table, alter table etc.). You thus simply send commands via whatever programming language you use. There is a DDL the language reference in the help, at least there is for access 2003 (however, keep in mind that you're not really using MS access anymore, you're using what's called the jet engine — it is simple to realize this issue because in fact you're not installing MS access on the web server, are you?). Anyway, virtually any of the processes of creating tables, deleting tables, and adding fields can be done via SQL ddl commands. that's how you manage the database.

2)
Simply FTP a copy of the mdb file down to local computer, make the modifications, and then upload (ftp) it back your web server.

Note that before you grab a copy of this mdb file, you'll have to go into your website management system, and stop the web server, or at least force it to close the mdb file because it could be likely that the web server has that file opened and in use at that point in time. Just like on your regular computer, you can't really make a copy of mdb file while it is open and use by other people (in this case likely the web server has the file open). To be honest I have on many occasions copied the file while it is in use by others. However what you most certainly can NOT do is copy the mdb file back up to the server and overwrite the existing mdb file while it is use by others. At the very least I suspect you have to delete the mdb file on the server first if you're not given management tools to stop or de-attach the web server from that mdb file that is open.

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