

Re: Trial period for app

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.modulesdaovba/2006-02/msg00428.html>

- *From:* "Douglas J Steele" <NOSPAM_djsteele@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 14 Feb 2006 06:59:30 -0500
-

Many people limit by how many rows can be stored in the tables, rather than how long you can use the application for.

Tony Toews has some suggestions about this at <http://www.granite.ab.ca/access/demo.htm>

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Doug Steele, Microsoft Access MVP
<http://I.Am/DougSteele>
(no e-mails, please!)

"Alex" <Alex@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:7AB5FA89-D2D9-4BF4-AA83-F52718FF3D75@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Thanks Peter, this application will be sold to the general public and therefore I'm afraid it would not be a big deal to change the computer

clock

so I was hoping for another workaround.

thanks

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Alex

"Peter R. Fletcher" wrote:

It is easy enough to save the date of first use either in the Registry or in a field in a Table and compare it with Now() in startup code, aborting with a nag message if it is later than 5 days after the date of first use. What is more difficult is making this hard to bypass. My suggestion would be that you convert the date/time of first use into a text string and then encrypt it with two different keys. Save one encrypted string in the Registry and the other in a Table field. On

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subsequent startups, look for and (if found) decrypt the two strings and compare them with each other and with the current date and time. If the decrypted forms of the two retrieved values are different, or if one is found but the other is missing, someone has probably tried to tamper, and you can take appropriate action. If both are found and decrypt identically, do the time check as before.

The only "easy" workaround for this sort of protection is deliberately to set back the computer's clock, but that causes so many other problems and complications, on a business system, at least, that you don't need to worry about it much unless you are writing an application that is only used very rarely – unusual for a database app.

On Tue, 31 Jan 2006 23:20:28 -0800, "Alex"
<Alex@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I am working on an application that will be sold to the general public

as a

runtime. The client wants people to be able to download the app and

use on a

trial basis for a set period of time (say 5 days), after which they

must buy

or the app locks them out. Any thoughts on the best way to do this?

Would I

just tag/store the first time the app is opened and then calculate the

time

difference? It needs to be something that they can't bypass.

Thanks a bunch

Please respond to the Newsgroup, so that others may benefit from the exchange.

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Peter R. Fletcher