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- *From:* eagle <eagle@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 14 Dec 2006 11:26:00 -0800
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Thank you all so much for your help -- it has been invaluable. I have one more question, though. When I talked to the other person who is technically over the databases, she said she talked to a consultant the agency hired to look at our data systems, and the consultant said that you never, never want to use Access databases to store large amounts of data like ours (our backend is only about 90-100 mb in size) because the database goes screwy and begins deleting its own data. I responded that I was very surprised at this because my understanding was that Access could hold a lot more data than we have. I also said that I heard that the real issue with using Access is that you never want to use it to store sensitive client data, but have never heard that it eats its own data if it gets too big. But -- I just wanted to check this out with you. Does Access go haywire if it gets too big, causing loss of data?

Our agency is currently working with a consultant (the one who made the statement about Access eatings its young) to look over our systems, servers, etc. and recommend and build (she's also a programmer, I guess) a system that is "right" for us. I have reported to my supervisors the security issues of using our access database for our sensitive client records, and that I'm concerned for how to keep it secure while this consultant is building a different system, but that I know of no way to keep it secure (due to the possibility of password hacking) -- but (one more question) do you know of a way to keep it secure while waiting on a new system?

Thanks so much for your help. :-)

"Joan Wild" wrote:

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Joan Wild
Microsoft Access MVP

eagle wrote:

I'm still thinking about your reply. I guess I'm not completely sure

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what you mean by someone changing things from their standard system.mdw workgroup. I changed to that workgroup, then opened the secured workgroup file, and could view things, but wasn't able to change anything.

OK, but are able to add users. You are logged in (silently) as Admin, which is a member of the Admins Group in system.mdw. Therefore you are able to add users in that workgroup. However, you are only adding users in that workgroup. You aren't able to add this new user to any of your secure groups, because they don't exist in the system.mdw. Groups/Users/passwords are stored in the mdw. Permissions are stored in the mdb.

The only way I was able to make changes in the secured workgroup file was to login to the database via the secure workgroup, and make changes via Tools, Security, User and Group Permissions....but only when I logged in as the SuperUser (with all permissions). Does this make sense?

Yes it does. So what you are saying is that someone is creating a new user in your secure mdw. Only members of the Admins Group (or someone with administer permission) can do this.

I just know that something bad is happening with the database here, and is full of sensitive client information, and I am the one responsible for it, and need to nail down what is happening so I can stop it fast. Please help.....

If you are dealing with such sensitive information, the data shouldn't be in a Jet database. Access security can be broken (just do a search at Google). You should put the data in a more secure database, such as SQL Server. You can still use Access as the frontend to this data.

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Joan Wild
Microsoft Access MVP