

Re: doctors office database

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Access/microsoft.public.access.tablesdbdesign/2005-11/msg00345.html>

- *From:* "Rick Brandt" <rickbrandt2@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 15 Nov 2005 12:52:19 GMT
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tina wrote:

- > keep in mind the HIPAA privacy and security requirements, Pat. an
- > Access database cannot be completely secured, so you have to consider
- > whether it will satisfy HIPAA regulations, and the potential
- > ramifications to the doctor, his practice, and his patients, if it
- > does not.

We see this a lot and I wonder if anyone has actually researched the requirements. The weaknesses in Access security are only a factor when you are trying to secure the data from **authorized users** of the application. If access to the application file (mdb) is controlled with network security then it is just as secure from **unauthorized users** as any other file.

Would HIPAA regulations dictate that NO electronic file can contain patient data unless there is air-tight security actually built into the file itself or only that appropriate steps are taken to prevent unauthorized access to the file? I mean most medical records are still in plain old fashioned paper folders. Are medical organizations required to use a secret code when writing on medical charts or are they only required to take steps so that only authorized people get their hands on them? I assume it is the latter. I fail to see why the bar should be any higher for electronic versions of that same data.

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RBrandt at Hunter dot com

• *References:*

- ◆ ***Re: doctors office database***
◇ *From:* tina

- Prev by Date: ***Re: Tracking Database***
- Next by Date: ***Re: Art Gallery Database***

Re: doctors office database

- Previous by thread: *Re: doctors office database*
- Next by thread: *Re: Replication Questions*
- Index(es):
 - ◆ *Date*
 - ◆ *Thread*