

## Re: Access or SQL Server?

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**From:** William \ (Bill) Vaughn (*billvaRemoveThis\_at\_nwlink.com*)

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Date: Fri, 6 Aug 2004 10:51:25 -0700

I would still not recommend Access/JET for my parent's business. I think there are too many serious issues that can cripple a small business that MSDE/SQLExpress just deal with quickly, quietly and efficiently. Access is a great tool for individuals and single-user databases—I use it myself for several small databases. It's just not a good choice for business IMHO.

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"Thomas H" <T@H> wrote in message  
news:ulYi2F8eEHA.3028@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...  
> "Peter" <zlxmqyt@sina.com> wrote in message  
> news:%23ooHnG2eEHA.3964@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...  
> > Hi, everybody,  
> >  
> > I'm a newbie of .net, I've programed some database code with VB6 and  
> Access  
> > . Now, I'm turning to vb.net and can't decide which database tool to use,  
> > Access or SQL Server? Could somebody give me suggestions? Any  
suggestions  
> > will be appreciated ?  
>  
> Peter, SQL Server wins without a doubt. Access shouldn't even be in the  
> contest. Think of Access as a single-user-only database for a very small  
> business! For example, Mom & Dad have a classic record store, and Mom  
does  
> all the recordkeeping on the computer, and Dad only deals with the product  
> itself. If your application will ever go beyond a  
> single-user-single-workstation model, don't even install Access on your  
> computer. Go right to MSDE or SQL Server.  
>  
> MSDE is basically a "SQL Server Ultra-Lite". It's a free download from  
> Microsoft, you're very limited to the # of users that can simultaneously  
> connect, and you don't get SQL Server Enterprise Manager. All of your  
> database work needs to be done through straight T-SQL. MSDE is free, and I  
I  
> believe that Microsoft allows it to be shipped with a production product-  
so

## microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.adonet: Re: Access or SQL Server?

> check the license agreement. That way you could sell your program to a  
> small 10-employee company, and they wouldn't have to buy SQL Server-  
chances  
> are their budget wouldn't allow it. But, you could also sell your product  
> to a 1000-employee company- who could afford (and would prefer!) SQL  
Server.  
> Your application would work with both- it wouldn't know the difference.  
>  
> One warning though!! Make sure you change the "sa" user password after  
> installing MSDE!! That's the sys admin password; it's left blank as  
> default. If you leave it blank, you can be easily hacked. You should try  
> to install MSDE with your computer unhooked from the 'net, change the sa  
> password, and then reconnect your network.  
>  
> We have applications at my company that do both. One department is very  
> small (about 5 employees), and they use MSDE 2000 on an old server. A  
much  
> larger department uses SQL Server on a newer box. For both servers, I  
> manually scripted the backup procedurs. I had no choice with MSDE. But  
> with SQL Server 2000, which allows fancy maintenance plans, I still chose  
to  
> script my own backup/maintenance manually. I believe that you used to be  
> able to download a trial version of SQL Server 2000, and it would let you  
> see what Enterprise Manager looks like. Also, <http://www.asp.net> has  
> written a web-based clone of SQL Server's EM, you can find it here  
> <http://www.aspenterprisemanager.com/> . I'm not sure how secure their demo  
> is though, you might want to d/l the source and install it on your own box  
> first.  
>  
> Try to forget anything you learned about Access! Go right to MSDE, and  
> never look at Access again. I could use it if I had to, but I won't, and  
> you won't see it on my resume.  
>  
> Also, consider buying (or making) an old PC and turning it into a test  
> server. Don't install your database locally- this way, you'll get the  
> experience of connecting to a server. Even if the old PC just runs Win2k  
> and MSDE 2000 (SP3), it'll still simulate a real server.  
>  
> Visit <http://www.microsoft.com/sql> and <http://www.microsoft.com/sql/msde>  
for  
> more info on both products.  
>  
> Good luck!  
>  
> -Thomas  
>  
>