

Re: Choosing a Windows Database

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"Mitchell Vincent" <mitchell.vincent@gmail.com> wrote in message news:OFZjpTp8EHA.2196@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...

> *It's a hard decision these days!*

>

> *I write a lot of shareware, mostly business apps and they almost always use*

> *some kind of relational database. Until now I've been using SQLite, but with*

> *my recent move to .NET, the SQLite ADO.NET provider is in an unusable beta*

> *state so I've got to move on. I'm looking for something affordable*

> *(\$500ish*

> *or below), something SQL aware, something that multiple users can access and*

> *something scalable and fast. Here is what I've found so far, and why I like*

> *or don't like it :*

>

> *SQLite – Impressive little library but developed for *ix and cross-compiled*

> *using MinGW, that makes me nervous. It also has no decent ADO.NET or ODBC provider.*

>

> *Access – Probably the most obvious choice, but I've heard so many*

> *conflicting reports of how great it is and how crappy it is that I have no*

> *choice but to believe no one and stick Access in as a last resort. I just*

> *don't know if it's scalable enough for multiple user concurrent access.*

>

> *Firebird (firebird.sourceforge.net) – Impressive because it's free, but the*

> *embedded version only allows for single user access to the database file,*

> *that knocks it out of the running for most of my apps. It is based on the*

> *Interbase code released back in 2000.*

>

> *MS-SQL/Orcal/<Insert your big name RDBMS here> – Just too expensive.*

>

> *MSDE – If it weren't 70 megs to distribute, maybe. That is WAY over what I*

> *would want users to have to download for a trial or something*

>
> *CodeBase (www.codebase.com) – Really fast little embedded system. The "SQL" version is nothing more than an ODBC driver for the DBF/xBase files. Don't know how much I'd trust that in a multi-user environment. Please, take me to school if I'm wrong for being afraid of using ODBC through .NET.*
>
> *TurboDB (www.turbodb.com) – Much like CodeBase (I think?) but with native ADO.NET provider(s). Not sure how well I'll be able to use something like this as I've always used "real" RDBMSs like PostgreSQL and such.*
>
> *That's about it. I'd be willing to guess that there are a million others out there using the DBF type files. Ideally the database I'd like would support multiple concurrent users, SQL, a rich set of data types and have an ADO.NET provider (or anything that supports that IList interface, according to the developer of a control we use).*
>
> *Many thanks!*
>
> --
> – Mitchell
>

You can also add MySQL to the list:

<http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/mysql/4.0.html>

Unfortunately it isn't that small either (20+mb).

You might consider providing the database as a separate install and let the client chose their backend. You could offer MySQL, MSAccess, and MSDE. (Incidentally, the latter is going thru another re-iteration – not sure what the new name is going to be.)

–ralph