

# Microsoft Access Deployment Considerations

Properly setting up an MS Access database system falls into 3 categories:

1. Database design considerations
2. MS Access program considerations (global for all databases)
3. Non-Database, Non-MS Access, System-related considerations

## 1. Database design considerations

Use LDB/LACCDB locking which a persistent recordset connection. Links to tables on network share, or even a default printer that is part of the network, can cause many delays. One often used solution is to keep open (force) a persistent connection.

Create Indexes wisely – don't create more than is necessary. Use indexes for any fields used in filtering, searching, or sequencing.

Load the form, subform, combobox and listbox record sources at run-time for complex objects

Using DSum, DCount, and DLookup inappropriately causes slow down

Use saved Queries over SQL expressions over SQL code in modules

Use **UNION ALL** in Union queries rather than just UNION

Set Can Grow and Can Shrink on Forms Section properties to No

Make sure the UnicodeCompression property is set to Yes in table design

## 2. MS Access Program considerations

Split the database into a Back End (Tables only) and Front End (Queries, Forms, Reports, Modules)

Push the Front End to each user's computer if there will be many *concurrent* users of the database

Track Name AutoCorrect should be off (unchecked)

Use a network shares folder and place backend MDB/ACCDB on the root of the network share rather than several folders down. This can have a profound effect on performance, especially if the total path number of characters is greater than 31.

Keep the names of the databases short, especially the backend MDB/ACCDB

Use the latest Jet 4.0 database engine

Make sure everyone has correct permissions to the folders and files

Convert database to MDE/ACCDE file

Compact/Repair on a regular basis, generally the Front End database

Delete and recreate table links rather than refreshing the links. In some situations Access can cache too much information about the link connection slowing things down excessively.

## 3. System-related considerations

Virus scanning can have a profound effect on performance, especially if it scans the database file upon launching.

System Utilities running can have a profound effect on performance

Avoid using VPN and avoid using Wireless connections. Both can have momentary interruptions in connectivity which can corrupt the database.

Avoid streaming music and/or video during database use

MS Access is a desktop database management program. Therefore, the user's computer should be robust to handle all the data manipulations. Also suggest a UPS for each user's computer to avoid effects of power spikes or outages.

Disable Server Message Block (SMB) signing

Set a Local Printer as your default printer instead of a network share printer