



The use of MDB (MS Access) files as a data source

(V 1.0)

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Datanet support the use of either a JET database or a SQL Server database. The majority of customers will initially use an MDB file.

The MDB file is the database used by the Microsoft JET database engine (which is also used in Microsoft Access). While the database itself can handle thousands of users entered in the database, the real world limitations with JET come into play with the number of **simultaneous** users accessing your site. The point at which the JET engine starts to become overwhelmed and breaks down is dependant on many factors. However, most current servers should be able to handle somewhere up to 20-30 simultaneous users on your site before the server becomes too heavy taxed by the JET database engine.

Using a SQL Server database is very different. SQL Server is an extremely more powerful platform for storing data. It can handle much larger sets of data, and drastically more simultaneous activity. So, with a SQL Server database, you can typically expect to handle simultaneous user counts well into the hundreds or thousands.

If your entire site's traffic is under 3000 hits per day, you should be able to expect to safely use a JET database. If your site is experiencing more traffic than that, you should seriously consider using a SQL Server database. Note: You can get significantly more overall performance from your site if the IIS server and the SQL server are not running on the same machine. If your site is hosted with an ISP, you should ask them about their server configuration to estimate what their limitations for supporting your site might be.