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Since January 1996

The versatility of Microsoft Access.

I am a solution-neutral consultant: I do not sell any software or hardware. I maintain my independence from product companies so I can provide the suitable solution advice for each client situation. That being stated I do have my preferred go-to software products that – over the years and based on experience – I know will work in certain situations. This is some of what my clients expect when they hire a consultant of my high caliber: knowledge of what will work to solve a problem.

Time and time again I have used Microsoft's Access to accomplish software application, data analysis, and data conversion/migration tasks. Some of my clients have thought that a product that was free as part of Microsoft Office Professional could not be used to solve their seemingly monumental conundrums, and wouldn't Access' 2GB limitation be a problem? And yet time and time again, even in dealing with files of over 10 million records, I have proven that Access could not just do the job but do it better than my clients had anticipated ... granted with me at the proverbial wheel.

With the ability to create queries, reports, data tables (internal and externally linked, as well as linking to external documents like scanned forms and pictures), and data forms, Access is an all-in-one application that can be used to accomplish a wide range of business tasks.

Let me provide you some examples of mission-critical business problems I have solved with native Microsoft Access functionality as I do not write in VBA code:

- CAPA (Corrective Action Preventative Action) database application
- Employee training tracking database application including an import from Traineaze
- Warranty registration database application with sales receipt import from various retailers
- Material and labor cost rollup from SAGE MAS 100 ERP
- ERP data migration via ODBC connection to Great Plains ERP
- Vendor compliance label printing, calling either Label Matrix or BarTender label design and print software applications
- Financial system migration audit statistics with ODBC to Microsoft SQL Server and linking to data migration text files
- ODBC connectivity to an Oracle database to validate inventory scan data transactions
- ODBC connectivity to a point-of-sales software system for invoice data analysis and reporting
- Software application prototyping, e.g. database design for new product development

(All software products and companies listed are copyright to their respective owners. There are no endorsements explicit or implied here!)

Even though an Access database itself has a 2GB size limit, this does not mean that Access cannot attach to a database much larger for querying, analysis, and updating.

When budgetary constraints do not allow my clients to buy the software solution they need, or when the software my clients need does not exist, or when my clients are relying on expertise for data analysis or data conversions, I first look to something my clients already own to build upon: any business with Microsoft Office Professional already has Access and therefore a powerful and flexible tool which a master craftsman like me can use.

When people ask isn't Access just a database program, I reply that it is, but the answer does a disservice to the true power of what that program is really capable of in the right hands.

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