



Database Management Engine

An informational newsletter from **RKS Business Services**

Any program where you generate lots of data, needs a database management "engine".

What is a Database Management Engine?

You may have heard us talk about database licenses, database engines or database management and wondered just what they were. Without getting into technical details, any program where you generate lots of data, needs a database management "engine".

The engine is a separate program that manages all of the large amounts of data that you are putting into your accounting, practice billing, or point of sale programs. It allows the software manufacturers (such as Sage, Medisoft, Point of Success, MicroBiz, etc.) to concentrate on developing their products and not worrying about building the data management controls into their programs. The old saying 'why reinvent the wheel' applies.

What does a Database Management Engine do?

A database engine runs in the background and usually you are never aware it is operating. Every time you open your program, you also open the database engine. It enables you to search through customer, vendor or product lists, patient records, run reports and journals, just about anything you do in the programs.

Who creates the Database Management software?

There are different companies whose only product is database management software and sell the rights to use the engine to the other software manufacturers. The other software manufacturers then build their programs "on top of" the database engine.

When you buy your copy of DacEasy by Sage, Peachtree by Sage, Point of Success, Medisoft, Sage BusinessVision, Sage

BusinessWorks, or MicroBiz you are buying the accounting, billing or point of sale program license and also a license to use the database engine. Although there are other manufacturers, Pervasive, Arsenal and Advantage are three main engines that are used in the software that we support.

What happens if there is a problem with the database engine?

Just like in the manufacturers software, you can run into problems with the database engine. You may have encountered a Btrieve, Pervasive, Arsenal or Advantage error message. That means something in the engine is not working properly and needs to be corrected before you corrupt your data files.

RKS (your software consultant) is the one that can solve the problem, whether it is a database engine or program problem. You can help by making a note of the entire error message, including any number that is given. Knowing if it is an engine or program problem helps us to resolve the problem.

How does a Database Management Engine affect the cost of a program?

Buying the rights to use an engine from a database management developer is part of the cost of manufacturing and is used in determining the price of their software.

Most manufacturers include the cost of the database engine in the cost of a single user program. If your company or practice uses more than one computer, there is an additional charge for a multi-user version of the program.

Database Management Engines help your software program do more. Keeping on current versions of your business or practice software helps you take advantage of all of the improvements the business software and database engine manufacturers are making to their programs.

Also, some of the programs we support require you to purchase database licenses for each "seat" or computer station you have.

What is a "Seat License"?

Seat licenses are usually sold by groups of 2, 3, 5, 10 etc., not the actual number of stations you have. Sometimes the server, even though it is not used for entering data, will count as a station. The actual number of seats included in a group level will vary depending on which software you are using.

If you have a number of stations that are more than in a group level, you need to move up to the next group level. For example, if you have seven stations in your system, you would need to purchase the 10 user license. On the good side, if you do need to purchase the extra seat licenses, you will be able to add computers with no additional software expense.

Does the Database Management Engine ever need upgrading?

Just like all programs, the database engine manufacturers are continually adding new features, such as internet capabilities, links to other programs, import/export to Excel and Crystal Reports etc... The software developers can choose when to upgrade the database engine in their programs, but support for older versions is discontinued (just like the manufacturers' programs). This forces the software developers to upgrade the database engine. That in turn forces you to upgrade your database engine license at the same time you upgrade your software.

Summary

Database Management Engines help your software program do more. Keeping on current versions of your business or practice software helps you take advantage of all of the improvements the business software and database engine manufacturers are making to their programs.

**Have any questions?
Call us. We would be happy to talk with you.**



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