

Microsoft Access vs. SQL Server for GigaTrak Systems

Overview

GigaTrak software systems feature database support for either Microsoft Access or Microsoft SQL Server.

- Microsoft Access installations are intended for smaller organizations with limited IT support. We only use an Access MDB database file so no additional Microsoft Access licensing is necessary. It can either be installed locally (standalone) or centrally on a network server. Using an Access database for a large number of users or quickly growing number of database transactions is not typically recommended.
- Microsoft SQL Server is the preferred database option for multiple users on a network. Your IT would provide a central server where both SQL Server and the application can be installed. GigaTrak would provide IT with installation script files to properly setup the database within SQL Server. Microsoft offers a free download for SQL Server 2008 Express Edition, but more advanced versions (Workgroup, Standard, or Enterprise) would offer better long-term performance at additional cost. The use of SQL Server is recommended. Our software is tested on versions 2005 and 2008.

Microsoft SQL Server Requirements (Assumes Express Edition)

Operating System: Server 2003 SP2/R2, Server 2008 SP1/SP2/R2, Windows XP SP3, Vista SP1/SP2, Windows 7, Windows 8
 Processor Speed: Minimum: 1.4 GHz (Recommended: 2.0 GHz or faster)
 Memory: Minimum: 512 MB (Recommended: 1 GB or more)
 Storage: Minimum: 1 GB

(Other SQL Editions have separate requirements. GigaTrak does not require anything more than the minimum set by Microsoft. SQL Server must be purchased, installed and supported locally.)

Microsoft Access Requirements

There are no specific requirements for installing an Access version of the GigaTrak software onto a server other than adequate disk storage space (50MB) and a reasonable performing server. Users will require full read and write access rights to the storage location.

	Access	SQL Server (Express Edition)	SQL Server (Other Edition)
Limited/No IT Support	✓		
Stand-alone operation	✓	✓	✓
Small group with 1 to 5 users	✓	✓	✓
Medium group with 5 to 10 users		✓	✓
Large group with 10+ users			✓
Multiple groups or sites			✓
Batch Handhelds	✓	✓	✓
Wireless Handhelds		✓	✓