

Microsoft Access vs SQL Server for GigaTrak Systems

Overview

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

- 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 of SQL Server 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 2008 R2 and later.
- Microsoft Access installations are intended for smaller organizations with limited IT support. We use an MDB database file and require no additional Microsoft Access licensing. The Access database can be installed locally (on a standalone computer) or centrally on a network server. Using an Access database for a large number of users or a fast-growing database is not typically recommended.

Microsoft SQL Server Requirements (Assumes 2014 Express Edition)

Operating System: Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1,
 Windows Server 2012, Windows Server 2012 R2, Windows 7,
 Windows 7 Service Pack 1, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10

Processor: Minimum: 1 GHz
 Memory: Minimum: 1 GB
 Storage: Minimum: 4.2 GB

(Other SQL Versions/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 on to 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 of the application.

	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		✓	✓