

DATABASE BY DESIGN, INC.

Find the Best Fit A compilation of database systems

Many times the hardest part of starting a new project is determining just where to start. When implementing a new database system, several questions may arise:

- ✓ Which database software should I use?
- ✓ Where do I find the software that is available for my computer systems?
- ✓ How do I know if the software is meant for my needs?
- ✓ What is the cost of the software?

First Step: Evaluate Your Needs

In order to choose the correct database system, you must first understand your current and future needs. Establishing your system needs helps determine the type of database system best suited for those needs. To find more information regarding how to find the right kind of database, please see the following newsletter:



http://www.mycustomdatabase.com/newsletter_archives/newsletter_0206.pdf

Second Step: Evaluate Your Computer Systems



It's important to know the kinds of computer systems at your organization because you only want to inquire about the software that will run on your systems. If your computer systems are homogeneous (i.e. all Windows or all Macintosh), then this is a simple issue. However, if you have a mixture of systems, such as Windows and Macintosh workstations with Linux servers, this issue may become more complex.

Third Step: Evaluate Your Budget

As with any business improvement, it's important to understand your financial constraints when reviewing your database system options. Remember that you will need to either contract with a developer to create your system, or you will need to hire personnel to create and maintain it. These costs are in addition to the cost of the database software.



Having enough information to make informed decisions is crucial to a successful database implementation. On the following page, we have compiled a listing of most of the database systems currently available. The information reflects what was found on the web and is not interpreted. Please use this reference as a starting point for your project. At Database by Design, Inc. we want your new database software to work for you now and in the future. Contact us so we can help you find the best system to fit your needs.

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http://www.mycustomdatabase.com/newsletter_archives.html
(Previous Newsletters)

Next Month's Topic: Highlights and Coming Trends - A review of the last year, plus what's to come.

The Database Matrix: A Starting Point

Product	Company	Web Site	OS	Type				Development Software Included	Price
				Enterprise	Mid-range	Single User	Web		
4th Dimension	4D, Inc.	www.4d.com	M, W		√	√	√	Yes	\$900/server + \$250/user
DataPerfect/Firestorm	Open Source	www.sanbachs.com	W				√	No	Free
DBMaker	CASEMaker Inc.	www.dbmaker.com	L, U, W	√	√		√	No	\$100 to \$10,000+
Filemaker Pro	FileMaker, Inc.	www.filemaker.com	M, W		√	√	√	Yes	\$1,000/server + \$300/user
Firebird	Open Source	firebird.sourceforge.net	L, M, U, W	√	√	√	√	No	Free
Foxpro	Microsoft	msdn.microsoft.com/vfoxpro/	W			√	√	Yes	\$650
IBM DB2	IBM	www.ibm.com/software/data/db2/	L, U, W	√	√	√	√	No	\$460 - \$62,000
Informix	IBM	www.ibm.com/software/data/informix/	L, U, W	√	√		√	No	\$686 - \$50,000
Ingres	Computer Associates Int'l, Inc.	www3.ca.com/solutions/collateral.asp?CID=33667&ID=1355&CCT=	L, U, W	√	√		√	No	Not Available
InterBase	Borland	www.borland.com/interbase/	L, U, W	√	√	√	√	No	\$60 - \$4,200+
Access	Microsoft	office.microsoft.com/home/office.aspx?assetid=FX01085791	W			√	√	Yes	\$230
SQL Server	Microsoft	www.microsoft.com/sql/	W	√	√		√	No	\$730/server + \$152/user
mSQL	Hughes Technologies	www.hughes.com.au/products/msql/	U	√	√	√	√	No	\$250
MySQL	MySQL	www.mysql.com	L, M, N, U, W	√	√	√	√	No	Free
Oracle	Oracle Corp.	www.oracle.com	L, M, U, W	√	√	√	√	No	\$400 to \$40,000+
Pervasive.SQL	Pervasive	www.pervasive.com	L, N, W	√	√		√	No	\$1,375 - \$13,795
PostgreSQL	Open Source	www.postgresql.org	L, M, N, U, W	√	√		√	No	Free
Progress	Progress Software Corp.	www.progress.com	L, U, W	√	√	√	√	Yes	Not Available
SapDB	SAP AG	www.sapdb.org	L, U, W	√	√	√		No	Free
SQLBase	Gupta	www.guptaworldwide.com	N, W	√	√	√	√	No	Not Available
Sybase	Sybase, Inc.	www.sybase.com	L, M, U, W	√	√	√	√	No	\$400 to \$35,000+
Unify	Unify Corp.	www.unify.com	L, U	√	√		√	No	Not Available

Company - In some cases, there is no one company that creates the software. This is referred to as 'Open Source'.

OS - The operating systems on which the software can be used. Abbreviations for the systems are as follows:

L - Linux, M - Macintosh, N - Novell Network, U - Unix, W - Windows.

Development Software Included - Indicates whether additional software is included with the database for use in developing your new system. If not, there could be additional costs involved.