

# Choosing the right embedded database.

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<http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.thirdpartytools.general/2005-08/msg00099.html>

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  - *Date:* Fri, 29 Jul 2005 11:55:50 +0100
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Hi

I am looking for the right tool for the job and came across you database application which may well fit the bill. We want a simple database application that will be freely distributed non-commercial for standalone users of a group of dancers. By simple, I mean real simple, the data is fairly structured and can be rationalised and is simply a way of searching for and then printing off a selection of dance information form a long list of dances (approx 5000 records). The report created should be importable into Word or such and a degree of customisation maybe nice. The current task is being complete with the use of a Word template and although this is cumbersome and difficult to maintain, it does actually work!

Most users would download the application and data from a website via DIAL UP connections and would have no database package installed on their machines. I want the footprint to be as small as possible with no unnecessary additional files to be downloaded or installed.

I would normally create such an application in Access but building a distributable package means that the MDSE engine or Access runtime files need to be distributed which runs into a 40MB download! As dial up internet access is the only real method of distribution, this is WAY to large. Most users will not know what is installed on their machines so I do not want to point then to the Microsoft site for other downloads, free or not. As I have dealt with Delphi in the past (version 4), I was looking at alternative to the BDE which I believe still has around 3MB of run time files that need to be distributed. As I also understand, BDE is generally regarded as an older system and could be left unsupported soon.

One facility that would be nice is for users to be able to update their local data store via an internet link. As users "could" also add further dance information to their local store, it maybe nice if this was a two way procedure. However, this could lead to repetition of information if everything was stored in the same table so maybe added data form the users could be stored in a separate table and then uploaded to a different temporary store to the downloaded updates. This uploaded information would then be checked through and added to the download store ready for the next updates. Would this be done with some kind of replication, but what are the

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data repetition issues if any?

Is any of this actually possible with an embedded system?

There are currently around 1000 users of the word template. The application would only ever run in a Windows PC environment and 99% of the time this would be as a single user with a local store. Only occasionally would the users update the store.

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