



# MS Access Database Security White Paper

## What is MDBSecure?

An MS Access Security utility, providing protection for your databases. MDBSecure follows the recommended approach to securing Microsoft® Access databases, it will encrypt your access database and remove security weaknesses.

### SecFaq - Security FAQ (Recommended approach by Microsoft)

Although nothing is ever 100% secure in computing, following this approach will make an MS Access Database more secure.

For more information about the theory behind securing MS Access databases please see the [SECFAQ](#) (security FAQ) document.

### Features

- Removes Admin user permissions
- Assigns new super user
- Encrypt database
- MS Access 2000 / 2002 / 2003 format
- Workgroup creation
- Append tables from another DB
- Creates Jet Connection Strings
- Opens Secure Databases with MS Access
- Check for Updates
- Easy to use, help provided

## A question, about MDBSecure

- The following messages were taken from our forum :

Guest

### What does Mdb Secure do?

« on: May 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:49pm »

What does Mdb Secure do to make a database secure?, I've looked at the Secfaq document but am a still a little unsure.

Forum Admin

### Re: What does Mdb Secure do?

« Reply #1 on: May 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:57pm »

Without wanting to give away a blue print for someone else to write their own program, I can provide a step by step process of the manual process.

This process will take you around 30 minutes!

- 1.Create new workgroup, Join it
- 2.Open up a database or create new one
- 3.Create Super User with password
- 4.Log out / then login in with it
- 5.Create new database, Add passwords for Admin
- 6.Start modifying permissions, Remove them from Admin and Admins Group
7. Now Encrypt
8. Add new groups and permissions
9. Import tables etc from master database, ownership will have changed.

## Don't have permissions...

### Customer

I have created a secure database with mdbsecure, and everything seemed to work fine, but when I try to open the database and I put in the password I get the message that "You do not have necessary permissions to open the dababase (blah)".

Also, the prompt that comes up just invites me to enter a database password, not a username - shouldn't access ask me for both? Perhaps you could tell me what I am doing wrong?

### Support

**You need to specify the workgroup file at the command line or specify the workgroup file created by MDBSecure as the default workgroup file.**

**You'll also need to specify the Username (you can also specify the password) as the command line.**

**MDBSecure has an open database feature, which spawns MS Access.**

**However, the ideal way to open a secured database in via a programming language, then you can specify everything in code.**

### Customer

**So just to confirm, the only way to open a secured mdb file without writing the password down somewhere that people can find it (either in a shortcut or batch file) is to build a programmatic extension?**

**Actually this suits me, because I was planning this kind of approach, but it would be interesting to have this confirmed.**

### Support

**Yes.**

**We've recently had an email asking how you can open the secure database once created by MDBSecure.**

**From within Windows, You can either use the command prompt (or from the start menu, Run) or use a batch file.**

**Heres a sample batch file.**

**Code:**

```
@Echo off
Echo Usage: Access.exe db-file /wrkgrp workgroup-file /user Super-User-Name /pwd database-password
/Excl
Echo .
echo Once run Access will ask you for the User Password
Echo .
Echo Press Any key to open DB
Pause
"C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Office10\MSACCESS.EXE" c:\temp\temp.mdb /wrkgrp c:\temp\temp.mdw
/user Stephan /pwd Klara /Excl
```

## QueryDefs in .NET

### Customer

I love MDBSecure--it was a great purchase for me. However, once the Database is locked down, I have troubles doing advanced stuff with it.

I would like to be able to modify the QueryDefs in the database after it has been "MDBSecured." For example, when I update the frontend program (written in C#.NET) and I need the backend database to be updated.

So let's say when my frontend program starts up, I want to detect whether or not a QueryDef is in the MDB file, and if it does not exist, create it. As near as I can tell, QueryDefs can only be manipulated using ADOX and DAO COM libraries when using VS.NET. Is this correct?

Since I'm using an OleDbConnection to the database, is it possible to build an ADOX connection string which uses my passwords, etc., that MDBSecure provides?

I'm trying to make a function that will create a QueryDef for me.... here's the pseudo code.

```
public bool CreateQuery( string qryName, string qrySQL ) {
    bool retVal = true;

    ADOX.Catalog cat;

    try {
        cat = new ADOX.CatalogClass();
        cat.ActiveConnection = this.Connection; // The class's OleDbConnection object
        cat.Procedures.Append( qryName, qrySQL );
    } catch (Exception ex) {
        Console.WriteLine( ex.Message );
        retVal = false;
    }
    return retVal;
}
```

## Support

**To be honest MDBSecure is a spin off program, I wrote the basic functionality for another program. I create a secure database and add tables.**

**I use ADOX to create tables.**

**Here's the sort of thing I do  
Code:**

```
Dim tblADOXTopics As ADOX.Table = New ADOX.Table()
Dim tblADOTopicCodeIdx As New ADOX.Index()

NewDB.ActiveConnection = lcnn1

With tblADOXTopics
    .Name = "Topics"
    .Columns.Append("TopicCode", DataTypeEnum.adVarChar, 13)
    tblADOTopicCodeIdx.Name = "TopicCode"
    tblADOTopicCodeIdx.Columns.Append("TopicCode")
    tblADOTopicCodeIdx.Unique = True
    tblADOXTopics.Indexes.Append(tblADOTopicCodeIdx)
    .Columns.Append("Level", DataTypeEnum.adInteger)
End With

NewDB.Tables.Append(tblADOXTopics)
```

**However, I would use standard SQL for creating database objects. That way you can easily use them if you upsize to a SQL Server database.**

**e.g.**

## Code:

```
Create Table CustomReports (CRID COUNTER, CustRepName char(50), ReportSQL Memo, Type Char(20), SysDB  
char(10), SequenceNum Long, Locked YesNo, InUse YesNo)
```

```
ALTER TABLE CustAccounts ADD COLUMN EMail text(50);
```