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# Migrate Data from MS Access to SQL Server Database

This is particularly useful for large databases

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Recently, I had to migrate the data from an Access database to SQL Server 2014 because my database was getting too large for Access to handle. Even though the process is fairly simple, I figured I would write an article with step-by-step instructions.

First, you need to make sure you have SQL Server or [SQL Server Express](#) installed on your computer. When downloading SQL Server Express on a personal computer, make sure you download the version with **Advanced Services**. If you don't, then the database engine

won't be installed and you'll have SQL Management Studio without any database instance to connect to.

## Choose the download you want

<input type="checkbox"/> File Name	Size
<input type="checkbox"/> Express 64BIT\SQLEXPR_x64_ENU.exe	196.7 MB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ExpressAdv 32BIT\SQLEXPRADV_x86_ENU.exe	1.1 GB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ExpressAdv 64BIT\SQLEXPRADV_x64_ENU.exe	1.1 GB
<input type="checkbox"/> ExpressAndTools 32BIT\SQLEXPRWT_x86_ENU.exe	840.8 MB

Once you have SQL Server installed properly, you can continue with the steps below to import the Access database into a new database in SQL Server.

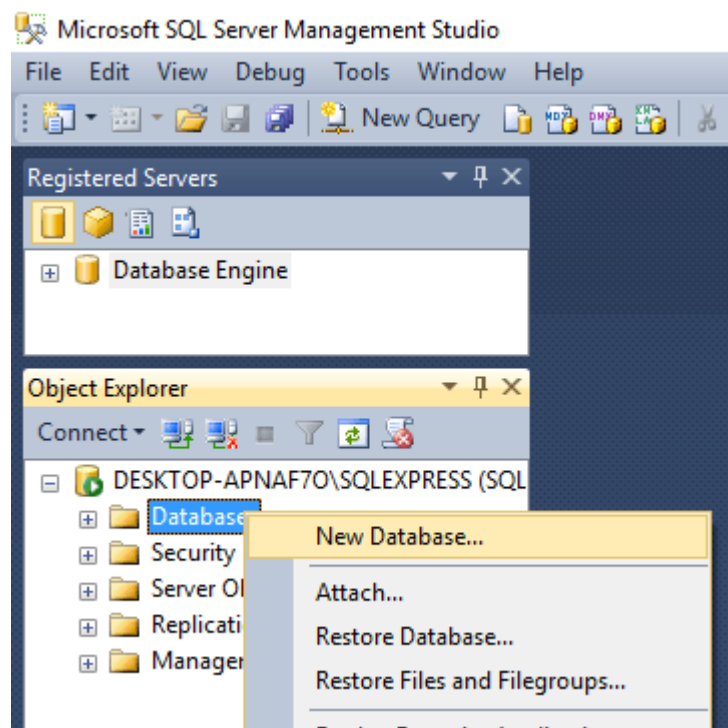
## Transfer Access Database to SQL Server



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Open SQL Server Management Studio and connect to the database server you want to import your Access database into. Under **Databases**, right-click and choose **New Database**. If you already have a database and you simply want to import a couple of tables from Access, then just skip this and go to the **Import Data** step below. Just right-click on your current database instead of creating a new one.

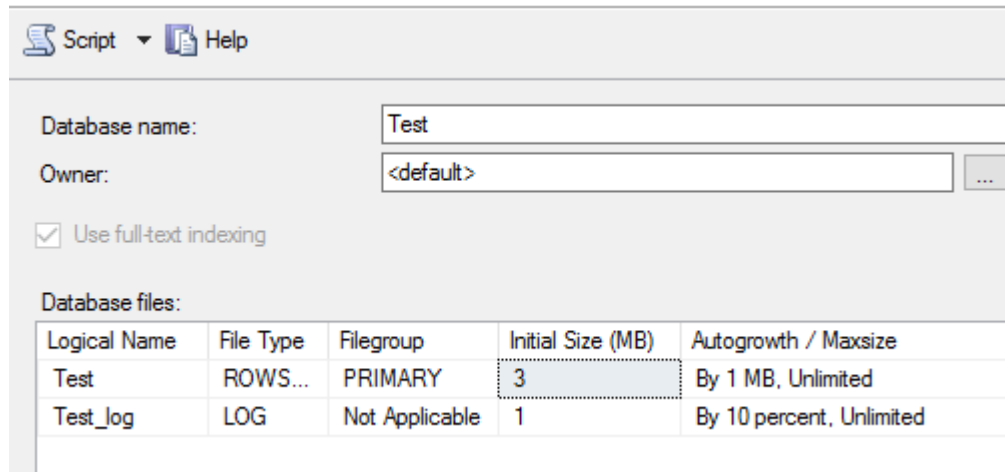


If you're creating a new database, go ahead and give it a name and configure the settings if you want to change them from the defaults.



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Script Help

Database name: Test

Owner: <default> ...

☒ Use full-text indexing

Database files:

Logical Name	File Type	Filegroup	Initial Size (MB)	Autogrowth / Maxsize
Test	ROWS...	PRIMARY	3	By 1 MB, Unlimited
Test_log	LOG	Not Applicable	1	By 10 percent, Unlimited

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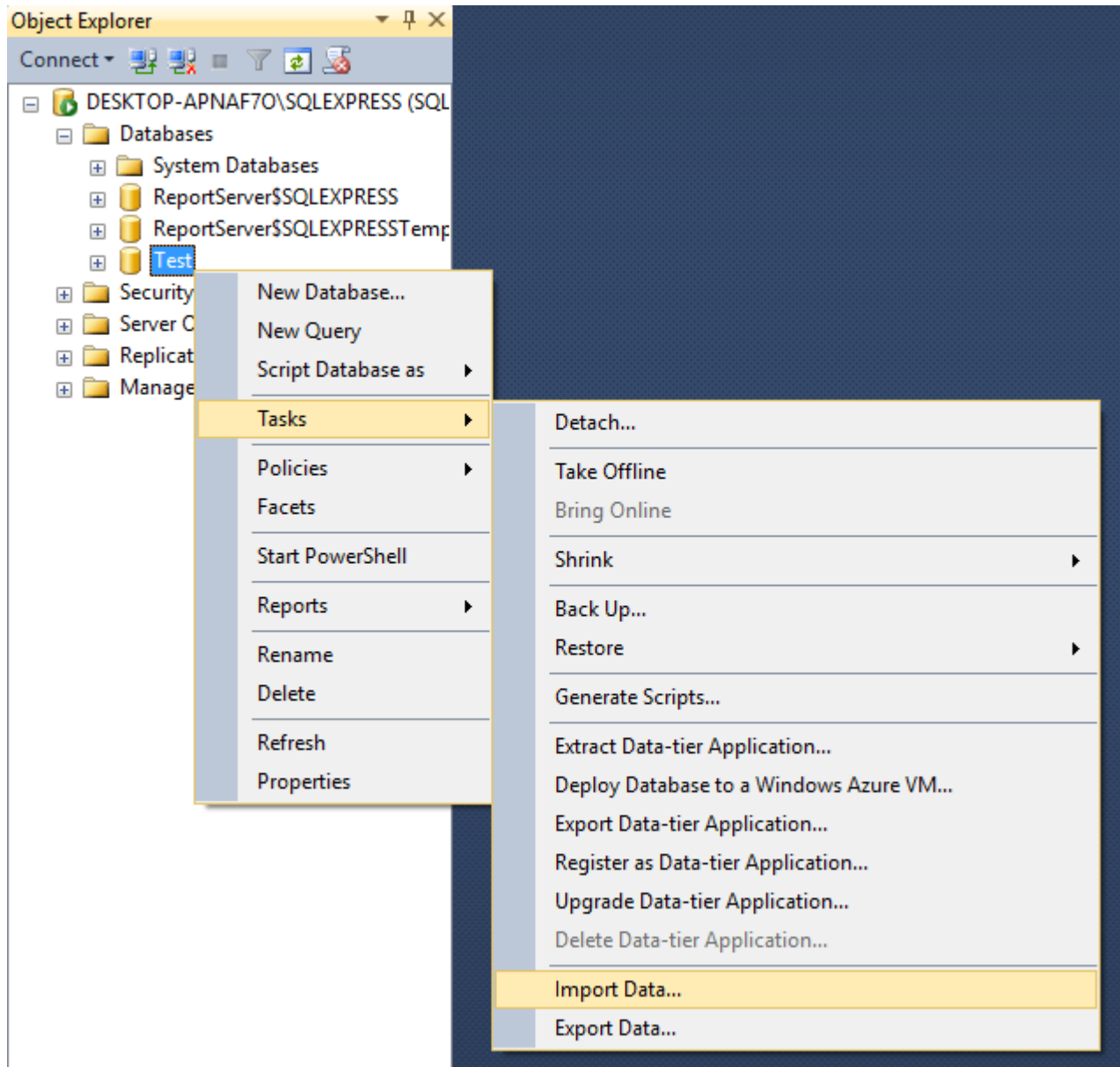


Now we need to right-click on the Test database we just created and choose **Tasks** and then **Import Data**.



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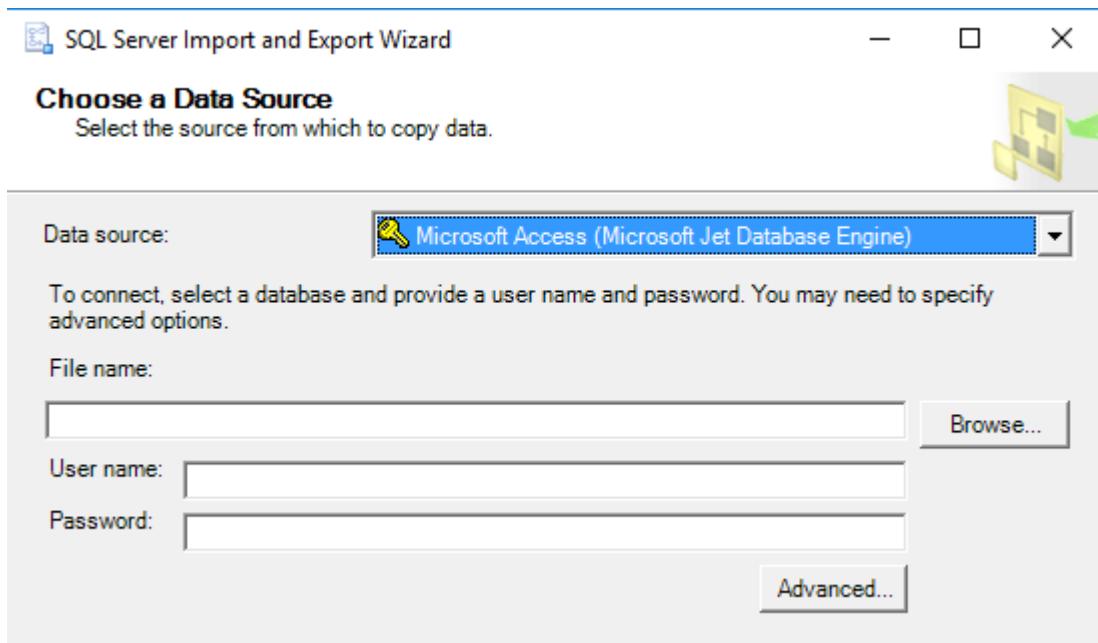


On the **Choose a Data Source** dialog box, select **Microsoft Access (Microsoft Jet Database Engine)** from the drop down box.



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Next to **File name**, click on **Browse** and navigate to the Access database you want to import and click **Open**. Note that the database cannot be in Access 2007 or higher format (**ACCDB**) as SQL Server does not recognize it! So if you have a 2007 to 2016 Access database, first convert it to the **2002-2003 Database** format (**MDB**) by going to **File – Save As**.

Go ahead and click **Next** to choose the destination. Since you right-clicked on the database you wanted to import the data into, it should already be picked in the list. If not, select **SQL Native Client** from the **Destination** drop down. You should see the database instance under **Server Name** and then be able to choose the specific database at the bottom once you pick your method of authentication.

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**Choose a Destination**

Specify where to copy data to.



Destination:	<input type="text" value="SQL Server Native Client 11.0"/>
Server name:	<input type="text" value="DESKTOP-APNAF70\SQLEXPRESS"/>
<b>Authentication</b>	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Use Windows Authentication	
<input type="radio"/> Use SQL Server Authentication	
User name:	<input type="text"/>
Password:	<input type="password"/>
Database:	<input type="text" value="Test"/>
<input type="button" value="Refresh"/>	
<input type="button" value="New..."/>	

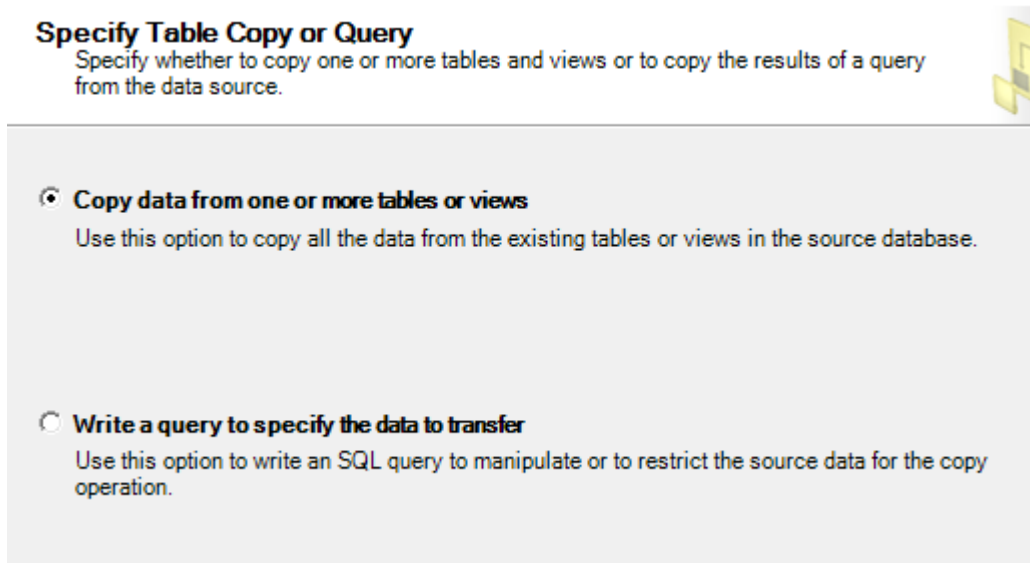
Click **Next** and then specify how you want to transfer the data from Access to SQL by choosing either **Copy the data from one or more tables** or **Write a query to specify the data to transfer**.

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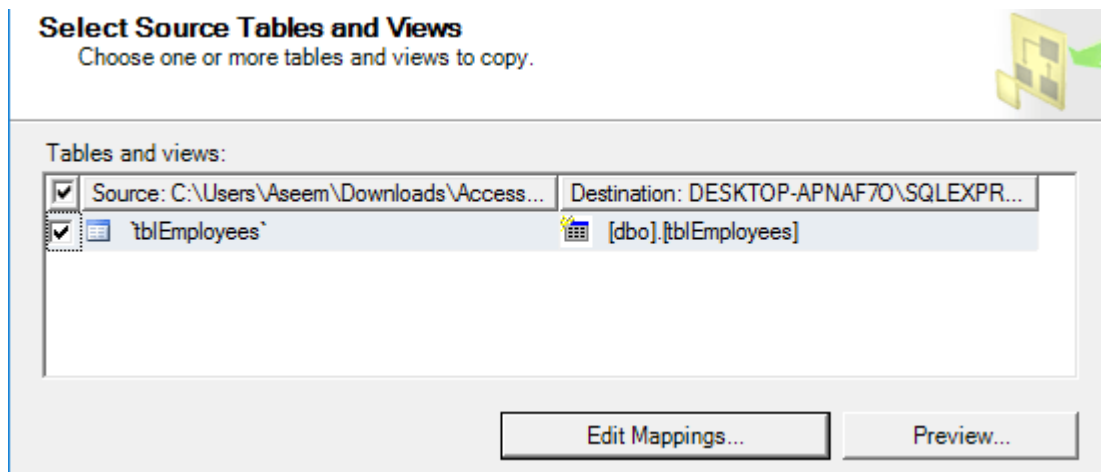
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If you want to copy all the tables or just some of the tables from the Access database without any data manipulation, choose the first option. If you need to copy only certain rows and columns of data from a table, then choose the second option and write a SQL query.

By default, all the tables should be selected and if you click the **Edit Mappings** button, you can configure how the fields map between the two tables. If you created a new database for the import, then it'll be an exact copy.

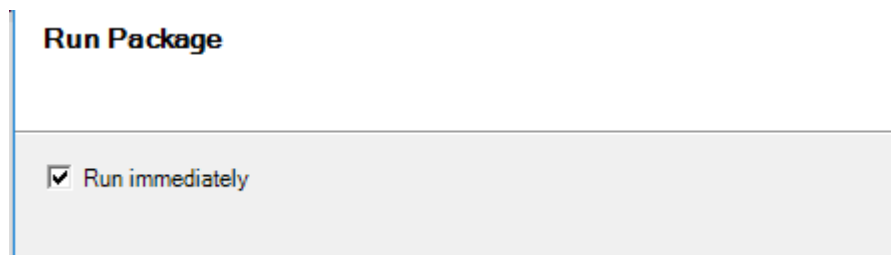


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Here I have only one table in my Access database. Click Next and you'll see the **Run Package** screen where **Run Immediately** should be checked.



Click **Next** and then click **Finish**. You'll then see the progress of the data transfer as it occurs. After it is completed, you'll see the number of rows transferred for each table in the **Message** column.

**The execution was successful**



**Success**

11 Total      0 Error  
11 Success      0 Warning

Details:

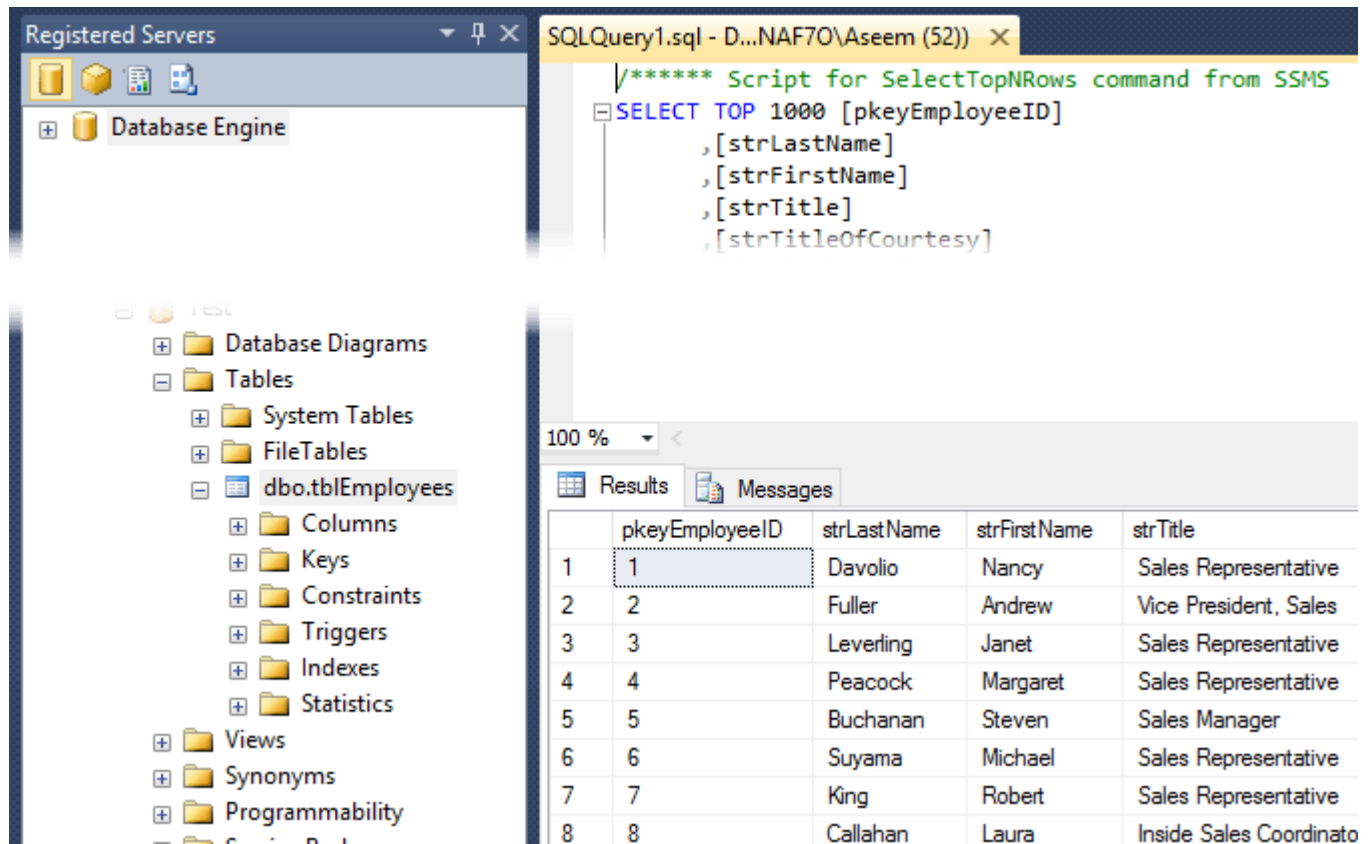
	Action	Status	Message
✓	Initializing Data Flow Task	Success	
✓	Initializing Connections	Success	
✓	Setting SQL Command	Success	
✓	Setting Source Connection	Success	
✓	Setting Destination Connection	Success	
✓	Validating	Success	
✓	Prepare for Execute	Success	
✓	Pre-execute	Success	
✓	Executing	Success	
i	Copying to [dbo].[tblEmployees]	Success	<a href="#">15 rows transferred</a>
✓	Post-execute	Success	



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Click **Close** and you're done. You can now go ahead and run a SELECT on your tables to make sure all the data got imported. Now you can enjoy the power of SQL Server for managing your database.



The screenshot shows the SQL Server Enterprise Manager interface. On the left, the 'Registered Servers' pane shows a 'Database Engine' folder expanded. Below it, a tree view shows 'Tables' expanded, with 'dbo.tblEmployees' selected. The main pane displays a query window titled 'SQLQuery1.sql - D:\...NAF70\Aseem (52))'. The query is a SELECT statement with a comment: 'Script for SelectTopNRows command from SSMS'. The query is: `SELECT TOP 1000 [pkeyEmployeeID], [strLastName], [strFirstName], [strTitle], [strTitleOfCourtesy]`. Below the query, the 'Results' pane shows the output of the query, displaying 8 rows of data. The columns are 'pkeyEmployeeID', 'strLastName', 'strFirstName', and 'strTitle'.

	pkeyEmployeeID	strLastName	strFirstName	strTitle
1	1	Davolio	Nancy	Sales Representative
2	2	Fuller	Andrew	Vice President, Sales
3	3	Leverling	Janet	Sales Representative
4	4	Peacock	Margaret	Sales Representative
5	5	Buchanan	Steven	Sales Manager
6	6	Suyama	Michael	Sales Representative
7	7	King	Robert	Sales Representative
8	8	Callahan	Laura	Inside Sales Coordinato

Any problems importing your data from Access to SQL Server? If so, post a comment and I'll try to help. Enjoy!

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Founder of Online Tech Tips and managing editor. He began blogging in 2007 and quit his job in 2010 to blog full-time. He has over 15 years of industry experience in IT and holds several technical certifications. [Read Aseem's Full Bio](#)

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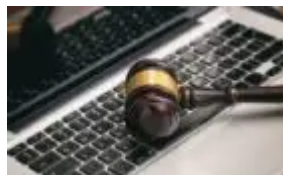
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**Jacob Mayer** • 2 years ago • edited

Aseem, will this maintain the access database interface and all logic held with in the exisiting database. All of the users want to continue using the Access data base as a front end but I would like to manage all the data in a SQL database instead of just having it do a nightly drop to the SQL database.

Thank you,  
Jake

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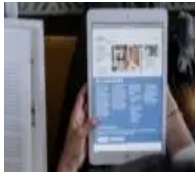
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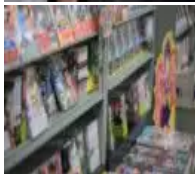
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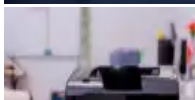
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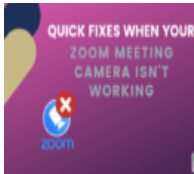


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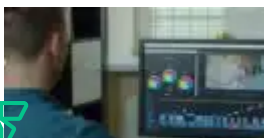
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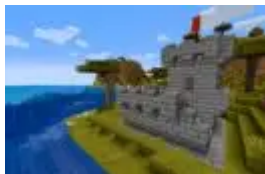
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