

Types of geodatabase in ESRI products

type of database		Single-user		Multi-user		
name of database		file .gdb ¹	personal .mdb ¹	Desktop ²	Workgroup ²	Enterprise ²
data storage/databases		local file system	MS Access	SQL Server Express	SQL Server Express	PostgreSQL, Oracle, SQL Server and 2 more
licence		ArcGIS for Desktop (all types)	ArcGIS for Desktop (all types)	ArcGIS for Desktop Advanced and Standard	ArcGIS for Server Workgroup	ArcGIS for Server Enterprise
requires ArcSDE		no	no	yes	yes	yes
own spatial type		no	no	no	no	yes
OS Platform		Windows (maybe some other)	Windows	Windows	Windows	Any platform
replication	type of replication	file replication	file replication	database replication	database replication	database replication
	master server	no ¹	no ¹	no	no	yes
	slave server	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
versioning		no	no	yes	yes	yes
multiuser editing		yes, but limited	no	no	yes	yes
number of editors		1 for each dataset or table ³	1 ³	1	10	unlimited
number of readers		more than 1 ³	more than 1 ³	3	10	unlimited
network application		(internet, intranet)	(internet, intranet)	local network	internet, intranet	internet, intranet
limitations		1TB for each dataset ³	2GB ³	10GB	10GB	depends on server

sources:

1. <http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/geodatabase/single-user-geodatabase>
2. <http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/geodatabase/multi-user-geodatabase>
3. <http://help.arcgis.com/en/arcgisdesktop/10.0/help/index.html#//003n00000007000000>