

Module 5: Integrating External Applications

Connecting SQL Server with Microsoft Office and data exchange tools

Module 5 Objectives



Connect SQL Server to Microsoft Office applications



Pull data from SQL Server into Excel for analysis



Use Access as a front-end interface on top of SQL Server data



Import and export business data using text files and migration tools

Connecting SQL Server to Excel

- Use Get Data / From SQL Server Database in Excel
- Connect with Windows or SQL Server authentication
- Select tables, views or custom queries as data sources
- Load data into tables, PivotTables or data models for analysis

Pulling Data from SQL Server into Excel

- Import product, sales or dimension data into Excel worksheets
- Refresh queries to retrieve updated data without re-importing
- Use PivotTables and charts to summarise and visualise results
- Leverage Excel as a familiar analysis tool for business users

Access as a Front-End for SQL Server

- Link SQL Server tables into an Access database via ODBC
- Create forms for browsing and editing SQL Server data
- Hide underlying tables and expose user-friendly forms and reports
- Ideal for small teams needing simple data entry and lookup screens

Importing and Exporting Data Using Text Files

- Use the SQL Server Import and Export Wizard for quick data moves
- Export query results to CSV or text files for other systems
- Import flat files into staging tables for further processing
- Automate imports and exports using SSIS or scheduled jobs

Migrating Access Databases to SQL Server

- Use SQL Server Migration Assistant (SSMA) for Access
- Convert Access tables and relationships into SQL Server schema
- Migrate data from Access tables into SQL Server tables
- Point Access front-ends at the new SQL Server back-end after migration

Scenarios for Office Integration

- Excel used for ad-hoc reporting and pivot-based analysis
- Access used for lightweight applications and data entry screens
- Text files used for exchange with legacy systems and partners
- SQL Server remains the central, secure store for business data