

# Handy Work Newsletter

Summer 2002

## Access 2000 !!!

### Upgrading to Newer Access Versions

No single issue has created more confusion than the options regarding the various versions of Windows, Access and HandyWorks.

We started writing HandyWorks in the first version of Access (1.0) but found it hard to use because it lacked some very crucial design features. Access Version 2.0, released in 1994 solved these issues and it was also a very stable product compared to earlier versions. All of you running HW2 are running this version of Access.

Yet Access 2.0 was not without flaws, particularly with regard to memory handling and its ability to handle complex queries. (This is the reason you will get error messages such as Can't Open any More Tables or Out of Memory.) Many times, we were forced into tricky work-arounds when faced with these obstacles.

Access 95 was released in 1995 and was widely panned as a flawed upgrade. Access 97, released 2 years later was much better, and we developed an upgrade path from HW2 to HW97. This was not without some difficulty as the 97 Version used a different set of Dynamic Linked Libraries (dll's) than earlier versions and had numerous other coding upgrades.

One major advantage of HW97 (and HW2000) is that it handles larger database files without loosing speed. It also does not suffer from the Out of Memory and Can't Open more Tables messages that are common in the HW2 version. It was

also y2k ready, without the special dll replacements needed in HW2.

Our latest addition to the HWW series is HW2000, a version written for Access 2000. We are able to directly convert HW97 to this version with only minor changes in a couple of reports.

In general, small databases in lower volume offices can easily stay on HW2. Larger databases in busier offices will run faster and better on HW97 or HW2000. So what should you do regarding these version options? First of all, if you are happy with how your system is running, **MAKE NO CHANGES**. If it's not broke, don't fix it!

Be aware that if you want to migrate up to higher Access versions, you will need to purchase the retail version of Access from Microsoft, or discounted from a reseller on eBay. But no matter which version of HW you are using (HW2, HW97 or HW2000), you are getting the same program. The only thing that differs is the version of Access used to run it.

### Megan had a Girl!

Simone, DOB: Sunday, July 14. 2:24PM DST. We wish Megan well as she takes an extended leave of absence from our office.

### Vacation!

Our entire staff will be on vacation the last week of August. There will be no tech support that week, through Labor Day. Be assured we will return well rested.

### Ebill Solutions

Med-Unite: 800-792-5256  
MD-Online 888-499-5465  
Q-Connect 800-500-8747

### PC AnyWhere

Sometimes, a user may have a complex problem that exists only on their machine. Or they may have done something to the files and directories that is not at all evident. In cases such as these, it can be very difficult for us at Tech Support to give specific directions on how to fix the problem. This is where PC Anywhere can come to the rescue.

PC Anywhere is a program from Symantic (makers of Norton Ant-Virus) that allows a distant computer to call your machine. The distant computer, say a machine here at the HandyWorks main office, displays a PC Anywhere window that shows what your monitor is showing. Our mouse moves your mouse pointer and our keyboard can be used to control your machine.

In the instances we have used PC Anywhere on an end-users machine, we have been able to quickly solve problems that would have taken much longer if instructions had to be given over the phone. It has been so useful in these cases that we now recommend that users have a copy of it installed in case it is ever needed.

By the way, you needn't worry too much about security when using PC Anywhere. It only runs at your command and you can add a user ID and password to protect you from unauthorized callers.

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