

Securing Your Access Application

Via the File Tab

Lock the database with a password	Info – Encrypt with Password
Using an executable instead of an .accdb or mdb file for you user facing application	Save As – Make ACCDE
Hide the Navigation Pane	Options – Current Database – Uncheck “Display Navigation Pane”
Consider also unchecking Use Access Special Keys to prevent the use of F11 to unhide Navigation Pane	
Trust Center – for Macros & VBA codes	Options – Trust Center – Trust Center Settings – Macro Settings



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More techniques

Locking your project file with a password	Visual Basic Window – right click on project – select Properties – Protection – Check “Lock project for viewing” – enter password
Hide individual objects	Right click on object – Hide in this Group. Right click on Navigation header – Navigation Objects to change overall settings
Install runtime on the users computers as opposed to full Access	
Decompile your database – create a .bat file with this in it	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\MSACCESS.EXE [path and name of your database] /decompile
Lock down folder permissions	
Lock down where your database can run from	



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Coding techniques

Obfuscate variable names pertaining to connections	
Building linked tables at runtime	Via a single table list, delete links before exiting
Truncate local temporary tables on exit	
Use error handling to protect code	
Use a custom ribbon	Consider also unchecking Use Access Special Keys to prevent the use of ALT-F11 to unhide Navigation Pane
Disable the Shift Bypass Key	
Create an AutoKeys Macro to disable certain built-in key sequences (does not work for ALT keys)	Ctrl+G -> Opens VBE Ctrl+Break F11 -> Shows/Hides Navigation Pane



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with a user table

User table with at least Login

Simple roles on the User table

More complex roles use a separate Roles table with UserID

Secure the whole application (DoCmd.Quit) and/or specific parts of the application

Form

Hide button

This is a replacement for pre 2007 built in Access security (.mdw table)



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Upcoming sessions

Feb 27

Queries

Mar 27

Reporting Techniques

AccessUserGroups.org

Virtual Access User Groups



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Other good resources:

<https://www.devhut.net/2016/09/01/securing-your-ms-access-database-front-end/>

<http://www.isumsoft.com/it/encrypt-decrypt-access-database-2016-with-password/>

Maria Barnes
Barnes Business Solutions, Inc.
mbarnes@BarnesBusinessSolutions.com
630-715-4452
@mbarnesatbbs

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