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WHAT IS SQL AND WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE?



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INTRODUCTION

(If you haven't read the article "What is a Database?" yet, I strongly suggest you read that first then come back here – this article will make more sense if you know what a database is and how it works)

What is SQL?

SQL (pronounced "es-que-el") stands for Structured Query Language. SQL is a database computer language used to communicate with a database and give it instructions. Examples of such instructions include retrieving information, updating information or searching using particular attributes.

According to ANSI (American National Standards Institute), SQL is the standard language for relational database management systems.

Some common database names you will hear that use SQL are: Oracle, Sybase, Microsoft SQL Server, Access, Ingres, etc.

Using standard SQL commands such as "Select", "Insert", "Update", "Delete", "Create", and "Drop", you can accomplish almost everything that one needs to do with a database.

Next...What functions does SQL perform in a database?



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WHAT CAN SQL DO?

- SQL can execute queries against a database
- SQL can retrieve data from a database
- SQL can insert records in a database
- SQL can update records in a database
- SQL can delete records from a database
- SQL can create new databases
- SQL can create new tables in a database
- SQL can create stored procedures in a database
- SQL can create views in a database
- SQL can set permissions on tables, procedures, and views

Next up...What Is An RDBMS?...



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WHAT IS AN RDBMS?

RDBMS stands for Relational Database Management System.

RDBMS is the basis for SQL, and for all modern database systems like Microsoft SQL Server, IBM DB2, Oracle, MySQL, and Microsoft Access.

The data in RDBMS is stored in database objects called tables. A table is a collection of related data entries and it consists of columns and rows. (Again, if you haven't yet read the article titled "What is a database?" – it would be a great idea so as to further your understanding of how SQL fits into the picture.)

WHY WOULD YOU USE SQL IN SOMETHING LIKE AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE?

Funnily enough, Small and Medium sized businesses (SMB) have EXACTLY THE SAME REQUIREMENTS from their Accounting software as "big business" does. It needs it to be:

- Fast
- Reliable
- Secure
- Accurate
- User-friendly



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Entry level Accounting products such as MYOB and Quickbooks are great for businesses of a certain size – and up to a point. When a business is growing, adding employees, increasing the number of transactions they process and is becoming more complex, it needs a more robust business system. This is where SQL-based applications really come into their own.

Imagine you have 20 people using your company's accounting system all at once. A non-SQL based Accounting system will struggle to cope with things like simultaneous requests, bulk-updating and security.

An SQL-based accounting software product can handle multiple requests for the same file and will not allow two people to open and write to the same file at the same time (normally you'd crash a basic accounting program if this happened – I'm sure you've experienced this!). SQL –based accounting software has literally hundreds of other 'smarts' that really set it apart from entry level accounting products.

There is one small problem...SQL-based accounting software usually costs a packet!

An example of enterprise-level, SQL-based Australian Accounting Software that is affordable for SMB is Jim2 Business Engine from Happen Business. Jim2 is built using the Server-based Microsoft SQL Database – therefore it enjoys all the benefits that Microsoft SQL brings – security, speed, flexibility and the ability to grow as your business grows.



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If your business is growing, you really need to carefully consider what your next business software move will be and look at all the options out there.

For more information on Jim2 Business Engine, please call 02 9570 4696 or visit our website at www.happen.biz.

About Happen Business

Happen Business is 100% Australian owned and was established in 1999 to fill a growing need in the market for a comprehensive accounting and business workflow software solution.

The company rapidly established a strong following for its Jim2 Business Engine software, and now has an extensive customer base in diverse industries such as managed print services, IT, importing, distribution and warehouse, sales and service, specialised retailing and manufacturing.

Happen Business offer three tailored ERP/Accounting packages for Australian Business:

- Jim2 Business Engine Premium Edition
- Jim2 Business Engine Managed Print Services Edition
- Jim2 Business Engine Managed Services Edition

For more information, please visit www.happen.biz or call 02 9570 4696.



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