

DentalEye 3.1 database setup

The DentalEye system stores all its data on one of the computers in the network, preferably a dedicated server. The database is either in MS Access form or is stored on a SQL Server. The images are stored in a shared folder accessible from all computers in the network.

First decide whether to run MS Access or SQL Server. The Access alternative is somewhat easier to install and backup, whereas SQL Server provides better performance and reliability. As a rule of thumb, select Access if there are less than 10 client computers, otherwise SQL Server. SQL Server might be a good choice even for a smaller installation if there is a dedicated server, possibly with some version of SQL Server already installed, with existing backup routines and sufficient technical knowledge.

Preparations

Create a folder on the server, e.g. called "DentalEye" and share it on the network. If there is a Windows domain, add this share to the login script and assign a drive letter.

Edit the settings for automated backup so that the DentalEye folder is included.

MS Access setup

Select "Create new local database" and choose Microsoft Access. Browse to the DentalEye share previously set up and type a new name, e.g. "patient". A new database will be created in the "patient.mdb" file. Then set up the image store: browse to the DentalEye share again and create a folder, e.g. "Images" there. Press OK to create the new database.

On the other computers, enter the database settings and browse to the DentalEye share and select the new Access database. The image folder is stored in the database and should show up automatically.

Over time, database corruption may occur and cause database errors. Run the "DB Fix" tool (installed with DentalEye) regularly to repair the database.

The database is backed up or moved to a new server simply by copying the "patient.mdb" file and the "Images" folder.

SQL Server setup

Check if there is already a SQL Server running on the server computer. Install for instance the free SQL Server 2008 Express. It can be downloaded from Microsoft together with the administration tool Management Studio.

SQL Server 2008 Express installation

Download and run SQL Server 2008 Express and SQL Server Management Studio Express from <http://www.microsoft.com/sql/default.mspx>

When the installer runs, uncheck “Hide advanced options”. The installer will then ask for the instance name to set up; either the default instance “MSSQLSERVER” which will allow connections using just the server name, or a named instance – the default named instance is “SQLEXPRESS”. Enter e.g. “DentalEye” or select the default instance.

Authentication: select mixed mode to allow Windows authentication as well as “sa” login. Choose a password for “sa”, e.g. “sql123”.

Configure the server to accept incoming connections: Open Programs->Microsoft SQL Server 2008->SQL Server Configuration Manager. Select “Network Configuration” and “Protocols”. Right-click and enable TCP/IP and possibly also Named Pipes. Go back to SQL Server Services, right-click the SQL Server and restart it. Make sure that it starts and that the SQL Server Browser is running.

Start DentalEye on the server or on some other computer, select “Create new local database” and choose SQL Server. Under “Server name”, enter “SERVER\DENTALEYE” (replace SERVER with the actual name of the server) if you created a named instance called DENTALEYE. If you chose the default instance, just enter the server name. Type a name for the new database, e.g. “patient”. Then set up the image store: browse to the DentalEye share and create a folder, e.g. “Images” there. Press OK to create the new database.

A login box is presented. Enter username: “sa”, create a password, e.g. “sql123” and remember the password. Alternatively, check Windows authentication and click OK.

Now schedule a daily backup of the new database. The Database Admin Utility installed with DentalEye can no longer be used with SQL Server 2008. There is also no SQL Server agent in the Express edition so it is not possible to schedule automatic backups from Management Studio.

Instead, configure the “sqlbackup” script (download from www.dentaleye.com) to run with Windows Task Scheduler. The script will create a backup file, e.g. “patient.bak”, in some folder, by default “C:\DEBackup” on the server.

The whole database is then backed up or moved to a new server by copying the “patient.bak” file and the “Images” folder. If the database needs to be restored or moved, the .bak file is restored to a database server with an administration tool such as Management Studio.