



ALPHA FIVE VERSION 9 VS. OTHER LEADING DATABASE DEVELOPMENT PLATFORMS

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	Alpha 5 V9 Platinum	Microsoft Access 2007	Filemaker Pro 10	Filemaker Pro 10 Advanced	Filemaker Server 10	Filemaker Server 10 Advanced	Notes
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Development Tools

Visual design tools	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
# controls supplied	37	25	6	6	6	6	
Use ActiveX controls	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	
Embed HTML in forms	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Expression builder	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Expression library	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Code editor	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	
Code library (snippets)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Programming language(s)	Xbasic, Xdialog	Visual Basic (VBA)	N	N	N	N	
# functions supplied	>1000	~200	~380	~380	~380	~380	FMP 10 has ~140 Script Steps and ~240 Functions
Report designer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Scripting language	Action Scripting	Macros	Script Steps	Script Steps	Script Steps	Script Steps	
Genies/Wizards	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Alpha has a large number of useful genies for common tasks
Desktop debugger	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	
Database explorer	Y	Visual Studio*	N	N	N	N	
SQL query designer	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	
Portable SQL	Y, for 14 DBs	N	N	N	N	N	
Template databases	8	10	30	33	33	33	Many additional Access templates available online, of varying quality
Samples	10	1	0	0	0	0	

Web Development

Web Applications	Alpha Server (a)	ASP.NET, etc.*	Instant (5 user)	Instant (5 User)	PHP*, XSLT*, XML*	PHP*, XSLT*, XML*, Instant	Filemaker includes APIs for PHP, XSLT, and XML sites
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Full HTML support	Y	ASP.NET, etc.*	N	N	Y	Y, except Instant	Filemaker Server has assistant for PHP site generation
HTML editor	Y	Expression Web*	N	N	Y	N	
CSS editor	Y	Expression Web*	N	N	N	N	
AJAX support	Y	ASP.NET AJAX*	N	N	3rd party*	3rd party*	PHP sites can use 3rd party JavaScript Ajax libraries with Filemaker
Web debugger	Y	Visual Studio*	N	N	N	N	
Drag and drop design	Y	Visual Studio*	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Server programming	Xbasic	C#, etc.*	N	N	N	N	
User component library	Y	Visual Studio*	N	N	N	N	
Grid component	Y	ASP.NET, etc.*	view as table	view as table	view as table	view as table	
Detail view	Part of grid	ASP.NET, etc.*	view as form	view as form	view as form	view as form	
Search	Part of grid	ASP.NET, etc.*	find mode	find mode	find mode	find mode	
Dialog component	Y	ASP.NET, etc.*	N	N	N	N	
Grid linker component	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Parent-child grids
Tabbed grid linker	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Multiple linked grids in tabs
Navigation system	Y	ASP.NET, etc.*	N	N	N	N	
Login component	Y	ASP.NET, etc.*	N	N	N	N	Alpha has page and file type permissions for groups
Maintenance builder	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Pack and reindex DB tables from Web interface
Use ActiveX controls	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Web browser control	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Role-based security	Y	ASP.NET, etc.*	N	N	N	N	Filemaker has account-based security at the database level

Native DB Specifications

Native DB format	.DBF	.ACCDB, .MDB	.FP7	.FP7	.FP7	.FP7	(File extensions are given as shortcuts to the format)
Open file format	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Native capacity	Disk/OS	2 GB	Disk/OS	Disk/OS	Disk/OS	Disk/OS	Access can split tables for additional capacity
							Filemaker recommends a 2 GB limit for best performance
# open tables	100	2,048	125 open files	125 open files	RAM limited	RAM limited	Alpha can open and close tables dynamically

# records/table	2 billion	DB size limit	64 quadrillion total records over life time of file				
# fields/table	1,023	255	256 million total fields over life time of file				
# indexes/table	40	32					
# fields/index	Key size limit	10					
maximum key size	240	# fields limit					
# bytes/record	19,600	4,000					Excluding memo fields
# bytes/memo field	Unlimited	65,535	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Filemaker has large Text fields but no memo fields
# concurrent users	Network	255	9	9	Network	Network	Filemaker Pro does not allow two users to edit the same record
							Alpha can throttle number of users if desired for performance
Transactions	for SQL DBs	for native tables	N	N	N	N	
Audit trail	Y	N	N	N	N	N	

SQL Connectors and File Imports

1-2-3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Access	Y	Native	N	N	N	N	
ADO	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	
Cache	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
DB2	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
dBase/Alpha	Native	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Excel	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	
Filemaker	ODBC	ODBC	Native	Native	Native	Native	Filemaker ODBC and JDBC drivers ship with Filemaker
Generic SQL	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
HTML		Y	N	N	N	N	
MySQL	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
ODBC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Oracle	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	
OracleLight	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	
Paradox	Y	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	
Quickbooks	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
SQL Server	Y	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	
SQLAnywhere	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	
Sybase	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	
Text (CSV, TAB)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

XML	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
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Linking Features

Remote SQL databases	Y	Y, 255 fields	Y	Y	Y	Y	Remote table used directly via SQL, typically over ODBC or OLEDB
Active link tables	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Native table dynamically populated from SQL source with updates
Passive linked tables	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Native table populated from SQL source snapshot on demand
Sort linked SQL data	Y	Y	Y, slow	Y, slow	Y, slow	Y, slow	Filemaker sorts data on client instead of using SQL order by clause, workaround is to create a sorted view in SQL

Export Data File Formats

1-2-3	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Access	Access reads DBF	Native	N	N	N	N	Alpha does not need to export to Access because Access reads DBF files
dBase/Alpha	Native	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Excel	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
HTML	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
PDF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
SQL Database	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	
Text (CSV, TAB)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Word (DOC or RTF)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
XML	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Mailings

E-mail/Mail merge	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Bulk mailer	AlphaMailer*	N	N	N	N	N	

Costs

1-Developer	\$399	\$229	\$299	\$499	\$999	\$2,499	Access is cheaper as part of a Microsoft Office bundle
1-Upgrade	\$299	\$110	\$179	\$299	\$599	\$1,499	
3-Developer	\$999	depends	\$897	\$1,497	\$2,997	\$7,497	Microsoft has multiple volume discount programs

1-End user	\$199	\$0	\$299	\$499	\$999	\$2,499	Filemaker treats every end-user as a developer
							Alpha offers a royalty-free end-user license for ISVs and consultants
10-End user	\$899	\$0	\$2,990	\$4,990	\$3,989	\$7,489	Filemaker requires Server or Server Advanced plus client licenses
100-End user	\$999 (Unlimited distribution license)	\$0	\$29,900	\$49,900	\$30,899	\$52,399	
Web server	\$699 (Unlimited users per server)	n/a	\$999	\$2,499	\$999	\$2,499	Web sites using Access must be programmed, e.g. with ASP.NET Filemaker requires Server or Server Advanced for Web sites with more than 5 simultaneous users

Supported OS

Windows Vista	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	
Windows XP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Windows 2000 Server	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	
Windows 2008 Server	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	
Windows 2003 Server	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Mac OS X	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Please alert us to any errors or omissions.

Footnotes

* External program, service, or technology

(a) Server license needed for Web access other than localhost

Grid produced by Alpha Software

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