

	Alpha 5 V10 Platinum	Microsoft Access 2007	Filemaker Pro 10	Filemaker Pro 10 Advanced	Filemaker Server 10	Filemaker Server 10 Advanced	Iron Speed Designer 6.0	Notes
Development Tools								
Visual design tools	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Iron Speed generates Web site from database
# controls supplied	37	25	6	6	6	6	n/a	
Use ActiveX controls	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Embed HTML in forms	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
Expression builder	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
Expression library	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Code editor	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Code library (snippets)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Programming language(s)	Xbasic, Xdialog	Visual Basic (VBA)	N	N	N	N	C#, Visual Basic .NET generated for Web	
# functions supplied	>1000	~200	~380	~380	~380	~380	0	FMP 10 has ~140 Script Steps and ~240 Functions
Report designer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	In Enterprise edition with Crystal Reports*	
Scripting language	Action Scripting	Macros	Script Steps	Script Steps	Script Steps	Script Steps		
Genies/Wizards	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Alpha has a large number of useful genies for common tasks
Desktop debugger	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Database explorer	Y	Visual Studio*	N	N	N	N	Part of generation process	
SQL query designer	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	
Portable SQL	Y, for 14 DBs	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Template databases	8	10	30	30	30	30	N	Many additional Access templates available online, of varying quality
Samples	10	1	0	0	0	0	1	

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

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Native DB Specifications								
Native DB format	.DBF	.ACCDB, .MDB	.FP7	.FP7	.FP7	.FP7	None: only uses SQL databases	(File extensions are given as shortcuts to the format)
Open file format	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Native capacity	Disk/OS	2 GB	Disk/OS	Disk/OS	Disk/OS	Disk/OS	Disk/OS	Access can split tables for additional capacity
# open tables	100	2,048	125 open files	125 open files	RAM limited	RAM limited		Filemaker recommends a 2 GB limit for best performance
# records/table	2 billion	DB size limit	64 quadrillion total records over life time of file					Alpha can open and close tables dynamically
# 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 Pro 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
Transactions	for SQL DBs	for native tables	N	N	N	N		Alpha can throttle number of users if desired for performance
Audit trail	Y	N	N	N	N	N		

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SQL Connectors and File Imports								
1-2-3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
Access	Y	Native	N	N	N	N	Y	
ADO	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Caché	ODBC	N	N	N	N	N	N	
DB2	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	
dBase/Alpha	Native	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
Excel	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Filemaker	ODBC	ODBC	Native	Native	Native	Native	N	Filemaker ODBC and JDBC drivers ship with Filemaker
Generic SQL	Y (Xbasic import script)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
HTML	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
MySQL	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
ODBC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	In Professional and Enterprise editions	
Oracle	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	Y	
OracleLight	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	N	
Paradox	Y	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	N	
Quickbooks	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	
SQLite3	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	N	
SQL Server	Y	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	Y	
SQL Anywhere	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	N	
SQL Azure	Y	?	?	?	?	?	?	
Sybase	Y	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	ODBC	N	
Text (CSV, TAB)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
XML	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	

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

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Export Data File Formats								
1-2-3	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
Access	Access reads DBF	Native	N	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	N	
Excel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	In Professional and Enterprise editions	
HTML	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	
PDF	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	In Professional and Enterprise editions	
SQL Database	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	
Text (CSV, TAB)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Word (DOC or RTF)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	In Professional and Enterprise editions	
XML	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	

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Mailings								
E-mail/Mail merge	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	In Enterprise edition	
Bulk mailer	AlphaMailer*	N	N	N	N	N	N	

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Costs								
1-Developer	\$349	\$229	\$299	\$499	\$999	\$2,499	\$0/\$795 Professional/\$1,995 Enterprise (b)	Access is cheaper as part of a Microsoft Office bundle
1-Upgrade	\$249	\$110	\$179	\$299	\$599	\$1,499	\$0/\$300/\$750	
100-End user	\$599 (Unlimited distribution license)	depends	\$29,900	\$49,900	\$30,899	\$52,399	Web only	
Web server	\$599 (Unlimited users per server)	n/a	\$999	\$2,499	\$999	\$2,499	IIS	Web sites using Access must be programmed, e.g. with ASP.NET
Web server upgrade	\$399 (Unlimited users per server)	n/a					IIS	Filemaker requires Server or Server Advanced for Web sites with more than 5 simultaneous users

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Supported OS								
Windows 7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Windows Vista	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Windows XP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Windows 2000 Server	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	
Windows 2008 Server	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	
Windows 2003 Server	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Mac OS X	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	

Please alert us to any errors or omissions.

Footnotes
 * External program, service, or technology
 (a) Server license needed for Web access other than localhost

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