Access to SQL Server

The Edge can run Microsoft SQL Server databases as well as Microsoft Access databases.

Microsoft SQL Express

We recommend Microsoft SQL Server Express in all cases, especially if:

- Your Access database is larger than 1.5GB; Access is limited to 2GB. SQL Express can handle up to 10GB, more expensive editions are practically unlimited.

- You are using (or plan to use) wireless networking for more than just physical inventory, or if your wired network is slow or unreliable; SQL is more tolerant of network issues.

- You have a large configuration (a single-store configuration bigger than 7 workstations, or a multi-store configuration bigger than 11 total workstations).

While we recommend SQL Server Express in general, we still feel that Access is an acceptable solution for stores that don't fit these criteria.

If you do feel the SQL Server is appropriate for you, the following considerations are important when contemplating an upgrade to SQL:

- You will need a dedicated server machine that meets certain minimum specifications.

- SQL requires different database management skills and maintenance may be somewhat more complicated than what you're accustomed to with Access.

- You will need to find a local technician who is familiar with SQL.

There are some costs associated with upgrading to SQL:

- There is a one-time service fee to perform the SQL upgrade, equivalent to 10% of your total license fee.

- There is a 10% Edge software license fee upcharge.

- The annual Edge support contract increases to 20% of the total license fee.

Upgrading to SQL takes significant time, effort, and coordination, and it is not a do-it-yourself process. We will upgrade customers on a first-come, first-served basis.

We will continue to support both Access and SQL until such time as Microsoft discontinues support for Access or until SQL becomes a better solution for smaller configurations.

Note that, as an alternative to upgrading to SQL purely due to database size, we offer a "database trimming" service that will delete older transactions. Such trimming is irreversible.

If your database approaches 10 GB in size, we recommend upgrading further to Microsoft SQL Standard.

Microsoft SQL Standard

As your SQL Express database approaches the 10 GB limit, you must upgrade to SQL Server standard, for which database capacity is essentially unlimited. SQL Server Standard is not free; go to https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/server-cloud/Products/sql-server-editions/sql-server-standard.aspx for more information about pricing. You'll need a license for each store.

To upgrade, have your IT technician go to Microsoft.com for the software and instructions. Also, for server swap planning and coordination for The Edge, contact The Edge Support Team at support@ajsllc.com. Swapping SQL servers takes a significant amount of time and an appointment will be necessary.