

14. Customising the Database

iNETstore Database Structure

iNETstore connects to ODBC compliant databases such as Microsoft SQL Server and Microsoft Access. By default, iNETstore ships with a Microsoft Access database file called catalog.mdb. If you have a copy of Microsoft Access, you can open the database file and work directly at the database level. However, this is not required as iNETstore ships with database management applications. The iNETstore database file is usually located within the bin directory of your iNETstore installation, eg.

..\iNETstore\bin\catalog.mdb

The structure of the iNETstore database is quite simple, each store has a set of database tables associated with it;

- CTG - categories
- ITM - items
- SYS - system
- TRN - transactions
- USR - users
- FRT - freight

The name of the tables are defined in the following way, type of table (such as ITM) then the name of the store (eg mystore). So a set of tables for a store called bookshop would look like this:

- CTGbookshop - categories
- ITMbookshop - items
- SYSbookshop - system
- TRNbookshop - transactions
- USRbookshop - users
- FRTbookshop - freight

Each database has a standard set of fields, which are required for your store to operate correctly. Below is a list of the standard fields for each table. When working with the database it is important that you don't alter or delete any of the required fields. Note that id must always be the first field in the table.

CTG – Categories

Field Name	Optional / Required	Description
id	Y	The unique identification number of the record.
name	Y	Category name.
parentid	Y	The id of the parent category. If this is the top category, the value of parentid is 0 (zero).
enabledweb	Y	Determines whether this category and items and subcategories contained within it are shown in the store: 1 = category is shown 2 = category is not shown
description	O	Category description.
thumbnail	O	Small category graphic.
item_template	Y	The template used by the _itemwin command (to display the item page).
quick_template	Y	The template used by the _headerwin command (to display a list page).
sortorder	O	The value of this field indicates how categories are sorted. Categories with low values appear first. Items with high values appear last.
createddt	Y	Date when the record was created.
modifieddt	Y	Date when the record was last modified.
accesseddt	Y	Date when the record was last accessed.

ITM – Items

Field Name	Optional / Required	Description
id	Y	The unique identification number of the record.
name	Y	Product name
productcode	O	Product or item code.
categoryid	Y	The id of the parent category to which this item belongs.
enabledweb	Y	Determines whether the item is shown in the catalogue 1 = The item is shown 0 = The item is not shown
description	O	Product description.
briefdescription	O	Brief product description. This is a summary of the product description for display in the basket page, list view, etc.
keywords	O	Keywords. This can be used for searches.
flag1	O	These are fields that can be used to flag items to make them appear on the home page. For example, you could use flag1 for items that are on special and flag2 for items which you would like to feature on your site. Possible values for these fields: on = this item appears on the home page other value = this item does not appear on the home page
flag2	O	
thumbnail	O	Path to the thumbnail (small item image). The thumbnail image can be shown on list pages.
graphic	O	Path to the large item image shown on the item page.
priceex	Y	Price ex. tax for the public group
priceinc	Y	Price inc. tax for the public group
priceexgrp1	O	Price ex. tax for group 1
priceexgrp2	O	Price inc. tax for group 1
weight	O	The weight of the item. Note: This is required if a weight based freight method is used.
stocklevel	O	Number of items that are in stock. This number is automatically decreased every time an item is ordered.
backorder	O	This field is incremented every time an order is placed if the stocklevel field is zero or less. It indicates how many items have to be ordered to fulfil all outstanding online orders.
configmsg	O	This field is used to display a message above the configuration fields (see below). For example. if you used

		two of the configuration fields for colour and size then you could display a message such as “Please select a colour and size”.
config1	O	These fields can be used for configurations, e.g. colour, size, etc. or extra fields to be included. Configurations should be delimited by semi-colons, e.g. “red;green;blue;black”
config2	O	
config3	O	
template	Y	The template used to display this item.
sortorder	O	The value of this field indicates how items are sorted. Items with low values appear first. Items with high values appear last.
createddt	Y	Date when the record was created.
accesseddt	Y	Date when the record was last accessed.
modifieddt	Y	Date when the record was last modified.

SYS – System

Field Name	Optional / Required	Description
id	Y	The unique identification number of the record.
name	O	Company name
companynum	O	Company Number, e.g. ACN, ABN, etc.
address	O	Company address
phone	O	Company phone number
fax	O	Company fax number
email	O	Company email address
taxtype	O	Name of tax that applies on orders, e.g. GST, WAT, etc.
freightgroup	Y	Freight method to be used: NoFreight = Delivery is free FlatRate = Flat freight rate for each order TotalValue = Freight calculation based on total order value TotalItems = Freight calculation based on number of items Weight = Weight based freight calculation
logoimage	O	Path to the company logo
password	Y	Password used to send the store to the server.
transactionid	Y	Transaction id counter
checkoutmethod	Y	The checkout method that is to be used: allmethods User has the option of selecting the payment method from options such as phone, fax, secure payment, etc. including secure online credit card orders. gateway Secure online credit card order only.
membermethod	Y	Determines whether a customer needs to register: member Customers need to register. guest Customers don't need to register.
key	Y	Key used to encrypt parameters exchanged with the iNETstore payment gateway
gatewayaccountname	Y	iNETstore payment gateway account name
gatewayurl	Y	URL of the payment gateway
columns	Y	Number of columns to use on category pages. Note that this layout option is not used on all pages.

homemsg	O	Message on the home page. This is the first page your visitors see when they visit your site.
contactmsg	O	Message on the contact us page.
searchmsg	O	Message on the advanced search page.
viewcartmsg	O	Message on the view cart page.
orderemailmsg	O	Message on the email message that is sent out to customers when they have placed an order.
legalmsg	O	This is the legal message that appears on the bottom of each page of your store.
searchtitle	O	Title of the search box that is shown throughout the store.
browsetitle	O	Title of the browse box that is shown throughout the store. This box contains links to the major categories.
flag1title	O	Title of flags. For example, if you use flag1 in the item table to flag items that are on special, flag1title would be 'On Special'.
flag2title	O	
logintitle	O	Title of the login box on the home page. E.g. the login title could be 'Member Login', 'Customer Login', etc.
extrapagetitle	Y	Title of an extra page as it appears in the navigation tool bar.
extrapagenavbar	Y	Determines whether the page appears in the site toolbar: 1 Page should appear in toolbar. 0 Page should not appear in toolbar.
extrapagecontent	Y	Content of page.
extrapagelink	Y	Hyperlink to external or user-created page. This can be used as an alternative to entering content.
extrapageitemid	Y	Id of the item to which the page is linked. A link to the page will be shown on the item page of the referenced item.
extrapagesortorder	Y	Order in which pages appear in the toolbar.

TRN – Transactions

Field Name	Optional / Required	Description
id	Y	The unique identification number of the record.
orderid	Y	Unique string that identifies an order.
comments		Comments and/or special delivery instructions given by the customer during the checkout process.
entrytype	Y	Determines the type of data stored in this row: 0 This row contains data about an order (order total) 1 This row contains data about an item
status	Y	Shipping status of the item. The default is NEW. Can also be set to SHIPPED, ON BACKORDER, CANCELLED, etc.
quantity	Y	Total number items ordered
numdiffitems	Y	Total number of unique items ordered
itmname	Y	Item name
itmid	Y	Id of the item. This is the id field in the item table.
itmproductcode	Y	Item product code
varvarconfig1	Y	Configuration 1
varvarconfig2	Y	Configuration 2
varvarconfig3	Y	Configuration 3
itmpriceex	Y	Item price ex tax
itmpriceinc	Y	Item price inc tax
totalgoodsex	Y	Total goods sold ex tax
totalgoodsinc	Y	Total of goods sold including tax, if any. Note that if an order was tax exempt the value saved in this field shall also be the tax-exempt amount.
frtpriceex	Y	Cost of freight excluding tax.
frtpriceinc	Y	Cost of freight including tax, if any. Note that if an order was tax exempt the value saved in this field shall also be the tax-exempt amount.
totalpayable	Y	Total amount billable for the order.
applytax	Y	Indicates whether tax applies to this order 1 = Tax applies 0 = Tax doesn't apply
taxtype	Y	A description of the tax type. For example, VAT, GST or Sales Tax.
goodstaxamt	Y	Tax component of total goods sold. if anv. Note that if an

		order was tax exempt the value saved in this field shall also be the tax-exempt amount.
frrtaxamt	Y	Tax component of freight charges, if any. Note that if an order was tax exempt the value saved in this field shall also be the tax-exempt amount.
overrideamt	Y	Override tax amount.
overridepercentage	Y	Override tax percentage.
method	Y	Delivery method, e.g. Post, Courier, etc
destination	Y	Geographical delivery region
login	Y	Login name of the user who placed the order
usergroup	Y	User group the user who placed the order belongs to
affiliateid	Y	Id of the affiliate who will receive a commission on this order
affiliatecomm	Y	Percentage value of commission to be paid to affiliate
affiliateperiod	Y	Period in which this transaction has occurred
affiliatepaid	Y	Date when the affiliate has been paid the outstanding commission
sourceip	Y	IP address of the computer from which the order was placed
title	Y	Title, e.g. Mr, Ms, Mrs, etc.
fullname	Y	Full name of the customer
company	Y	Company name of the customer
phone	Y	Phone number of the customer
fax	Y	Fax number
email	Y	Email address
address1	Y	First line of the billing address
address2	Y	Second line of the billing address
city	Y	City
state	Y	State or province
postcodezip	Y	Postcode or ZIP code
country	Y	Country
saddress1	Y	First line of shipping address
saddress2	Y	Second line of shipping address
scity	Y	Shipping address city
sstate	Y	Shipping address state
spostcodezip	Y	Shipping address postcode or ZIP code

scountry	Y	Shipping address country
pwstring	Y	Unique password. Used by the iNETstore order command.
createddt	Y	Date when the record was created.
modifieddt	Y	Date when the record was last accessed.
accesseddt	Y	Date when the record was last modified.

USR – Users

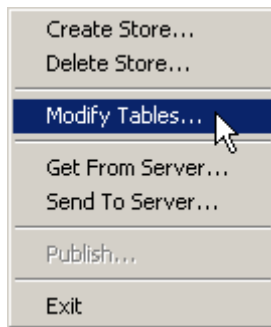
Field Name	Optional / Required	Description
id	Y	The unique identification number of the record.
login	Y	Login name of the user. This must be unique.
usergroup	Y	Group to which the user belongs to: guest = public user group admin = Administrator who has access to BBMS affiliate = Affiliate who has access to the affiliate section other value = Other group set up by the merchant
userpassword	Y	Password of the user
reminder	Y	Password reminder phrase
affiliatecomm	Y	Percentage of sales to be paid to affiliate as commission
description	Y	Description of the user.
acceptorders	Y	Indicates whether the system accepts orders through this account. 1 = accept orders -1 = don't accept orders If orders are not accepted through the account, the customer who places an order is forced to register for a new account. For all public (guest) accounts, this value should be set to -1.
framemain	Y	Name of the page that is shown immediately after the user logs in.
branchlevel	Y	0 = Don't expand branches (the tree is collapsed) 1 = Expand branches
itemsperpage	Y	Number of items that are to be shown on category and search pages
maxpages	Y	Maximum number of pages shown after a search
sourceip	Y	IP address of the computer from which the user has registered
title	Y	Title of the user, e.g. Mr, Ms, Mrs, etc.
fullname	Y	Full name (given name and surname) of the user
company	Y	Company name of the user
phone	Y	Phone number
fax	Y	Fax number
altemail	Y	Email address
address1	Y	First line of the billing address

address2	Y	Second line of the billing address
city	Y	Billing address city
state	Y	Billing address state or province
postcodezip	Y	Billing address postcode or ZIP code
country	Y	Billing address country
saddress1	Y	First line of the shipping address
saddress2	Y	Second line of the shipping address
scity	Y	Shipping address city
sstate	Y	Shipping address state
spostcodezip	Y	Shipping postcode or ZIP code
scountry	Y	Shipping address country
createddt	Y	Date when the record was created.
modifieddt	Y	Date when the record was last accessed.
accesseddt	Y	Date when the record was last modified.

FRT – Freight

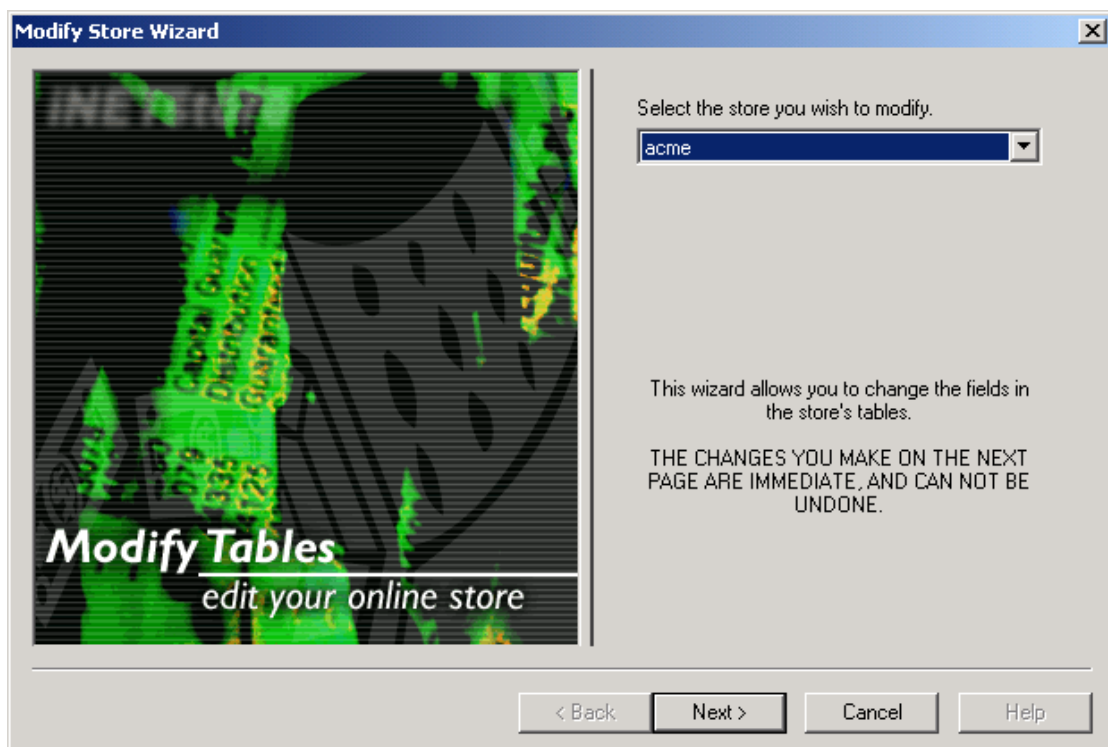
Field Name	Optional / Required	Description
id	Y	The unique identification number of the record.
name	Y	Geographical delivery area, e.g. U.S.A., Europe, Australia, Sydney, Melbourne etc.
method	Y	Freight method, e.g. post, courier, etc.
usrgroup	Y	User group to which this record applies to
freightgroup	Y	Indicates the freight method NoFreight = Delivery is free FlatRate = Flat freight rate for each order TotalValue = Freight calculation based on total order value TotalItems = Freight calculation based on number of items Weight = Weight based freight calculation
applytax	Y	Indicates whether tax is payable on orders shipped to this region. yes = Tax applies no = Tax doesn't apply
overridetax percentage	Y	Override tax percentage.
overridetax type	Y	Override tax percentage.
frtpriceex	Y	Freight cost ex tax
frtpriceinc	Y	Freight cost inc tax
weightfrom	Y	Weight range this record applies to
weightto	Y	
orderfrom	Y	Order amount range this record applies to
orderto	Y	
quantityfrom	Y	Quantity range this record applies to
quantityto	Y	

Modify Store Wizard

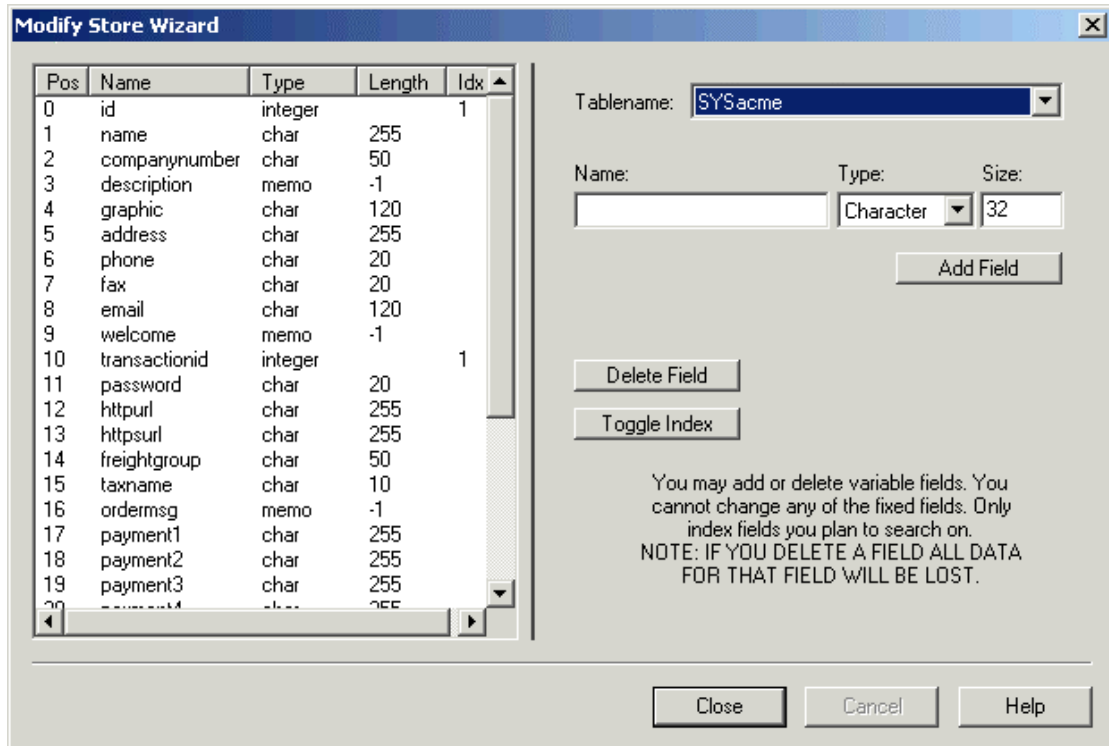


You may want to add additional fields to the database for additional data not catered for with the default fields. For example, you may wish to add fields for an item (such as Brand or Model number) or additional Company Information fields (such as Refund Policy or Delivery Policy). With iNETstore you are able to add additional fields to any of the standard tables, once you have added a field you can then customise your templates to display the information contained in these new fields (see Advanced Design Customisation for more information).

You can add new fields to any existing tables using the iNETstores' Modify Store Wizard. To add your new field, click on the File Menu and select Modify Tables, the Modify Store Wizard will then open.



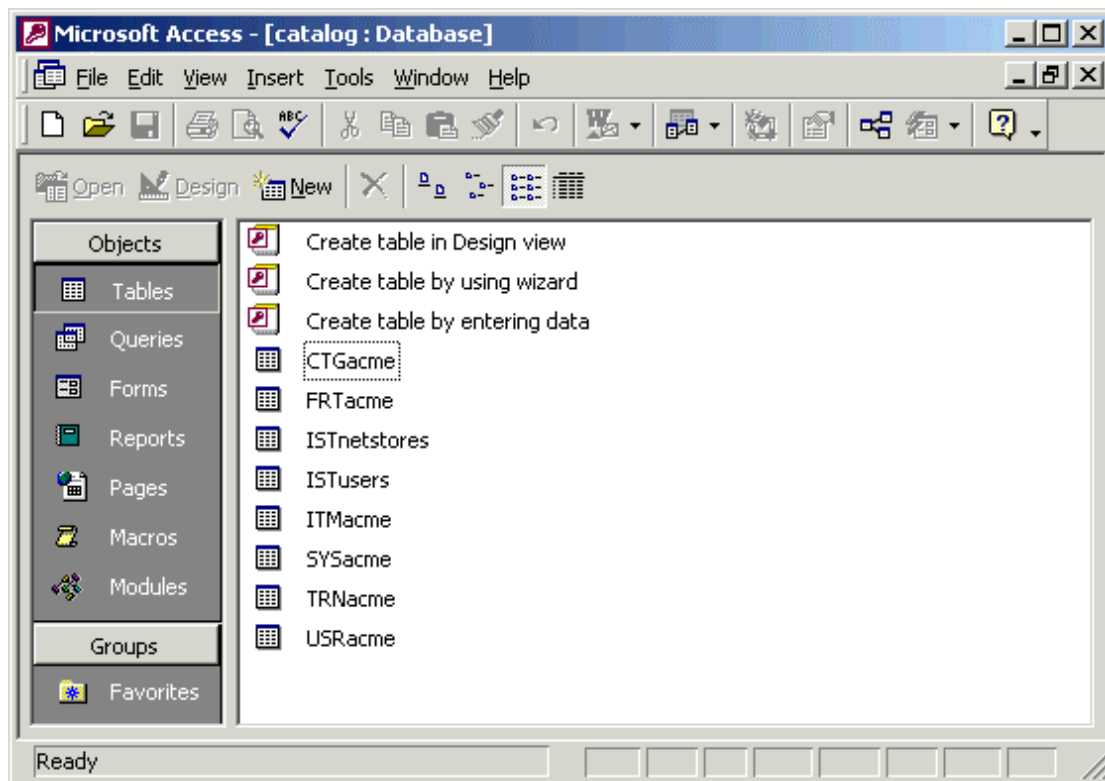
First you must select your store name from the drop down list, then click Next.



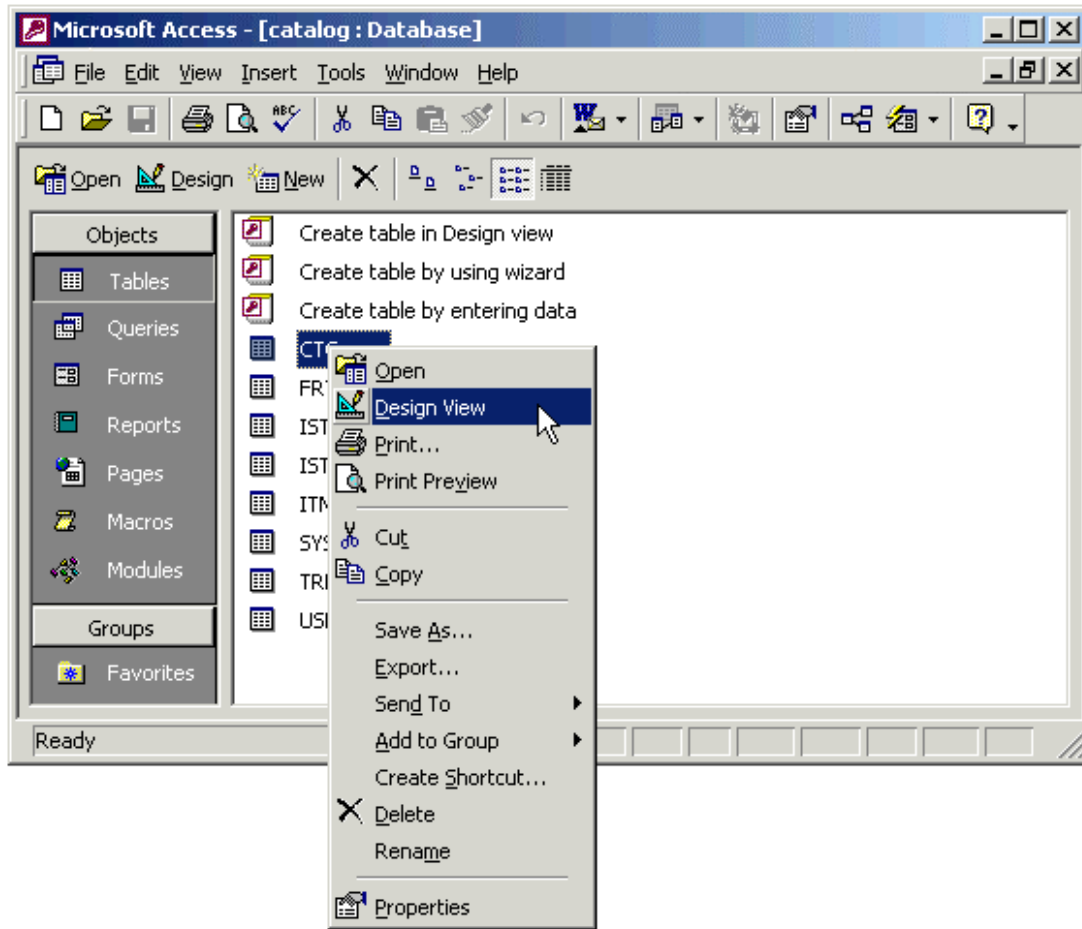
Now Select the name of the Table you want to add the field to. You will then see a list of the existing fields in the left hand pane. To add a new field, type a name for it, select the type of field and enter a size (if necessary). Now click the Add Field button, your new field will now appear in the field list. If you want your new field indexed then you should select it from the list (click on its Pos Number) and then click the Toggle Index button.

Using Microsoft Access

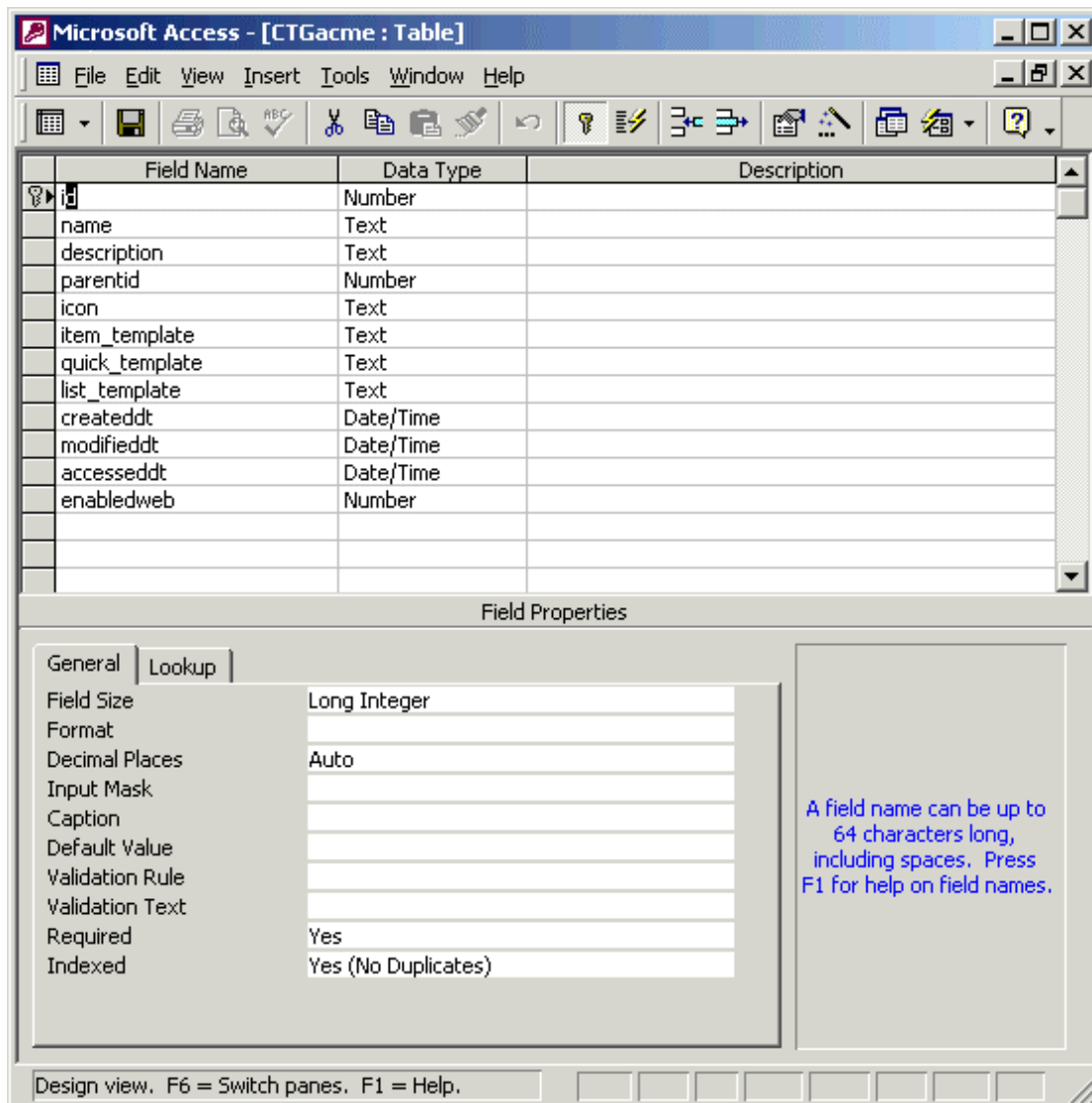
You can also use Microsoft Access to add your own fields to the database tables.



Once you have opened the catalog.mdb in Microsoft Access you should see a list of tables, the names of these tables will be similar to those described in the previous section.



Find the table you want to add the field to and open it in Design View. Usually right clicking the table will give you the option for design view.



You should now see the list of the existing fields in the table, scroll to the bottom of this list and position your cursor in the first empty Field Name cell. You should now enter the name of your new field in this box. Names should contain no spaces and be relevant to their use. Now click in the Data Type cell and select the data type that you want to use for that cell, it is important that you only use the data types mentioned below, other data types may cause problems.

Supported Data Types

Because iNETstore is able to connect to a number of different databases, only a few standard data types are supported. These are described below:

Text or Character	For small pieces of text, names, addresses, file references etc. up to 255 characters.
Memo	For larger amounts of text such as Descriptions etc. - up to 1024 characters.
Number (Long Integer)	For whole numbers only - such as ID etc.
Number (Double) or Decimal	For numbers containing a Decimal point, Prices, Weights etc.
Date/Time	For Date or Time Information

To ensure compatibility with a maximum number of databases, you should not data types other than those listed above. Otherwise, you might encounter unexpected results and possibly loss of data.

Indexing Database Fields

Certain fields in the database can be 'indexed', indexing as its name implies creates an index of the contents of these fields. Indexing makes searching the database much quicker, resulting in faster responses for your customers and less load on the database. So if you add a field that you intend to search on you should set it as an indexed field.

Adding Your Own Tables

At this time, iNETstore does not support the use of additional tables. If you need an additional table for a special application that is not supported by iNETstore, you may use the SYS. By default, this table contains a single record (with id = 0). If required, you can add additional records that can be queried using standard SQL code.

Connecting to an ODBC Data Source

iNETstore connects to a 32bit ODBC data source. A default data source is set up when you install iNETstore. It points to the Microsoft Access file that is shipped with iNETstore (catalog.mdb).

You can connect to alternative data sources by setting up the data source in ODBC and selecting the DSN under "Options" in iNETstore Server.

Note that the table structure of the database must conform to that of the sample Microsoft Access table that ships with iNETstore.

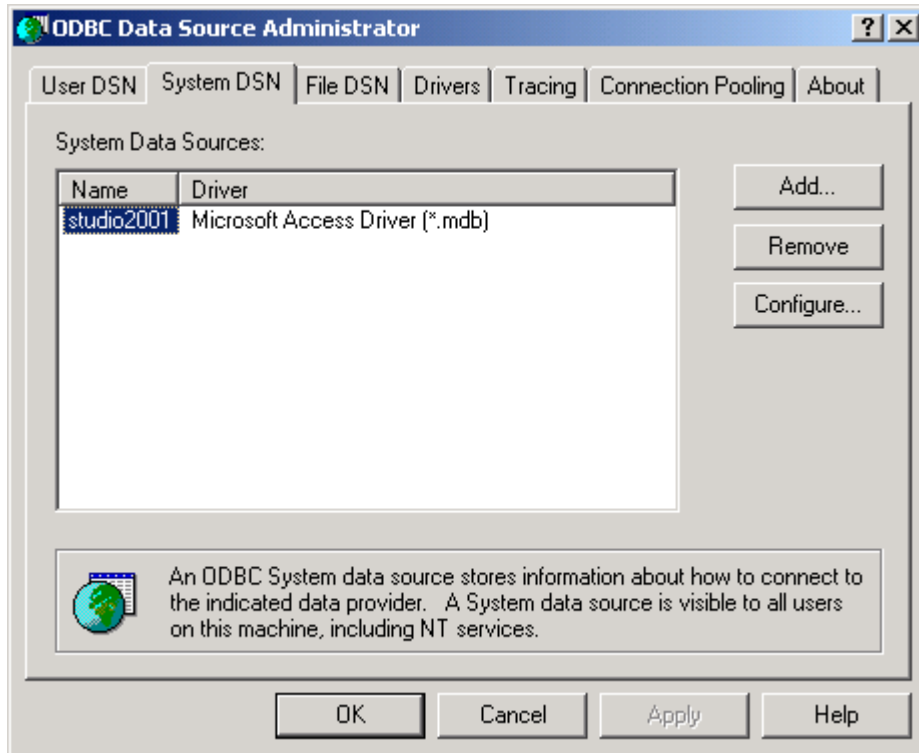
iNETstore has been tested with Microsoft SQL Server and Microsoft Access but should also work with other databases such as Oracle and Sybase.

Working With Data Sources

Before commencing, ensure that your new data source conforms to the iNETstore database structure. This does limit you to the fields you can use. The iNETstore system does, however, require that the default fields be present in a certain format and order.

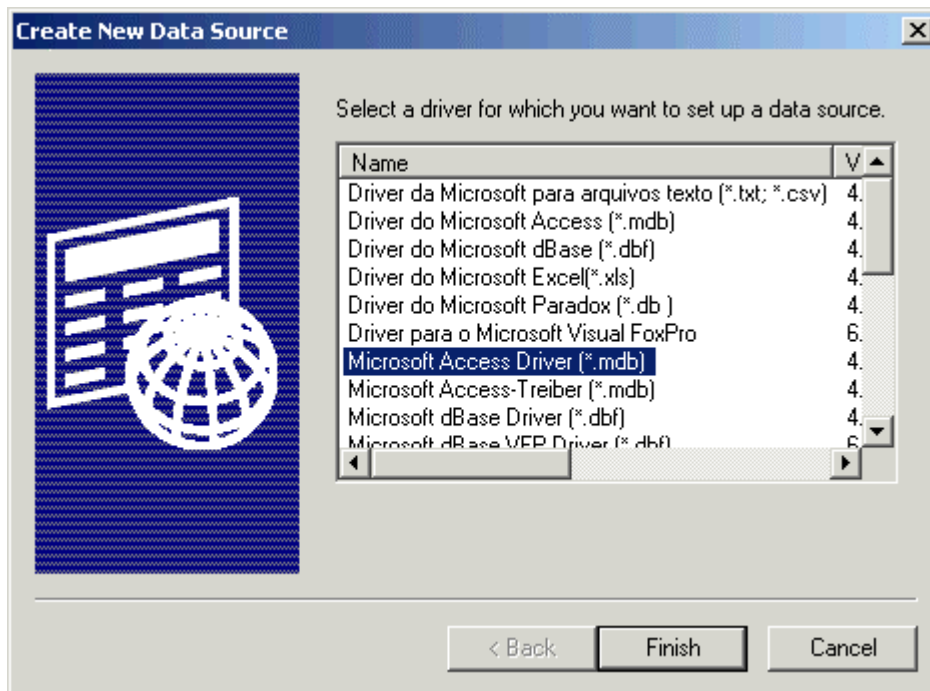
To configure a new data source open Control Panel and double click on the 32bit ODBC icon. This can be found in the control panel of your computer. If you are using Windows 2000, it is located under 'Administrative Tools' in the control panel.





This screen shot shows a typical default install of the sample iNETstore database. If you have installed iNETstore multiple times, there might be additional data sources. If you are unsure which database to use, click on the 'Configure' to see current settings. To add a new data source, click on 'Add'.

Adding a New Data Source



When you click on 'Add' in the ODBC Data Source Administrator, you will see this dialogue window. Just select 'Microsoft Access Driver' from the menu and click on finish.

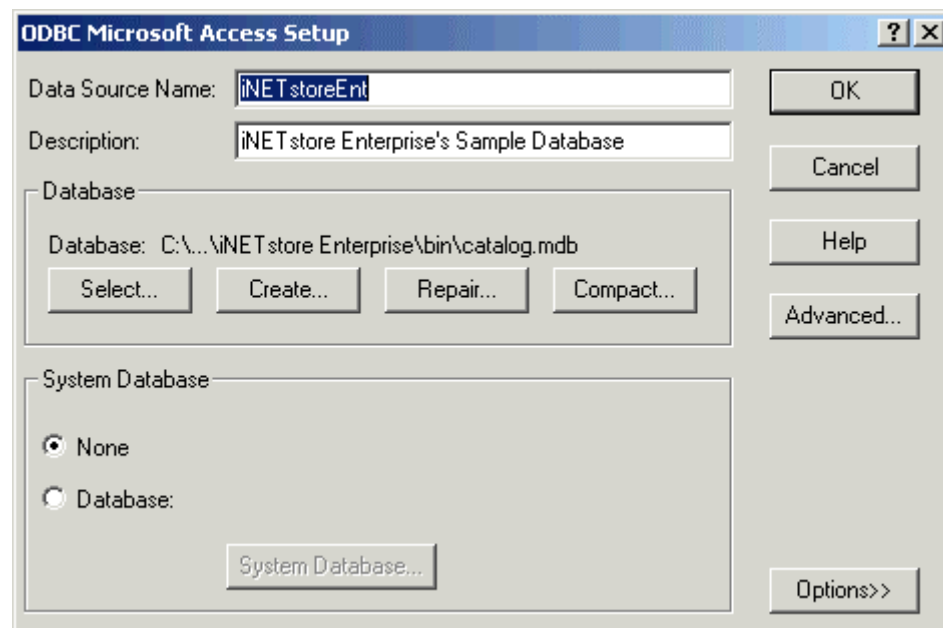


You can now continue to set up your data source:

1. Enter a data source name. This should be a short name (between about 6 to 12 characters) and not contain any spaces or special characters.
2. Enter a description. This will later remind you of the purpose for which this data source was set up.
3. Click on 'Select' to select a Microsoft Access database file from your hard disk. By default, this file is called catalog.mdb and is located in the 'bin' directory of your iNETstore installation. However, if you wish, you can use any valid file name and location.

Click on 'OK' to save your changes. The data source should now work.

Modifying an Existing Data Source



This window shows the path to the Microsoft Access database file. You have several options:

- Select** Select a different Microsoft Access database file. For example, this might be useful if you have renamed your iNETstore database and would like to point the data source to the new file.
- Create** This allows you to create a new Microsoft Access database file.
- Repair** If your database gets damaged, you can use this option to repair it.
- Compact** Microsoft Access database files tend to become very big over time. Thus, it is a good idea to use this option occasionally to compact the file when it becomes too large.