



## Networking V-Base

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V-Base can be networked, allowing more than one person to use and interrogate the same data at the same time.

In order for V-Base to be networked, you must already have either a peer-to-peer or server-based network set up and configured. If you're not sure what you have, it is best to get someone in to do this and to explain how it works.

Note that in order to install V-Base on any additional computers, or to install V-Base on a network from scratch, you will need to have a copy of the very latest version of V-Base on CD.

Please read this entire document before making any changes to your existing installation or performing an additional installation!

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### Understanding V-Base Configuration – Basic principles

The two most important files are **V-BaseBE.mdb** and **V-BaseSys.mdw** and it is these two that need to be shared over the network.

**V-BaseBE.mdb** contains the live data and **V-BaseSys.mdw** contains user names and passwords. They are always found in the same folder.

The V-Base program itself requires installing on each PC; it's only the data and security arrangements that are shared. Also, the program must be fully INSTALLED using setup.exe, either from CD or a network location - copying the V-Base directory from another PC will not work.

Keep in mind that if you have V-Base installed on more than one computer (including laptops), it is essential that you always have EXACTLY the same version and build number of V-Base installed on all computers, to prevent conflicts.

## Networking an Existing Live Version of V-Base

If you plan to network an existing live copy of V-Base first check within V-Base, in the **Technical** section, under **General Settings**, for the current location of the **V-BaseBE.mdb** and **V-BaseSys.mdw** files. V-Base, by default, installs these files to **C:\Program Files\V-Base\Data\** but check **General Settings** that this is correct. Make a note of the current location.

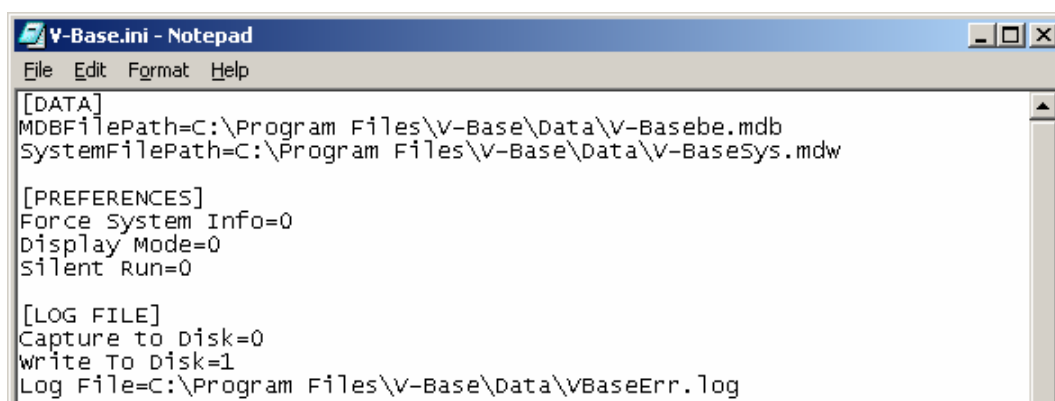
Before continuing, it is strongly recommended that you use the **Backup** function in V-Base to make a copy of the current data. If you are planning to install V-Base onto additional PCs, ensure that you have a copy of the latest version of V-Base on CD. Under no circumstances use an older version of the software, as it is likely to cause conflicts.

Decide on a central location on the network to hold the 2 files **V-BaseBE.mdb** and **V-BaseSys.mdw**. Create a new shared folder, making sure everyone who needs to has full network read/write permissions to this folder. We would suggest that you name the folder something that will clearly indicate its contents, e.g. **V-Base Data** and **share** it using the same name. **Move** the two files to this new location. Then, on each PC that you intend to run V-Base, map this shared folder as network drive. We suggest that you map it as **V:** and make sure that **“Reconnect at logon”** is ticked when creating the drive mapping.

To complete the configuration you need to inform the V-Base application of the new location of the data and security file. There are 2 ways of doing this:

### Option 1: Changing the ini file

This is the preferred way of changing an existing installation. The paths to the database and the security file are held in a file called V-Base.ini, which is located in the root of the folder that V-Base was installed to. The default location is **C:\Program Files\V-Base\** and you can open the V-Base.ini file in notepad by double-clicking it.



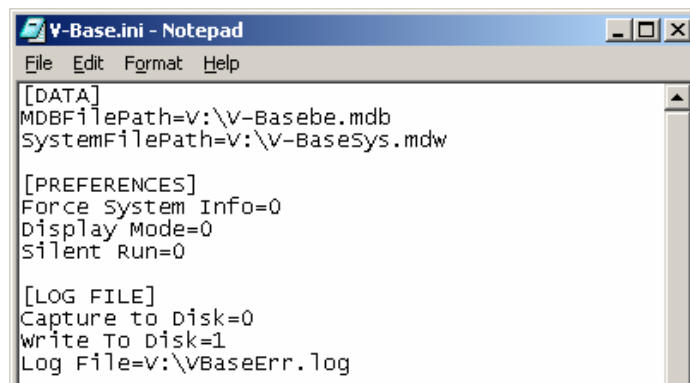
```

V-Base.ini - Notepad
File Edit Format Help
[DATA]
MDBFilePath=C:\Program Files\V-Base\Data\V-Basebe.mdb
SystemFilePath=C:\Program Files\V-Base\Data\V-BaseSys.mdw

[PREFERENCES]
Force System Info=0
Display Mode=0
Silent Run=0

[LOG FILE]
Capture to Disk=0
Write To Disk=1
Log File=C:\Program Files\V-Base\Data\VBBaseErr.log
  
```

If you change the location of the database and security file, you need to update the *mdbfilepath* and *systemfilepath* values within the ini file. You should also change the *Log File* path to the same location, to ensure that a central error log is maintained. In the below image you can see an example of the paths to a shared folder mapped as V drive.



```

V-Base.ini - Notepad
File Edit Format Help
[DATA]
MdbFilePath=v:\V-Basebe.mdb
SystemFilePath=v:\V-BaseSys.mdw

[PREFERENCES]
Force System Info=0
Display Mode=0
Silent Run=0

[LOG FILE]
Capture to Disk=0
Write To Disk=1
Log File=v:\VBaseErr.log

```

Once you have changed the above 3 paths, try launching V-Base to confirm that the new location is accessible.

## Option 2: Reinstalling V-Base

Install, or re-install, V-Base from CD on each PC making sure that, when it asks for the location of the data, you select the new data location by using the browse option.



**NOTE:** The installation routine will place an empty copy of the data file in the selected folder if one isn't found and it will configure V-Base to use it. So, if after doing this exercise you've lost your data, this is the most likely reason. To rectify the situation, re-install, ensuring the correct new networked location is selected.

Following installation or updating the ini files and establishing that you can access the data in its central location, ensure that you delete any spare copies of V-BaseBE.mdb or V-BaseSys.mdw so that they don't get confused with the live set. Only once you have done this and have established that the new, shared folder still contains copies of V-BaseBE.mdb or V-BaseSys.mdw, empty your recycle bin.

You will also have to **register** a newly installed copy of V-Base on a PC but the same registration details can be used. The registration wizard will also allow you to finish immediately after the registration name and number have been entered and confirmed. If it doesn't, then the registration process hasn't found any logon names in the security file, **V-BaseSys.mdw**.

## Networking V-Base from Scratch

To install V-Base for the first time using a network, first create a central shared folder with network read/write permission for everyone who will be using it. Again we would suggest that you name the folder something that will clearly indicate its contents, e.g. **V-Base Data**. Next, on each PC that you intend to run V-Base, map this shared folder. We would suggest that you map it as **V:** and make sure that "**Reconnect at logon**" is ticked when creating the drive mapping.



Then install the latest version of V-Base from CD, making sure that, when prompted, you specify the network location for the shared data (see picture above).

**Register** V-Base on each machine, the first time completing the registration process by adding a logon name and password (on subsequent machines this step won't be necessary as the original logon name and password can be used).

## Nearly done - Checking the Network Configuration

After V-Base has been configured to work on a network check in **General Settings** that the correct data and security files are referenced.

If more than one person is currently using V-Base, then the current users (as indicated in the note) should reflect this number (this number represent the number of users using the same data file, rather than the number of times V-Base is open, but this should tally).



General Settings

Compact and Repair

Data Source (ODBC)

**Data and Security File**

**Data File:** C:\Program Files\V-Base\Data\V-Basebe.mdb  
Last Modified: 25 Jan 2001 @ 9:39 am Size: 3,670,016 KBytes

**Security File:** C:\Program Files\V-Base\Data\V-BaseSys.mdw  
This file contains all the security details

**NOTE:** The above two files need to be shared if using a network (current users: 2)

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