

Database Maintenance Purging & Rebuilding Database Files

ExpressNet® and Expressnet III® software programs are database intensive. Essentially a database is nothing more than a set of tables, each consisting of rows and columns filled with data that has been manually entered by the user. Features within the program allow the user to recall that information (phone data) and produce reports.

As with any database program there are issues which can and will come up if the data is not maintained in the proper manner. In order to prevent the data from being corrupted, the recommendations below should be followed. This is a recommended schedule that will help the user keep the integrity of stored data, and allow the user to run the software with a minimum of corruption incidents.

WARNING!!!

Remember, as with any intensely active database, the actions of adding, deleting, sorting, and querying in a database that is very large can corrupt data.

1. Data files should not contain more than six (6) months worth of information. Most payphone providers find that taking this one step further and adhering to the following monthly/weekly schedule of purging data works quite well:

a. Keep the present month and one or two prior months active on the computer. For example, if this is March 1999, keep March as the active month, as well as, January and February.

b. When going into the next month, in this example April, perform a backup to a directory called JANMAR99, then purge the information from the month of January 99, without using rebuilding.

c. After the purge, perform a task called scandisk that is included in all Microsoft® operating systems (OS) from MS DOS 5.0 on forward.

d. Then perform a "rebuild" of data files through the "files maintenance" portion of the ExpressNet®/ExpressNet III® program utilities.

e. Perform a directory search for files that end with an extension of ".BAD". This can be done using the following steps:

1. At the "C:\>" prompt on the user screen, type "CD\XNET" (Drive "C" is used here as an example only. Those running ExpressNet III® software would point to the network drive where the data is stored).

2. Type DIR (space) *.BAD (space) /S /P.

3. If any files with the ".BAD" are found, it will show the user the names of the files and what directory they are located in. Type CD\<(name of directory where .BAD files are located).

4. Type DEL (space) *.BAD. This is a shortcut that will delete all the .BAD files without having to type in each individual file name.

f. Perform a "defragmentation" of the hard drive. This is a utility that was introduced in all Microsoft® operating systems beginning with DOS 6.0.

g. Finally, after purging and rebuilding it is a good idea to perform a manual poll of at least one phone to ensure that phone polling has remained intact.

h. When starting this maintenance schedule, it is recommended that a rebuild of data files be performed at a minimum of once per month.

Doing this, along with adhering to the above schedule, will bring two inherent results:

1. Rebuilds will be accomplished at a faster rate of speed.

2. ExpressNet® data will be receiving the preventative maintenance it needs to provide protection from the corruption that can occur from a database growing too large.