

Borland® InterBase® 7.1

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

What is Borland® InterBase®?

Borland® InterBase® 7 is a high-performance, cross-platform, embeddable database that is relied upon by users around the world.

Combining simple installation, automatic crash recovery, and minimal maintenance, the InterBase database is extremely well suited for embedding within distributed applications. This is important for corporate development groups building applications for wide deployment, especially to remote offices, field sales, and other users close to the customer who may only be occasionally connected to the central database. It is also important for ISVs, OEMs, and VARs who build “packaged” applications that are sold to end-users in the small to medium enterprise and the small and home office markets. InterBase is particularly popular in the fields of transportation, finance, medical, and retail technology.

Although it boasts the small footprint, minimal maintenance, automatic crash recovery, and other qualities of an excellent embedded database, InterBase also features multiprocessor support and sophisticated features to support high-powered, business-critical applications that serve many connected users. As a result, many IT managers find that they can save significantly on the purchase price and on-going maintenance costs by choosing the InterBase database instead of more expensive and difficult-to-maintain “enterprise” databases.

The power of InterBase can be found in its ease-of-use, support for the Windows®, Linux®, and Solaris® platforms, Microsoft® .NET Framework, as well as Java, and support for development environments such as Borland® C#Builder™ for the Microsoft® .NET Framework, Delphi™, Kylix™, Microsoft® Visual Studio® and others. Together, these features make the InterBase database a favorite with developers and an economical, dependable option for business use.

What is new in InterBase 7.1?

The major new features of InterBase 7.1 are:

- Ready for .NET— Borland Data Provider, a new .ADO.NET provider, makes InterBase “.NET-ready” and enables InterBase to be used with Borland C#Builder, as well as Microsoft Visual Studio
- Support for Windows Server™ 2003 gives developers confidence that the applications they build are ready for the future
- InterClient 4, an improved JDBC® driver that is JDBC2 compliant (and passes 100% of the relevant JDBC CTS tests) ensures a fast link between InterBase and Java IDEs such as Borland® JBuilder. InterClient 4 allows J2EE™ CMP 2.x and datasource 2.0 connections for better integration and deployment with applications servers such as Borland® Application Server

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- Hyper-threading support allows those with Intel® Pentium® 4 and Intel® Xeon™ processors to take advantage of the “virtual processors”
- Support for additional international character sets including ISO8859_2 (Latin2), ISO8859_15 (Latin9) and KOI8-R
- SMP enhancements improve scalability and performance
- Support for the SQL99 SAVEPOINT helps developers of complex applications
- Integrated graphical Performance Monitor in IBConsole make it easier to take advantage of connection monitoring features introduced in InterBase 7.0
- Improved garbage collection improves response and throughput
- Improved performance during backup-and-restore helps provide better productivity in non-stop production environments
- A new licensing option for unlimited users simplifies licensing and lowers the cost of installations that serve large numbers of users

What is new in InterBase 7.0?

The major new features of InterBase 7 are:

- **Support for symmetric multiprocessing (SMP)**
SMP allows developers to take advantage of systems with multiple processors. This makes it possible to improve application performance and to support more concurrent users and more complex application logic.
- **Transaction monitoring**
Transaction monitoring gives developers and administrators the ability to view, start, and cancel connections, transactions, queries, and much more.
- **Type 4 JDBC driver**
The Type 4 JDBC driver helps ease deployment for application updates and eliminates the need for the Type 3 middle tier.

These features are designed to help improve application performance and developer productivity.

What editions of InterBase 7 are available?

- Desktop Edition is designed for use as a stand-alone database for disconnected users.
- Server Edition is for applications with multiple user connections.

Can I use InterBase with other Borland products?

Yes. InterBase is tightly integrated with Borland C# Builder, Delphi, Kylix, and C++Builder,® and, through the high-performance JDBC driver called InterClient 4, with Borland JBuilder. Using InterBase and other

development technologies from Borland is an extremely productive combination. InterBase is also engineered for high performance with the Borland® Enterprise Server product family

Can I use InterBase with non-Borland products?

Yes. Borland InterBase is a high-powered, high-performance database option for developers using Microsoft Visual Studio, Eclipse, and other development technologies using native or JDBC connectivity.

How do I buy InterBase?

InterBase is available for purchase directly from <http://www.borland.com>. ISVs, OEMs, VARs, and other volume buyers should contact Borland sales. To find the Borland office nearest you, please visit:

<http://www.borland.com/company/contact/where-to-buy.html>

Where can I find more information on InterBase?

More information about InterBase is available on the Borland Web site at: <http://www.borland.com/interbase>.

A wide variety of white papers, technical information sheets, and articles about InterBase can be found on the Borland Developer Network at: <http://bdn.borland.com/interbase/>. Use the "search" function to locate specific information.

The InterBase community supports several widely used newsgroups that may be accessed through the developer community site at: <http://bdn.borland.com>

Is there third party support for InterBase?

Yes. The InterBase database is a mature product that is in use by thousands of companies around the world serving millions of users. Over the years, a thriving community of third-party developers has emerged; this community develops and distributes tools that can help InterBase developers be even more productive.

Technical Questions

Is InterBase a cross-platform database?

InterBase Server Edition is available for the Windows, Solaris, and Linux platforms. InterBase is an excellent database for teams developing on a mixture of platforms, because it provides the flexibility to use the platform of your choice and moves between platforms easily.

InterBase supports both the Microsoft .NET Framework and Java.

InterBase Desktop Edition is available for the Windows platform only.

Which standards does InterBase support?

InterBase maintains compliance with evolving industry standards for client/server computing environments such as ANSI/SQL, Java,™ Unicode,® Extensible Markup Language (XML), and External Data Representation (XDR).

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This adherence to critical technology standards helps developers reduce the time required to develop, deploy, and maintain applications across multiple platforms.

What are the system requirements for InterBase 7?

Minimum system requirements

- 32 MB RAM
- 20 MB hard disk space for installation
- CD-ROM drive

Windows

Microsoft® Windows Server™ 2003, Windows® 2000 (SP2), ME, 98SE, Windows NT® 4.0 (SP6a or higher), and Windows XP™

Linux

- Linux® kernel version 2.2 and 2.4 (Red Hat® Linux and SuSE® Linux recommended)

Solaris®

- Solaris® 7, 8, 9

JDBC

- Development: JDK® 1.2
- Deployment: JDK 1.2 or higher (JDK 1.3.1 recommended)

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