



MUN-EASE 2008 (SQL SERVER VERSION) QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Background

Historically Mun-Ease has used the Borland Database Engine (BDE) to store data. The BDE is a multi-user database that allows users to store data in several different formats. These database formats include Paradox, Dbase, and Access as well as enterprise databases of SQL Server, DB2, and Oracle. The BDE is able to store data to enterprise databases using a Borland developed technology called "SQL Links."

The Mun-Ease single-user and workgroup versions previously stored data through the BDE in a Paradox format. The enterprise version of Mun-Ease also used the BDE to store data in both SQL Server and Paradox formats. (Data on the server was stored in a SQL Server format while temporary data was stored in a Paradox format on the user's PC.)

Mun-Ease 2008

The 2008 release of Mun-Ease stores data only in a SQL Server format. We no longer use the BDE. Instead, we use a Microsoft developed technology called "Active Data Objects" (ADO). While our 2008 release officially uses SQL Server, we will continue to maintain and update the BDE version for the foreseeable future.

- Q.** Is there an additional cost to upgrade to the Mun-Ease SQL Server version?
- A.** *No. The SQL Server version is shipped along with a new set of manuals free-of-charge to those customers who are current with their maintenance and support.*

- Q.** Our organization does not own a copy of the SQL Server database. Do we need to purchase a copy of the SQL Server database before we install the 2008 version of Mun-Ease?

A. *No. Microsoft provides a free version of SQL Server (SQL Server Express) that can be used in environments with 4 or fewer users. Our CD will include a copy of SQL Server Express that you can install in your organization.*

- Q.** Our organization is running an older version of SQL Server (SQL Server 2000). Is the 2008 version of Mun-Ease backward compatible with the SQL Server 2000?

A. *Yes. Our 2008 release is backward compatible with SQL Server 2000.*

- Q.** Will we need to go through a conversion to use the 2008 version of Mun-Ease?

A. *When you install the 2008 version, we place a conversion icon within the Mun-Ease program group. This icon initiates a program that will allow you to move data back and forth (upload and download) between the BDE and SQL Server. The conversion takes about 1-2 minutes.*

- Q.** Will we be able to run both the BDE versions and the SQL Server versions at the same time?

A. *Yes. The conversion program can upload and/or download data from the BDE. Thus, you can run both versions of Mun-Ease at the same time. We are providing this capability for users who may want to gradually transition to the 2008 version.*

- Q.** Is there a steep learning curve to using the 2008 version?

A. *No. The user interface and the report formats of both versions of Mun-Ease are exactly the same.*

- Q.** Are there advantages to using SQL Server over the BDE?

A. *Most large organizations in government and industry have standardized on either SQL Server or Oracle. Thus there is a greater likelihood that your I.T. department will have people knowledgeable with SQL Server. SQL Server is also compatible with Microsoft's .NET technology. Borland is not updating the BDE to take advantage of .NET.*

- Q.** What other new features are included in 2008 version?

A. *We have also added several new features to our 2008 release. They are:*

- (a) a new feature to import current municipal bond interest rates and prices/yields for open market investments from the Wall Street Journal,*
- (b) changes to arbitrage calculations / tax forms that reflect the new IRS proposed rules issued in September 2007,*
- (c) four new arbitrage spenddown reports that show the issuer's compliance of spenddown requirements in each period in the 18-month / 24-month spending timeframe,*
- (d) new reports in the Stand-Alone Reporting module,*
- (e) an increase in the size of the bond ID from 17 characters to 20 characters and an increase in the size of the lookup codes from 8 characters to 10 characters.*