

Sheet1

Relational Databases

The relational databases that met the requirements for the PC/Computing 200 all include a database engine and either a report or full-application generator. The qualifying products can also run both on standalone PCs and on a network.

Product

FoxPro 2.0
Fox Software
134 W. South Boundary
Perrysburg, OH 43551
(800) 837-3692
(419) 874-0162
Single-user price: \$795
Ten-user price: \$1,790

Superbase 4 1.3
Software Publishing Corp.
3165 Kifer Rd.
P.O. Box 54983
Santa Clara, CA 95056-0983
(800) 237-9391
(408) 986-8000
Single-user price: \$695
Ten-user price: \$3,685

Paradox 3.5
Borland International
1800 Green Hills Rd.
P.O. Box 660001
Scotts Valley, CA 95067-0001
(800) 331-0877
(408) 438-5300
Single-user price: \$795
Ten-user price: \$6,945

R:Base 3.1C
Microrim
15395 SE 30th Place
Bellevue, WA 98007
(800) 628-6990
(206) 649-9500
Single-user price: \$795
Ten-user price: \$2,785

Alpha Four 2
Alpha Software Corp.
One North Ave.

Burlington, MA 01803
(800) 451-1018
Single-user price:\$495
Ten-user price: \$2,796

Clarion Professional
Developer 2.1
Clarion Software
150 E. Sample Rd.
Pompano Beach, FL 33064
(800) 354-5444 ext. 105
(305) 785-4555
Single-user price: \$845
Ten-user price: \$8,450

DataEase 4.5
DataEase International
7 Cambridge Dr.
Trumbull, CT 06611
(800) 243-5123
(203) 374-8000
Single-user price: \$795
Ten-user price: \$2,190

dBASE IV 1.1
Borland International
1800 Green Hills Rd.
Scotts Valley, CA 95067-0001
(800) 331-0877
(408) 438-5300
Single-user price: \$795
Ten-user price: \$4,290

Advanced Revelation 2.11
Revelation Technologies
181 Harbor Dr.
Stamford, CT 06902
(800) 262-4747
Single-user price: \$1,195
Ten-user price: \$3,185

Clipper 5.0
Nantucket Corp.
12555 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90066
(310) 390-7923
Single-user price: \$795
Ten-user price: \$7,950

Evaluation	Score
<p>FoxPro is the class act of DOS database systems. This \$795 powerhouse earned our top testing score and was our pick for the most development power overall. FoxPro has grown from its xBASE language origins into a product with dynamite development tools and good performance. Whether you're a database pro or a rank amateur, take a look at FoxPro.</p>	85
<p>It's the only Windows product in the group, but Superbase 4 is more than just a pretty face. Beneath this product's attractive exterior lies a fast, powerful database engine. Superbase 4 combines surprisingly good performance with the ease of use you'd expect from a Windows product. Even if you don't currently use Windows, Superbase 4 deserves consideration for your database dollar.</p>	77.50
<p>Paradox may look like a spreadsheet, but it's packed with database power. Paradox presents information in tabular formask to view your data, for example, and you'll get it in a worksheetlike table. The product's strong form and report generators, keystroke script language, and full-featured PAL programming language round out an impressive package.</p>	76
<p>We liked R:Base 3.1C reasonably well. It was reasonably easy to use, reasonably fast, and reasonably good-looking. R:Base performed fairly well on almost all our tests, matching the top-ranked products in the quality of the application. The strength of R:Base is also its weakness: While it's a well-balanced data-management package, it doesn't excel in any one area.</p>	74
<p>Alpha Four 2 is our top choice for ease of use. The least expensive product in the group, it lets nonprogrammers quickly create simple applications. You can create entire applications without writing a line of code.</p>	73

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It might not have every feature hard-core database developers would like, but it's a great choice if you need a database to build relatively simple applications.

We could do everything we wanted to with Clarion, but only with help from technical support. This product's manuals unfortunately aren't up to par. Some of Clarion's convenient features include the Designer, its application generator; the Reporter, its report generator; and the ability to compile your applications into free-standing executable files. 71

With DataEase 4.5, one size fits most. First-time developers will find it fairly easy to learn, but the product also has enough features to let you create complex applications. DataEase generates code from menu, report, and screen layouts, so most applications require little actual programming. Better menus, online help, and documentation organization would make DataEase a contender for the ease-of-use crown. 71

The industry's former leader has moved to the back of the bus. (We weren't able to test the latest release, dBASE IV 1.5, in time for this project.) dBASE has all the same components as today's leaders, but lacks their polish. If you're new to the database game, skip the inscrutable dot prompt and head for the dBASE IV Control Center, where you can easily tie forms, reports, and queries into simple applications. Anything more complex requires programming. 69.50

We love it, we hate it, we love it, we hate it . . . Advanced Revelation 2.11 can be nifty one moment and maddening the next. It comes with a wealth of options, including four languages and a knock-out report generator. But importing our test data was an adventure of epic proportions, the program's performance was underwhelming, and its \$1,195 single-user price is much too high. 57.50

Our Clipper application ran fast, did everything we asked, and looked good, yet despite its top performance (the equal of FoxPro), Clipper scored only 57.5. The problem? Clipper is a powerful tool if you're an experienced xBASE programmer, but it lacks the friendly accessories that will appeal to nonprogrammers. 57.50