

# Access Database Versions

*Visual Basic source and documentation for  
Access database version determination.*

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If passed on to others all these files should be included:

AV.WRI      AV.MAK      AV.BAS      MAIN.FRM

## Introduction

This document contains information on how to determine the version number of a database that the Jet database engine writes out. This method has only been currently tested on Access v1.1 and v2 databases, though it would seem that the principal should remain the same throughout the versions.

This information may be useful to anyone writing an application dealing with an input database and an output database. The reason being, if the user gives an application an Access v1.1 database, they would probably expect an Access v1.1 database out again, not an Access v2 database and vice versa.

## Method

The version determination is achieved through a single byte marker in the header of each Access database. This shall be referred to as the 'Rich' marker which is the string prefixing the byte marker. The Rich codes for Access v1.1 and v2 databases are as follows:

Database	Rich code
Access v1.1	8
Access v2	9

The location at which the Rich marker starts excluding the 'Rich' string is 1035 bytes into the database.

## Source

The following function does the whole job. Just pass the database name to the function and it returns the version or an error.

The constants should be placed in the (declarations) section in Visual Basic.

```
Function Get_Access_Version (ByVal Access_DB As String) As Integer
Dim New_File, Ver,RetVal As Integer
Dim verbuf As String

' This function returns the version number of an Access
' database pointed to by Access_DB.
' An unsuccessful operation returns 0

' Set the error trap
On Error GoTo BACK

' Open the file
New_File = FreeFile
Open Access_DB For Binary As New_File

' Read the 'Rich' version number
Seek New_File, 1030
verbuf = Input(6, New_File)
```

```
' Grab the final character from the RICH marker  
verbuf = Mid$(verbuf, 6, 1)
```

```
' Convert the returned value to an integer  
Select Case (verbuf)  
Case Chr(ACCESS_11)  
    RetVal = ACCESS_11  
Case Chr(ACCESS_2)  
    RetVal = ACCESS_2  
Case Else  
    RetVal = ACCESS_ERROR  
End Select
```

```
' Close the file  
Close New_File
```

```
' Return the version number  
Get_Access_Version = RetVal  
Exit Function
```

BACK:

```
' An error has occurred so return 0  
Get_Access_Version = ACCESS_ERROR  
Exit Function
```

End Function

```
' Constants for Access versions  
Global Const ACCESS_ERROR = 0  
Global Const ACCESS_11 = 8  
Global Const ACCESS_2 = 9
```

This Visual Basic source code is part of the supplied demonstration application and may make more scenes when traced.