

# Smart Access

Solutions for Microsoft® Access® Developers

## Guest Editorial

# Access 2006: The Smart Access Community Speaks Up

Garry Robinson, Contributing Editor

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In the August 2004 issue, Peter and I threw the challenge to the readers of *Smart Access* to come up with ideas for the next version of Access. At the start of a new year, it seems appropriate to look ahead to what the Access community wants to see in our product.







I'm glad to report that the response for this was great—so great that we actually received more than 200 separate ideas about what you folks are really interested in. After sifting through all the suggestions and bundling them into appropriate categories, I have to say there's a definite message for the Access development team at Microsoft: Get back to the basics—improve the Access we love and stop padding the edges to keep the marketing team happy. Put another way: The job's not done yet—don't give up on us.

To illustrate how I arrived at this conclusion, have a look at the breakdown of requests shown in [Table 1](#). If you compare the number of requests for the “Back to Basics” areas such as improvements to the Jet Engine, forms, and reports against the “New Age” requests such as .NET integration, XML, ADP, and SQL Server, you'll find that requests for old-fashioned items weigh in at 110 while the New Age requests come to a meager 15. If Microsoft's initiatives for switching everyone over to SQL Server were finally kicking in after four years, you'd expect this ratio to be at least 50-50 by now.

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