

# Smart Access

Solutions for Microsoft® Access® Developers

## Service-Oriented Access

Peter Vogel



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Lately, Peter Vogel has been developing Web Service-based applications for several clients. He comes back from the frontiers of technology to talk about what it means to the Access developer.

If you've been reading the IT press lately, you've heard a great deal about SOA—Service-Oriented Architectures. You may be wondering whether it means anything to you as an Access developer. The answer is that yes, SOA is very important to you. Like SQL, Web Services changes everything.

This is a topic that's been covered in *Smart Access* before, including ways of moving data across the Internet using ASP, ADO, and XML and, most recently, using Web Services as demonstrated by accessing the Google Web Service (see "Web Services for the Access Developer" in the July 2002 issue). However, much has changed since those articles were written and much has been made simpler in the process. As a result, it's time to revisit using Web Services in Access. If you're new to Web Services, see the sidebar "Web Services in a Nutshell" for a description that emphasizes how developers interact with Web Services.

### Where does Access fit in?

To begin with, you can't build a Web Service with Access, though there's no reason that a Jet database can't be used as the database for a Web Service. In fact, Web Services provide you with an excellent way of making data from an Access application available to clients over the Internet. "Hold it!" I hear you say, "Isn't that what Web applications allow you to do?" The short answer is "Yes—but only if the user retrieved the data in a Web page." As many of you have discovered, creating a Web application that works like an existing Access application is a very different process from creating the original Access application.

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