

From the Edge: Assessing the Damage
Section: General
Chapter: Running R:BASE Your Way!
Platform: R:BASE for Windows/DOS
Build: R:BASE 6.1a and Higher ...

What happens when the database is damaged?

Possible reasons:

Accident, Oversight, Negligence, Power Failure, Bad Power Supply, acts of God, and finally the human error of turning off the PC in the middle of updates, Pack, etc.

The first thing to do is evaluate the damage and determine if you need to restore a BACKUP copy or can FIX the database. Sometimes the database can be fixed by just BUILDing INDEXes. Using AUTOCHK and looking at all the errors in a database will determine the next step.

Part of assessing database damage is deciding if reentering data into a BACKUP copy is quicker than typing to fix a database. That is often the case, particularly if you are not familiar with R:SCOPE yourself and would need to call in a consultant/developer or mail the database to RBTI for repair. In addition, don't forget that whatever you correct a table with R:SCOPE or AUTOFIX, you need to rebuild the indexes for that particular table.

R:BASE 6.1A has reduced possible downtime in that you can now run AUTOFIX or R:SCOPE and work on one table in a database while users are still entering data into other tables. Then, you can use the PACK INDEX indexname command to singly rebuild just the indexes in the affected table. After making corrections to a table, you must rebuild the indexes using PACK INDEX indexname command.

So, how to prevent and be prepared?

Document everything and have ready backups of all your database and application files. It is not an easy or quick process to plan for disasters happening to your database, and then to decide what to do when the unthinkable does happen.

Being PREPARED can make all the difference between being DOWN for four hours or for four days.