

# R:BASE Versus the Others





## **R:BASE Versus the Others**

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*by R:BASE Technologies, Inc.*

*What follows are several key items that will help overcome any doubts that anyone may have concerning R:BASE, its technology, and what R:BASE Technologies, Inc. is all about.*

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# 1 R:BASE Versus the Others

Have you ever been faced with questions regarding R:BASE versus other Database Management Systems, including topics such as:

- I can do this with that other DBMS
- Look what you can do with this DBMS
- R:BASE is slow and others are faster
- R:BASE is limited to a 2GB file size

First you need to make sure that they are not comparing other databases with a legacy R:BASE database system.

Second, make sure that they are aware of the latest developments and the released version of R:BASE X.5 for Windows.

Let them try the evaluation version of R:BASE X.5 for Windows:  
<http://www.rbase.com/evaluation>

This is not your grandfather's Oldsmobile!

R:BASE vs. the others should only be compared in the following meaningful and logical categories.

## 1.1 General

How do you choose between the widely popular Windows products and the true relational database system with the more than a two decades-long reputation for being the "workhorse" of the database world?

Take a good look at the 38 year history of R:BASE at <http://www.rbase.com/history.php>

R:BASE offers many key advantages over others - advantages that are better suited to overall business or departmental needs. R:BASE is designed much like the powerhouse database management systems of the mainframe and mid-range computer world, while empowering the individual business user.

## 1.2 Features and Performance

Others' claim to fame lie in visual appeal and user assistance tools.

Until the release of R:BASE 7.0 for Windows (October 6, 2003), what R:BASE lacked in flash it made up in outstanding performance. More so, the latest release of R:BASE X (Version 10) for Windows meets and exceeds all that the same class of databases on the market has to offer. So, go ahead and compare this true-relational database with "all-in-one" tools licensed at a fraction of the cost, point for point with other offerings on the market.

R:BASE provides quick data retrieval - whether from a local database or a networked database. Data can be retrieved in sub-second response times, even when the number of records is well into the hundreds of thousands. Even joins between multiple tables, each with record counts in excess of one hundred thousand, yield response times in seconds.

- Robust SQL Engine
- 36 Years of Continuous Innovation
- Temporary Tables and Views
- Stored Procedures and Triggers
- 512-Bit Built-in File Encryption
- Form Designer with over 100 Controls

- Report Designer with over 45 Controls
- Label Designer with over 45 Controls
- Sub-Reports and Nested Sub-Reports
- Graphical Query Designer
- Quick and Powerful Application Designer
- Integrated File Gateway (Import/Export)
- Simple to Use Form Wizard
- Intuitive Report Wizard with Invoice template and new Styles
- Fast and Easy Label Wizard
- INNER/OUTER JOINS with Nested JOINS
- Query Wizard with True GUI Interface
- Versatile Database Explorer
- GUI Text Editor and Syntax Highlighting
- Built-in E-mail Support for Reports
- Built-in Image/BLOB Data Viewer/Editor
- Built-in PDF Writer with 128-Bit Security
- Built-in Bar Codes
- Support for Custom Plugins/WinUDFs
- Data Dictionary for Database Information
- Trace Debugger with Watch Variables
- SQL Queries at R> Prompt
- Universal color palette with over 180 options
- Form-level Themes, with support to load external themes
- Ability to search for text in text in all database areas
- Ability to search for text in text in all database areas

Key R:BASE X.5 (Version 10.5) features include:

- New DB Tree Grid form control to display an expandable tree structure within a grid
- New DB Task Tracker form control to display a table-driven task and scheduling module
- New Split View form control offering a collection of user interface clickable items which expand when the mouse cursor hovers over the list
- New Tree Grid support in the Data Browser, enabling an extremely powerful data viewing and manipulation inside applications
- New Report Wizard styles added, with enhanced color schemes and fonts, with various professional and corporate options
- New DB Tree List form control providing a list of data organized into a tree structure to display table data
- New DB Card View form control which uses a card layout format to display table data
- New DB Vertical Grid form control that displays and edits table data as an inverted grid, with data fields represented as row headers and data records as columns
- New DB Pivot Grid form control is a grid element displaying table data which offers end-users the ability to adjust the display and evaluate the information
- New DB Gauge and Variable Gauge form controls to graphically display table data
- Added password encryption for Excel spreadsheet and workbook reports generated with the PRINT command
- Enhanced PROJECT command allowing for a table to be projected directly from a SELECT statement
- Added Code Template Editor in the R:BASE Editor for programmers to easily load frequently used code fragments
- New LAG and LEAD analytic functions for SELECT statements
- New ENCRYPT and DECRYPT functions supporting data encryption, adding further security for sensitive data
- New Scrapbook Utility for the Form/Report/Label Designers, which acts as repository for created and commonly used objects
- New DB and Variable Date and Time Edit form controls to alter DATETIME and DATE values, offering both calendar and clock objects

- New Tile Menu form control offering a tile (colored rectangles or squares) interface to create a collection of clickable items that invoke commands
- New multi-view support in the R:BASE Editor with dual command files visible simultaneously
- Ability to utilize the Magnifying Glass utility as detached from R:BASE
- Added "Open Table As" option to view a table as a Grid, Row, or Tree Grid
- Added right-click "Filter" option to minimize the Data Browser results "using" or "excluding" the selected value in a selected cell
- Enhanced Query Wizard allowing for multiple instances of a single table, for building self-referential constructs
- New DB OrgChart form control for the display and editing of hierarchical tree data structures from table data
- New Layout Manager form control to build a comprehensive layout on a form, and maintain a consistent layout structure
- Added R:BASE Editor Clipboard History toolbar to track clipboard operations
- New TRANSLATE function which replaces a sequence of characters in a string with another set of characters
- Added Find Text in Preview feature to search the Report Preview screen

### 1.3 Capacity

Others can help you build small, simple databases quickly. R:BASE lets you easily build databases on which you can run a business or department.

You can rest assured that your data requirements will not likely outgrow the capabilities of R:BASE. However, should that ever happen, you can smoothly migrate to R:BASE Enterprise, with no limits, without rewriting a single line of code or spending hundreds of thousands of dollars.

R:BASE has been known to effectively manage over ten million records and commonly handles databases that exceed one gigabyte. Even when the volume of data gets this high, R:BASE still provides quick response, using optimized retrieval and efficient indexing algorithms, even in a LAN environment.

### 1.4 Technical Independence

Others provide Wizards to help you build simple, attractive forms and reports. R:BASE provides a totally integrated solution including a Database Explorer, Database Designer, Forms Builder, Reports Builder, Labels Builder, Data Browser, Query Builder, and a complete Application Builder that require no programming, nor programming experience. Non-programmers can confidently build comprehensive business applications without any programming experience. This unique "auto programming" environment facilitates building applications tailored to the way you work without your becoming a programmer or having to hire one.

### 1.5 Rapid Application Development

If you're a staff programmer, once you've exhausted the capacity of another product's Wizards, you have to delve into 3GL programming, and it can take you weeks to complete an application. R:BASE quickly helps you to produce fully functional and complete applications. This frees you to spend more time fine tuning the final application after the user has worked it for a while. The net result is a faster turn-around on satisfying end-users' needs.

### 1.6 Competitive Edge

If you're a consultant, other products let you provide a very attractive user interface, but with a long delivery time. They don't tell you up front the cost, learning curve, experience and tools required to even create a simple form. With R:BASE, you have all the tools, including a fully functional graphical user interface to produce quicker and more powerful applications. In the

time it takes your competition to deliver a prototype, you can have a complete application installed and implemented.

## 1.7 Insight (The Power of SQL)

Others have Structured Query Language (SQL), but it is hidden deep within the product behind push-buttons and icons. R:BASE brings SQL up front so you can learn how powerful some very straightforward SQL commands can be, simply by using the power of the R> Prompt.

With SQL, you can query your database and change parameters quickly to help uncover hidden nuggets of golden opportunities buried in your data, something that standard reports just won't show. New information will emerge to help you make insightful decisions.

No menu system can reproduce or replace what can easily and quickly be performed at the R> Prompt. Instructions typed in a few seconds in R:BASE require equivalent macros or programs to be written in other Windows DBMS programs. A quick update, projection of a temporary table, inserting records from one table to another simply can't be done in other products without resorting to programming.

## 1.8 Overhead

Other products will recommend using third party tools to design even simple reports. Thus, you would have to learn an entirely different program to implement that functionality. R:BASE includes powerful built-in Report Designer, allowing the user to design either quick and simple reports or very complex and graphical custom reports, all-in-one, with no overhead, no additional cost or additional learning.

## 1.9 Designed For Intelligence

Data is data, but information tells you something useful. Since its inception in 1982, R:BASE was designed to provide information about the data in your database. Most people think databases are designed strictly for automation of "paper" tasks. And, most people don't realize what a wealth of information resides within their databases. R:BASE is a wonderful data mining tool. It helps to show data in different views and to uncover unseen opportunities to get you ahead of your competition.

## 1.10 Cross Platform Compatibility

In competitive Windows products, you cannot support multiple environments, such as Windows and DOS. With R:BASE you can easily support mixed environments with the same application or command file running off the same database. This is important for two reasons.

If you have a mixed environment, users who choose one system over another will either be isolated or be forced into Windows DBMS. With R:BASE, users can have a choice and not be isolated. And, you can support those mixed platforms with the same application code!

A slow migration from DOS to Windows, with other Windows DBMSs, is all or nothing. With R:BASE, you can begin converting slowly as time permits.

## 1.11 ODBC Standard

You can use ODBC to link to other data sources. Ordinarily, you can work with only one R:BASE database at a time. With ODBC, R:BASE can access tables from other databases. This means that you can use ODBC to access multiple R:BASE databases at once; for example, you can take information from one R:BASE database and use it in another. You can also open an R:BASE database, then access databases from other programs, such as Oracle or Paradox.

Also, ODBC allows the developer to write one application that has the ability to access data from databases created with different ODBC-compliant products. For example, you could write



an application that would select data from SQL Server, Oracle, Paradox, and R:BASE databases, separately or all at the same time, depending on which database drivers you have installed.

Basically, a data source would need be created for the database product that you will to have access to. If you want R:BASE to have access to SQL Server data, you would set up a SQL Server data source. If you are providing access to R:BASE data, you would set up a R:BASE data source.

Using the R:BASE ODBC Driver, you can also deploy WEB applications using your favorite language.

## 1.12 The R:BASE 4GL

The main contenders of the Windows world all have a much more difficult programming language to learn which often reads like cryptic code. R:BASE has an easy to learn, English-like programming language that allows programmers to get more done more quickly.

## 1.13 Product Support

No one can compare the response time and support of the R:BASE product by R:BASE Technologies, with added support by its users, developers and partners around the world on news groups and list servers. This is exclusive to the R:BASE Community.

## 1.14 You Can "Switch Horses"

More than a few customers and developers reported that they committed to a conversion to another Windows DBMS, and after more than a year, were not fully converted or were not able to fully replace their R:BASE application. Many feel "stuck" in that they've spent so much money and effort that they would feel foolish "switching horses" this late in the game.

If you've begun a conversion to another Windows DBMS, please calculate the costs of completing the project, then calculate the costs of converting your existing R:BASE for DOS application to Windows. You will probably realize a significant savings, which can make up for feeling "foolish" any day.

- Using R:BASE, you don't need a full-time DBA just to maintain day-to-day database operations
- Compare the cost of R:BASE license per-user vs. others
- Compare the cost of additional tools for others
- Compare the cost of maintenance and employee/staff training

## 1.15 Summary

If a user tried another database, they probably miss R:BASE for the reasons stated above. No one can deny the power, flexibility and ease-of-use of R:BASE. I know this because those who left and came back tell us this is why they came back. If a user stayed at DOS pending the release of a quality Windows version of R:BASE, now is the time to upgrade. The next generation R:BASE X.5 (Version 10.5) is mature, stable, has undergone rigid testing, major enhancements, and offers DOS R:BASE users an easy and less expensive migration into Windows!

But don't just take my word for it, see it for yourself. Download the evaluation today!

<http://www.rbase.com/evaluation>

Finally, no one can choose your mountain or tell you when to climb ... It's yours alone to challenge at your own pace and time ... The choice is yours!

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R:BASE Developer, Consultant and Trainer since 1983

## 2 Useful Resources

- . R:BASE Home Page: <http://www.rbase.com>
- . Up-to-Date R:BASE Updates: <https://www.rbaseupdates.com/>
- . Current Product Details and Documentation: <http://www.rbase.com/rbgx5/>
- . Support Home Page: <http://www.rbase.com/support/>
- . Product Registration: <http://www.rbase.com/register/>
- . Official R:BASE Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/rbase/>
- . Sample Applications: <http://www.razzak.com/sampleapplications>
- . Technical Documents (From the Edge): <http://www.razzak.com/fte>
- . Education and Training: <http://www.rbase.com/training>
- . Product News: <http://www.rbase.com/news>
- . Upcoming Events: <http://www.rbase.com/events>
- . R:BASE Online Help Manual: <http://www.rbase.com/support/rsyntax>
- . Form Properties Documentation: <http://www.rbase.com/support/FormProperties.pdf>
- . R:BASE Beginners Tutorial: <http://www.rbase.com/support/tutorial>
- . R:BASE Solutions (Vertical Market Applications): <http://www.rbase.com/products/rbasesolutions/>