

Setting Up WinBidPro v15 on a Network to Share Vendors

WinBidPro v15 is not considered a “Client – Server” application, but it is capable of letting multiple users share the same vendors. The program currently uses Microsoft Access databases for storing the vendor information. This type of database is capable of handling 10 or fewer users at the same time, but we have noticed that the files become quite large, and the program becomes slower when this is the case.

In the near future, we plan to implement Microsoft SQL databases into the WinBidPro software, which will allow for more users and offer better performance and greater reliability. When this feature is ready, there will likely be a conversion utility that will convert your current Access files over to SQL. We will make a clear announcement about this on our web site when this is available.

In the mean time, you can easily configure the v15 program to share the current Access vendor files by following the steps below.

- 1) Install the v15 program on each user's computer. It is not necessary to install the program on the server drive.
- 2) Create a data folder on your file server that everyone can access. It is best to map this server drive, or folder to a logical drive on each user's desktop. We recommend using the same mapped drive letter on each user's computer to be consistent and help with support. ie. S:\GDSVendors
- 3) If you haven't already installed or imported vendors to one of the desktop computers, you will need to do this before you can copy files and folders to the server drive.
- 4) Each vendor you install has its own folder inside the C:\WinBidPro folder on the user's computer. You will want to copy each of the vendor folders and all of their contents to the server drive that you have chosen. ie. S:\GDSVendors\XYZ Aluminum Corp
- 5) Next, copy the Master.mdb, VendorTemplate.mdb, v15Import.exe, and RepairUtility.exe files to the same server folder. ie. S:\GDSVendors
- 6) Open the v15 program on each user's machine and selected any job from any vendor in order to get into the program. Click the "System Defaults" link in the menu tree, then click the "Set Location of Master.mdb" button. Browse to the data folder on your server, and select the Master.mdb file. Make sure you do this on each machine that needs to share the vendor files.
- 7) Re-open the v15 program on each workstation, and add any user names that need to be added to the login window. If the Vendors window doesn't open when opening the program, you can click “Vendors” from the menu tree after opening the program.
- 8) The vendors that were installed or imported will have a C: drive designation in the path of the MDB file. You will need to edit the path of the installed vendors, and change the drive letter to that of the mapped drive for the shared folder. The valid network path can be used if you decide not to use a mapped drive letter. ie. \\FileServer\C-Drive\GDSVendors\XYZ Aluminum Corp. but again, the drive letter mapping is the simplest method.
- 9) After you have edited the path for the vendor files, the rest of the users who open their WinBidPro software will see the same vendors.

This completes the process of setting up shared vendors.