Current State of Access

Statistics

Market

Features

Personnel

VBA Future

Ecosystem

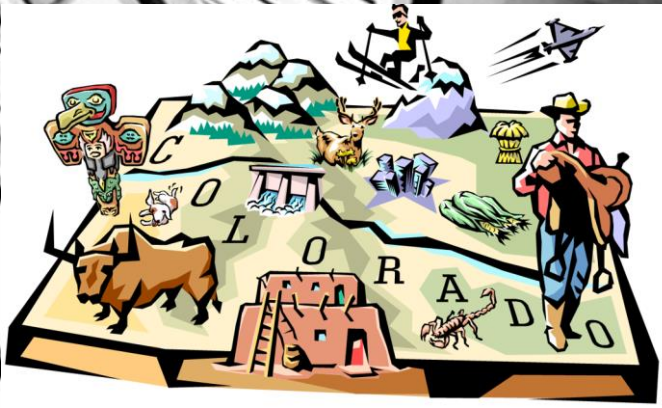
Birthday

Update Bugs

Events

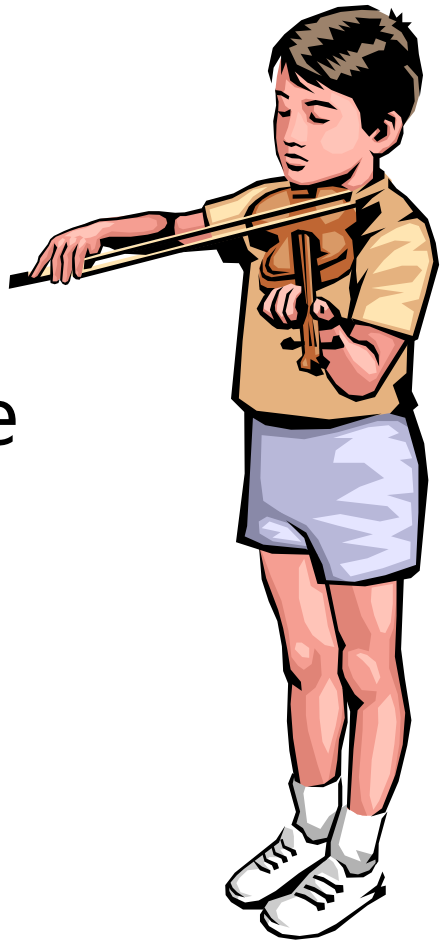
Karl Donaubauer

DAAUG 2023-02-16

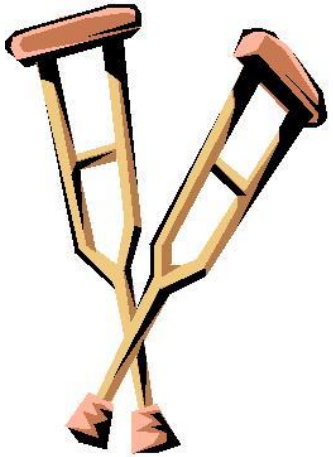


Market & Technology

- Windows/desktop/COM-based and bound
- Technologies outdated
- ~~Web and mobile capabilities~~
- ~~Administration tools~~ → IT Dep./Admins hate
- Security features few, weak
- Update Bugs, Instability, Trust Crisis
- Microsoft neglect ~~resources, features, PR~~
- Image bad, death rumours



- ~~Access in schools and education~~
- Modern technologies, demands →
  Market for desktop databases declining for ~20 years
- No improvement to be expected
- Access users and developers age, impoverish, retire, die

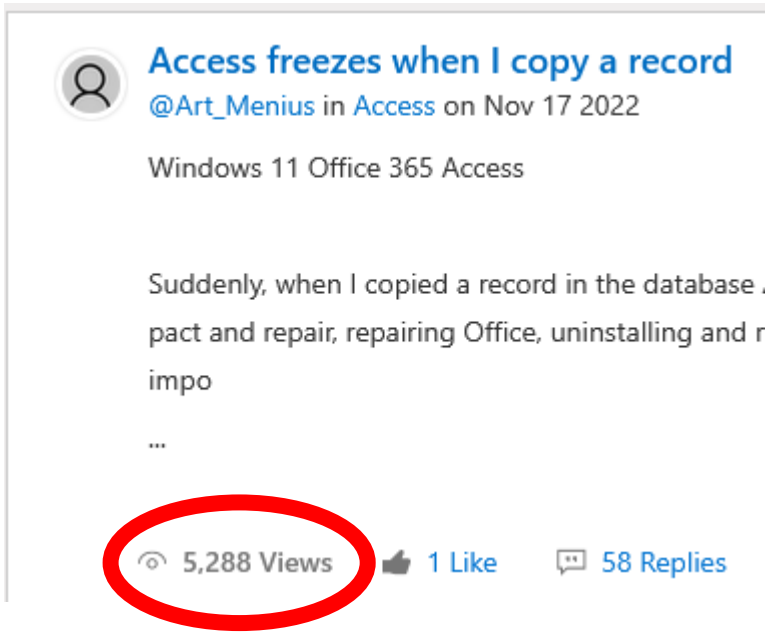


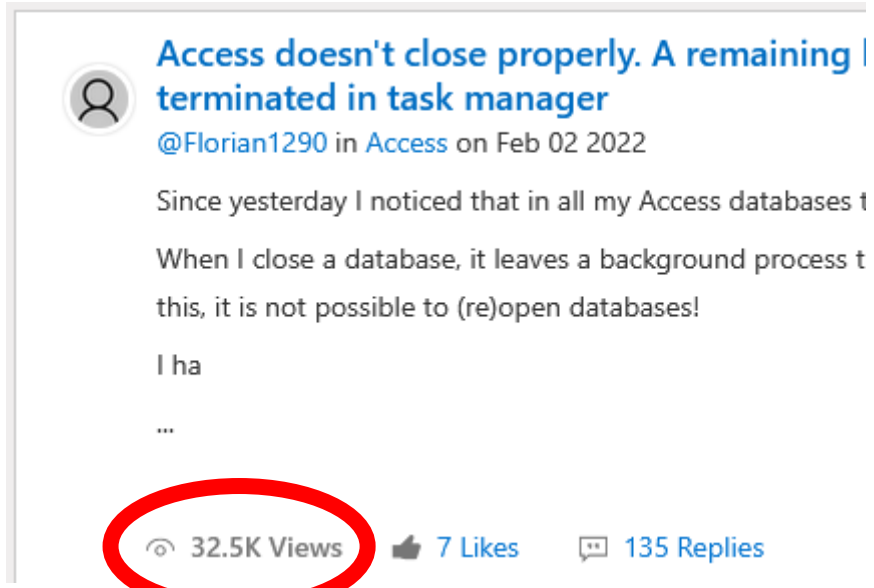
Ist der Ruf erst ruiniert, dann lebt es sich ganz ungeniert.

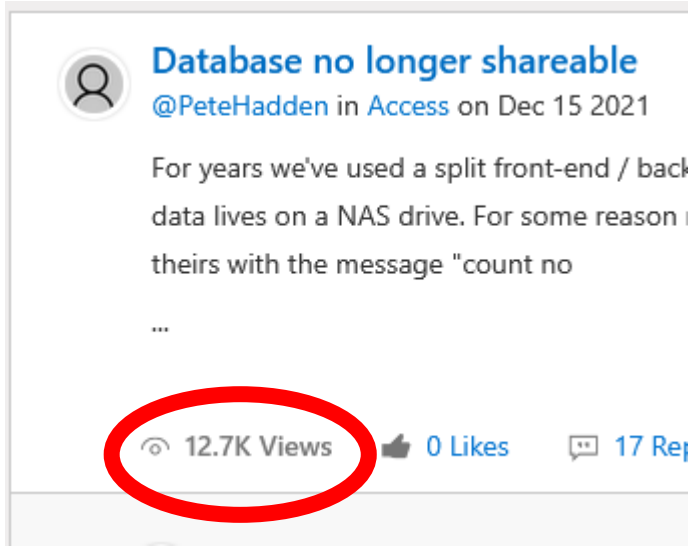
Once the reputation is ruined, life is quite easy.

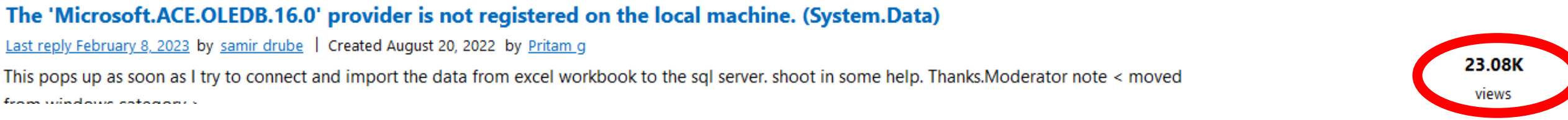
- Desktop database applications are here to stay
- Solid reasons for persistence
  - Rich local application and data networking
  - Size and scope, wide and full ;-) form factors of line-of-business applications
  - Data protection (GDPR & Co)
  - Efficiency and availability through local resources
  - Unbeatable ROI through Access' do-it-yourself RAD capabilities
  - Market segment for local, small/medium db applications may continue to slowly decline as it has over the last two decades, but I don't see it disappearing anytime soon.

- Market dominance
  - no competition in this segment in terms of capabilities and distribution
  - Millions of monthly users (acc. to MS)
  - Still (?) present at most big companies
  - Indispensable for countless medium + small companies
- Online backends/hosting/RDP, hybrid applications
- 3rd parties, community initiatives to improve the situation
- Access expertise slowly becoming more valuable (think Cobol)
- No hard facts, market research → conferences, customer base, order situation, bug threads in forums


Access freezes when I copy a record
@Art_Menius in Access on Nov 17 2022
Windows 11 Office 365 Access
Suddenly, when I copied a record in the database .
pact and repair, repairing Office, uninstalling and r
impo
...
5,288 Views
1 Like
58 Replies


Access doesn't close properly. A remaining
terminated in task manager
@Florian1290 in Access on Feb 02 2022
Since yesterday I noticed that in all my Access databases t
When I close a database, it leaves a background process t
this, it is not possible to (re)open databases!
I ha
...
32.5K Views
7 Likes
135 Replies


Database no longer shareable
@PeteHadden in Access on Dec 15 2021
For years we've used a split front-end / back
data lives on a NAS drive. For some reason
theirs with the message "count no
...
12.7K Views
0 Likes
17 Rep


The 'Microsoft.ACE.OLEDB.16.0' provider is not registered on the local machine. (System.Data)
Last reply February 8, 2023 by samir drube | Created August 20, 2022 by Pritam g
This pops up as soon as I try to connect and import the data from excel workbook to the sql server. shoot in some help. Thanks.Moderator note < moved
23.08K
views

Death Rumours – Facts and Evidence

- Forum/article/IT departement/client claims: Access is being dropped

- General Access landing page of Microsoft – where there is PR and no sign of deprecation
- Microsoft 365 enterprise plan page – where Access is listed among the Microsoft 365 Apps
- Windows and Office configuration support matrix – for M365 Apps on Win11 "No end date"

- The lifecycle entry for Access 2021 – Retirement Date Oct 13, 2026
  the same for the complete Office 2021, i.e. the latest perpetual version of Office
- Microsoft's commitment that there will be another perpetual version – item 4
  another 5 years (?) of "Modern Lifecycle Policy" to expect starting in 2023 or 2024
- Microsoft's Principal Engineering Manager for Access, Dale Rector, about the continued development of the product – 2 minutes of clear testimony which George Hepworth demanded in the Nov 2022 DAAUG session, to have something audible for such occasions

- ...and then have the claimant say what sources and hard evidence he has to offer for his opinion.

Microsoft

Update Bugs

MS Access Bug page

Jan/Feb	Access is unable to close and leaves lockfile active
May	Property not found / No current record
	#DELETED in linked ODBC tables
	Hyperlink Subaddress doesn't work any more
June	Attachment fields cause crashes
July	Reports: Text box borders not visible
	DAO.Field2/3 don't work any more
	MDE/ACCDE files from different version don't run any more
Aug	TransferText with export specification "file has invalid name"
Sep	Access stops responding when running Report Wizard
Oct	Using DAO (Data Access Objects) API fails from external applications
Nov	Word Mail Merge fails when using existing Word document

Update Bugs

Some fixed in a few days

Without update, without new version

No information, no transparency

Change/Feature Gate

Microsoft:

*When we ship **changes** we always try to **wrap** them in something called a **ChangeGate or FeatureGate**.*

*...when an **office app** loads it **requests statuses** of these gates from the network, **to determine if the code** its wrapping **should execute or not**.*

*...if the new code causes a **regression**, we can **change a setting** on a service **on our side** and when a user restarts the app the **issue** should be **resolved**.*

blog article by Mike Wolfe

Phases

- Bug
  - roll out
- Clarification
  - web forums, mail lists…
- Bug information
  - MS bug page, workarounds
- Fix
  - development, roll out
- Fix information
  - MS bug page, release notes

Days needed/lost

1 – 4

1 – 4

1 – 3

7 – 49

1 – 3

Fundamental questions

1. Why + will it happen again
   - Weak QM, shifted to the customer, complex + Yes!
2. Slow
   - Rigid, long-winded processes, far from customer needs
   - Access different, business critical
3. Versions
   - 2010 → out of support, helps sometimes
   - 2016-365 → quickest bugs and fixes
   - SQL Server → helps sometimes
4. Access trustworthy/suitable for business-critical…

some weired thinking

- What are the most urgent problems of Access?
- What can I as a small external do to alleviate them?
- #1: Update bugs+lame/missing Information → Trust Crisis

→ AccessForever.org

- Inform bug affected people faster
- Collaborate with Access Team: information+reproduction
- Some success=acceleration for the last 2-3 update bugs
  - Out of memory with SQL Server backend
  - Naming of linked SQL Server tables is inconsistent
  - Access gets slow or freezes on Win11 when you copy records (still open)

Access user/dev – Regression?

1. Check, investigate
   - Other/new database, other machine, older Access build
   - Max. few hours, not days
2. Web pages
   - AccessForever.org, MS bug page
3. Forums
   - TechCommunity, Answers, donkarl forum...
   - MVPs, Microsoft Access Team <> “Microsoft Agents”
   - Information, workarounds

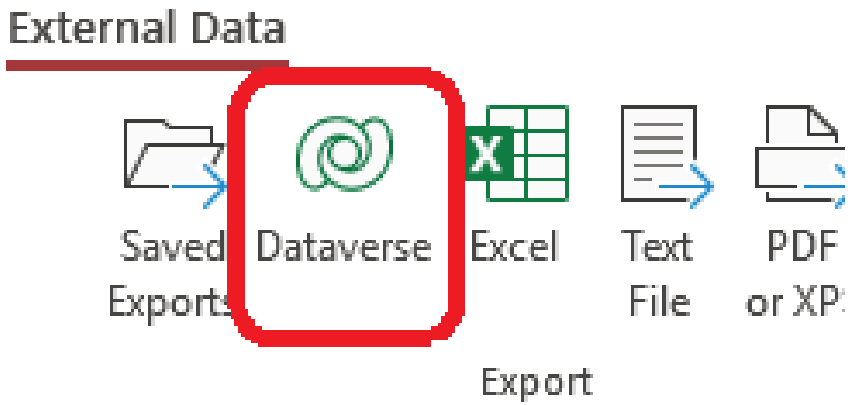
New Features

Dataverse Connector

Link

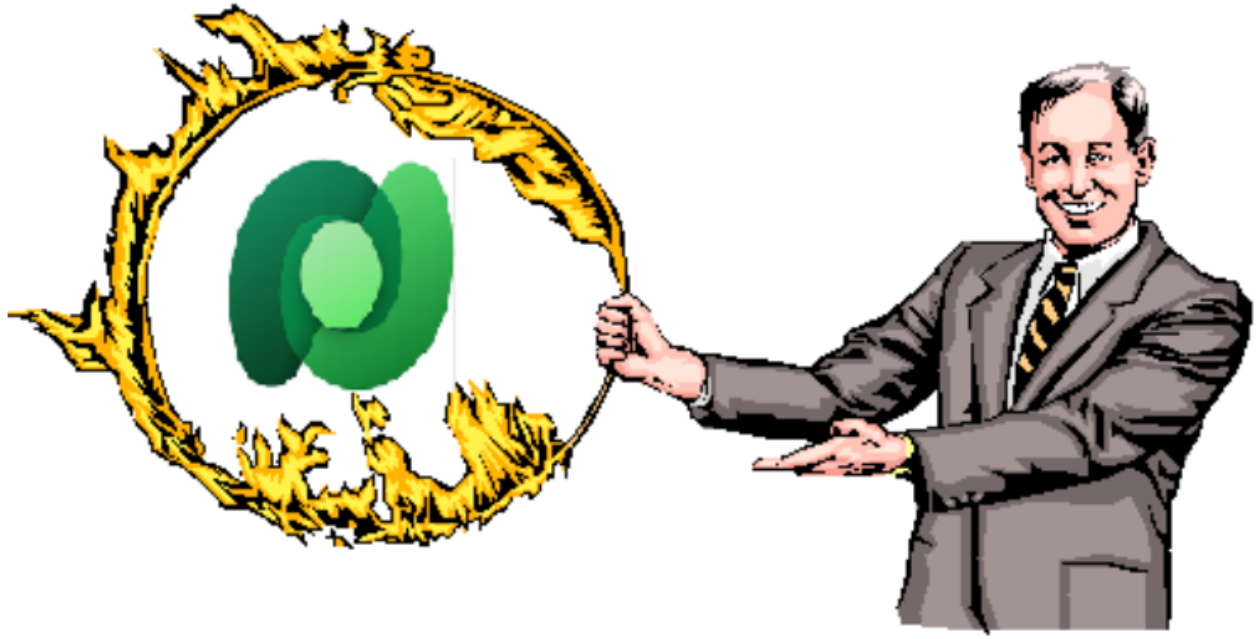
Shipped in May 2022

Usage?



Access Dataverse Connector

Published on February 22, 2022 Edit article | View stats



Link

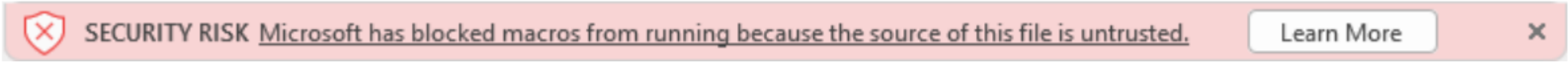
Karl Donaubauer
Database Developer, Conference Organizer, Access MVP, Power Apper

14 articles

For 1.5 years, the Microsoft Access team has been completely focused on working on a Dataverse connector for Access. Frustrating from an Access developer's POV, because everything urgently needed for Access has been postponed. Accordingly, interest and enthusiasm at my Access conferences were ehm... restrained. However, in my impression the real target audience for the connector is not the classic Access community but Microsoft's corporate customers. More the Dataverse than the Access side of the coin.

Macro Files blocked

Link

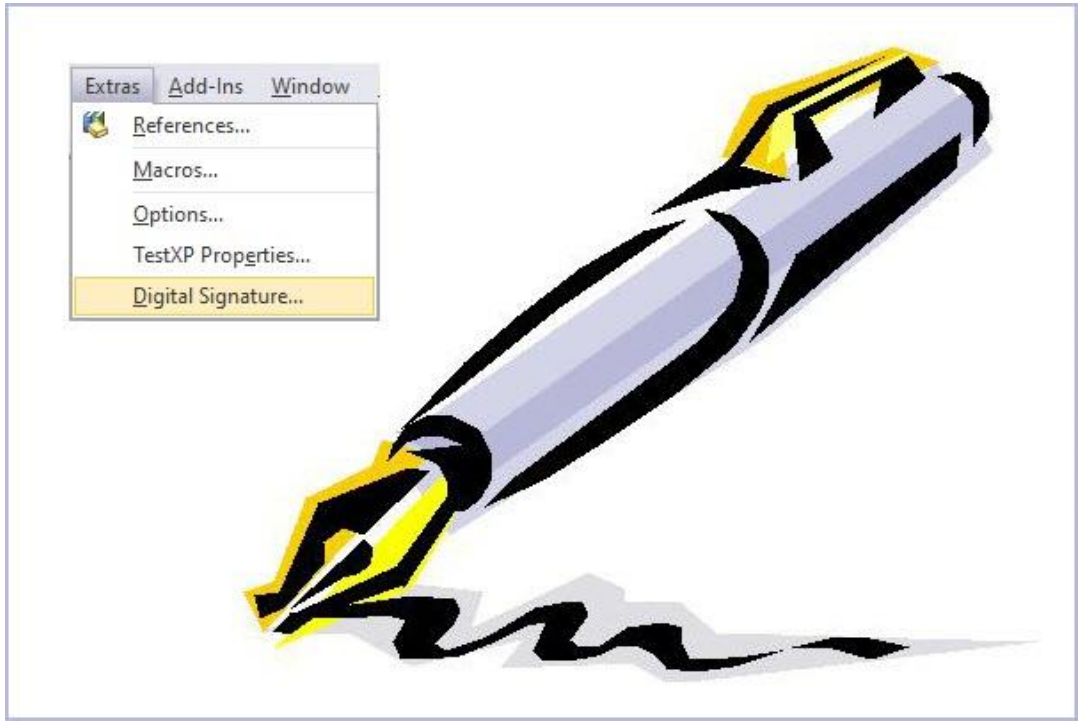


- Office macros/VBA files blocked by default
- Downloads, zip etc.
- Starting April 2022
- **Access**, Excel, PowerPoint, Visio, Word
- Remedies: Daniel Pineault, Mike Wolfe, Raphael Hein

Code Signing

AFo Link

- Digital Signature for ACCDB/ACCDE
- Helpful where Trusted Locations are forbidden (?)
- Shipped in Jan 2023



New Web Browser Control

Roadmap

- Edge based
- Planned release March 2023 – 2 years overdue

Access: New Modern Web Browser Form Control **GA:** March 2023

The Access team is releasing a new web browser control to a version that supports Chromium Edge! Our existing, internet explorer browser control will remain in the platform as-is.

Feature ID: 88345
Added to roadmap: 1/6/2023
Last modified: 1/6/2023
Product(s): Access, Microsoft 365 app
Cloud instance(s): Worldwide (Standard Multi-Tenant)
Platform(s): Web
Release phase(s): General Availability

AFo Plan 2023 – Features

Link

- Improve organisation of third party tool providers
- Improve visibility+availability of their tools/features
- Add-In, service, website, catalogue ?
- Access Package Manager/NuGet ?
- Potential Features like

  - global F&R, editors: ribbon, context menu, SQL; analysis tools, mail tools, version checker, JSON handler, test data creator, image tools, etc. etc.

Microsoft Websites

M365 Roadmap for Access

Link

Dataverse Connector	**Preview:** November 2021 **GA:** March 2022	**postponed years**
New Microsoft Graph Data Connector	**GA:** March 2022	**1**
Inconsistent Database Error Fix	**GA:** May 2022	**several**
New (Modern) Web Browser Control (to support Chromium Edge)	**GA:** September 2022	**4**
Enabling Large Address Aware (LAA) for 32-Bit Access	**GA:** September 2022	**1,5**
SQL Monaco Editor	**GA:** December 2022	**2**
		1,5

Roadmap

Dataverse Conne	**eview:** November 2021 **GA:** March 2022	1
New Microsoft Graph Data Conne	**GA:** March 2022	several
Inconsistent Database Error Fix	**GA:** May 2022	4
New (Modern) Web Browser C trol (to support Chrom Edge)	**GA:** September 2022	1,5
Enabling Large Ad ss Aware (LAA) for 32-Bit Access	**A:** September 2022	2
SQL M co Editor	**GA:** Decem 2022	1,5

postponed
years

Roadmap – Access Team Blog

Link

Changes to Our Public Roadmap and How We Communicate Access Feature Priorities

By Michael Aldridge (M365 DEVELOPER)

Published May 31 2022 04:50 PM 1,021 Views

Today we are announcing a new approach to how we will communicate our new feature development priorities vs the Microsoft Public Roadmap.

Beginning this month the Access team are transitioning to a new model. New feature development priorities will be listed in regular blog posts but in the Microsoft Public Roadmap we will only list those new features that our engineering team ha**s 90% confidence will be shipping in the month listed.**

Why? Because we don't want to create false expectations. The reality is that we can't be certain something will ship on a specific month, one year or even 6 months in advance.

Roadmap – Access Team Blog

Link

Access Engineering Priorities Oct'22 – Mar'23

Priority	Feature	Expected Benefit
1	**Continued Focus on Monthly Issue Fixes** *(Monthly Issue Fix Blog)*	*Improved product quality and reliability*
2	**Inconsistent Database Error Fix**	*Removal of key customer error issue*
3	**New Macro Signing Support**	*Improved security by enabling any macros, code modules, and other executable parts (e.g. action queries) in the database to be verified by a digital signature. Modifying data does not affect the signature.* *You can show that you believe a database is safe and that its content can be trusted by adding a digital signature to the database. A digital signature confirms that any macros, code modules, and other executable components in the database originated with the signer and that no one has altered them since the database was signed.*
4	**New (Modern) Web Browser Control (to support Chromium Edge)**	*Add a new form control based on Edge's WebView2 that can replace the existing IE11 based Access Browser control*
5	**Dataverse Connector Data Type Support for Floating Point**	*Add support for floating point in an Access – Dataverse data migration*
6	**Dataverse Connector Data Type Support for Rich Text**	*Add support for Rich Text in an Access – Dataverse data migration*
7	**Dataverse Connector support to export to a specific Dataverse solution or publisher**	*Make it easier and faster for admins to migrate their data to a specific Dataverse locations during migration, vs moving them after migration*

?

LAA
Monaco Editor
Graph Connector

Issues Fixed – Access Team Blog

Link

Access Issues Fixed in the May 2022 Monthly Release

By Michael Aldridge (M365 DEVELOPER)

Published Jun 27 2022 12:05 PM 1,693 Views

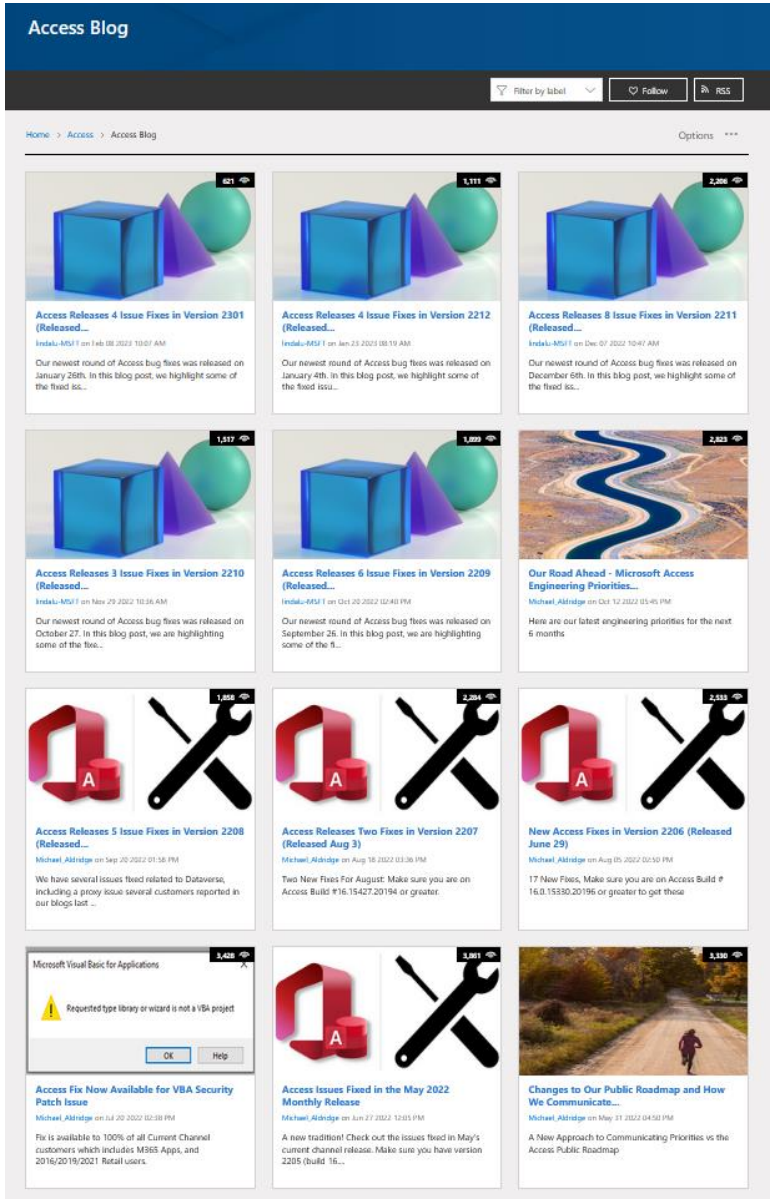
As part of our continual promise to bring value and support to our Access customers, we are beginning a new blog series. These posts will highlight some of the work our Access engineering team does every month, you might not be aware of, fixing issues important to our customers and released in the previous month.

This month's 13 issues reported by customers or found internally were all included in the May monthly release which also included the Access

AFo 2022 AFo 2023

Access Team Blog

Link



Feedback Portal

Link

Home > Access

Access

485 feedback

Most votes

68

Juanjo Luna • 1 year ago

Integrate VSCode As IDE from VBA

integrate the IDE VS-CODE in access.
Updating the Vba development environment using the Monaco engine that Vs Code has would allow the use of new options that would facilitate the programmer's task.

Open | Windows | Macros

9 comments | Follow | Share | 0 flags

51

Jack Stockton • 1 year ago

Form Resizing

Access needs to be able to support larger monitors. Adding the Zoom feature the other Office products have.

Open | Windows | Forms

7 comments | Follow | Share | 0 flags

42

Feedback collection • 1 year ago

Bring Access to Apple Macintosh platform

Open | Windows

10 comments | Follow | Share | 0 flags

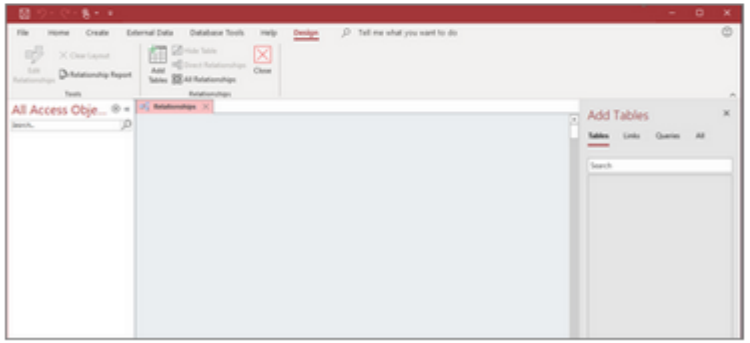
What's new in Access for Microsoft 365

Microsoft 365 subscribers | Previous Releases

Latest updates for Access

2020

There is nothing new in **Version 2009 (Build 13231.20200)** the September release. Check out what we released recently. Find your Office version



Add tables with fewer clicks

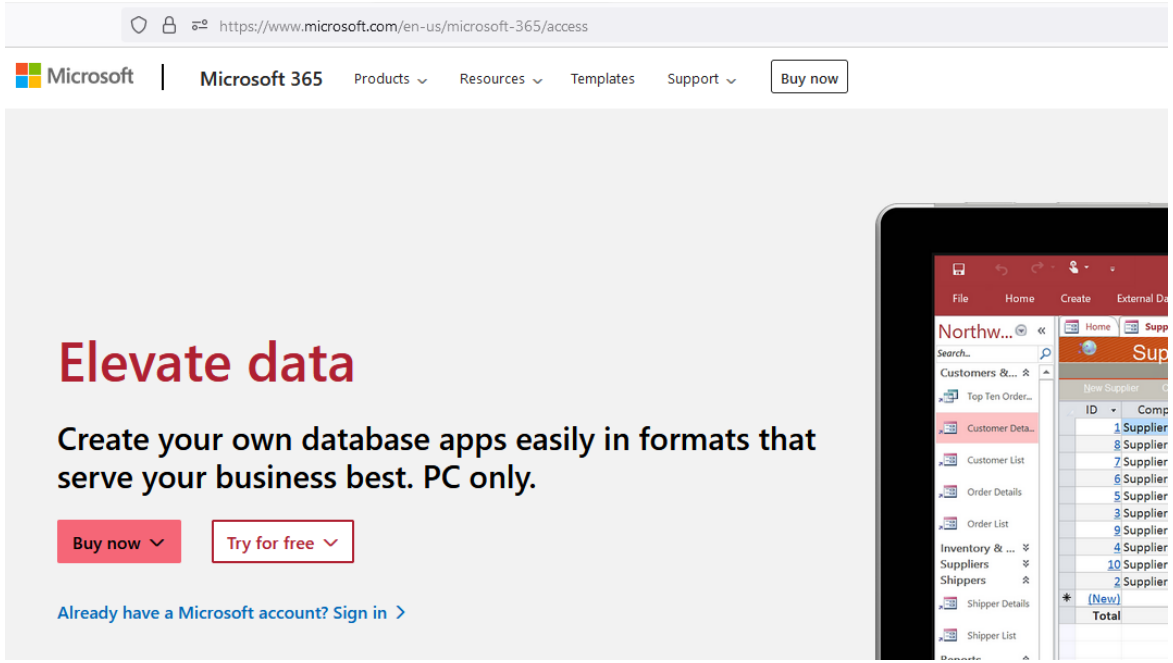
Use the Add Tables task pane, which stays open while you work, to add tables to relationships and queries.

LEARN MORE

Link

THE Access page at Microsoft

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/access

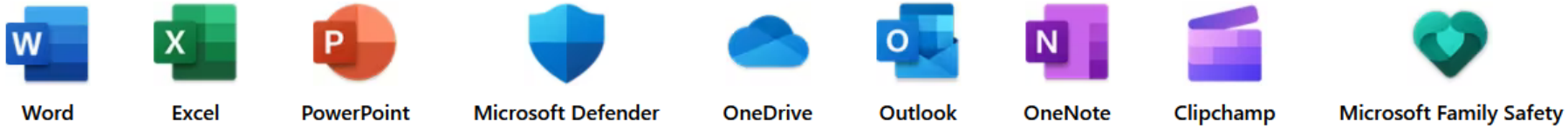


Microsoft Access 2019 is the latest version of Access available as a one-time purchase.

?

Microsoft 365 e.g. Microsoft 365 Family

Premium value included



Summary of benefits

Recommended for families
Share all the benefits of Microsoft 365 with up to five other people. Sharing means that each person has the flexibility to use their own apps and cloud storage on multiple PCs, Macs, iPhones, iPads, and Android phones and tablets. (iOS and Android require separate app download.)

Up to 6 TB of cloud storage (1 TB per person)
Each person can save photos and files in OneDrive protected with built-in ransomware detection and recovery across devices.**** Plus, every user can protect their most important files with two-step identity verification in their own individual Personal Vault folders.

Data and device protection
Easily manage your digital security and stay ahead of online threats with advanced protection for your data and devices with Microsoft Defender.*** (App available as a separate download.)

Advanced spelling, grammar, and writing assistance
Write with confidence across documents, email, and the web with features that help strengthen your and your family's spelling, grammar, and style with Microsoft Editor.

Video editor with premium filters and effects
Create and edit beautiful videos with ease using Clipchamp's***** robust tools, intuitive controls, templates, and an extensive stock library.

Microsoft support
Microsoft 365 has your back with readily available technical support through chat or by phone.

Publisher (PC only)
Create everything from simple greeting cards and labels to professional newsletters and posters.

Powerful productivity apps
Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are included for every user. Collaborate in real-time or work offline, and get design, writing, and speaking suggestions in each app. Plus access an extended collection of royalty-free creative content, including templates, stock photos, icons, and fonts.

Develop stronger safety habits and protect loved ones
Get premium features like location alerts, drive safety reports, and drive history with the Microsoft Family Safety app.** Location permissions must be active to receive alerts. (Drive safety available in US, AU, BE, BR, CA, CH, CH, DE, ES, GB, IT, MX, PL.)

Ad-free email
Every person can use Outlook for email, calendars, to-do lists, and contacts with built-in security tools that keep your information protected. (The security features apply to customers who have an @outlook.com, @hotmail.com, @live.com, or @msn.com email address.)

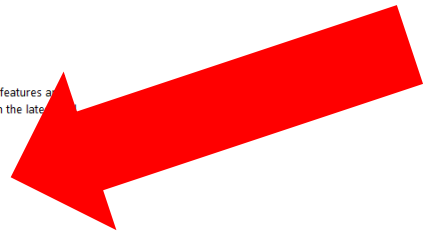
All-day video calling
Every person can enjoy all day video calling and meet, chat, and plan together in one app with Microsoft Teams.

Applications are always up to date
With a Microsoft 365 Family subscription, every user gets innovative new features a updates as soon as they are released, so everyone is always working with the late the greatest.

Access (PC only)
Easily create and manage databases for projects, large or small.

Don't see the application you need?

Explore all options >



Personell

New Program Manager

2020

Michal Bar

Ebo Quansah

New Program Manager

2021

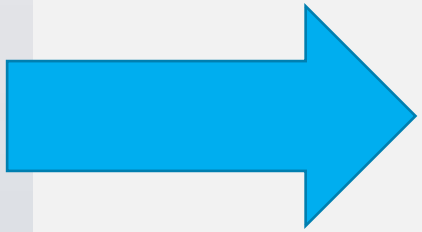
Ebo Quansah

Michael Aldridge

No Program Manager

2022

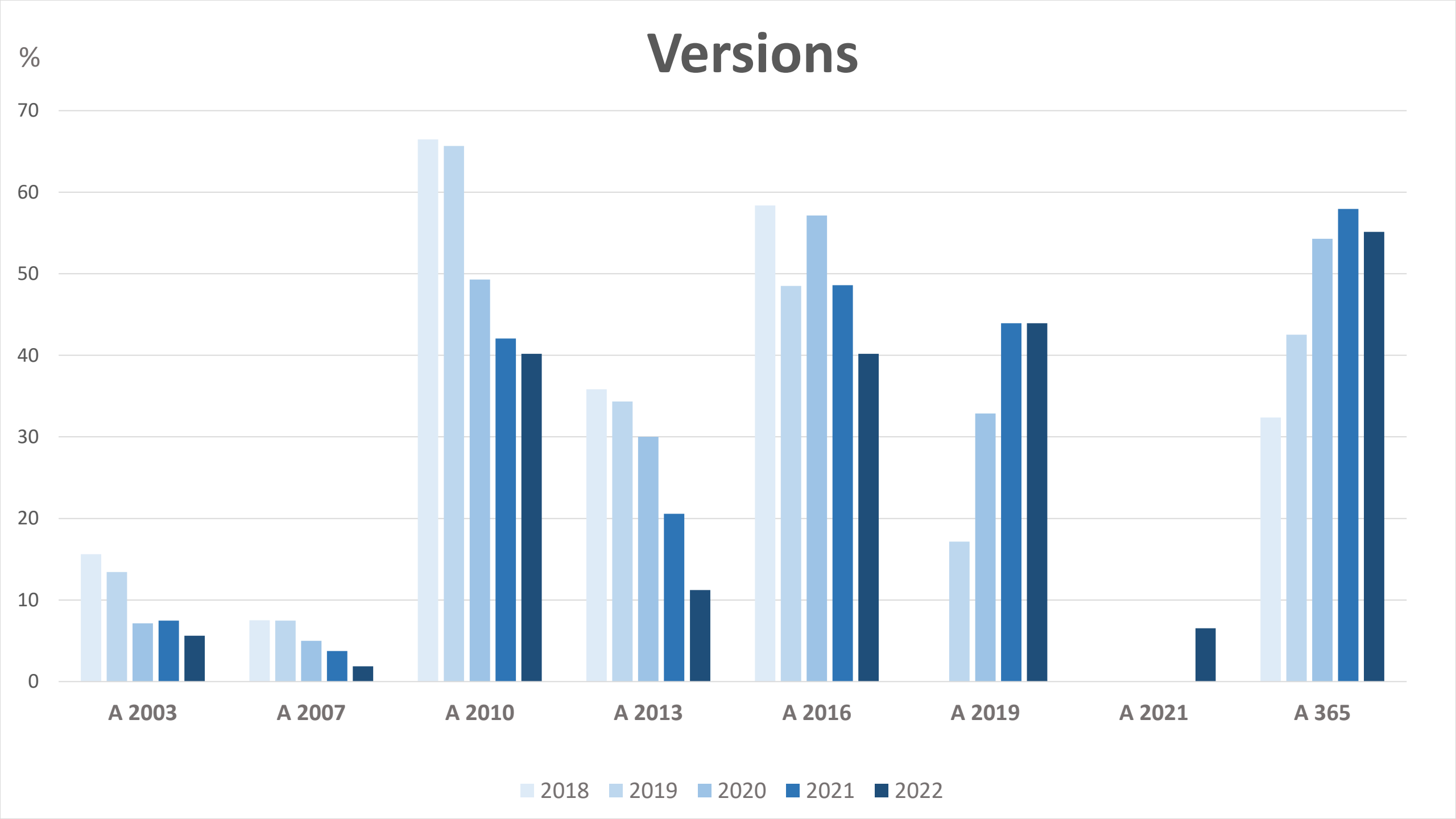
Michael Aldridge



Access Version Statistics

AEK (German Access Developer Conference)

2018 to Oct 2022


Versions
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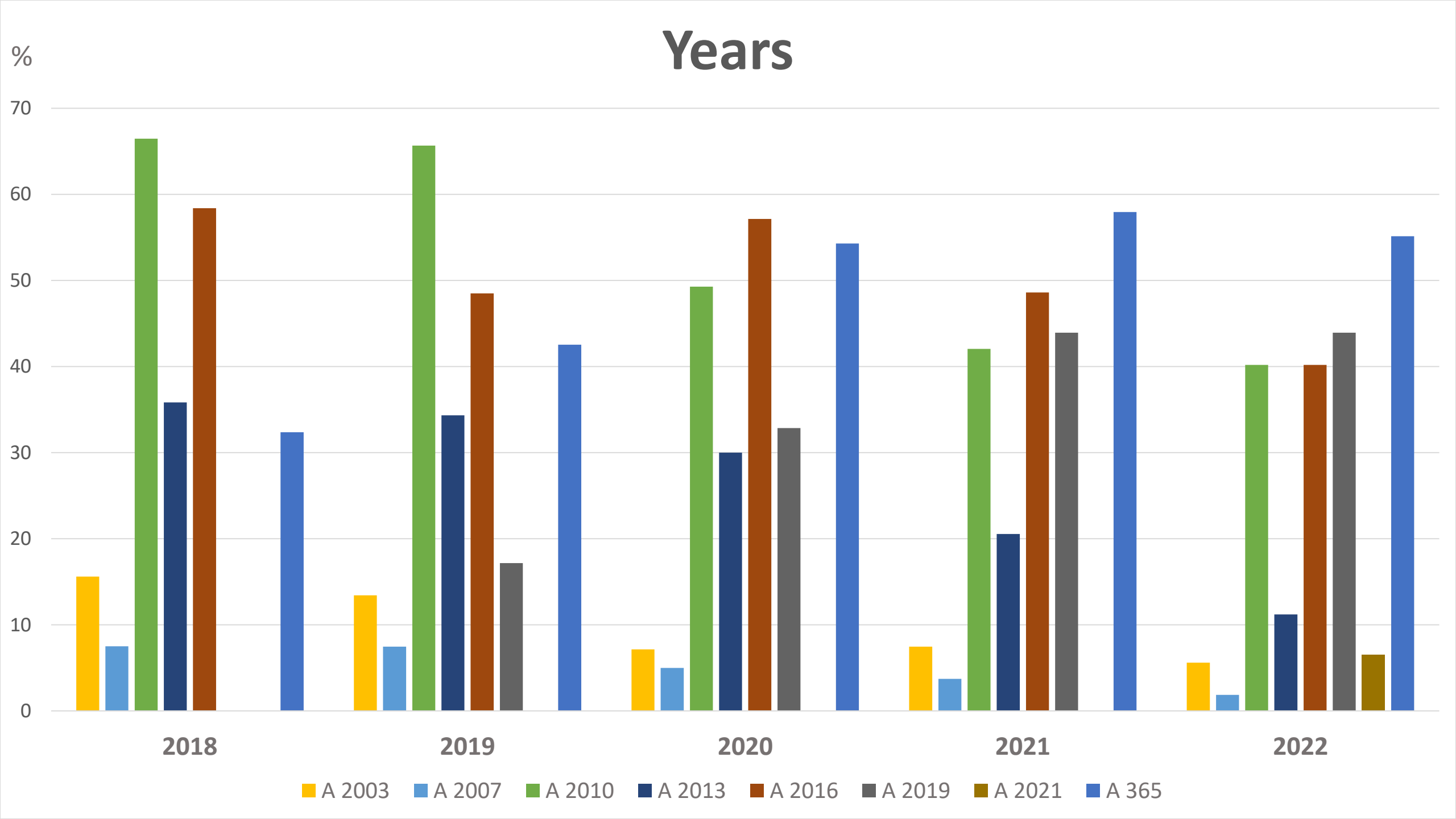
Years
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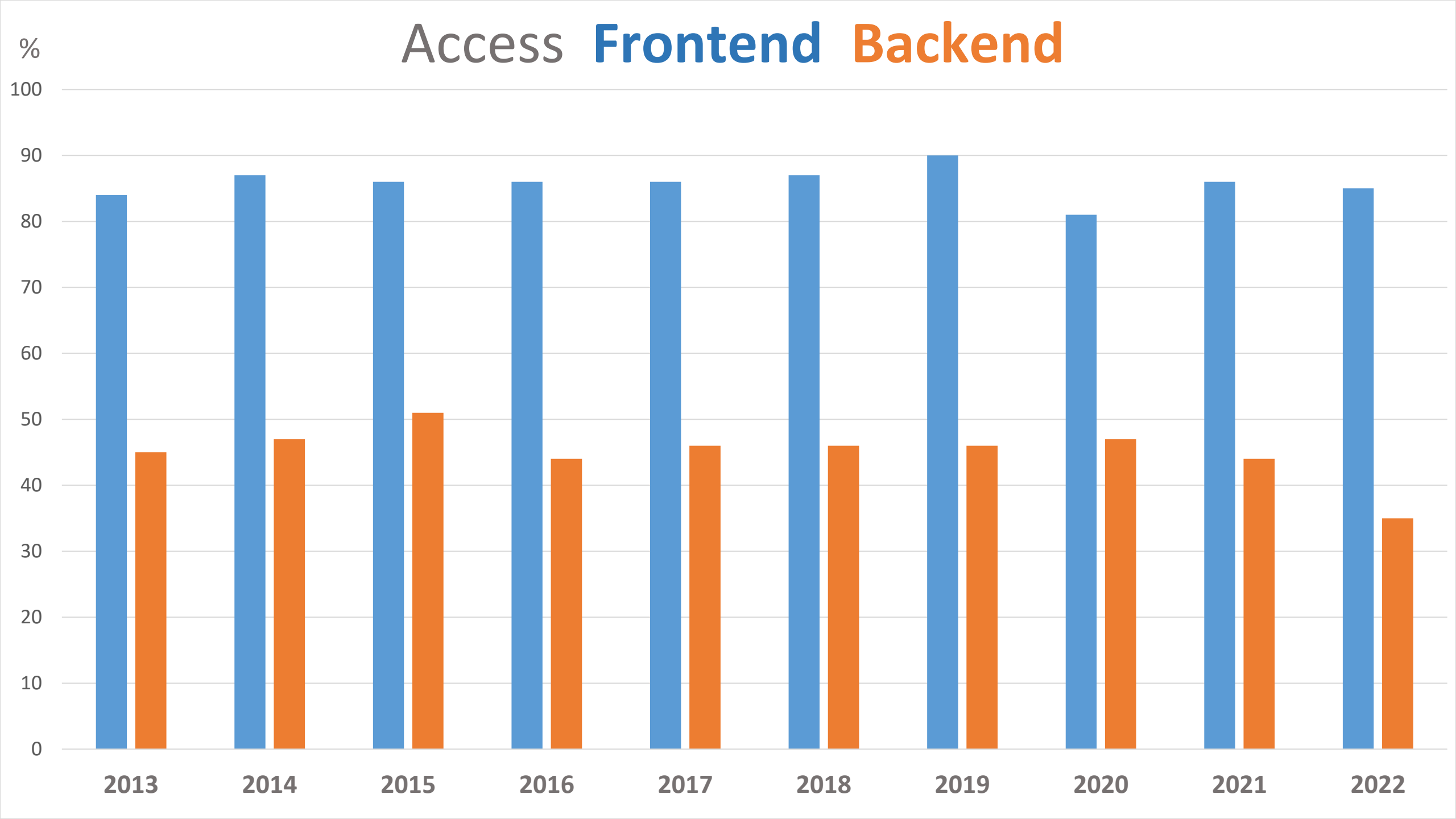
Access Frontend Backend
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2018
2019
2020
2021
2022

Community

Access News

Link

Access News

Microsoft Access newscast series

Karl Donaubauer ABONNIEREN

1

Access News 4, Oct 2022

Karl Donaubauer

2

Access News 3, July 2022

Karl Donaubauer

3

Access News 2, Mar 2022

Karl Donaubauer

4

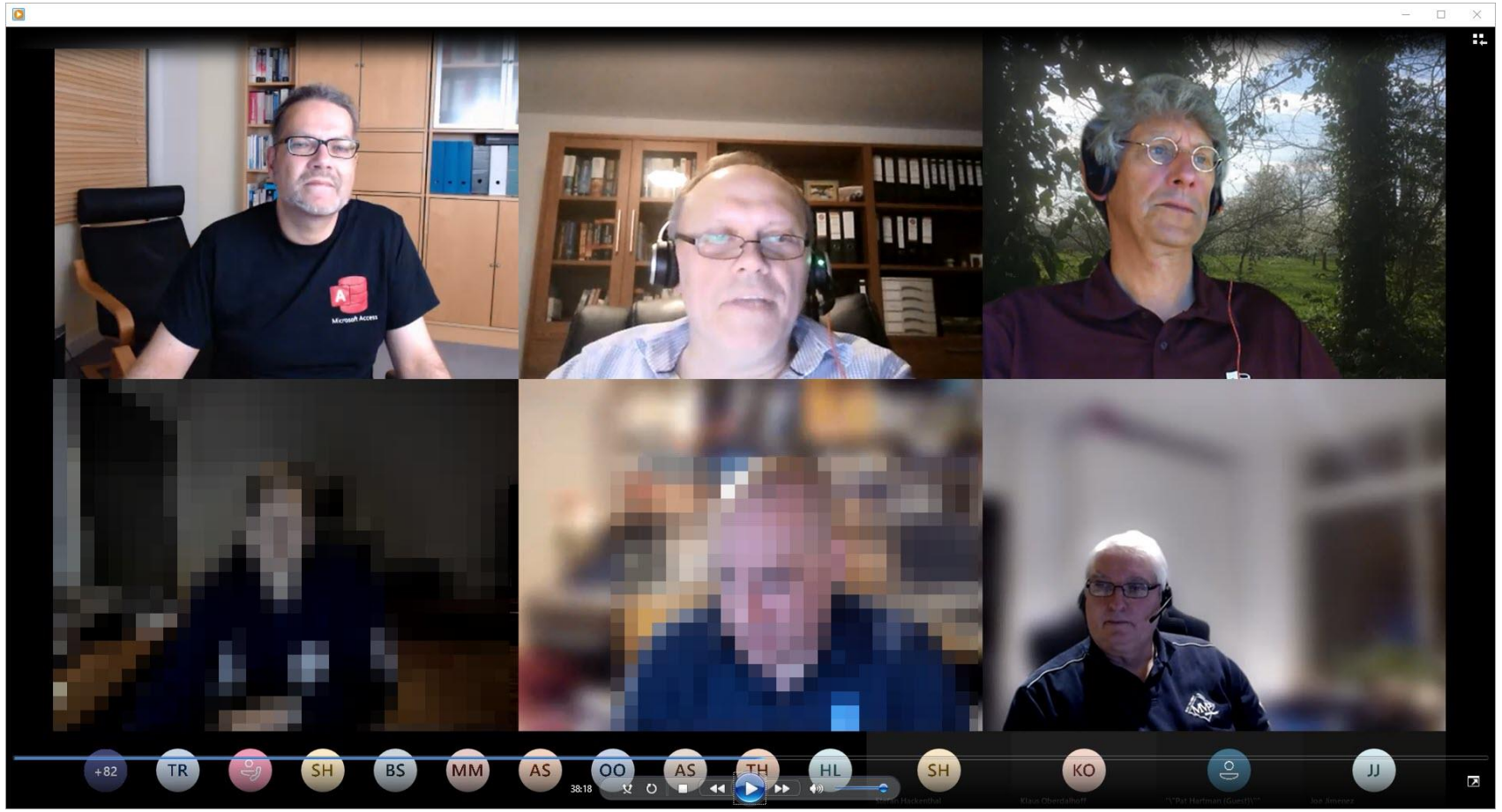
Access News 1, Dec 2021

Karl Donaubauer

Access DevCon Vienna

April 27+28, 2023

[Link]



Access DevCon Vienna

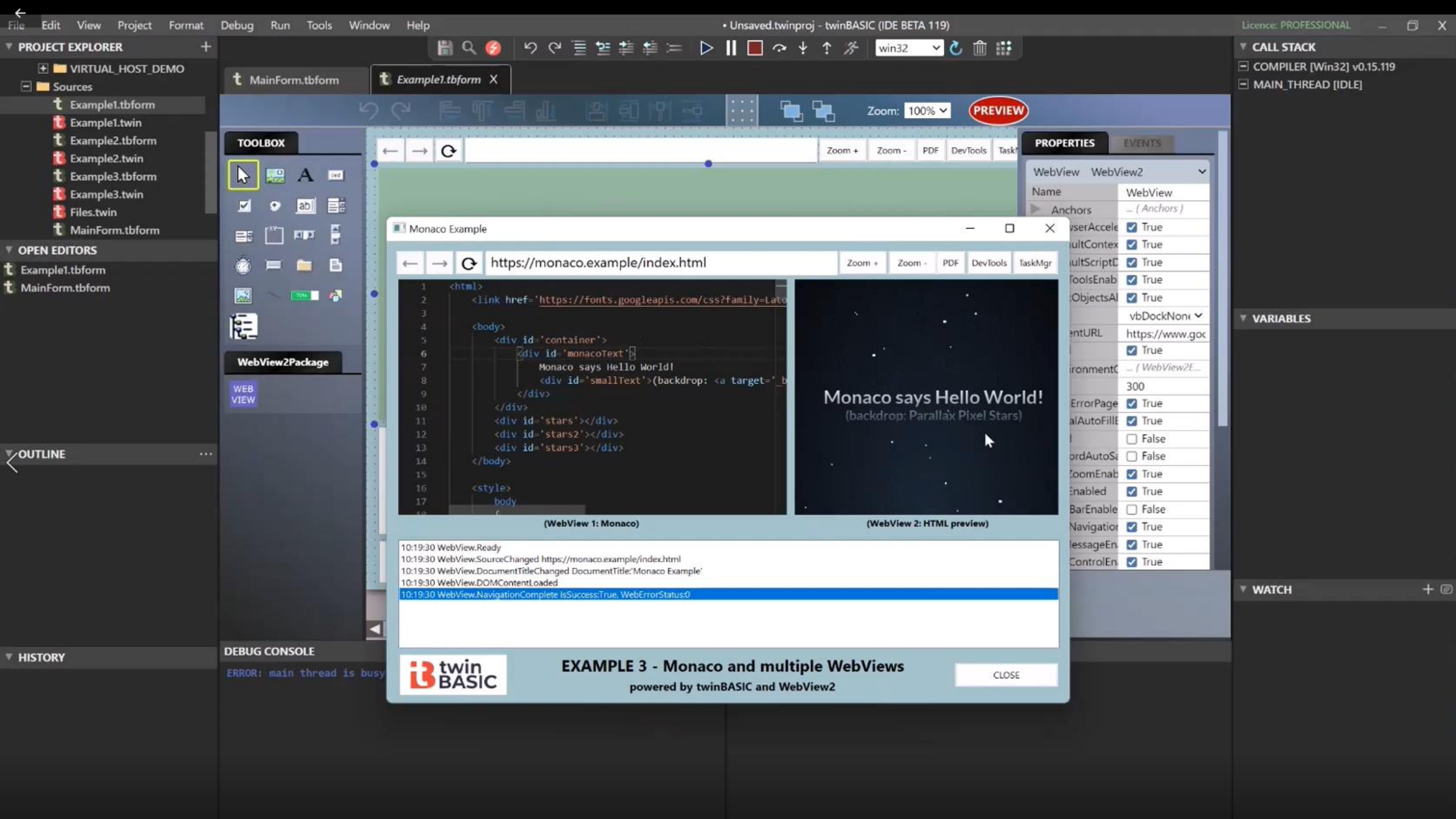
April 27+28, 2023

Link

- Update by the Microsoft Access Team
- Making Automatic Form Resizing work for you
- Draw Gadgets on Access Reports
- Access in an Azure VM
- twinBASIC update
- Errors, Documentation, Example Apps, Tools and more
- Agenda + Registration start next week

twinBASIC [Link]

- Wayne Phillips EverythingAccess.com
- Beta versions since April 2021 → V 1.0 2023
- 100% compatible to VB6+VBA
- Modern IDE (Monaco Editor!) similar to VSCode
- New Commands, Syntax, Generics, Overloading…
- Multi Threading, UTF-8, WebView2, vbWatchdog…
- Ultimate: Linux, Mac OS, Android
- Cost depending on Edition 0-45 €/Month


File Edit View Project Format Debug Run Tools Window Help
• Unsaved.twinproj - twinBASIC (IDE BETA 119)
Licence: PROFESSIONAL
PROJECT EXPLORER
VIRTUAL_HOST_DEMO
Sources
Example1.tbform
Example1.twin
Example2.tbform
Example2.twin
Example3.tbform
Example3.twin
Files.twin
MainForm.tbform
OPEN EDITORS
Example1.tbform
MainForm.tbform
OUTLINE
HISTORY
MainForm.tbform
Example1.tbform
win32
Zoom: 100%
PREVIEW
TOOLBOX
WebView2Package
WEB VIEW
Zoom +
Zoom -
PDF
DevTools
PROPERTIES
EVENTS
WebView WebView2
Name WebView
Anchors
Monaco Example
https://monaco.example/index.html
Zoom +
Zoom -
PDF
DevTools
TaskMgr
<html>
<link href='https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Lato
<body>

Monaco says Hello World!
(backdrop: <a target='_b

</body>
<style>
body
Monaco says Hello World!
(backdrop: Parallax Pixel Stars)
(WebView 1: Monaco)
(WebView 2: HTML preview)
10:19:30 WebView.Ready
10:19:30 WebView.SourceChanged https://monaco.example/index.html
10:19:30 WebView.DocumentTitleChanged DocumentTitle:'Monaco Example'
10:19:30 WebView.DOMContentLoaded
10:19:30 WebView.NavigationComplete IsSuccess:True, WebErrorStatus:0
twin BASIC
EXAMPLE 3 - Monaco and multiple WebViews
powered by twinBASIC and WebView2
CLOSE
DEBUG CONSOLE
ERROR: main thread is busy
CALL STACK
COMPILER [Win32] v0.15.119
MAIN_THREAD [IDLE]
VARIABLES
WATCH

twinBASIC

- acc. to Access News Interview with Wayne
- Integration with Access/Office VBA from 2023
- Code Editor + „big plans“

→ Future of VBA ?

Microsoft ACCESS™

Relational Database Management System for Windows™

30

Picture by Arvin Meyer

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