



# Designer for Microsoft Access

## Reviewer's Guide

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### Quick Reference

Current Version	3.9
System Requirements	Microsoft Access 2000 or higher
Pricing	\$199 for 1 'designer' user. No limits on the number of databases or end-users for the databases created by Designer.
High-Res Screenshots	<a href="http://www.opengatesw.net/company/drev.zip">http://www.opengatesw.net/company/drev.zip</a>
Product Webpage	<a href="#">Designer for Microsoft Access home page</a>
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## Why is Designer interesting to a business reader?

Microsoft Access is the most widely used desktop database application available. Many of your readers turn to Access when they need a fast, inexpensive solution to track information. While Access is fairly easy to learn, database design remains an exercise in abstract thought that is difficult without training.

**Your readers will be interested in Designer for Microsoft Access because it alleviates the pain and frustration related to getting started with a new Access database.**

Many of your readers have likely tried to create a Microsoft Access database knowing that it can help them to be more efficient. A large number will also abandon their efforts because the learning curve requires more time than they expect. **Designer helps users overcome the obstacles of abstract database design so the user can start using their Access database to be more productive.**

Most people can tell when they have stretched Excel to the limit. They also do not have a background in database design. Designer solves the problem by translating the user's answers into a well-normalized database, complete with data entry forms that consolidate related information into a single screen.

## What is Designer?

Designer helps non-database savvy users create a functional, properly structured Microsoft Access database with a plain-language question and answer process. Design steps the user through the process of deciding what they want to track at a macro- and micro-level, as well as how the macro-level things relate to each other. The result is a well-normalized database schema in Access that complies with common best practices such as naming conventions, relational join types, and the use of lookup tables to control data entry. After the user has outlined what they want to track, Designer allows them to create a set of data entry forms where related information is seen in a single form.

The screenshot shows the 'Patients' form in the Designer software. The main grid lists patient information with columns: Salutation, First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Direct Phone, Date of Birth, Patient Since, and Med Records. Below this, there are tabs for 'Details', 'Visits', 'Prescriptions', 'Medical History', and 'Emergency Contacts'. The 'Visits' tab is active, showing a sub-grid with columns: Visit Date, Location, Payment Due, Payment Status, Payment Received, and Sent to Collect. The 'Details' tab is also visible, showing a grid with columns: Record, 1 of 3, No Filter, and Search.

Salutation	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Direct Phone	Date of Birth	Patient Since	Med Records
Mr.	Craig	Sam	Barret	(555) 555-5555	1/1/1923	2/1/2008	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr.	Michael	C	McAllister	(555) 444-5555	8/24/1985	3/5/2002	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs.	Susan	Lisa	McAllister	(555) 444-5555	9/5/1984	3/5/2002	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr.	Grant	Hugh	Chung	(555) 333-5555	2/7/1976	4/16/2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Ling		Wu	(555) 777-8888	12/5/2004	12/5/2004	<input type="checkbox"/>

Visit Date	Location	Payment Due	Payment Status	Payment Received	Sent to Collect
12/6/2004	City Hospitz	\$256.00	Paid In Full	12/12/2004	<input type="checkbox"/>
2/6/2005	East Office	\$126.00	Paid In Full	4/1/2005	<input type="checkbox"/>
5/5/2006	University	\$279.00	Insurance Billec		<input type="checkbox"/>

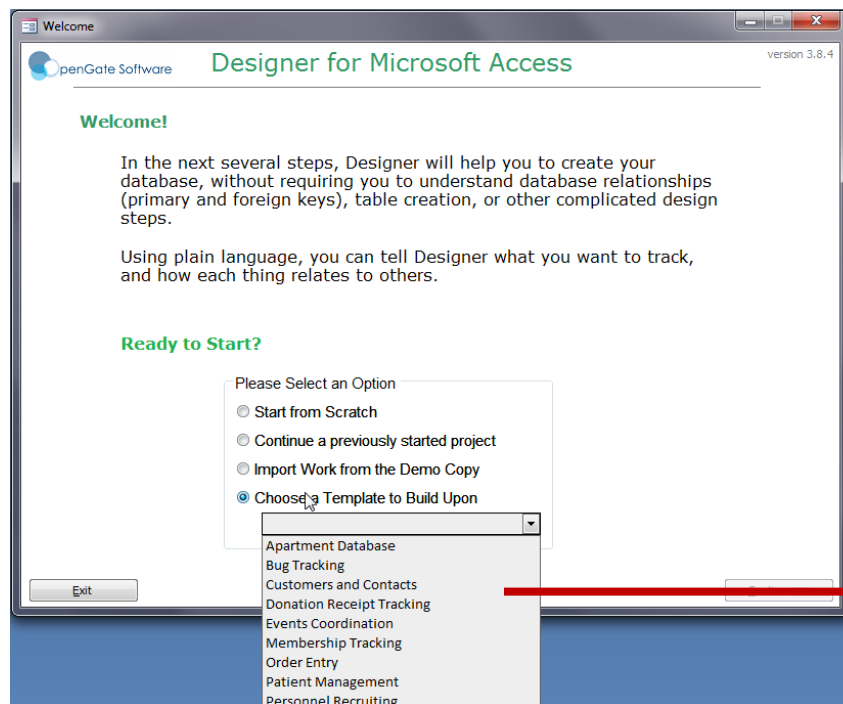
Designer automatically creates tabs that contain information related to the record selected in the grid above. Users have a similar experience to Excel with the grid layout at the top, and the benefit of seeing all related information at the bottom of the same screen.



## Getting started with Designer 3.9

Designer does not require installation. Simply unzip the contents of the download file to a folder, and double click the "Designer for Access..." database file on a PC with Microsoft Access 2000 or higher.

To begin working with Designer, simply follow the instructions on screen. Users that need additional guidance can look for the "Online Tutorial for this Step" to view a brief tutorial on how to complete each step. Designer also includes a number of template projects you can choose from to jump-start the process.



Designer includes several template projects to help accelerate the process, or learn by example.

## Related products from OpenGate

### UI Builder for Microsoft Access

Add powerful menu navigation system and advanced, pre-built features for your existing databases, or a database created with our Designer product. Packed with the essential features every MS Access database needs, without requiring hours of Visual Basic. [Click to learn more>>](#)

### Dashboard Builder for Microsoft Access

Gain visual insight to the valuable information you are storing in your Access database. Easy-to-build dashboards with graphs, charts, and drill-down metrics...all without being an expert in SQL or Visual Basic. [Click to learn more>>](#)



## About OpenGate Software

We provide powerful solutions for business applications based on Microsoft Access. More than 5,000 users worldwide rely on OpenGate solutions to help power their businesses. OpenGate Software is based in Aurora, Colorado and has been creating Microsoft Access applications since 2001.