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Indexes on Speedbase C-ISAM files

We have received several enquiries regarding the indexing used in C–ISAM files when they are created via Speedbase i.e. how the indexes used in the Speedbase database are reflected in the C–ISAM version of the same database.

Speedbase creates and uses C–ISAM databases with a primary index in record number sequence. It creates no other indexes, but does not prevent the addition of other indexes by non Speedbase users. Speedbase provides no method of creating such indexes. The Speedbase indexes are held in a non C–ISAM format file in the same Unix directory as the C–ISAM database files. These Speedbase indexes are more sophisticated than the C–ISAM ones and contain some relational information. The Speedbase index file must not be corrupted; it should only be updated by the Speedbase access method from within Global.

The Speedbase/C–ISAM database is available for access by non Global users. Indexes of any kind may be added to the database via the C–ISAM **isaddindex** function, and records read on these indexes. Note that it is possible to add and/or delete records as well, but that if you do so, the Speedbase index will not be updated and the user will have a corrupt database. This can be remedied by doing a full index rebuild under Speedbase before attempting any database access via Speedbase. If records are updated then if any field indexed by Speedbase is changed an index rebuild will be required.

Note that records added to the database other than via Speedbase, could have perfectly valid indexes but contain data which is not correct for the application concerned. This would not cause any problems with the index rebuild, but could cause problems later when running applications which access the relevant database. It is the responsibility of the user to check such data before adding it to the database.

See technical bulletin GT634 for further details on accessing C–ISAM files used by Speedbase.