

A number of TECHBASE users have asked about the files used by a TECHBASE database. One user wanted to know if it was okay to delete, "those dot-zero files?" The short answer is "absolutely not!" The long answer is not only should the not be deleted, but they should be backed up regularly. The three number extension files are your database files.

Procedure:

A TECHBASE database is organized a a series of files in the directory. Each ends in a three-digit numeric extension. For example, after running the TECHBASE Tutorial, Warmup exercise, the following files contain the database information:

```
warmup.000  
warmup.001  
warmup.002  
warmup.010  
warmup.011
```

Each files extension has a specific meaning.

.000 file is the database header, it contains master information for the database

.001 file contains the definitions for all TABLES in the database

.002 file contains the definitions for all FIELDS in the database

Any time a table or tables are accessed, .004 files are created. This prevents any other user from trying to write to that table at the same time. A .00x files is created any time the DEFINE program is used. This prevents any other user from trying to use the database, while someone else is in DEFINE. These files should not be removed unless your system has crashed and you have checked to make sure that the locks are not in place because of another user actively using the database. Otherwise, you could loose information, or destroy your database.

Each database table will use one or more of the following extensions. The TABLE header will end in a number divisible by files, starting with ".010" (files ending in 0 or 5). This file contains the list of fields and keys for the TABLE, and the record count.

The next file, ".011" (files ending in 1 or 6) contains the data for the TABLE.

If the TABLE is keyed file will occupy the next number, ".012" (files ending in 2 or 7).

If the file is in use by another user the ".004" file is created (files ending in 4 or 9). These are only a temporary file, once you leave the TECHBASE program, these files will be erased. If your computer crashes, or if for any reason you do not exit properly from the TECHBASE programs, these files may be left. The best way to fix this problem is to,

1. Enter the DEFINE program (press cancel when asked if you would like to wait for access)
2. Select Database, Unlock and the database you need to correct.
3. Check the list of lock files for who and when the locks were placed. Then only remove the locks when you are sure that no one else is using the database.

Technote: Database Backup

These files are critical! They represent the sum of all the effort to date in creating the database, including entering, validating, and modeling the data. Especially if the database is being frequently updated. ALL database files should be backed up regularly. Other import files such as runlogs, picture files, digitized data, format files, tasks, calculations, etc. should also be backed up regularly. In the event of a computer failure, you can restore the backed-up version and then you have only lost what you have done since the last backup.

The specific commands used to back up a computer will vary depending on what hardware and software you have available. But no matter what kind of computer you own, it is always a good idea to make back ups of your important information. Don't learn this lesson the hard way.

Also see

[Define\(1tb\)](#)