



**“We Make Recreation Easy!”**

## **RecTrac Database Software Configuration Analysis Part 1 and Part 2**

**By Shawn Morse :: Morse Associates, LLC**

**Part 1 :: <http://morseassoc.net/rectrac-database-software-configuration-analysis/>**

Today I want to talk about differences in server configuration when running VSI's Rectrac, Fintrac and Webtrac software. This may come as a surprise to Recreation department IT tech's or not, but it really needs to be considered when configuring a Recreation or Parks department with the database software from this vendor or any others.

- Have you ever wondered why your server runs slowly with a Rectrac/Webtrac/Fintrac database running along with your department system files?
- Have you ever wondered why your network might be slow at times to access your file server?
- Are you frustrated about your IT department because of system issues and what I've mentioned above?

Here are some facts about using the Rectrac, Webtrac, Fintrac software on existing file or DHCP servers.

- The software is relatively large.
- The software is a resource hog.
- The software needs constant administration.
- The software backups are large and will eat up disk space fast if not administered correctly.
- The software comes in many configurations that can help ease the network drag.

Now I'll discuss the ways you can configure a typical Rectrac database server and clients, later in this series discuss how to configure servers more.

Rectrac can be run local, over a network with local files, or over a network completely. I'll explain each below and the impact each will have on your network.

### **1. Run Database Local**

This means the Rectrac database was installed on a client and is only ran on that workstation. There's very minimal impact on the network, only to process emails from the database if you choose to do so and backups.

### **2. Run Database Server with Local Files**

This means you have a Rectrac database installed on a server and client workstation(s) are communicating with the server with locally installed files on the client to run the software. The network impact is that data writes back and forth to the server are dependent on the speed of the network, automated tasks running on the server, backups and emails from the database.



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### **3. Run Database Server with Network Files**

This means you have a RecTrac database installed on a server with local files on the server to run the software on clients. The network impact is that data writes back and forth to the server are dependent on the speed of the network, automated tasks running on the server, backups, emails from the database and you are running all software files off the server to the client.

Typical Recreation departments or Park Districts will use option 2 because they have more than one client and they are spread out over the town or city. This allows for files to run the software to not impact the network and thus run faster for end users. This causes other time consuming tasks (I'll touch on later) for the IT department.

Please stop back when we discuss how to configure servers.

**Part 2 :: <http://morseassoc.net/rectrac-database-software-config-analysis-pt-2/>**

Database server configurations can come in many different types. It depends on the Park District or Recreation Departments needs and budgets. Ultimately you don't want to put your data at risk or your network's reliability in question either when deploying these types of databases.

### **Server Deployment**

You can deploy and configure software based on the needs of the Recreation Department or Park District by looking at the following criteria:

- Products to Deploy – How many software products are your department planning to use?
- Department Size – Do you have a large recreation department staff?
- Department Resources – Do you plan to have new server(s) or client workstations installed?
- Department IT Staff – Do you have access to department IT personnel or consultants?

If you have software that needs to run on an existing server and you plan to deploy a Recreation database (like RecTrac) alongside that software then you need to consider the impact now and in the future.



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As I mentioned in the prior article, the RecTrac software with the Progress RDBMS backbone software are large and will use up resources on your server, which can limit your usage of other programs that run on the server or can affect your network stability if the server is also your DHCP server.

Do you have the staff to maintain the software and the database administration that goes along with this type of software? You need to plan for the constant administration and management of a RecTrac database and this along with the daily operations that occur when using the software.

You can configure the database a number of ways but ideally you should have a central Database Server, an Application Server and client workstations. If you run the Webtrac software, then you should deploy a Webtrac Server which communicated with the Database server through the Application Server. This will give you the best level of resource management and security when deploying the RecTrac software.

If you use the FinTrac software, for financial management, then this can be deployed on the same Database server and is developed as such by the vendor. This type of deployment can be a security issue and resource only because you have sensitive employee records along with less sensitive household information in a RecTrac database.