

Re: How to do this?

Source:

<http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.security/2003-12/0306.html>

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Date: 12/23/03

Date: Tue, 23 Dec 2003 11:31:25 -0600

To address your follow-up questions, I'm sort of having to buy into some conditions that are complex to swallow without more details. For instance, typically one thing of an Access database as either a relational database with the Tables, Forms and Reports in a single MDB file, or you might have a front-end/Back-end arrangement to split the security and management apart. Regardless, I would normally think that you would not expect to do things like ODBC in order to hook to the backend database from more than one frontend. Therefore, when you speak of splitting a frontend to an IIS server, the question would return to "what are you trying to accomplish" because if you are looking to increase security, you have to consider that you would need to figure out how to secure the ability to hook from inside the LAN and from outside the LAN to the same database, and yet secure it. If the theory is that you are going to authenticate your users, my question would return to questioning if a basic IIS server facing the public really simplifies your problem or creates it.

One option would be to devise a way to provide a secure connection to the remote users, but I don't have the information to know if you are referring to 10 people at a different site, or if it's ten specific computers that travel, or if we are talking an average of 10 customers from various places that changes day to day. There's a lot here that sort of defies the simple answer.

As for putting the server in DMZ and part of the domain, this is going to be entirely debatable to how you would plan to address the previous topic.

This is why I was suggesting at the end of my last post that I would expect to backaway from the technology a little bit to look at the business plan first, then let the technical requirements feed the discussion of what should be done to meet the business needs and still secure all aspects, and address the technical issues you can't change (like switching to SQL from Access which is probably the single most valuable change you could make in this situation).

There's plenty of room for debate on how you would address a redesign of this package, but one possible way of going after it might be to actually use a Terminal Server hiding behind an IIS Server using TSAC plug-in. I

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suggest this only because it moves the data access back into a world very familiar to Access, it provides you the opportunity to make the IIS server a forward placed DMZ server where you authenticate first and then get a tunnel into the TS