



CU2Global
The Global Data Conversion Experts

Discover - Scope – Convert

*A practical, fast, cost-saving approach to
Microsoft Access to SQL Server Conversion*

The Opportunity

To maximize productivity and stay current with modern, on-demand IT systems, today's organisations need to migrate from legacy software. This includes a critical need to escape from the well-documented limitations of Microsoft Access.

The answer is to migrate to the powerful, centralized SQL Server platform, but conversions at the application level are complex and often beset by roadblocks and massive costs.

Yet a well-managed Conversion Project will preserve your organisation's investment in technology and prepare you for the future. This paper contains the information you need to help plan for this inevitable move. It allows for both a conservative and a radical approach.

2SQL® - Solution to a Worldwide Issue

- By using the world's most efficient and only complete solution, you can now migrate from Microsoft Access to SQL Server while dramatically cutting the costs and time compared to any other method – including both manual processes and other automation tools.
- 2SQL incorporates the Inspector™, Detective™ and Genie™. The Inspector and Detective can be used independently but together the three components will give you certainty in terms of scoping, costing, and successfully executing a complex IT project, on time and on budget.
- The proven 2SQL process allows you to select to use averaging techniques or a scientific measuring approach to arrive at the scope and subsequent cost and timeline of any given Conversion Project.
- A 2SQL Conversion Project allows Project Managers to be flexible in their approach and to use their experience and judgment. The techniques are scalable and equally applicable whether there is a single Access database to be converted, or thousands selected for the same process.

Risk mitigation

- To date, the manual conversion of Microsoft Access Applications to SQL Server has been cost-prohibitive, in particular due to the labor-intensive exercise of identifying and rectifying conversion and migration issues. If a converted mission-critical Microsoft Access Application lacks its original robustness, the result could be disaster. 2SQL mitigates the conversion risk by rapidly locating and rectifying every known Conversion Issue.
- The 2SQL process achieves an automation and completion rate of between 95% and 100% when migrating to SQL Server, solving common database and application issues as it goes.
- This world-first “One-stop Conversion Shop” will not only enable the conversion of large Access Applications in days and weeks, rather than months and years, it will do so at an estimated 50% or greater cost reduction compared with manual conversion.

PHASED APPROACH

All phases of a Conversion Project require tight management. A typical 2SQL project will be managed by an external Project Manager, supervised by an in-house IT team member. Based on our experience with thousands of Conversion Projects, ConvertU2 has developed the following phased approach.

Phase 1 – The Discovery Process

If you have only one or two mission-critical Applications, please proceed straight to Phase 2.

If you have a reasonably large Access population, the 2SQL Inspector will analyze network drives across your enterprise, auditing your Microsoft Access population to report detailed information on individual databases for conversion and/or decision-making.

Your Project Team can then apply its business judgment to assess Microsoft Access Applications in terms of their size, importance and other factors to decide which of them should be converted, culled or simply left alone. The Inspector predicts, with plus or minus 10% accuracy, the number of Conversion Issues that will need to be remedied, either manually or automatically, by the 2SQL Genie in Phase 3, to make each Application SQL Server-ready.

Using the Conversion Issue counts, along with other assessment criteria, your Project Team can “grade” the selected Microsoft Access Applications into one of 6 complexity ranges: Very Low, Low, Medium, High, Very High and Extreme.

The primary objective in Phase 1 is to narrow the project focus from what in some organisations can be an overwhelming Microsoft Access Application population running into the many thousands, down to what may be only the critical Applications representing between 2% and 5% of the whole population.

Your decision to convert all or part of your Access population can be made case-by-case, depending on resources, time and cost.

Phase 2: Scoping, Planning and Costing

In Phase 2, the 2SQL Detective tests and refines the information processed in Phase 1 to help scope, plan and cost your project in detail. Whereas the Inspector can reasonably predict the size of a particular database, the Detective scans each database to calculate the actual Conversion Issues that must be tackled to convert and migrate any selected Microsoft Access Application to SQL Server.

Detective scans are not required for databases classified in the Inspector phase as falling within the lowest complexity group. 2SQL will effect a 100% complete conversion of these high-volume, "Very Low" complexity Microsoft Access Applications. Consequently these databases will not require any manual clean-up of any significance.

The more complex your applications, the more value Detective scans deliver in terms of scoping and planning. Even at the Very High and Extreme end of complexity, 2SQL can still be expected to deliver as much as a 97% conversion completion rate.

In Phase 2, you can simply select sample Microsoft Access Applications from the less complex groups revealed by the Inspector to calculate their Conversion Issue counts and extrapolate the result over the number of databases in each group, using your business knowledge and judgment. Or you can scan every database in the more complex groups identified, achieving a more detailed scientific analysis.

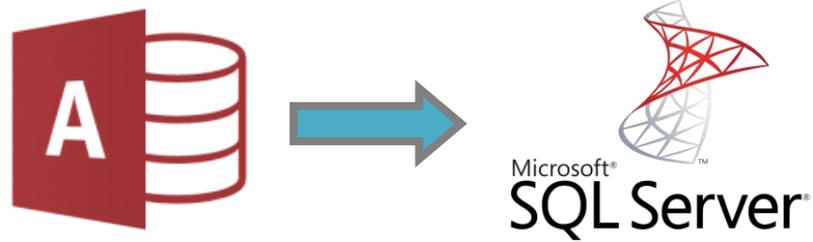
The Conversion Issue counts can be used to calculate the actual hours to complete a manual conversion. For example if the count is about **6,000 Conversion Issues**, using a default estimate of 10 minutes to rectify each issue, it will take **1,000 hours** to convert manually. From our testing and statistical analysis of conversion projects, ConvertU2 knows that the "Clean-up" factor will be very close to 3% of the estimated manual conversion effort, that is around **30 hours**.

To derive a project cost for this one database, simply apply the required hourly charge rate to the 30 hours and add on the 2SQL licence fee. Although the default time is an average of 10 minutes, you can use a more specific approach by entering the actual time you believe an individual of a particular skill level would take to complete the remediation issue by issue.

Using either the averaging technique or the Customer Specific approach, extrapolated over the Access Database population selected for conversion, it is a simple matter to derive the manual conversion Clean-up hours. You can then receive a reliable quotation from ConvertU2 or our Alliance Partners to complete your 2SQL project Conversion and Clean-up activities.

The final project cost and timeline will vary depending on other activities and support provided, such as project management, database analysis, project sizing, testing, deployment and ongoing support. You should also consider how much of the work would be outsourced and how much can be resourced internally.





Phase 3: Automated Conversion, Clean-up, Testing and Deployment

Now you have analyzed the inclusions for your automation project, you can embark on Phase 3 using 2SQL Genie. This is where the true power of full automation will become evident. The Genie converts low complexity Microsoft Access Applications in minutes, up to 2 hours for the most complex Applications.

Note: ConvertU2 recommends performing sample 2SQL conversions on non-critical, isolated Microsoft Access Applications before moving on to more critical Applications.

As part of the conversion process, the Genie will report on and store a detailed log of everything that has been automatically rectified. Any issues that require manual intervention will be highlighted for the final step - Clean-up, Testing and Deployment.

After the 2SQL Genie has completed its automated conversion, there may be some Clean-up tasks that need to be conducted manually. Our experience shows that this can range from zero to 5% depending on the complexity of the Microsoft Access Application.

To facilitate this last step, ConvertU2 provides utilities and documented processes that are used in combination with the reports and files generated by the 2SQL Genie.

This Clean-up work requires the input of a programmer with a depth of experience in both Microsoft Access and SQL Server as it consists of highly technical nuances in the Visual Basic Code module objects which are unable to be automated, and some minor administrative or configuration duties.

The User Acceptance Testing (UAT) can only be carried out by the customer, as it requires an intimate understanding of the functionality of the Microsoft Access Application.

We are also pleased to highlight that 2SQL is comprehensively documented and can be applied to all Microsoft Access to SQL Server Conversion Projects regardless of their complexity.

For a demonstration, please contact: conversion@convertu2.com