Users Manual

‘Compare Database’

by SoftInterface, Inc.

Version 1.x

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Introduction

Compare Database allows you to compare two Access databases, an Access Database to a SQL Server Database or two SQL Server databases. To use it all you need to do is select the databases that you would like to compare and click on the button (or go up to **File\Run Compare** menu item). This will bring up a list of tables. If you would like to do a data comparison, select the table you would like to compare by clicking on it. This will bring up a window that will contain the fields that both tables have in common. Select the fields that you would like to compare. The results will be displayed in the lower half of the application.

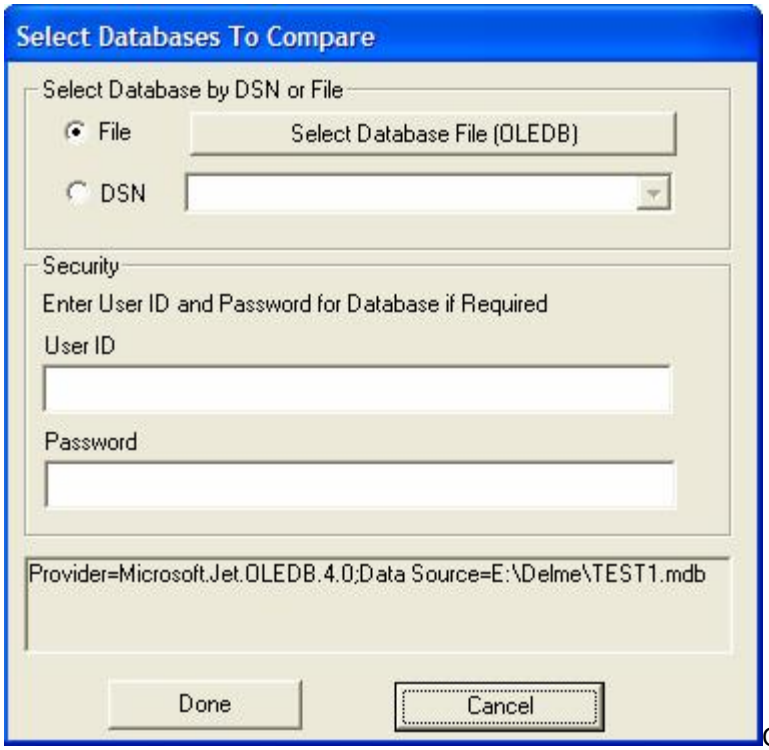
If you would like to compare the metadata or structure of the databases you are comparing select **Options\Settings** menu item. This will bring up the options window. Select 'Show Structure'. You also have the option of having all of the metadata shown or only that which is different. By default it is set to show only the metadata that is different. Once you have enabled 'Show Structure' you can get the results by clicking on the button (or go up to **File\Run Compare** menu item). The results will be displayed in the lower half of the application.

'Compare Database' Features

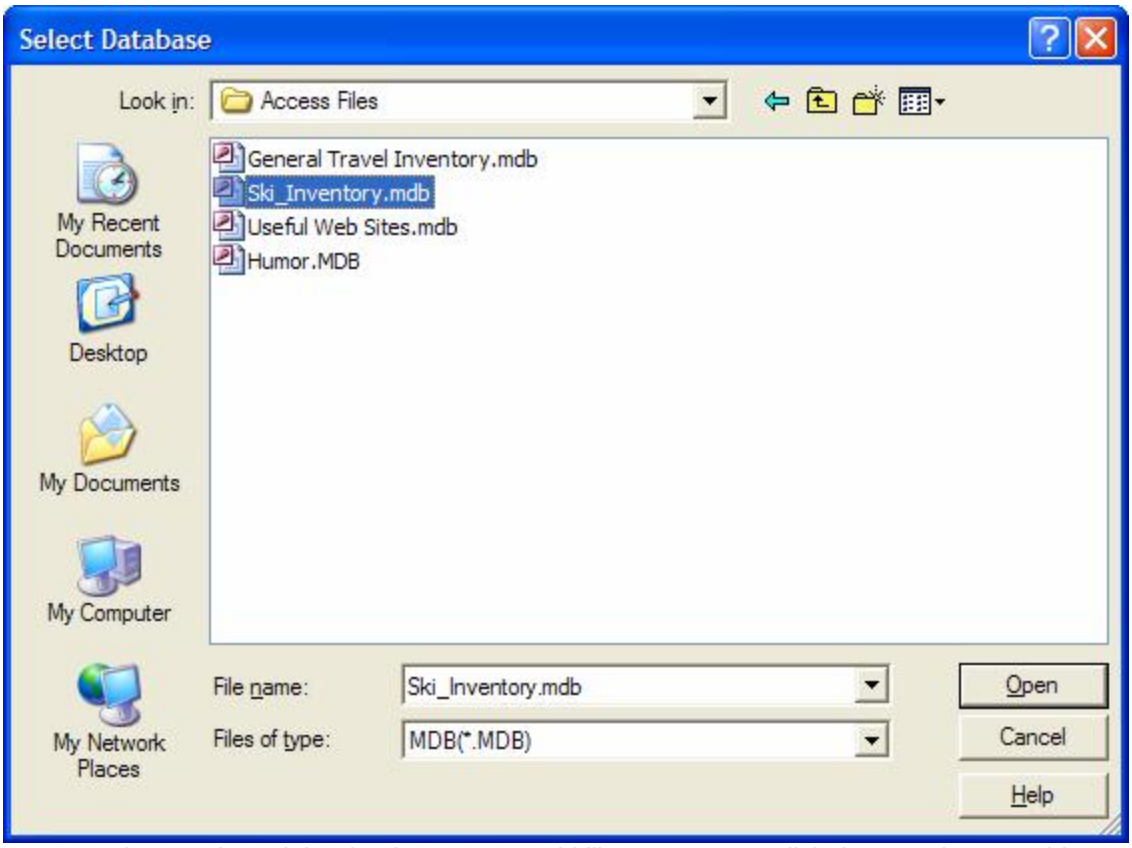
- Compare any version of Access to another Access Database or SQL Server or visa versa.
- Identify Data differences between tables in different databases or the same database.
- Identify structure or metadata differences between databases.
- Create an HTML summary report of the differences between a specified table between two databases.
- Copy Data from one database to another.

Establishing a Connection to the database using OLEDB

To establish a database connection using OLEDB click on either the "**Original**" button or the "**Modified**" button. This will bring up a new window titled '**Select Database to Compare**'. Click the '**File**' radio button as illustrated in the screenshot below:



Once you have clicked the '**File**' radio button click the '**Select Database File (OLEDB)**' button. This will bring up a new window titled '**Select Database**' as illustrated by the screenshot below.



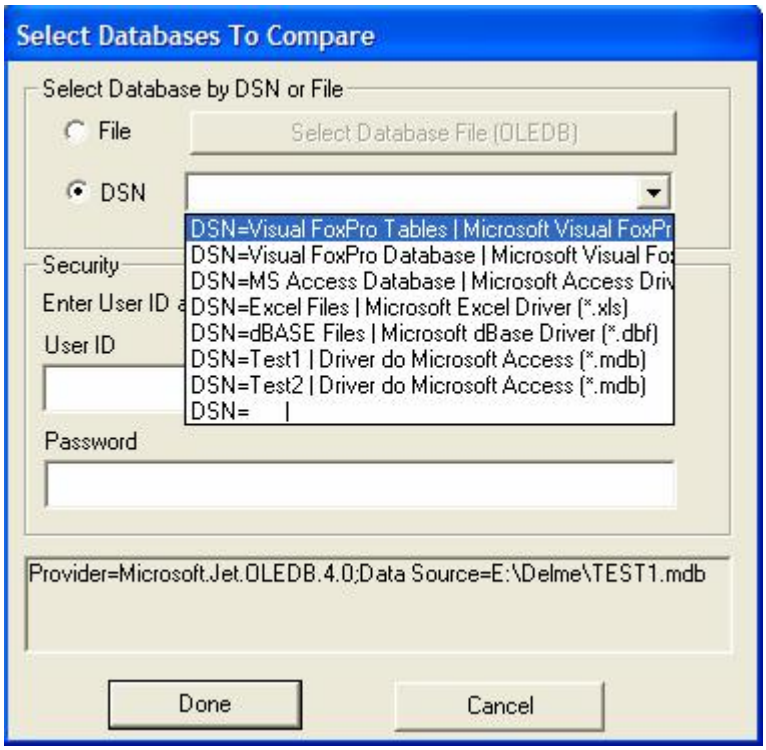
Once you have selected the database you would like to compare click the save button. This will take you back to the **'Select Database to Compare'** window. Click the '**Done**' button.

The connection to either your original or modified database has now been set. To do a compare you will need to establish either another OLEDB connection or ODBC connection to the same or different database.

Establishing a Connection To The Database Using ODBC

To establish a database connection using ODBC click on either the "**Original**" button or the "**Modified**" button. This will bring up a new window titled **'Select Database to Compare'**. Click the '**DSN**' radio button

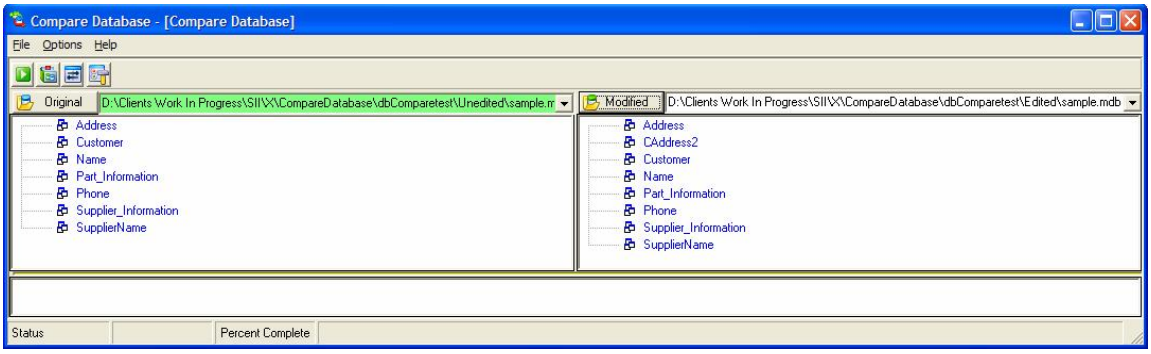
Once you have clicked the 'DSN' radio button click the Down arrow in the drop down list box to display a list of all available ODBC connections on your system. Select the DSN connection that you would like to use and click the 'Done' button. Below is a screen shot that gives an example of what the drop down list box will look like.



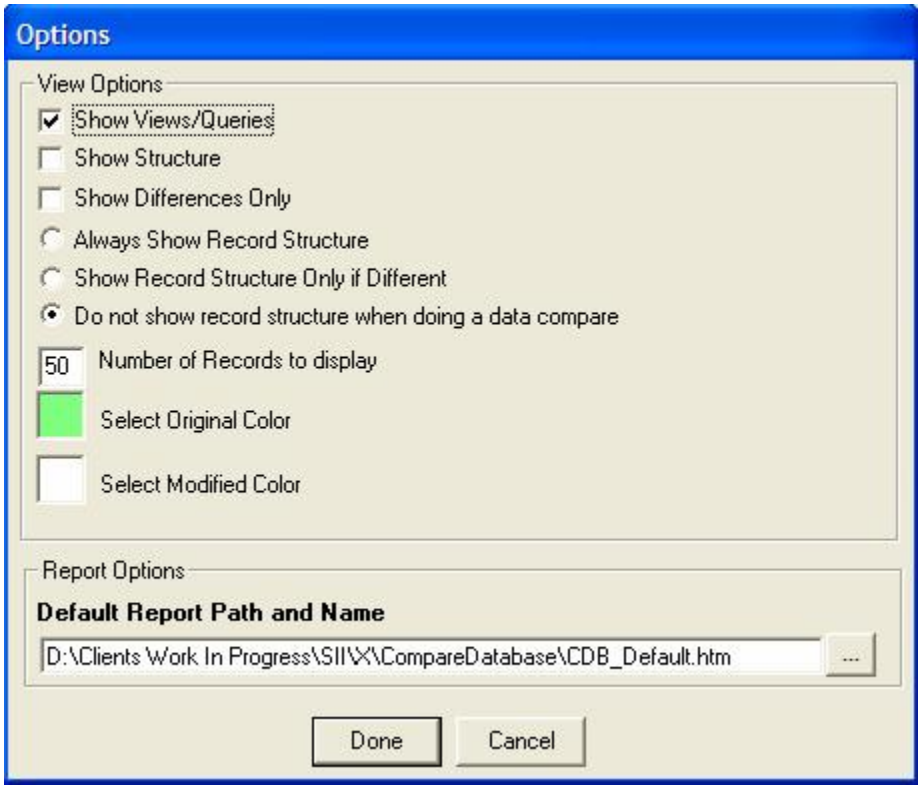
The connection to either your original or modified database has now been set. To do a compare you will need to establish either an OLEDB connection or another ODBC connection to the same or different database.

Running a Database Object Compare (Tables and Views)

To run a database object compare you must first establish a connection to both your original and modified database. Once you have done this there are two ways you can run compare. You can either go to the main menu and select '**File**' and then '**Run Compare**' or you can click the refresh button. This will populate the top left and right trees in the main application screen as shown below.



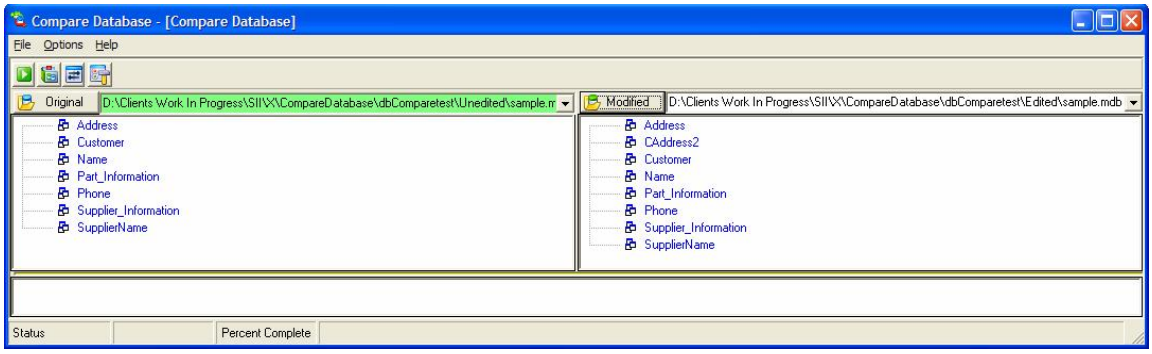
By default views or (queries in Access) are not listed. If you would like them to be included, go to the main menu and select '**Options**'. From there select '**Settings**'. Check '**Show Views**' as shown below and click the '**Done**' button.



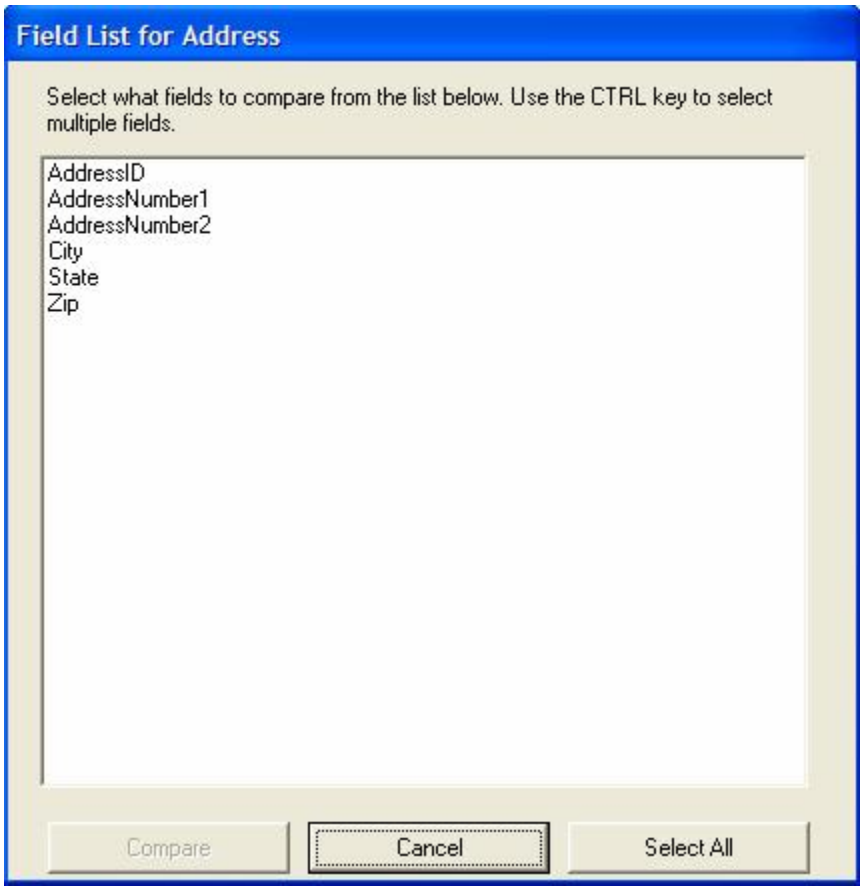
Once you have clicked the done button you will need to either go to the main menu and select '**File**' and then '**Run Compare**' or click the refresh button again to have the views or queries included in the comparison.

Running a Data Compare From A Specified Table

To do a data comparison you must have first run a database object compare. Select a table from either the left or right tree in the upper half of the program as shown below:



Once you have clicked on the table that you want to do the data comparison on a new window titled '**Field List for** *table name*' (The table name being whatever you selected). The window will look like this:

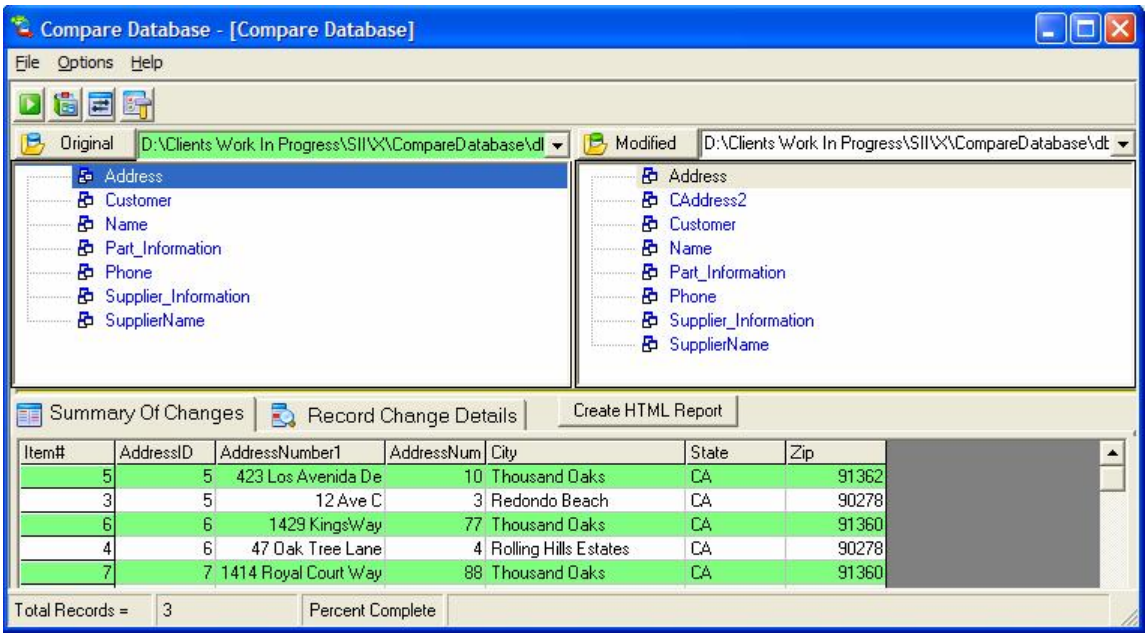


Select the fields that you would like to use in the comparison by holding down the **CTRL** while you click on them with your mouse. There is a '**Select All**' button for your convenience. Once you have made your selection click the '**Compare**' button. The results of the data compare will be displayed in the lower half of the application. There will be two tabs one

will be titled 'Summary of Changes' and the other will be titled 'Record Change Details'.

Working with Summary Report

After you have run the data comparison one of the tabs that displays the results is titled **'Summary of Changes**' It is here where all of the records that are either added, deleted or modified in the modified database are listed. The records start with the first different record from the Original database and then the next line is the first different record from the Modified database. Below is screen shot of what it looks like:

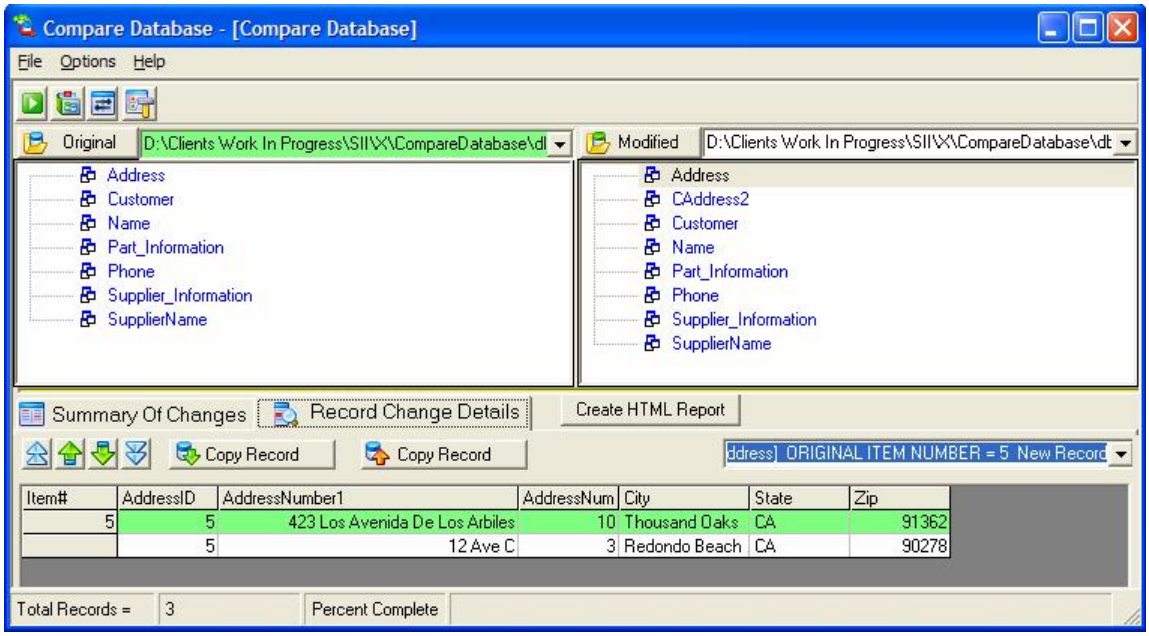


The lines are color coded to make it easier to distinguish between the Original and Modified records. By default green is for the Original database and white is for the Modified database. From this tab you have the option to create an HTML report which will look pretty much the same as what you see here. To create the HTML report all you need to do is click the **'Create HTML Report'** button. This will bring up new window titled '**Save As**', specify the location where you like to save the report and the name (i.e. **sample.html**).

Working With Record Change Details

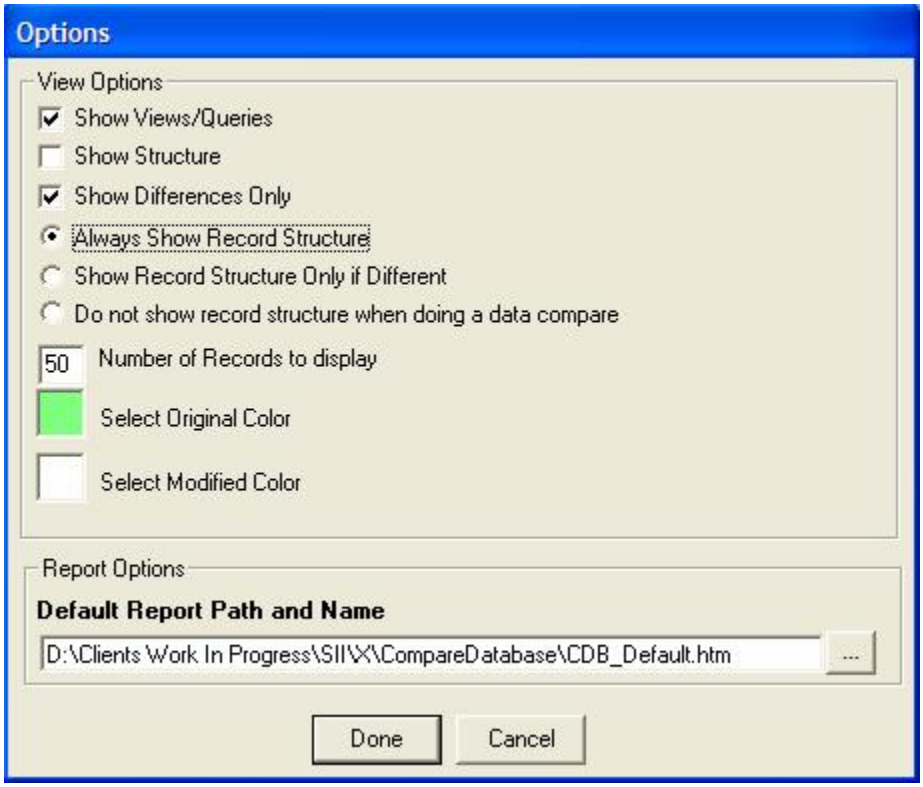
After you have run the data comparison one of the tabs that displays the results is titled 'Record Change Details'. It is here that you can view each record individually. The first record (if available) is the first Original record found that was either added, modified or deleted from the Modified database table that you are comparing against.

There are four navigation arrows which look like this. The first button loads the first records. The previous button loads the previous record (if there is one). The next button loads the next record (if there is one). The last button loads the last record. Below is a screenshot of how the data is displayed:



It there is a primary key defined for the table ‘Compare-Database’ will link the record from the original database with the record it is associated with in the modified database. The '**Copy Record**' button allows you to copy the displayed record from (in this case) the **Original** database to the **Modified** database. If the record you are copying has a primary key that matches a primary key that already exists in the table you are copying to, you will have the ability to update either the original or the modified database by selecting either the copy button with the arrow pointing down or the copy button with the arrow pointing up.

When looking at the **'Record Change Details'** there are some options for how to display things. By default the displaying of the records metadata and the change type associated with it are turned off. If this is something that you would like to see when you are going through the records you will need to change the settings in the application. To do this go to the **Options\Settings** menu item. This will bring up the '**Options**' window. There are three choices in regards to how the data is displayed. By default it is set to **'Don't show record structure when doing a data compare'**. You can change this to either **'Show Record Structure only if different'** or **'Always show record structure'**. Below is an illustration to show what the setting would look like:

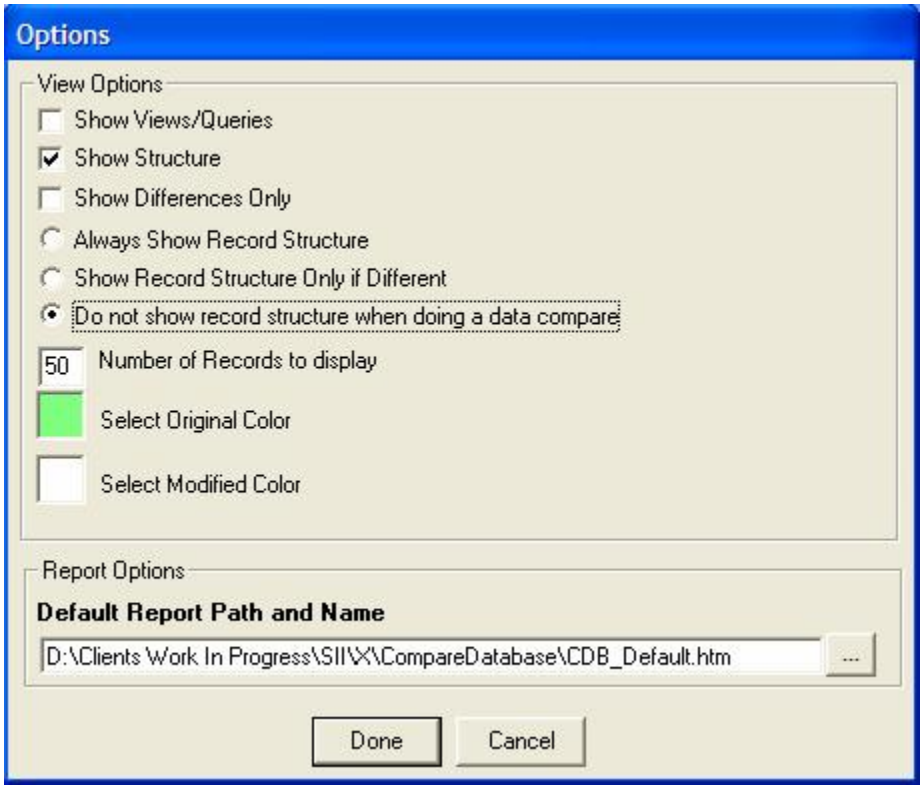

Options
View Options
Show Views/Queries
Show Structure
Show Differences Only
Always Show Record Structure
Show Record Structure Only if Different
Do not show record structure when doing a data compare
50
Number of Records to display
Select Original Color
Select Modified Color
Report Options
Default Report Path and Name
D:\Clients Work In Progress\SII\X\CompareDatabase\CDB_Default.htm
...
Done
Cancel

Copying Records From One Database To Another

To copy a record from one database to another you must first run a data comparison and be in the 'Record Change Detail' screen. From here select the record that you would like to copy and click the " Copy Record" or " Copy Record" button. If the record you are copying has a primary key that matches a primary key that already exists in the table you are copying to, you will have the ability to update either the original or the modified database by selecting either the copy button with the arrow pointing down or the copy button with the arrow pointing up.

Running A Structured Compare

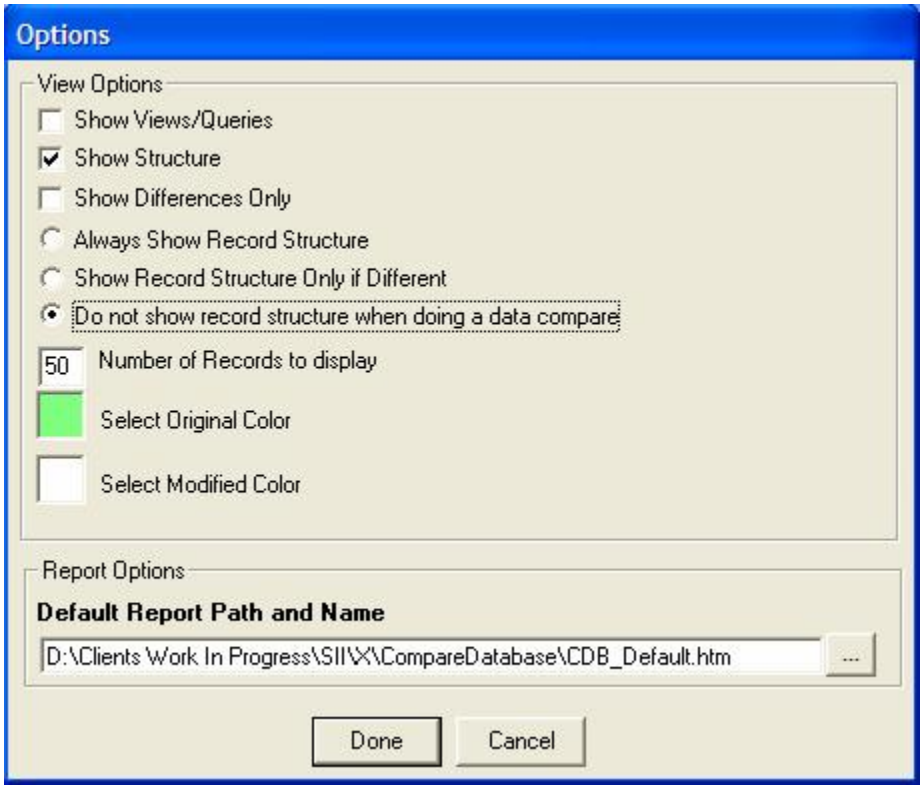
To run a structure compare you must first change the default settings in ‘Compare Database. To do this select the **Options\Settings** menu item. This will bring up the 'Options' window. By default the 'Show Structure' is turned off, click on the 'Show Structure' so that a check now appears in the box. There is one other option that you will need to decide if you want on or off. That is 'Show Differences Only'. By default this is enabled, if you would like to see the entire structure or metadata click on this box so that check is taken out of the box. Below is a screen shot of what it will look like:



Once you have done this click the 'Done' button. Before running the compare you will need to establish a database connection for both your 'Original' and your 'Modified' database. Once you have done this there are two ways to run the comparison. You can either go to the main menu. From there select 'File' and then 'Run Compare'. The other way is to click on the Refresh button. Once the application is done doing the structure comparison it will display the results in the lower half of the application.

Settings in 'Compare Database'

The get to the settings for '**Compare Database'** select the **Options\Settings** menu item. This will bring up the '**Options**' window.



The **'Show Views'** setting is used to include views (queries in Access) with the list of Database objects when a comparison is run. By default this is disabled.

The **'Show Structure'** setting is used when the desired output is the structure or metadata of both the Original and the Modified database. By default this is disabled.

'Show Differences Only' is used in conjunction with the **'Show Structure'**. When enabled the application will only display the metadata or structure of the Original and the Modified databases that are different from each other. By default this is enabled.

'Always show record structure' is used in conjunction with a data comparison. When enabled it will display the records structure or metadata in the **'Record Change Details'** tab or screen. If you have this selected you cannot have **'Don't Show record structure when doing a data compare'** or **'Show record structure only if different'** selected. By default this is disabled.

'**Don't Show record structure when doing a data compare**' is used in conjunction with a data comparison. If this is enabled the records metadata or structure will not be displayed in the 'Record Change Details' tab or screen.. If this is selected you **cannot** have '**Always show record structure**' and '**Show record structure only if different**' selected. By default this is **enabled**. To **disable** this option click on the check box, the check should disappear..

'**Show record structure only if different**' is used in conjunction with a data comparison. If this is enabled the records metadata or structure will be displayed in the **'Record Change Details'** tab or screen only if it is different. If this is selected you **cannot** have '**Always show record structure**' and '**Don't Show record structure when doing a data compare**' selected. By default this is **disabled**.

'**Report Options**' This is where you would set the default path to save the HTML reports generated by ‘Compare Database’

What `Compare Database' Will Work With

‘Compare Database’ has been tested with Access and SQL Server. It should work with other RDBMS like Oracle, Sybase however we have not tested it with these systems.

What you will need to use `Compare Database'

The **minimum** hardware and software requirements to install and support the use of '**Compare database**' are:

1. IBM or compatible PC/AT (Pentium or higher CPU) with 32 MB of memory and one hard disk drive with 10 MB of space
2. VGA or SVGA display adapter
3. Any 32 bit Windows Operating System to include Windows 98, Windows 2000 and Windows XP
4. You will need **ODBC** installed on your system.

Updated Information

If you encounter problems your first troubleshooting steps should be to:

1. Review this manual.
2. Check the SoftInterface Web site for updates, help information. Check the Help menu item within the application for direct links to the internet resource. We keep the FAQs updated with latest bug fixes and revision information.
3. E-Mail questions to Support@SoftInterface.COM

We hope that ‘‘Compare Database’’ ease of use and this documentation will provide all the help you need.

Installing

When you run the setup program to install on your computer, you will be able to specify where on your hard drive to install. It is preferred to install it in the suggested directory for consistency (although not required).

Run the Setup.EXE that came with the 'Compare Database' media. You may do this by clicking the Start button from the taskbar and select the Run... menu option. Then type the path and location of the Setup.EXE program. For example:

A:setup

Then press ENTER and follow the installation instructions on the screen.

Uninstalling

To uninstall ‘Compare Database’ go to the Control panel. To do this, do the following:

1. Go to the Start button. From there if you have
2. Windows 98 ME, NT and 2000 go to ‘Settings’. From there select the Control Panel.
3. If you have Windows XP go straight to the Control Panel.
4. Select Add/Remove Programs.
5. From there select ‘Compare Database’

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