

Microsoft Access - Field Size



Field Size

The first property is field size, the only data types that have this property are text, number and autonumber. The other data types have the field size fixed by the data type.

The text data type can change the field size to define how much data can be typed into the cell by limiting the number of characters. The maximum is 255, the default is 50 but it can be changed as necessary. The field size does not control the amount of disk space the field is taking up – that is dependent on what you type in on the field.

Field Size setting	Size	Description
Byte	1-byte	An integer containing values from 0 to 255.
Integer	2-byte	An integer containing values from -32,768 to +32,767.
Long Integer	4-bytes	An integer containing values from -2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647.
Single	4-bytes	A number containing values from -3.4×10^{38} to $+3.4 \times 10^{38}$ and up to 7 significant digits.
Double	8-byte	A floating point number containing values from -1.797×10^{308} to $+1.797 \times 10^{308}$ and up to 15 significant digits.
Replication ID	16-byte	A globally unique identifier (GUID). Randomly generated GUIDs are long enough that they are not likely to overlap. You use them for a variety of applications, such as tracking goods.
Decimal	12-byte	An integer with a defined decimal precision that can contain values from -1028 to +1028. The default precision is 0. The default scale (the number of decimal places displayed) is 18. You can set the

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scale up to 28.

With the number data type it depends on the range of values that are to be typed in as to what field size is required. Also it is the field size that controls the size that the data takes and not the value.

The Autonumber data type has two number sizes that can be used, Long Integer or Replication ID.