

Setting Up WinBidPro v15 on a Network to Share Vendors

WinBidPro v15 is not considered a “Client – Server” application, but it can let multiple users share the same vendors. The program currently uses Microsoft Access databases for storing the vendor information. This type of database is capable of handling 10 or fewer users at the same time, but we have noticed that the files become quite large, and the program becomes slower when this is the case.

In 2020, we plan to release v15 of WinBidPro which will have Cloud catalog hosting built in. This will make the software more capable for multi-user and multi-location shops. We will certainly notify all of our customers when this new program is near completion.

In the meantime, you can easily configure the v15 program to share the current Access vendor files by following the steps below.

- 1) Install the v15 program on each user's computer. It is not necessary to install the program on the server drive.
- 2) Create a data folder on your file server that everyone can access. It is best to map this server drive, or folder to a logical drive on each user's desktop. We recommend using the same mapped drive letter on each user's computer to be consistent and help with support. i.e. S:\GDSVendors
- 3) If you haven't already installed vendors to one of the desktop computers, you will need to do this before you can copy files and folders to the server drive. If you are copying existing vendors from one of the user's computers, you will want to decide which user has the catalogs that you want everyone to share.
- 4) Each vendor in v15 has its own folder inside the C:\WinBidPro folder on the user's computer. You will want to the entire vendor folder for each vendor that will be shared on the server drive. i.e. From C:\Windows\XYZ Aluminum Corp to S:\GDSVendors\XYZ Aluminum Corp
- 5) Next, copy the Master.mdb, VendorTemplate.mdb, Hardware2.mdb and RepairUtility.exe files to the folder you created on the server. i.e. S:\GDSVendors
- 6) Open the v15 program on each user's machine and selected any job from any vendor in order to get into the program. Click the "System Defaults" link in the menu tree, then click the "Set Location of Master.mdb" button. Browse to the data folder on your server. Then select the Master.mdb file. Make sure you do this on each machine that needs to share the vendor files.
- 7) Since the Master.mdb file that is now on the server was copied from the C: drive, the vendors listed in the Vendors window will all be pointing to the C: drive. You will need to either edit the path of the installed vendors, and change the drive letter to that of the mapped drive for the shared folder, or you can Remove each vendor from the list and add the vendors back in from the server folder. If you decide to add the vendors to the list, you will want to click the “Add for All Users” button at the bottom of the Vendors window. Note: A valid network path can be used if you decide not to use a mapped drive letter. i.e. \\FileServer\C-Drive\GDSVendors\XYZ Aluminum Corp. but again, the drive letter mapping is the simplest method.
- 8) After the path for the vendor files points to the vendors on the server drive, the rest of the users who open their WinBidPro software will see the same vendors.

This completes the process of setting up shared vendors. Call us at the number below if you get stuck with any part of this process and we can help you.