

# FILEMAKER PRO OVERVIEW

## ABOUT FILEMAKER PRO:

### WHAT IS FILEMAKER PRO?

- » Cross-platform relational database application
- » Integrates a database engine with:
  - Graphical user interface (GUI)
  - Security features
  - Capability to modify database by dragging new elements into layouts, screens, or forms

### WHY FILEMAKER PRO?

- » Create your own database with no programming experience
- » Import existing data, such as CSV, Tab, XML, ODBC, and Microsoft Excel files
- » Customize with ease by designing layouts to look and function the way you want
- » Create easy to use reporting and charting tools, and executive dashboards with a few clicks

### HOW TO ACCESS FILEMAKER PRO?

- » Custom installation and setup by a professional UTHSC ITS Technician is required
- » UTHSC's volume licensing agreement with FileMaker Pro's vendor requires the application to only be installed on UTHSC-owned computers

### NEW TO FILEMAKER PRO?

- » Plan out your database – purpose, results, and outcomes
- » Have the software installed on your computer
- » Attend basic overview FileMaker Pro training session or request one-on-one session
- » Design your database
- » Final database design will be transferred to the UTHSC FileMaker Pro Server for security & backup

### FILEMAKER PRO TRAINING?

The Information Technology Service department offers face-to-face group session, one-on-one sessions and self-paced online training options.

Contact your FileMaker Pro support team at 901.448.5902 or email [appsupport@uthsc.edu](mailto:appsupport@uthsc.edu) to request and schedule training.

### SPREADSHEET VS FILEMAKER PRO DATABASE?

#### *Excel Spreadsheet:*

- Track and/or review data
- Relatively small number of data fields that are easy to browse, edit and sort
- Data is mainly used by one person at a time
- Excel's data auto-formatting feature is helpful
- Easily integrate data or document with other Microsoft Office software, e.g. inserting tables into Word or Outlook
- Ability to email copies of the document to others
- You handle your own backups

#### *FileMaker Pro Database:*

- Analyze and/or manage data
- Numerous or large data fields which could continue to grow
- Data is used by one or more people who need to access, edit, or use the data at the same time
- Excel's data auto-formatting feature could potentially compromise data
- Ability to email reports to others
- You want ITS to handle your backups\*

### WHEN A SPREADSHEET OR FILEMAKER PRO DATABASE IS NOT A SOLUTION?

*Sometimes you need an expert.* If your data-management needs are more complicated than what you are able to develop or maintain on your own (e.g. lots of data, need for a web interface, lack of experience, etc.), then please contact the ITS Project Management Office ITS by completing an online [Project Request Form](#). This solution will take more time than going the DIY route, but you'll be guaranteed a solution that is tailored to your needs and expertly maintained and supported throughout its lifecycle.

#### *Contact ITS if:*

- Data is sensitive or contains HIPAA, FERPA, PHI, or PII

- Data is required from another application, such as Banner or IRIS
- Data should be sent to another application, such as Banner or IRIS
- Database is complex or requires extensive reporting
- Data needs to be viewed or shared by someone outside your department or by more than 15 individuals
- You want a web front-end for data entry or reporting
- You are looking for a long-term, supported solution

## ABOUT FILEMAKER PRO SERVER:

### WHY MOVE TO FILEMAKER PRO?

- » Central location is physically secured
- » Backup
- » Data security
- » Automatic upgrades performed by ITS

### HOW TO MIGRATE FILEMAKER PRO SERVER?

- » Contact FileMaker Pro Server Admin by contacting Helpdesk.

## CONTACT US:

### FILEMAKER PRO TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Tonya Brown  
901.448.5902 | [appsupport@uthsc.edu](mailto:appsupport@uthsc.edu)  
Search [uthsc.edu](http://uthsc.edu) for FileMaker Pro

### CUSTOMER TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

HelpDesk  
901.448.2222 | [helpdesk@uthsc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uthsc.edu)

\* This requires your database to be stored on the FileMaker Pro Server maintained by ITS