AK VS AKPRO DATA FILES

Asset Keeper (AK) data files are Microsoft's Visual FoxPro, Version 9, DBF files. While there are a number of advantages to using this format, over the years, many of those advantages have turned into disadvantages. For example, in the past the DBF file format was supported by a number of applications that would facilitate accessing or transferring the data easily. However, as Microsoft continued to evolve the DBF file format, it became more proprietary and fewer and fewer companies continued to support it. Even Microsoft's own Excel program will not open a Visual FoxPro, Version 9, DBF file.

When the decision was made to re-architect Asset Keeper, it became clear that we would also have to change the format of the data files, since continued use of the DBF format had become a hindrance rather than an advantage.

In the end, we decided that we would use the SQLITE database for our file storage needs. It was lightweight (in database terms), did not require any additional installations of drivers or support files, and widely supported.

If you do a Google search for "sqlite managers", the results will list a host of database managers that can be used to create, read, and write to SQLITE database files.

CONVERTING ASSET KEEPER (AK) FILES TO ASSET KEEPER PRO (AKPRO)

If there is a downside to changing the data file storage format, it's the conversion process, which typically is very time consuming and complicated.

We feel that our conversion process is not only moderately fast, but very simple. AKPRO allows you to select an AK data file (using the Open button on the Home screen toolbar) and ask you if you want to convert it to the AKPRO format. The conversion is well tested so this should be a minor inconvenience and once done, should never have to be done again.

There is also an option in the Housekeeping menu that will convert all your data files at once. While this may take more time – this really depends on the number of files, number of methods, and number of assets – it does run without user intervention other than selecting the folder where your data files reside.

DATA FILES

Shown below are the data files created by AK. Assume the file name is ABC. Note that the extension of the file identifies what is actually stored in the file.

Filename	Contents of file
ABC.A1	Active assets
ABC.A2	Index for active assets file
ABC.A3	Prior year disposed assets
ABC.A4	Year-end reset summary data
ABC.A5	Client information
ABC.A51	Depreciation allocations for partnerships/sub s corporations
ABC.A6	Monthly depreciation
ABC.A7	Projected depreciation
ABC.A8	Excess Section 179 for state add-back
ABC.A9	Bonus depreciation on like-kind exchanges
ABC_31-DEC-2012_.AKZ	Prior year data files for December 31, 2012. This is a compressed ZIP file that contains multiple files as shown above.

The above file list does not include the files created if you are using asset tracking and there are other files that are created to keep track of asset listing and report settings.

Shown below is the data file created by Asset Keeper Pro. Assume the file name is ABC.

Filename	Contents
ABC.AKP	This is an SQLITE database and contains multiple tables to store all necessary data.
ABC_31-DEC-2012_.AKZ	This is a prior year data file for December 31, 2012.

Prior year data files are no longer compressed and can be selected at any time by using the Open button in the toolbar. The only difference between this and the ABC.AKP file is that the file name is changed to contain the year-end and the extension has been changed to AKZ.

Data storage in Asset Keeper Pro is much more efficient and flexible. The SQLITE database format provides for easier modification and transportability.