

Using the Updater Utility

NOTE: The attached utility is for a UK Postal Address Finder application with filename **UKPAF.accdb**
Replace all references to UKPAF with your own filename

1. Save the **UKPAFUpdater.accdb** utility to the same folder as the main application
2. Create a text file **version.txt** in the same folder.
Type the version number of your application e.g. 3.25
3. Next COPY both files & the application to an **Upgrade** folder on the network
4. Use the shift bypass key to open **UKPAFUpdater.accdb**
It has one form frmSplash, 3 local tables, 3 linked tables and several modules

Table Name	Type	Link Database	Purpose
tblAccessInfo	Local		Access version info
tblUpdaterVersion	Local		Version number for the Updater.accdb utility
tblUpgradeUKPAFVersion	Local		Version number for the main program in the upgrade folder. Code is used to determine this
tblProgramInfo	Linked	Main application	Contains application version number & date
tblProgramSettings	Linked	Main application	Contains location of Upgrade folder etc
UpgradeUpdaterVersion	Linked	Updater utility in Upgrade folder	Version number for the Updater.accdb utility in Upgrade folder

IMPORTANT:

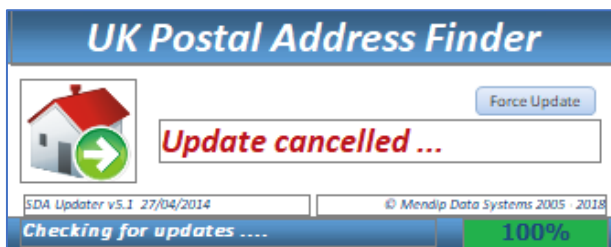
There is no linked table to the main application in the Upgrade folder

Extracts from 2 linked tables in main application:

tblProgramInfo		
ID	ItemName	ItemValue
1	ProgramName	UK Postal Address Finder
2	Version	3.24
3	VersionDate	08/02/2018

tblProgramSettings		
ID	ItemName	ItemValue
20	UpgradeFolder	G:\Programs\MendipDataSystems\Upgrade\UKPAF

5. Relink to equivalent tables in both linked databases.
6. Open frmSplash in Design view and modify as appropriate for your application



NOTE: the form and font sizes will appear small in design view.

It is automatically resized in line with the screen resolution when opened

7. Save & close
8. COPY the modified **UKPAFUpdater.accdb** utility to the **Upgrade** folder
Do NOT open it in that folder or the links will get changed!
9. Create a desktop shortcut to the **UKPAFUpdater.accdb** in the main program folder
Set this to run **Minimised**.

10. Click the shortcut.

The form **frmSplash** will open 'floating on the desktop with no Access application window

It will check for a newer version of the application in the Upgrade folder

- Checks if version.txt value is higher
- Checks if date modified for the Upgrade folder application is newer



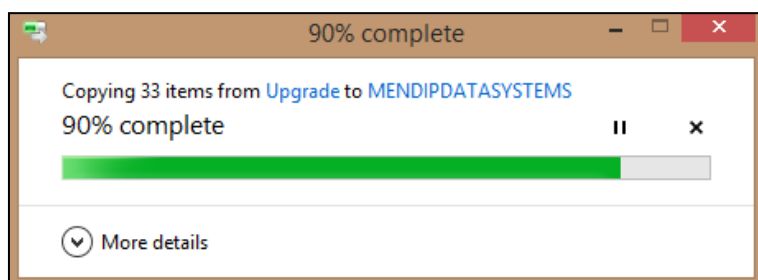
If the current version is up to date, the main program file is loaded:



If a newer version is available, the updated files are copied from the **Upgrade** folder to the user's own computer.



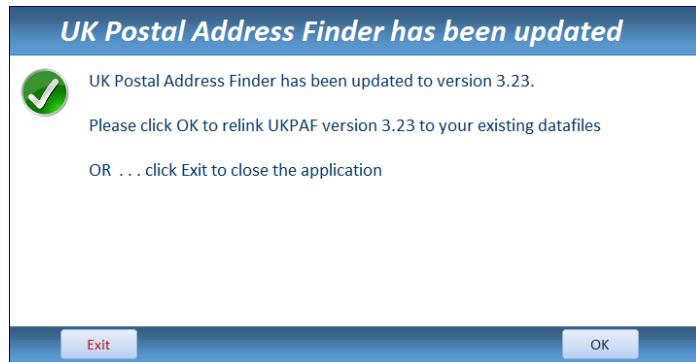
A green progress bar MAY be shown whilst this happens



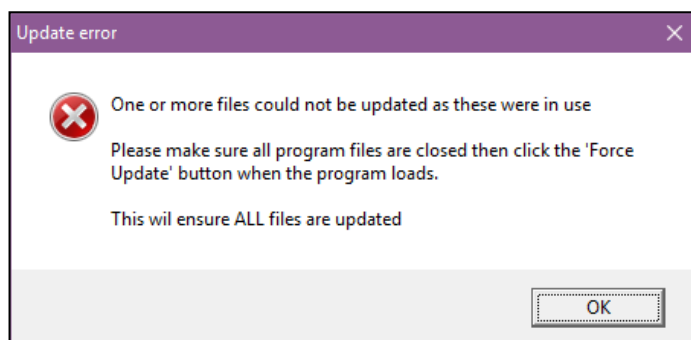
NOTE As Windows API code is used, the file copy is very fast – usually only a few seconds
If the total file size being copied is small you may not even see the progress bar

The updater closes automatically & the main application opens

NOTE: I also have code in the main application to show a message like this after an update



In the unlikely event of problems, run the update again using the **Force Update** button.
For example, if any program files are open when the upgrade is running, this message is shown:



Finally, the **Updater** utility can also update itself!
When run, it also checks whether there is a newer version of itself in the **Upgrade** folder.
If so, this is copied to the main program folder with a NEW suffix: **UKPAFUpdaterNEW.accdb**

When the main program is opened, I have code to check for the existence of this NEW file
If it exists, it is renamed **UKPAFUpdater.accdb** overwriting the original version