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Medigrate™
Corporation
Medical Office Technology

Technical Support Documentation

MDW001 - 'Unable to locate System.mdw' error

Product:	Microsoft Access
Level of Computer Knowledge Required:	User must be able to install/reinstall Microsoft Access
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The System.mdw file is a file which is required in order for Microsoft Access, versions 7.0 and later ('95, '97, and 2000), to open any MS Access database.

Medigrate Electronic Office uses Microsoft Access '97 (Version 8.0), and automatically installs a run-time version of the program on the user's computer if their system does not already have the correct version of Access installed. Electronic Office has its own version of the System.mdw file which only works with and for Medigrate Electronic Office.

Unfortunately, as part of the installation process, Microsoft Windows automatically sets the most recent version of MS Access installed as the default program to use when opening MS Access databases. This means that if the user already had MS Access '95 or MS Access 2000 installed, then installs Electronic Office, the run-time version of MS Access '97 which was installed exclusively for Electronic Office will be set by Windows as the default program to use when opening any MS Access database. When the user then attempts to open one of their own MS Access databases, they will get the 'Unable to locate the System.mdw ...' error.

To correct this problem, the user needs to reinstall their version of MS Access, after installing Electronic Office. This will reset the Windows Registry to the correct settings indicating which copy of MS Access to use for opening their database files.
