

## Things You Should Know, Part #1

ASP Pages, Session State and the Parent Path options are disabled by default in Windows 2003 Server. If do not enable this functionality after installing IIS, IIS returns a 404 error. You can enable these features through the IIS Manager. To enable these options:

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- In the Start menu, click **Administrative Tools**, and then click **Internet Information Services (IIS) Manager**.
- Double-click your computer name in the left pane, and then right-click **Web Site**.
- Click **Properties in the popup menu**.
- Select the **Home Directory tab**, and then click the **Configuration button**.
- Click **App Options**, and then click to select the **Enable Session State** and **Enable Parent Paths** check boxes.
- Click **OK** two times.
- Right click on the **Web Extensions** choice in the left pane.
- Click to Enable ASP extensions.

Click **OK** two times.

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the above solve 3 very common problems:

1. ASP "is not working"
2. SSI "not working"
3. Session variables "are not working" or blank.

## Things You Should Know, Part #2

When using Stored Procedures, or complex SQL code, always have SET NOCOUNT ON in the sql code.

When executing such Stored Procedure or SQL Code the result is not normal recordset, but rather set of recordsets. Thus, you have to call NextRecordset of the original recordset:

Code:

```
Set rsTemp=objCommand.Execute
Set rs=rsTemp.NextRecordset
```

this is usually ignored thus causing errors because the original recordset is Closed.

## Things You Should Know, Part #3

Why session variables do not work, or why cookies are not being stored?

First, read this great link: <http://www.aspfaq.com/show.asp?id=2157>

In short, 2 reasons are the most weird and probably common:

1. server name contain underscore or non English characters
2. global.asa file is empty.

important quotes from that page:

Quote:

If you are using IE 5.5 or IE 6.0, and your local server name has an underscore or other non-alphanumeric character (other than a dash) in the name, then cookies will not work correctly. One workaround is to access the machine by IP address; others include renaming the server or at least adding an entry to the clients' hosts files, or alter your local DNS/WINS, or add a new host header to the web server, with a more friendly name. For more info, see [KB #312461](#) and [KB #316112](#).

Quote:

Ensure that the global.asa in the affected application, virtual directory, or web site is not empty. For more information, see [KB #281298](#). Also be sure that the virtual directory was not created using Visual InterDev (see [KB #188715](#)).

## Things You Should Know, Part #4

Hey everyone,

How safe is your asp site?!

Probably not as safe as you might think. I have put this in Shadow's thread for the fact I it is highly visible and for the fact MANY highly regarded asp gurus out there were not aware of some of the ADVANCED SQL injections that can be used to hack your site; therefore, here you go. btw - this was originally found by ::Phoenix:: - Thanks

[SQL INJECTION - What is it and what to do to protect yourself from it!](http://www.unixwiz.net/techtips/sql-injection.html)  
(<http://www.unixwiz.net/techtips/sql-injection.html>)

## Things You Should Know, Part #5

A common question that gets asked on these forums is how to upload without installing a COM object, well it can be done and there are several solutions out there.

In my opinion

Upload Files Without COM v3.11 (<http://www.planet-source-code.com/vb/scripts/ShowCode.asp?txtCodeId=8525>) by Lewis Moten is the best one.

This class not only supports Image uploads, but you specify file types. It also has progress bar support.

My next favourite is Free ASP Upload (<http://www.freeaspupload.net/>) , this class would be next in line, as its a quick and dirty solution.

## Things You Should Know, Part #6

Another common question on these forums is why ODBC is generating errors, usually the reason is that ODBC has become unstable or its a permission issue.

Microsoft and most ASP experts recommend using OLE DB, instead of ODBC. Microsoft claims that it is unstable running on IIS. OLE DB is the better choice anyway and you can do everything you can with ODBC, and even more:

Microsoft Access OLE DB connection string:

Code:

```
strCnn = "Provider=Microsoft.Jet.OleDb.4.0;Data Source=" &  
Server.MapPath("/db/database.mdb") & ";"
```

## Things You Should Know Part 7

<http://www.adopenstatic.com/faq/rec...lternatives.asp>  
(<http://www.adopenstatic.com/faq/recordcountalternatives.asp>)

The use of .RecordCount involves the creation of Recordsets using relatively expensive cursors (click [here](#) for details). There are a number of alternative methods that can be used. Listed in the link are three preferred methods, and two methods that aren't.

## Things You Should Know, Part #8

Ever want to add CAPTCHA to your logins or forms. Well you can with this cool ASP Classic function. It uses HTML, CSS and some JavaScript to produce a pretty good CAPTCHA. It does have some areas for improvement, for example it uses Sessions now. Also some of the questions it ask wouldn't work for someone who suffers colorblindness, but its free code and can be modified as long as the modified version is shared.

A CAPTCHA (<http://www.u229.no/stuff/Captcha/>) Solution Built With Classic ASP, CSS And JavaScript.

## Things You Should Know, Part #9

Another common question that gets asked on this forum is how to Page a Recordset. Paging a recordset is really not that difficult, and doing it the fast and scalable way will improve your site's performance.

The best way to page a recordset is the GetRows or GetString method of the ADODB.Recordset. GetString is the better of the two, but much harder to work with.

Paging Records with GetRows (<http://www.4guysfromrolla.com/webtech/070500-1.shtml>)

## Things You Should Know, Part #10

Using Access Database, the mdb file and its folder must have Read/Write/Execute permission set for the IUSR account in order that you will be able to Insert/Update/Delete data in the database. Without such permissions, you're likely to get such error:

Quote:

```
Microsoft OLE DB Provider for ODBC Drivers (0x80004005)
[Microsoft][ODBC Microsoft Access Driver] Cannot update. Database or object is
read-only.
```

How to do that? simple.

1. double click My Computer in the web server and browse the the folder containing the mdb file.
2. right click the folder, choose properties.
3. go to the Security tab. if no such tab exist, go to Tools --> Folder Options and make sure to disable the "simple sharing" option.
4. in the Security tab, click Add
5. choose the account used by IIS - by default it would be IUSR\_<machine name> but it may also be different. you can check this via the MMC panel.
6. Add the account and grant it full permissions. Confirm.
7. repeat it for the mdb file itself.

The above was tested only under Win2K platform, it may be different for XP machine, I would like to get feedback whether it's working or not for such platform and fix this post if needed.

## Things You Should Know, Part #11

Before executing a Response.Redirect() you should use a Response.Clear() to remove the possibility of errors on the client's end

courtesy of ::shamrog12::

<http://forums.aspfree.com/t71719/s.html>  
(<http://forums.aspfree.com/t71719/s.html>)

## Things You Should Know, Part #12

There is a common question among developers, that usually involves the browser's back button and cache. A common mistake among developers is to use the following:

Code:

```
<%
    Response.Expires = 60
    Response.Expiresabsolute = Now() - 1
    Response.AddHeader "pragma", "no-cache"
    Response.AddHeader "cache-control", "private"
    Response.CacheControl = "no-cache"
%>
```

The main reason for this is cause there is some confusion as to what no-cache means. IE interprets this as to not cache, however Mozilla (Gecko) browsers interprets this header as they should. Instead developers should use only two or three of these headers.

Code:

```
Response.AddHeader "Pragma", "no-store"
Response.CacheControl = "no-store"
Response.Expires = -1
```

This will prevent Mozilla (Geko) based browser from caching pages, thus disabling the back button.

## Things You Should Know, Part #13

There's often debate about which words are reserved when writing database query statements. The following link provides a concise summary of reserved words across the different database drivers.

<http://www.aspfqa.com/show.asp?id=2080>  
(<http://www.aspfqa.com/show.asp?id=2080>)

## Things You Should Know, Part #14

There are two common methods of hashing strings, the most common is MD5, while the more secure method is SHA1. Hashing is commonly used to store passwords in a database "securely". While VBScript and JavaScript do not include these functions, there are many examples out on the net. I have taken my favourite one for both SHA1 and MD5 and created a simple example in the Code Bank section:

MD5 Example (<http://forums.aspfree.com/showpost.php?p=263193>)  
SHA1 Example (<http://forums.aspfree.com/showpost.php?p=263201>)