TimeSummit utilizes the Microsoft SQL Server platform for storing data. Currently, the system requires Microsoft SQL Server 2005 or later. By default we install Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Express, and a SQL instance is created called "ExakTime".

Since the data storage is maintained by Microsoft SQL Server, data is not accessible through simple file access. Data is accessed through the Microsoft SQL Server itself.

If migrating the TimeSummit data to another PC, please see How to use the System Transfer Utility.

Regular backups, stored in a location other than the PC containing the database, are highly recommended. In the event of a PC failure where no backups are available, it is often possible to recover the TimeSummit data from the raw SQL server data files. Note that this is not a process that should be undertaken by anyone unfamiliar with SQL server database operations; it is recommended that this be performed by ExakTime Technical Support.

This process requires two files:

- **dotTime.mdf** (contains the database)

- **dotTime.ldf** or **dottime_log.ldf** (contains transaction logs and other important information)

These files can be found under the **C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server** folder. Depending both on the PC operating system and on installation history, there may be several subfolders in this directory, and the exact location of the "dottime" files may vary.

IMPORTANT: An in-house technician or third-party service will generally not know to recover SQL server data. **It is imperative that you communicate to them that you need this data.** If necessary, refer them to this article for the location of the files.