The geodatabase has 2 major concepts

1 - It is a relational database offers a seamless physical storage location that makes it easy to scale GIS datasets to extremely large sizes and numbers of users. Tables provide the primary storage mechanism for geographic datasets, query and processing.

2 - Geodatabase elements are object-oriented and can extend simple tables, features, and rasters to add rich behavior, data integrity, and data management capabilities. The geodatabase schema includes the definitions, integrity rules, and behavior for each of these extended capabilities. These include properties for coordinate systems, coordinate resolution, feature classes, topologies, networks, raster catalogs, relationships, domains, and more.

The personal GDB (pGDB) is the focus of this site

Since this site focuses on the use and advantages of GDBs for mobile computing and its for mobile commuting, we will focus on the personal geodatabase (pGDB). This is because while ESRI ArcPad data collection software supports all types of GDBs, Trimble GPS Analyst Extension , which is a common choice for processing GPS data, does not support the fGDB.

GDB Types

Type of DBMS	Type of geodatabase	
	Personal geodatabase	MS Access
	File geodatabase	A file system folder containing data files
	ArcSDE geodatabase	licensed through ArcGIS Desktop (ArcEditor or ArcInfo) or through ArcGIS Se
	ArcSDE geodatabase	licensed through ArcGIS Server Enterprise Edition
IBM Informix Dynamic Server-Workgroup or Enterprise Edition		
Oracle-Standard One, Standard, or Enterprise Edition. Oracle Spatial or Oracle Locator can be used as		
PostgreSQL 8.2.3		
MS SQL Server-Workgroup, Standard, or Enterprise Edition		