

How To: Access The Correct ODBC Data Source Administrator on 32-bit vs. 64-bit Windows.



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Product(s):	SimbaEngine SDK 8 MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP 2.0
Client Application(s):	Microsoft Excel 2010, 64-bit (other 64-bit client applications as well)
Platform(s):	Windows XP and later (with special notes for 64-bit Windows and for Windows 7)

Overview

Normally, the ODBC Data Source Administrator is accessed via the Control Panel, under Administrative Tools (which itself is neatly tucked away under System and Security if your Control Panel is set to view by category). It looks the same and is in the same location, whether you are in 32-bit or 64-bit Windows.

On a 64-bit Windows system, you can execute 64-bit and 32-bit applications transparently, which is a good thing, because most applications out there are still 32-bit. Microsoft Excel 2010 is one of the few productivity applications (at the time of this writing) to be available in both 64-bit and 32-bit versions, so it is highly likely that you will encounter 32-bit applications running on 64-bit systems.

It is important to understand that 64-bit applications can only load 64-bit drivers and 32-bit applications can only load 32-bit drivers. In a single running process, all of the code must be either 64-bit or 32-bit. The ODBC Data Source Administrator that you access through the Control Panel on 64-bit systems is only used by 64-bit applications. The 32-bit version of the ODBC Data Source Administrator must be used to configure data sources for 32-bit applications. This is the source of many confusing problems where what appears to be a perfectly configured ODBC DSN does not work because it is loading the wrong kind of driver.

Understanding this, it is very important, when using 64-bit Windows, that you configure the appropriate 32-bit and 64-bit drivers using the correct version of the ODBC Data Source Administrator for each.

Problem

You cannot access the 32-bit ODBC Data Source Administrator from the start menu or control panel in 64-bit Windows.

Solution

To create new 32-bit data sources or modify existing ones on 64-bit Windows you must run `C:\WINDOWS\SysWOW64\odbcad32.exe` (you may find it useful to put a shortcut to this on your desktop or Start menu if you access it frequently).