

How To: Installing Oracle 11g ODBC Drivers Alongside Previous Versions



How-To #:	11070816
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Product(s):	MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP, all versions
Database Version(s)	Oracle Database 11g with OLAP Option
Client Application(s):	N/A
Platform(s):	Microsoft Windows XP(SP3), Vista, 7 Microsoft Windows Server 2003, 2008, 2008R2

Overview

Simba's MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP requires the Oracle 11g ODBC driver. What happens if the client system already has an Oracle ODBC driver installed on it?

Pre-existing 11g Drivers

Oracle ODBC drivers come in two types: "full client" and smaller "instant client".

The MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP product only needs the smaller instant client. The Simba installer will install the small Oracle 11g "instant client" driver on the client user's computer if it does not already exist on the client user's machine. Oracle fully supports the side-by-side installation of full client and instant client drivers on the client user's computer.

If the client user's computer already has an Oracle 11g ODBC instant driver installed, the installer for MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP detects this and does not attempt to install another copy. In this case, the MDX Provider will simply use the existing 11g ODBC instant client driver on the client user's computer.

Pre-existing 9i or 10g Drivers

If the client system has an Oracle 9i or Oracle 10g ODBC driver installed, then the installer for the MDX Provider will also install the Oracle 11g ODBC driver on the system. The pre-existing driver is *not* uninstalled nor modified in any way. Both versions of the driver are able to co-exist on the same system. Client applications will continue to use the appropriate version of the ODBC driver as required.

Microsoft Data Source Names (DSNs)

A Data Source Name (DSN) is a data structure that contains information about the external data source to which a Windows client application such as Excel will connect. The DSN contains information about the ODBC driver, including the version.

Do take care to ensure any DSN created for use by the Simba MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP uses an Oracle *11g* ODBC driver. DSNs created with older drivers will not allow Excel to connect to the Oracle database with OLAP option.