ODBC Connection - Firebird Database

You may connect to Firebird databases using an ODBC connection defined in Windows. This option allows you to connect 3rd party database utilities (such as MS Access or Crystal Reports) directly to the database.

Important Notes:
- **Be sure to perform read-only operations only, and make a backup of your database before performing direct database connections.**
- **Do not change the database schema or add new database views based on existing views in the database. Future software updates may fail if a database view contains unexpected dependencies from a custom user-created database view.**
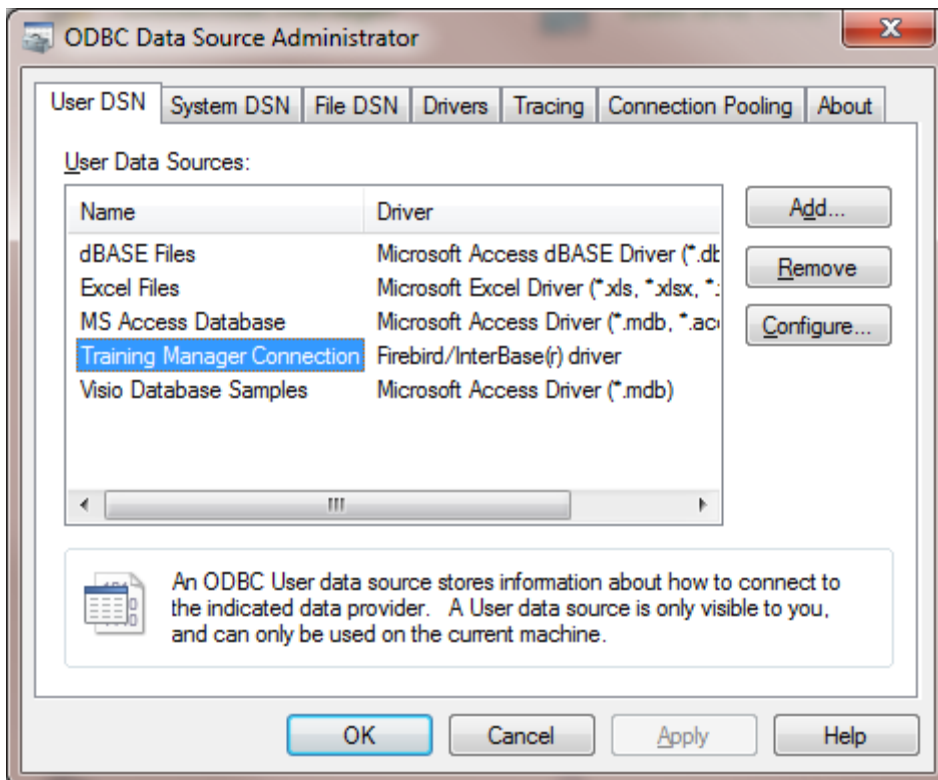
An ODBC driver is available at:
Firebird ODBC Driver 2.0.0.151 (Windows 32 bit)
Firebird ODBC Driver 2.0.0.151 (Windows 64 bit)

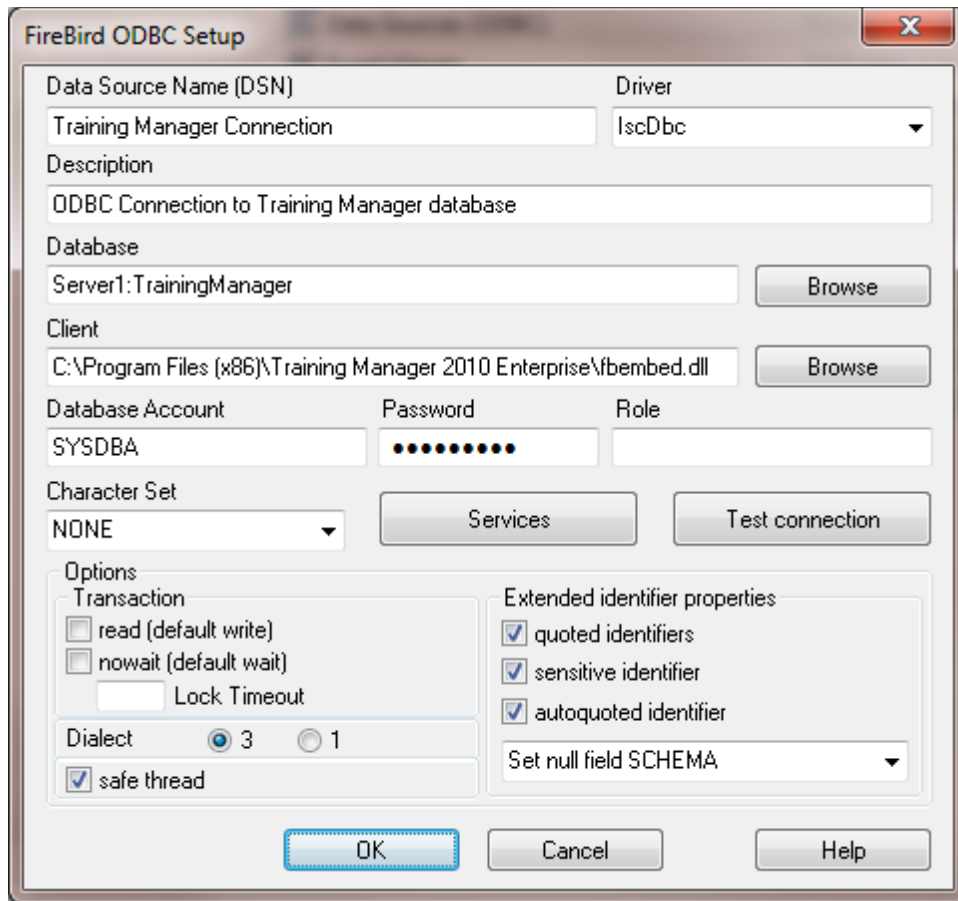Or check this page on the Firebird website for updated drivers and additional support.

After installing a Firebird ODBC Driver, follow the steps below to create an ODBC connection.

Step 1: Add a new data source using the Firebird driver in the Windows ODBC Data Source Administrator.

This control panel applet is available in Windows Administrative Tools.

Step 2: Select your data source and then click the Configure button to configure the settings:

Example Connection to a remote Training Manager database. For Asset Manager or Vehicle Manager, replace "Training" with "Asset" or "Vehicle".

Settings:

- Database:
    - For a local file database, select the database file (e.g. TrainingManager.tdb, VehicleData.vdb, or AssetManager.adb). In the file browser window, select "All Files" to remove the *.fdb filter from the file selection box.
    - For a remote database, enter the name of the server and the name of the database alias separated by a colon (no spaces).
- Client: [enter path to fbembed.dll or fbembed64.dll]. The fbembed.dll file is for 32 bit clients, and the fbembed64.dll file is for 64 bit clients. Note that the "client" in this case refers to the program that will connect. This will be the Windows ODBC Connection client when creating a connection and testing it, or the MS Access, Crystal Reports, etc. client when reporting or otherwise using another client to connect.
- Database Account: SYSDBA
- Password: masterkey
- Role: [leave blank]
- Extended Identifier properties: quoted identifiers
- Dialect: 3

Firebird ODBC Connection Troubleshooting:

Problem: Cannot open database
Solution: Match 32 bit or 64 bit for all components:
1. ODBC Driver
2. ODBC Admin program
3. fbclient
4. Any 3rd party utilities such as MS Access, Crystal Reports, etc.

It gets confusing on 64 bit Windows 7 because there are two versions of the ODBC admin program. Oddly, the 32 bit version is stored in the SysWOW64 directory, while the 64 bit version is stored in the System32 directory:

● The 32-bit version of the Odbcad32.exe file is located in the %systemdrive%\Windows\SysWoW64 folder.
● The 64-bit version of the Odbcad32.exe file is located in the %systemdrive%\Windows\System32 folder.

Problem: "Tables not found" message in Crystal Reports.
Solution: Set the "Overidden Qualified Table Name" in the Properties for each table in the Crystal Reports set database dialog. Note that table names are case sensitive.