

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



How-To #:	10101413
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Product(s):	SimbaEngine SDK All Simba ODBC connectors MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP
Client Application(s):	All 64-bit ODBC-enabled client applications, including Microsoft Excel 2010 (64-bit) and Tableau Desktop (64-bit)
Platform(s):	64-bit Windows XP and later

## Overview

In 64-bit Windows, there are two ODBC Data Source Administrators: a 32-bit and a 64-bit variant.

The ODBC Data Source Administrator that is directly accessible in the Control Panel, under Administrative Tools (which is located in System and Security if your Control Panel is set to view by category), is always the same bitness as the installed Windows platform. That is, on 32-bit Windows, it is the 32-bit administrator; on 64-bit Windows, it is the 64-bit administrator.

On 64-bit Windows, you can execute 64-bit and 32-bit applications transparently. Starting with 2010, Microsoft Excel is available in both 64-bit and 32-bit versions. Versions prior to Excel 2010 are 32-bit only.

It is important to understand that 64-bit applications can only use 64-bit drivers and that 32-bit applications can only use 32-bit drivers. In a single running process, all of the code must be either 64-bit or 32-bit. Data Source Names (DSN) are similarly divided by bitness, since a DSN is defined for a specific driver.

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.

## 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 or modify 32-bit DSNs on 64-bit Windows, you must run `C:\WINDOWS\SysWOW64\odbcad32.exe`. You may find it useful to create a shortcut to this on your desktop or Start menu if you access it frequently.