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Microsoft Announces Availability of 16- and 32-Bit ODBC Database Drivers Pack Version 2.0

REDMOND, Wash. — Dec. 19, 1994 — Microsoft Corporation today announced the shipping of Microsoft® Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) Drivers Pack version 2.0. This set of drivers provides applications based on the Microsoft Windows™ operating system easy access to the most popular databases and file formats through ODBC.

Customers can use the ODBC Drivers in conjunction with ODBC-enabled applications or develop new applications with the drivers. The ODBC Drivers deliver data to applications from several database and file formats, including Microsoft Access versions 1.x and 2.0; the FoxPro® database management system versions 2.0, 2.5 and 2.6; Microsoft Excel versions 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0; Btrieve®; dBASE III® and dBASE IV®; Paradox® versions 3.x and 4.0; formatted text files; Microsoft SQL Server™ version 4.2; and Oracle6 and Oracle7™. All drivers except those for Btrieve and Oracle are available in both 16- and 32-bit versions. Drivers for Btrieve and Oracle® databases are available in 16-bit versions only.

“Customers will benefit from the increased performance of the new drivers,” said Beth Chapman, Microsoft database connectivity product manager. “Because the desktop drivers use the Microsoft Jet database engine, the same database engine used in Microsoft Access and the Microsoft Visual Basic® programming systems, customers will receive all of the performance benefits of the Jet engine, including Rushmore™ query technology. In internal testing, we saw improved performance across the board on all queries using the driver for Microsoft Access.”

The driver for Microsoft Access 2.0 additionally provides increased compatibility with Microsoft Access and support for transactions against Microsoft Access-based data sources.

More on ODBC

Microsoft Open Database Connectivity technology provides a common interface for accessing heterogeneous databases. ODBC uses Structured Query Language (SQL) as a standard means for accessing data. This interface provides maximum interoperability: A single application can access different database management systems through a common set of code, allowing a developer to build and distribute a client-server application without targeting a specific database management system (DBMS). Database drivers are then added to link the application to the user's choice of DBMS.

The following is a partial list of features that make ODBC flexible:

- Applications are not tied to a vendor-proprietary application programming interface (API).
- SQL statements can be included explicitly in source code or constructed on the fly at run time.
- An application can be written to be independent of the underlying data-communications protocols.
- Data can be sent and received in a format that is convenient to the application.

ODBC is designed in conjunction with the emerging international ISO Call-Level Interface standard. ODBC database drivers from 140 vendors are available today, providing ODBC access for more than 55 database formats.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products and services for business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing every day.

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