

Properties and Methods

TNSFilePath (STRING)

The Complete Path to the TnsNames.Ora file on the Local PC.

Example: TNS1.TNSFilePath = "C:\Orawin95\Network\Admin\TnsNames.Ora"

See [Programming Notes](#) on obtaining the File path from the Local Registry.

Client (STRING)

The Version of the Oracle Client used on the local PC. Only tested with Oracle versions 7x and 8x.

Inputs: TNS1.Client = "7X" or "8X"

Descriptor (STRING)

The name of the Oracle database to modify or add to the TnsNames.Ora File.

Example: TNS1.Descriptor = "Test Database"

Machine (STRING)

The computer name or IP Address of the machine on which the database resides.

Example: TNS1.Machine = "PROD_SERVER"

Stamp (STRING)

An application specific message to write to the TnsNames.Ora file.

Example: TNS1.Stamp = "Modified by Accounting Software"

Must use a unique identifier. See [Programming Notes](#) for more information.

Update Method (LONG)

The Update Method takes the TNS1 properties and attempts the update.

Example: lngReturn = TNS1.Update

Control Limitations

Some final notes about what this control can and can't do. First, it assumes you're using TCP/IP. If you're not, this control can only be used to update existing entries, as any new entries will write TCP to the file. Secondly, the ports are hardcoded to the default ports for an Oracle Database namely 1521 and 1526. If you've changed the ports for security reasons then again this control is only good for updating existing entries.

Finally, the assumption is that each entry hasn't been modified from a normal entry made from SQL*NET easy Config. If it has the control will fail.

Distribution Files

I have included all the necessary support files in a setup folder, which contains a setup routine. However, you may wish to manually register these files. To do a manual registration, look in the Support Folder. This ActiveX Control requires Visual Basic 6.0. The following two files are the most critical and must be registered on the client to work:

ActiveX Files

TNS ActiveX Control (oraTNS32.ocx 4.0)

Microsoft (r) Script Runtime

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scrrun.dll (5.0.0.3715)

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You may purchase a runtime license pursuant to the license agreement for \$100 US. With payment you will receive a registered control without the Shareware Tags.

Please send an email to Devin_York@hotmail.com for payment instructions.

Thanks!

Devin York

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The Stamp Property Explained

A little further explanation may be needed on the STAMP property. The STAMP property can never be blank. You must always put something in here besides a null string. For example, a good STAMP property would be something like "PROPERTY OF <COMPANY NAME>" or "MODIFIED BY <APPLICATION NAME>". In both instances, each time the control is invoked, the Control will search the file and look for the stamp and replace it with a current time stamp.

Here's an example, of a TnsNames.Ora file which has had the STAMP Property applied. If you were to make the STAMP property something new like "PROPERTY OF THE COMPANY" then the "MODIFIED BY" stamp would be left in the file and the new STAMP would also get written to the file, thus making the file grow larger. It is a good idea to make your STAMP Property short, succinct, and unique (don't put database names in here). Doing so will insure that you never have a problem.

EXAMPLE:

#MODIFIED BY Project1 7/18/99 4:44:21 PM

Reading From the Registry

The TNSFilePath property requires that the programmer assign a complete path to the TnsNames.ora file. Arriving at the path to the TnsNames.ora file needs to be tailored to your particular problem. If for example, your install forces the file to a particular path on the client and you know the oracle version you are using then you can make some assumptions here and be done with it. However, for the majority of us, a little extra work is required.

Read from the Registry (if you are unfamiliar with reading from the registry see **Microsoft Article ID: Q145679**) the driver (DLL) being used for your particular DSN Connection. If you are using a machine DSN then you will look in the following KEY HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\ODBC\ODBC.INI\<DSN NAME>. Once in this key you will evaluate the DRIVER value. If the DSN is using **sqa32_73.dll** then it's an Oracle 7 client. If it's the **SQORA32.dll** then it's an Oracle 8 client. Remember that you don't care about the path to the driver, you merely want to know the name. Now you know whether you're client is using Oracle 8 or Oracle 7 drivers. Now for step two:

Read the registry again, this time it will be the Software\ORACLE key under the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE. Now depending on the client, you will either read the **NET20** value (Oracle 7) or the **NET80** value (Oracle 8). Now that's only a partial path, you will still need to add "\Admin\TnsNames.ora". So for example, if I look on my machine, I see that my NET20 Value reads "C:\ORAWIN95\NETWORK" so I need to add "\Admin\TnsNames.ora" to get "C:\Orawin95\Network\Admin\TnsNames.ora" which is the correct path to the client's file!

Welcome

Thanks for evaluating the TNS ActiveX Control. This control is shareware which means it is available for you to evaluate for as long as you want, however, should you want to use this control in a distributed program you will need to purchase a run-time license

TnsNames.Ora Technical Stuff

Here is a typical entry from a TnsNames.ora file located on my Windows 95 Machine. The file is located in c:\orawin95\network\admin\ directory.

```
CAPS.world =
  (DESCRIPTION =
    (ADDRESS_LIST =
      (ADDRESS =
        (COMMUNITY = tcp.world)
        (PROTOCOL = TCP)
        (Host = PROD_SERVER)
        (Port = 1521)
      )
      (ADDRESS =
        (COMMUNITY = tcp.world)
        (PROTOCOL = TCP)
        (Host = PROD_SERVER)
        (Port = 1526)
      )
    )
    (CONNECT_DATA = (SID = CAPS)
  )
)
```

In this entry you can see that my database is named 'CAPS' and it resides on a computer named PROD_SERVER. If, however, that computer name did not have a [DNS/WINS](#) Entry then you could put in the IP Address here and remove the need to manage the local [HOST File](#) .

Error Codes

The following are known error codes. If the returned code is not in this list then the error represents the raised error from the errors collection.

8

The TNSFilePath has been set incorrectly. Please ensure that the path is complete with filename.

11

An error was encountered in obtaining the client Temp Directory.

22

A problem was encountered writing a new entry to the TnsNames.Ora file. Ensure that File Permissions (RX) are granted to the logged in user.

41

The TnsNames.ora file contains pre-existing formatting errors. You must correct these problems before continuing.

62

Input past end of file. A likely cause for this is that the Stamp property is blank.

429

Cannot create ActiveX control. Ensure that the oraTNS32.ocx and Scrrun.dll are registered.

What is DNS or Wins?

Both are services, which run in a computer environment which allow users to name computers with friendly names and have computers resolve those names into [IP Addresses](#) .

IP Address

Each network computer has a unique address, which allow computers to communicate.

HOST Files

A file residing on a computer which maps friendly computer names to IP Addresses.

