

## Re: ODBC with Excel in 2003

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*Source:* <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Visio/microsoft.public.visio.general/2006-08/msg00120.html>

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- *From:* Manticorr <[Manticorr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Manticorr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 4 Aug 2006 09:28:02 -0700
- 

As a thought you might want to consider XML and schemas. Should be able to do a nice updatable org chart using XML tags.

—  
Manticorr

"Al Edlund" wrote:

Since orgcharts are just another form flowcharts, it's not a stretch for those with an interest in programming to take the example in the visio sdk and build their own. The orgchart is essentially an addon to visio and as such tends to change from version to version. Visio 2007 (and the rest of the office stuff) is being released later this year and has a lot of new data driven functionality (including I suspect a revised orgchart to play with).  
al

"merlin" <[merlin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:merlin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
<news:1151826623.61213.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

There are definitely mentions of using ODBC to keep org chart shapes updated with changes. If it's not done through the wizard then where do I need to look?

As the org chart wizard isn't very tidy and doesn't allow pre-formatting as such, I'd have to say this is a nearly useless facility without a refresh of some kind.

"Al Edlund" <[edlund@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:edlund@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
<news:%23pkbfJWnGHA.1480@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

the org chart wizard does not have a refresh, it's starts new every time – so any customization gets lost....  
al

"merlin" <[merlin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:merlin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message

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news:1151772292.26373.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thanks for that – it should help my IT guys.

At home I've just managed to import from excel via odbc and create a visio drawing (not an org chart) by following the MS knowledge base article. One of the things I was doing wrong was not to define a table of data in my excel sheets. I've also been able to update it but I had to go back through the wizard because I couldn't find a refresh option that worked.

Now I need to achieve the same with an org chart, however, the way the data is linked to the chart seems to be different and whereas there are various refresh options in some drawing types, I can't find any for org chart.

You've been very helpful up to now – I hope you still have the patience to see this through with me!

"Al Edlund" <edlund@xxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in message

news:OChqfHRnGHA.764@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Try this for a start definition

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/odbc/html/da>

odbc (open database connectivity) are programming interfaces to allow access to different data sources. They are a form of 'driver' and come in different version depending on the vendors that supply them for their products (ms generic, excel, access, oracle, db2, etc.).

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for other than ms products  
support odbc drivers often  
come with the  
product.. ms usually ships  
some basic ones with the  
operating systems  
and office products. You  
can also check ms  
downloads for updates.

when network sharing data  
the two primary security  
groups are the  
networking group  
(firewalling of application  
required flows) and data  
center (user rights on  
servers). For this you will  
have to check in  
your own organization

"merlin"

<merlin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

[news:1151744299.2584.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1151744299.2584.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

OK. I'm  
crawling  
closer to  
cracking  
this.

I think I  
understand  
now that  
ODBC is a  
common  
interface  
that I have  
to set up  
between  
two  
programs –  
in this case  
Visio and  
Excel. The  
actual  
process of  
setting it up  
is eluding  
me.

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1) is ODBC  
an actual  
file or is it  
something  
you do to  
the excel  
and/or visio  
file?

2) if it's a  
file then  
where does  
it have to  
go. Can I  
choose or is  
there a  
special  
location for  
it?

3) When I  
crack this  
I'll be doing  
it at work  
(practising  
on my  
laptop  
at home at  
the mo) so  
can this file  
be on a  
network  
drive or  
does it  
have to be  
local to my  
pc on the  
hard drive (I  
try to  
avoid that).  
My  
choice of  
network  
drives are a  
'global'  
shared drive  
and a 'home'  
personal  
drive.

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4) will I  
need  
administrator  
rights to  
achieve  
this?

Sorry for  
the volume  
of  
questions.  
This has  
turned out  
to be more  
complex  
than  
expected  
but I not  
going to  
give up on  
it!

"Al Edlund"  
<edlund@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in  
message  
[news:O1KXVmqmGHA.4836@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:O1KXVmqmGHA.4836@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

two  
things.  
a.)  
what  
you  
saw  
with  
layout  
using  
the  
orgchart  
wizard  
is  
normal  
b.)  
consider  
changing  
the  
name  
of  
excel

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file  
in  
your  
odbc  
setup  
to  
point  
to  
the  
file  
that  
you  
just  
created  
and  
see  
if  
that  
file  
works.  
al

"merlin"

<merlin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote

in

message

[news:1151442560.25195.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1151442560.25195.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

OK  
I  
tried  
that.  
It  
worked  
fine  
exporting  
and  
importing  
(except  
the  
subordinate  
shapes  
imported  
and  
displayed  
in  
a  
different  
order,  
how

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annoying  
is  
that).  
The  
excel  
file  
looks  
similar  
to  
mine.

This  
isn't  
a  
great  
surprise  
because  
I  
haven't  
had  
trouble  
importing  
data  
from  
an  
excel  
file,  
it's  
the  
ODBC  
compliant  
import  
function  
that's  
causing  
an  
error.

"Al  
Edlund"  
<edlund@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
[news:ey85UdimGHA.2112@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:ey85UdimGHA.2112@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Consider  
trying  
this.  
Create  
an

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orgchart  
with  
visio  
and  
then  
export  
it  
as  
excel.  
Compare  
what  
Visio  
saves  
to  
what  
you  
are  
trying  
to  
give  
it....  
Then  
see  
if  
Visio  
can  
import  
the  
file  
that  
you  
just  
saved.

al

"merlin"  
<merlin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
[news:1151436639.20509.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1151436639.20509.0@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

OK  
-  
I'm  
a  
bit  
closer.  
The  
encryption

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error  
was  
indeed  
the  
file  
protection  
(could  
have  
taken  
forever  
to  
find  
that  
out).  
I'm  
now  
getting  
the  
error  
'There  
are  
no  
tables  
or  
views  
in  
the  
data  
source'.

I  
created  
a  
test  
excel  
sheet  
with  
a  
list  
of  
data  
on  
sheet  
1  
with  
a  
heading  
at  
the  
top  
of

each  
column  
in  
the  
top  
row.  
I  
saved  
that  
and  
closed  
it.  
Then  
I  
went  
in  
to  
Visio  
(it  
was  
already  
open  
and  
on  
a  
blank  
sheet)  
Org  
Chart>Import  
Org  
Chart  
Data>Info  
That's  
already  
stored>ODBC  
compliant  
data  
source>  
browse  
to  
my  
testfile  
and  
select.  
Then  
I  
get  
the  
error.  
  
Help!

"Bill  
Morein  
[MSFT]"  
<wmorein@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
wrote  
in  
message  
<news:AA3C3144-06F8-4527-9E67>

Is  
your  
Excel  
file  
password  
protected?  
The  
ODBC  
drivers  
do  
not  
support  
encrypted  
files.

You  
can  
also  
try  
importing  
the  
Excel  
data  
in  
Excel  
using  
ODBC.  
Kind  
of  
a  
strange  
use,  
but  
it  
works  
and  
you  
don't

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need  
to  
mess  
around  
with  
Access.

--

Bill  
Morein  
<http://blogs.msdn.com/wmor>  
Visio  
Microsoft  
Corporation

"merlin"  
<merlin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
<news:1151268793.70358.0@>

Although  
I'm  
quite  
proficient  
with  
excel,  
I've  
never  
had  
to  
use  
Access  
so  
I  
would  
be  
well  
out  
of  
my  
depth  
there.

Are  
there  
any  
common  
set-up

mistakes  
I  
might  
look  
at?

"Al  
Edlund"  
<edlund@xxxxxxxxx>  
wrote  
in  
message  
<news:%23CjC8oFm>

when  
playing  
with  
odbc,  
setup  
is  
often  
one  
of  
the  
first  
missteps.  
I  
like  
to  
use  
Access  
to  
test  
my  
odbc  
setups  
by  
having  
it  
import  
using  
the  
odbc  
pointer  
(not  
the  
excel  
import).  
When  
it  
get's

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the  
tables  
correct  
I  
can  
then  
move  
on.  
al

"merlin"  
<merlin@xx  
wrote  
in  
message  
<news:115122>

I'm  
tryin  
to  
link  
an  
org  
char  
shap  
with  
an  
exce  
spre  
usin  
the  
ODI  
func

I  
think  
I've  
follo  
all  
the  
steps  
in  
the  
Wiz  
and  
the  
help  
page  
but  
I  
just

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get  
an  
error  
'can'  
decr  
data  
(or  
some  
like  
that)  
Can  
anyo  
sugg  
wha  
I'm  
doin  
wron  
Is  
there  
may  
some  
else  
to  
set  
up  
or  
some  
else  
I  
shou  
have  
insta

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