

Oracle Note 170676.1 – How to remove Data Source Names and ODBC Drivers from Windows Registry

PURPOSE

To explain how to remove System, User and File Data Source Names (DSNs) from the Windows Registry along with the Oracle ODBC Driver it was created against. Sometimes the typical process of using the ODBC Data Source Administrator does not work.

SCOPE & APPLICATION

Users wanting to know what keys the Oracle ODBC Driver creates when the driver is installed and Oracle DSNs are created.

Users may also encounter an Oracle ODBC Driver who's version is listed as "Not-marked" when viewing it in the ODBC Data Source Administrator. These steps will show you how to manually remove DSNs and unregister the Oracle ODBC Driver resolving the "Not-Marked" issues as well, see Note:66282.1 in the "Related Documents" section below for more information.

HOW TO REMOVE SYSTEM, USER, FILE DSNS AND ODBC DRIVERS FROM THE WINDOWS REGISTRY

1. Run the Registry Editor.
 - a. Start | Run, type REGEDIT
2. Remove all Oracle System DSNs and their corresponding Oracle ODBC Drivers.
 - a. Find the registry key:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ODBC\ODBC.INI\ODBC Data Sources
 - b. Check the "ODBC Data Sources" key for values containing the driver name "Oracle ODBC Driver" under the Data column. The Oracle ODBC Driver may also be called "Oracle in OraHome81" or something similar based on the name of your Oracle Home. Note the value of the Name column for each one found and delete them.
 - c. Move up one level in the registry to:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ODBC\ODBC.INI
 - d. For every Name you wrote down in step b above, look for its corresponding key inside of the "ODBC.INI" key and delete it.
 - e. Find the registry key:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ODBC\ODBCINST.INI\ODBC Drivers
 - f. Check the "ODBC Drivers" key for values containing the name of any Oracle ODBC Driver. Note the value of the Name column for each one found and delete them.
 - g. Move up one level in the registry to:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ODBC\ODBCINST.INI

h. For every Name you wrote down in step f above, look for its corresponding key inside of the "ODBCINST.INI" key and delete it.

3. Remove all Oracle User DSNs

a. Find the registry key:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\ODBC\ODBC.INI\ODBC Data Sources

b. Check the "ODBC Data Sources" key for values containing the driver name "Oracle ODBC Driver" under the Data column. The Oracle ODBC Driver may also be called "Oracle in OraHome81" or something similar based on the name of your Oracle Home. Note the value of the Name column for each one found and delete them.

c. Move up one level in the registry to:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\ODBC\ODBC.INI

d. For every Name you wrote down in step b above, look for its corresponding key inside of the "ODBC.INI" key and delete it.

4. Remove all Oracle File DSNs

a. Find the registry keys, if they exist:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ODBC\ODBC.INI\ODBC File DSN

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\ODBC\ODBC.INI\ODBC File DSN

b. Check the "ODBC File DSN" keys for the value "DefaultDSNDir". Note the value of the Data column for each one found. The value of the Data column is the path to the locations where the File DSNs are stored in the file system. The filenames are in the format <filename>.dsn. Go to these locations and delete the ones corresponding to the Oracle ODBC Driver. If you are unsure as to which ODBC driver they were created against, open them in Wordpad or Notepad and look for the value of the parameter "DRIVER" inside of the file.