Open Database Connectivity (ODBC)

return to the de Facto Standards

> **Note:** The following is an excerpt from the official Microsoft Open Database Connectivity site. It is provided here as a convenience and is not authoritative. Refer to the original document as the authoritative reference.

Table 1: Data sheet for Microsoft Open Database Connectivity

Title	Microsoft Open Database Connectivity
Acronym	ODBC
Version	3.8
Operating Systems	
Downloads	https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/connect/odbc/download-odbc-driver-for-sql-server?view=sql-server-ver15
NOTE	Each DBMS supplies its own download of an ODBC Driver that is specific to the DBMS.
Supported Languages	
License	Microsoft Developer Services Agreement
Reference	https://cdn.simba.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/ODBC_specification.pdf

Introduction

Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) is a widely accepted Application Programming Interface (API) for database access. It is based on the Call-Level Interface (CLI) specifications from Open Group and ISO/IEC for database APIs and uses Structured Query Language (SQL) as its database access language.

ODBC is designed for maximum interoperability - that is, the ability of a single application to access different database management systems (DBMSs) with the same source code. Database applications call functions in the ODBC interface, which are implemented in database-specific modules called drivers. The use of drivers isolates applications from database-specific calls in the same way that printer drivers isolate word processing programs from printer-specific commands. Because drivers are loaded at run time, a user only has to add a new driver to access a new DBMS; it is not necessary to recompile or relink the application.