

FileMaker ODBC/JDBC Overview

Aside from the “classic” methods of using tab-delimited, or CSV files, etc, FMI currently offers three industry standards ways to get data into or out of FileMaker:

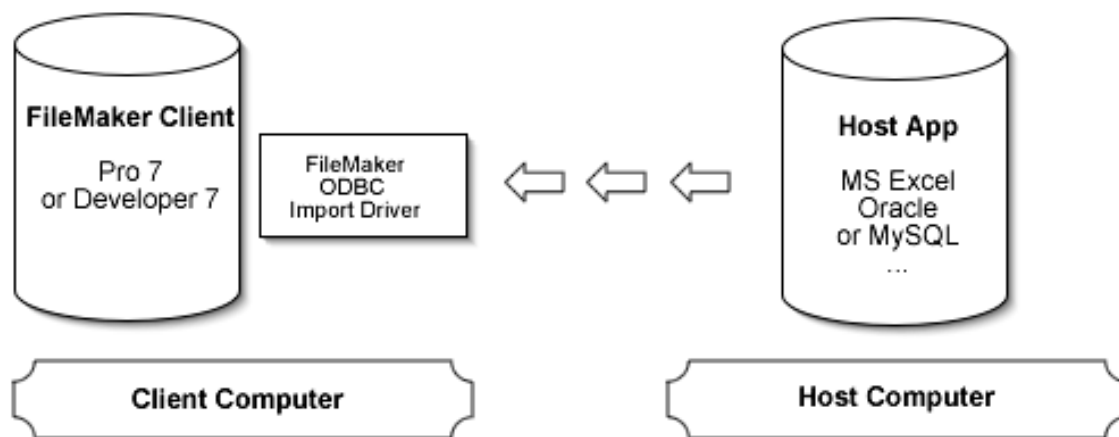
- **ODBC** – Open Database Connectivity, which utilizes SQL commands
- **JDBC** – Java Database Connectivity, which utilizes SQL commands
- **XML** – Extensible Markup Language, which uses FileMaker XML syntax

FileMaker Pro 7 can act as both a client and a host to other applications*. As a client, FileMaker Pro 7 can access other data sources locally or over a network. As a host, FileMaker Pro 7 can support local clients. FileMaker Server 7 Advanced can host remote clients across a network.

* Note: FileMaker Developer 7 has the identical functionality to FileMaker Pro 7, but for simplicity sake we will only refer to FileMaker Pro 7 in this article.

FileMaker as a client application (ODBC Import)

ODBC import on FileMaker Pro 7 is controlled by a special driver created by Data Direct Technologies (www.datadirect.com) that allows FileMaker to extract data from other databases located on the same network (examples: MS-Excel, Oracle, MySQL).



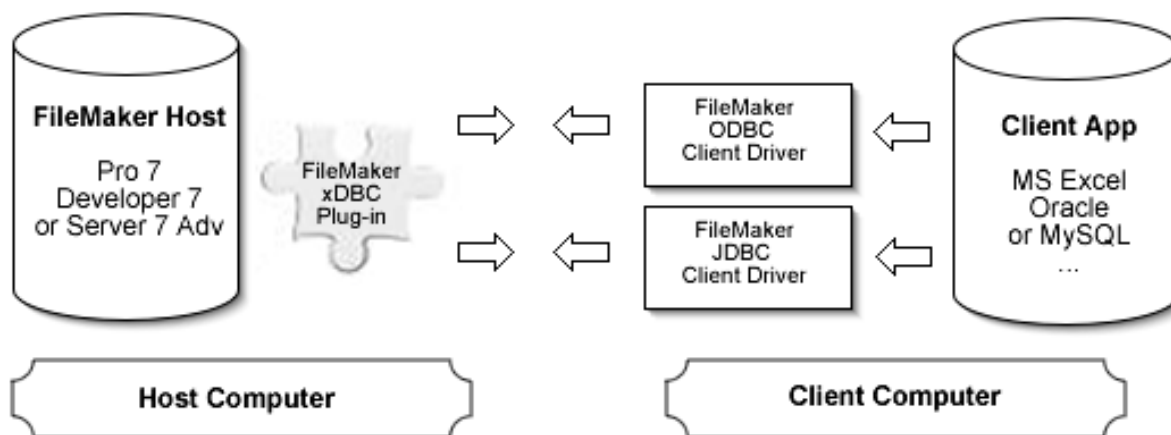
FileMaker Pro 7 can import data from ODBC enabled applications located on the same computer, or over a network. Note that you will need to install the correct ODBC client driver for any applications you plan to access via FileMaker.

FileMaker ODBC/JDBC Hosting

ODBC/JDBC hosting on both FileMaker Pro 7 and FileMaker Server 7 Advanced is controlled by a set of software also created in partnership with Data Direct that allows any SQL based application or database (see list above) to submit Queries, Insert/Update requests, Deletes, Finds, etc on a FileMaker database.

The FileMaker ODBC/JDBC hosting functionality involves three important pieces:

- 1) **xDBC Plug-in** – similar to other 3rd party plug-ins, is placed in the plug-in folder on Pro or Server and allows other applications to talk to FileMaker databases using SQL.
- 2) **ODBC Client Drivers** – must be installed on the Client machine to allow the applications on that machine to talk to the xDBC plug-in. Client Drivers must be installed on the same machine to access data in FileMaker Pro 7. Server 7 Advanced can accept requests from remote Mac or Windows clients.
- 3) **JDBC Client Drivers** -- must be installed on the Client machine to allow the applications on that machine to talk to the xDBC plug-in via JDBC.



Using SQL commands the Client application can both read and write data to FileMaker, provided the requisite privileges are enabled on the FileMaker database. Also bear in mind that FileMaker Pro 7 can be used as a client to FileMaker Server 7 Advanced via ODBC.

The Host and Client computer will be the same box in many cases. As mentioned above, for applications to access data from FileMaker Pro 7 they must be installed on the same box, as remote access is only possible with FileMaker Server 7 advanced.

In the case of FileMaker Server 7 Advanced, the Host and Client computer can be different operating systems. A Mac host can talk to a Windows Client via ODBC. This is a benefit of using a standard such as ODBC to broker the exchange of information.

Other Important Software

In addition to these components, the operating system (Mac or Windows) includes software that is used to configure the ODBC or JDBC connection. For example, most Windows operating systems also provide a GUI ODBC Driver Manager that allows you to see which Client Drivers are available and configure them. Please consult the FileMaker ODBC/JDBC Developers Guide for some information on configuring the Driver Manager, or your Operating System User Manuals for more detailed information.

In addition, you must make sure that the Client Application has the requisite software installed to execute ODBC or JDBC queries. FileMaker Pro 7 provides import Drivers for several common applications (including MS-SQL and Oracle), however there are many 3rd party providers who specialize in these drivers.

- Data Direct Technologies (<http://www.datadirect.com>)
- Open Link Software (<http://www.openlinksw.com>)
- Actual Technologies (<http://www.actualtechnologies.com>)