



# The External SQL Data Source Feature in FileMaker Pro

What the DBA should know



## The External SQL Data Source feature in FileMaker Pro: What the DBA should know

The External SQL Data Source feature was introduced in FileMaker Pro 9 and it establishes a live connection between FileMaker Pro databases and Microsoft® SQL Server, Oracle and MySQL data sources. FileMaker Pro users can self-serve some of their reporting needs and build complete solutions for their departmental or individual needs with this feature. Here are the top 6 things that the DBA should know.

1. FileMaker Pro user will need the:
  - IP address or domain name of the SQL data source
  - User name and password of the SQL data source
2. Access to the SQL data source is determined by the DBA
  - Read/write or read only access
  - Access to Tables or Views representing the data
  - Database or database view
3. FileMaker Pro requires no extra proprietary tables so it imposes no extra management burden.
4. The External SQL Data Source feature cannot define or alter schema. FileMaker users do have the ability to execute SQL statements through the Execute SQL Script Step feature if the DBA grants privileges that allow this.
5. FileMaker Pro uses optimistic record locking; records are locked only as long as it takes to set up and commit a transaction. It does not hold record locks while users are modifying data.
6. FileMaker Server gives you the ability to centralize ODBC driver management for all users.

The DBA can get a more technical understanding of this feature by downloading the External SQL Data Source Tech Brief ([www.filemaker.com/downloads/documentation/techbrief\\_intro\\_ess.pdf](http://www.filemaker.com/downloads/documentation/techbrief_intro_ess.pdf)), or by contacting a FileMaker systems engineer.

