

## CONNX and OLE DB

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The OLE DB architecture was developed by Microsoft in the mid-1990s to enhance how organizations accumulated and accessed the growing amount of data that was becoming available with the advent of new technologies. The World Wide Web was becoming more mainstream, transforming from its scientific and military roots into a burgeoning source of information used the world over. As more and more data was available, traditional DBMS technologies were becoming outdated. The new architecture would be able to handle data in many different formats rather than the traditional table format common to many databases.

OLE DB has two important technologies: The Provider and the Consumer. The OLE DB Provider reads data in the native format and provides access to that data in a table format through a standard object model. The OLE DB Consumer requests information from one or more OLE DB Providers and presents that information to the user.

In the CONNX core architecture, we have created an OLE DB Provider and two OLE DB Consumers with which to access your data. The CONNX OLE DB Provider joins our existing ODBC and JDBC data access tools to further enhance and expand the products and platforms that we support. The benefits of a native OLE DB Provider include enhanced performance with native OLE DB products (such as Microsoft's ADO technology), simplified connection options, and integrated .NET development support.

The CONNX OLE DB Consumers give you the ability to use existing data access components in your enterprise with CONNX. For databases that do not have native CONNX drivers specifically written for them, our OLE DB Consumers can be used to gain access to the specific data source. The CONNX OLE DB Desktop Adapter is specifically designed to support and enhance desktop data sources, such as MS Access, MS Excel, Paradox, and FoxPro. The CONNX OLE DB Enterprise Adapter is designed for the more robust enterprise data sources, a future addition to the CONNX list of compatible data sources.

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