



IBM i2 iBridge 8 for Microsoft Access

Provided with *IBM i2 iBridge* 8.9

May 2012

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Note: Before using this information and the product it supports, read the information in Notices on page 9.

This edition applies to version 8, release 9 of *IBM® i2® iBridge* (product number 5725G11) and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

This edition replaces part number 2559.

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Introduction

This document is provided to be used as a reference when using Microsoft Access with *IBM® i2® iBridge* 8.9.1.

Supported Microsoft Access databases and drivers

The following versions of Microsoft Access database systems and drivers are supported in *iBridge*:

Database systems

- Access 2000 (Service Pack 5)
- Access 2002 (Service Pack 1)
- Access 2007

Database drivers

- Microsoft MDAC 2.6 OLEDB or later for Jet 4.0

Known problems and restrictions

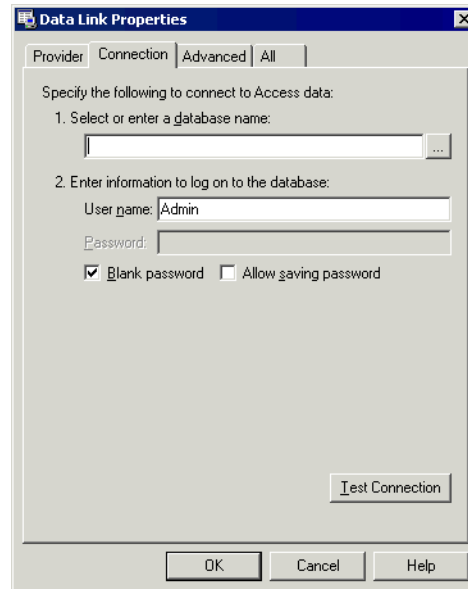
The following are known problems or restrictions when using Microsoft Access with *iBridge*:

- There are some restrictions on the use of Binary fields:
 - Binary fields longer than 32 bytes cannot be on Cards, a Key field, or a Find field.
 - Short Binary fields cannot be used to **Chart as picture**.

Connecting to a Microsoft Access database

To connect to a Microsoft Access database:

1. In *iBridge Designer*, select **New** from the **File** menu to display the Provider page of the Data Link Properties dialog.
2. Select Microsoft Jet 4.0 OLE DB Provider from the list of OLE DB Providers and click **Next** to display the Connection page of the Data Link Properties dialog.



3. Enter the location and name of your Access database in the **Select or enter a database name** box. Alternatively, you can click on the  button to locate it.

The provided database files are installed in the User Guide and Designer Guide folders in the local application settings folder, which is hidden by default. An easy way to access this folder is to open your My Documents folder, navigate to the \i2\i2 iBridge 8\ folder, then click on a folder shortcut. This opens the folder in your local application settings folder.

You need only enter the logon information into this dialog if you want to test the connection. However, the analysts will be required to specify the username and password when connecting to the database from within *IBM i2 Analyst's Notebook*.

If you do not want analysts to be prompted for logon information, turn on the **Allow saving password** check box. This has security implications because the username and password are stored in the configuration file. When this check box is turned off you will also be prompted for a username and password, so you may want to work with the check box turned on and then turn it off before you release the configuration to the analysts.

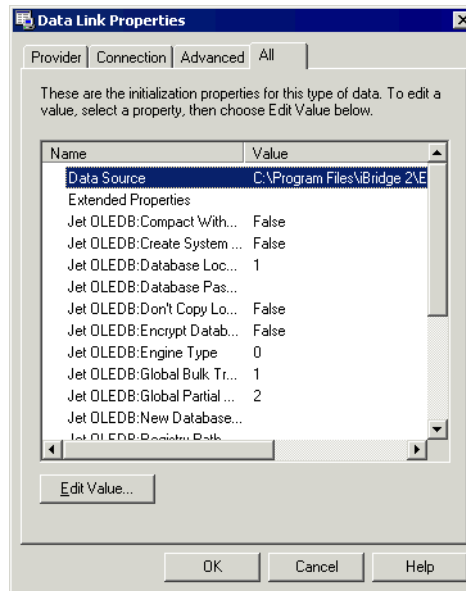
The user name and password that you use when defining the configuration must have the same access rights as the username that the analysts will use when opening the configuration file in *Analyst's Notebook*. This will ensure that you see exactly the same tables and fields as the analysts.

Specifying the database password

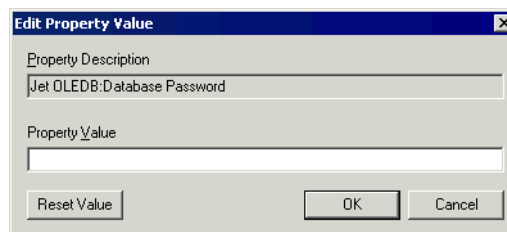
If you have a database password for your Microsoft Access database, you can specify the password during connection.

To do this:

1. Click on the **All** tab to display the property values.



2. Select **Jet OLEDB:Database Password** from the list of properties and click **Edit Value** to display the Edit Property Value dialog.



3. Enter the database password in the **Property Value** box and click **OK**.
4. Click on the **Connection** tab to move back to the Connection page.

Specifying a secure Microsoft Access workgroup file

If you have a secure Microsoft Access workgroup file (.mda or .mdw) you must specify it here.

To do this:

1. Click on the **All** tab to display the property values.
2. Select **Jet OLEDB:System database** from the list of properties and click **Edit Value**.
3. Enter the full pathname of your Microsoft Access workgroup file (.mda or .mdw) in the **Property Value** box and click **OK**.
4. Click on the **Connection** tab to move back to the Connection page.

Testing the connection

If you have entered a username and password in the Connection page you can test the connection.

To do this:

1. Click **Test Connection**.
2. Click **OK** to dismiss the message that appears informing you that the connection was successful.
3. Click **OK**.
4. When the Select New Configuration File dialog appears, enter a name for the configuration file and click **Save**.
5. If you have not turned on the **Allow saving password** check box you will be prompted for your username and password. Enter these in the dialog. If there is a database password defined you should also enter this here. Click **OK**.

When you have set up your initial connection to the database, *IBM i2 iBridge Designer* allows you to define a parameterized connection using the **Edit Connection** command on the **Tools** menu.

If you encounter any problems connecting to your Microsoft Access database, contact your Database Administrator.

Microsoft Access data type mappings

The table below shows the list of supported Microsoft Access field data types and how they are mapped via ActiveX Data Object (ADO) types through *iBridge* to *Analyst's Notebook*.

Microsoft Access Data Type	ADO Data Type #	iBridge Data Type	Analyst's Notebook Data Type
Yes/No	adBoolean (11)	Boolean	Flag
True/False	adBoolean (11)	Boolean	Flag
On/Off	adBoolean (11)	Boolean	Flag
Date	adDate (7)	Date	Time
GeneralDate	adDate (7)	Date	Time
LongDate	adDate (7)	Date	Time
MediumDate	adDate (7)	Date	Time
ShortDate	adDate (7)	Date	Time
LongTime	adDate (7)	Date	Time
MediumTime	adDate (7)	Date	Time
ShortTime	adDate (7)	Date	Time
Byte	adUnsignedTinyInt (17)	Byte	Number
Integer	adSmallInt (2)	Integer	Number
Long	adInteger (3)	Long	Number
Single	adSingle (4)	Single	Number
Double	adDouble (5)	Double	Number
Currency	adCurrency (6)	Currency	Number
GeneralNumber	adCurrency (6)	Currency	Number
Percent	adCurrency (6)	Currency	Number
Scientific	adCurrency (6)	Currency	Number
Fixed	adCurrency (6)	Currency	Number
Standard	adCurrency (6)	Currency	Number
Text ¹	adWChar (130)	String	Text
Memo ¹	adWChar (130)	Memo	Text
Hyperlink ^{1, 2}	adWChar (130)	Memo	Text
OLEObject	adLongVarBinary (205)	Binary	Binary
ReplicationID	adGUID (72)	GUID	Binary

Notes:

- Numbers in parentheses denote the numeric value of the ADO data type enumerations.

¹ - Although these Access data types accept multibyte characters, *iBridge* does not fully support the input and display of multibyte characters.

² - Access Hyperlink data types will be interpreted by *iBridge* as Memo data types and any fields will not be displayed as "clickable" links in the Show dialog.

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