

Re: Microfocus Netexpress question : COBSQL vs openESQL

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Cobol/comp.lang.cobol/2004-09/0595.html>

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On 9 Sep 2004 07:10:18 -0700, sihingchris@hotmail.com (chris bougeard) wrote:

>Hi everyone,
>On the site i am working on, i am in the process of converting a bunch of
>pro*cobol programs which currently sit on a unix platform/oracle database
>to work in a windows environment.
>
>Im using a development machine (windows 2000) with netexpress 3.1 to test
>how these programs work once regenerated.
>
>When it came to the issue of pre-compile the embedded sql statements, i
>first tried using the COBSQL method but my compiles always fell over...
>
>However, by using the openESQL approach, my compiles were all clean and the
>programs connect to the database and retrieve data fine...
>
>First question, is it better to use the ORACLE supplied pre-compiler (which
>generally misbehaves) over the openESQL (which works fine) in order to
>reduce the chances of sql anomalies during run time?

It makes no difference. SQL is an ANSI-standard language, there shouldn't be anomalies.

>Is it strange that i didnt have to load anything specifically on my machine
>in order for openESQL to work (im sure i have read that certain drivers etc
>must exist).

You don't need drivers at compile time unless you're doing SEMANTICS checking. If the programs contain PL/SQL, SEMANTICS is mandatory.

>I recently tried to run a program compiled on my windows2000 box on an nt4
>machine , the program ran (after installing application server on it) but
>couldnt connect with the oracle database specified in the program.
>
>Could this just be down to the fact that the nt4 box is missing a dll or

>something or is there perhaps a more sinister possibility?

It may be missing an ODBC driver and/or data source. Go to Control Panel/Administrative/Data Sources, where you'll probably find one named with the word Oracle. The Oracle-supplied one is preferable but the Microsoft driver works too.

You also need an entry for the data source in tnsnames.ora. If it is protected, as it usually is, copy it to a directory to which you have access, then run REGEDIT to change the pointer to your directory.

There is a way around this, by supplying the tnsnames entry at execution time. You're not ready for the advanced class yet. :)

*>I actually tried today to re-compile this program using COBSQL, its
>failing with CSQL-E-036 "unable to open the precompiler file
>"filename".cs9".*

>

>Dont suppose you have any ideas on this one ?

Look in cobsq.dir. Make sure cobsqinclude= points to the right directory.

>WHERE do i put the compiler directives when using COBSQL?

That depends on whether you are running it in 'integrated mode' or standalone. Your comments indicate standalone. In that case you give precompiler directives to the precompiler and compiler directives to the compiler. (duh)

Don't trust COBSQL to do anything right. Run the compiler as a separate step.

*>Is "application server" just simply a set of run time dll's that you need
>user licenses for to run cobol apps?*

>

>I presume it doesnt run as a service...

Many different products are named "application server". The Oracle Application Server Standard Edition One is a \$4,995 package of development tools, network cache, etc. It is more than a set of dlls. If that's the one you're talking about, yes, you need an expensive license to run apps written in any language.

The good news is you don't need Oracle Application Server. All you need is a device driver, a defined data source and SQL*NET (the tnsnames guy).