

# Using LinkUP! and ODBC

**Please note that this is a preliminary document. Please check our website ([www.mcresearch.co.uk](http://www.mcresearch.co.uk)) for an updated version**

## Overview

In order to use LinkUP! with networked databases you will need to configure your system to work with ODBC. ODBC (Open Database Connectivity) is a universal standard that allows a client application to exchange data with any compliant database. In this case, LinkUP! turns QuarkXPress into the ODBC client application, allowing you to interact with a wide range of databases.

There are several components that are required to successfully establish a connection between the client application and the server:

### On your Mac:

1. The Client Application (QuarkXPress running with LinkUP!)
2. An ODBC Manager Environment
3. An ODBC Driver (Specific to the database that you are connecting to)
4. Database specific support applications (Optional, and rarely required)

### Either on your Mac, a network accessible Mac or a database server:

5. The Database Server/File and support applications (Your Database)

Under Mac OS 7 & 8 there are two different versions of the ODBC environment; one that uses PowerPC native code and one that uses 68K native code. It is possible to run both of these environments on a PowerPC Mac, but you can only run the 68K environment on any pre-PowerPC system. This corresponds to the PowerPC and 68K versions of QuarkXPress. If you are running on a PowerPC system, you should be using the PowerPC version of QuarkXPress, although it is possible to run the 68K version. On earlier systems you will only be able to run the 68K version.

ODBC Drivers are also required to provide access to specific databases. Whilst only one manager controls the whole ODBC environment, it may be used to supervise connections to many different database types. Each of these database types will require its own ODBC driver. For example, you might have a driver to link to Microsoft SQL Server across a network, and another driver to link to dBase files that are stored on a network hard drive. These two options show the flexibility of the ODBC interface – in one case, a connection is established to a database server, whereas in the other the connection is

simply to a static file which does not require a supporting application to be running.

In a very few cases, an ODBC driver can require additional supporting applications to be running on your Mac in order to gain access to a database server. These will almost always be setup by the driver at the point of installation.

Note that an ODBC driver will be targeted to work with either a 68K or a PowerPC ODBC environment, but not both. It is important to identify which environment a driver supports, as this dictates the version of LinkUP! that you need to install (both 68K and PowerPC versions are included as standard both with the demo and the release versions).

The final element that you need for your connection is, of course, the database itself. Remember that you may also need to provide network access from your Mac to the database in order to be able to exchange information with it.

### **Obtaining the components**

On the demo CD you will find all the components necessary for parts 1 and 2 of the connection. The LinkUP! Xtension provides the functionality to enable QuarkXPress to work with ODBC connections, and you will find Apple's standard installer which will load both 68K and PPC ODBC manager environments.

The CD also contains an ODBC driver that you can use to access files that have been processed by LinkDB – MC Research's ASCII file pre-processing utility. This allows you to view and interact dynamically with ASCII data from within QuarkXPress.

Also provided on the CD is a 30 day trial edition from Intersolv of their standard PowerPC ODBC driver set. This will provide access to the following databases:

- Sybase SQL Server
- Dbase III and IV
- FoxPro Version 2 and 3
- Oracle 7 or later
- Text

Note that the Oracle driver also requires you to be running SQL\*Net on your Mac.

Finally, there is a sample application developed under MS Visual FoxPro 3 which illustrates ODBC access to SQL server using 68K drivers.

If your database environment does not fall into any of these categories, then you can either export your data to an ASCII file for use with the LinkDB driver, or you can obtain drivers from a third party supplier. Intersolv supports a wider range of database platforms than the driver set which is included in their demo. Check their website at [www.intersolv.com](http://www.intersolv.com) for further information.

If you are having difficulty obtaining a driver for your own usage, then contact our customer support services, who will be happy to assist where they can. We maintain a database of supported platforms and drivers. Please also check our website, as we will be publishing a list of tested connections. We would also be grateful if you could let us know of any drivers that you use, so that we can make this information available to other LinkUP! users.

You may wish to note that if you have installed a copy of Microsoft Office on your system, then you will already have drivers installed for accessing certain Microsoft products.

### **System Requirements**

Make sure your System software is version 7.5 or later for running the 68k version of LinkUP! or 7.6 or later for running the PPC version of LinkUP!.

Make sure your copy of QuarkXPress is 3.32r5 or 4.02. (Quark updaters are supplied on this CD. These Updaters are compressed archives and have been copied onto the CD with Quark's kind permission, to facilitate their setup and eliminate the need for you to upload them from Quark's ftp site. Please follow the Readme files enclosed with the updaters. Please also refer to Quark's End User License Agreement as to the terms and conditions of the use of the updaters.

### **Checking Whats there already**

The simplest way to check if you already have any form of ODBC support on your Mac is to look in the Control Panels, which are accessed off the Finder's Apple Menu. If you see either an ODBC Setup or ODBC Setup PPC listed, then you have either the 68K or the PowerPC environment already present. Note that it is possible to have both installed at the same time on a PowerPC system.

If you don't have either of these options listed, then the first step is to install the ODBC environment – skip to the 'Setting up an ODBC environment' section of this document.

If you do have either setup option present, then you can easily check what drivers are already available. Open up the ODBC Setup (or ODBC Setup PPC) control panel and you will given a list of configurations that are already present on your system. If you now press the Add button, you will be given a list of the drivers that are available. If you see the driver that you need, then you are almost ready to get going.

Note that the ODBC environment has to match the driver that you are going to use. In other words if you have a 68K driver then you need the 68K environment, and similarly for a PPC driver.

### **Setting up an ODBC environment**

If you either have no ODBC environment set, or you do not have the correct one, then you will have to run the ODBC installer that is provided on the demo CD.

**Warning: If you have Version 2 drivers from Intersolv already installed on your system, then you will already have an ODBC Setup control panel available. In this case DO NOT install the standard Apple ODBC 68K environment as this is INCOMPATIBLE with the Intersolv Version 2 environment. Please contact our customer support desk for further information on how to use the supplied drivers. Note that you CAN use the PowerPC ODBC environment from either Apple or Intersolv in conjunction with the Intersolv Version 2 drivers, as these are 68K only.**

Run the "3rd Party/ODBC/ODBC Control Panel Install/Installer". This installer will install the standard Apple Control Panels and support environments for both 68k and PPC ODBC, if required.

Optionally, you may also install the Intersolv 30 day evaluation drivers, which also install a complete ODBC environment for PowerPC only. Please read the terms that are enclosed with the installer before loading them onto your system.

### **Installing Drivers**

If you wish to use the LinkDB ODBC driver provided with this demo, then you need to copy the component driver files found inside "LinkUP/Program Files/LinkUP! Applications/LinkDB/ODBC Drivers/Drop Content onto System Folder" from the CD to your current System/Extensions folder. They will immediately be available for configuration with a 68k ODBC Setup Control panel.

### **Configuring a Data Source (LinkDB Driver)**

To configure a data source for use with the LinkDB driver supplied perform the following steps:

1. Run the ODBC Setup Control Panel from your Apple Menu
2. Click on "Add" from the list of available ODBC drivers and select "LinkDB" as the driver
3. In the Data Source Field Name type in "LinkDB"
4. You can leave the remaining fields blank (Database Folder and Data File Name) as these will be specified within QuarkXPress.
5. Click OK and then exit the Control Panel

You can now run LinkUP! and access LinkDB database files through ODBC.

### **Configuring a Data Source (Other Drivers)**

To fully configure a data source, you will have to provide information about the location of the database that you want to work with, and possibly further parameters such as login information. The information that is required varies from driver to driver, and so you will need to refer to documentation that is supplied with the driver for the necessary details.

### **Installing the correct ODBC version of LinkUP!**

The final configuration that you need to do to gain access to your data from within Quark is to install the correct version of LinkUP!. If you have already been working with the LinkDB version of LinkUP! for the purpose of running the tutorials, then you will need to remove it. This will mean taking it out of either your main QuarkXPress folder, or the Xtension folder that is contained within the QuarkXPress folder.

If you are working with a 68K driver (including the LinkDB driver supplied) you should copy the LinkUP! 7 Demo 68K Xtension into your Quark (or Xtension) folder. Note that this is the correct Xtension for accessing 68K drivers REGARDLESS of whether you are running the 68K or PowerPC version of QuarkXPress. (3.32r5 or 4.02).

If you are working with a PowerPC driver you should copy the LinkUP! 7 Demo PPC Xtension into your Quark (or Xtension) folder. Note that this Xtension can ONLY be used with the PowerPC version of QuarkXPress (3.32r5 or 4.02).

### **Establishing a Connection**

To check that your ODBC setup is functioning, you should startup QuarkXPress and activate LinkUP!. Next, from the LinkUP! menu, choose Show Palettes, Data Viewer.

From the DataViewer choose the <New View> option from the View: Popup list. You will now be presented with a list of datasources that you have defined in the ODBC setup.

Choose the correct datasource, and you will then be prompted to connect to your database. Finally, you will be able to select a list of fields to work with.

If all has worked correctly, you will now be able to view data from your database within the database viewer window, exactly as you were able to with the Tutorial data.

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