

How To: Avoid ORA-12705 errors



How-To #:	10121716
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Product(s):	MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP (all versions)
Database Version(s)	N/A
Client Application(s):	N/A
Platform(s):	All supported platforms

Overview

You may encounter an “ORA-12705: Cannot access NLS data files or invalid environment specified” error while attempting to connect to your Oracle database. While this HOW-TO is not a comprehensive guide to correcting this error, there are some common troubleshooting tips that may come in handy.

How to Resolve the Error

The most common cause of ORA-12705 is an invalid NLS_LANG value. This is typically a result of having preexisting and older Oracle clients installed on the same machine.

1. Use the “Oracle in instantclient_11_1” or “Oracle in instantclient_11_2” drivers when creating your DSN as the regular “Oracle in OraClient11g” clients may already have preexisting, conflicting settings located in the registry or other locations.
2. Verify that you do not have an NLS_LANG environment variable set, as this variable is shared across different versions of the Oracle clients. Values that are valid for older versions of the client may not be valid for newer versions of the client, such as the Oracle 11g Instant Client. When the newer client attempts to read this value, the value may be invalid and will therefore result in an ORA-12705 error. Either remove or correct the NLS_LANG environment variable to avoid this issue. See your database administrator for the correct NLS_LANG value for your environment, if applicable.
 - a. There are two types of environment variables, user and system. Make sure NLS_LANG is not set as either type.
 - b. Do note that removing or modifying the NLS_LANG environment variable may affect the behavior of other Oracle clients on your machine.