

UAS Wildau

Connecting Microsoft® Excel® PivotTables to Oracle® OLAP for Powerful Ad Hoc Query and Analysis

Product

MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP

Customer



Customer Environment

Database: Oracle 11g (11.1.0.7) on a Sun Fire V880 Server **Client PC:** Dell Optiplex desktops with Windows XP and Office 2007, plus various notebook PCs with Office 2007
Network Topology: LAN, WAN, VPN

About MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP

Simba's MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP is an easy to install driver for your PC that utilizes the MDX query language. It directly connects familiar applications like Microsoft Excel to your Oracle OLAP database for powerful ad hoc query and analysis. Learn more or download a 90-day evaluation at www.simba.com/oracle.

About Simba

Simba Technologies Inc. is the recognized world leader in standards-based data access products and solutions. Simba works with leading companies globally to deliver first class data connectivity solutions. Simba is an industry pioneer in relational and multi-dimensional data connectivity, and MDX query language technology. For more information, visit www.simba.com.

“ Simba MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP makes it easy to access dimensional data and Oracle OLAP cubes with Excel PivotTables. The product is excellent – it's easy to install, easy to use and delivers remarkable performance. ”

– Prof. Dr. Gerd Dehnert, UAS Wildau

University of Applied Sciences Wildau (<http://www.tfh-wildau.de/1442.htm>) offers a Masters level course in Business Computing. One of the subjects of this course is Advanced Data Warehousing and Data Mining. The main emphasis of this subject is on designing and implementing a data warehouse using Oracle Warehouse Builder (OWB) in ROLAP and MOLAP implementations.

To help facilitate the data analysis component of the course, Professor Dr. Gerd Dehnert of UAS Wildau sought a solution that would allow his students to perform ad hoc query and analysis on dimensional data in Oracle 11g OLAP Option databases and enable the creation of PivotTables in Microsoft Excel.

Microsoft Excel is a widely available and very popular Business Intelligence (BI) tool for ad hoc query and data analysis in business. Excel PivotTables utilize the MDX query language to provide very advanced, dashboard-like formatting and presentation options, as well as cross-tab functionality to comprehensively present data in order to answer complex analytical questions. Excel would enable the students to slice, dice, pivot and gain meaningful insight from their Oracle OLAP data.

To enable Microsoft Excel to Oracle 11g OLAP Option data connectivity, Prof. Dehnert looked to Simba. Simba's MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP is an easy to install, client-side driver that enables direct and secure Excel to Oracle data connectivity. The solution utilizes Simba's MDX 2005 query language technology, providing users with an unprecedented level of functionality and access to their Oracle data cubes. Simba's solution differs from a typical Excel spreadsheet add-in in that it provides direct Excel to Oracle connectivity without the need to load data into a mid-tier. The result is a fast, secure and native Excel connection to a user's Oracle OLAP data that negates spreadmarts and provides a single version of truth.

Prof. Dehnert and his students were immediately impressed by MDX Provider for Oracle OLAP's simple and easy installation. The solution provided a low maintenance, low cost means to directly connect Microsoft Excel to their Oracle OLAP databases for ad hoc query and analysis. Furthermore, the solution provided fast and secure access to data, even over wifi or remotely via VPN.