



Connecting Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager with SimbaProvider SDK

Case Study

Microsoft®

Challenge

Microsoft wished to test interoperability of its Business Intelligence (BI) tool, Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager, to ensure that it connected to other multi-dimensional data sources in addition to Microsoft Analysis Services. Testing its product with the numerous multi-dimensional data sources / providers on the market would prove time consuming. In order to efficiently test interoperability, Microsoft needed a faster, more streamlined solution.

Solution

Microsoft turned to Simba Technologies to efficiently test interoperability. Simba worked with Microsoft to test Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager against Simba's standards-based SimbaProvider SDK – the de facto toolkit used by most of the world's ISVs and Enterprises for OLE DB for OLAP (ODBO) and XML for Analysis (XMLA) data connectivity.

Results

By successfully testing Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager with Simba's technology, Microsoft effectively gained access to the majority of the world's XMLA providers and data sources from multiple vendors. Similarly, the interoperability testing again reaffirmed that Simba's customers are guaranteed that their products interoperate with other standards-based products, such as Microsoft's.

"Simba plays a key role in standards-based data connectivity. Simba's standards-based development toolkits enable quick connectivity between products from multiple vendors. Microsoft is pleased to work with Simba on advancing and promoting standards-based data connectivity."

*-Program Manager,
Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager 2005,
Microsoft*

In planning the release of Microsoft® Office Business Scorecard Manager, Microsoft wanted to ensure that its new Business Intelligence (BI) Office add-in would work with multiple multi-dimensional data sources, not just Microsoft Analysis Services. To accomplish this, Microsoft turned to Simba Technologies to test its application against Simba's standards-based SimbaProvider SDK – the leading SDK for OLE DB for OLAP (ODBO) and XML for Analysis (XMLA) data connectivity.

Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager is Microsoft's server-based business performance management scorecard application. Integrating with Microsoft Office, it provides users with the ability to build, manage and use scorecards and key performance indicators, as well as to perform collaborative analysis within the familiar Microsoft Office environment.

In order to obtain the broadest connectivity possible, Microsoft built the application following the XMLA specification. This standards-based approach best ensured that Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager would connect to multiple XMLA data sources via ADOMD.NET.

"Simba's widely deployed standards-based technology... made the company the logical choice for Microsoft's interoperability testing."

Simba Technologies' SimbaProvider SDK is the leading toolkit used by Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) and Enterprises to build ODBO and XMLA data connectivity to multi-dimensional and star-schema relational data sources. It has been used to build the majority of multi-dimensional data providers in use today. Simba's widely deployed standards-based technology and its long standing relationship with Microsoft, having co-developed the ODBC specification together in the early nineties and more recently worked collectively on the XMLA advisory council, made it the logical choice for Microsoft's interoperability testing.

Simba first tested Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager against its sample XMLA provider. With out-of-the-box success, Simba then coordinated real world testing with a SimbaProvider customer to test Microsoft's application with the customer's product. The connection worked.

By successfully testing Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager with Simba's technology, Microsoft effectively gained access to the majority of the world's XMLA providers. Microsoft's new BI tool connects to multiple multi-dimensional data sources, not just Microsoft Analysis Services.

Simba customers are guaranteed that Simba's toolkits and technology will connect to other standards-based products, like Microsoft Office Business Scorecard Manager. By using SimbaProvider SDK to build MDX connectivity, Simba's customers gain the added advantage of being able to focus on further enhancing their product, while Simba best ensures its maximum connectivity with leading analytical and reporting products, like those from Microsoft and other vendors.

About Simba Technologies Inc.

Simba Technologies Inc. is the recognized world leader in standards-based data access products and solutions. Simba works with the world's leading software companies to deliver first class data connectivity solutions.

Simba is a pioneer in ODBC, MDX, ODBO and XMLA. Since 1991, Simba has developed advanced data access solutions for thousands of end users. Today, more than half of all MDX providers have been built with Simba technology, and through a partnership with Microsoft, Simba's SQL technology has been installed on more than 30 million desktops worldwide.

Simba's firm commitment to delivering the highest customer value through innovative solutions and expert support has gained the company a reputation as the industry leader for data connectivity solutions.

For more information about Simba's data connectivity products and services, visit www.simba.com or call 1.604.633.0008.

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Simba Technologies Inc.

938 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver, BC Canada
V5Z 1E5

Tel: 1.604.633.0008
Fax: 1.604.633.0004

solutions@simba.com

Printed in Canada

www.simba.com