Easysoft Data Access

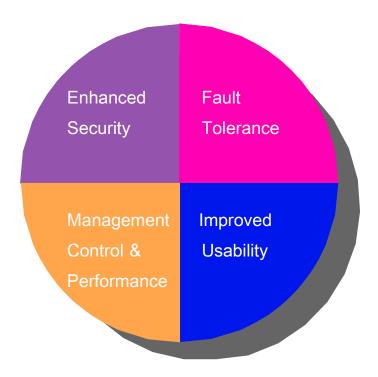## Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge

Introduction to Version 2

Resilience, Security and Control.

Introduction

Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge Version 2 is the most important upgrade since the Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge Version 1 fundamentally changed the way in which ODBC applications could communicate with remote databases.

There have been numerous minor upgrades to Version 1 during the past 6 years, primarily aimed at improvements to performance and ODBC functionality.

Version 2 is focussed on the four areas that are regarded as critical by system managers:

Enhanced Security

In today's business environment organisations must take every precaution to protect systems from accidental or malicious breaches of security. Version 2 introduces several new methods of controlling access, thereby preventing malicious attacks.

Fault Tolerance

The Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge has already gained a reputation for extremely high levels of availability, with clients reporting uninterrupted operation over several years. The new features introduced in version 2 are designed to allow systems architects to construct fault tolerant solutions, with automatic failover in the event of server failure.

Management Control & Performance

The Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge is often deployed in high throughput, mission critical situations where requirements change rapidly and workload fluctuations require immediate action. Version 2 adds additional management reporting plus improved ability to control the functionality of the system and improve performance.

Improved Usability

We have made countless changes to make the Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge easier to install, configure and maintain. Streamlined installation routines are designed to ensure fast, trouble free installation and configuration. A new step-by-step wizard makes it easy to create and test data sources.

Upgrading to Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge Version 2 is straightforward and is recommended for all existing users.
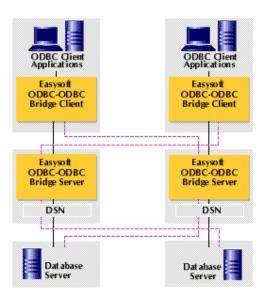
Version 2 Enhanced Functionality

The following sections provide an outline of the key new features introduced in Version 2. In addition to those listed below there are many other minor enhancements and changes. For full details you should refer to the product documentation.

High Availability

- The Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge client software now provides for the configuration of one or more fallback Servers for each data source. The system will automatically revert to a failover server in the event that the server fails to respond. No client application programming is required. Data source dialogues have been enhanced to allow for the testing of all available servers.

Fault tolerant configuration using Version 2

- Process affinity allows an Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge Server process to be tied to a particular CPU on machines with multiple CPUs, allowing system administrators tighter control over system resources.

- Support for multiple Network Interface Cards can be used to increase the available bandwidth or, for example, to totally isolate internal and external networks.

Enhanced Security

- Version 2 introduces Data Source Access Control, restricting a particular machine or IP addresses to a subset of available data sources. A user accessing the system from a specific machine will only be able to access the permitted data sources.
- Access Control Lists can now include usernames in additional to IP address, providing an alternative method for defining which machines can access the database.
- Web administrator pages can be configured to require the user to supply a Username/Password for the native machine, preventing unauthorized access.
- The remote system administration can be restricted to a specific machine or network.
- To help prevent successful attacks, the Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge server will detect any attempt to access the service by any process that is not identified as an Easysoft ODBC-ODBC bridge client. Access will be denied and the relevant IP address will automatically be added to the Access Control List, ensuring subsequent attempts will fail. This facility reduces the chance of a malicious program gaining any access to your data or disrupting your interface via the OOB interface.

Management Control

- The system administrator is now able to view and control the status of the Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge Server service from the web interface.
- The following additional statistics are now available:
    - Average connections per minute.
    - Connections per client.
    - Connections per data source
    - Average connected time per data source
- Statistics are automatically written to a time stamped statistics file on exit.
- Automatic audit trail file rotation.
- The Audit trail file is viewable from a remote browser.
- Data sources can now be accessed from within the web administrator.
- Graphs of connection history and auditable events viewable from remote browser.
- The Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge server can now implement connection pooling, saving system resources and reducing connection times.
- Licenses can be viewed using the web administrator.

- A log is maintained of all SQL statements that fail to execute, allowing administrators to address application faults and user training requirements.
- Last status/warning displayed on front page of web administrator

Usability

- Additional features have been introduced to improve the functionality available when the Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge is used with ODBC 2.0 and other legacy ODBC drivers.
- Licenses may be exported for backing up or replication.
- Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge server configurations can be exported, providing a simple method of transferring configuration details between servers.
- When navigating data sources from a remote browser it is now possible to display all tables, columns in each table and even rows from each table.

- The interface for creating and maintaining data sources on Windows has been completely redesigned with a new easy to use tabbed dialogue. Other improvements include:

  - Additional configuration assistance with *tooltips* and *whatsthis* help
  - Support for multiple Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge servers to facilitate failover.
  - New Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge server tests in addition to the existing DSN tests. Each server tested is marked as OK or Failed and recommendations made.
  - Drop down list of available TargetDSNs for each Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge server.
  - New HTML Help with dynamic problem resolution.

- A large number of improvements have been made to the installation procedures, documentation, and user dialogue with the aim of:
  - Simplifying the installation and configuration process
  - Eliminating known areas of confusion
  - Improving data source testing

- The installation process will attempt to detect the presence of Perl, looking for DBI and DBD::ODBC, With user approval, the installation script will test DBI/DBD::ODBC, making appropriate recommendations to the installer and

giving further pointers to the correct use of the Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge with Perl.

- Major changes have been made on UNIX and Linux platforms to simplify the installation procedure and thereby reduce configuration time. Much of the user intervention required during installation has been eliminated and only critical warnings or exceptions are reported. The most common requirement on UNIX and Linux systems is for a client only install and this has now been adopted as the default. The result is a faster installation with less possibility for error.

- A GUI setup dialogue is now available on Linux and Solaris / Sparc platforms and this functionality will be extended to other platforms at a later date.

- The installation process allows for the creation of a data source on the fly. The installer is prompted for the information needed to create a data source. On successful completion and testing a list of tables can be retrieved and the details of the DSN configuration can be saved for future use.

- Additional information is now included with the installation including a performance white paper, advice on the use of various development tools and advice on the use of the Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge with Firewalls.

Advice for upgrading customers

Version 2 is a recommended upgrade for all existing customers. It is particularly recommended for customers running single or multiple Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge servers who wish to implement failover functionality.

Version 2 will require a new license to be issued by Easysoft. It is therefore advisable to contact your account manager prior to upgrading production systems.

Version 2 Documentation

Version 20 of the Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge manual is available in HTML and PDF formats via the easysoft.com web site. The chapters covering UNIX installation, reporting and configuration have been completely revised.
ftp://ftp.easysoft.com/pub/docs/oob/edaoob.pdf

Version 2 Availability

Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge Version 2 is available now from the Easysoft web site, www.easysoft.com. Where necessary Version 1 and 2 distributions can be used in combination with no detrimental effects.

Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge Version 1 and Easysoft ODBC-ODBC Bridge Enterprise Edition are forthwith withdrawn from active sale.

Further information

Further information is available on the Easysoft web site:

http://www.easysoft.com/products/2002/main.phtml/

User documentation:

ftp://ftp.easysoft.com/pub/docs/oob/edaoob.pdf

Upgrades and other Commercial issues:

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