



Using Open Database Connectivity

Cisco AR supports Open Database Connectivity (ODBC), an open specification that provides application developers a vendor-independent API with which to access data sources. Cisco AR provides a new type of RemoteServer object and a new service to support ODBC. You can use Cisco AR to authenticate and authorize access requests by querying user information through ODBC.

ODBC is an application program interface (API). Real data exchange between an application and data store is still carried out by SQL through ODBC. To achieve the most flexibility, you are required to define your own SQL using **aregcmd**. Cisco AR will register the SQL statements and send them to the data store through ODBC when required. Because you can define your own SQL, Cisco AR supports sites that have their own data stores.

ODBC is configured using **.ini** files, specifically **odbc.ini** and **odbcinst.ini**. However, you cannot create or modify these files directly. Cisco AR creates the **.ini** files after you use **aregcmd** to configure the ODBC connection. The SQL is stored in the local database (MCD). During execution, the Cisco AR server reads the local database, prepares the SQL statements, and sends the SQL to the data source.



Note

Cisco AR uses its own ODBC driver manager and does not share existing ODBC drivers (if you already have ODBC installed). If you are already using ODBC, you will have to maintain two separate ODBC installations.

The ODBC memory requirement depends on your configuration. The more datasources you configure, the more memory is required. Packet processing time might increase if you configure a large number of SQL statements under SQLDefinition.

The Cisco Access Registrar 3.0 package includes some ODBC Drivers, and you should use the included driver whenever possible. If a data store's ODBC driver is not included with Cisco AR, you are required to install it. You configure the driver library using **aregcmd** to modify the associated **ini** file.

Oracle Software Requirements

The Cisco Access Registrar 3.0 ODBC feature requires that you have Oracle 8.1.6 or 8.1.7 client software installed. All Oracle client software library files are expected under **\$ORACLE_HOME/lib**.

When you install Cisco Access Registrar 3.0 software, the installation process prompts you for **ORACLE_HOME** variable and sets it in the Cisco AR start-up script, **/etc/init.d/arsserver**. Two other environment variables (**ODBCINI** and **ODBCSYSINI**) are also set in the **arsserver** script. To change any of these variables, modify the **/etc/init.d/arsserver** script and restart the Cisco AR server.

Configuring ODBC

You use **aregcmd** to define your ODBC configuration and SQL statements. The Cisco AR server automatically creates the **ODBC.ini** file for your driver manager and driver based on how you configure ODBC.

To use ODBC in Cisco AR, you must do the following:

1. Configure an ODBC Service
2. Configure an ODBC RemoteServer object
3. Configure an ODBC DataSource
4. Set ODBC service as the default AA service
5. Save your configuration

After you **save** and validate your configuration, it is saved in the MCD database. If you have configured an ODBC service, Cisco AR will query the MCD database and create or modify the **odbc.ini** file before it builds a connection to the database. When you reload your configuration, Cisco AR shuts down any existing ODBC connections, then queries the MCD database to create or modify the **odbc.ini** file and build a new connection for any configured ODBC Data Sources.

Configuring the ODBC Service

You configure an ODBC service under **/Radius/Services**. When you define an ODBC service under **/Radius/Services**, you must set its type to ODBC and provide the following configuration options:



Note

We will use ODBC as the ODBC service name in the following examples.

```
[ //localhost/Radius/Services/ODBC ]
  Name = ODBC
  Description =
  Type = odbc
  IncomingScript~ =
  OutgoingScript~ =
  OutagePolicy~ = RejectAll
  OutageScript~ =
  MultipleServersPolicy = Failover
  RemoteServers/
```

Table 13-1 describes the ODBC service parameters.

Table 13-1 ODBC Service Parameters

Parameter	Description
Name	Mandatory; inherited from the upper directory
Description	An optional description of the service
Type	Must be set to ODBC for ODBC service
IncomingScript	Optional
OutgoingScript	Optional
OutagePolicy	Mandatory; must be set to AcceptAll or Drop Packet, or defaults to RejectAll

Table 13-1 ODBC Service Parameters

Parameter	Description
OutageScript	Optional
MultipleServersPolicy	Mandatory; must be set to RoundRobin or defaults to Failover. When set to Failover, Cisco AR directs requests to the first server in the list until it determines the server is off-line. If so, Cisco AR redirects all requests to the next server in the list until it finds an on-line server. When set to RoundRobin, Cisco AR directs each request to the next server in the RemoteServers list in order to share the resource load across all servers in the RemoteServers list.
RemoteServers	Mandatory list of remote servers defined under /Radius/Services/ODBC/RemoteServers such as ODBC-Primary and ODBC-Secondary

Configuring an ODBC RemoteServer

You must configure an ODBC RemoteServer object for each RemoteServer object you list under **/Radius/Services/ODBC/RemoteServers**. Use the **aregcmd** command **add** to add ODBC servers under **/Radius/RemoteServers**.

[Table 13-2](#) describes the ODBC service parameters.

Table 13-2 ODBC Remote Server Parameters

Parameter	Description
Name	Mandatory; inherited from the upper directory
Description	An optional description of the server
Protocol	Mandatory and must be set to ODBC; no default value
ReactivateTimeInterval	Mandatory; default is 300000 (ms)
Timeout	Mandatory; default is 15 (seconds)
DataSourceConnections	Mandatory; number of concurrent connections to data source (default is 8)
ODBCDataSource	Mandatory; no default value
SQLDefinition	SQLDefinition/ (mandatory, no default); UserPasswordAttribute = (mandatory, no default; data store field for user password) SQLStatements/ SQLStatement1/ SQLStatement2/
ODBCToRadiusMappings	(optional)
ODBCToEnvironmentMappings	(optional)
ODBCToCheckItemMappings	(optional)

ODBC Data Source

ODBCDataSource is the name of the datasource to be used by the remote server. An ODBCDataSource name can be reused by multiple remote servers. You configure ODBCDataSources under **/Radius/Advanced/ODBCDataSources**. Refer to [Configuring an ODBC DataSource, page 13-6](#), for more information.

SQL Definitions

SQLDefinitions lists the UserPasswordAttribute and one or more SQL statements, listed numerically in the order to be run. The UserPasswordAttribute represents a column in the database that contains users' password information. Individual SQLStatements are numbered SQL1 through SQL n under SQLStatements, as shown in the following example:

```
SQLDefinition/
  UserPasswordAttribute = asdfjkl
  SQLStatements/
    SQL1/
    SQL2/
    SQL3
    ...
```

The following example is an SQL statement used for Authentication and Authorization:

```
SQLStatements/
  SQL1
    Name = SQL1
    Type = query (mandatory, no default; must be query)
    SQL = SQL statement (mandatory, no default)
    ExecutionSequenceNumber = Sequence number for SQLStatement execution. (mandatory,
    no default and must be greater than zero).
    MarkerList = UserName/SQL_DATA_TYPE ..... (mandatory, UserName must be defined)
```

[Table 13-3](#) describes the SQL Statement parameters.

Table 13-3 SQL Statement Parameters

Parameter	Description
Name	Name/number of SQL statement
Type	Query (mandatory, no default value)
SQL	SQL query statement
ExecutionSequenceNumber	Sequence number for SQLStatement execution, must be greater than zero (mandatory, no default)
MarkerList	Defines all markers for the query. MarkerList uses the format <i>UserName/SQL_DATA_TYPE</i> .

SQL Syntax Restrictions

You must observe the following SQL syntax restrictions in SQL queries for Cisco Access Registrar 3.0.

1. The SQL statement must be in the format of SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE ..." (Statements might be in lower-case.)



Note 'WHERE' is compulsory in the SQL statement.

- Any arguments to Oracle functions like *distinct*, *count* must be given within braces, as shown in the following example:

```
select distinct(attribute),password from profiles where username=?
```

The resulted column from *distinct(attribute)* will be put into *attribute* which can be used for ODBC Mappings. The actual result set from Oracle for this column would be named *distinct(attribute)*.

- The column list in the SQL statement must be delimited with a comma (,) and any extra spaces between statements are ignored. Aliasing for column names in SQL is not allowed. SQLDefinition properties define the SQL you want to execute, as shown in the following example.

Specifying More Than One Search Key

You can specify more than one search key for a table in the SQL SELECT. To do so, add another search criteria to the SQL statement and add the environment variable name to the MarkerList. For example, the following query and MarkerList can be used to look up a username and CLID match.

```
select password from user_table where username = ? and clid = ?
```

In this case, the marker list would look like this:

```
UserName/SQL_CHAR clid/SQL_CHAR
```

To configure the multiple entries in the MarkerList list, surround the entire string in double quotes like the following:

```
set MarkerList "UserName/SQL_CHAR CLID/SQL_CHAR"
```

To make this work, a variable called CLID must be in the environment dictionary. You can use a script to copy the appropriate value into the variable.

ODBCToRadiusMappings

You configure ODBCToRadiusMappings with a list of *name/value* pairs where name is the name of the data store attribute to retrieve from the user record and the value is the name of the RADIUS attribute to set to the value of the data store attribute retrieved.

For example, when the ODBCToRadiusMappings has the following entry, the RemoteServer retrieves the attribute from the data store user entry for the specified user, uses the value returned, and sets the response variable *Framed-IP-Address* to that value:

```
FramedIPAddress = Framed-IP-Address
```

When an SQL select statement returns more than one row for a column mapped under ODBCToRadiusMappings, multiple RADIUS attributes will be created. As of the Cisco AR 3.0R6 release, the table.column syntax requires an SQL alias for the mapping to work, as shown in the following example:

```
SQLStatements/
SQL1/
select table1.abc as t1abc, password from table2 where username = ?
Mapping: t1abc = my_mapping
```

If two rows are returned for ciscoavpair column, two Cisco-AVPair attributes will be created.

ODBCToEnvironmentMappings

Under ODBCToEnvironmentMappings there is a list of name/value pairs in which the name is the name of the data store attribute to retrieve from the user record, and the value is the name of the Environment variable to set to the value of the ODBC attribute retrieved.

For example, when the ODBCToEnvironmentMappings has the entry: `group = User-Group`, the RemoteServer retrieves the attribute from the ODBC user entry for the specified user, uses the value returned, and sets the Environment variable User-Group to that value. When an SQL select statement returns more than one row for a column mapped under ODBCToEnvironmentMappings, the first row's value will be taken.



Note

As of the Cisco AR 3.0R6 release, the `table.column` syntax requires an SQL alias for the mapping to work.

Configuring an ODBC DataSource

ODBCDataSource is the name of the datasource to be used by the remote server. You configure ODBCDataSources under **/Radius/Advanced/ODBCDataSources**. Multiple remote servers can use the same ODBCDataSource.

Under the ODBCDataSource object definition, a list defines **ODBC.ini** file name/value pairs for a connection. The list includes a Type field and a Driver field, different for each Driver and Data Source, to indicate its Driver and Data Source. Cisco Access Registrar 3.0 currently supports only the Easysoft Open Source Oracle Driver.

[Table 13-4](#) describes the Easysoft Open Source Oracle Driver options.

Table 13-4 Easysoft Open Source Oracle Driver Options

Parameter	Description
Name	Name of the ODBCDataSource
Type	Mandatory; must be Oracle_es
Driver	Mandatory; liboarodbc.so (default value)
Database	Mandatory; Oracle Client configuration database name (no default value)
UserID	Mandatory; database user name (no default value)
Password	Optional user password; shown encrypted

Setting ODBC As Authentication and Authorization Service

Use **aregcmd** to configure the ODBC Service as the default authentication and authorization service under **//localhost/Radius** as in the following:

```
set DefaultAuthenticationService odbc-service
```

```
set DefaultAuthorizationService odbc-service
```

Saving Your Configuration

When you use **aregcmd** to **save** your configuration, Cisco AR attempts to validate the configuration, checks for all required parameters, and ensures there is no logic error. If the validation is successful, the configuration is saved to the MCD database. When you **reload**, Cisco AR shuts down any current ODBC connections and builds new connections for the configured ODBC Data Sources.

