



Marketing Bulletin

AMB2009-02

March 18, 2009

Alpha ODBC™ 1.4B Released *Significantly Improved Support for ISAM*

Dear Alpha Micro Dealer:

Are you intrigued by the idea of providing cross-platform access to your AMOS™ data files? AlphaODBC is a convenient solution to those needs, providing an industry-standard way to read from and write to your AMOS data.

We are pleased to announce the availability of a new version of AlphaODBC with a myriad of minor enhancements and fixes to broaden its usability.

Improved Support For “Old” ISAM

Old ISAM environments are now fully supported, along with ISAM Plus and Metropolis. The MAKISM utility automatically generates the .ODD files you need, and the various routines comprising the main ODBC.RP program have been updated to better support ISAM.

Keyed Access For Metropolis™

The model driver programs have been updated to support faster access to Metropolis data via the use of key files.

WHERE Clause Support Enhanced

Keys are now supported within WHERE clauses, to improve searches for data within a specific key range. The LIKE condition is supported with old ISAM. No longer does AlphaODBC read through an entire file when a key can help it start or finish searching at a certain point.

The WHERE clause also now works on key fields where there are multiple matches of data records to a specified key.

Note that ODBC in and of itself does not require or define key file functionality. If you typically access a certain file with multiple keys, you may need to write multiple ODBC drivers, each using a single key, to permit fast access to the file with any of the required keys. In other words, one driver per key file will be required to maximize performance.

Numerous Bug Fixes and Enhancements, Such As:

Longer SQL commands are now supported.

The AMOS-side log files are now only written to when you are in debug mode.

Additional diagnostic messages have been added to the AMOS-side logs, to assist you in writing and debugging your own ODBC drivers.

Error-trapping has been improved so ODBC sessions close out more gracefully.

DaFT – New Developers’ Tool

We have been recommending the use of WinSQL™ Lite as a development and debugging tool for AlphaODBC. This free product helps you to understand what is going on behind the scenes by composing SQL statements one at a time for execution. WinSQL Lite is downloadable from www.synametrics.com. Recent releases of WinSQL, however, have disabled certain features in the free version; one must purchase one of the commercial versions to obtain formerly free functionality.

We have recently discovered a similar tool which in some ways is superior to WinSQL Lite: Database Fishing Tool, a.k.a. DaFT. This piece of freeware includes a handy feature called “Test Mode”, which only retrieves 25 records at a time. Test mode can save significant time if you are testing the operation of ODBC against a large database: Why wait for thousands of records to load just to prove whether a certain SQL function will work? DaFT may be downloaded from: <http://daft.sourceforge.net>.

Available For Download Now

Dealers with a Support Contract may download the new AlphaODBC 1.4B release from the Alpha Micro FTP server. It is also included on the March, 2009 AMOS DVD.

Dealers without a Support Contract may purchase the update by contacting Alpha Micro Order Administration.

Your existing AlphaODBC version 1.x PIC code will continue to work with version 1.4B.