

## Creating System DSNs (Windows 2000 only)

A Data Source Name, or DSN, is how you reference your database in your ASP applications. The DSN describes important information about your database, including the path where it resides as well as the ODBC driver that should be used to access it.

Creating a System Data Source Name for a database is an easy task with the ODBC Control Panel. It is accessible through the **Database Tools** link in the Control Panel.

### Adding a DSN

The following information is needed to successfully create a System DSN for your database:

- DSN Name
- Database Name
- Database Type

You should set the DSN name to something that will reflect which particular database you are configuring the DSN for. Please note that you will need to refer to your DSN in the format *userid*.*[DSN Name]* in your applications (where *userid* is your account's User ID). The database name is the path to the database on your site for Microsoft Access and Microsoft FoxPro databases. For Microsoft SQL Server databases, enter your username as the database name. You will also need to specify what type of database you are using: Microsoft Access, Microsoft FoxPro, or SQL Server.

The first thing you will see in the **Database Tools** control panel is the ODBC Data Sources list. From here you can see information about the System DSNs that have already been created and add new System DSNs. To create a new DSN, click the **Add New Data Source** button.

Now you will see the Data Sources form. This where you can enter all the information required to configure your DSN. If you wanted to create a DSN called "myDB" for an Access database called "my.mdb" residing in the "data" directory of your site, you would fill out the form as illustrated below.

ODBC Data Sources		Insert	Cancel	List View
Status: Ready for a new record				
DSN Name	<input type="text" value="myDB"/>			
Database Name	<input type="text" value="data\my.mdb"/>			
Type	<input type="text" value="Access"/>			

Clicking on the **Insert** button will add the DSN to the server and you will be taken to the **Feedback** form. Here you can review the the configuration for the DSN you just set up. You will also have the option of creating another new DSN or going back to the ODBC Data Sources List.

### Modifying or Deleting a DSN

If you have already created a DSN, you will have the option of changing the database name or deleting the DSN altogether. From the ODBC Data Sources list, you can select an individual DSN by clicking on it's number.

ODBC Data Sources					New	
current Filter						
Num	UserID	DSN Name	Database Name	Header Type		
1	myuser	myDB	data\my.mdb	Access		
		First	Previous	Next	Last	Requery

Now you will be able to change the name of the database in the in the textbox. The change will be made on the server upon clicking the **Update** button. You can also delete the DSN by clicking the **Delete** button.

### Notes

- Remember that you must reference your DSN as *userid.[DSN Name]*.
- Your database must be stored in the "data" directory of the site if you want to allow write access in your web applications. By default, in order to protect your databases, the /data directory is configured to deny all web requests.