

**NAME**

`odbc` – provide ODBC-based database access

**SYNOPSIS**

`odbc [-v] [-R RS] [-F FS] [-h] [-n null] DRVC stmt`

**DESCRIPTION**

*Odbc* prints the results of an *SQL select* command run on any database for which an appropriate data source has been defined. Two arguments must always be specified as part of the *odbc* invocation: the data source driver connection string, and an SQL select statement. All data types are currently output as text according to the default driver-supplied data conversions. By default fields are separated by the tab character and records by a newline. The select statement specified must conform to the syntax and conventions used by the database being accessed.

The driver connection string can either specify a registered system data source driver name, as in:

```
"DSN=registered_dsn_name;uid=myusername;pwd=mypassword"
```

or directly a driver, as in:

```
"Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};DBQ=c:\db\myfile.mdb"
```

Data source drivers are typically configured through the control panel (ODBC category or through the Administrative Tools menu).

**OPTIONS**

**-R RS** Specify the record separator used to delimit records on output. The default record separator is a newline.

**-F FS** Specify the field separator used to delimit fields on output. The default field separator is a tab.

**-h** The first line of the output will contain the name of each database field.

**-n null** Specify the value to print when encountering a null value. By default nothing is printed.

**EXAMPLE**

```
mail 'odbc DSN=userDB "select email from users"' <message
```

Extracts the email address from all records from the table *users* which is part of the database *userDB* and sends them the file *message* by email.

**SEE ALSO**

D. Spinellis. *Outwit: Unix tool-based programming meets the Windows world*. In *USENIX 2000 Technical Conference Proceedings*, San Diego, CA, USA, June 2000, USENIX Association.

International Organization for Standardization, Geneva, Switzerland. *Information technology — Database languages — SQL — Part 3: Call-Level Interface (SQL/CLI)*, 1995. ISO/IEC 9075-3:1995.

Microsoft Developer Network Library, ODBC API Reference, the ‘Comments’ section of the *SQLDriverConnect* function.

**AUTHOR**

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**BUGS**

The presentation of results in textual format depends on the implementation of the ODBC driver.