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DBM 405
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Talking with a DB

There are a vast number of communication protocols available when one is trying to communicate with a Database (DB). Of the vast number of database communication protocols I prefer to use one of the following: ODBC, OLE DB, and ADO.

The meaning of ODBC is, “Open Database Connectivity, is a language-, database-, and OS-independent database API that ships with all current versions of Windows, and is also available for the Macintosh and a variety of UNIX. (Heller, Martin)”

The meaning of OLE DB is, “a set of COM-based interfaces that expose data from a variety of sources. The OLE DB libraries ship as part of MDAC, The Microsoft Data Access Components. (Heller, Martin)”

The meaning of ADO is, “Active X Data Objects, is a language-Neutral object model for data access, with a COM interface that can be called easily from scripting languages. ADO connects to database through OLE DB or ODBC. ...The core object in ADO is the Recordset. (Heller, Martin)”

Both ODBC and OLE DB are database communication protocols for talking with a database. An ADO object is one type of object past between a database and an application using the database communication protocols ODBC or OLE DB. The reason ODBC is so widely use is because it is a database communication protocols independent of any operating system and this one thing makes it one of the most powerful, in terms of usage, and widely uses database communication protocols.

OLE DB and ADO are both standards created by Microsoft. OLE DB is one of the database communication protocols for Microsoft used in the .NET programming solutions and

ADO is one of the objects for Microsoft .NET software programming solutions uses as an object to pass information from an application to a database and then back to the application.

The only real difference between ODBC and OLE DB is Microsoft came up with and incorporated OLE DB in the Microsoft .NET programming solution but .NET does support ODBC because ODBC is an industry standard for database communication protocols.

After all is said and done there is no incorrect standard in communicating with a database. If a programmer is working in a Microsoft shop then he will be required to use .NET programming solutions and this includes OLE DB and ADO but if he is not working in a Microsoft shop then the programmer will more then likely choose to use ODBC and the database communication protocol. There is not real advantage or disadvantage between the two database communication protocols. It all boils down to what the standard the programming shop requires the programmers to use.

Works Cited

Heller, Martin. "Yada, Yada, Yada". Byte.com. 23 February 2004.