

mxODBC

Django

Database

Engine

ODBC Database Interface
for the Django Web Framework

Version 1.2

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Contents

| | | |
|-----------|--|----------|
| 1. | Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 | Features..... | 1 |
| | MS SQL Server Features | 2 |
| | Direct mxODBC Interface to other Databases | 3 |
| 1.2 | Django ORM Integration | 3 |
| 1.3 | Supported Django Versions | 4 |
| 1.4 | Requirements | 4 |
| | Windows..... | 5 |
| | Unix | 5 |
| | Mac OS X..... | 6 |
| 2. | Installation..... | 7 |
| 2.1 | Windows Installation | 8 |
| | 2.1.1 Installation managed by Windows..... | 8 |
| | 2.1.2 Installation managed by Python..... | 8 |
| 2.2 | Unix / Mac OS X Installation | 8 |
| 2.3 | Download the Software | 9 |
| | 2.3.1 Automatic download | 9 |
| | easy_install and zc.buildout (setuptools/distribute-based) | 9 |
| | pip..... | 10 |
| | 2.3.2 Manual download | 10 |
| | Choosing the right file to download | 10 |
| 2.4 | Installation using zc.buildout | 12 |
| | 2.4.1 Before You Start | 12 |
| | Upgrading | 12 |
| | License Files | 12 |

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 2.4.2 | Step-by-step Installation Guide..... | 13 |
| | Step 1 | 13 |
| | Step 2 | 14 |
| | Step 3 | 15 |
| | Step 4 | 15 |
| 2.5 | Installation using easy_install | 16 |
| 2.5.1 | Before You Start..... | 16 |
| | Upgrading | 16 |
| | License Files | 16 |
| 2.5.2 | Step-by-step Installation Guide..... | 17 |
| | Step 1 | 17 |
| | Step 2 | 17 |
| | Step 3 | 18 |
| 2.6 | Installation using pip..... | 18 |
| 2.6.1 | Before You Start..... | 19 |
| | Upgrading | 19 |
| | License Files | 19 |
| 2.6.2 | Step-by-step Installation Guide..... | 20 |
| | Step 1 | 20 |
| | Step 2 | 20 |
| | Step 3 | 21 |
| | Step 4 | 21 |
| 2.6.3 | Uninstall..... | 21 |
| 2.7 | Installation using Windows MSI Installer | 22 |
| 2.7.1 | Before You Start..... | 22 |
| | Upgrading | 22 |
| | License Files | 22 |
| 2.7.2 | Step-by-step Installation Guide..... | 23 |
| | Step 1 | 23 |
| | Step 2 | 24 |
| | Step 3 | 24 |
| | Step 4 | 24 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 2.7.3 | Uninstall..... | 24 |
| 3. | Configuration | 26 |
| 3.1 | ODBC Data Source Configuration | 26 |
| 3.1.1 | General Notes | 26 |
| | Connection Pooling by the ODBC Manager | 26 |
| 3.1.2 | Windows Platform..... | 27 |
| | Platform Default ODBC Manager | 27 |
| 3.1.3 | Unix Platform | 27 |
| | Platform Default ODBC Manager | 28 |
| 3.1.4 | Mac OS X Platform..... | 28 |
| | Platform Default ODBC Manager | 29 |
| 3.2 | ODBC Driver/Manager Troubleshooting..... | 29 |
| 3.2.1 | Windows ODBC Manager..... | 29 |
| 3.2.2 | Unix ODBC Managers iODBC, unixODBC and DataDirect | 30 |
| 3.2.3 | Microsoft Access ODBC Driver | 30 |
| 3.2.4 | IBM DB2 ODBC Driver | 31 |
| 3.2.5 | SAP DB ODBC Driver | 31 |
| 3.2.6 | FreeTDS ODBC Driver (access MS SQL Server from Linux)..... | 31 |
| 3.2.7 | MS SQL Server Native Client for Linux | 32 |
| 3.2.8 | PostgreSQL ODBC Driver | 32 |
| 3.2.9 | Other ODBC Drivers and Manager Setups | 33 |
| 4. | Setting up your Django application | 34 |
| 4.1 | Configuring database access..... | 35 |
| 4.1.1 | Database settings | 35 |
| 4.1.2 | Database backend options | 37 |
| 5. | Using the mxODBC Django Database Engine..... | 42 |
| 5.1 | Using the Django ORM with mxODBC | 42 |
| 5.1.1 | MS SQL Server as database backend for the Django ORM | 42 |
| | Database Permissions | 43 |
| | Date/Time Fields | 43 |
| | Limitations | 43 |

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

| | | |
|--------|--|-----------|
| 5.1.2 | Working with databases which are not supported by the ORM . | 43 |
| 5.2 | Direct mxODBC Database Interfacing | 44 |
| 5.2.1 | mxODBC Python API..... | 44 |
| 5.2.2 | Importing mxODBC into your Django application | 44 |
| 5.2.3 | Example of using the mxODBC Database Interface in Django ... | 45 |
| 5.2.4 | Transaction Management | 46 |
| | Default transaction mode is manual commit | 46 |
| | Enabling Auto-Commit | 47 |
| 6. | Additional information | 48 |
| 6.1 | Known problems and limitations of the MS SQL Server subpackage.... | 48 |
| 6.1.1 | mxODBC Django Database Engine currently only supports Microsoft SQL Server..... | 48 |
| 6.1.2 | Django timezone support doesn't work well with MS SQL Server | 49 |
| | Avoid using USE_TZ | 49 |
| | Avoid date/time string literals and implicit datetime to string conversion..... | 49 |
| 6.1.3 | Limited MS SQL Server datetime precision | 49 |
| | Unwanted Rounding..... | 49 |
| | Avoid mixed-date/time field type comparisons/filtering..... | 50 |
| 6.1.4 | Min() / Max() and DateField() / TimeField()..... | 50 |
| 6.1.5 | Character encoding related problems | 50 |
| 6.1.6 | Deferred constraint checking is not supported on MS SQL..... | 51 |
| | Possible work around | 52 |
| 6.1.7 | Limited support for regular expressions..... | 52 |
| 6.1.8 | Data types nvarchar() and ntext cannot be compared..... | 52 |
| | Work around | 52 |
| 6.1.9 | Aggregate function support conflicts with other database backends | 53 |
| 6.1.10 | Database cache support conflicts with other database backends | 53 |
| 6.2 | Tips and tricks | 54 |
| 6.2.1 | How do I determine the correct collation values? | 54 |
| 6.2.2 | How do I implement full regular expression search? | 54 |

Contents

| | | |
|-------|---|-----------|
| 6.3 | Troubleshooting | 55 |
| 6.3.1 | Django does not find the database backend | 55 |
| 6.3.2 | I'm getting an error about missing mxODBC license or the license has expired | 55 |
| 6.3.3 | Django cannot connect to the database..... | 55 |
| 7. | Support | 57 |
| 8. | Copyright & License | 58 |

1. Introduction

[mxODBC](#) has proven to be the most stable and versatile ODBC interface available for Python. It has been in production use since 1997 and is actively maintained by [eGenix.com](#) to meet the requirements of modern database applications which our customers have built on top of mxODBC.

[Django](#) is a high-level Python Web framework that encourages rapid development with a clean and pragmatic design.

[mxODBC Django Database Engine](#) is a database adapter specifically designed for Django which allows interfacing with database servers providing an ODBC interface, with direct *Django Object Relational Mapper* (ORM) integration. We currently support the ORM integration for:

- **Microsoft SQL Server:**
Microsoft SQL Server versions 2005, 2008 and 2012

ORM support for other popular database backends will be added in upcoming releases.

Databases for which we currently do not provide ORM support can be used by directly building on top of the Python DB-API 2.0 compatible mxODBC Database API. Please see section 5.2 Direct mxODBC Database Interfacing for details.

This manual explains how to setup *mxODBC Django Database Engine* for your Django web application. It is written as a technical manual, so some knowledge of Python and the basic configuration of Django is needed.

1.1 Features

The mxODBC Django Database Engine provides the following features:

- **Fully integrated with the Django ORM:** No need to learn a new API - simply continue to use the known Django ORM interface.
- **Compatible with all current Django versions:** The mxODBC Django Database Engine supports Django 1.4 and 1.5.

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

- **Compatible with all recommended Python versions:** The database engine supports Python 2.6 and 2.7; both as UCS2 (narrow) and UCS4 (wide) Unicode variant on Unix platforms.
- **Full Unicode Support:** The database engine can communicate with the database using native Unicode and 8-bit encodings such as UTF-8 or CP1252.
- **Full 64-bit Support:** The underlying mxODBC 3.2 library fully supports 64-bit platforms such as Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard) and 64-bit Linux systems that use unixODBC, iODBC or DataDirect ODBC managers.
- **Cross-platform Connection Objects:** The database engine will automatically choose the right platform specific ODBC manager for you.
- **Per Connection Adjustable ODBC Manager Interface:** mxODBC supports many different ODBC managers. The mxODBC Django Database Engine allows you to select the ODBC manager on a per-connection basis.
- **Per Connection Customization of Interface Parameters:** The database engines allows adjusting many different parameters to adapt the engine to your specific database needs, should you have special requirements.

MS SQL Server Features

- **MS SQL Server fully integrated into the Django ORM:** Access MS SQL Server through the Django ORM, just like any other Django ORM database.
- **MS SQL Server Regular Expression Emulation:** Even though MS SQL Server itself does not support regular expressions, the mxODBC Django Database Engine provides an emulation for simple regular expressions to simplify porting existing applications to a SQL Server backend.
- **MS SQL Server Aggregate Function Support:** We provide a special aggregate function implementation to have the Django ORM support SQL Server aggregate functions.
- **MS SQL Server Timestamp Support:** SQL Server support millisecond accuracy on timestamps. The database engine will take care of applying the necessary rounding for the microsecond precision Python timestamps in a seamless way.

- **Support for all popular SQL Server ODBC drivers:** The mxODBC Django Database Engine supports the MS SQL Server Native Client on Windows, the MS SQL Server Native Client for Linux, as well as the FreeTDS ODBC driver. Commercial drivers from well-known driver vendors are also supported.
- **Support for accessing SQL Server from Windows and Unix platforms:** On Windows and Linux you can use the SQL Server Native Client, on other Unix platforms and Mac OS X, the FreeTDS or commercial drivers can be used.

Direct mxODBC Interface to other Databases

- **Access IBM DB2, Sybase ASE, Oracle, Teradata, Netezza, etc. directly through the proven mxODBC Database API:** Import, query and save data directly to the databases using a simple to use API and all available database specific SQL dialects, capabilities and features, including ones for which the Django ORM does not provide support.
- **Fully Python DB-API 2.0 compatible interface:** mxODBC support the Python DB-API 2.0, including many standard extensions and the full set of ODBC catalog methods for database introspection.
- **Full transaction control:** When using the mxODBC Database API, you get full control over the database connections, including opening them on demand, in auto-commit mode, dynamically scaling the number of connections per request, etc.

1.2 Django ORM Integration

The mxODBC Django Database Engine package provides ORM integration subpackages for each database backend.

In version 1.2 of the mxODBC Django Database Engine we provide support for Microsoft SQL Server 2005, 2008 and 2012 through the subpackage `mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server`. For later versions of the product, we plan to add subpackages for other database backends such as Sybase, IBM DB2 and Oracle as well.

The mxODBC Django Database Engine can be used just like most other database backends shipped with Django. We have added some additional options and features that allow adjusting the engine to your specific needs, but the defaults should work for most installations.

Configuring Django to use one of the available mxODBC Django Database Engine ORM subpackages only requires changes to your application specific [settings.py](#) file.

Note:

Some features of the Django ORM may not be supported on all the database backends due to differences between the supported set of data types and operators of the underlying database servers or database server versions.

1.3 Supported Django Versions

The Django project is a quickly evolving web framework. eGenix generally tries to keep up to date with the latest supported releases of Django, but since new Django versions often introduce subtle differences in the internal Django APIs that the mxODBC Django Database Engine has to interface to, upwards compatibility is not always guaranteed.

Version 1.2 of the mxODBC Django Database Engine supports these Django versions:

- Django 1.4
- Django 1.5

It may also work with older Django versions, as far back as Django 1.2, but those versions are no longer supported by eGenix. Support for future Django version depends on the way Django is developed. In the past, changes to the Django APIs have often made it necessary to adapt the mxODBC Django Database Engine to the new versions, so you can not expect the package to be forward compatible.

1.4 Requirements

mxODBC Django Database Engine needs these environment on Windows, Unix or Mac OS X for successful installation:

Windows

- All 32-bit Windows platforms starting with Windows 2000 are supported. 64-bit versions Windows Vista x64 and later are supported as well.
- Django 1.4 or 1.5 needs to be installed and working.
- Python 2.6 or 2.7 needs to be installed and working. You normally have one of these Python versions already installed if you are using Django 1.4 or later.
- The Windows version of the mxODBC Django Database Engine uses the Windows ODBC manager as ODBC manager, so you have to configure your ODBC data sources using its GUI interface which is available through the system settings folder.
- You should setup at least one configured and running ODBC data source for testing purposes.

Unix

- SuSE, RedHat or Ubuntu Linux distributions, as well as FreeBSD, for x86 and x86_64 processors are supported Unix platforms. We can also provide ports and custom builds for other Unix platforms such as IBM AIX or Oracle Solaris on request. Please write to sales@egenix.com for details.
- Django 1.4 or 1.5 needs to be installed and working.
- Python 2.6 or 2.7 needs to be installed and working. You normally have one of these Python versions already installed if you are using Django 1.4 or later.
- On Linux and FreeBSD, the binary package includes support for the unixODBC and iODBC ODBC managers. On Linux, the DataDirect ODBC manager is also supported. You must have at least one of these installed in order to be able to connect to ODBC data sources. Please use the ODBC manager GUI interfaces to configure the data sources. The Django Database Engine prefers unixODBC over iODBC over DataDirect, if more than one ODBC manager is installed.
- You should setup at least one configured and running ODBC data source for testing purposes.

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

Mac OS X

- Mac OS X 10.4/10.5 Intel and PPC 32-bit and Mac OS X 10.6 Intel 64-bit are supported. Please note that we are phasing out support for Mac OS X 10.4 and 10.5 as well as the 32-bit Intel version.
- Django 1.4 or 1.5 needs to be installed and working.
- Python 2.6 or 2.7 needs to be installed and working. You normally have one of these Python versions already installed if you are using Django 1.4 or later.
- Mac OS X uses a variant of iODBC as system ODBC manager. On Mac OS X 10.4 and 10.5 this comes pre-installed with the system. On Mac OS X 10.6 and later, the ODBC manager is available from Apple as [separate download](#). Alternatively, you can use the new [ODBC Manager](#) which is maintained by [Actual Technologies](#). Please use the ODBC manager GUI interfaces to configure the data sources.
- You should setup at least one configured and running ODBC data source for testing purposes.

2. Installation

The mxODBC Django Database Engine package is distributed as a third party add-on for the Django Web framework.

It comes with all components needed to enable ODBC driver access for Django:

- *egenix-mx-base*, providing the base functionality
- *egenix-mxodbc*, providing the ODBC level interface
- Django-compatible ORM database engines for the supported backends

The product does not include ODBC drivers for the database. You can get these from your database vendor or one of the many third-party vendors providing ODBC drivers for many combinations of platform and database version. See the [ODBC vendor list on SQLSummit.com](http://www.sqlsummit.com/odbc/vendor-list/) for details.

The following sub-sections will guide you through the download and installation process.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

You will have to install a **valid mxODBC Django Database Engine license** in order to run your Django application with the backends provided by mxODBC Django Database Engine.

Please do not install the eGenix packages **egenix-mx-base** or **egenix-mxodbc** separately when using the mxODBC Django Database Engine product. It already includes these packages. A separate installation is not needed and will cause conflicts.

2.1 Windows Installation

On Windows, you typically install Python using the Python MSI Installer, which places the installation details into the Windows Registry and allows the installation to be managed using the software installation manager built into Windows.

2.1.1 Installation managed by Windows

If you have a setup like this and would like to install the mxODBC Django Database Engine in the same way, please proceed as described in

- Section 2.7 Installation using Windows MSI Installer

2.1.2 Installation managed by Python

Alternatively to the Windows Installer-based installation, it is also possible to install the mxODBC Django Database Engine using **zc.buildout**, **setuptools/distribute/easy_install** or **pip**. These installation mechanism are not managed by the Windows software installation manager, so cannot be uninstalled using the Windows manager. However, they offer ways of automating the installation and uninstallation from within Python.

If you'd like to use one of the mentioned methods for installation, please proceed as described in following sections:

- Section 2.4 Installation using zc.buildout
- Section 2.5 Installation using easy_install
- Section 2.6 Installation using pip

2.2 Unix / Mac OS X Installation

On Unix platforms such as Linux, FreeBSD, Mac OS X, you have to use Python installation managers to install the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

We support **zc.buildout**, **setuptools/distribute/easy_install** or **pip**.

Depending on your preferred method, please proceed as described in following sections:

- Section 2.4 Installation using **zc.buildout**
- Section 2.5 Installation using **easy_install**
- Section 2.6 Installation using **pip**

2.3 Download the Software

eGenix distributes the mxODBC Django Database Engine in form of **.egg** and **.prebuilt files**. Both types of files are a Python binary distribution format, which allows distribution of compiled Python packages without the need for a compile step on the target machine.

While **.egg** files work well with **setuptools/distribute** based **easy_install** and **zc.buildout**, the **.prebuilt** files are usable with the more modern **pip** installer.

There are two ways to get the database engine installed in your Django project: an automatic approach and a manual one.

2.3.1 Automatic download

The mxODBC Django Database Engine is normally distributed and installed in form of Python egg archives which are built for automatic download and made available through a special package index on the eGenix.com website.

easy_install and **zc.buildout** (setuptools/distribute-based)

A separate **manual download is normally not needed**, since *easy_install* and *zc.buildout* installation and build tools will automatically find and download the **.egg** software archives from the eGenix.com website as needed.

pip

Please note that pip does not support automatically downloading .prebuilt files. You have to use the manual download option, if you intend to use pip.

2.3.2 Manual download

If you do need to download the egg or prebuilt archives eGenix makes available, e.g. because you want to use pip, your server doesn't have Internet access, or is behind a firewall, please read on.

You can download the binary egg and prebuilt archives for your combination of platform, Python version and Unicode variant from the eGenix.com web-site at <http://www.egenix.com/>.

Choosing the right file to download

Please make sure that you download the right version for your Django installation. If you get import errors, notices of failed initialization or Django hangs, you likely have the wrong product version installed.

These parameters make a difference:

Installation Tool (easy_install/zc.buildout or pip)

Depending on which installation tool you will be using to install the database engine in your Django project, you will have to download either an .egg or a .prebuilt archive version:

- download **.egg files** if you are using **easy_install** and **zc.buildout**
- download **.prebuilt** files if you are using **pip**
- download **.msi** files if you are using the **Windows Installer**

Platform (Windows, Linux, FreeBSD, Mac OS X)

All recent versions of these operating systems are supported. Just be sure to download the correct archive for your platform.

2. Installation

Python Build Version (2.6, 2.7)

To check which Python version your Django installation is using, startup the Python interpreter¹ using the `-V` option:

```
bin/python -V
```

This will print out the Python version number.

Python Build Architecture (32 bit or 64 bit)

On many platforms we support x86 32-bit and x86_64 64-bit versions of Python.

To find out which version Django is using, run the following command:

```
bin/python -c "import struct; print struct.calcsize('P')*8, 'bit'"
```

This will print out “32 bit” or “64 bit”.

Unicode Variant (UCS2 or UCS4)

On Windows, Python is always compiled as UCS2 version, so you can skip this section.

On Unix, Python can be built using two different Unicode variants: UCS2 and UCS4.

To find out which variant your Python version was compiled with, run the following command (if you are running Django with a different Python interpreter, please replace `bin/python` with the one you are using):

```
bin/python -c "print('UCS%s'%len(u'x'.encode('unicode-internal')))"
```

This will either print out “UCS2” or “UCS4”.

Most Django installation will be using the system's default Python installation, either directly or via a [virtualenv](#) local installation.

On Linux and FreeBSD this usually means you have a UCS4 version of Python.

¹ Have a look at the `./bin/django-admin.py` startup file in your Django directory to find the path to the Python interpreter.

2.4 Installation using `zc.buildout`

This section explains the installation of the mxODBC Django Database Engine using a [zc.buildout](#) based approach. `zc.buildout` is a software configuration and setup tool that allows for a programmatic, repeatable approach to software deployment.

2.4.1 Before You Start

The binary installation archives and egg files include everything you need to run the mxODBC Django Database Engine, including the necessary *egenix-mx-base* and *egenix-mxodbc* packages for Django.

Please make sure that you **do not have *egenix-mx-base* or *egenix-mxodbc* installed separately**, since the installation will not succeed in such a setup.

If you have not installed them manually in your Python installation, also **make sure that you don't have any of these buildout recipes installed:** `collective.recipe.mxodbc` or `collective.recipe.mxbase`.

Upgrading

`zc.buildout` will automatically upgrade your mxODBC Django Database Engine to the latest release.

If you don't want this to happen, add an entry with the exact version number to the `[versions]` section of the `buildout.cfg` or `versions.cfg` file, e.g.

```
[versions]
egenix-mxodbc-django = 1.2.0
```

License Files

In order to run the mxODBC Django Database Engine, you will need license files from eGenix.com.

If you want to test the product before buying it, you can request evaluation licenses via the eGenix.com web-site at <http://www.egenix.com/>.

When buying licenses from the eGenix.com online shop (<http://shop.egenix.com/>), you will receive the license files immediately after purchase.

2. Installation

In both cases, the license files are sent to the email address you specified during the purchase process or from which you wrote the evaluation license request in form of a ZIP license archive attached to the license email – usually named [licenses.zip](#).

The license archive [licenses.zip](#) contains one subdirectory per Django Project license you bought. The directories are named after the license key for each Django Project license. A typical license archive will have these contents:

```
2100-8789-0322-0926-2568-6429/mxodbc_django_license.py
2100-8789-0322-0926-2568-6429/mxodbc_django_license.txt
2100-8089-0312-0926-2668-6529/mxodbc_django_license.py
2100-8089-0312-0926-2668-6529/mxodbc_django_license.txt
```

(in the above example, the license archive contains the files for two product licenses).

In order to install the license files, please unzip the license archive to your Django installation directory, i.e. the directory with the [buildout.cfg](#) file. `zc.buildout` will need to find the files for proper operation.

The files will be copied to the right Django Project directory location via a `zc.buildout` recipe where Django can find them, so **you should not remove these license directories**.

2.4.2 Step-by-step Installation Guide

We assume that you have already installed Django and unzipped the license files to the installation directory as explained in the previous section.

Step 1

Determine whether you are using a UCS2 or UCS4 build of Python.

Windows users always need the UCS2 version. **Mac OS X users** will most likely also need the UCS2 version, since Python's default configuration is to build a UCS2 interpreter. **Linux users** will likely need a UCS4 build.

To find out which variant your Python version was compiled with, run the following command (if you are running Django with a different Python interpreter, please replace [bin/python](#) with the one you are using):

```
bin/python -c "print('UCS%s'%len(u'x'.encode('unicode-internal')))"
```

This will either print out “UCS2” or “UCS4”.

Step 2

We assume that you are using a buildout recipe similar to the [djangorecipe](#) recipe, which has a [django] section for installing Django and the Django project.

In your [buildout.cfg](#) file, please add/adapt the following content:

```
[buildout]
...

### Add eGenix Index to the buildout setup
#
# IMPORTANT: Use the URL
# https://downloads.egenix.com/python/index/ucs2/
# if your Python version is a UCS build. If you have a UCS4
# build of Python, use the URL
# https://downloads.egenix.com/python/index/ucs4/
#
find-links =
    ...
    https://downloads.egenix.com/python/index/ucs2/

### Add eGenix mxODBC Django Database Engine eggs
#
# The new egenix-mxodbc-django-license part takes care of
# automatically installing your license files in the instance.
#
eggs =
    ...
    egenix-mxodbc-django

parts =
    ...
    egenix-mxodbc-django-license

...

### Install the Django Project licenses for egenix-mxodbc-django
#
# This part copies the license files you extracted to the
# project directory to the directory where your project's
# settings.py module is located.
#
# IMPORTANT: You need to replace ***license-serial*** with the
# directory containing the mxodbc_django_license.py file for
# your project.
#
[egenix-mxodbc-django-license]
recipe = collective.recipe.template
input = ***license-serial***/mxodbc_django_license.py
output =
    ${django:project}/${django:project}/mxodbc_django_license.py

### Define versions of packages to be used
#
# buildout will automatically use the latest version it finds
# for building instances. This may not always be what you
# want, so it's usually better to pin down the version you're
# interested in.
#
[versions]
...
```

2. Installation

```
egenix-mxodbc-django = 1.2.0
collective.recipe.template = 1.9
```

In the above file, you have to make two adjustments:

- Adjust the **URL used in the find-links directive** to use either the [ucs2/](#) or the [ucs4/](#) version of the eGenix PyPI-style distribution index.
- Adjust the **egenix-mxodbc-django version** to the one that you would like to use.
- Replace the *****license-serial***/ path component** with the license directory containing the license for the instance you are configuring. The directories extracted from the [license.zip](#) file are usually named after the license serial, e.g. [2100-8789-0322-0926-2568-6429/](#).

Step 3

Run buildout in the installation directory:

```
./bin/buildout
```

This will rebuild your Django project using the newly added eGenix mxODBC Django Database Engine product.

Step 4

To complete the installation, configure a database connection to use the mxODBC Django Database Engine and restart Django.

Here's a quick example of a [settings.py](#) entry which uses the MS SQL Server package of the database engine:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {},
    }
}
```

The configuration of the mxODBC Django Database Engine is explained in more detail further below.

2.5 Installation using easy_install

This section explains the installation of the mxODBC Django Database Engine using an easy_install based approach. easy_install is a script that is installed as part of the [distribute](#) or [setuptools](#) Python packaging system.

It uses egg files which contain binary Python packages for easy installation.

2.5.1 Before You Start

The binary installation egg files include everything you need to run the mxODBC Django Database Engine, including the necessary *egenix-mx-base* and *egenix-mxodbc* packages for Django.

Please make sure that you **do not have egenix-mx-base or egenix-mxodbc installed separately**, since the installation will not succeed in such a setup.

Upgrading

easy_install will automatically upgrade your mxODBC Django Database Engine to the latest release, if you run it with option --upgrade.

If want to install or upgrade a specific release, please specify the version as requirement, e.g. `easy_install egenix-mxodbc-django==1.2.0`.

License Files

In order to run the mxODBC Django Database Engine, you will need license files from eGenix.com.

If you want to test the product before buying it, you can request evaluation licenses via the eGenix.com web-site at <http://www.egenix.com/>.

When buying licenses from the eGenix.com online shop (<http://shop.egenix.com/>), you will receive the license files immediately after purchase.

In both cases, the license files are sent to the email address you specified during the purchase process or from which you wrote the evaluation license request in form of a ZIP license archive attached to the license email – usually named [licenses.zip](#).

2. Installation

The license archive [licenses.zip](#) contains one subdirectory per Django Project license you bought. The directories are named after the license key for each Django Project license. A typical license archive will have these contents:

```
2100-8789-0322-0926-2568-6429/mxodbc_django_license.py
2100-8789-0322-0926-2568-6429/mxodbc_django_license.txt
2100-8089-0312-0926-2668-6529/mxodbc_django_license.py
2100-8089-0312-0926-2668-6529/mxodbc_django_license.txt
```

(in the above example, the license archive contains the files for two product licenses).

In order to install the license files, please unzip the license archive to your Django Project and place the `mxodbc_django_license.*` files into the directory where your project's `settings.py` Django module is located.

If the mxODBC Django Database Engine cannot find the license module on import, Django will give an error on startup.

2.5.2 Step-by-step Installation Guide

We assume that you have already installed Django and unzipped the license files to the project directory as explained in the previous section.

Step 1

Determine whether you are using a UCS2 or UCS4 build of Python.

Windows users always need the UCS2 version. **Mac OS X users** will most likely also need the UCS2 version, since Python's default configuration is to build a UCS2 interpreter. **Linux users** will likely need a UCS4 build.

To find out which variant your Python version was compiled with, run the following command (if you are running Django with a different Python interpreter, please replace `bin/python` with the one you are using):

```
bin/python -c "print('UCS%s'%len(u'x'.encode('unicode-internal')))"
```

This will either print out “UCS2” or “UCS4”.

Step 2

You are now ready to install the eGenix Django Database Engine using `easy_install`. Select one of the following variants depending on the outcome of the UCS-test in the previous step.

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

If you are using a **UCS2 version of Python**, please run the following command using the `easy_install` script corresponding to your Python installation (usually in the same directory as the `python` binary).

```
easy_install \
-i https://downloads.egenix.com/python/index/ucs2/ \
egenix-mxodbc-django
```

(please use the correct index URL for your Python version)

For a **UCS4 version of Python**, run:

```
easy_install \
-i https://downloads.egenix.com/python/index/ucs4/ \
egenix-mxodbc-django
```

The above commands install the latest available version of the `egenix-mxodbc-django` package. If you'd like to **install a specific version**, please add a version restriction ("`egenix-mxodbc-django==1.2.0`"), e.g.

```
easy_install \
-i https://downloads.egenix.com/python/index/ucs4/ \
egenix-mxodbc-django==1.2.0
```

This will install version 1.2.0 of the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

Step 3

To complete the installation, configure a database connection to use the mxODBC Django Database Engine and restart Django.

Here's a quick example of a `settings.py` entry which uses the MS SQL Server package of the database engine:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {},
    }
}
```

The configuration of the mxODBC Django Database Engine is explained in more detail further below.

2.6 Installation using pip

This section explains the installation of the mxODBC Django Database Engine using the [*pip package manager*](#).

2. Installation

pip uses a standard setup.py based approach for installation. We have created a special prebuilt binary format which supports this kind of interface and works well with pip.

Please note that you have to download the .prebuilt package file from our website to install the egenix-mxodbc-django package, since pip can not automatically select the correct file for your installation platform.

2.6.1 Before You Start

The binary installation prebuilt files include everything you need to run the mxODBC Django Database Engine, including the necessary *egenix-mx-base* and *egenix-mxodbc* packages for Django.

Please make sure that you **do not have egenix-mx-base or egenix-mxodbc installed separately**, since the installation will not succeed in such a setup.

Upgrading

To force an upgrade, please add the --upgrade option to the pip installation command below.

Upgrading to a specific version is simply done by downloading and using the specific .prebuilt archive version for the installation.

License Files

In order to run the mxODBC Django Database Engine, you will need license files from eGenix.com.

If you want to test the product before buying it, you can request evaluation licenses via the eGenix.com web-site at <http://www.egenix.com/>.

When buying licenses from the eGenix.com online shop (<http://shop.egenix.com/>), you will receive the license files immediately after purchase.

In both cases, the license files are sent to the email address you specified during the purchase process or from which you wrote the evaluation license request in form of a ZIP license archive attached to the license email – usually named [licenses.zip](#).

The license archive [licenses.zip](#) contains one subdirectory per Django Project license you bought. The directories are named after the license key

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

for each Django Project license. A typical license archive will have these contents:

```
2100-8789-0322-0926-2568-6429/mxodbc_django_license.py
2100-8789-0322-0926-2568-6429/mxodbc_django_license.txt
2100-8089-0312-0926-2668-6529/mxodbc_django_license.py
2100-8089-0312-0926-2668-6529/mxodbc_django_license.txt
```

(in the above example, the license archive contains the files for two product licenses).

In order to install the license files, please unzip the license archive to your Django Project and place the `mxodbc_django_license.*` files into the directory where your project's `settings.py` Django module is located.

If the mxODBC Django Database Engine cannot find the license module on import, Django will give an error on startup.

2.6.2 Step-by-step Installation Guide

We assume that you have already installed Django and unzipped the license files to the project directory as explained in the previous section.

Step 1

Determine whether you are using a UCS2 or UCS4 build of Python.

Windows users always need the UCS2 version. **Mac OS X users** will most likely also need the UCS2 version, since Python's default configuration is to build a UCS2 interpreter. **Linux users** will likely need a UCS4 build.

To find out which variant your Python version was compiled with, run the following command (if you are running Django with a different Python interpreter, please replace `bin/python` with the one you are using):

```
bin/python -c "print('UCS%s'%len(u'x'.encode('unicode-internal')))"
```

This will either print out "UCS2" or "UCS4".

Step 2

Using the information obtained in step 1 and the name of your installation platform, download the right .prebuilt package archive from the [eGenix.com website](http://eGenix.com) and place it into the Django installation directory.

Step 3

You are now ready to install the eGenix Django Database Engine using `pip`.

Please run the following command using the `pip` script corresponding to your Python installation (usually in the same directory as the `python` binary).

```
pip install egenix-mxodbc-django-<version info>-prebuilt.zip
```

(replace `egenix-mxodbc-django-<version info>-prebuilt.zip` with the filename you've downloaded)

This will install the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

Uninstallation, e.g. if you've accidentally installed a wrong version, can be done using the standard `pip uninstall` command:

```
pip uninstall egenix-mxodbc-django
```

Step 4

To complete the installation, configure a database connection to use the mxODBC Django Database Engine and restart Django.

Here's a quick example of a `settings.py` entry which uses the MS SQL Server package of the database engine:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {},
    }
}
```

The configuration of the mxODBC Django Database Engine is explained in more detail further below.

2.6.3 Uninstall

The `pip` installer keeps track of the files it installed for a package.

To uninstall the mxODBC Django Database Engine, run the following command:

```
pip uninstall egenix-mxodbc-django
```

This will uninstall all files that can safely be removed from the system. It will not remove files which were added to the subpackages after installation, nor will it remove the license files you manually installed.

2.7 Installation using Windows MSI Installer

This section explains the installation of the mxODBC Django Database Engine using the native Windows MSI installer files.

These installations create registry entries and can be uninstalled through the standard Windows OS Software Management tools. The MSI installers we provide allow for interactive, unattended and automated installs. Please see the [Python MSI installer features](#) page on python.org for details on available options.

In order to use the MSI installers, you have to download the .msi installer file from the [mxODBC Django Database Engine product page](#).

2.7.1 Before You Start

The binary MSI installers include everything you need to run the mxODBC Django Database Engine, including the necessary *egenix-mx-base* and *egenix-mxodbc* packages for Django.

Please make sure that you **do not have egenix-mx-base or egenix-mxodbc installed separately**, since the installation will not succeed in such a setup.

Upgrading

When upgrading, we generally recommend uninstalling the previous installation using the Windows Software Management tools first.

After the uninstall has completed, you can then proceed as usual with the installation.

License Files

In order to run the mxODBC Django Database Engine, you will need license files from eGenix.com.

If you want to test the product before buying it, you can request evaluation licenses via the eGenix.com web-site at <http://www.egenix.com/>.

2. Installation

When buying licenses from the eGenix.com online shop (<http://shop.egenix.com/>), you will receive the license files immediately after purchase.

In both cases, the license files are sent to the email address you specified during the purchase process or from which you wrote the evaluation license request in form of a ZIP license archive attached to the license email – usually named `licenses.zip`.

The license archive `licenses.zip` contains one subdirectory per Django Project license you bought. The directories are named after the license key for each Django Project license. A typical license archive will have these contents:

```
2100-8789-0322-0926-2568-6429/mxodbc_django_license.py
2100-8789-0322-0926-2568-6429/mxodbc_django_license.txt
2100-8089-0312-0926-2668-6529/mxodbc_django_license.py
2100-8089-0312-0926-2668-6529/mxodbc_django_license.txt
```

(in the above example, the license archive contains the files for two product licenses).

In order to install the license files, please unzip the license archive to your Django Project and place the `mxodbc_django_license.*` files into the directory where your project's `settings.py` Django module is located.

If the mxODBC Django Database Engine cannot find the license module on import, Django will give an error on startup.

2.7.2 Step-by-step Installation Guide

We assume that you have already installed Django and unzipped the license files to the project directory as explained in the previous section.

Step 1

If you are working on a Windows x64 system, you need to determine whether you are using a 64-bit or a 32-bit build of Python on your Windows system. On Windows x86 you can skip this step, since you'll always have a 32-bit build of Python as well.

You can determine the Python variant by running the following command:

```
bin/python -c "import struct; print struct.calcsize('P')*8,'bit'"
```

The output will tell you whether your Python installation is a 32-bit or a 64-bit one.

Step 2

Using the information obtained in step 1 and the variant of your installation Windows platform (Windows x86 or x64), please download the right .msi installer archive from the [eGenix.com website](http://egenix.com) and place it into the Django installation directory.

Step 3

You are now ready to install the eGenix Django Database Engine. Simply double-click on the `egenix-mxodbc-django-...msi` file and follow the instructions. This will install the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

During the installation, you have to answer a few user access control (UAC) dialogs. Depending on the installation location of Python, it may also be necessary to run the MSI file as administrator.

Please note that it's better to "install for all users", since per-account installations of Python tend to cause permission problems.

Step 4

To complete the installation, configure a database connection to use the mxODBC Django Database Engine and restart Django.

Here's a quick example of a `settings.py` entry which uses the MS SQL Server package of the database engine:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {},
    }
}
```

The configuration of the mxODBC Django Database Engine is explained in more detail further below.

2.7.3 Uninstall

The Windows installer will automatically register the installed software with the standard Windows software management tool.

To uninstall the mxODBC Django Database Engine, run the Windows Software Management tool and select the *"Python x.x eGenix mxODBC Django Database Engine x.x"* entry for deinstallation.

2. Installation

This will uninstall all files that can safely be removed from the system. It will not remove files which were added to the subpackages after installation, nor will it remove the license files you manually installed.

3. Configuration

The configuration of access to a database involves two steps:

1. Configuration of the database as ODBC data source
2. Connecting Django to the data source using the mxODBC Django Database Engine

The next sections explain the details of these two steps.

3.1 ODBC Data Source Configuration

Before being able to connect to a database, you have to configure the database as data source in the Operating System's ODBC manager.

3.1.1 General Notes

These notes apply to all platforms.

Connection Pooling by the ODBC Manager

As of version 1.5, Django does not provide database connection pooling. This can result in poor performance, since Django usually reconnects to the database on every single request.

Fortunately, ODBC manager usually come with connection pooling built-in, so it's possible to work around this problem.

You can turn on connection pooling in your ODBC manager's GUI, whether on Linux, Mac OS X or Windows system. If you'd rather like to enable the setting without using a GUI, please consult your ODBC manager's documentation.

When using ODBC manager connection pooling, please make sure that:

- your web application still works as intended
- performance does goes up

Enabling connection pooling in the ODBC manager can have unwanted side-effects, e.g. due to connection settings leaking across requests, which can result in the web application becoming unstable.

It can also result in poor performance with some databases, so testing the setting is needed and no general recommendation can be given.

3.1.2 Windows Platform

On Windows, you must configure the ODBC manager through the standard system settings dialogs (*ODBC Data Sources*).

Please consult the Windows help files and your database/ODBC driver documentation for details on how to setup data sources in the Windows ODBC Manager.

Note that if you plan to run **Django as Windows service**, it may be necessary to setup the ODBC data sources as System-DSN. Otherwise, the Django process won't be able to see or access the ODBC data sources you setup in the Windows ODBC manager.

Platform Default ODBC Manager

The platform default ODBC manager (the one selected using `mxodbc_manager="Manager"` in the connection options) on Windows is always the Windows ODBC manager.

On 64-bit Windows platforms, Windows comes with two versions of the Windows ODBC manager: a 32-bit version and a 64-bit version. The 32-bit version of mxODBC Django Database Engine will choose the 32-bit one, the 64-bit version of mxODBC Django Database Engine the 64-bit ODBC manager.

3.1.3 Unix Platform

On Unix (Linux or Solaris), it suffices to supply a standard ODBC INI file either as `/etc/odbc.ini` or in the Django user home directory as `~/.odbc.ini` (note the leading `'.'`) file which uses the same syntax as the Windows file `ODBC.INI`.

Alternatively, you can use the unixODBC/iODBC/DataDirect management GUIs which allows setting up data sources in the same way as the Windows ODBC manager provides on Windows.

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

Details on the ODBC manager configuration on Unix can be found on the websites of the ODBC managers:

unixODBC - <http://www.unixodbc.org/>

iODBC - <http://www.iodbc.org/>

DataDirect - <http://www.datadirect.com/>

Please consult your database / ODBC driver documentation for details on how to setup data sources using these ODBC managers.

Note that you only need to have one of these ODBC managers installed on the installation machine for the mxODBC Django Database Engine to work.

Platform Default ODBC Manager

The platform default ODBC manager (the one selected using `mxodbc_manager="Manager"` in the connection options) depends on which ODBC manager mxODBC Django Database Engine finds during startup. It select the first one found from the above given list, i.e. unixODBC, iODBC, DataDirect.

3.1.4 Mac OS X Platform

On Mac OS X, please configure the ODBC manager through the standard system *ODBC Administrator*. Open the finder and navigate to [Applications / Utilities / ODBC Administrator](#).

Internally, the ODBC Administrator builds upon the open-source ODBC manager **iODBC**, so the comments related to iODBC also apply to the Mac OS X ODBC manager.

If you are running Mac OS X 10.6 or later and don't have the ODBC Administrator installed, you can [download and install it from Apple](#).

Please consult the Mac OS X help and your database/ODBC driver documentation for details on how to setup data sources in the Mac OS X ODBC Administrator.

If you are running on Mac OS X 10.6 and have **problems finding the data sources** configured with the ODBC Administrator in the mxODBC Django Database Engine data source list or connecting to them, please see [this Mac Dev Center article](#) for a fix.

Platform Default ODBC Manager

The platform default ODBC manager (the one selected using `mxodbc_manager="Manager"` in the connection options) depends on which ODBC manager mxODBC Django Database Engine finds during startup. It select the first one found from the above given list, i.e. unixODBC, iODBC.

Unless you have installed the unixODBC ODBC manager by hand or via Mac Ports and configured an appropriate linker setup, this will select the iODBC ODBC manager as default.

3.2 ODBC Driver/Manager Troubleshooting

This section collects a few hints and tricks we have gathered during the beta testing and rollout phase which may be helpful in setting up a working ODBC connection.

Since ODBC drivers can sometimes vary in quality and features, care has to be taken when configuring the ODBC drivers so that you get the best performance and stability possible.

Please note that some of the following sections on ODBC drivers do not may not apply to the current version of the mxODBC Django Database Engine, since the respective database backends are not supported by the Django ORM integration. We still include them, since it is well possible to connect to these databases directly via the include underlying mxODBC Python interface.

3.2.1 Windows ODBC Manager

The Windows ODBC manager implements a feature called **Connection Pooling** which allows faster connects to databases. In some cases we have observed failures and problems when using the connection pooling feature of the ODBC manager together with the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

If you are observing similar problems, we suggest that you turn off connection pooling in the Windows ODBC manager for those data sources that you wish to use the Django Database Engine for.

3.2.2 Unix ODBC Managers iODBC, unixODBC and DataDirect

On Unix the mxODBC Django Database Engine uses an already installed iODBC, unixODBC or DataDirect manager to communicate with the installed ODBC drivers.

At Django startup time, the Django Database Engine tries to import the interfaces for the ODBC managers and writes a notice to the Django startup shell window. Django can only use those interfaces which are successfully imported at this point.

If all interfaces fail to load, the mxODBC Django Database Engine will not be usable.

Typical problems which prevent the mxODBC Django Database Engine from correctly importing the underlying mxODBC interfaces to the ODBC managers are:

- missing ODBC manager installations,
- missing permissions of the Django user account to access the shared libraries of the ODBC managers (these are typically called [libiodbc.so](#) and [libodbc.so](#)),
- incorrectly setup linker parameters: the dynamic linker cannot find the shared libraries; this can usually be remedied by setting the LD_LIBRARY_PATH environment variable,
- incompatible ODBC manager versions.

If you use recent versions of the iODBC, unixODBC or DataDirect ODBC managers, the last point is less likely, since eGenix always builds the binary distributions of the mxODBC Django Database Engine against the latest stable releases of these managers.

3.2.3 Microsoft Access ODBC Driver

The MS Access database uses the Jet Engine to access the database. ODBC drivers for the Jet Engine prior to version 4.0 are *not* thread-safe and can cause problems if used with mxODBC Django Database Engine.

3. Configuration

Please make sure that you have the latest revision of the Jet Engine and corresponding ODBC drivers installed.

If you get an **error HY024 mentioning an invalid option** value during connect, it is likely that the data source is an auto-commit-only data source (meaning that it doesn't support transactions), e.g. a file data source.

In such a case:

- create a connection object that is initially closed,
- go to the properties tab of the connection object,
- select "Use Auto-Commit" and "Open Connection"
- click "Save Changes"

The connection should now be opened in auto-commit mode. Note that the data source will not participate in the Django transaction mechanism. You should only use such data sources for reading data, not writing data.

3.2.4 IBM DB2 ODBC Driver

The DB2 ODBC Driver for Windows has an optimization option called "early cursor close" (or similar). This has to be switched off. Otherwise, you'll get lots of SQLSTATE 08001 or 080003 errors during connects and parallel execution of SQL Methods becomes impossible.

3.2.5 SAP DB ODBC Driver

Some versions of the SAP DB ODBC driver have a problem with reporting the correct scale of float columns.

This should not harm the functionality of the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

3.2.6 FreeTDS ODBC Driver (access MS SQL Server from Linux)

The FreeTDS ODBC driver is a free ODBC driver for Unix which allows you to connect from Unix to Sybase and/or Microsoft's SQL Server running on different platforms such as Windows 2000.

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

Please note that the driver's current versions (0.9x) still lack a few ODBC features which you may need for production work. Unicode support was added just recently in version 0.91.

To work around the showstopper bugs in the driver, eGenix has added a set of compatibility features to the underlying mxODBC interface to at least make the setup mxODBC Django Database Engine + FreeTDS driver usable for standard queries to the supported databases. See the [mxODBC Documentation](#) for hints on how to setup FreeTDS to work together with the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

For production systems, we recommend deploying professional quality ODBC drivers to access MS SQL Server and/or Sybase, such as the ones available from EasySoft, OpenLink and DataDirect.

3.2.7 MS SQL Server Native Client for Linux

This is a new ODBC driver from Microsoft which was ported from the existing mature SQL Server Native Client driver version 11 on Windows. It is currently only available for 64-bit Linux variants.

It is more robust than the FreeTDS ODBC driver and provides better Unicode support, but also has the same issues as the SQL Server Native Client driver on Windows.

Please see the [mxODBC documentation](#) for details on setting up the driver.

3.2.8 PostgreSQL ODBC Driver

The PostgreSQL project has an ODBC driver which is available for Windows as binary and also compiles on Unix from source.

On Unix, the driver is typically included in unixODBC ODBC manager binary packages, so you may have the driver already installed if you're running Django on Unix and have unixODBC installed (the ODBC driver file is called [psqlodbc.so](#)).

Connecting to PostgreSQL using e.g. unixODBC or the Windows ODBC manager works just like for all other databases.

The only known problem with the ODBC driver for PostgreSQL is the lack of support for BLOBs (binary long objects). Please refer to the ODBC driver documentation for ways to work-around this caveat in the driver. Apart from that data type, all basic data types are supported.

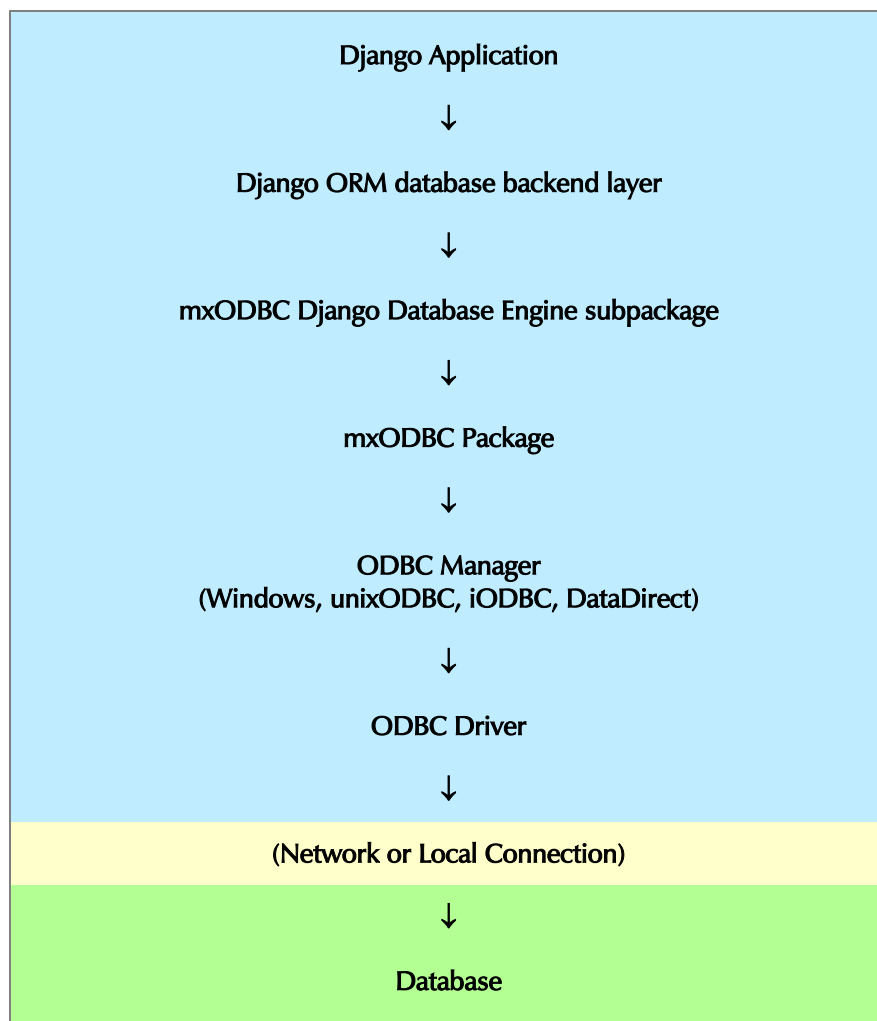
3.2.9 Other ODBC Drivers and Manager Setups

More information about various ODBC driver and manager setups can be found in the [mxODBC Documentation](#): *Interface – Subpackages - General Notes*.

4. Setting up your Django application

mxODBC Django Database Engine provides backends can be used with any Django application to access database servers through mxODBC and the ODBC interface in general.

The typical setup looks like this:



The upper blue part in the diagram executes within the process of the Python application. The green part usually runs in a separate process and possibly also on a different machine.

4. Setting up your Django application

Please consult with the [mxODBC Manual](#) for further information on the configuration of data sources and ODBC drivers.

4.1 Configuring database access

You will need to make some changes to the `settings.py` file of your Django application. Let's start with an example configuration:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=example;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {},
    }
}
```

The above configuration will connect to the ODBC data source (DSN) "example" using the UID (user name) and PWD (password) credentials given in the DSN entry of the Django database connection.

The DSN must point to a database stored in a Microsoft SQL Server instance, since we defined `ms_sql_server` as the mxODBC Django Database Engine subpackage to use.

Note that the database server does not need to be on the same machine as your Django application, but you have to make sure that the ODBC driver can connect to the server.

There are also a few backend options supported by mxODBC Django Database Engine to configure details specific to mxODBC or the database server in use. Please see the next sections for details.

4.1.1 Database settings

mxODBC Django Database Engine supports the following database settings:

ENGINE

String containing the full (dotted) name of the mxODBC Django Database Engine subpackage to use.

Possible values:

`mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server`

MS SQL Server subpackage

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

Please make sure that you select the right subpackage for your database backend.

DSN

This variable must be set to the ODBC connection string for the data source you have configured in the system's ODBC manager.

The general format is:

```
DSN=<data source name>;UID=<user name>;PWD=<password>
```

The ODBC driver defined for the data source may support additional configuration options that you can specify in the connection string, e.g. the database name or a host name to connect to.

It is also possible to use the DSN string to open connections to databases that are not defined in the ODBC manager (DSN-less connections), if you know the name of the ODBC driver and other connection details such as network locations, ports, etc.

Please consult your ODBC manager/driver's documentation for details. The [mxODBC User Manual](#) also provides some additional advice on how to configure commonly used ODBC drivers.

Note: While it's possible to use the settings `USER` and `PASSWORD` to define the user name and password (for compatibility with other Django database engines), specifying these values in the `DSN` variable is the preferred way to setup the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

NAME

Django name of the database entry.

Note that the name of the database specified in the settings module has no relevance for the data source defined by the DSN setting. It is used by Django internally to identify the database and detect aliases in the DATABASES settings dictionary.

You can specify the database to be used by the database entry in the DSN connection string via the `Database=` parameter, or in the data source setup of the ODBC manager. The details depend on the used ODBC driver and manager. Please check their documentation for details. The [mxODBC User Manual](#) has an extensive section with examples of how to setup databases connection strings and configure ODBC drivers.

USER

Database user name to connect with.

You only need to specify this variable, if you have not provided the user name as `UID=<user name>` in the `DSN` variable.

4. Setting up your Django application

PASSWORD

Password of the user to connect with.

You only need to specify this variable, if you have not provided the user name as `PWD=<password>` in the `DSN` variable.

OPTIONS

Dictionary of backend options.

See section 4.1.2 Database backend options for details.

Example:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {
            'mxodbc_encoding': 'cp1252',
        },
    },
}
```

or, using the standard Django settings for USER and PASSWORD:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008',
        'USER': 'sa',
        'PASSWORD': '123',
        'OPTIONS': {
            'mxodbc_encoding': 'cp1252',
        },
    },
}
```

4.1.2 Database backend options

mxODBC Django Database Engine supports the following backend options which can be defined as key-value pairs in the `OPTIONS` database setting dictionary:

`autocommit`

Turn on/off auto commit on the connection.

Auto commit means that changes on the database connection are immediately written to the database, even if the processed web request causes an error.

Note that turning on `autocommit` should really only be done for read-only connections. A connection running in auto commit mode can easily

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

cause data corruption in case of errors during the processing of a request.

Default is to disable auto commit when connecting to the database. Set the option to True to enable auto commit.

`mxodbc_application_encoding`

Name of the encoding to assume for 8-bit string literals that are quoted to be added literally to SQL statements built by the Django ORM.

mxODBC Django Database Engine needs to apply this conversion, since it converts all SQL statements to Unicode prior to passing them to the database.

Defaults to 'utf-8'.

`mxodbc_connection_encoding`

Name of the encoding used to encode/decode data passed to/from the ODBC driver. mxODBC's `connection.encoding` is set to this value. It uses the encoding to convert text data between the database and the application, in case the ODBC driver does not know how to handle Unicode or the database requests text data while Django sends Unicode.

The default value is 'cp1252' for the FreeTDS ODBC driver versions prior to 0.91 and 'utf-8' for all others.

Note that default is to send Unicode data as native Unicode to the ODBC driver. See the `mxodbc_stringformat` option for details.

`mxodbc_datetime_as_string`

Forces the conversion of all date, time and datetime objects into strings before passing them to the ODBC driver as a parameter.

The conversion is disabled by default.

You can enable or disable it by setting the option to True or False.

`mxodbc_exact_collation`

Name of the database server collation used for exact string comparisons.

Django's ORM expects the chosen collation to be case and accent sensitive. The sort order can be adjusted to suit your needs (binary or some dictionary order).

Defaults to 'Latin1_General_BIN' for Microsoft SQL Server.

Please see your database backend documentation for available collation names.

4. Setting up your Django application

`mxodbc_inexact_collation`

Name of the database server collation used for inexact string comparisons.

Django's ORM expects the chosen collation to be a case insensitive, but accent sensitive collation. The sort order can be adjusted to suit your needs (binary or some dictionary order).

Defaults to `'Latin1_General_CI_AS'` for Microsoft SQL Server.

Please see your database backend documentation for available collation names.

`mxodbc_init`

List of SQL statements to execute right after initiating the ODBC connection. This option can be used to implement database specific configurations of the connection, which are not possible through ODBC driver settings.

Each item can be an string containing an SQL statement or a `(sql, parameters)` tuple.

Defaults to an empty list.

`mxodbc_manager`

Name of the mxODBC subpackage / ODBC manager to use.

Defaults to `'Manager'`, which automatically selects the appropriate ODBC Manager for the platform running the Django application.

Possible values:

`Manager`

Automatically select an appropriate ODBC manager. On Windows, this selects the Windows ODBC manager. On Unix platforms, the first available manager from the following ODBC managers is chosen: unixODBC, iODBC, DataDirect.

`Windows`

Windows ODBC manager. Only possible other option on Windows. Not available on other platforms.

`unixODBC`

unixODBC ODBC manager. Unix only.

`iODBC`

iODBC ODBC manager. Unix only.

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

`DataDirect`

DataDirect ODBC manager. Currently only available for Linux platforms.

`mxodbc_monkey_patch_aggregates`

Enables monkey patching the Django Query class' `.aggregate_module` module attribute to allow Django ORM aggregate functions to work with MS SQL Server. The setting is enabled by default.

To disable the monkey patching, set the attribute to `False`. This will result in aggregate ORM functions provided by Django to fail with the MS SQL Server backend due to incompatibilities between the SQL code used by the Django implementation for these functions.

`mxodbc_monkey_patch_database_cache`

Enables monkey patching the Django `DatabaseCache` class to allow the Django ORM database cache functionality to work with MS SQL Server. The setting is enabled by default.

To disable the monkey patching, set the attribute to `False`. This will result in database cache ORM function provided by Django to fail with the MS SQL Server backend due to incompatibilities between the SQL code used by the Django implementation for the caching functionality.

`mxodbc_stringformat`

Set the mxODBC string format to use.

Default is to use mxODBC's `NATIVE_UNICODE_STRINGFORMAT`, since most drivers support Unicode today.

If a driver does not support Unicode, you have to set this to mxODBC's `UNICODE_STRINGFORMAT`.

The FreeTDS ODBC drivers prior to version 0.91 do not support Unicode. mxODBC Django Database Engine defaults to `UNICODE_STRINGFORMAT` for those drivers automatically. For other drivers, you may have to adjust the setting if you run into problems with Unicode data or SQL statements.

Please consult the [mxODBC User Manual](#) for additional details. Note that mxODBC itself defaults to `EIGHTBIT_STRINGFORMAT` for all drivers in order to stay backwards compatible with older mxODBC versions.

`mxodbc_timestampresolution`

Sets the mxODBC timestamp resolution to use on connections. The value is given in nanoseconds as integer.

Default is 1000000 nanoseconds, which corresponds to 1 millisecond. Using lower values can cause MS SQL Server to raise errors.

4. Setting up your Django application

You can override that default by explicitly passing an integer nanosecond value here. Please consult the [mxODBC User Manual](#) for details.

Please note that you normally do not need to modify this value.

`mxodbc_use_executedirect`

Forces using of the mxODBC `cursor.executedirect()` method instead of the `cursor.execute()` method used normally.

This option is enabled by default for MS SQL Server database backends, since it results in better performance and allow working around some problems with the FreeTDS ODBC driver, but left disabled for all other database servers.

You can enable or disable it by setting the option to True or False.

Example:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {
            'mxodbc_encoding': 'cp1252',
            'mxodbc_exact_collation': 'Latin1_General_BIN',
            'mxodbc_inexact_collation': 'Latin1_General_CI_AS',
        },
    },
}
```

The syntax used for defining the OPTIONS dictionary is standard Python syntax.

5. Using the mxODBC Django Database Engine

There are two ways to connect to databases using the mxODBC Django Database Engine:

- [connecting using the Django ORM](#) and using the database under ORM control
- [connecting using the mxODBC API](#) and using the database using the DB-API 2.0 compatible interface

The following sections explain the details on both variants.

5.1 Using the Django ORM with mxODBC

The mxODBC Django Database Engine implements the ORM database engine API needed by the Django ORM to work with the database.

5.1.1 MS SQL Server as database backend for the Django ORM

The Django ORM engine implementing the ORM interface for MS SQL Server is called

`mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server`

This is the database engine name that you have to use for the `ENGINE` entry in the `DATABASES` setting of your Django projects `settings.py` module.

Example:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
    }
}
```

Once configured, you can use the Django ORM with the MS SQL Server backend data source as usual. Please see the [Django User Manual](#) for details on how to use the [Django ORM interface](#), in particular the [Django model layer documentation](#).

5. Using the mxODBC Django Database Engine

Database Permissions

If you intend to run `python manage.py syncdb` on the connection, please make sure that the database user you are connecting with has sufficient database permissions to create and alter tables.

Date/Time Fields

For maximum compatibility across MS SQL Server versions, the `mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server` engine uses SQL Server `datetime` fields to represent Django `DateField()`, `DateTimeField()` and `TimeField()`.²

The engine takes care of automatically converting between the Python datetime module values and the database values, i.e. a `TimeField()` will be returned as `datetime.time` object, even though the database stores it together with a 1970-01-01 date.

A side-effect of this is that the `Min()` and `Max()` aggregates on `DateField()` and `TimeField()` fields don't work as expected. See 6.1.4 `Min()` / `Max()` and `DateField()` / `TimeField()` for details.

MS SQL Server's `datetime` field supports a range of January 1, 1753, through December 31, 9999. Any other dates will cause an exception to be raised.

Seconds fractions are rounded to the nearest millisecond before passing the values to SQL Server. MS SQL Server itself only supports a resolution of 3.33 milliseconds and rounds these to the nearest increments of 0.000, 0.003, 0.007 seconds. See 6.1.3 Limited MS SQL Server datetime precision for more details.

Limitations

Please note that some minor limitations apply when using MS SQL Server as ORM backend. These are listed in section 6.1 Known problems and limitations of the MS SQL Server subpackage.

5.1.2 Working with databases which are not supported by the ORM

At the moment, we only support MS SQL Server as ORM backend in the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

² In future versions of mxODBC Django Database Engine, we plan to optionally make use of the `date` and `time` fields, that were added in SQL Server 2008.

If you want to access other database backends, you will either have to try using the MS SQL Server subpackage `mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server` of the mxODBC Django Database engine, or directly interface to the database using the mxODBC API, which provides a Python DB-API 2.0 with many extensions.

Please see the section 5.2 Direct mxODBC Database Interfacing for details, if you plan to use mxODBC directly from within Django.

5.2 Direct mxODBC Database Interfacing

The mxODBC Django Database Engine was written to aid in using mxODBC with the Django ORM. However, it is easily possible to also use the included mxODBC library directly for interfacing to database backends.

5.2.1 mxODBC Python API

Please see the [mxODBC User Manual and Reference Guide](#) for details on the mxODBC Python API.

If you want to learn more about the Python DB-API 2.0, which mxODBC implements, please have a look at the following resources:

- [Python PEP 249: The Python DB-API 2.0](#)
- [eGenix Talk: Introduction to Python Database Programming](#)

5.2.2 Importing mxODBC into your Django application

Importing mxODBC can be done from a Django application just like from within a normal Python script. The only difference is that you have to **import the `mxodbc_django` package before trying to import `mx.ODBC`.**

Importing the `mxodbc_django` package makes sure that mxODBC is configured correctly for use in Django. If you forget to import the package before importing `mx.ODBC`, you will get an `ImportError`.

5.2.3 Example of using the mxODBC Database Interface in Django

In this short example, we're highlighting some important details of using the mxODBC database interface in Django.

First is the way mxODBC is imported:

```
# Import the mxODBC Django Database Engine to setup mxODBC
# for use in Django
import mxodbc_django

# Now, import mxODBC as usual
import mx.ODBC.Manager as ODBC
```

It is important to note that the `mxodbc_django` package has to be imported prior to importing mxODBC itself.

Hint: Using the `mx.ODBC.Manager` subpackage allows your Django application to work in most configuration settings, since it removes the need to know which ODBC manager the system is using.

Next, you can open a data connection by providing a data source connection string to the `DriverConnect` constructor:

```
# Open a connection to a database
connection = ODBC.DriverConnect(connection_string)
```

Once you have the connection, you can create cursors on the connection to execute statements.

```
# Create a cursor to run SQL statements
cursor = dbc.cursor()

# Run a query
cursor.execute(query_sql, parameters)

# Fetch the results
results = cursor.fetchall()

# Insert/update some rows
cursor.executemany(insert_sql, list_of_parameters)
```

Whenever making changes to the database, you have to commit those changes explicitly to make them permanent in the database. If you don't, the changes will be rolled back again as soon as you close the connection.³

```
# Commit the changes that you have made to the database; If you
# forget this, your inserts won't be written permanently to
```

³ If you setup an auto-commit connection, all changes will be permanent immediately, so you don't have to call `.commit()`. However, you also lose the possibility to easily undo changes.

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

```
# the database (unless you've setup an auto-commit connection)
connection.commit()
```

You often have auto-increment fields in databases, especially for primary keys. If you want to know which values have been created by the database, you need to fetch those values after the insert.

```
# Run another query, e.g. to check the inserts and fetch
# the generated primary keys
cursor.execute(query_sql, parameters)

# Fetch the results
results = cursor.fetchall()
```

Once you're done with using the database cursor, make sure you close the cursor to free up resources.

```
# Close the cursor after you've finished using it in order
# to free up resources
cursor.close()
```

The same has to be done with the connection. Note that closing the connection will do an implicit roll back of all uncommitted changes on the connection.

```
# Close the connection to the database to free up resources
connection.close()
```

5.2.4 Transaction Management

There is one important aspect to keep in mind when using the mxODBC Python API directly in your Django apps: The Django ORM uses its own, mostly automatic transaction management.

When using mxODBC directly, you will have to either integrate the connection transactions with the ORM or manage your own transaction management.

Default transaction mode is manual commit

In particular, **mxODBC does not default to auto-commit mode**, so you have to commit all changes to the database explicitly by calling `connection.commit()` (or `connection.rollback()` in case you want to revert the changes).

Without an explicit `connection.commit()` call, changes will not be written to the database. mxODBC defaults to rolling back the changes, if a connection is closed without a commit.

5. Using the mxODBC Django Database Engine

Enabling Auto-Commit

You can enable auto-commit on a connection by setting

```
connection.autocommit = True
```

after having connected to the database. However, this is not encouraged, since doing can easily create inconsistencies in your database if your Django application runs into an unexpected error.

To disable auto-commit, close all cursors on the connection and run:

```
connection.autocommit = False
```

6. Additional information

6.1 Known problems and limitations of the MS SQL Server subpackage

The Django internal database API has evolved quite a bit over time. Even though most of it is now written in a way that makes it portable between backends, there are some areas which still use hard-coded SQL or make assumptions that don't apply to all database backends.

In this section we list known problems and limitations with the Microsoft SQL Server subpackage `mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server` of the mxODBC Django Database Engine.

Most of the limitation arise from the fact that MS SQL Server is missing some features used in the Django ORM, or requires a different SQL dialect than the database backends natively supported by Django.

While we have tried to work around a couple of issues, some assumptions made in the ORM cannot easily be fixed without changing the ORM code and making it more portable.

6.1.1 mxODBC Django Database Engine currently only supports Microsoft SQL Server

mxODBC Django Database Engine currently only supports Django ORM integration for Microsoft SQL Server 2005, 2008 and 2012.

We will add support for other database servers in future releases.

Note that the Django ORM integration is available on all supported platforms, not only Windows, provided you have an ODBC driver available for the platform.

On Linux, we suggest looking at the official Microsoft SQL Server Native Client for Linux. On other Unix platforms, the FreeTDS ODBC driver or one of the many commercial drivers can be used.

6.1.2 Django timezone support doesn't work well with MS SQL Server

The ODBC API does not support passing or retrieving timezone aware date/time values. As a result the underlying mxODBC cannot easily support timezone aware datetime objects.

In order to maintain compatibility with Django 1.4 and later that support the `USE_TZ` setting, the mxODBC Django Database Engine ignores the `.tzinfo` attribute on datetime objects passed to the adapter. All date/time data read from the database will also not have the `.tzinfo` attribute set.

Avoid using `USE_TZ`

We recommend not using the `USE_TZ` setting when using MS SQL Server as database backend. It is best practice to store date/time values as Universal Time (UTC) in the database and to apply any locale dependent conversion in the UI layer of the application - based on user, browser, session or system preferences.

Avoid date/time string literals and implicit datetime to string conversion

Likewise try to avoid implicit conversion of datetime values to strings. MS SQL Server interprets such literal date/time values in a locale dependent way, which can lead to surprising results.

6.1.3 Limited MS SQL Server datetime precision

MS SQL Server datetime fields only have an accuracy of 3.33 milliseconds, or short 0.00333 second, not the microsecond accuracy of Python datetime objects. Furthermore, it rounds to the nearest increment of 0.000, 0.003, 0.007 seconds.

Unwanted Rounding

This can lead to unexpected behavior when querying date/time or time ranges, esp. when using non-inclusive upper limits in range queries or when inserting timestamps which could be subject to unwanted rounding.

Example:

Instead of `datetime(2008, 12, 31, 23, 59, 59, 999999)` you may have to use `datetime(2008, 12, 31, 23, 59, 59, 997000)` as date/time value, since using 999999 microseconds could cause rounding to `datetime(2009, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0)`.

The mxODBC Django Database Engine uses datetime fields for Django `DateField()`, `DateTimeField()`, `TimeField()`, so the above applies to all those Django ORM fields.

Avoid mixed-date/time field type comparisons/filtering

For the same reasons as above, it is also good practice to not use mixed date/time comparisons or filtering, such as comparisons of a `DateField()` with a `DateTimeField()` in a filter.

Always try to use comparisons/filtering between same-type date/time fields to avoid introducing bugs into your application due to rounding, e.g. `DateFields()` with `DateField()`, or `DateTimeField()` with `DateTimeField()`.

6.1.4 `Min()` / `Max()` and `DateField()` / `TimeField()`

Because `DateField()` and `TimeField()` Django fields are mapped to SQL Server `datetime` fields, the SQL aggregate function `MIN()` and `MAX()` on these fields will return `datetime.datetime` objects when queried from the database.

As a result, the Django aggregate functions `Min()` and `Max()` will return `datetime.datetime` objects as well - even when used on `DateField()` or `TimeField()` fields.

Since the needed field information is not available to the ORM aggregate functions and Django doesn't provide a clean way to override them, this cannot be changed.

6.1.5 Character encoding related problems

When using the FreeTDS ODBC driver on Unix systems, applications may be limited to the character set of a specific encoding, since FreeTDS has only just started supporting Unicode natively in recent releases.

The following exceptions are examples of the exceptions you get whenever the applications tries to use characters that are not supported by the encoding:

```
OperationalError: ('HY000', 2402, "[unixODBC][FreeTDS][SQL
Server]Error converting characters into server's character set.
Some character(s) could not be converted", 7737)
```

```
UnicodeEncodeError: 'charmap' codec can't encode characters in
position 0-1: character maps to <undefined>
```

6. Additional information

```
UnicodeEncodeError: 'charmap' codec can't encode character u'\x84'
in position 5: character maps to <undefined>
```

Some unit tests in the Django unit test suite fail due to this limitation when running on a Unix system with FreeTDS.

You can adjust the encoding used by the mxODBC Django Database Engine by setting the `mxodbc_connection_encoding` database option in your `settings.py` file:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {
            'mxodbc_connection_encoding': 'cp1252',
        },
    },
}
```

Note that mxODBC Django Database Engine will automatically default to 'cp1252' when using FreeTDS on Unix and 'utf-8' when using the SQL Server Native Client ODBC driver on Windows.

6.1.6 Deferred constraint checking is not supported on MS SQL

There is no generic support for deferred checking of foreign key constraints in Microsoft SQL Server.

As consequence, mxODBC Django Database Engine does not allow using this feature and raises an exception whenever there are conflicts due to foreign key constraints, e.g. when trying to load data in the wrong dependency order.

The following exceptions are examples of the exceptions raised because of this:

```
IntegrityError: ('23000', 547, '[unixODBC][FreeTDS][SQL Server]The
DELETE statement conflicted with the REFERENCE constraint
"f_id_refs_id_52a6fc20". The conflict occurred in database
"test_django", table "dbo.delete_e", column "f_id\'.', 7737)
```

```
IntegrityError: ('23000', 547, '[unixODBC][FreeTDS][SQL Server]The
INSERT statement conflicted with the FOREIGN KEY constraint
"FK_serialize_autho_3D5E1FD2". The conflict occurred in database
"test_django", table "dbo.serializers_author", column "id\'.',
7737)
```

Some unit tests in the Django unit test suite fails due to this limitation.

Possible work around

If you must support forward references or cyclic references in your database schema, the only option is to define the respective columns as NULLable, insert the rows with NULLs (None in Python) in those columns and then set the values in a subsequent rounds of updates.

6.1.7 Limited support for regular expressions

Microsoft SQL Server 2005, 2008 and 2012 do not directly support the usage of regular expressions.

mxODBC Django Database Engine currently emulates the most trivial regular expression patterns using a stored function created when you create your database tables with the first *syncdb* operation.

Note that the user running your application will need execute privileges for that stored function if you use `__regex` or `__iregex` conditions in your code or one of the Django add-ons you use.

6.1.8 Data types `nvarchar()` and `ntext` cannot be compared

MS SQL Server does not support comparing `nvarchar()` and `ntext` columns for equality. The same is true for comparisons with other variable length column types (`ntext`, `text`, `image`).

With SQL Server 2012, Microsoft has decided to deprecate these variable size column types. See [this MSDN article](#) for details.

The Django ORM can trip over this limitation in the implementation of [generic relations](#).

Note that the MS SQL Server subpackage of the mxODBC Django Database Engine does not use the above variable size column types, so you will likely only run into this situation when interfacing to database not under Django ORM schema control.

Work around

You can either avoid using `text`, `ntext` and `image` column types in the database schema or explicitly cast the variable size column types to limited size column types.

6.1.9 Aggregate function support conflicts with other database backends

In order to support the different SQL dialect used by MS SQL Server for aggregate functions, the mxODBC Django Database Engine has to patch the Django ORM Query class and provide a customized aggregates module so that requests for aggregates get converted to SQL code which is compatible with MS SQL Server.

Unfortunately, the Django ORM does not allow providing such customizations on a per-database backend basis.

The patching of the Django ORM can be disabled, if needed, but since we assume that most Django ORM users will use only one database backend per application, we have enabled the patching by default.

If you want to disable patching the Django Query class, you can do so by setting the `mxodbc_monkey_patch_aggregates` database option in your settings.py file to False:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {
            'mxodbc_monkey_patch_aggregates': False,
        },
    },
}
```

Please note that by doing so, some aggregate functions used by the ORM will no longer work with the MS SQL Server backend and cause tracebacks.

6.1.10 Database cache support conflicts with other database backends

For the same reason as in the previous section concerning aggregate functions, the mxODBC Django Database Engine has to patch the Django ORM DatabaseCache class.

The Django ORM assumes that all database backends support the LIMIT/OFFSET SQL syntax for limiting the result set to a predefined window. MS SQL Server does not support this syntax, which is why we had to provide different queries for the cache implementation. We also had to make sure that the ORM only uses non-aware timestamps for the caching.

Unfortunately, the Django ORM does not allow providing such customizations on a per-database backend basis.

The patching of the Django ORM can be disabled, if needed, but since we assume that most Django ORM users will use only one database backend per application, we have enabled the patching by default.

If you want to disable patching the Django DatabaseCache class, e.g. because you want to use a different database backend as database cache, you can do so by setting the `mxodbc_monkey_patch_database_cache` database option in your settings.py file to False:

```
DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        'ENGINE': 'mxodbc_django.ms_sql_server',
        'NAME': 'exampledb',
        'DSN': 'DSN=sqlserver2008;UID=sa;PWD=123',
        'OPTIONS': {
            'mxodbc_monkey_patch_database_cache': False,
        },
    }
}
```

Note that the MS SQL Server backend is not usable as database cache in Django when disabling the patch.

6.2 Tips and tricks

6.2.1 How do I determine the correct collation values?

Please consult to the manual of your database server for the list of valid collation names. You can find more information on the [Microsoft SQL Server MSDN Web site](#).

You can list all the collations supported by Microsoft SQL Server using the *SQL Server Management Studio* GUI administration tool. The complete list is shown when starting the *Create Database* wizard under the *Options* tab.

The SQL Server Management Studio will also show you the currently set database default collation in the database properties.

6.2.2 How do I implement full regular expression search?

MS SQL Server does not have native support for regular expression, so the only option you have is to work around this by filtering the records using the Python [re module](#).

6.3 Troubleshooting

6.3.1 Django does not find the database backend

Please make sure you installed mxODBC Django Database Engine into the same Python instance as your Django based application uses.

Try to open the command line interpreter of the same Python instance and import the subpackage from mxODBC Django Database Engine manually with a single import statement and watch for an ImportError.

Make sure you did not mistype the name of the mxODBC Django Database Engine subpackage and that you entered its full (dotted) module name, not just the name of the subpackage. See the example settings above.

6.3.2 I'm getting an error about missing mxODBC license or the license has expired

Please make sure you have a valid mxODBC license installed.

Please visit the eGenix.com web-site to obtain a license.

6.3.3 Django cannot connect to the database

Please make sure

- you configured the ODBC data source correctly (please check the [mxODBC User Manual](#) for details)
- you specified the name of the database, host and port in your ODBC data source definition (please see your ODBC driver's documentation for details)
- you used the correct data source name in the DSN engine setting (DSN=<data source name>)
- you defined the user name and password correctly in the DSN engine setting (UID=<username>;PWD=<password>)
- your database server is up and running and accepts incoming connections (the type of the connection and the address should

mxODBC for Django - ODBC Interface for the Django Web Framework

match the values you entered into the ODBC Manager when you defined your DSN)

- all firewalls between the Django server and the database server permit traffic on the required ports in both directions

In order to debug the problem, please

- review the Django logs for hints
- enable ODBC manager logging and check the ODBC manager logs for hints
- review the logs of the database server for details, enable logging if required, please consult your database server's documentation for details

7. Support

eGenix.com is providing commercial support for this package, including adapting it to special needs for use in customer projects. If you are interested in receiving information about this service please see the [eGenix.com Support Conditions](#).

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