



Tableau Connector Plugin SDK

Early Preview Available

At Tableau, we pride ourselves in helping people see and understand their data... wherever it may be. A key investment for us has been creating a way to enable both partners and customers help us in this mission. So today, we are announcing an open source Connector Plugin SDK and test harness. <https://github.com/tableau/connector-plugin-sdk>

Key Point: Connector Plugins are In-Development

The target release for v1.0 is mid-2019. Until that point there may be breaking changes in the SDK, and plugins developed using early versions of the SDK may not be supported by later versions, but we want partners to experiment with this SDK and provide feedback.

- In 2019.1 Beta 1 we are releasing two connectors as plugins, MariaDB and Azure SQL DW
- In 2019.1 Beta 2 we are planning to publicly open our GitHub repository: <https://github.com/tableau/connector-plugin-sdk>, which will include example Connector Plugins, our ODBC/JDBC SQL test harness (TDVT), and baseline validation/testing data

To further support the partner and developer community, we will open a standing sprint demo conference call to share progress and take questions, accept feedback and questions as Issues in GitHub, and review pull requests for taking in enhancements, new test cases and defects.

For more information please reach out to us through GitHub or contact me directly:

Sid Wray – Connectivity Product Manager (swray@tableau.com)

FAQ

If I build a plugin, will Tableau include it?

- Not necessarily. We plan to include connector plugins on a case by case basis. The work needed to include connectors with a shipping Tableau product extends well beyond the code itself and into the continuous integration and supportability concerns. We are looking at providing a way to include third-party connectors in the future through some exciting new features as well as a more formal certification program.





Why would I build a plugin instead of just telling users to use Other ODBC/JDBC?

- Connector Plugins allow for a more extensive level of customization than using generic "Other ODBC", and it is possible to apply many of the optimizations that current "named" connectors in Tableau go through.

Can I make a plugin for OLAP Cubes, file-based, or REST API-based connections?

- We intend for the Connector Plugin SDK to eventually support additional connector types, but we're starting with ODBC and JDBC.

How would I distribute plugins to my customers?

- Until v1.0 is officially released in mid-2019, we do NOT recommend distributing connector plugins to customers. Based on your feedback we expect to iterate for the next two quarters with breaking changes to a number of plugin aspects.
- After v1.0, we expect to work with partners to review test results and discuss customer support processes.

What types of things might change during the v1.0 of plugin development?

- Many things may change before mid-2019, but most likely how a connector plugin is packaged as well as the components associated with enterprise authentication. We highly encourage you to sign up in GitHub or email us to get the latest information. Partners participating in the open sprint demos will get notice of any breaking changes in real-time.

