

Search ...

Oracle DBA Resources

(and other random technology posts)

Primary Menu

TNS Configuration files – Search order

Oracle clients (and programs that use Oracle clients/drivers) will search for TNS configuration files such as *sqlnet.ora* and *tnsnames.ora* in the following order.

Note that the first file to be found will be used -- so if there were files in both location 3 and location 5, then the one in location 3 would be found first and used.

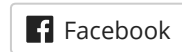
For UNIX systems:

1. `$HOME` for hidden (dot) files only -- e.g.
`.sqlnet.ora` and `.tnsnames.ora`
2. `$TNS_ADMIN`
3. `$HOME`
4. `/etc` or `/var/opt/oracle` (depending on platform)
5. `$ORACLE_HOME/network/admin`

For Windows systems:

1. Current path (associated with the running client application)
2. Environment variable `TNS_ADMIN` defined for the user/session

3. Environment variable `TNS_ADMIN` defined for the system
4. Windows Registry Key `TNS_ADMIN` (beware of virtualized applications that have their own private version of the registry which you cannot view).
5. `%ORACLE_HOME%\network\admin`

SHARE:

[Continue SCP'ing file\(s\) after log out](#)

[Unusual ORA-01031: insufficient privileges error](#)