

## JDBC

JDBC API is a Java API that can access any kind of tabular data, especially data stored in a Relational Database. JDBC works with Java on a variety of platforms, such as Windows, Mac OS, and the various versions of UNIX. JDBC stands for **J**ava **D**atabase **C**onnectivity, which is a standard Java API for database-independent connectivity between the Java programming language and a wide range of databases. The JDBC library includes APIs for each of the tasks mentioned below that are commonly associated with database usage.

- Making a connection to a database.
- Creating SQL or MySQL statements.
- Executing SQL or MySQL queries in the database.
- Viewing & Modifying the resulting records.

### Applications of JDBC

Fundamentally, JDBC is a specification that provides a complete set of interfaces that allows for portable access to an underlying database. Java can be used to write different types of executables, such as –

- Java Applications
- Java Applets
- Java Servlets
- Java ServerPages (JSPs)
- Enterprise JavaBeans (EJBs).

All of these different executables are able to use a JDBC driver to access a database, and take advantage of the stored data. JDBC provides the same capabilities as ODBC, allowing Java programs to contain database-independent code.

## JDBC Architecture

The JDBC API supports both two-tier and three-tier processing models for database access but in general, JDBC Architecture consists of two layers –

- **JDBC API:** This provides the application-to-JDBC Manager connection.
- **JDBC Driver API:** This supports the JDBC Manager-to-Driver Connection.

The JDBC API uses a driver manager and database-specific drivers to provide transparent connectivity to heterogeneous databases.

The JDBC driver manager ensures that the correct driver is used to access each data source. The driver manager is capable of supporting multiple concurrent drivers connected to multiple heterogeneous databases.

Following is the architectural diagram, which shows the location of the driver manager with respect to the JDBC drivers and the Java application –

### Common JDBC Components

The JDBC API provides the following interfaces and classes –

- **DriverManager:** This class manages a list of database drivers. Matches connection requests from the java application with the proper database driver using communication sub protocol. The first driver that recognizes a certain subprotocol under JDBC will be used to establish a database Connection.
- **Driver:** This interface handles the communications with the database server. You will interact directly with Driver objects very rarely. Instead, you use DriverManager objects, which manages objects of this type. It also abstracts the details associated with working with Driver objects.
- **Connection:** This interface with all methods for contacting a database. The connection object represents communication context, i.e., all communication with database is through connection object only.
- **Statement:** You use objects created from this interface to submit the SQL statements to the database. Some derived interfaces accept parameters in addition to executing stored procedures.
- **ResultSet:** These objects hold data retrieved from a database after you execute an SQL query using Statement objects. It acts as an iterator to allow you to move through its data.
- **SQLException:** This class handles any errors that occur in a database application.

## What is JDBC Driver?

JDBC drivers implement the defined interfaces in the JDBC API, for interacting with your database server.

For example, using JDBC drivers enable you to open database connections and to interact with it by sending SQL or database commands then receiving results with Java.

The *Java.sql* package that ships with JDK, contains various classes with their behaviours defined and their actual implementations are done in third-party drivers. Third party vendors implements the *java.sql.Driver* interface in their database driver.

### JDBC Drivers Types

JDBC driver implementations vary because of the wide variety of operating systems and hardware platforms in which Java operates. Sun has divided the implementation types into four categories, Types 1, 2, 3, and 4, which is explained below –

#### Type 1: JDBC-ODBC Bridge Driver

In a Type 1 driver, a JDBC bridge is used to access ODBC drivers installed on each client machine. Using ODBC, requires configuring on your system a Data Source Name (DSN) that represents the target database.

When Java first came out, this was a useful driver because most databases only supported ODBC access but now this type of driver is recommended only for experimental use or when no other alternative is available.

The JDBC-ODBC Bridge that comes with JDK 1.2 is a good example of this kind of driver.

## **Type 2: JDBC-Native API**

In a Type 2 driver, JDBC API calls are converted into native C/C++ API calls, which are unique to the database. These drivers are typically provided by the database vendors and used in the same manner as the JDBC-ODBC Bridge. The vendor-specific driver must be installed on each client machine.

If we change the Database, we have to change the native API, as it is specific to a database and they are mostly obsolete now, but you may realize some speed increase with a Type 2 driver, because it eliminates ODBC's overhead.

The Oracle Call Interface (OCI) driver is an example of a Type 2 driver.

## **Type 3: JDBC-Net pure Java**

In a Type 3 driver, a three-tier approach is used to access databases. The JDBC clients use standard network sockets to communicate with a middleware application server. The socket information is then translated by the middleware application server into the call format required by the DBMS, and forwarded to the database server.

This kind of driver is extremely flexible, since it requires no code installed on the client and a single driver can actually provide access to multiple databases.

You can think of the application server as a JDBC "proxy," meaning that it makes calls for the client application. As a result, you need some knowledge of the application server's configuration in order to effectively use this driver type.

Your application server might use a Type 1, 2, or 4 driver to communicate with the database, understanding the nuances will prove helpful.

#### **Type 4: 100% Pure Java**

In a Type 4 driver, a pure Java-based driver communicates directly with the vendor's database through socket connection. This is the highest performance driver available for the database and is usually provided by the vendor itself.

This kind of driver is extremely flexible, you don't need to install special software on the client or server. Further, these drivers can be downloaded dynamically.

MySQL's Connector/J driver is a Type 4 driver. Because of the proprietary nature of their network protocols, database vendors usually supply type 4 drivers.

### **Which Driver should be Used?**

If you are accessing one type of database, such as Oracle, Sybase, or IBM, the preferred driver type is 4.

If your Java application is accessing multiple types of databases at the same time, type 3 is the preferred driver.

Type 2 drivers are useful in situations, where a type 3 or type 4 driver is not available yet for your database.

The type 1 driver is not considered a deployment-level driver, and is typically used for development and testing purposes only.

After you've installed the appropriate driver, it is time to establish a database connection using JDBC.

The programming involved to establish a JDBC connection is fairly simple. Here are these simple four steps –

- **Import JDBC Packages:** Add **import** statements to your Java program to import required classes in your Java code.
- **Register JDBC Driver:** This step causes the JVM to load the desired driver implementation into memory so it can fulfill your JDBC requests.
- **Database URL Formulation:** This is to create a properly formatted address that points to the database to which you wish to connect.

- **Create Connection Object:** Finally, code a call to the *DriverManager* object's *getConnection( )* method to establish actual database connection.