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* Using CodeIgniter Drivers

classic layout

Using CodeIgniter Drivers[**¶**](#30j0zll)

Drivers are a special type of Library that has a parent class and any number of potential child classes. Child classes have access to the parent class, but not their siblings. Drivers provide an elegant syntax in your [controllers](http://docs.google.com/controllers.html) for libraries that benefit from or require being broken down into discrete classes.

Drivers are found in the *system/libraries/* directory, in their own sub-directory which is identically named to the parent library class. Also inside that directory is a subdirectory named drivers, which contains all of the possible child class files.

To use a driver you will initialize it within a controller using the following initialization method:

$this->load->driver('class\_name');

Where class name is the name of the driver class you want to invoke. For example, to load a driver named “Some\_parent” you would do this:

$this->load->driver('some\_parent');

Methods of that class can then be invoked with:

$this->some\_parent->some\_method();

The child classes, the drivers themselves, can then be called directly through the parent class, without initializing them:

$this->some\_parent->child\_one->some\_method();  
$this->some\_parent->child\_two->another\_method();

Creating Your Own Drivers[**¶**](#1fob9te)

Please read the section of the user guide that discusses how to [create your own drivers](http://docs.google.com/creating_drivers.html).

[Next](http://docs.google.com/creating_drivers.html)   [Previous](http://docs.google.com/creating_libraries.html)

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Built with [Sphinx](http://sphinx-doc.org/) using a [theme](https://github.com/snide/sphinx_rtd_theme) provided by [Read the Docs](https://readthedocs.org).