

# JDBC Driver

JDBC Driver is a software component that enables java application to interact with the database. There are 4 types of JDBC drivers:

1. JDBC-ODBC bridge driver
2. Native-API driver (partially java driver)
3. Network Protocol driver (fully java driver)
4. Thin driver (fully java driver)

## 1) JDBC-ODBC bridge driver

The JDBC-ODBC bridge driver uses ODBC driver to connect to the database. The JDBC-ODBC bridge driver converts JDBC method calls into the ODBC function calls. This is now discouraged because of thin driver.

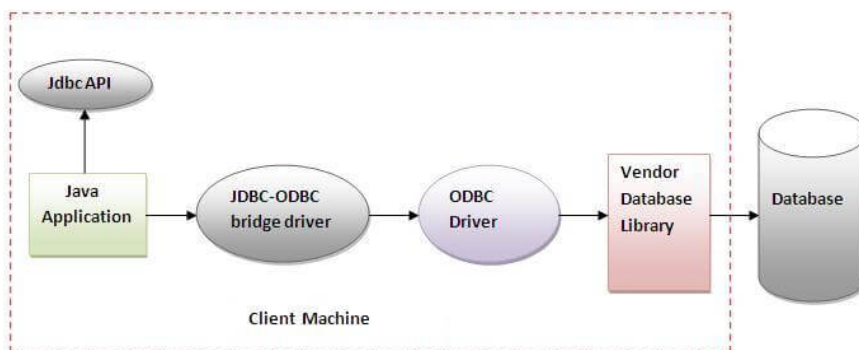


Figure- JDBC-ODBC Bridge Driver

### Advantages:

- easy to use.
- can be easily connected to any database.

### Disadvantages:

- Performance degraded because JDBC method call is converted into the ODBC function calls.
- The ODBC driver needs to be installed on the client machine.



## 2) Native-API driver

The Native API driver uses the client-side libraries of the database. The driver converts JDBC method calls into native calls of the database API. It is not written entirely in java.

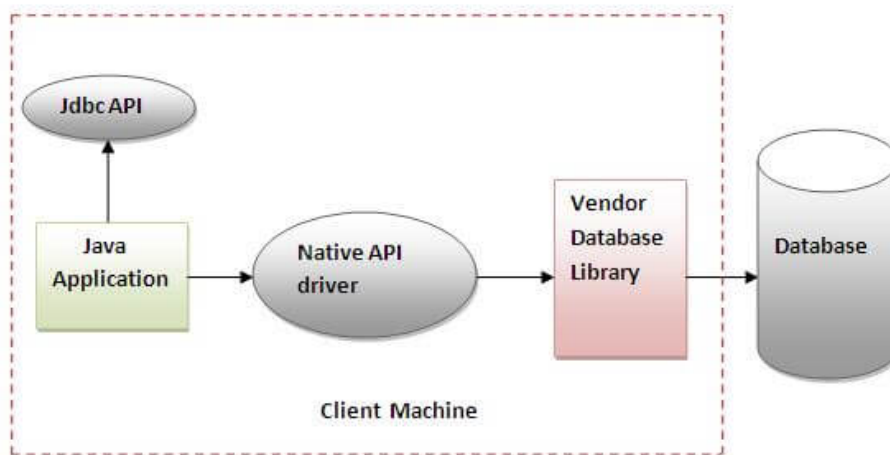


Figure- Native API Driver

### Advantage:

- performance upgraded than JDBC-ODBC bridge driver.

### Disadvantage:

- The Native driver needs to be installed on the each client machine.
- The Vendor client library needs to be installed on client machine.

## 3) Network Protocol driver

The Network Protocol driver uses middleware (application server) that converts JDBC calls directly or indirectly into the vendor-specific database protocol. It is fully written in java.



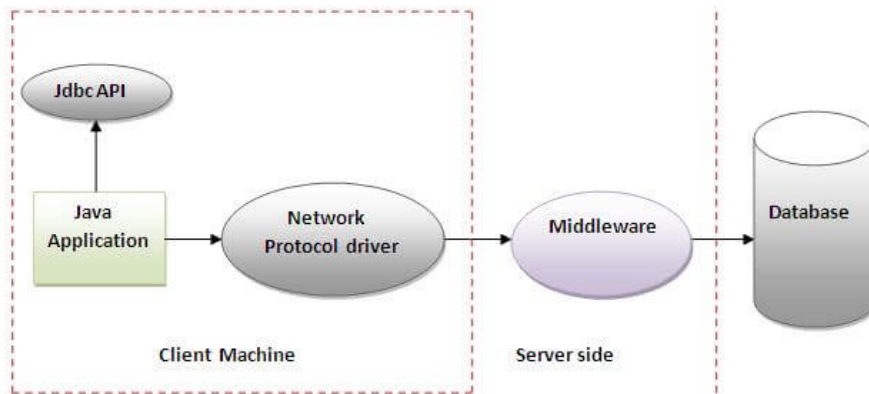


Figure- Network Protocol Driver

### Advantage:

- No client side library is required because of application server that can perform many tasks like auditing, load balancing, logging etc.

### Disadvantages:

- Network support is required on client machine.
- Requires database-specific coding to be done in the middle tier.
- Maintenance of Network Protocol driver becomes costly because it requires database-specific coding to be done in the middle tier.

## 4) Thin driver

The thin driver converts JDBC calls directly into the vendor-specific database protocol. That is why it is known as thin driver. It is fully written in Java language.



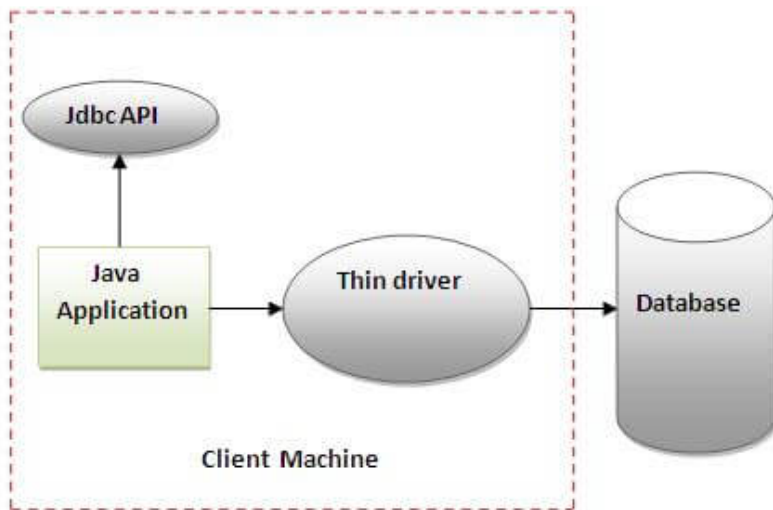


Figure- Thin Driver

### Advantage:

- Better performance than all other drivers.
- No software is required at client side or server side.

### Disadvantage:

- Drivers depends on the Database.

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