

Questions and Answers for the new Open Source FDO Provider for Microsoft[®] SQL Server[™] 2008 Database Software

Autodesk FDO Data Access Technology (FDO) addresses the need for openness and interoperability between traditional geographic information system (GIS) applications and mainstream operational information technology (IT) systems, as well as integration with public or private web mapping services. Incorporated into Autodesk[®] Geospatial products, and also available as a stand-alone, open source technology for developers, FDO helps increase productivity and save time by enabling users to work on a variety of spatial and non-spatial databases and file formats natively, without the need for translation and risk of data loss.

1. The new Open Source FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2008

Organizations today need to access and leverage spatial data from a variety of data sources and file formats to efficiently and effectively execute business processes. The open source FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2008, developed by Autodesk and contributed to the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) allows customers to take advantage of Microsoft SQL Server 2008's native support for spatial data. The new open source FDO Provider for SQL Server 2008 allows customers to directly access and manipulate spatial data within the SQL Server 2008 database and share it with others, extending the value of the spatial information across the organization.

1.1 Is the new open source FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2008 available today?

AutoCAD[®] Map 3D and Autodesk MapGuide[®] Enterprise 2008 and 2009 software customers can download a preview version of the open source FDO Provider that works with Microsoft SQL Server 2008 CTP beta today at:

<http://fdo.OSGeo.org/content/downloads>.

OPEN SOURCE FDO PROVIDER FOR SQL SERVER 2008 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1.2 How can I get access to the Microsoft SQL Server 2008 CTP beta release?

The SQL Server 2008 CTP beta release is available from Microsoft. Please see the following website for more details. <http://www.microsoft.com/sql/2008/>

1.3 Why did Autodesk choose open source as its method of compatibility with Microsoft SQL Server 2008 spatial capabilities?

By design, many of the new spatial capabilities within Microsoft SQL Server 2008 conform to open industry spatial standards like Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). By developing and donating an open source FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2008, Autodesk is helping to ensure that developers all over the world can take full advantage of the spatial capabilities in Microsoft SQL Server 2008 and directly accessing and manipulating geospatial and design data in this popular database environment.

1.4 What are the capabilities of the open source FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2008?

The open source FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2008 includes the following high-level capabilities: command, connection, expression, filter, schema and geometry. The open source FDO Provider supports full read-write operations.

For a detailed look at the full capabilities, please visit:

<http://trac.OSGeo.org/fdo/wiki/FDORfc12>

1.5 Do I need to be an Autodesk customer to use the open source FDO Provider?

No, the open source FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2008 has been contributed to the open source community by Autodesk. The provider is free* for anyone to use under the terms and guidance of the OSGeo community (www.OSGeo.org).

2. Open Source FDO vs. Autodesk FDO

Autodesk FDO Data Access Technology is incorporated into Autodesk Geospatial products including AutoCAD[®] Map 3D, AutoCAD[®] Civil 3D[®], Autodesk MapGuide[®] Enterprise and Studio, and Autodesk[®] Topobase[™] software applications, and is also available as a stand-alone, open source technology for developers. For more information see www.autodesk.com/fdo.

2.1 What is the difference between the Autodesk FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server found in Autodesk's current geospatial products and the open source FDO Provider for SQL Server 2008?

OPEN SOURCE FDO PROVIDER FOR SQL SERVER 2008 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Autodesk FDO Data Access Technology is the mechanism that enables Autodesk Geospatial products and enterprise applications to work natively with spatial data stored in relational databases, files, and web based services. Specifically, the Autodesk FDO Provider for SQL Server found in Autodesk geospatial products today supports Microsoft SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005, but will not support SQL Server 2008.

The new open source FDO Provider for SQL Server 2008 was developed by Autodesk and has been donated to the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) for the benefit of users and developers around the world. It was a strategic decision that supports Microsoft's move to enable spatial capabilities within SQL Server 2008 using open standards and vendor neutral technology.

2.2 Will the open source FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2008 replace the current Autodesk FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server?

No it will not. Autodesk continues to support the Autodesk FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005. Autodesk Map 3D and Autodesk MapGuide Enterprise 2008 and 2009 software customers can download a preview of the new open source FDO Provider for SQL Server 2008 at fdo.OSGeo.org

2.3 Can Autodesk help me with my migration from data created using Autodesk FDO Provider for SQL Server that supports SQL Server 2000/2005 to SQL Server 2008?

AutoCAD Map 3D has a bulk copy tool that will enable users to transfer data created in SQL Server 2000/2005, using the Autodesk FDO Provider for SQL Server, to the new spatial format supported in SQL Server 2008. Users will need to setup the open source FDO Provider for SQL Server 2008 within the AutoCAD Map 3D environment. Please see the AutoCAD Map 3D help documentation for guidance on steps to do this. Other 3rd party tools such as Safe Software's FME may also help with this transition.

2.4 What is the status of the FDO open source project today?

Developed initially by Autodesk and released to the open source community in 2006, FDO Data Access Technology recently graduated to full project status within OSGeo. The latest FDO Provider for Microsoft SQL Server 2008 joins seven FDO Providers that have been developed since the technology was first donated to the open source community. For more on the recent announcement, see <http://www.OSGeo.org/node/569>.

*Free products are subject to the terms and conditions of the end-user license agreement that accompanies download of the software.

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