



# PROGRESS® DATADIRECT® OPENACCESS® FOR PROGRESS OPENEDGE®

## SECURE INTEGRATION OF APPLICATIONS WITH REPORTING TOOLS AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE (BI) ANALYTICS

What sets your application apart? Most often it's your organization's unmatched market expertise. That knowledge is priceless—it powers your business and makes your customers happy.

But is expertise enough by itself? When it comes to reporting, BI, and SaaS integration, do you have the right plan and tools to deliver an optimal solution to your market?

For Progress® OpenEdge® applications, Progress® DataDirect® OpenAccess® is the best solution for securely integrating your application with virtually all reporting tools and BI analytics. It's compatible with all versions and architectures of Progress OpenEdge applications and can be implemented without application changes. It's easy to implement, making it highly embeddable for ISVs, while offering the extreme performance and control required by data-intensive applications in the enterprise.

Hundreds of companies have adopted Progress DataDirect OpenAccess as their preferred choice for application data integration, including many SaaS application providers. Progress DataDirect OpenAccess allows these companies to rapidly create custom drivers with no changes to their application.

## STANDARD ACCESS TO YOUR APPLICATION

Many Progress OpenEdge customers are familiar with the ODBC driver included in the OpenEdge platform. The driver connects directly to the OpenEdge database, passing all queries to the OpenEdge SQL engine.

As a software development kit [SDK], Progress DataDirect OpenAccess takes a very different approach. It allows ODBC, JDBC and ADO.Net access into your application's business logic layer, instead of directly accessing the underlying database.

## FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- ▶ **Empower your users to choose their preferred tools**, including BI tools and Excel
- ▶ **SQL access to your ABL business logic**, giving you control over how others see your data
- ▶ **Supports all versions of Progress OpenEdge**, including custom multi-tenant implementations
- ▶ **Lightweight and rapid**, 90 to 95 percent of the solution is pre-packaged
- ▶ **Build user-friendly interfaces** for your data that adhere to your security and access policies
- ▶ **Standard ODBC, JDBC, and ADO.NET** access to your application
- ▶ **Superior performance and scalability** for the most data-intensive use cases
- ▶ **Support for all major platforms** including, Windows, Linux, Unix, C++, Java, and .NET
- ▶ **Built and supported by the world leader in data integration**—Progress DataDirect

## A CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

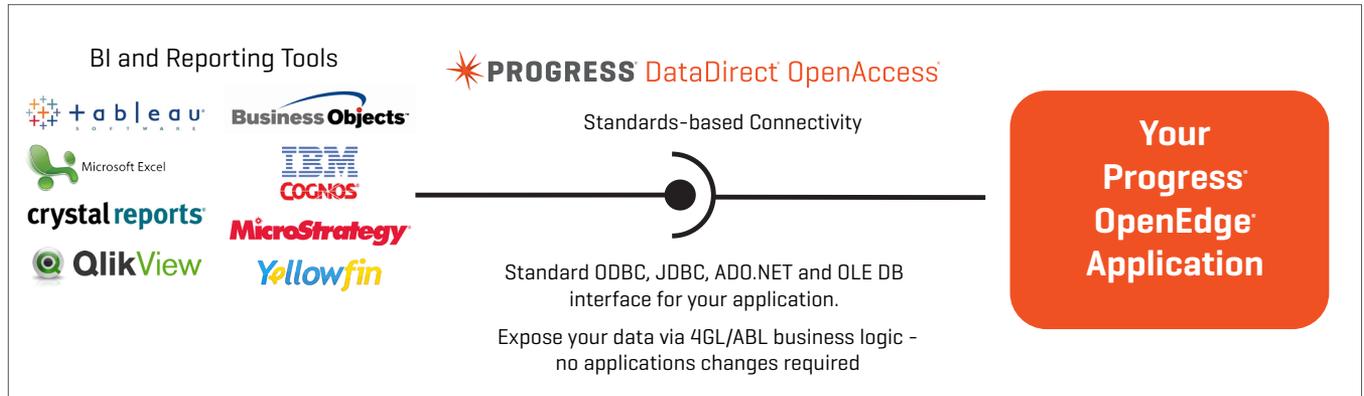
This independent software and business intelligence consulting firm used a commercial application built on the Progress OpenEdge platform. They needed an easy way to provide SQL reporting capabilities against the business logic layer of the application, instead of allowing customers direct access to the underlying database.

DataDirect OpenAccess SDK allowed the company to create a custom JDBC driver for the application that connected to the underlying Progress OpenEdge ABL business logic. This approach afforded them more control over the types of queries their customers can launch and ultimately helps improve performance for customers. Using industry standards such as ODBC, JDBC and SQL gives the application plug-and-play integration with reporting tools.

Most reporting and BI analytics tools on the market support data access via an industry-standard specification—usually the ODBC or JDBC standard. Progress DataDirect drivers are widely recognized for their reliability, performance and breadth of connectivity.

The magic of Progress DataDirect OpenAccess is that it allows your Progress OpenEdge application to appear as a standard data source, compatible with nearly all reporting and BI tools. These tools can discover and connect to your app just as it would to any database driver registered with an operating system. DataDirect OpenAccess allows you to expose your application as an ODBC, JDBC, ADO.NET or even object linking and embedding (OLE DB) interface for the broadest integration compatibility.

For transactional applications, the direct database schema is often overly complex



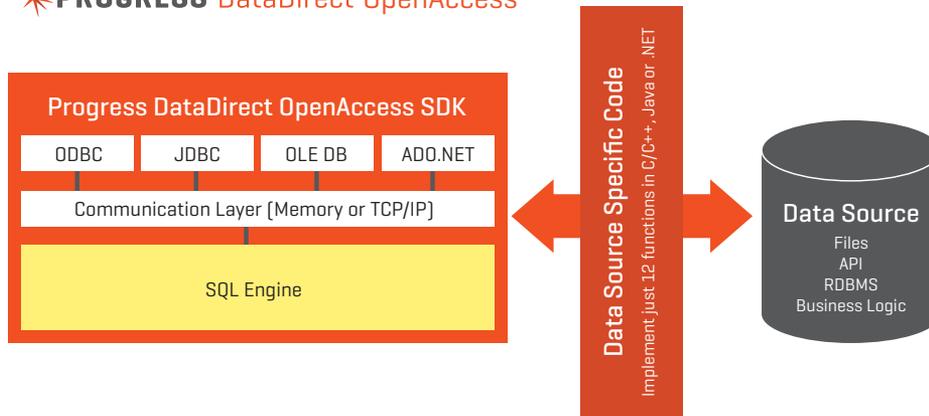
or ambiguous enough to discourage many business analysts. Progress DataDirect OpenAccess provides control over how your application data is queried, allowing you to expose a more user-friendly data schema.

Behind the scenes, Progress DataDirect OpenAccess allows you to customize how you respond to requests originating from the BI/reporting tools. Most of the time, you will pass the request onto an Progress OpenEdge application server, allowing you to code custom behavior in 4GL/ABL. However, there are no real limitations in how you decide to respond. You could invoke Web Services, fetch data from other systems via an enterprise service bus (ESB), read from flat-files or even meter and deny access for subscription SaaS applications.

Custom drivers built with Progress DataDirect OpenAccess are modular and easy to implement, allowing them to be easily embedded within an application. They support full customized behavior, including driver naming, error messages, responding to SQL queries and even the configuration dialogs.

Progress DataDirect OpenAccess provides over 90 percent of the code required to build a custom driver, leaving just 12 functions to implement. The result? A fully standard and compliant driver that integrates with all the major BI and reporting tools in a fraction of the time, for a fraction of the cost, and at a fraction of the risk.

## PROGRESS DataDirect OpenAccess



## WHY CHOOSE PROGRESS DATADIRECT OPENACCESS

When it comes to reporting, BI, and SaaS integration, many Progress OpenEdge developers and DBAs are unsure of the right approach. Meeting the many requirements, such as broad compatibility, superior performance, rapid rollout and operational readiness, is a difficult challenge.

Progress OpenEdge bundles a standard Progress DataDirect ODBC for OpenEdge driver in the box, and some partners have already used this driver to connect with compatible BI and reporting tools. This driver connects directly with the Progress OpenEdge database, directly exposing that data.

However, some applications have requirements that warrant a custom driver or make it incompatible with the bundled driver. Here are the top five most commonly encountered use cases requiring a custom driver:

1. **Direct database access.** This is a problem for SaaS applications (and many non-SaaS tool!). Those built on versions of Progress OpenEdge prior to version 11 have usually implemented a custom multi-tenancy capability. Direct access to such a database would compromise tenancy privacy. A custom Progress DataDirect OpenAccess driver can route requests through the business logic layer to ensure tenancy policies were enforced.
2. **Transactional schemas.** These are usually defined to optimize the application's operational behavior and performance—not for BI queries and data analysis. These schemas can be overly complex or ambiguous for human analysis. When exposed as-is, they take much longer to decipher and often lead to incorrect analysis that is difficult to trace. Using a custom Progress DataDirect OpenAccess driver, you can re-expose your data as logical schema that is more user friendly.

3. **Performance.** Nearly always a top-of-mind concern for data-centric use cases. The bundled driver is highly optimized already, but for default behavior only and not a specific application. Certain patterns of data access could be significantly optimized if injected with custom decisioning support.
4. **Application incompatibility.** Usually the incompatibility results when an application issues query statements that are not understood or implemented by the bundled driver. Using a custom Progress DataDirect OpenAccess driver addresses this issue.
5. **Plug-in operation.** Plugging into an existing application framework, such as the security authentication and authorization components, the metering and auditing components, and others, is very important in providing a reliable and satisfying user experience. By using a custom Progress DataDirect OpenAccess driver, you can ensure that all queries are reliably routed to the appropriate policy enforcement services that govern your application.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.progress.com/products/open-access](http://www.progress.com/products/open-access) or call 1-781-280-4000.

## ABOUT PROGRESS DATADIRECT OPENACCESS

Progress DataDirect OpenAccess SDK provides the toolkit and the runtime software needed to implement a custom driver for your data source.

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### PROGRESS SOFTWARE

Progress Software Corporation (NASDAQ: PRGS) is a global software company that simplifies the development, deployment and management of business applications on-premise or in the cloud, on any platform or device, to any data source, with enhanced performance, minimal IT complexity and low total cost of ownership.

### WORLDWIDE HEADQUARTERS

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Rev. 07/14 | 140715-0138

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