

**NAME**

isql, iusql - unixODBC interactive SQL command-line tools

**SYNOPSIS**

**isql** *DSN* [*USER* [*PASSWORD*]] [*options*]

**DESCRIPTION**

**isql** and **iusql** are command-line tools allowing users to execute SQL interactively or in batches.

The tools provide several useful features, including an option to generate output wrapped in an HTML table.

**iusql** is the same as **isql** but includes built-in Unicode support. Some data sources only work with **iusql**.

**ARGUMENTS****DSN**

The Data Source Name (DSN) used to connect to the SQL database. unixODBC looks for the specified DSN in `/etc/odbc.ini` and `$HOME/.odbc.ini`, with the latter taking precedence.

When searching the configuration files, unixODBC looks for a bare name. If the DSN begins with a semicolon, it is treated as a connection string. The connection string can contain a DSN and/or other semicolon-separated parameters.

**USER**

Specifies the database user or role under which the connection should be made.

This parameter overrides any **UID** specified in the data source configuration files.

**PASSWORD**

Password required to access the database for the specified **USER**.

This parameter overrides any **PASSWORD** specified in the data source configuration files.

**OPTIONS**

- b** Run 'isql' in non-interactive batch mode. In this mode, 'isql' processes from standard input, expecting one SQL command per line.
  
- d***DELIMITER*  
Delimit columns with the specified *delimiter*.
  
- x***HEX*  
Delimit columns with the character represented in hexadecimal by *HEX*. The hexadecimal code must be in the format 0xNN (e.g. 0x09 for the TAB character).
  
- w** Format the result as an HTML table.
  
- c** Output the names of the columns on the first row. This option can only be used with the **-d** or **-x** options.
  
- m***NUM*  
Limit the column display width to *NUM* characters.
  
- l***LOCALE*  
Set the character locale to *LOCALE*.
  
- q** Wrap the character fields in double quotes.
  
- 3** Use calls from ODBC version 3.
  
- n** Process multiple lines of SQL, terminated with the GO command.
  
- e** Use SQLExecDirect instead of Prepare.

**-k** Use SQLDriverConnect.

**-v** Enable verbose mode, fully describing all errors. This option is useful for debugging.

**--version**

Display the program version.

**-LNUM**

Set the maximum number of characters displayed from a character field to *NUM*. The default value is 300 characters.

## COMMANDS

This section briefly describes some **isql** and **iusql** run-time commands.

**help**

List all tables in the database.

**help table**

List all columns in the *table*.

**help help**

List all help options.

## EXAMPLES

A bare DSN:

```
$ iusql WebDB MyID MyPWD -w -b < My.sql
```

Connects to the WebDB DSN as user MyID with password MyPWD, then executes the commands in the My.sql file and returns the results wrapped in an HTML table.

Each line in My.sql must only contain one SQL command, except for the last line, which must be blank (unless the **-n** option is specified).

A DSN in a connection string:

Note the leading semicolon on the connection string.

```
$ iusql ";DSN=WebDB" MyID MyPWD -w -b < My.sql
```

Options in the DSN may be overridden in the connection string:

```
$ iusql ";DSN=WebDB;Driver=PostgreSQL ODBC;UID=MyID;PASSWORD=secret;Debug=1;CommLog=1" -v
```

A string DSN:

A string DSN may be provided in its entirety, with no file DSN reference at all:

```
$ iusql ";Driver=PostgreSQL Unicode;UID=MyID;PASSWORD=secret" -v
```

## TROUBLESHOOTING

Cryptic error messages

Re-run **isql** or **iusql** with the **-v** flag to get more information from errors, and/or enable **Trace** mode in **odbcinst.ini**.

Missing driver definition

Check that the driver name specified by the **Driver** entry in the **odbc.ini** data-source definition is present in **odbcinst.ini** and exactly matches the `odbcinst.ini [section name]`.

Unloadable or incompatible driver

If the ODBC driver is properly specified for the data source, it is possible that the driver is not loadable. Check for mix-ups between Unicode and ANSI drivers, and verify the driver paths in the `odbcinst.ini [section name]`.

Unicode data sources with ANSI clients

Some data sources are Unicode-only and require the use of **iusql**. If **isql** reports  
[IM002][unixODBC][Driver Manager]Data source name not found and no default driver specified  
[ISQL]ERROR: Could not SQLConnect  
but the data source and driver required are listed by  
odbcinst -q -d  
and  
odbcinst -q -s  
then try **iusql**.

## FILES

*/etc/odbc.ini*

Configuration file containing system-wide Data Source Name (DSN) definitions. See **odbc.ini(5)** for more information.

*\$/HOME/.odbc.ini*

Configuration file containing user-specific Data Source Name (DSN) definitions. See **odbc.ini(5)** for more information.

## SEE ALSO

**unixODBC(7)**, **odbcinst(1)**, **odbc.ini(5)**

"The *unixODBC Administrator Manual (HTML)*"

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