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FileMaker and OData - A replacement for ODBC?

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About me





My family

My home Côteau-Station, Québec, Canada



The global pandemic effect

Direct Impact Solutions

- Technical lead
- Started with FileMaker 3/6
- More than 18 years working with the platform

Direct Impact Solutions

- Founded in Laval, Quebec in 1996.
- Offices in Quebec, Ontario, United-States and France.
- #1 Platinum Claris partner in Canada, top 5 worldwide
- 40+ employees including 26 FileMaker Certified Developers

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Why this presentation on OData?

- The potential of OData sharing
- My exploration adventure in the OData world
- But still not an expert at OData ;)

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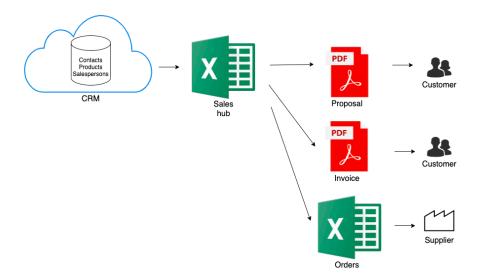
Part 1

The context

The context

- A simple CRM to hold contacts, salespersons, products, etc.
- Integrate the CRM in their actual workflow





The constrains

- Hosted in the cloud, FileMaker Cloud
- 5 office staff, on Windows. Variable number of salesperson, all working remotely
- Continue using an Excel file as a "hub" for other documents (proposal, invoice, order)
- Office365
- Limited budget, as always...

The high level solution

- Hosted in the cloud, FileMaker Cloud
- 5 FileMaker users
- Variable external users
- Excel file/hub on Office365 OneDrive/Sharepoint
- How data would go from FileMaker to Excel is to be defined

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Part 2

Where do I begin?

Where do I begin?

- List simple solutions:
 - ODBC sharing
 - OData sharing
 - ESS with MySQL

• Can FM Cloud support ODBC sharing?

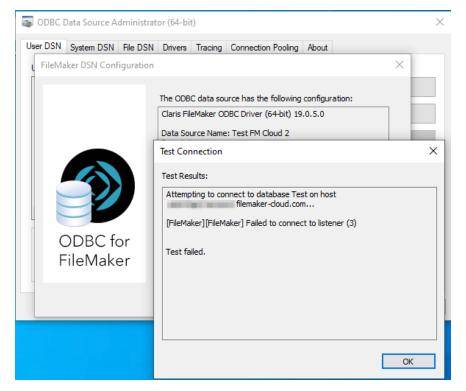
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8 OData	New ODBC Data Source	Data Source Name
		Select Driver ~
External ODBC Data		Database
		Server IP Address
		Port (number between 1 and 65535)
		Save Cancel
	Authentication	User Name
		Password
		Test Connection

• Can FM Cloud support ODBC sharing?

FileMaker Cloud uses the following ports.

Number	Used by	Protocol/Purpose
80	FileMaker Cloud web server, Admin Console users, client users	HTTP
443	FileMaker Cloud web server, client users	HTTPS
5003	FileMaker Pro Advanced, FileMaker Go client users	Hosting databases
16000	Admin Console users	HTTPS

• Can FM Cloud support ODBC sharing unofficially?



- I killed my "happy solution"
- ODBC will not work



DISCLAIMER Nobody was killed during this process! "Happy solution" is not a person.

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Part 3

What is OData?

What is OData?

- "OData (Open Data Protocol) is a [...] standard that defines a set of best practices for building and consuming RESTful APIs."
 - https://www.odata.org/

 Use a standard structure and methods to represent and work with data consumed or produced by OData applications.

- Similar to Data API
 - http request/response
 - JSON format
 - Read, modify, delete FileMaker data
 - Execute script

- Odata can do a little bit more
 - Payload in JSON or XML Atom
 - Update database schema
 - Does not require layout -> use TOC for the context
 - Can receive multiple requests in 1 call

- Available on FM Cloud 2 and FileMaker for Linux
- Not available on Windows
- Could replace ODBC sharing

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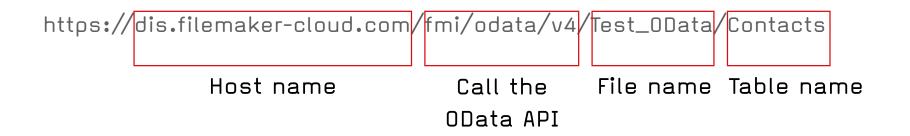
Request example

• To get the list of all tables in a file



Other examples

• To get all records from a table



• Append function keywords like \$filter and \$orderby

[...]/fmi/odata/v4/Test_OData/Contacts?\$filter=city%20eq%20'Laval'

Response example

{	
	@odata.context": "https://xyz.directimpacthosting.com/fmi/odata/v4/Test_0Data/\$metadata#Contacts",
•	value": [
	{
	"@odata.id": "https://xyz.directimpacthosting.com/fmi/odata/v4/Test_OData/Contacts('73895F3B-237F-48E0-BA50-BD2A618CD95F')",
	"@odata.editLink": "https://xyz.directimpacthosting.com/fmi/odata/v4/Test_OData/Contacts('73895F3B-237F-48E0-BA50-BD2A618CD95F')",
	"First Name": "François",
	"Last Name": "Dubé",
	"Title": "Mr.",
	"Company": "Direct Impact Solutions",
	"Job Title": "Technical lead",
	"Website": "https://www.directimpactsolutions.com/",
	"Initial": "D",
	"PrimaryKey": "73895F3B-237F-48E0-BA50-BD2A618CD95F",
	"CreatedBy": "idi",
	"ModifiedBy": "idi",
	"CreationTimestamp": "2021-04-16T11:05:14Z",
	"ModificationTimestamp": "2021-06-02T09:26:39Z",
	"Address Line 2": null,
	"Address Line 1": "1650 Place de Lierre",
	"City": "Laval",
	"State": "Québec",
	"Postal Code": null,
	"Country": "Canada"
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FileMaker Cloud			2021-05-13 15:55:02 UTC
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Click the tabs below to specify configuration settings for connectors.	OData	Enabled	
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5≣ <u>OData</u>	Data Transmitted by This Host (?)	376 KB	
0 ⁻ OData	Total Data Transmitted by All Hosts ③	376 KB	
External ODBC Data	Annual Reset Date	05/06/2022, 24:00	

Authenticate v	r ia: FileMaker Fil	e or External Server	Supported on the current	host	
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					Password:
					Require password change on next sign-in
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					[Data Entry Only] 🗘
					Description:
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	[Data Entry Only]			
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1	Value Lists: All view		Manage extended privileges	\$
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	Extended Privilege		Disconnect user from server when idle	
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	Access via ODBC		Must be changed every 30 days	1
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	—	Web Publishing - FMS only (fmphp)	Available menu commands: All	
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	Access via FileMa	aker Data API (fmrest)		
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	To add, edit or delete Extended Privileges t	Extended Privileges, use the tools in the ab.	Cancel	
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Part 4

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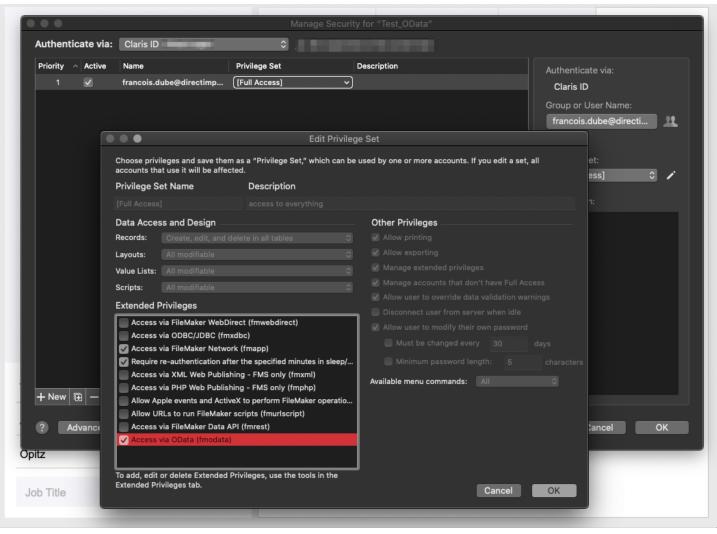
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OData and FMCloud

- FM Cloud doesn't use basic auth to authenticate to OData API
- You need your Claris ID, but that's only the 1st requirement
- 2nd step is to get a token through Amazon Cognito
- The token is only valid for 1 hour
- FileMaker Server for Linux use basic auth with regular user accounts

OData and FM Cloud



OData and FM Cloud

• https://help.claris.com/en/customer-consolehelp/content/create-fmid-token.html

```
Claris Customer Console Help
You are here: Advanced tasks > Using Claris ID for external authentication
```

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```
Using Claris ID for external authentication
```

If you want to use the FileMaker Data API, FileMaker Admin API, or OData API with FileMaker Cloud, you must authenticate using your Claris ID account (not an external IdP account). FileMaker Cloud uses Amazon Cognito for external authentication.

Amazon Cognito manages users through *user pools*, which provide services such as sign-in, authentication with identity providers, user directory and profile management, and security monitoring. (See <u>Amazon Cognito User Pools</u>.)

To authenticate using Claris ID:

```
    Retrieve values for the UserPoolId and ClientId parameters.
Amazon Cognito requires a UserPoolId and a ClientId to authenticate users.
FileMaker Cloud provides the following endpoint:
```

https://www.ifmcloud.com/endpoint/userpool/2.2.0.my.claris.com.json

```
The endpoint returns the following results:
```

{

}

```
"errcode":"Ok",
"errmessage":null,
"data":{
    "Region": "us-west-2",
    "UserPool_ID":"us-west-2_NqkuZcXQY",
    "Client_ID":"4l9rvl4mv5es1eep1qe97cautn",
    "API_Host": "api-cloud-platform.ifmcloud.com",
    "FCC_Host": "console.filemaker-cloud.com"
},
"csrid":null
```

 $\label{eq:Note} \textbf{Note} \ \ \textbf{The returned Region and API_Host values are not used for authentication}.$

2. Use the Amazon Cognito Identity SDK for JavaScript to authenticate a user through Amazon Cognito. (See <u>Amazon Cognito Identity SDK for JavaScript</u>.) Use the example below in your JavaScript code to retrieve values for the Claris ID token (Claris_ID_token) and the Claris ID refres token (Claris_ID_refresh_token). The Claris ID token is used for authentication when you use the FileMaker Data API, FileMaker Admin API, or OData API, and is valid for one hour. The Claris ID refresh token allows scripts to continue running after the Claris ID token expires, and is valid for one year.

Example

In this example:

- the UserPool_ID and Client_ID values from above are used
- for username and password, enter the Claris ID user name and password

Example code:

```
var authenticationData = {
     Username : 'username',
      Password : 'password',
  }:
var authenticationDetails = new
AmazonCognitoIdentity.AuthenticationDetails(authenticationData);
var poolData = { UserPoolId : 'us-west-2 NgkuZcX0Y'.
  ClientId : '4l9rvl4mv5es1eep1ge97cautn'
};
var userPool = new AmazonCognitoIdentity.CognitoUserPool(poolData);
var userData = {
  Username : 'username',
  Pool : userPool
};
var cognitoUser = new AmazonCognitoIdentity.CognitoUser(userData);
cognitoUser.authenticateUser(authenticationDetails, {
  onSuccess: function (result) {
     var Cognito_access_token = result.getAccessToken().getJwtToken();
      var Claris_ID_token = result.idToken.jwtToken;
```

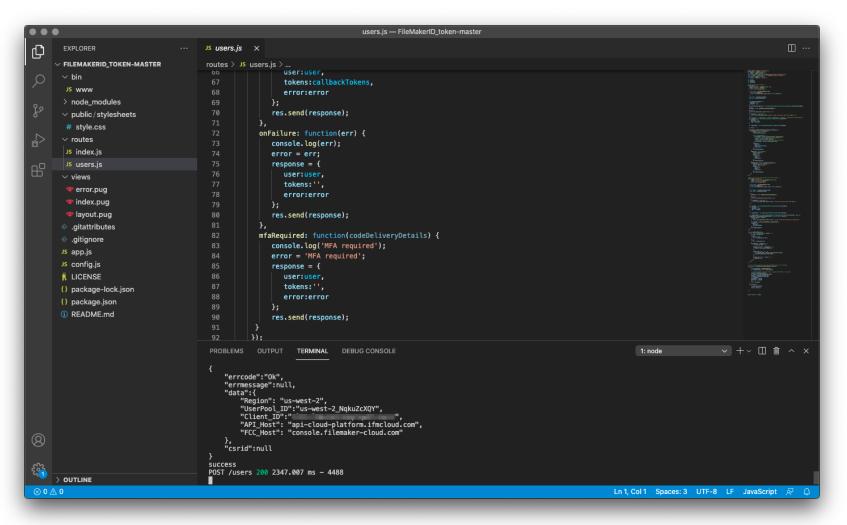
OData and FM Cloud

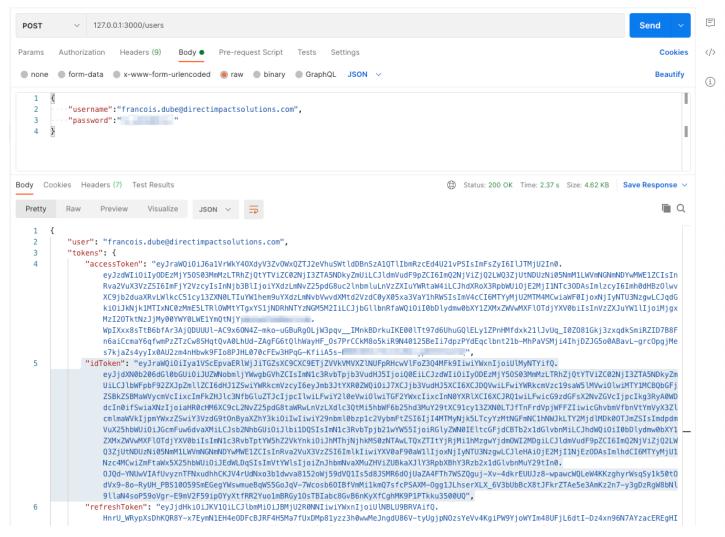
 https://www.soliantconsulting.com/blog/data-apifilemaker-cloud/

Be prepared: it is a complex multi-step process

OData, a replacement for ODBC presented by François Dubé

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Security	Password Change your password	Account Recovery ⑦ Regenerate recovery code
	Two-Step Verification Add a phone number for extra security. Turn on two-step verification	

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Anonymous	https://:.account.filemaker-cloud.com/fmi/									
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OData and FM Cloud

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Part 5

- I lost the focus, not a viable solution
 - Not simple to put in place
 - Not simple for the end user
- Don't really like the 3rd solution
- Can FileMaker Server for Linux come to the rescue?

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	Danilo	Pride	Binary	n	ull Harry L Adams Incorporated	nul	// http://www.harryladamsincor
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7	Tom	Loeza		Sheraton Shreveport Hotel		http://www. sheratonsh reveporthot el.com	L	2CF9C097- E03B-4193- A919- A89754CC0D1 0	idi	idi	6/1/2021 16:16	6/1/2021 16:16	
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10	Josefa	Opitz		Norman Gale Isuzu		http://www. normangal eisuzu.co m	0	73B4FB83- 251E-41FE- 8603- 6902140F5CB 6	idi	idi	6/1/2021 16:16	6/1/2021 16:16	
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To summarize

- Works on Windows version of Excel to create the connection and refresh the data, and partially on Excel Online
- Does not work on Mac
- Works with FileMaker Server for Linux with basic authentication (using a local FileMaker account)
- Does not work with FileMaker Cloud because of the authentication type (Claris ID)

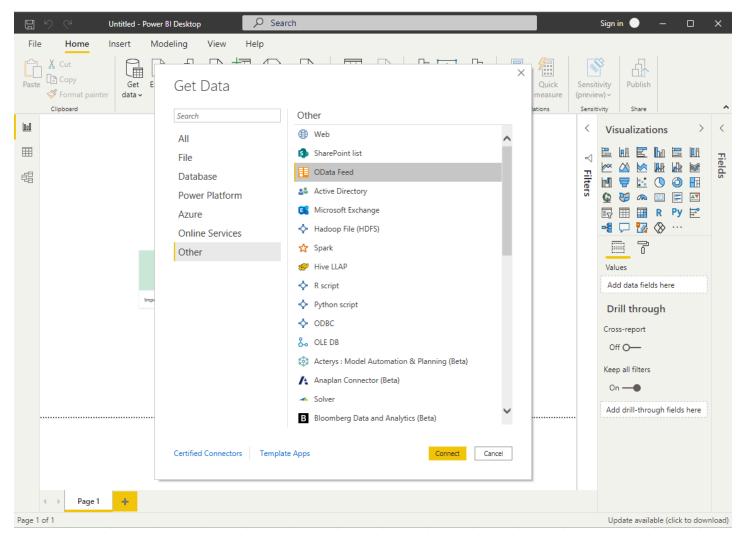
OData, a replacement for ODBC presented by François Dubé

dotfmp.berlin

Part 6

Let's continue to explore

Microsoft Power BI



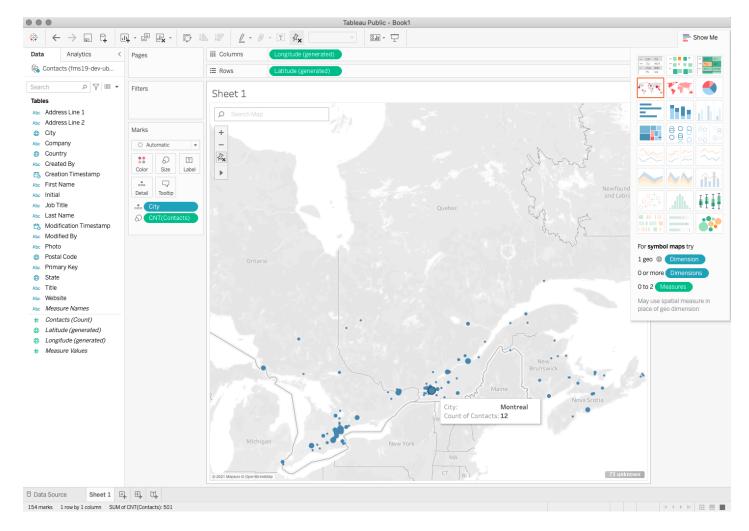
Microsoft Power BI

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	Paola	Vielma		Congress Title		http://www.congresstitle.com	V	2593BFBD-6AD6-4490-B3	Address Line 2
	Leanna	Tijerina		Stephenson Land Surveying		http://www.stephensonlandsurveying.com	Т	C3416A19-9666-4130-9B	City
	Chandra	Lagos		Meredith Realty Group Inc		http://www.meredithrealtygroupinc.com	L	347127F4-3387-44DC-A8	Company
	Crissy	Pacholec		Cgi Systems Inc		http://www.cgisystemsinc.com	P	0BAB6908-4B92-4822-A5	Country
	Laurena	Begin		Barry, Anthony S Esq		http://www.barryanthonysesq.com	В	203FAD76-6574-4B37-B4	CreatedBy
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	Amalia	Wolfgang		Knutson, Becky S Esq		http://www.knutsonbeckysesq.com	w	C070639B-1632-4AB0-B2	Title
	Felix	Tutterrow		Corinth Dry Cleaners		http://www.corinthdrycleaners.com	т	EAAF02A8-52CE-49C7-A3	Website
	Lang	Heuring		Hill Realty Property Mgmt		http://www.hillrealtypropertymgmt.com	н	CACE3D48-2E92-493B-84	
	Rashad	Menino		World Sign Associates		http://www.worldsignassociates.com	м	0D7224E9-3599-4D82-B4	
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Tableau



Microsoft Power Automate

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The conclusion

- OData with Basic Auth on FMS Linux -> Yes!
- Maybe we should wait for FMS on Ubuntu
- Can we replace ODBC with OData? Yes, but still limited



Thank you!