

gConnectionManager
Connection String Editor

Version 1.4, November 21, 2014

User's Manual

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Getting Started

gConnectionManager allows editing database connection strings in application configuration files.

Highlighted features of gConnectionManager:

1. gConnectionManager is easy-to-use for end users that are not developers or administrators.
2. gConnectionManager allows protecting connection strings using Windows cryptographic providers.
3. The connection wizard allows connecting to databases in visual mode.
4. You may copy and paste connection strings.
5. You may temporary disable connection strings. Such strings are moved to the disabledConnectionStrings section.
6. gConnectionManager can used by other products as a connection string editor.

gConnectionManager supports the following database platforms:

- Windows Azure SQL Database.
- Microsoft SQL Server.
- Microsoft SQL Server Compact.
- Oracle Database.
- IBM DB2.
- Oracle MySQL.
- SkySQL MariaDB.
- NuoDB.

You may start learning about gConnectionManager in the following topics:

- [Using gConnectionManager](#)
- [User Interface](#)
- [Command Line](#)
- [Configuration File](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Change History

Legend:

- [+] Added Feature
- [-] Fixed Bug
- [*] Improved/changed feature

Version 1.4, November 21, 2014

- [-] Loosing connection changes has been fixed.

Version 1.3, August 27, 2014

- [+] Microsoft SQL Server 2000 support has been added.

Version 1.2, July 15, 2014

- [!] The user interface has been translated to French.
Our special thanks to Philippe Aristide and Mareva Berny.
The French UI is activated automatically if Windows has the French UI.
You may also change to French UI in gConnectionManager.exe.config using the AppCulture setting:
<add key="AppCulture" value="fr-FR"/>
- [+] Support for NuoDB has been added.
NuoDB is an innovative database management system with advanced features:
the distributed cloud database, scale-out performance, geo-distribution, auto-administration, multi-tenancy.
NuoDB has also a free edition with 4GB database size limit.
Visit <http://www.nuodb.com>.
- [+] Support for NuoDB ADO.NET Driver has been added.
- [+] Support for SkySQL MariaDB has been added.
MariaDB is an open source MySQL compatible DBMS. All application features for MySQL are suitable for MariaDB.
Visit <http://mariadb.com>.
- [*] Support for Oracle Data Provider for .NET has been added.
- [*] Support for IBM DB2 .NET Provider has been added.

Version 1.1, March 28, 2014

- [*] Connecting to Windows Azure SQL Database has been improved.

Version 1.0, February 25, 2014

- [+] The first release.

System Requirements

Supported Architectures:

- x86
- x64

Supported Operating Systems:

- Windows XP SP3
- Windows Vista SP1
- Windows 7
- Windows 8 / 8.1
- Windows Server 2003 SP3
- Windows Server 2008 / 2008 R2
- Windows Server 2012 / 2012 R2

Supported Versions of Microsoft SQL Server:

- Microsoft SQL Server 2000
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008 / 2008 R2
- Microsoft SQL Server 2012 including Express LocalDB
- Microsoft SQL Server 2014 including Express LocalDB
- Windows Azure SQL Database

Supported Versions of Microsoft SQL Server Compact:

- Microsoft SQL Server Compact 3.5
- Microsoft SQL Server Compact 4.0

Supported Versions of Oracle Database:

- Oracle Database 10g Release 1
- Oracle Database 10g Release 2
- Oracle Database 11g Release 1
- Oracle Database 11g Release 2
- Oracle Database 12c Release 1

Supported Versions of IBM DB2:

- IBM DB2 9.5
- IBM DB2 9.7
- IBM DB2 10.1

Supported Versions of MySQL:

- MySQL 5.0
- MySQL 5.1
- MySQL 5.2
- MySQL 5.5
- MySQL 5.6

Supported Versions of SkySQL MariaDB:

- MariaDB 5.1
- MariaDB 5.2
- MariaDB 5.3
- MariaDB 5.5
- MariaDB 10.0

Supported Versions of NuoDB:

- NuoDB 2.0.4

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Using gConnectionManager

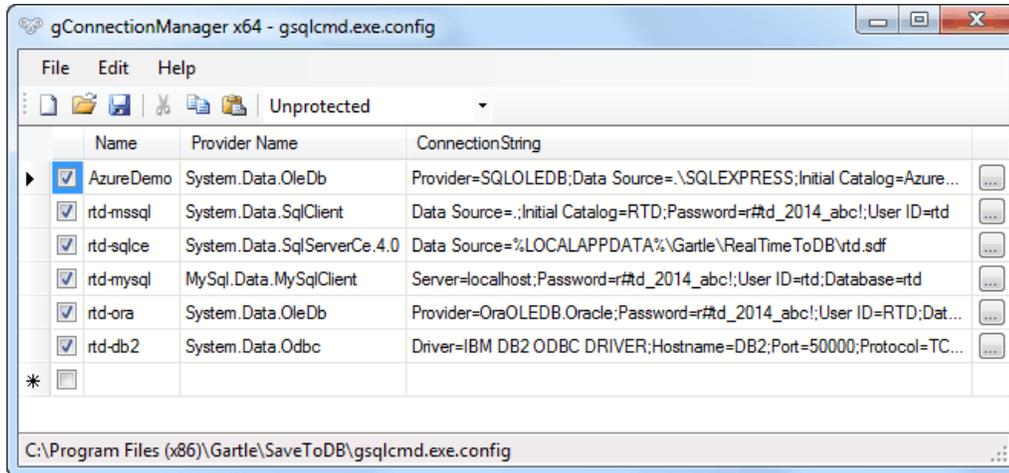
gConnectionManager allows creating and editing connection strings in application configuration files.

gConnectionManager supports the following operations with the connection strings:

- Creating.
- Editing.
- Deleting.
- Copying and pasting.
- Enabling and disabling.

You may edit connection strings directly in table cells. You may click the "..." button to start the [Connection Wizard](#).

Here is an example of the gsqlcmd.exe.config configuration file:



gConnectionManager edits a single configuration file.

You may start multiple copies of gConnectionManager to edit multiple configuration files at the same time. You may copy the strings between the opened connection managers.

Click the **Save** button to save the changes.

Click the **File, Reopen** menu item to reopen the file and discard all the changes.

See the following topics about user interface elements:

- [Menu File](#)
- [Menu Edit in Regular Mode](#)
- [Menu Edit in Cell Edit Mode](#)
- [Menu Help](#)
- [Field Protection](#)
- [Table Fields](#)
- [Connection Wizard](#)

Integration with Other Products

You may integrate gConnectionManager with your product to allow users to edit connection strings in configuration files.

See [Command Line](#) about parameters.

If your product uses private installations of database providers, you may specify database provider factories in the gConnectionManager [configuration file](#).

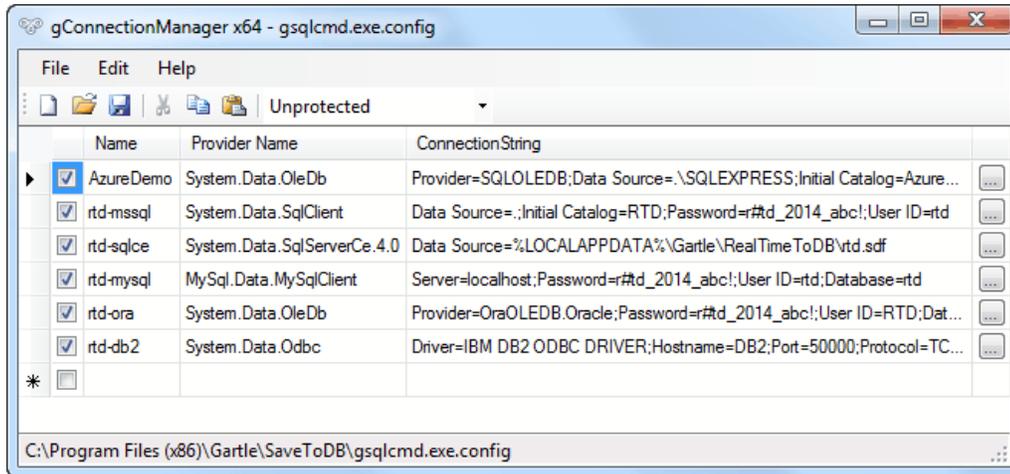
User Interface

gConnectionManager allows creating and editing connection strings in application configuration files.

You may edit connection strings directly in table cells.

Click the "..." button to start the [Connection Wizard](#).

Here is an example of the configuration file:



gConnectionManager edits a single configuration file.

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See the following topics about user interface elements:

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- [Menu Edit in Regular Mode](#)
- [Menu Edit in Cell Edit Mode](#)
- [Menu Help](#)
- [Field Protection](#)
- [Table Fields](#)
- [Connection Wizard](#)

Menu File

New

Creates a new configuration file.

Open

Opens an existing configuration file.

Reopen

Reopens the opened configuration file and discards all changes.

Save

Saves the file.

Save As

Opens the Save As dialog box to save the file with a new name.

Exit

Closes the program.

Menu Edit in Regular Mode

Cut

Cuts the selected connection strings to the Clipboard.

Copy

Copies the selected cells or selected rows to the Clipboard.

Paste

Pastes the cell or row values from the Clipboard.

To add the connection strings from the Clipboard, select the last row of the table before pasting.

Select All

Selects all table cells.

Menu Edit in Cell Edit Mode

Cut

Cuts the selected text to the Clipboard.

Copy

Copies the selected text to the Clipboard.

Paste

Pastes the value from the Clipboard.

Select All

Selects the all text.

Menu Help

Help

Opens the help file.

The help file can be specified by the /helpfile option in the command line.

Homepage

Opens the gConnectionManager home page on the www.savetodb.com website.

Check Updates

Opens the webpage to check and download product updates.

About gConnectionManager

Displays the **About gConnectionManager** dialog box.

Field Protection

Unprotected

The connection strings are stored unencrypted.

This feature allows moving configuration files to other computers.

User Protected

The connection strings are stored encrypted using Windows cryptographic providers.

The connection strings are available for programs launched under the current user account.

Machine Protected

The connection strings are stored encrypted using Windows cryptographic providers.

The connection strings are available for programs launched under any user account on the machine.

Table Fields

Enable/Disable

Allows enabling and disabling connection strings.

The disabled connection strings are moved to the disabledConnectionStrings section of the configuration file.

Name

Shows connection string names.

The names must be unique.

ProviderName

Shows connection string ProviderNames.

Activates Connection Wizard for newly created connection strings.

ConnectionString

Shows connection string `ConnectionString` fields.
Activates Connection Wizard for newly created connection strings.

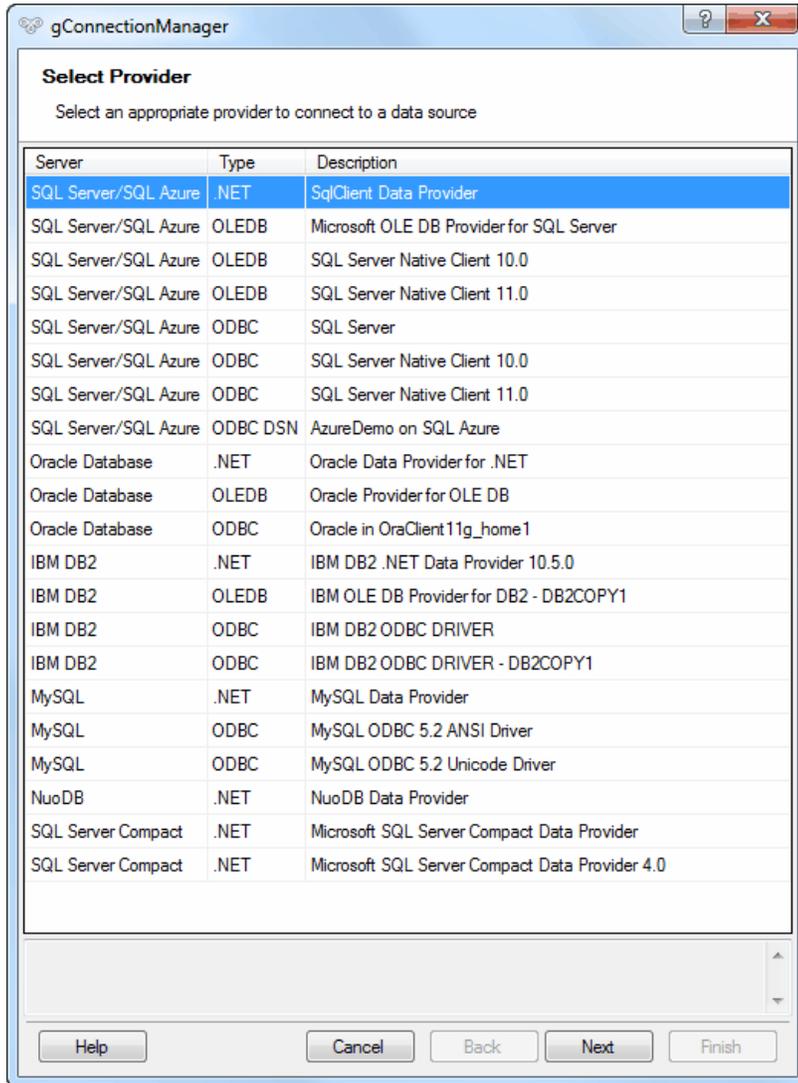
Change Connection String "..."

Activates Connection Wizard to edit the connection string.
To click the button, click the mouse button or press the space bar.

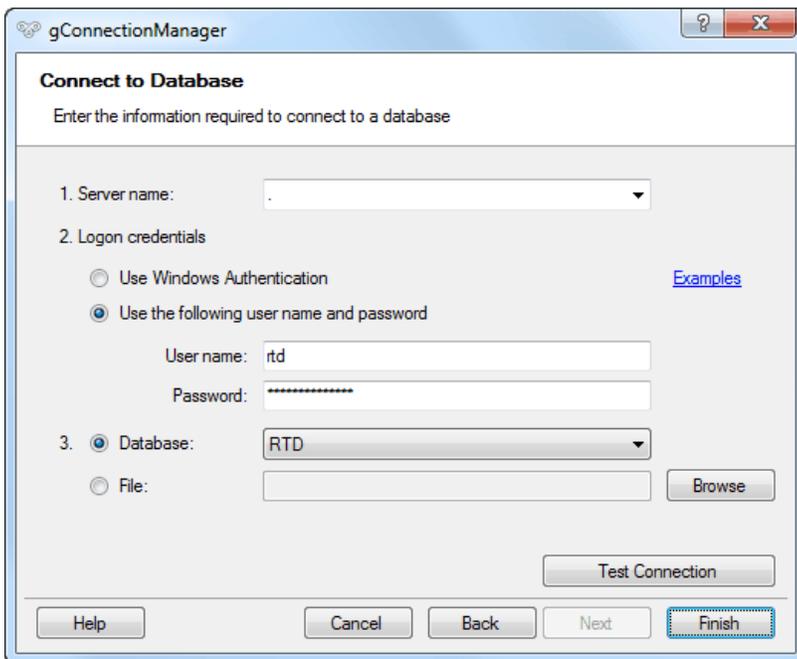
Connection Wizard

The Connection Wizard allows connecting to databases in visual mode.

Select a connection provider on the first step:



Connect to a database on the second step:



The different database servers have specific features described in separate topics.

Click the **Help** button or the **Examples** link to get the context help during the connecting.

The **Finish** button is enabled when the connection is successful. The wizard tests the connection in the background and activates the button.

If the **Finish** button is disabled, click the **Test Connection** button to test a connection.

See specific feature descriptions in the following topics:

- [Connecting to Microsoft SQL Server](#)
- [Connecting to Microsoft SQL Server Compact](#)
- [Connecting to Oracle Database](#)
- [Connecting to IBM DB2](#)
- [Connecting to MySQL and MariaDB](#)
- [Connecting to NuoDB](#)

Command Line

Command line format:

```
gConnectionManager <input file> [/helpfile=<help file>] [/runas]
```

Parameter Input File

Defines the configuration file to open.

Option HelpFile

Defines the help file.

Use this option to show the help of an integrated product.

The help file must contain the following topic IDs:

```
1000  Main page
1021  Connecting to Microsoft SQL Server
1022  Connecting to Oracle Database
1023  Connecting to IBM DB2
1024  Connecting to Microsoft SQL Server Compact
1025  Connecting to Oracle MySQL or to SkySQL MariaDB
1026  Connecting to NuoDB
```

Option RunAs

Disables the query of administrator privileges even the file cannot be written with the current user privileges.

gConnectionManager adds this option when reloads itself with administrator privileges after elevating.

Configuration File

The configuration file can be used to specify database connection providers if they components are located in the utility directory.

For example, the .NET Framework Data Provider for MySQL is specified in the DbProviderFactories section:

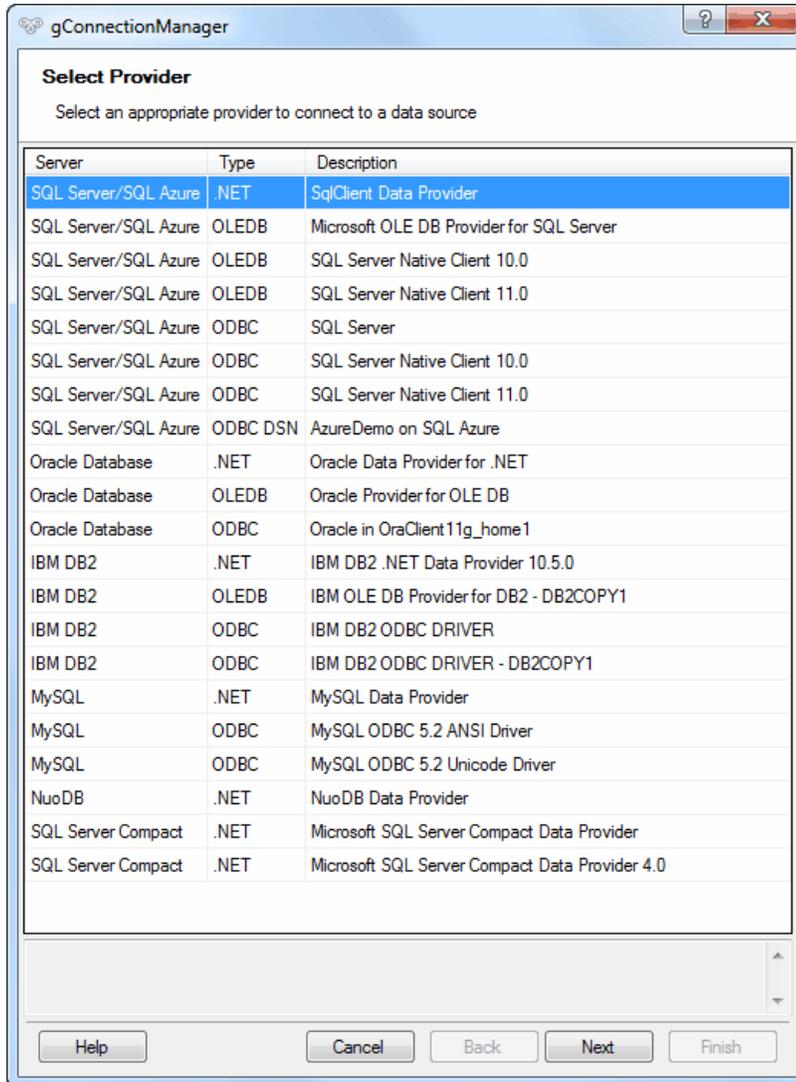
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<configuration>
  ...
  <system.data>
    <DbProviderFactories>
      <remove invariant="MySQL.Data.MySqlClient"/>
      <add name="MySQL Data Provider" invariant="MySQL.Data.MySqlClient" description=".Net Framework Data Provider for MySQL" type=
"MySQL.Data.MySqlClient.MySqlClientFactory, MySQL.Data, Version=6.8.3.0, Culture=neutral, PublicKeyToken=c5687fc88969c44d" />
    </DbProviderFactories>
  </system.data>
</configuration>
```

Connecting to Microsoft SQL Server

gConnectionManager supports connecting to all Microsoft SQL Server versions:

- Windows Azure SQL Database.
- Microsoft SQL Server.
- Microsoft SQL Server Express LocalDB.

Selecting Provider



.NET Framework Data Provider for SQL Server and **Microsoft OLE DB Provider for SQL Server** are available by default.

To connect to file databases, for example using **Microsoft SQL Server Express LocalDB**, **SQL Server Native Client 11.0** providers installed are required.

Connecting to Database

The server name format for Microsoft SQL Server:

<Server name or IP-address>[,<Port>] [\<Instance name>]

The database field is available when the server and the logon credentials are specified.

The database list is populated with the databases available for a connection.

This is an example of a connection to the AzureDemo database in Windows Azure SQL Database:

gConnectionManager

Connect to Database
Enter the information required to connect to a database

1. Server name: ko7h266q17.database.windows.net

2. Logon credentials

Use Windows Authentication [Examples](#)

Use the following user name and password

User name: Budget40_User

Password: *****

3. Database: AzureDemo

File: Browse

Test Connection

Help Cancel Back Next Finish

This is an example of the connection to the local server on port 1433:

gConnectionManager

Connect to Database
Enter the information required to connect to a database

1. Server name: localhost,1433

2. Logon credentials

Use Windows Authentication [Examples](#)

Use the following user name and password

User name:

Password:

3. Database: AzureDemo

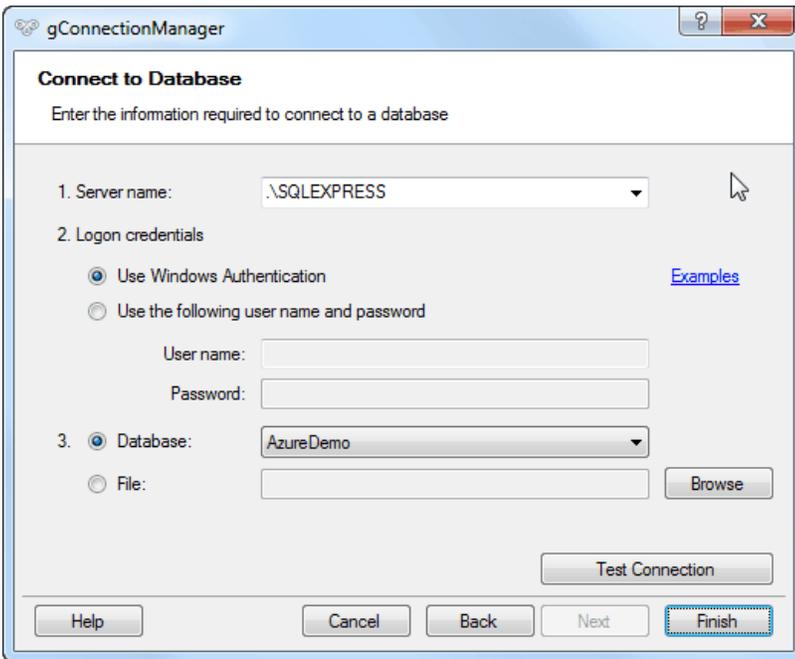
File: Browse

Test Connection

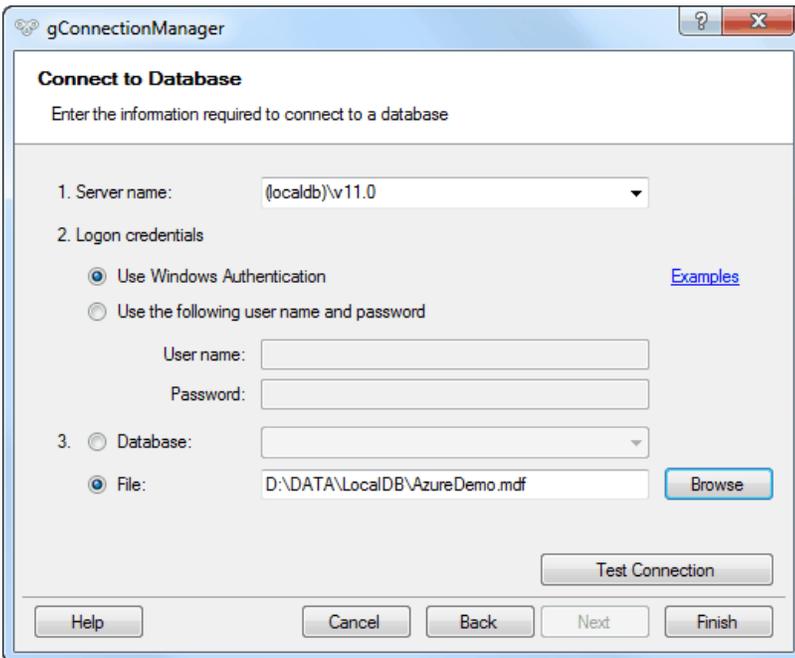
Help Cancel Back Next Finish

The 'localhost' should be used for the local server with the port specification as Microsoft Excel does not support the '.' notation with the port specified.

This is an example of the connection to the SQLEXPRESS named instance:



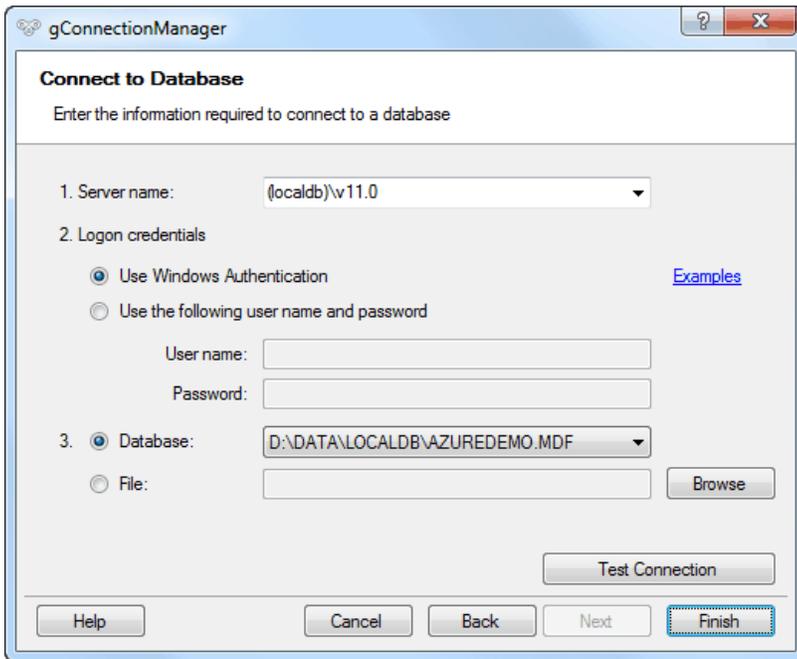
This is an example of the connection to a file database using Microsoft SQL Server Express LocalDB:



You may use the **Browse** button to select a file.

The **SQL Server Native Client 11.0** provider is required to connect to a file database.

If the file database is already attached it is available through the database list.

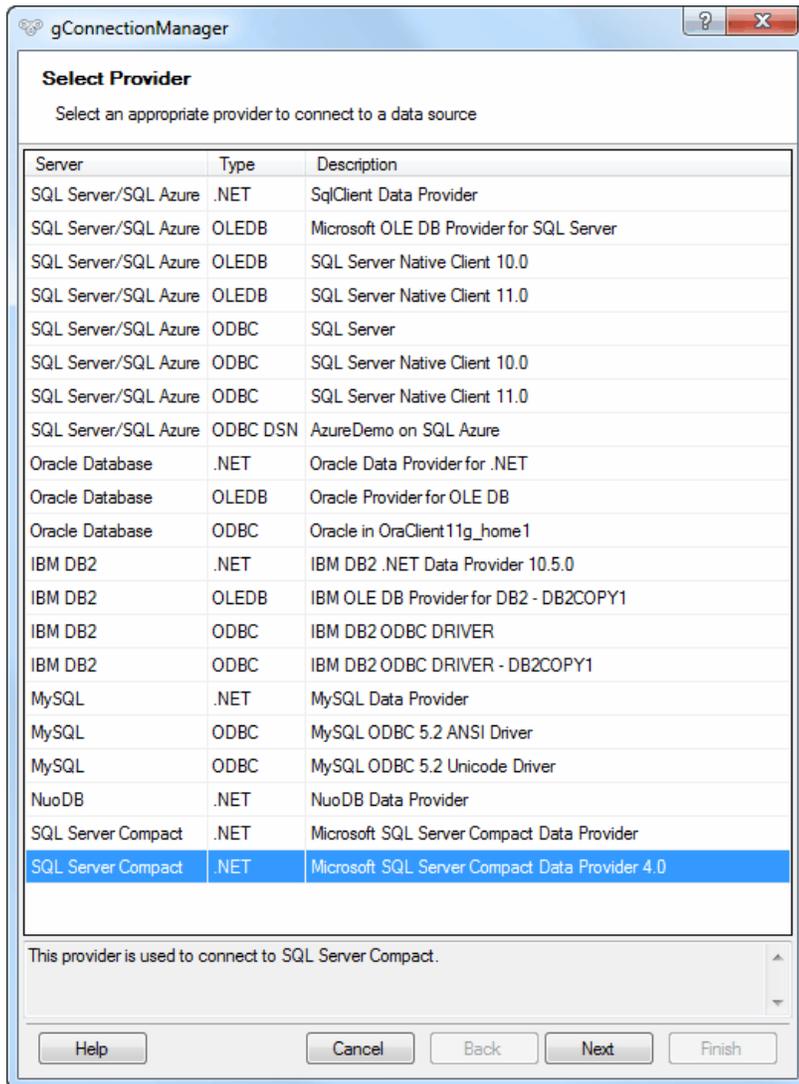


But the better way is to use the file connection for a file database as the database can be detached anytime. In this case the file connection works while the database connection is not.

Connecting to Microsoft SQL Server Compact

gConnectionManager supports connecting to Microsoft SQL Server Compact databases.

Selecting Provider



Microsoft SQL Compact Data Provider supports working with **Microsoft SQL Server Compact 3.5**, and **Microsoft SQL Compact Data Provider 4.0** supports working with **Microsoft SQL Server Compact 4.0**.

You may download Microsoft SQL Server Compact 4.0 at <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=30709>

and Microsoft SQL Server Compact 3.5 SP2 at <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=5783>.

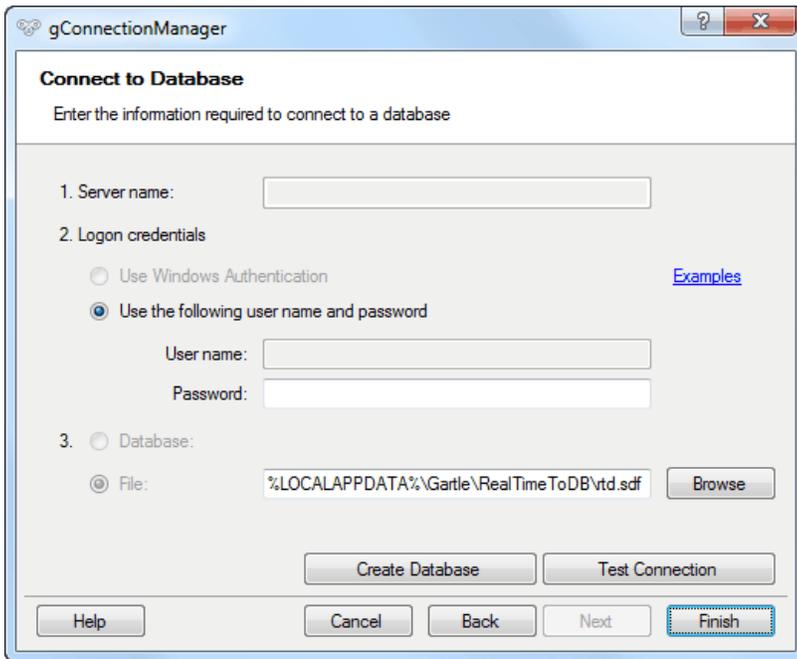
Connecting to Microsoft SQL Server Compact Database File

An existing database file must be specified to connect to Microsoft SQL Server Compact.

A password must be specified if the database file is encrypted.

You may specify environment variables like %LocalAppData% in the database file path if this feature is supported by the configured product.

The Microsoft SQL Server Compact database can be created during connection.



Creating Microsoft SQL Server Compact Database

SaveToDB allows creating Microsoft SQL Server Compact databases including versions 3.5 and 4.0.

The database version is defined by the Microsoft SQL Server Compact provider selected at the first step.



Check **Overwrite existing database file** to recreate a database file.

You may specify a password to encrypt the database file.

Encryption modes:

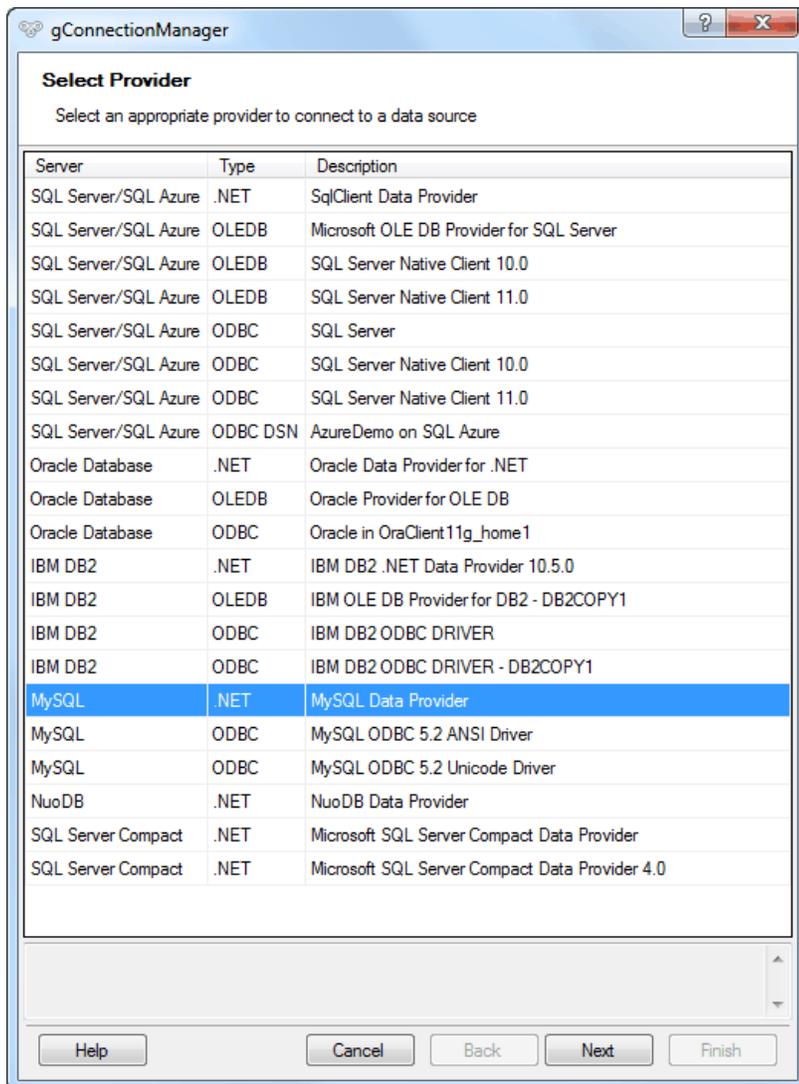
1. **Platform Default:** The algorithms used in this mode are AES128_SHA256, where AES128 is the encryption algorithm with 128-bit key and SHA256 is the hash algorithm with 256-bit key. This is the default encryption mode option on all SQL Server Compact 4.0 supported platforms.
2. **Engine Default:** In this mode, the database is encrypted using AES256_SHA512, where AES256 is the encryption algorithm and SHA512 is the secure hash algorithm. The default key length is used to maintain backward compatibility with SQL Server Compact 3.5.

Connecting to MySQL and MariaDB

gConnectionManager supports connecting to MySQL and MariaDB databases.

MariaDB is completely compatible with MySQL. So you may use MySQL providers and drivers to connect both servers.

Selecting Provider



Two types of providers can be used to connect MySQL:

- **MySQL ODBC Driver.**
- **MySQL Data Provider for .NET.**

You may download **MySQL ODBC drivers** at <http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/connector/odbc/>.

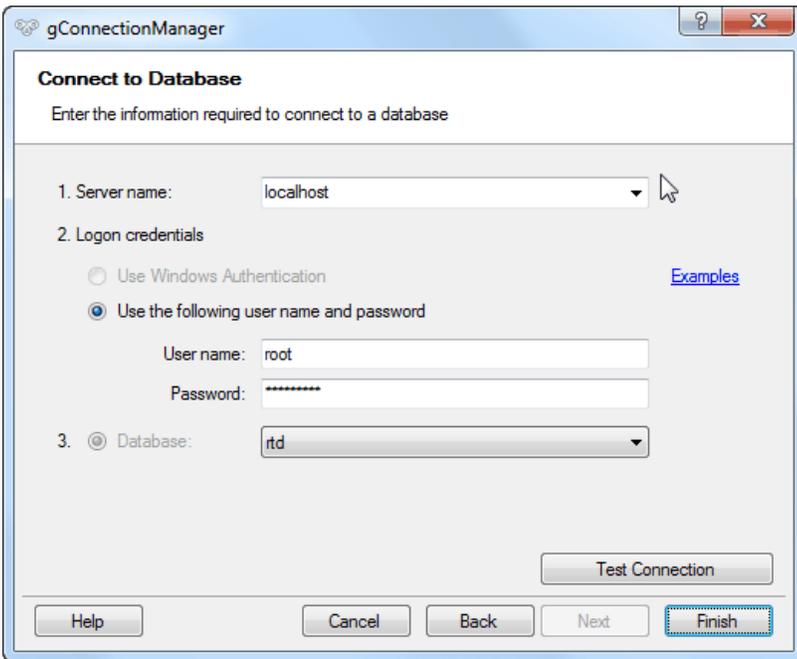
A **Unicode version of MySQL ODBC drivers** completely supports national characters; ANSI drivers can have issues with national characters.

Connecting to Database

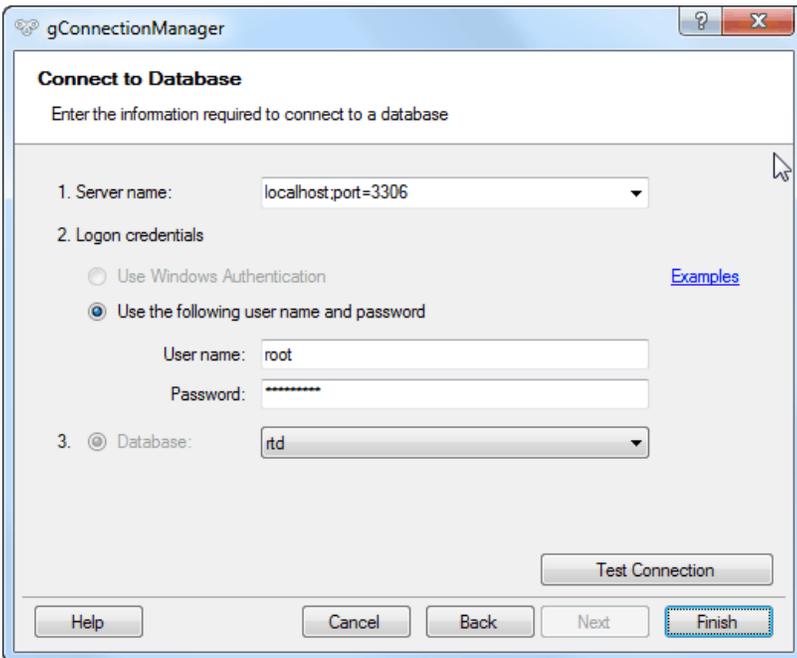
The MySQL server name format:

```
<Server name or IP-address>[:port=<Port>]
```

This is an example of the connection to the test database at the localhost:



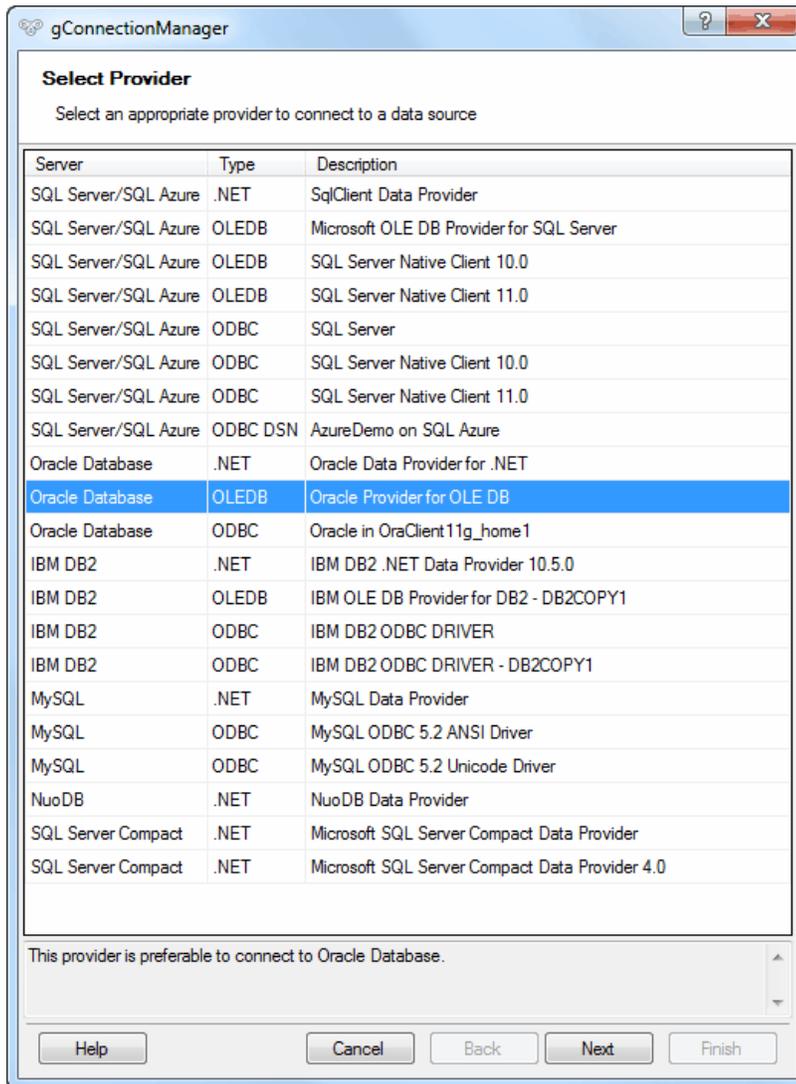
This is an example of the connection to the test database at the localhost on port 3306:



Connecting to Oracle Database

gConnectionManager supports connecting to Oracle Database databases.

Selecting Provider



The **Oracle Database Client** components are required to connect Oracle Database. See <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/database/enterprise-edition/downloads/>

Oracle OLE DB Provider is the best choice as it supports all Oracle Database features.

Connecting to Database

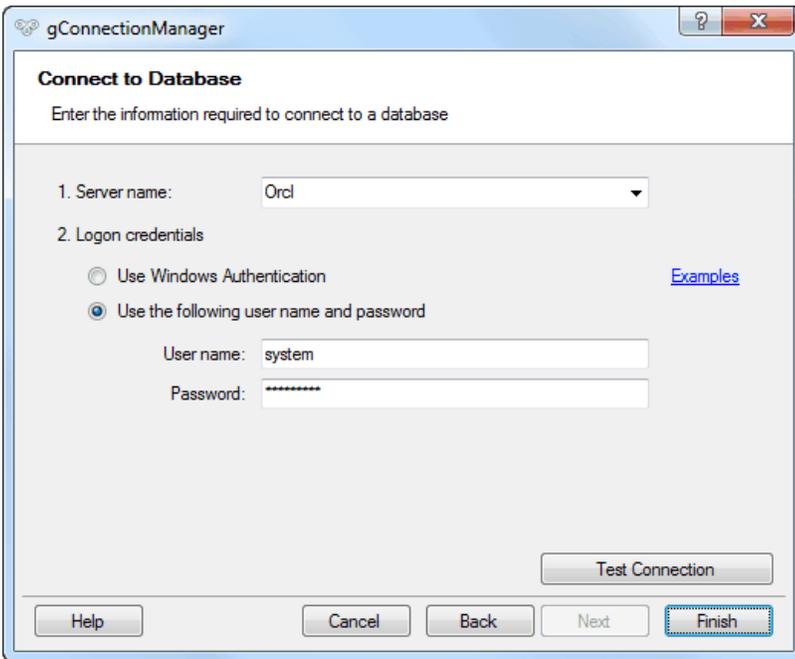
The Oracle Database server name format:

```
[<Server name or IP-address>[:<Port>]/]<Service name>
```

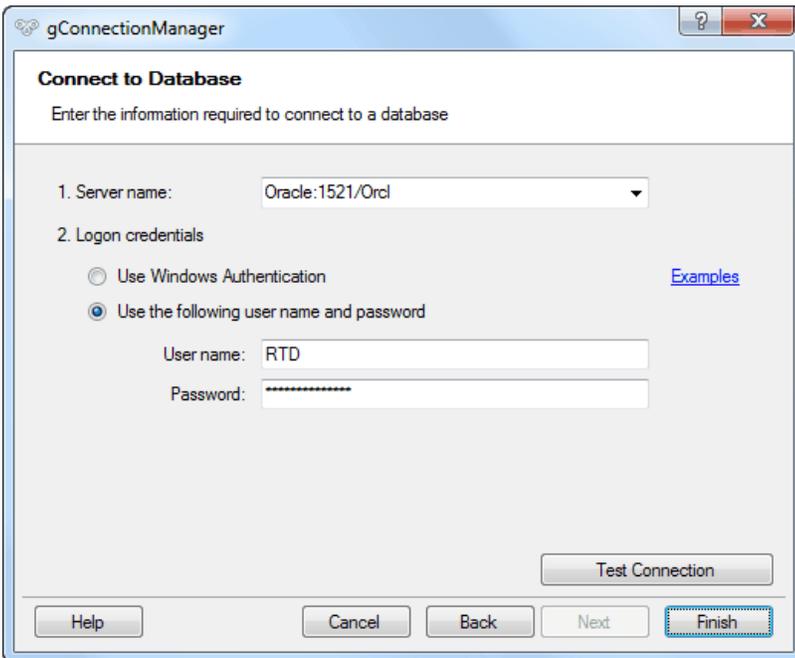
The service name only can be used if the service is configured in the **tnsnames.ora** file on the local machine.

Microsoft Excel does not support connections as **SYSDBA** or **SYSOPER**, but you may logon as **SYSTEM**.

This is an example of the connection to the service named Orcl:

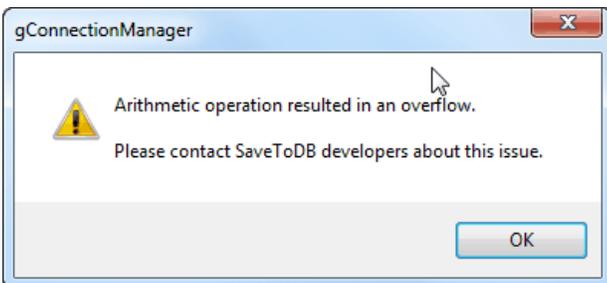


This is an example of the connection to the service named Orcl at the server named Oracle on port 1521:



Multiple versions of **64-bit Oracle Database ODBC drivers** have an error.

You may get the **"Arithmetic operation resulted in an overflow"** message during connection:



The solution is to update the 64-bit Oracle Database ODBC driver to the latest version. Or you may use Oracle OLE DB Provider that has no such error.

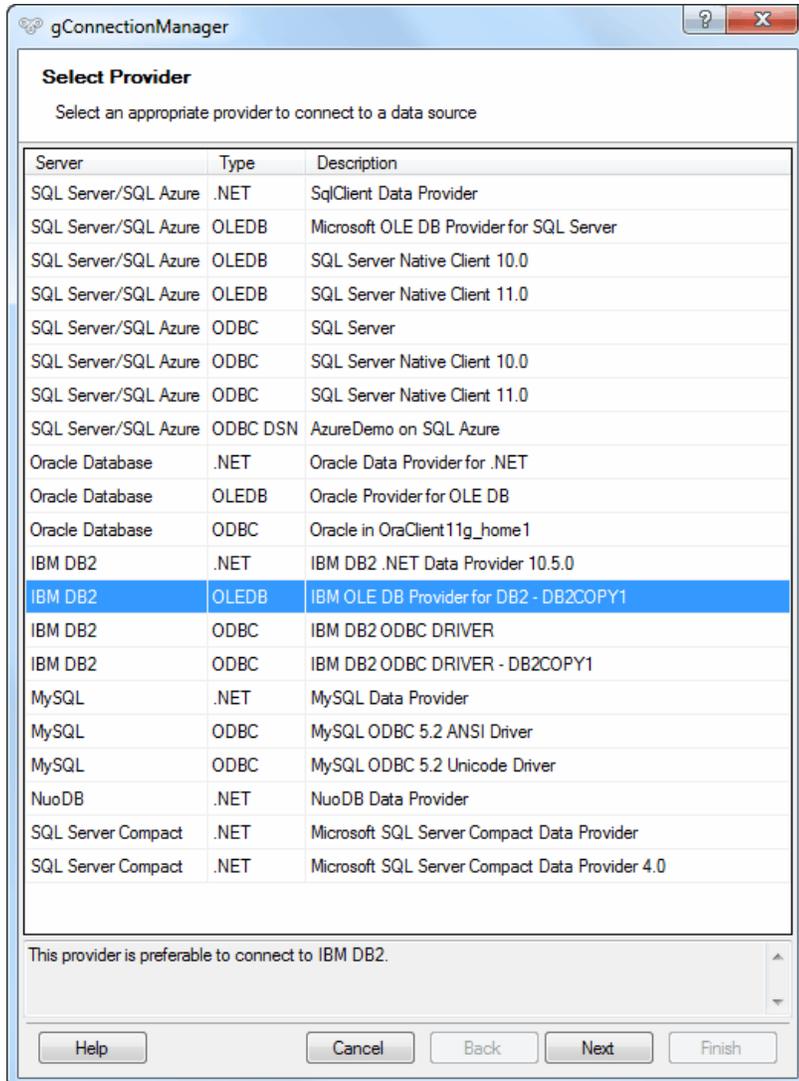
The **Oracle Database 10g** providers have an error. They do not work with the program started from the path that contains the brackets, for example (x86).

The **ORA-12154** error is appearing. To solve this issue, you may upgrade client components to **Oracle Database 11g** or to install the product in the directory that does not contain brackets.

Connecting to IBM DB2

gConnectionManager supports connecting to IBM DB2 databases.

Selecting Provider



IBM DB2 .NET Provider, **IBM OLE DB Provider for DB2** or **Microsoft OLE DB Provider for DB2** installed is required to connect IBM DB2.

See **IBM Data Server Client Packages** at <http://www.ibm.com/software/data/db2/linux-unix-windows/download.html> and **Microsoft OLEDB Provider for DB2** at <http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=16978>.

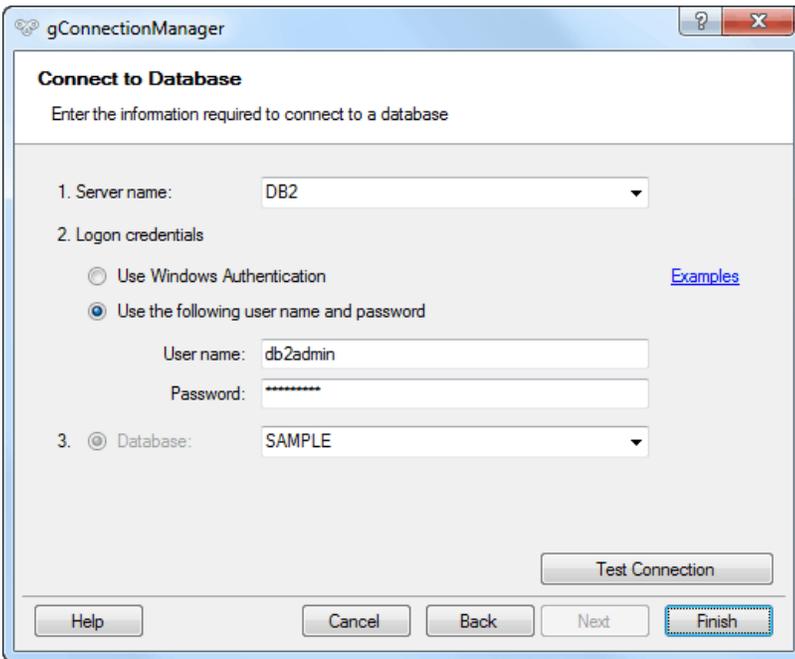
The IBM provider is the best choice as the Microsoft provider requires the Microsoft SQL Server Enterprise Edition license.

Connecting to Database

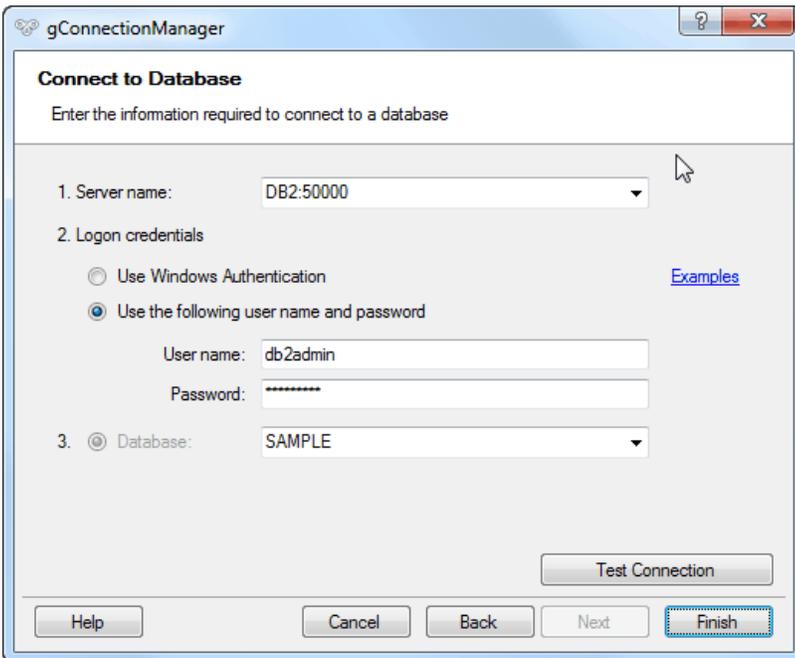
The IBM DB2 server name format:

```
<Server name or IP-address>[:<Port>]
```

This is an example of the connection to the SAMPLE database at the server named DB2:



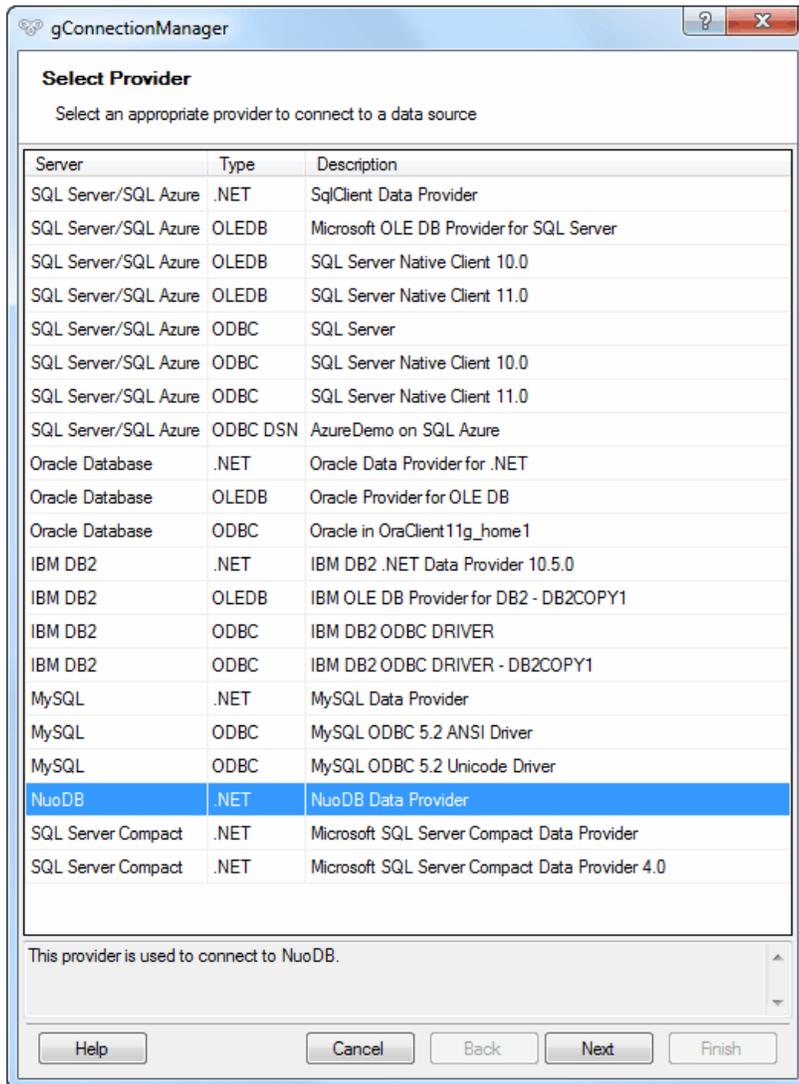
This is an example of the connection to the SAMPLE database at the server named DB2 on port 50000:



Connecting to NuoDB

gConnectionManager supports connecting to NuoDB databases.

Selecting Provider



Only **NuoDB ADO.NET Driver** can be used to connect NuoDB.
ODBC connections are not supported.

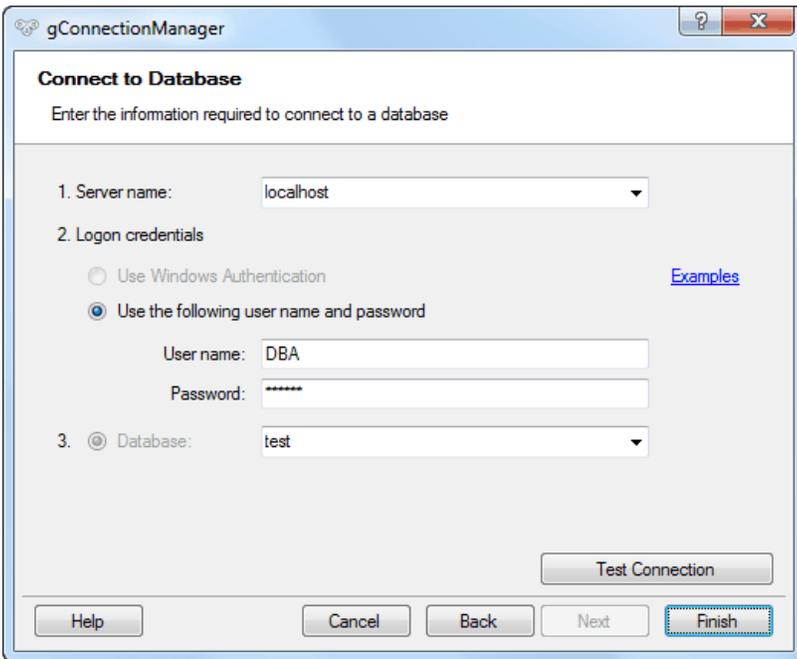
You may download **NuoDB ADO.NET Driver** at <http://www.nuodb.com>.

Connecting to Database

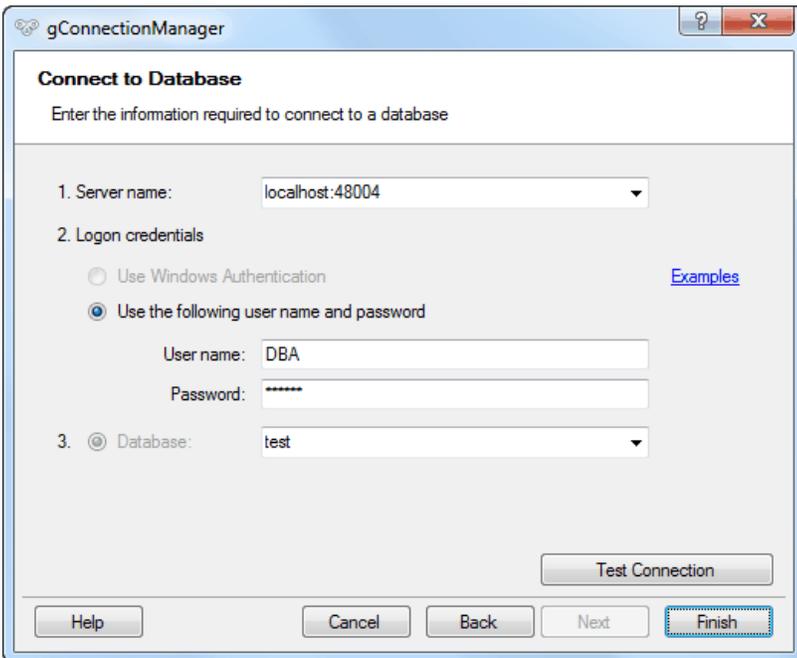
The NuoDB server name format:

```
<Server name or IP-address>[:<Port>]
```

This is an example of the connection to the test database at the localhost:



This is an example of the connection to the test database at the localhost on port 48004:



Technical Support

You may download the latest releases at www.savetodb.com.

You may contact us via email support@savetodb.com.

See also [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

What executable to use, gConnectionManager.exe or gConnectionManager32.exe?

Use gConnectionManager32.exe to connect to databases using 32-bit providers on 64-bit Windows.

It is useful if 64-bit providers for any database platform are not installed and not shown in the connection provider list.