**A quick start guide**

We have added remote databases support. The interaction procedure for this new type of data reminds of web services interaction at some point. The data is extracted using a special format of connector. To connect to databases, ODBC technology is used. ODBC (Open Database Connectivity) is a technology that allows to unify access to relational data. Practically every modern DBMS can be supported (MS SQL Server, MySQL, Oracle, etc).

The connector is presented as an XML file. The connection string is an important concept. The connection string allows database connection. Same as for the web services, five operations are supported, including “custom operation”.

Connector format detailed description can be found in the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tag Name** | **Tag Description** | **Attributes** |
| **settings**  | Root element  | none |
| **ext\_db\_settings** | Utility element | none |
| **connection\_strings** | Connection strings container | none |
| **connection\_string** | This tag contains connection string | none |
| **query** | Tag for query description. Contains  tag  ***<body>*** | **command** – action on dataValid values:*select*– data selection*add*– data addition*delete*– data deletion*update*– data update*customCommand* – custom data operation**connection\_string\_name** – name of the connection string**type** – query typeValid values:*sql*- in case of SQL code execute*stored\_proc* – in case of stored procedure call***cache\_timeout*** – time of life cached data (min.)***max\_size*** – maximum number of records within the data select |
| **body** | Contains either an SQL code, or stored procedure name. This tag is inserted into tag ***<query>***. | none |
| **input\_parameters**  | This tag describes input parameters. It is a container for tags ***<input\_parameter>*** and is inserted in the tag ***<query>***This tag is used only if the corresponding query stands for stored procedure call. | none |
| **Parameter** | This tag describes input parameter. | **name** – parameter name**bind\_with** – stored procedure parameter name bound with this parameter**value** – parameter value |

 Tags that describe fields are the same as for web services. The only difference is that in this case *xPath* attribute is ignored.

To use this new functionality, it’s necessary to choose data source "External DB" and upload ODBC connector by clicking the "Upload ODBC Connector" button.