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## How Will DAL Support ODBC and Its Relevance (4/93)

Article Created: 19 April 1993

TOPIC -----

I'm evaluating DAL (Data Access Language), I have some concerns about DAL and how it relates to ODBC. My concern centers on the expense of the DAL servers and the function of the servers as I might migrate to ODBC. In this case I'm spending a considerable amount for a single VTAM DAL server. Recognizing the "industry direction" is toward ODBC, I want to make sure my expenditure won't be a throwaway when Apple has ODBC support in DAL.

As I understand it the ODBC support Apple will have, is for the API. In the case of ODBC with DAL, the user would code to the ODBC API, but the final conversion to the native SQL will still be performed by the DAL server on the host. Is this correct? This is backward from the way ODBC would typically work, where the conversion to the native SQL is performed on the CLIENT and native SQL is then passed over the network to the host.

In DAL, you only need to change a single server instead of all the clients should you add or change a DBMS on the host server. I just want to make sure my understanding is correct.

DISCUSSION -----

Your understanding of this issue is correct. The ODBC support will involve supporting ODBC API calls in DAL and DAM (Data Access Manager). This will enable applications that write to the ODBC API to now access all the DAL Servers. This will not make DAL a throw-away but will rather enhance it in the marketplace as it will allow more applications to participate in the environments it supports.

And yes, you were correct in the understanding that one of DAL's benefits is that a single client supports many servers. Unlike some other products, you don't have to get a client to match each server, you can expand the server and thereby enhance "all the clients".

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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 11993