

Connecting to Derby Databases on OS X using SquirrelSQL

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Today I had a need to connect to and mess around with one of the **Derby** databases that ships with ColdFusion. I don't have RDS set up, plus I'm fairly certain that RDS does not allow you to modify data in tables, so I needed a solution. I had no idea where to start, so of course I simply Googled "derby database client tools" and one of the first links I saw was an article entitled *Using Squirrel SQL Client with Derby*, by Susan Cline. I recalled that SquirrelSQL is a client that runs on OS X, so I clicked.

Boy was I glad that I did. The article covers just about everything you need to know to get up and running with Derby on OS X, and a whole lot more, and I highly recommend reading it. If you don't feel like seeing the details, I've included a simple step-by-step guide below:

1. Install SquirrelSQL

1. Download SquirrelSQL from the [downloads page](#). I clicked the link labelled *Install jars (and source) of Squirrel 3.1 for MacOS X*.

2. Open up a terminal window and change to the folder where the downloaded jar file is located.

3. Run the install package by typing the following command:

```
java -jar squirrel-sql-3.1-MacOSX-install.jar
```

where *squirrel-sql-3.1-MacOSX-install.jar* is the name of the file you downloaded.

4. Tell the installer where to put the app file (I chose */Applications/SquirrelSQL.app*), and choose the plugins to install. I chose a whole bunch of plugins as I wanted to see what they do, but make sure you choose the *Derby* plugin.

2. Configure SquirrelSQL to Use Derby

1. Start SquirrelSQL by running the app file that you just installed.

2. Click the *Drivers* tab.

3. You should see *Apache Derby Embedded* as one of the drivers listed. If it has a blue check mark beside it then SquirrelSQL is ready to access Derby databases, and you can continue with *Configuring SquirrelSQL to Use Your Database*, below. On the other hand, if, like me, you see a red x beside it, then you need to continue with the following steps.

4. Select *Apache Derby Embedded* in the list and click the pencil icon, which allows you to edit the driver.

5. Click the *Extra Class Path* tab and then click the *Add* button.

6. Browse to a folder that contains the *derby.jar* file. It should be located in the */lib* folder of your ColdFusion server. For example, on my machine it's in */Developer/CF9/servers/cfusion/cfusion-ear/cfusion-war/WEB-INF/cfusion/lib*. Select the *derby.jar* file and click the *Choose* button.

7. Now click the *List Drivers* button which should populate the *Class Name* select box.

8. Select *org.apache.derby.jdbc.EmbeddedDriver* from the *Class Name* select box, and click the *OK* button.

9. You should be returned to the main SquirrelSQL window and see the message

```
Driver class org.apache.derby.jdbc.EmbeddedDriver successfully registered for driver definition: Apache Derby Emb
```

at the bottom of the screen. The *Apache Derby Embedded* driver should now have a blue check mark beside it.

3. Configuring SquirrelSQL to Use Your Database

1. Click on the *Aliases* tab.

2. Click the blue + symbol to add an alias.

3. Give your alias a name. I chose the name of the database, so I put *cfartgallery* into the *Name* text box.

4. Choose *Apache Derby Embedded* from the *Driver* select box.

5. In the *URL* text box, replace the text <database> with the location of your database. I went to the datasource information in the ColdFusion Administrator and copied the contents of the *Database Folder* text box from there. The value I used was

```
/Developer/CF9/servers/cfusion/cfusion-ear/cfusion-war/WEB-INF/cfusion/db/artgallery
```

6. Check the *Auto logon* check box.

7. Click the *Test* button. You should see a dialog pop up saying "Connection successful".

8. Click the *OK* button. You should now be able to connect to the cfartgallery database!

Once again I just want to point out that all of this is covered by Susan Cline in her [excellent guide](#). If by any chance she ever reads this, I'd like to thank her for this wonderful and well written resource.