

# Connect to Microsoft SQL Server with ODBC and PHP

[Microsoft SQL Server](#) is a relational database management system developed by Microsoft.

This article will describe how to set up unixODBC and PHP drivers to connect to MS SQL server.

## Installing unixODBC

[unixODBC](#) is an open source project that implements the ODBC API

Best way to install unixODBC is from [slackbuilds.org](#).

If you have [sbopkg](#) installed this is as easy as executing the below command:

```
sbopkg -i unixODBC
```

unixODBC conflicts with libiodbc in Slackware, so if you remove unixODBC, you will have to re-install libiodbc!

## Installing Microsoft ODBC Drivers

The official ODBC Drivers can be downloaded from Microsoft: [download link](#)

### Microsoft ODBC Driver 13.1

The version that i've tried and works was the Debian 8 packages

- **msodbcsql** <https://packages.microsoft.com/debian/8/prod/pool/main/m/msodbcsql/>
- **mssql-tools** <https://packages.microsoft.com/debian/8/prod/pool/main/m/mssql-tools/>

I've installed them by extracting the deb files using 7z and then copying the contents into the same temporary directory to allow me to create a package using makepkg.

## ODBC Configuration

**/etc/odbcinst.ini**

```
[ODBC Driver 13 for SQL Server]
Description=Microsoft ODBC Driver 13 for SQL Server
Driver=/opt/microsoft/msodbcsql/lib64/libmsodbcsql-13.1.so.6.0
```

**/etc/odbc.ini**

```
[mssql]  
Driver=ODBC Driver 13 for SQL Server  
Server=tcp:YOUR_SERVER_NAME_OR_IP_ADDRESS  
Database=YOUR_DATABASE
```

## Microsoft Drivers for PHP for SQL Server

The drivers are only supported on PHP7+, so the assumption is that you are either on Slackware64-current (>=2018) or you have built and installed PHP7 manually.

The easiest way to install the drivers are to use PECL

```
pecl install sqlsrv  
pecl install pdo_sqlsrv
```

Alternatively you can get the official drivers from github and build it yourself:

<https://github.com/Microsoft/msphpsql>

Check the installation using **php -i|grep "sqlsrv support"** you should see something like this:

```
bash-4.4$ php -i|grep "sqlsrv support"  
pdo_sqlsrv support => enabled  
sqlsrv support => enabled
```

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From:  
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Last update: **2018/03/02 15:49 (UTC)**

