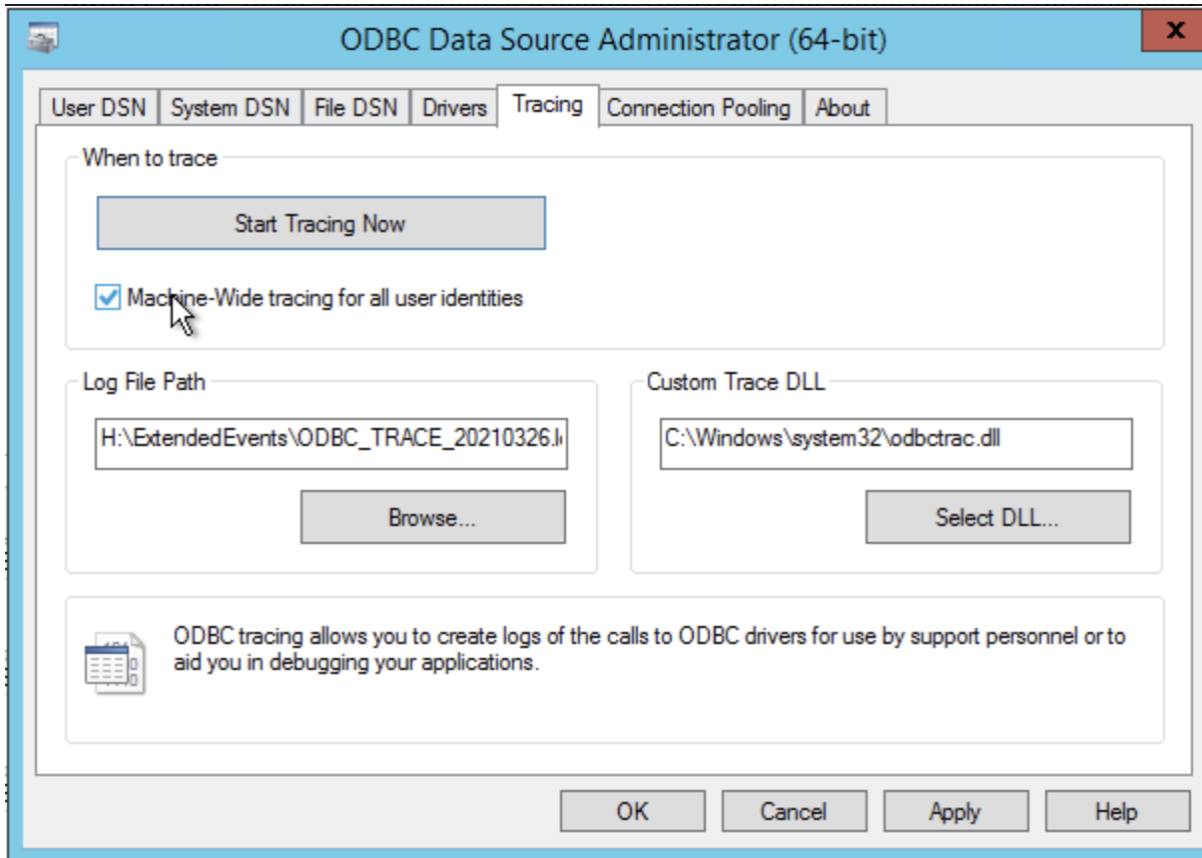


## ODBC: Generating a Trace File

When using ODBC for reporting, if an error occurs or a query hangs, an ODBC trace can provide helpful information.

In the ODBC Data Source Administrator, under Tracing, the “Start Tracing Now” button can be used to generate an ODBC trace. Make sure that the Log File Path is valid before beginning the trace. Start the client application AFTER tracing has been turned on.



If a trace is not generated, check the following:

1. The application needs to be started after tracing is turned on.  
Stop the service, turn on tracing in the ODBC Administrator, restart the service, then attempt the ODBC trace.
2. The tracing entry is not being entered properly in the registry.  
Edit the registry entries **HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\ODBC\ODBC.ini\ODBC\Trace** and **HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\ODBC\ODBC.ini\ODBC\Trace** as detailed in the document at [https://www.betaarchive.com/wiki/index.php/Microsoft\\_KB\\_Archive/274551](https://www.betaarchive.com/wiki/index.php/Microsoft_KB_Archive/274551) . It may be necessary to reboot the machine afterwards. Then, start the service and attempt the ODBC trace.
3. The service is running as a different user than the machine owner.  
Open Services and right-click on the application service. On the "Log On" tab, select "This Account", provide the machine owner and password and save it. Then, turn on tracing in the ODBC Administrator, restart the service and attempt the ODBC trace.

4. The ODBC trace file path set in the ODBC Administrator is ignored and the log file is created somewhere else.  
Check C:\Windows\temp, C:\Users\username\AppData\Local\Temp and %TEMP% to see if there is a new **SQL.LOG** file there.
5. No trace file or incomplete trace file when using Microsoft SQL Server Linked Server connecting through ODBC to a 3rd party database.

Before tracing is enabled check the box marked "Machine-Wide tracing for all user identities" which is located just below the "Start Tracing Now" button.

This log file will be placed in C:\Windows\temp despite any setting made to "Log File Path".