

How to share data sources in a network installation

Sometimes, you wish that the data sources you just created can be shared with all other users of the same network installation. Manually cloning the data sources in all installations certainly isn't an option. But there is a way

Background

Data sources in OpenOffice.org are stored in the configuration - this is an application wide data backend to store all kind of informations.

In general, the configuration data which is visible at runtime to the user is assembled from at least two layers: A layer shared amongst all client installations spawned from a particular network installation, and a layer which is specific to the client/user installation.

By default, anything which is done by the user is only reflected in her very own user layer, and the same holds for data sources: Every data source you create is stored in the user layer only.

If now there was a way to store the configuration for data sources in the shared layer, instead of the client layer, then all users could benefit from it. Well, there is :).

The idea

What is given here is a Basic macro which uses the [publicly available configuration API](#) to transfer the data source configuration information from the user configuration layer to the shared configuration layer. This means that you only need to created your data sources once, then run the macro, and from then on, all users based on your network installation will share these data sources!

The macro

Well, the macro is too longish to place it here. You can get it from our [Download Section](#): grab you DBATools.zip, and do the following:

- extract it to a folder of your choice, in the following referred to as <scripts>
- start OpenOffice.org, go to "Tools|Macro|Macro"
- choose "Organizer|Libraries", click "Append"
- browse for <scripts>/DBATools/script.xlb (or dialog.xlb, doesn't matter), press "OK"
- (In the following dialog, choose "Insert as reference (read-only)", if needed.)
- choose "OK", "close"
- Then, in the macro dialog, select the macro "soffice/DBATools/ShareDataSource", and press "Run"

=> this will run the macro (with a safety question), and transfer the data sources from the user installation to the shared layer. After this, you can use them in all other user installations (you may need to restart them).

Drawbacks

There's one disadvantage at the moment: In the user installation where you ran the macro, the data sources will not be visible anymore :(I'm working on finding out what the configuration API has to offer to prevent this ...