**Goal**

Connect to a database using ODBC.

1. Create and configure a System DSN file.
   * Click the Windows Start button and select **Settings»Control** **Panel**.
   * Double-click Administrative Tools.  
     Note: If Administrative Tools is not an option, click Switch to Classic View in the left sidebar menu.
   * Double-click **Data Sources (ODBC)** to open the ODBC Data Source Administrator configuration dialog box.
   * Select the System DSN tab.
   * Click **Add**.
   * Select **Microsoft Access Driver (\*.mdb)** and click **Finish**.
   * In the ODBC Microsoft Access Setup dialog box, enter DemoDSN for Data Source Name.
   * Click **Select**.
   * Navigate to <Exercises>\LabVIEW Intermediate II\Theatre Database\TheatreDatabase.mdb and click **OK**.
   * Click **OK**.
   * Verify that your System DSN appears in the System Data Sources list.
   * Show and point out the User DSN and File DSN tabs. Explain that this is where you would create the User DSNs and File DSNs described in the database lesson slides.
   * Click **OK**.
2. Open the ODBC Demo VI in the <Exercises>\LabVIEW Intermediate II\Theatre Database directory.
3. Demonstrate how to connect to a database using the ODBC standard with a System DSN.
   * Set the Connection Method control to **ODBC System DSN**.
   * Set the ODBC System DSN control to DemoDSN.
   * Run the VI. If the VI runs without any errors, then LabVIEW successfully opened and closed a connection to the database.
   * Show the block diagram of the VI.
   * Show the ODBC System DSN case of the case structure. Point out that a string control is wired into the **connection information** input of the DB Tools Open Connection VI. You must use a string control if you are using a System DSN or User DSN.
   * Show the ODBC File DSN case of the case structure. Point out that a file path control is wired into the **connection information** input of the DB Tools Open Connection VI. You must use a file path control if you are using a File DSN.