

PIT

A Whisker client

by Rudolf Cardinal

www.whiskercontrol.com

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PIT

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Printed: February 2018 in Cambridge, UK

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Foreword

WARNING

Whisker is a system designed for research purposes only, and should never be used to control medical apparatus or other devices that could endanger human life.

DISCLAIMER

The authors, copyright holders, and distributors disclaim all responsibility for any adverse effects that may occur as a result of a user disregarding the above warning.

1 PIT

1.1 About PIT

Purpose

Simple Pavlovian-to-instrumental transfer (PIT).

Software requirements

Requires Whisker v2.0 or greater.

Data storage

- Text-based output to disk.
- ODBC data storage to a database (supplied).

Author

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Version history

- Version 1.1: majority of development done under this number.
- Version 2.0 (Aug-Sep 2002): default ODBC database facility; integrated HTML help
- Version 2.1: fixed minor bug (unsaved dialogue parameters when picking ODBC database)
- Version 2.2 (10 Dec 2002):
 - option to use stimulus as discriminative stimulus rather than true Pavlovian CS in the Pavlovian phase (specifically, as an SD indicating that nose-poking will be reinforced; instead of running an RT schedule, it's an RI schedule of reinforcing nose-poking) as requested by Pat di Ciano.
 - Also, option to have houselight off during CS but on at other times...
 - ... and conversion to XML parameters.
- Version 2.3 (22 Nov 2003): writes version number and compilation date to summary file.
- Version 2.4 (16-21 June 2006) and v2.5 (22 June 2006): more flexible options for the stimuli; more options for neutral stimulus presentation in the Pavlovian phase; more options for the order of the transfer test; option for FI instrumental training.
- Version 2.6 (27 June 2006). Houselight state at the end of the task was "leave as during the task"; now an option in its own right.
- Version 2.7 (8 March 2007). Easier compilation for users.
- Version 3.0 (12 Jan 2009). Server default changed from "loopback" to "localhost" (Windows Vista compatibility and more general standardization).

1.2 Required devices

The program requires to claim devices in groups named **box0**, **box1**, **box2...** with device names as listed below in bold:

```
// Names of lines the program expects to be able to claim
NOSEPOKE           // input
LEFTLEVER         // input
RIGHTLEVER        // input
```

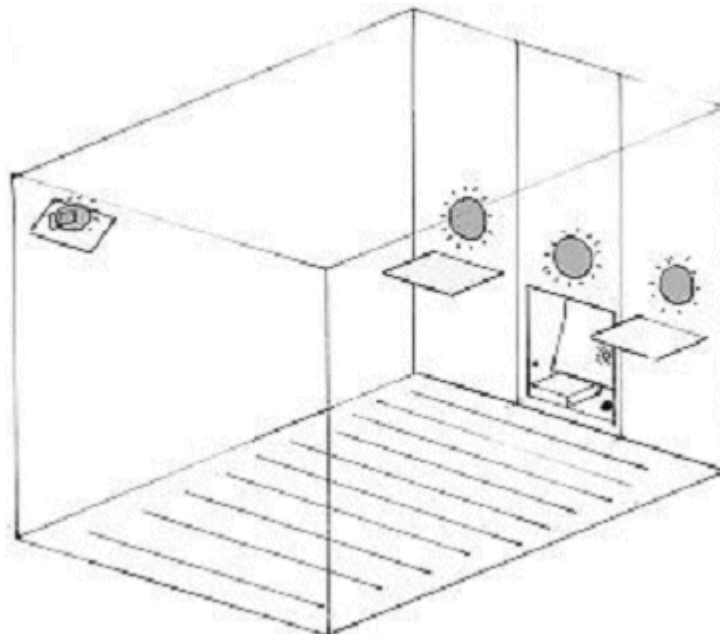
```
LOCOBEAM_FRONT // input
LOCOBEAM_MIDDLE // input
LOCOBEAM_REAR // input
HOUSELIGHT // output
PUMP // output
DIPPER // output
LEFTLEVERCONTROL // output
RIGHTLEVERCONTROL // output
LEFTLIGHT // output
RIGHTLIGHT // output
PELLET // output
TRAYLIGHT // output
CENTRELIGHT // output
CLICKER // output
TONE // output
```

// Aliases used while the program is in full flight, which it therefore expects **not** to be present on the server:

```
StimulusOne
StimulusTwo
ActiveLever
ActiveLeverControl
LeverLight
OppositeLight
```

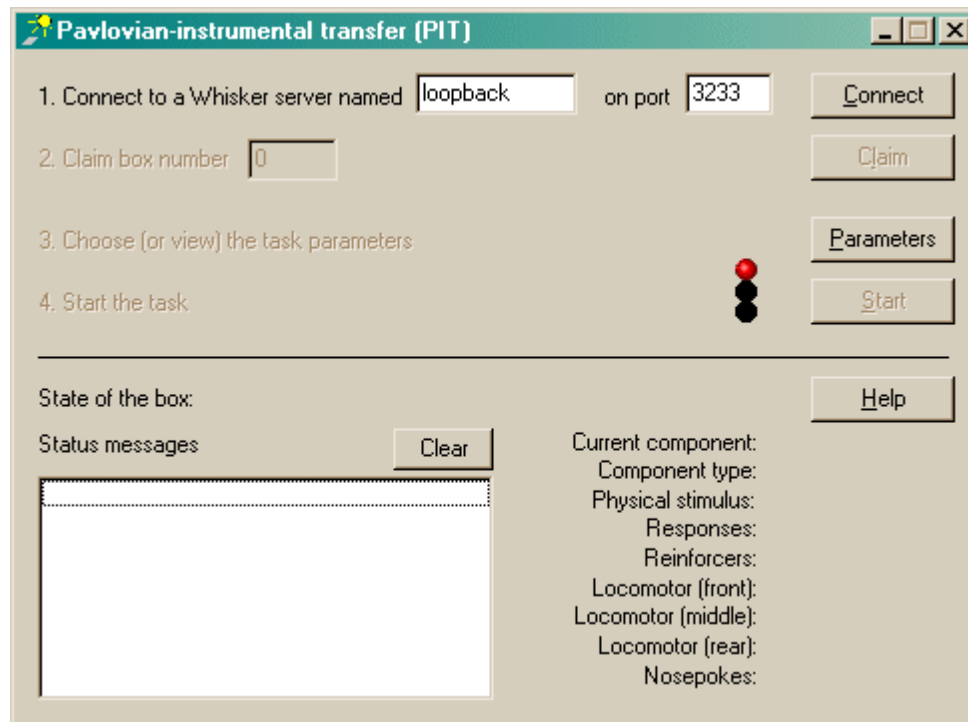
Please ensure that these devices are available and listed in the device definition file in use by the server.

This is the type of operant chamber we're talking about:



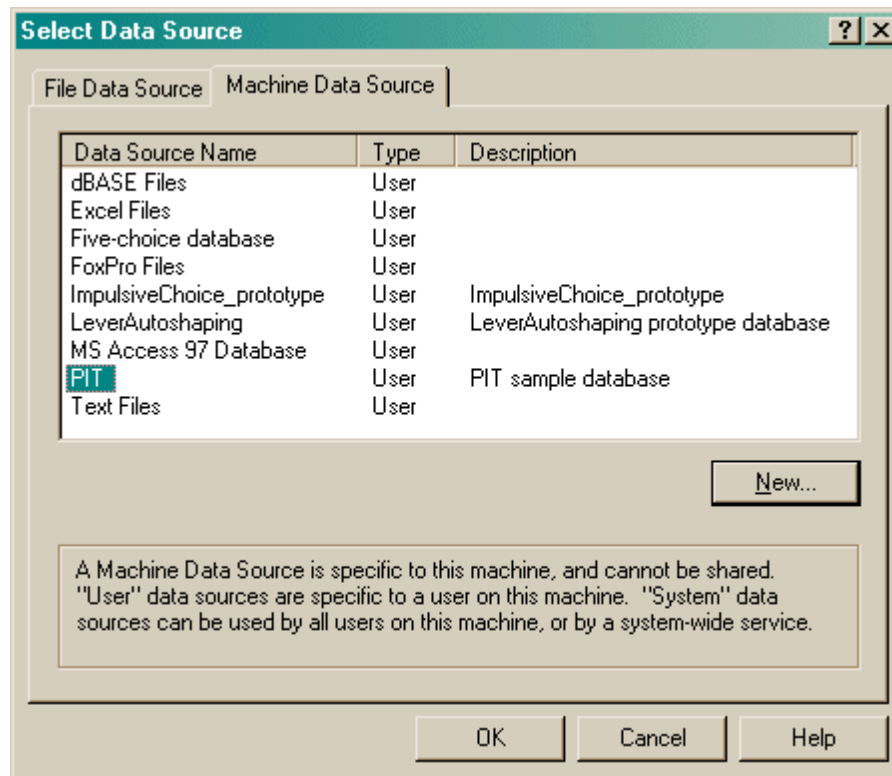
1.3 Using the task

When you run the task, the main screen looks as follows:



You must connect to a Whisker server, claim an operant chamber (box), and set up the [parameters](#) for your task. Once that's done, the traffic lights will turn amber. When you are ready, press *Start* to begin the task.

When the task finishes, it saves data to disk and pops up a new dialogue box for you to select a database to store the data to. (The data sources are configured under *Control Panel* → *ODBC*.) If you previously specified an ODBC data source in the parameters, that data source is used automatically and you will only see a dialogue box if something goes wrong and the program needs your input.



1.4 Parameters

The parameters dialogue box looks like this:

Set parameters for Pavlovian-instrumental transfer

Subject details
 Rat ID: Session number:
 Comment:

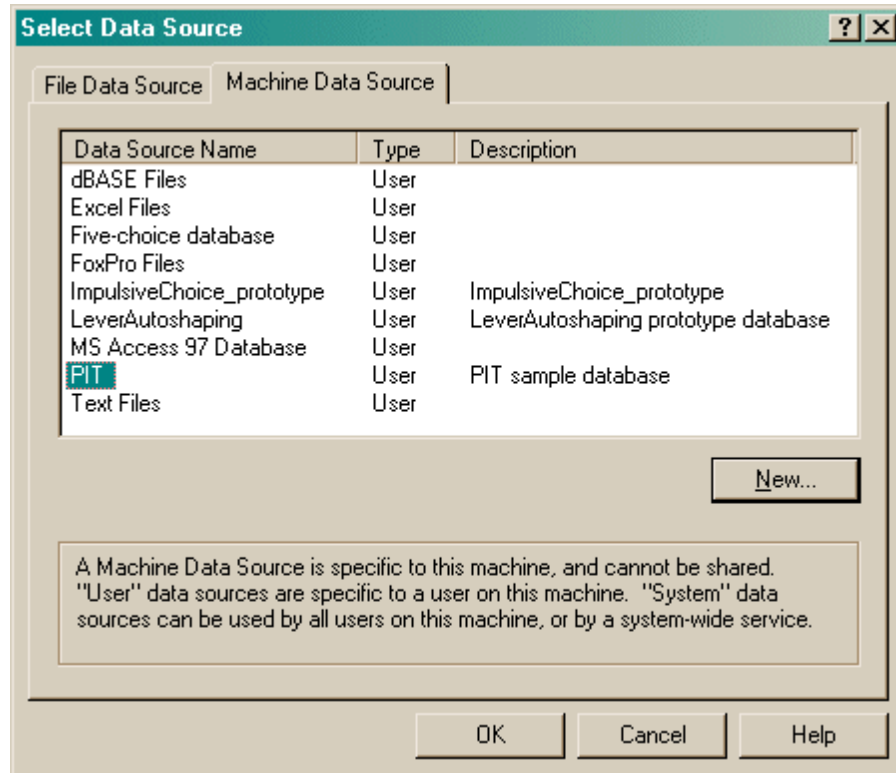
ODBC data source name
 (Leave blank to choose database later.)

More data recording
 xxx-27Jun2006-1443-PIT-summary.txt xxx-27Jun2006-1443-PIT-response.txt

Global settings
 Only a single lever is used. Choose left or right
 STIMULI: Stimulus 1 CS, stimulus 2 NEUTRAL 1 NEUTRAL, 2 CS
 Houselight on when no stimuli being presented
 Houselight on during CS (ignored if HL is part of CS!)
 Leave houselight on when task ends
 Stimulus 1: Houselight Centre light Light over lever Light on opposite side Tone Clicker
 Pulse period (s) (0 for constant; enter e.g. 0.1 for 10 Hz):
 Stimulus 2: Houselight Centre light Light over lever Light on opposite side Tone Clicker
 Pulse period (s) (0 for constant; enter e.g. 0.1 for 10 Hz):
 Reinforcer: Pump - Infusion duration (s):
 Dipper - # dips: Dip time (s): Inter-dip time (s): Down at rest
 Pellets - # pellets: Pulse length (ms): Time between pellets (s):

Schedule
 INSTRUMENTAL training
 Parameter of random interval schedule (s): For food, typical RI parameter on subsequent days is 2, 15, 30, 60, 60, 60, 60 (session length 30 min).
 Time out after reinforcement is complete (s): A 30-min extinction session is given after Pavlovian training, just before the transfer test.
 Session length (min): Max no. of reinforcers (0 = no limit):
 EXTINCTION
 Retract lever during timeouts?
 Use FI (not RI) schedule
 PAVLOVIAN training Pavlovian phase is really discriminative stimulus SD:(nosepoke -> reinf)
 Number of ISI-CS cycles: During CS, reinf. delivered on an RT schedule, with parameter (s):
 CS duration (min): Time out between reinforcement and the schedule restarting (s):
 ISI duration (min): from to
 Give NEUTRAL stimulus: never on the 2nd of every 4 cycles on the 5th and 7th of every 8 cycles
 TRANSFER TEST
 CS and ISI duration (min): Number of cycles:
 Each cycle is: ISI-CS (ISI, CS, NEUT randomized), with no consecutive identical pair overall
 ISI-CS-NEUT ISI-NEUT-ISI-CS

To pick an ODBC database **in advance** of finishing, click *Pick* and you will be offered the ODBC Data Source picker (below). Your choice will be recorded and will apply to this subject from now on (or until you specify a different source).



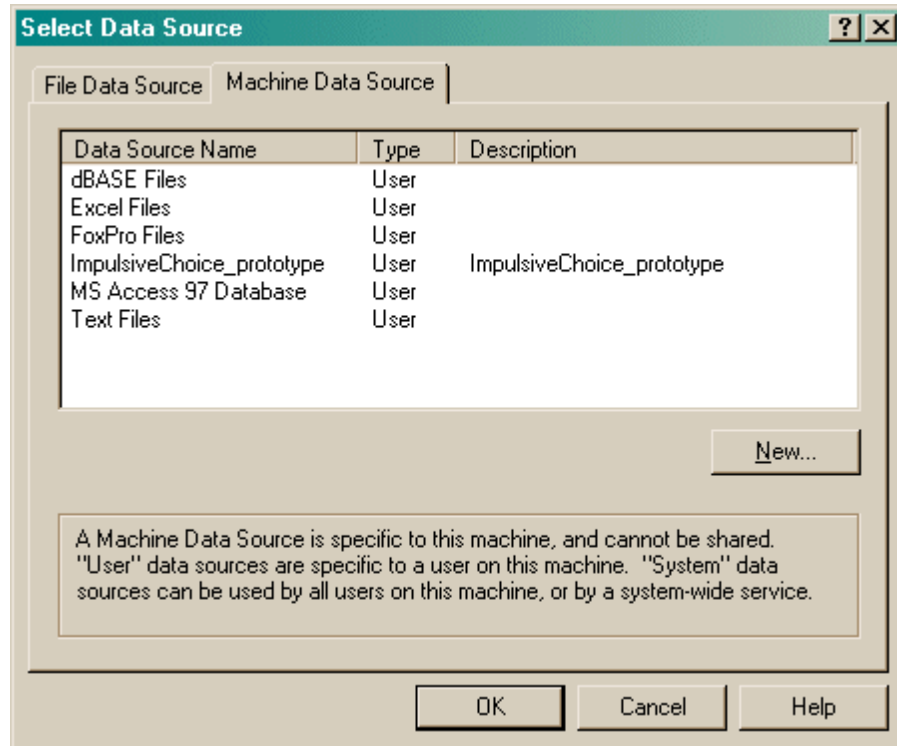
If you don't specify an ODBC data source now, or you delete the value in the "ODBC data source name" box, you'll be asked to choose when the task ends (and that choice will only apply to the session in progress).

[What happens if you can't find an appropriate ODBC source?](#)

1.5 Creating a new ODBC source

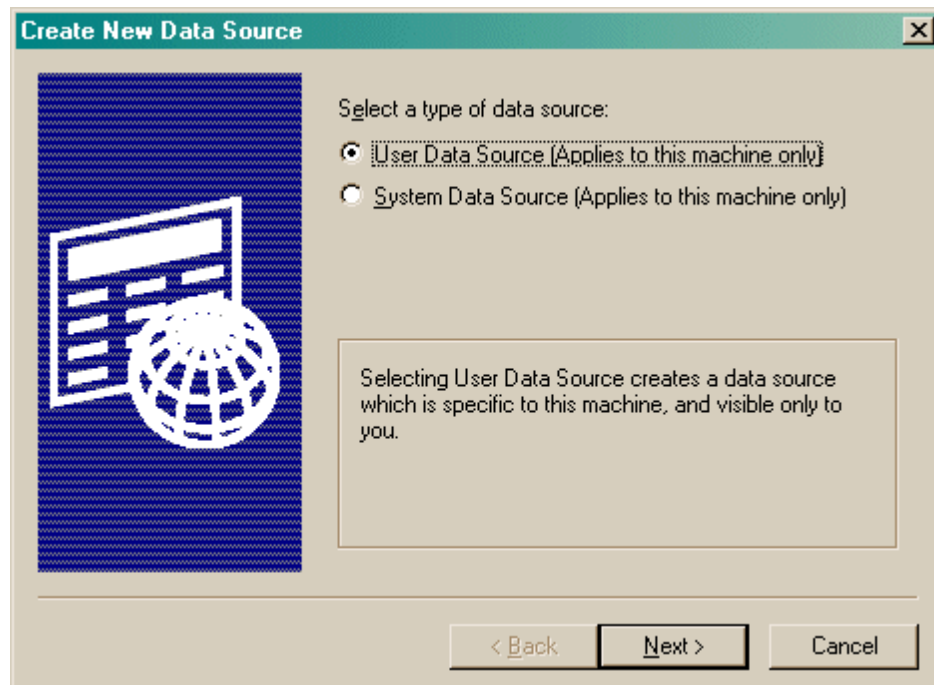
What happens if you can't find an ODBC source? You should configure it via *Control Panel* → *ODBC*. Alternatively, you can set one up "on the fly", as explained here.

Suppose you're looking for a PIT database. But there isn't one...

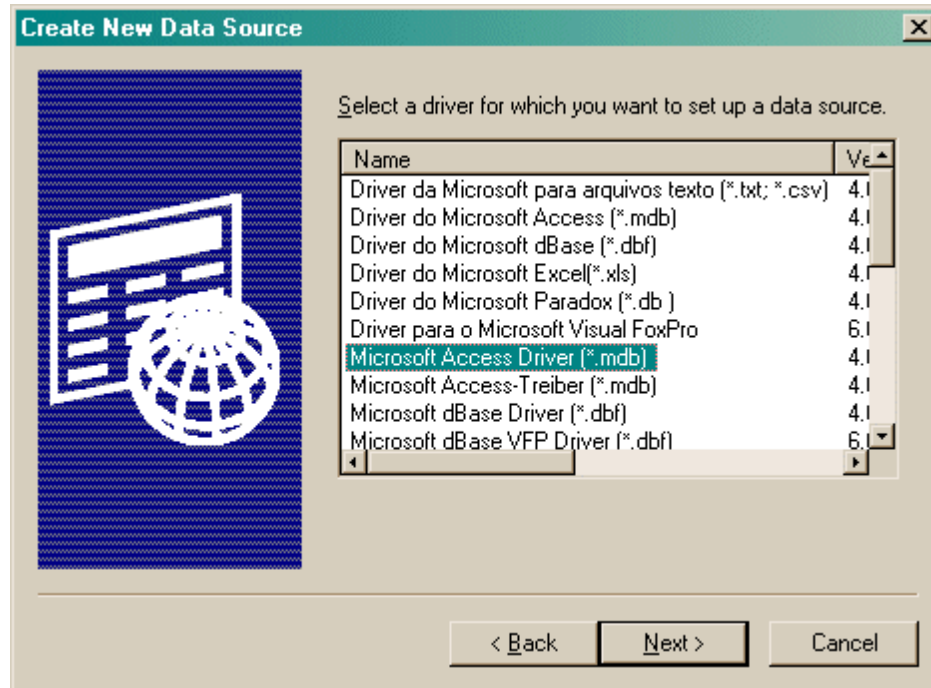


Let's assume that you have **already made a working copy of the prototype database supplied with the task**. How do we go about setting this up as an ODBC data source?

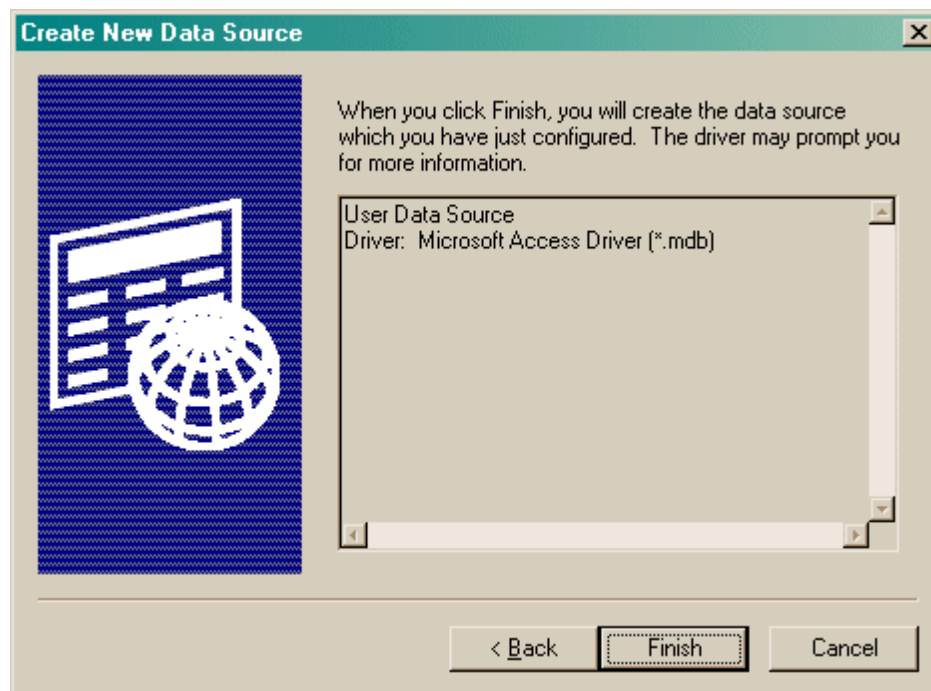
Click New.



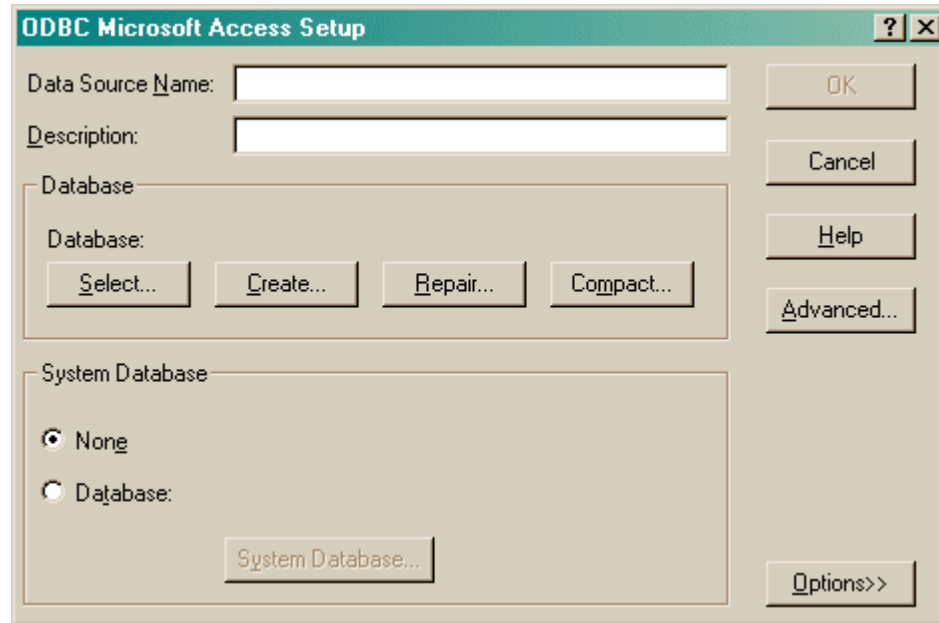
Choose a User or System data source. **User** is probably more sensible. Click Next.



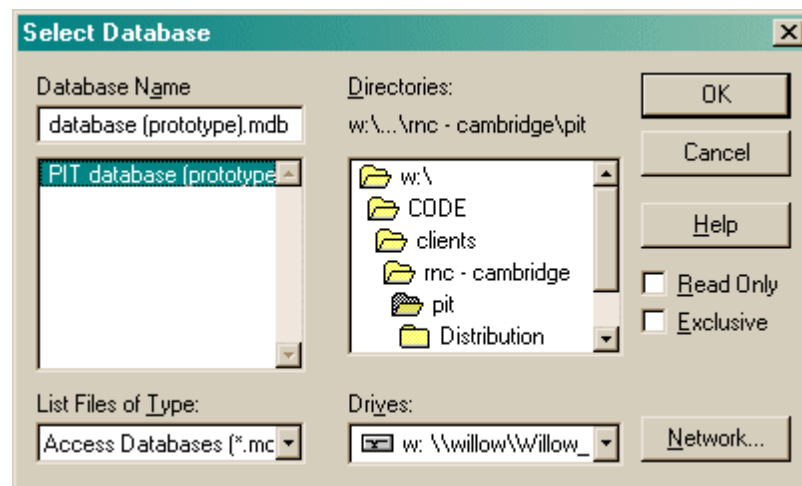
Choose your database driver. Click Next.



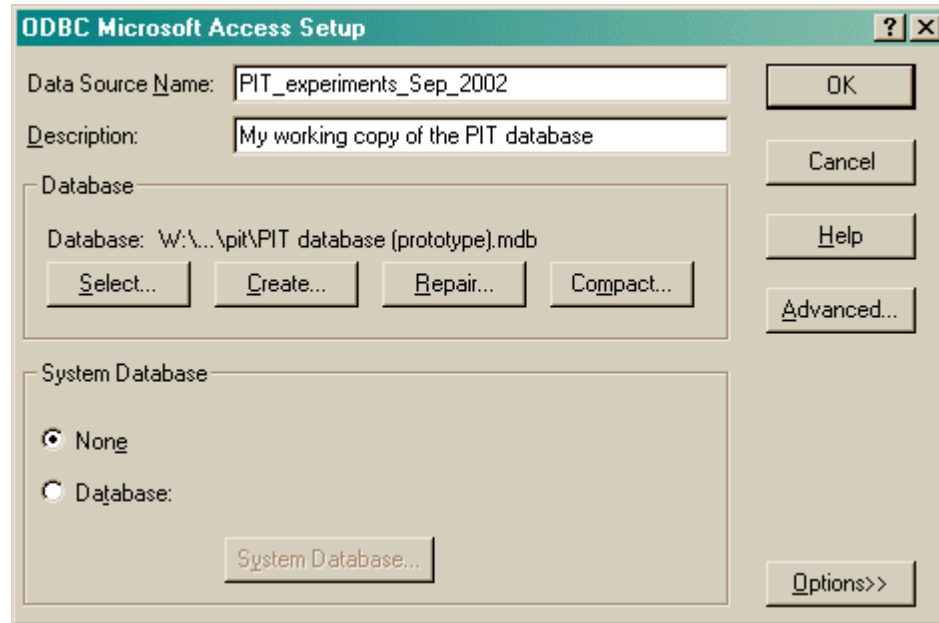
Click Finish.



You should fill in the **Data Source Name (no spaces)** and the **description**, and **Select** a database. When you click Select, this dialogue box appears:



Choose your database here and click OK. Your ODBC data source fields should now all be set up:



Click OK. You will be returned to the ODBC selection screen with your new data source now available.

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