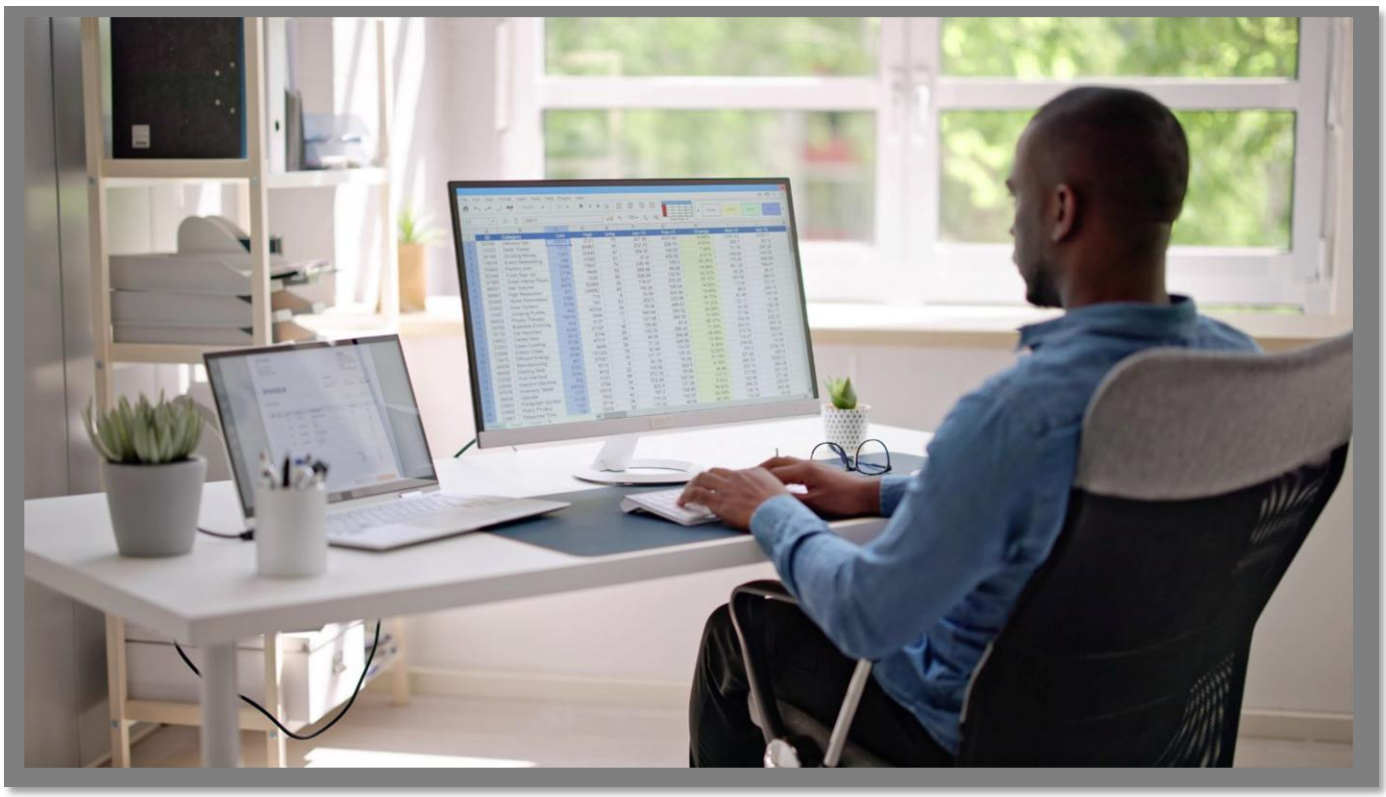
Arbutus Connectors

Xero Accounting
CONFIGURATION GUIDE



ARBUTUS
Powerful Analytics Simplified

Arbutus Connectors

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Arbutus Connector – Xero

A. Introduction

The purpose of this Guide is to provide assistance with configuring the Arbutus Xero Connector using the ODBC Data Source Administrator. The configuration process can involve several technical steps that require a good understanding of IT systems and database management.

To make the most of this guide, it's advisable to have a good understanding of database connectivity, driver installation, and system settings. The ODBC Data Source Administrator, which is used as part of the configuration process, allows for the setup and management of data sources, enabling applications to access data from various database systems.

Due to the complexity and potential impact of these configurations, it is recommended that only those individuals with IT or database expertise undertake this task. In addition, it should also be understood that each client's network environment is different. A one-size-fits-all approach is rarely effective, as what works well in one environment may not be suitable in another.

B. About Xero Accounting

Xero Accounting is a cloud-based accounting software designed for small and medium-sized businesses. It offers a range of features to manage financial operations, including invoicing, expense tracking, payroll, and bank reconciliation. Xero provides real-time financial data, making it easier for businesses to monitor their financial health and make informed decisions. Its user-friendly interface and integration with various third-party applications enhance its functionality and usability.

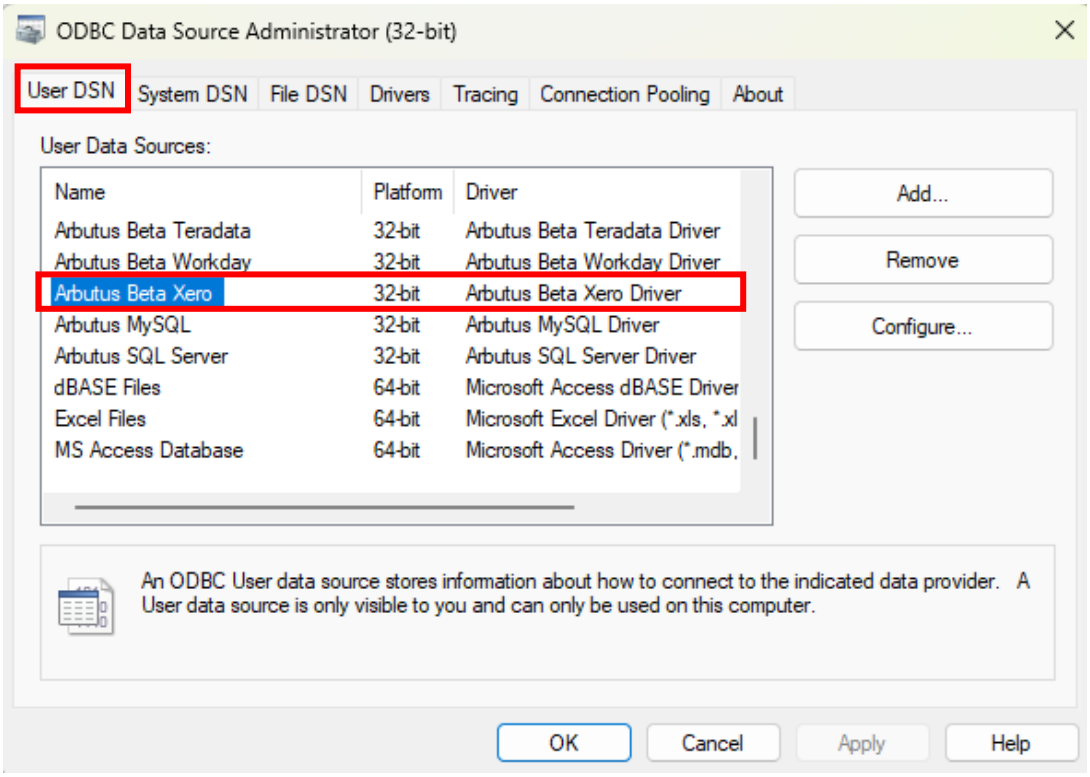
In Xero, data is stored securely in the cloud. Xero uses data centers provided by Amazon Web Services (AWS) to ensure high availability, security, and scalability.

C. Determining if the Connector exists prior to configuring

Installation of the Arbutus Xero Connector is done at the time of installing the Arbutus software. For more information on this, please see the **Overview Guide Document**.

Once the Connector has been installed, the next step is to configure it.

Prior to configuring it, you can check to see if the Connector has been installed by opening the **32-bit ODBC Data Source Administrator**, pictured below, and clicking the **User DSN** tab. Included below is information on how you can access the **ODBC Data Source Administrator**.



- If the Arbutus Xero Connector appears in the list, it can be considered as installed.
- If it is not listed, it is likely that you did not select it during the installation or modification of the Arbutus software. In this case, it is recommended to reinstall the Arbutus software and choose the **Modify** option when prompted. For more details, please refer to the **Overview Guide Document**.

Below is the file path to access and run the **ODBC Data Source Administrator** application:

C:\Windows\SysWOW64\odbcad32.exe

Alternative, you can also try locating and opening the **ODBC Data Source Administrator** application by doing a search on your desktop application.

D. Configuring the Connector after it has been installed

Once you have verified that the Arbutus Connector has been installed, it is time to configure it.

This process is done using the **ODBC Data Source Administrator**. It can be described as "**editing the DSN configuration"**.

DSN, Drivers, and Data Sources
What is a DSN? DSN stands for Data Source Name, and is a unique name used to create a data connection to a database using open database connectivity (ODBC). A DSN is a data structure that contains the information required to connect to a database. It is essentially a string that identifies the source database, including the driver details, the database name, and often authentication credentials and other necessary connection parameters. DSNs facilitate a standardized method for applications to access databases without needing hard-coded connection details, enhancing flexibility and scalability in database management.

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- ***Drivers*** are the components that process ODBC requests and return data to the application. If necessary, drivers modify an application's request into a form that is understood by the data source. The **Drivers** tab in the **ODBC Data Source Administrator** dialog box lists all drivers installed on your computer, including the name, version, company, file name, and file creation date of each driver.

- ***Data sources*** are the databases of files accessed by a driver and are identified by a data source name (DSN). You use the ODBC Data Source Administrator to add, configure, and delete data sources from your system.

All ODBC connections require that a DSN be configured to support the connection. When a client application wants to access an ODBC-compliant database, it references the database using the DSN.

The types of DSNs are:

- **User DSN** – User DSNs are local to a computer and can be used only by the current user. They are registered in the HKEY_Current_USER registry subtree.

- **System DSN** – System DSNs are local to a computer rather than dedicated to a user. The system or any user with privileges can use a data source set up with a system DSN. System DSNs are registered in the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE registry subtree.

- **File DSN** – File DSNs are file-based sources that can be shared among all users who have the same drivers installed and therefore have access to the database. These data sources need not be dedicated to a user nor be local to a computer. File data source names are identified by a file name with a .dsn extension.

User and system data sources are collectively known as *machine* data sources because they are local to a computer.

Each of these DSNs has a tab in the **ODBC Data Source Administrator** dialog.

The Arbutus ODBC Driver for Xero enables real-time access to Xero data, directly from any applications that support ODBC connectivity, the most widely supported interface for connecting applications with data.

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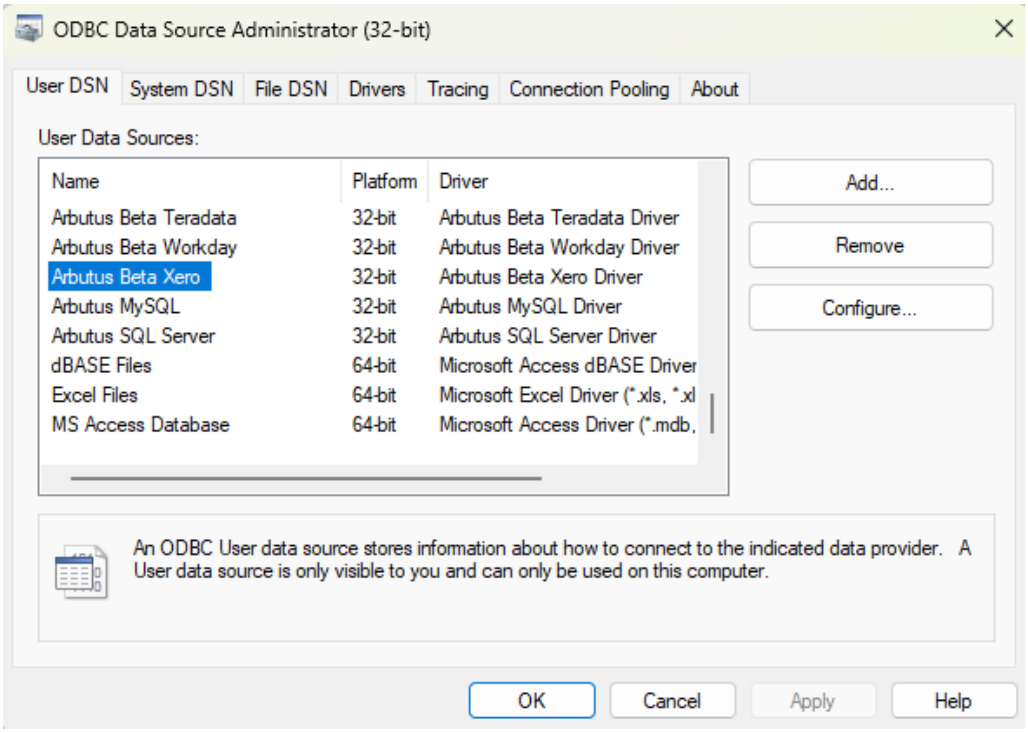
Follow these steps to edit the DSN configuration and configure the Connector.

1. First open the **ODBC Data Source Administrator**.



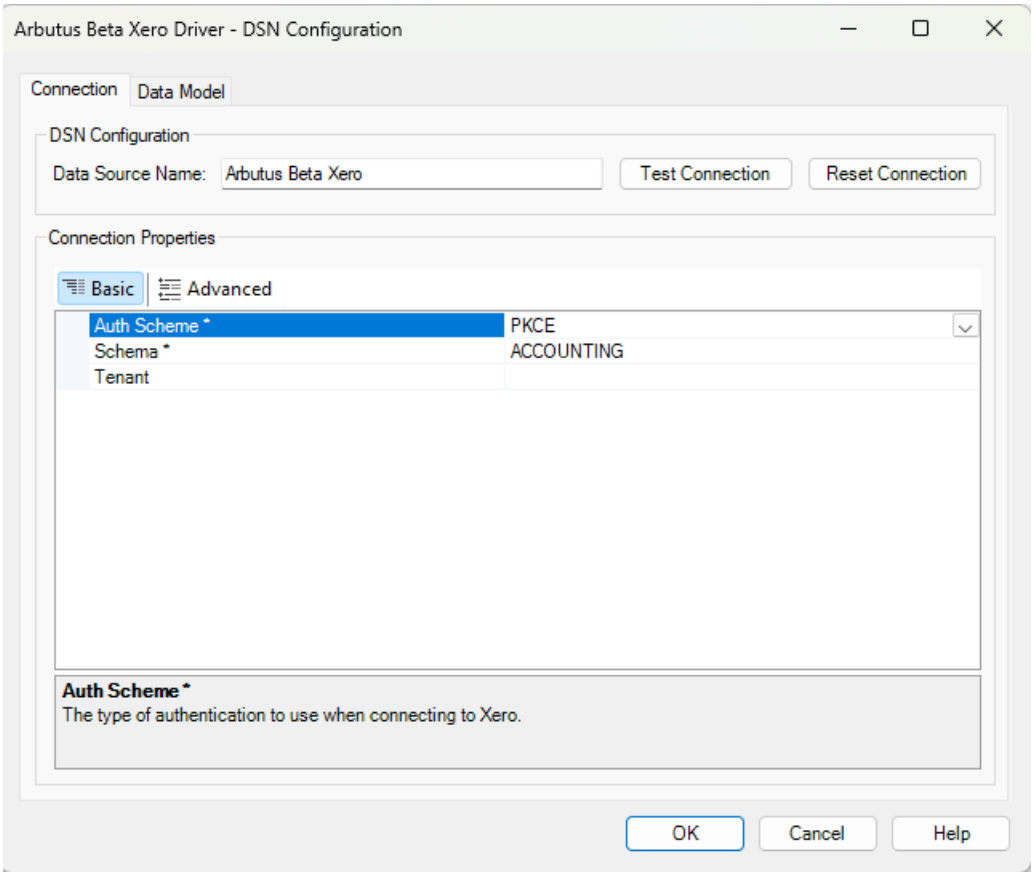
2. Click the **User DSN** tab.

   Selected data connectors are installed as **User DSN's** in Window's 32 Bit **ODBC Data Source Administrator**.

   Also, each of the data connector's names is prefaced with Arbutus, for example, **Arbutus Xero.**

3. Select the Arbutus Connector, in this case it is **Arbutus Xero**.
4. Click **Configure**.

This opens the **Arbutus Xero Driver – DSN Configuration** dialog.



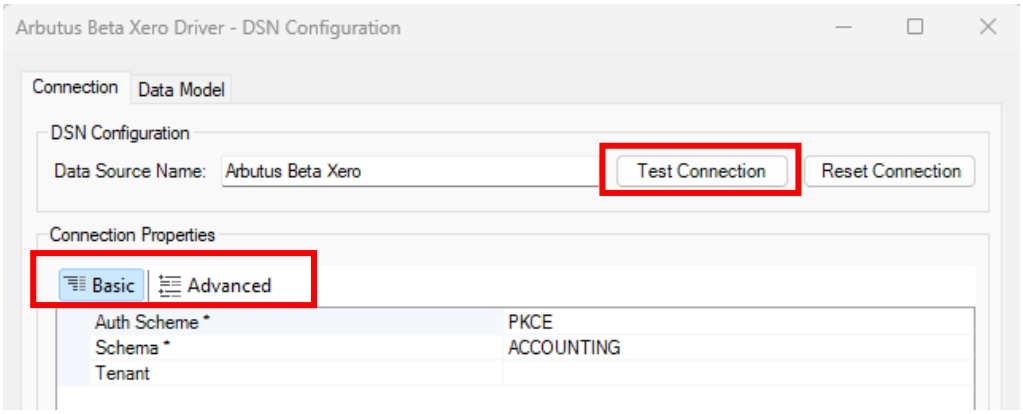
E. Editing the DSN properties – the Basic and Advanced tabs

With the DSN Configuration dialog open, the next step is to edit the DSN properties, where necessary, in the **Basic** and **Advanced** tabs. For example, editing the **Auth Scheme properties** (per screenshot below) to ensure correct authentication to the server is applied.

E1. Editing the DSN properties in the Basic tab

The properties listed in the **Basic** tab are typically the ones that are most commonly used, and as such are designed to be more user-friendly and straightforward, allowing you to quickly make changes without needing in-depth technical knowledge.

Once you have completed editing the properties in the **Basic** tab, you can go ahead and try testing the connection to the Xero system by clicking the **Test Connection** button, as highlighted in the screenshot below.



In the **Basic** tab, there are **three** main properties to review:

1. **Auth Scheme** – this is a dropdown selection to specify the type of authentication to use when connecting to Xero and consists of three authentication types for you to choose from:
   - PKCE – this authenticates you using OAuth with only a Client Id. It should be used with client-side applications. PKCE enhances security by mitigating the risk of authorization code interception.
   - OAuth – this authenticates you using OAuth with a Client Id and Secret. It should be used with server-side applications. This method is commonly used for secure and standardized authentication, especially for web and mobile applications.
   - OAuth Client – this authenticates you using client credentials with a Client Id and Secret. Can only be used if you have purchased a Custom Connections license from Zero. This method is typically used for server-to-server interactions where the application itself (rather than an individual user) needs to authenticate with Xero.

   The default value is **PKCE**.

2. **Schema** – this is a dropdown selection to specify the Xero API you want to access as a database schema and consists of following five APIs for you to choose from:
   - ACCOUNTING – select this if you are specifically working with Xero's **Accounting API**. This schema is designed to access and manage financial data, such as invoices, bills, and transactions, within the Xero accounting software.
   - ASSETS – select this if you are specifically working with Xero's **Fixed Assets API**. This schema is designed to access and manage fixed asset data within the Xero accounting software.
   - PAYROLLAUS – select this if you are specifically working with Xero's Australian Payroll API. This schema is designed to access and manage payroll data for Australian businesses within the Xero accounting software.
   - FILES - select this if you are specifically working with Xero's **Files API**. This schema is designed to access and manage file attachments within the Xero accounting software.
   - PROJECTS – select this if you are specifically working with Xero's **Projects API**. This schema is designed to access and manage project-related data within the Xero accounting software.

   The default value is **ACCOUNTING**.

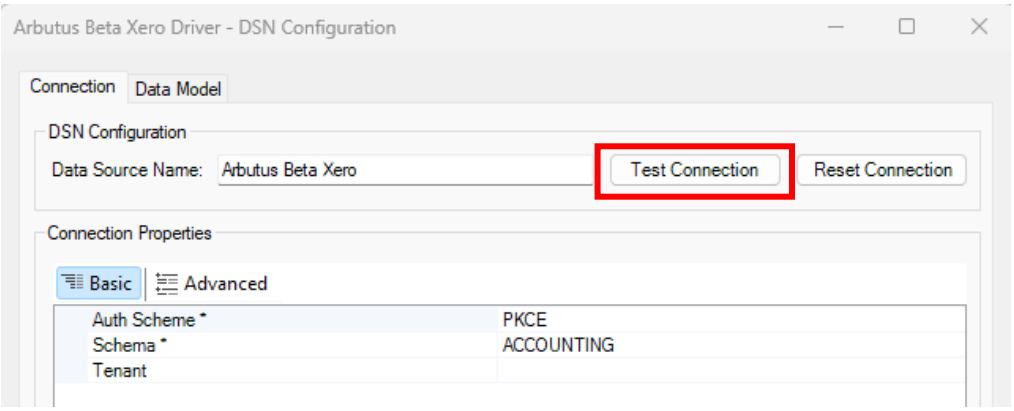
3. **Tenant** – this sets the Xero organization to connect to. It can be a name or tenant ID. Xero apps may be authorized by for multiple organizations at once. By default the driver will connect to the first available tenant. To control which organization you are connected to, set this option.

This option can be set to either the name of your organization or to the tenant ID. If you have multiple organizations with the same name, then you must use the tenant ID. You can find the tenant ID by connecting with this option unset and then querying the Tenants view.

E2. Editing the DSN properties in the Advanced tab

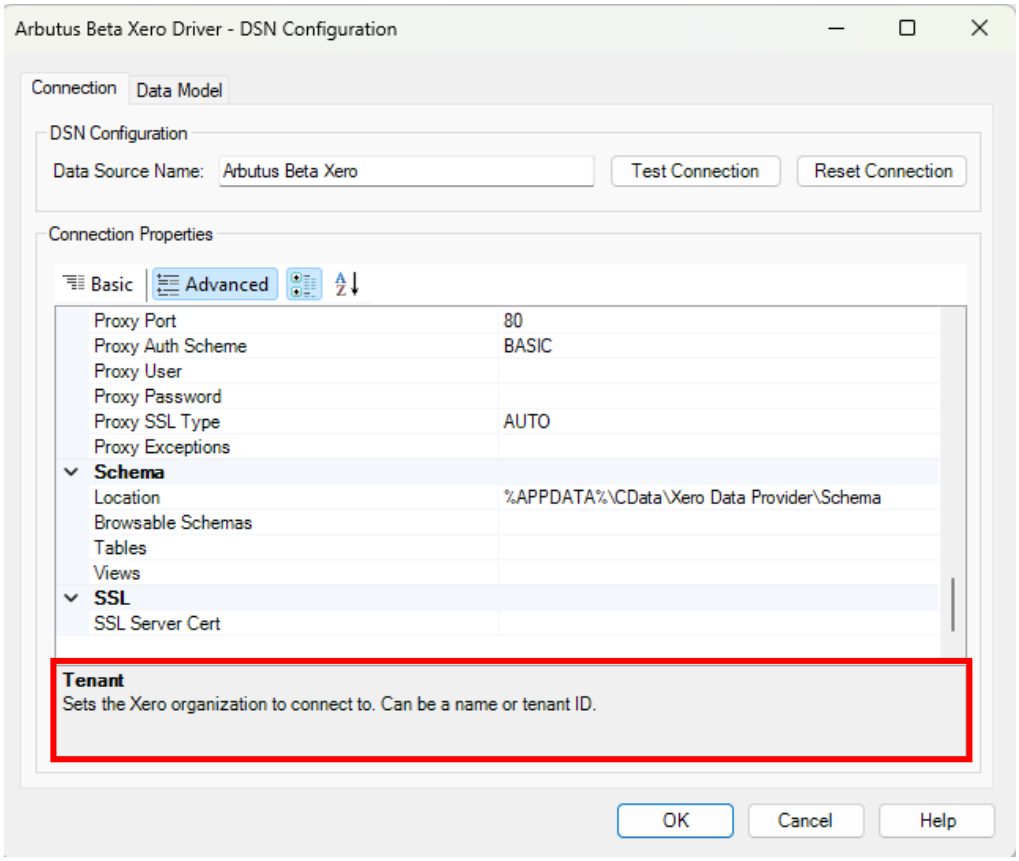
This tab includes more detailed and technical properties. It is intended for those users who need more control over the configuration and are comfortable with more complex options. The **Advanced** tab often includes properties that can fine-tune the behaviour of the system feature.

If you have already completed editing the properties in the **Basic** tab, as required, you do not necessarily need to also complete editing the properties in the **Advanced** tab. Instead, once you have completed editing the properties in the **Basic** tab, you may opt to proceed to testing the connection to the Xero system by clicking the **Test Connection** button.



There are a lot more properties included for editing in the **Advanced** tab.

However, it is useful to know that each property does provide a short description of it and as such serves as a guide in terms of what to edit and/or enter. This short description can be seen at the bottom of the **DSN Configuration** dialog box, as seen in the screenshot below.



If it is deemed necessary to complete some/all the properties in the **Advanced** tab, it is recommended that you refer to the description shown for any of the properties being edited and/or entered.

If required, more information on the properties listed in the **Advanced** tab can also be provided.

F. Other questions and/or request for assistance

There may be times when you need to consult with the technical support team at Arbutus Software. If so, please send an email request to support@ArbutusSoftware.com.

For more information, please refer to the CONTACT US page on our website.