

DB Schema Viewer User Manual

version 1.0

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Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Installation	3
3	Use DB Schema Viewer	5
3.1	Create a new project	5
3.2	Database reverse engineering	5

Chapter 1

Introduction

DB Schema Viewer is an Eclipse plugin that builds a graphical view of an existing database. Reverse Engineering is performed through JDBC. The most popular databases are currently supported:

- MySQL
- PostgreSQL
- Firebird

Chapter 2

Installation

In order to install DB Schema Viewer you need Eclipse and its graphical framework GEF on your computer.

- **Eclipse** is available at <http://www.eclipse.org>
- **GEF** at <http://www.eclipse.org/gef>

To install DB Schema Viewer you simply need to unzip the distribution file in you *ECLIPSE-HOME*. Check in the *ECLIPSE-HOME/plugin* folder that **it.unimib.disco.dbschemaviewer_1.0.0** has been unzipped correctly.

If Eclipse was running during the previous operation you need to restart it. DB Schema Viewer should be loaded on the next start. You can check that it has been loaded with no error going to

Help > About Eclipse Platform > Plug-in Details

DB Schema Viewer is ready to be used whether it is on the plug-in list, as you can see in figure 2.1.

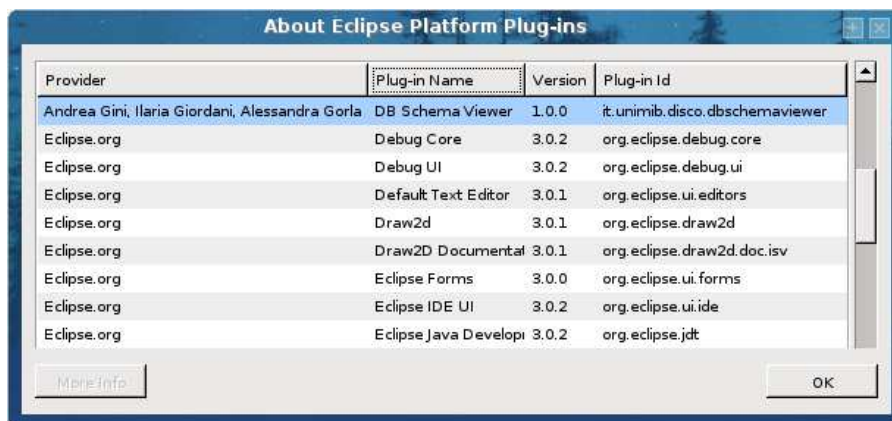


Figure 2.1: List of the loaded plug-ins

DB Schema Viewer has been tested under:

- OS
 - Windows XP
 - Debian GNU/Linux
- Java SDK
 - J2SE 1.4.2
 - J2SE 5.0
- Eclipse
 - v. 3.0.0
 - v. 3.0.1
 - v. 3.0.2
- GEF
 - v. 3.0.1
- MySQL
 - v. 4.0
 - v. 5.0
- PostgreSQL
 - v. 7.4
- Firebird
 - v. 1.5

Chapter 3

Use DB Schema Viewer

3.1 Create a new project

You need at least one project in your workspace, because DB Schema Viewer needs a container for the schema file it will create from the database you want to reverse engineer. So, if you already have one project you can skip this step and go to the next section. Otherwise, from the Eclipse menu choose:

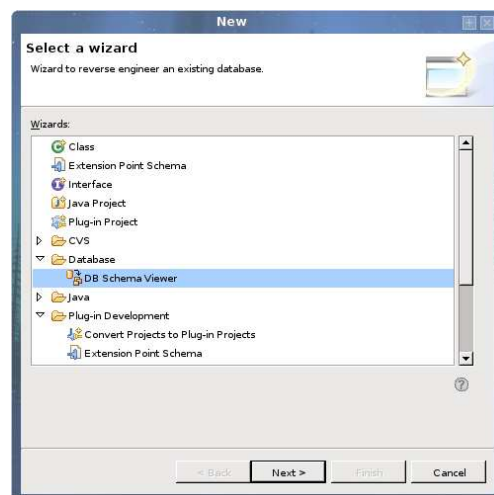
File > New > Project > Simple > Project

and set the new project name.

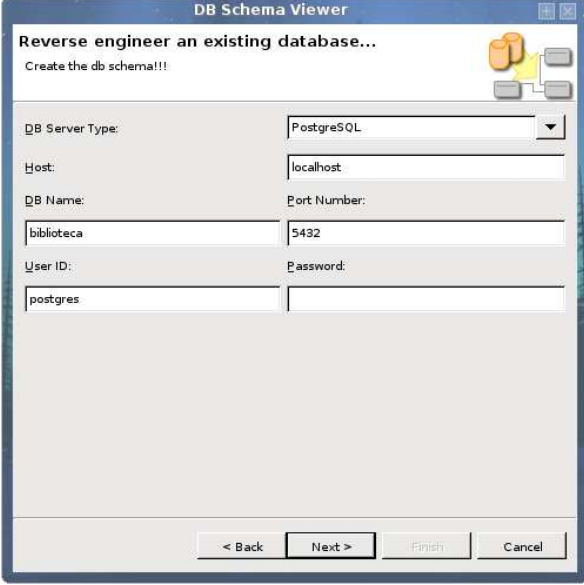
3.2 Database reverse engineering

Using DB Schema Viewer is as easy as ABC. From the Eclipse menu you just have to select:

File > New > Other > Database > DB Schema Viewer

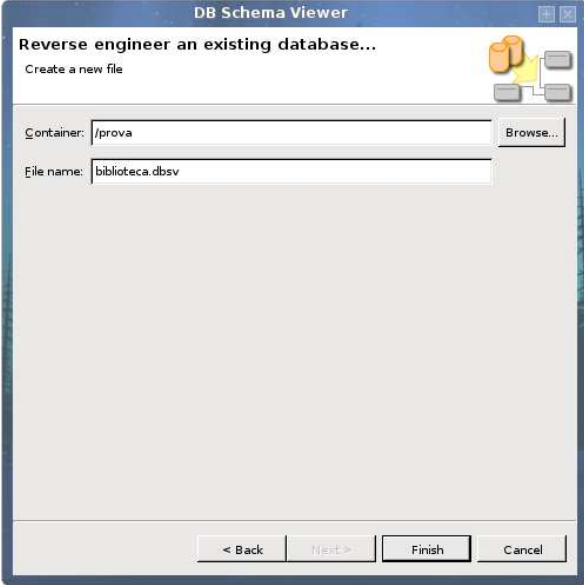


First of all you have to enter the database information. Choosing the db server type (between MySQL, PostgreSQL and Firebird) automatically sets the default port used by that server. However you can change the port number as you what if your database engine is listening on a different port. You can't go to the next step until you have filled all the fields, except for the password one which can be empty.



The screenshot shows the 'DB Schema Viewer' dialog box with the title 'Reverse engineer an existing database...'. The subtitle is 'Create the db schema!!!'. The dialog contains several input fields: 'DB Server Type' is a dropdown menu set to 'PostgreSQL'; 'Host' is a text field with 'localhost'; 'DB Name' is a text field with 'biblioteca'; 'Port Number' is a text field with '5432'; 'User ID' is a text field with 'postgres'; and 'Password' is an empty text field. At the bottom, there are four buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', 'Finish', and 'Cancel'.

Finally you have to choose a container (that's the reason why we needed at least one project) and the file name. File extension must be **.dbsv**.



The screenshot shows the 'DB Schema Viewer' dialog box with the title 'Reverse engineer an existing database...'. The subtitle is 'Create a new file'. The dialog contains two input fields: 'Container' is a text field with '/prova' and a 'Browse...' button to its right; 'File name' is a text field with 'biblioteca.dbsv'. At the bottom, there are four buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', 'Finish', and 'Cancel'.

Once the schema is created, you can drag and drop any table to change the schema layout.

