

## General

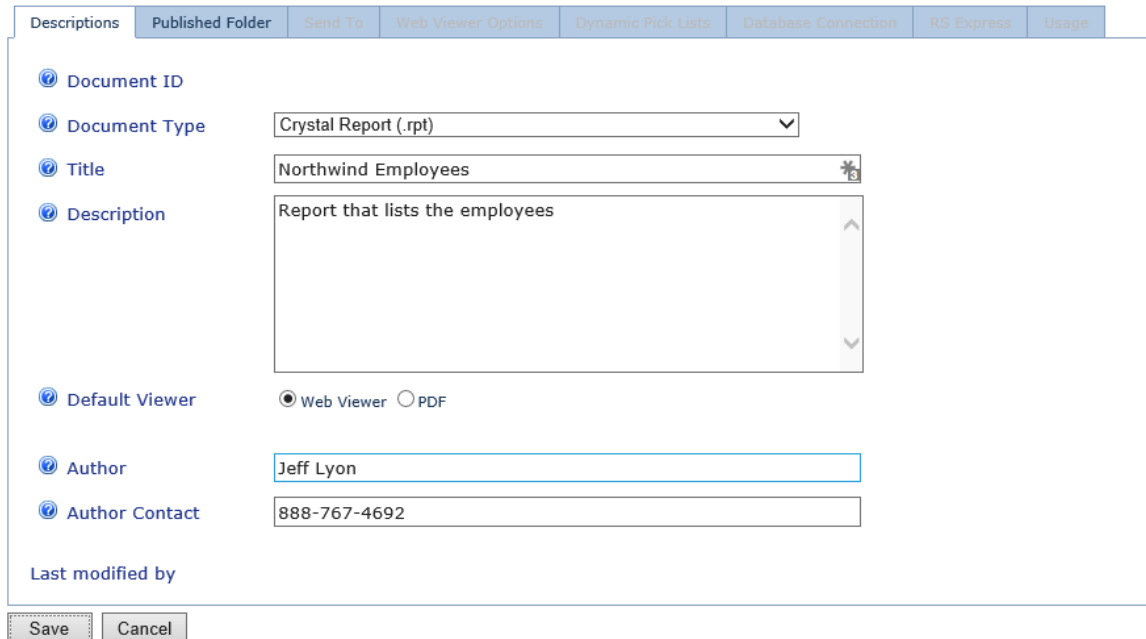
Publishing a new report that requires a database connection is a multi-step process. This document will outline the process to publish the report and to create the Database Connection needed to run the report.

## Why is a Database Connection Needed

When a report is published that requires a password to connect to the data source, Ripplestone will need to have a way to store the Login ID and Password for that connection since Crystal Reports doesn't store that information within the rpt file. If Ripplestone didn't store that information the report would prompt the user for the Login information before the report could be run. This is a problem because the user might not know what the login information is or if the report is scheduled to run there is no interaction with the report and so no way to enter the login information. By storing the database connection information within Ripplestone the report can access the information when the report is run and pass that information to the report. The report can then connect to the data source to collect the data needed by the report.

## Steps to Publish a New Report

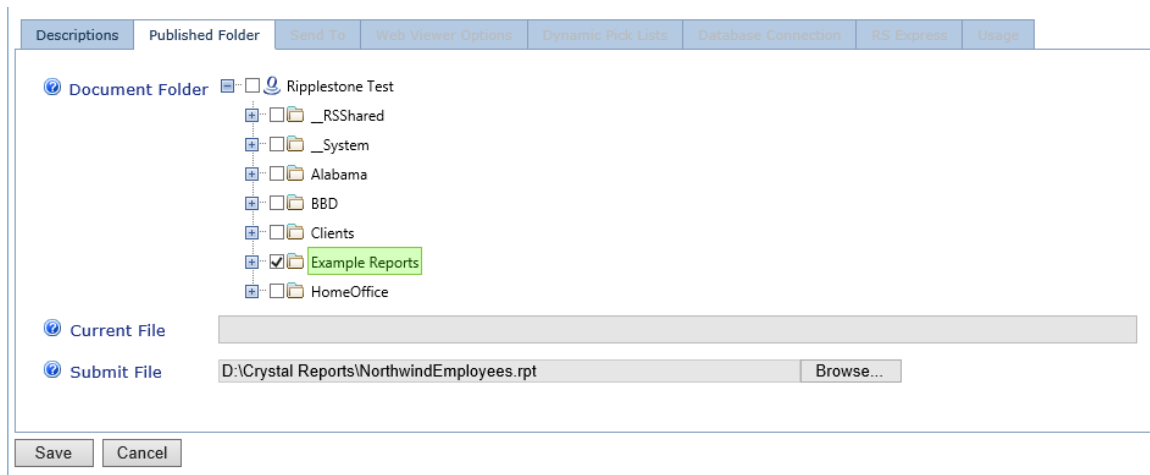
**Step 1** – To start click the Publish New Document link. This will open the Edit Published Document page. On the first tab (Descriptions) the only required field is the Title. All other fields are optional.




The screenshot shows the 'Edit Published Document' form with the 'Descriptions' tab selected. The form contains the following fields and options:








- Document ID**: A field with a blue circular icon.
- Document Type**: A dropdown menu showing 'Crystal Report (.rpt)'.
- Title**: A text field containing 'Northwind Employees'.
- Description**: A text area containing 'Report that lists the employees'.
- Default Viewer**: Radio buttons for 'Web Viewer' (selected) and 'PDF'.
- Author**: A text field containing 'Jeff Lyon'.
- Author Contact**: A text field containing '888-767-4692'.
- Last modified by**: A label at the bottom left.
- Buttons**: 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom.

**Step 2** – Click on the second tab (Published Folder) to select the folder you would like to publish the report in. Then you will need to select the report that you are publishing. Once the report is selected you can click on the Save button to save the data to the Ripplestone database and to upload the report file to the ReportFolders folder.



Descriptions Published Folder Send To Web Viewer Options Dynamic Pick Lists **Database Connection** RS Express Usage

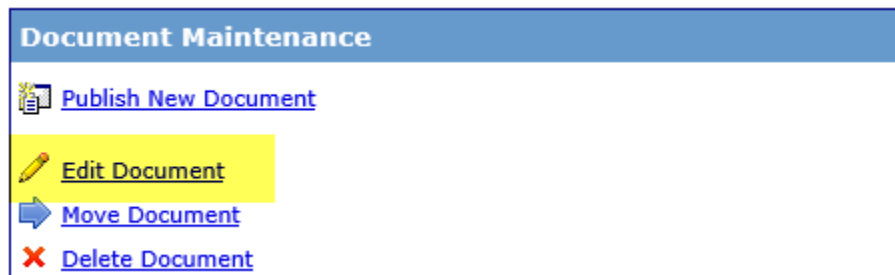
Document Folder  Ripplestone Test
 

-  \_RSShared
-  \_System
-  Alabama
-  BBD
-  Clients
-  **Example Reports**
-  HomeOffice


Current File


Submit File


Step 3 – After the report has been published, you can change additional options or check the database connection by clicking the Edit Document link.




**Document Maintenance**

 [Publish New Document](#)

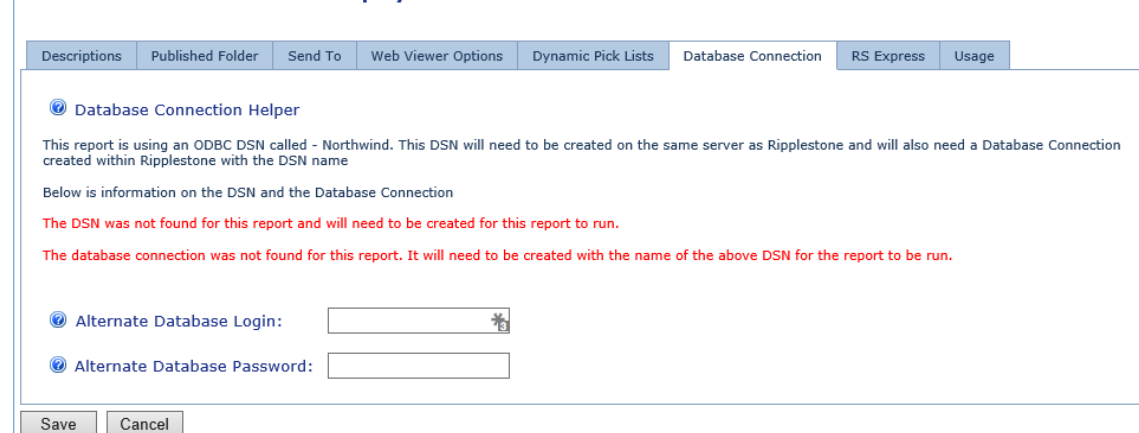
 [Edit Document](#)

 [Move Document](#)

 [Delete Document](#)

On the Database Connection tab you can check if everything is found for this report to run. In the example below this report is using a SQL Server database with an ODBC DSN. Neither the DSN nor the Ripplestone database connection are found. These will need to be created before the report will run.

**Document Name: Northwind Employees**



Descriptions Published Folder Send To Web Viewer Options Dynamic Pick Lists **Database Connection** RS Express Usage


☒ Database Connection Helper

This report is using an ODBC DSN called - Northwind. This DSN will need to be created on the same server as Ripplestone and will also need a Database Connection created within Ripplestone with the DSN name

Below is information on the DSN and the Database Connection

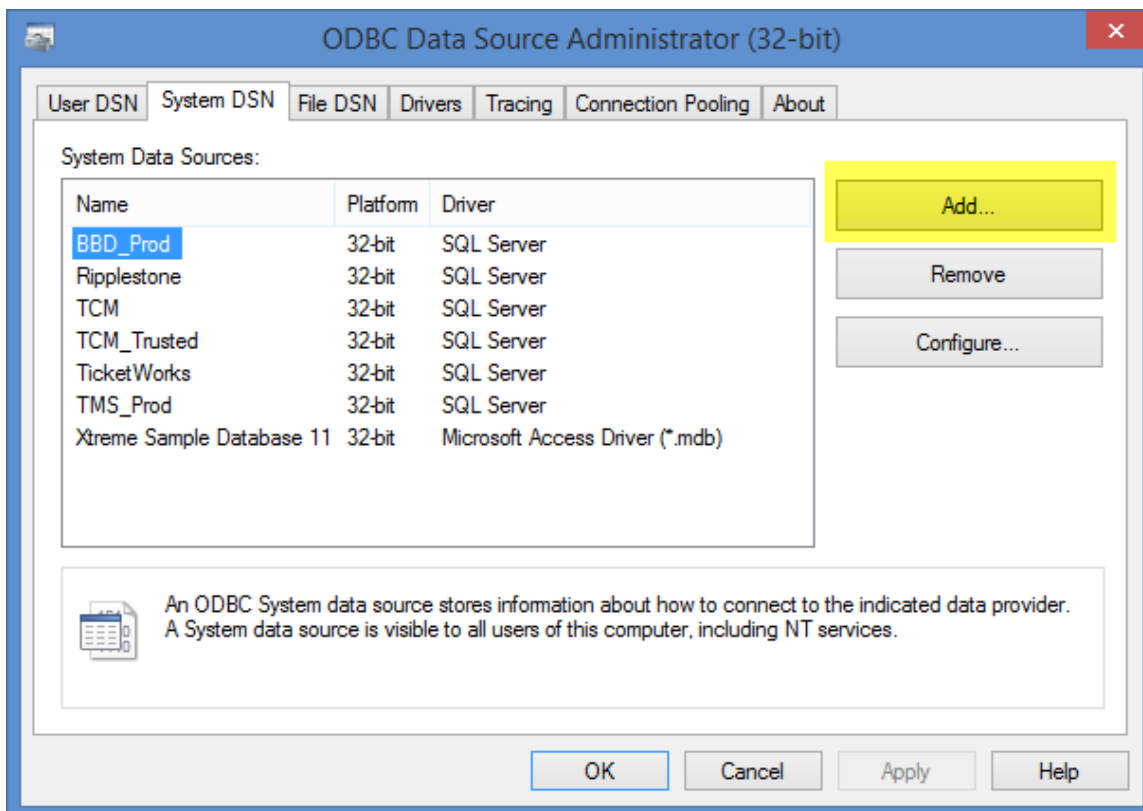
The DSN was not found for this report and will need to be created for this report to run.

The database connection was not found for this report. It will need to be created with the name of the above DSN for the report to be run.

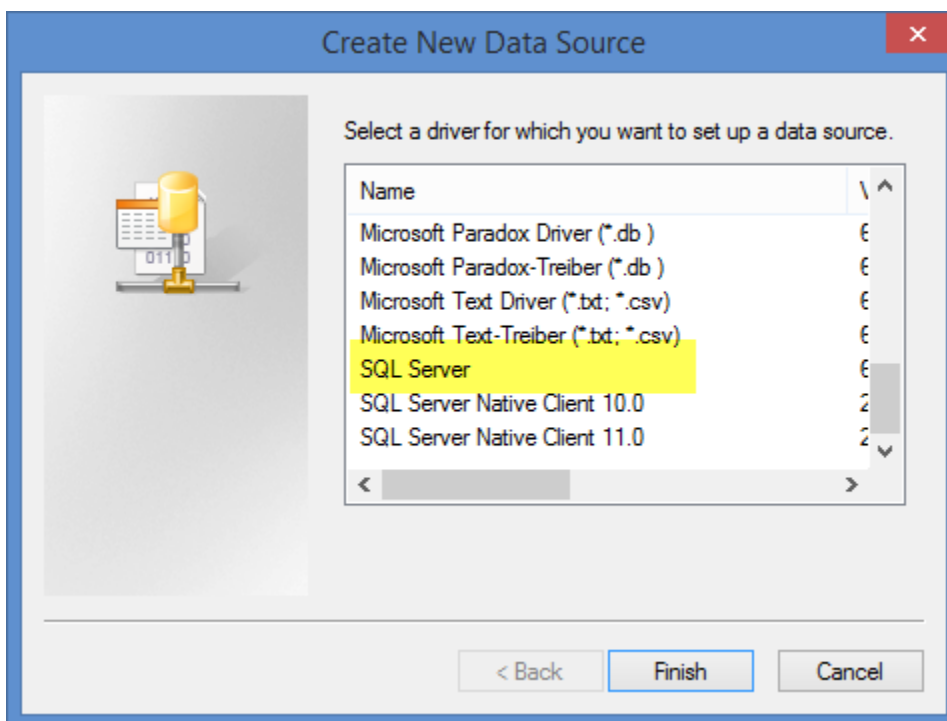
☒ Alternate Database Login:  

☒ Alternate Database Password:

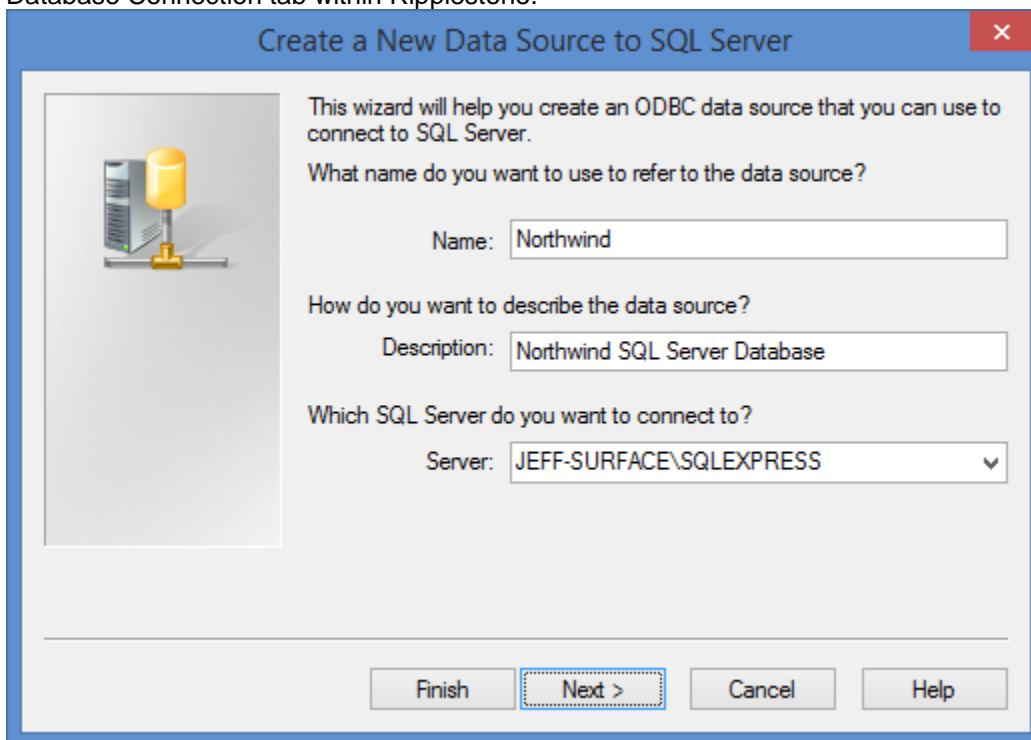
Create the DSN with the 32-bit ODBC Data Source Administrator. To begin click the Add button



Select the generic SQL Server. The Native Clients are not recommended.



Complete the Name using the name that the report is using. This was also displayed in the Database Connection tab within Ripplestone.



**Create a New Data Source to SQL Server**

This wizard will help you create an ODBC data source that you can use to connect to SQL Server.

What name do you want to use to refer to the data source?

Name:

How do you want to describe the data source?

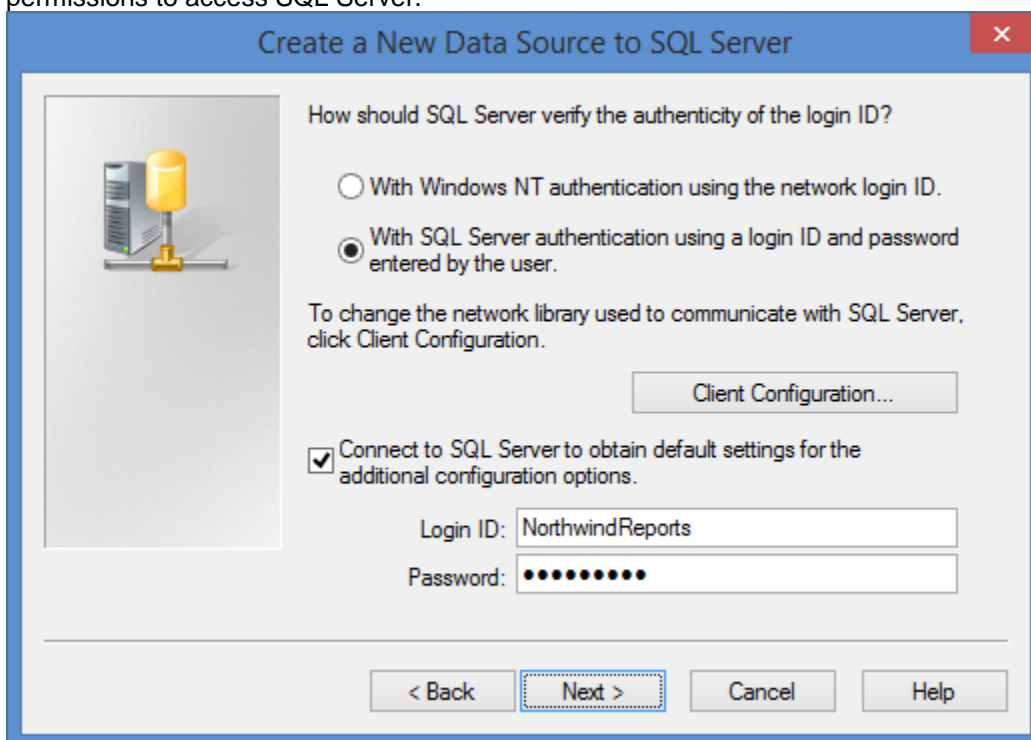
Description:

Which SQL Server do you want to connect to?

Server:

Finish Next > Cancel Help

For the login, it is recommended that you use a SQL Server login. Using a SQL Server login helps since Ripplestone runs under the IIS local system account and this account will not have permissions to access SQL Server.



**Create a New Data Source to SQL Server**

How should SQL Server verify the authenticity of the login ID?

☐ With Windows NT authentication using the network login ID.

☒ With SQL Server authentication using a login ID and password entered by the user.

To change the network library used to communicate with SQL Server, click Client Configuration.

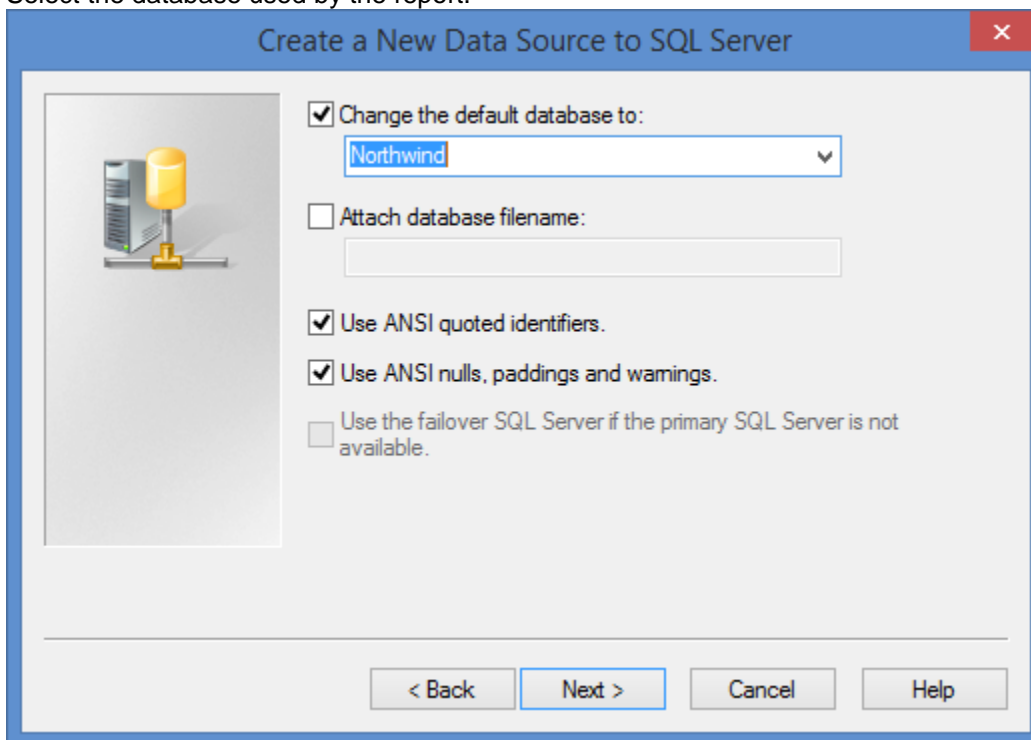
☒ Connect to SQL Server to obtain default settings for the additional configuration options.

Login ID:

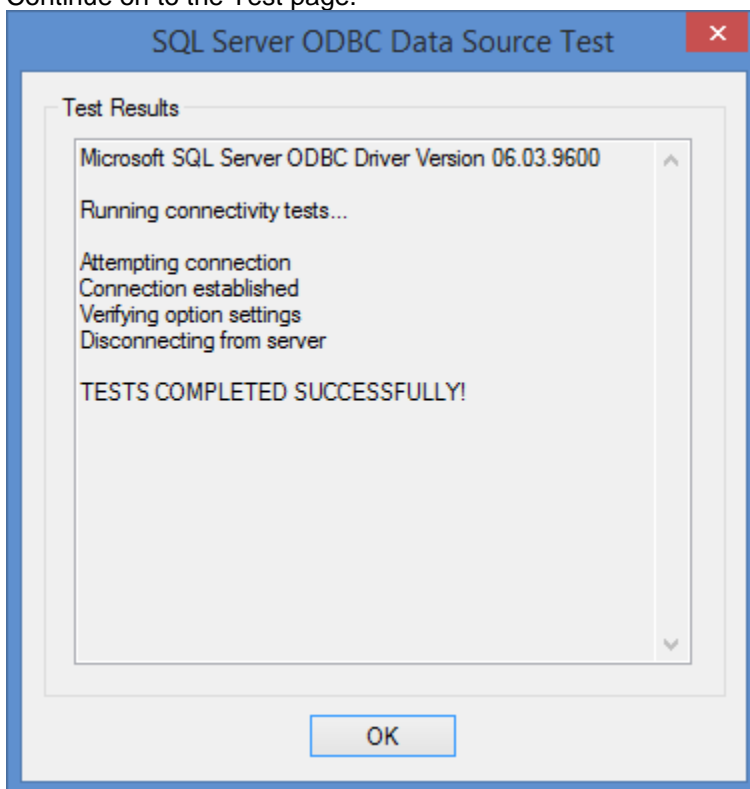
Password:

< Back Next > Cancel Help

Select the database used by the report.



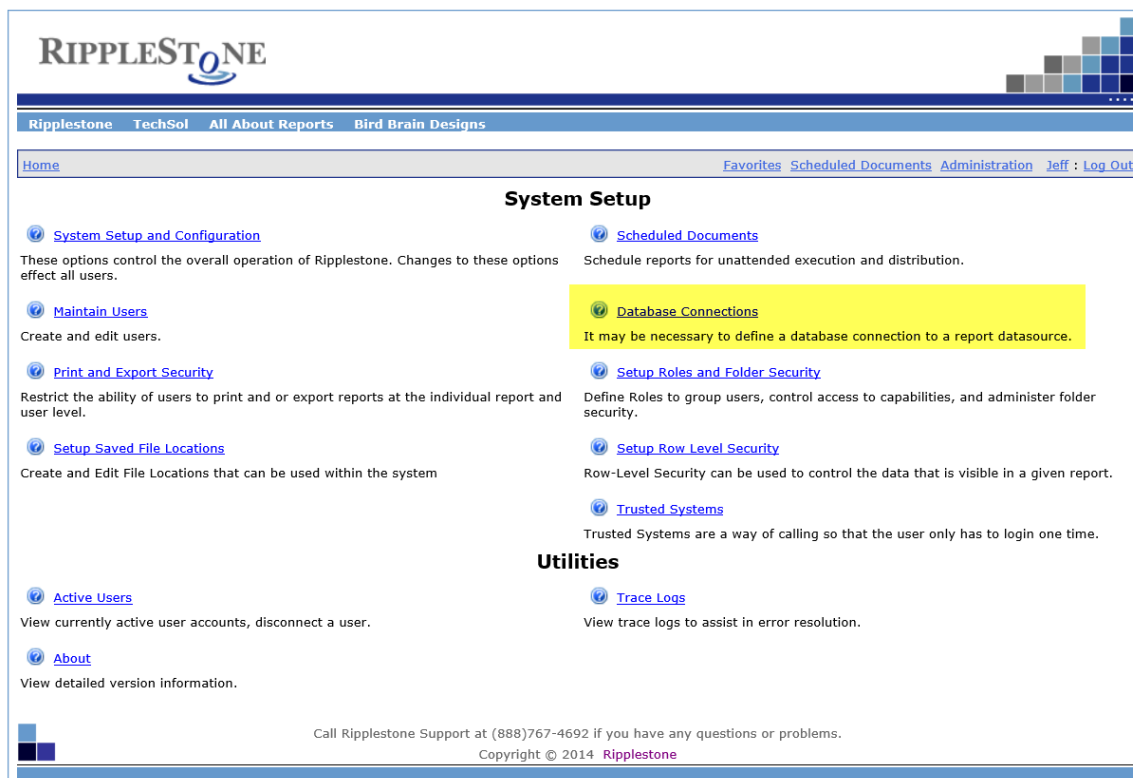
Continue on to the Test page.



## Steps to Add a New Database Connection

Below is a detailed description on adding a new database connection.

**Step 1** – Go to the **Administration** page and click on the **Database Connections** link as shown in figure 1.



The screenshot shows the Ripplestone Administration interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Favorites, Scheduled Documents, Administration, and Jeff : Log Out. The main content area is titled "System Setup" and contains several links, each with a description:

- System Setup and Configuration**: These options control the overall operation of Ripplestone. Changes to these options effect all users.
- Maintain Users**: Create and edit users.
- Print and Export Security**: Restrict the ability of users to print and or export reports at the individual report and user level.
- Setup Saved File Locations**: Create and Edit File Locations that can be used within the system.
- Active Users**: View currently active user accounts, disconnect a user.
- About**: View detailed version information.
- Scheduled Documents**: Schedule reports for unattended execution and distribution.
- Database Connections**: It may be necessary to define a database connection to a report datasource. (This link is highlighted in yellow in the original image).
- Setup Roles and Folder Security**: Define Roles to group users, control access to capabilities, and administer folder security.
- Setup Row Level Security**: Row-Level Security can be used to control the data that is visible in a given report.
- Trusted Systems**: Trusted Systems are a way of calling so that the user only has to login one time.
- Trace Logs**: View trace logs to assist in error resolution.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with contact information: "Call Ripplestone Support at (888)767-4692 if you have any questions or problems." and "Copyright © 2014 Ripplestone".

**Figure 1 – Database Connection Links**

**Step 2** – From the list of existing Database Connections, select the link on the top to **Add New Connection** as shown in figure 2.

**RIPPLESTONE**

Ripplestone TechSol All About Reports Bird Brain Designs

[Home](#) [Favorites](#) [Scheduled Documents](#) [Administration](#) [Jeff : Log Out](#)

**Database Connections** [Add New Connection](#)

Connection Type	Server Name	Database Name		
CrystalReport	BBD_Prod		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
CrystalReport	BBD_Production		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
CrystalReport	COH3DSN		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
CrystalReport	EMDB		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
CrystalReport	JEFF-SURFACE\SQLEXPRESS2008R2	Ripplestone	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
CrystalReport	TicketWorks		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
CrystalReport	TMS_Prod		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
CrystalReport	TS_Store_BBD		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
CrystalReport	XE		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
PickList	BBD_Prod		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
PickList	External Param List	C:\Temp\ExternalParams.mdb	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
PickList	GetListOfStates	C:\Sites\Ripplestone\ReportFolders\Alabama\employees2000.mdb	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
PickList	TMS Applications	D:\Data\TMS\Applications2009.mdb	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
PickList	TMS_Prod		<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>
PickList	U16925082\SQLEXPRESS	ExternalParams	<a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">Delete</a>

OK

Call Ripplestone Support at (888)767-4692 if you have any questions or problems.  
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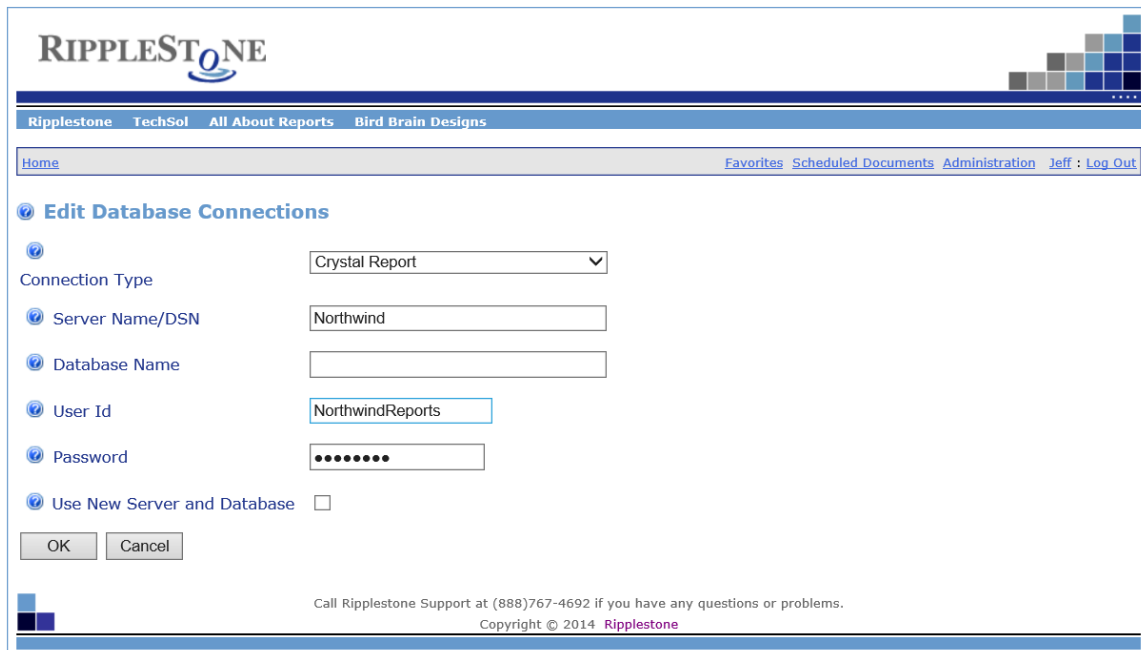
**Figure 2 – Database Connection List**

**Step 3** – From the **Edit Connection** page select Crystal Report as the Connection Type. Then enter the Server Name, User ID and Password. For the Server name this will be either the ODBC DSN if the report is connecting via an ODBC connection or it will be the server name if the report is connecting directly to the database. If using an ODBC connection, the server that Ripplestone is running on will need to have the ODBC DSN created on the server.

**Important Note:** If the report is using ODBC then the Server Name enter **MUST** be the DNS name and not the database server name.

The User ID and Password will be a valid User ID and Password to connect to the data source.

Click OK to save the connection and to return the list of connections.



The screenshot shows the 'Edit Database Connections' page in the Ripplestone application. The page has a blue header with the Ripplestone logo and navigation links: Home, Favorites, Scheduled Documents, Administration, Jeff : Log Out. The main content area is titled 'Edit Database Connections' and contains the following fields:

- Connection Type:** A dropdown menu with 'Crystal Report' selected.
- Server Name/DSN:** A text box containing 'Northwind'.
- Database Name:** An empty text box.
- User Id:** A text box containing 'NorthwindReports'.
- Password:** A text box with masked characters (dots).
- Use New Server and Database:** An unchecked checkbox.

At the bottom of the form are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons. Below the form, there is a footer with contact information: 'Call Ripplestone Support at (888)767-4692 if you have any questions or problems.' and 'Copyright © 2014 Ripplestone'.

**Figure 3 – Edit Connection page**