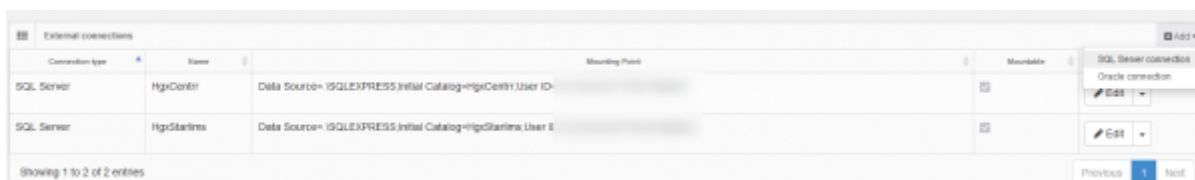# External meta-data

Oftentimes you have external data in a separate repository and want access to it through the Pathomation software platform for digital pathology and virtual microscopy. Importing the data as Pathomation form data may not always make sense for a variety of reasons.

If your data falls into this category; fear not! PMA.core allows you to link to it in real-time.

Configuring data connections

The first step in configuring your external data link to PMA.core is to create the connection to the data source. PMA.core supports connection to the following databases

- SQL Server
- Oracle

To add an external connection you simply click on the *Add* button in ExternalData page of the administrator front-end UI and then select the type of connection you want. On the next page you will be prompted to add

- Name: A name for the new connection to distinguish this connection from others
- Connection String: The connection string to the database system including the credentials PMA.core will use to connect

Configure queries

SQL query

include at least one screenshot here

Testing

include at least one screenshot here

Consumption and applications

Some screenshots from the SQLServer side on one hand, and the downstream presentation in PMA.studio perhaps?

More background

See our blog article.

From:
https://docs.pathomation.com/pma.core/2.0.1/ - **PMA.core 2.x**

Permanent link:
https://docs.pathomation.com/pma.core/2.0.1/doku.php?id=external_data&rev=1648717313

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