

Oracle Data Blocks Binary Dumps: Tokens and Column Counts

Single Byte Values

- Tokens from 0 to 199 are represented by a single byte that is that token's value
- Column counts from 1 to 50 are represented by a single byte that is that columns length
- fa and fb bytes are used for multi-byte column counts above 50 and token values above 199 respectively
- ff is used to represent a null column

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Multi-byte Column Counts

- Column counts above 50 are represented by three bytes
- The first byte is fa, which tells Oracle that the next two bytes are a column count
- The next two bytes are the actual value of the column count
- Column counts come before each column of actual data stored in the binary dump so that Oracle knows how many bytes following the count represent the data for that column

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Multi-byte Tokens

- Token values above 199 are represented by three bytes
- The first byte is fb, which tells Oracle that the next two bytes are the value of a token
- The next two bytes are the actual value of the token