File system

Record-oriented files that are organized as sequential, relative, or indexed are accessed through a file system. You can use file-system functions to create and manipulate the records in any of these types of files.

COBOL for Windows supports the following file systems:

The STL file system, which provides the basic facilities for local files. It is provided with COBOL for Windows, and supports sequential, relative, and indexed files.

The Btrieve file system, which lets you access Btrieve files. Btrieve is IBM's name for the Pervasive.SQL file system, a separate product available from Pervasive Software.

The RSD (record sequential delimited) file system, which lets you share data with programs written in other languages. RSD files are sequential only and support all COBOL data types in records. Text data in records can be edited by most file editors.

Most programs will have the same behaviors on all file systems. However, files written using one file system cannot be read using a different file system.

You can select a file system by setting the assignment-name environment variable or by using the FILESYS run-time option. All the file systems let you use COBOL statements to read and write COBOL files.

To use the Btrieve (Pervasive.SQL) file system, identify a file as follows:

SELECT file1 ASSIGN TO 'BTR-MyFile'

If the run-time option FILESYS(BTRIEVE) is in effect, the following assignment is valid:

SELECT file1 ASSIGN TO 'MyFile'

If you have defined the environment variable MYFILE (for example, SET MYFILE=BTR-MYFILE), the following assignment is valid:

SELECT file1 ASSIGN TO MYFILE

Identifying STL files

To use the STL file system, identify a file as follows:

SELECT file1 ASSIGN USING 'STL-MyFile'

If the run-time option FILESYS(STL) is in effect, identify a file as follows:

SELECT file1 ASSIGN TO 'MyFile'

If you have defined the environment variable MYFILE (for example, SET MYFILE=STL-MYFILE), identify a file as follows:

SELECT file1 ASSIGN TO MYFILE

Identifying RSD files

To use the record sequential delimited file system, identify a file as follows:

SELECT file1 ASSIGN USING 'RSD-MyFile'

If the run-time option FILESYS(RSD) is in effect, identify a file as follows:

SELECT file1 ASSIGN TO 'MyFile'

If you have defined the environment variable MYFILE (for example, SET MYFILE=RSD-MYFILE), identify a file as follows:

SELECT file1 ASSIGN TO MYFILE