

## SYSTEM DICTIONARY

The system dictionary [sys\_dictionary] is a table called **Dictionary Entry**:

It contains:

- details for each table.
- definition for every column on the table.

The image shows two screenshots from a software application. The top screenshot is a 'Dictionary Entry' form for the table 'pm\_project'. It contains fields for 'Table', 'Type', 'Column label', 'Column name', and 'Max length', along with checkboxes for 'Active', 'Read only', 'Mandatory', 'Display', 'Text index', and 'Audit'. The bottom screenshot is a 'Dictionary Entries' table view showing a list of entries with columns for 'Table', 'Column name', 'Type', 'Reference', 'Default value', 'Display', 'Text index', and 'Audit'.

**Dictionary Entry Form:**

Table	pm_project	Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Type	Integer	Read only	<input type="checkbox"/>
Column label	Actual Man Days	Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/>
Column name	u_act_man_days	Display	<input type="checkbox"/>
Max length	40	Text index	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Audit	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Dictionary Entries Table:**

	Table	Column name	Type	Reference	Default value	Display	Text index	Audit
<input type="checkbox"/>	incident		collection			false	true	true
<input type="checkbox"/>	task		collection			false	true	false
<input type="checkbox"/>	task	active	boolean		true	false	false	false
<input type="checkbox"/>	task	activity_due	due_date			false	false	false
<input type="checkbox"/>	task	approval	string		not requested	false	false	false

Each row in the system dictionary represents either a table or a column in one of the tables. The system dictionary provides options for administrators to modify tables and fields, which in turn define lists and forms.

Use caution when changing system dictionary records because changes can have a high impact on functionality. In particular, changes to dictionary entries for system tables, which are tables that begin with sys\_, can create system-wide issues such as the inability to use update sets.

The screenshot shows the 'Dictionary Entry' form for 'Poratl admin'. At the top, there is a header bar with a back arrow, a menu icon, and the title 'Dictionary Entry Poratl admin'. Below the header is a light blue informational box stating: 'A dictionary entry manages how ServiceNow stores data in tables and fields (columns). For a field, the label becomes the field label, and the column name. If necessary, set a Max length Value for reference fields so it appears on records that reference this table. [More Info](#)'. The form contains four required fields, each marked with an asterisk: 'Table' is set to 'Agility End Point [cmdb\_ci\_endpoint...]', 'Type' is set to 'True/False' with a search icon and an info icon, 'Column label' is set to 'Poratl admin', and 'Column name' is set to 'u\_admin'. Below these fields are two tabs: 'Choice List Specification' and 'Default Value'. The 'Default Value' tab is currently selected. At the bottom, another light blue box states: 'The Default value specifies what value the field has when first displayed.'

Dictionary changes are difficult to reverse. Also, dictionary changes automatically apply to all extended tables unless a dictionary override is defined. Be sure that changes are well-tested before applying them to a production instance.