SQLeoAdvancedUsers Guide

Revised: 14/06/2012 by Alan Shiers

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Introduction

It is assumed the reader has read the Beginners Guide for SQLeo. The topics covered in this guide provide an insight into some of the more advanced features not covered in the Beginners Guide.

Setting Preferences

SQLeo supports three languages: English, French, Italian. The default is English, but if you wish to change it to one of the other options, you can do so in the Preferences dialog box. You can launch the Preferences dialog box by selecting the tools/preferences... menu item. See IMAGE 1. In IMAGE 2 you can see that the Preferences dialog box has three Tabs: general, command editor, query builder. We will discuss each one separately.

IMAGE 1

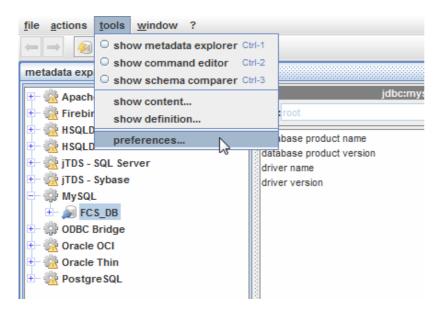


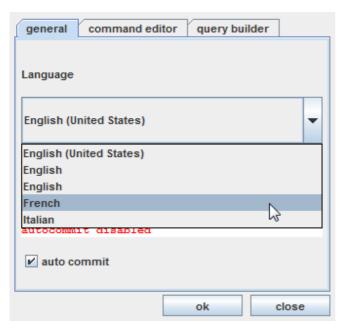


IMAGE 2

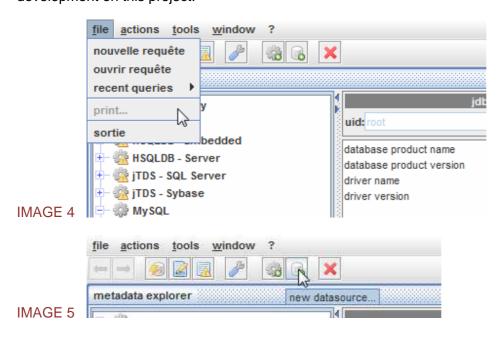
The General Tab

The General Tab of the Preferences dialog box is where you are provided with a drop down combo box to select a preferred language. See IMAGE 3.

IMAGE 3



In the image we select the French option and click OK. The change does not happen immediately. To see the change, you must close out the application and restart it. After you have done so, you should notice that only some of the menu items have changed to French. At the time of this writing, SQLeo was still in BETA and**not** fully translated, so you may find some discrepancies. See IMAGE 4. In IMAGE 5 we see that the tooltips for the buttons are still in English. This is one of the priorities we intend to rectify as we move forward in development on this project.



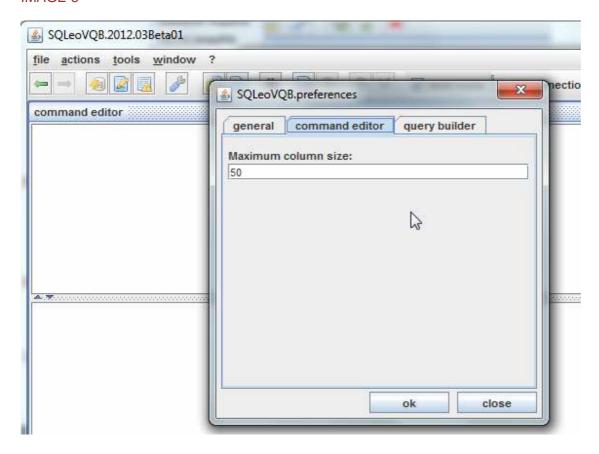
[Mention something here regarding the Trace Log option and the Auto Commit option]

At this point, we will return the language preference back to English and discuss the remaining Tabs in the Preferences dialog box.

The Command Editor Tab

The second tab in the Preferences dialog box deals with the Command Editor window. You may recall this is the window in SQLeo where you can type ad-hoc queries. With the Tab open as in IMAGE 6, you have only one option you can change. There is a textfield labelled *Maximum column size*. As a rule the default value of 50 is adequate in most cases, however you have the option to change it here. The column size this refers to has to do with the number of characters you can type in the upper pane of the Command Editor.

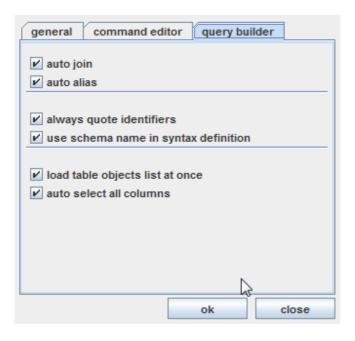
IMAGE 6



The Query Builder Tab

The Query Builder tab offers six options which you can turn off or on. See IMAGE 7 and the following points to further explain each option.

IMAGE 7



- **auto join** draws joins in the Content pane of the Visual Query Builder window if a foreign key is found in a Table of the database or in a Join definition file
- auto alias creates an alias for Tables and Columns automatically
- always quote identifiers writes column names or table names with the quoting standard of the related RDBMS: "" or ``.
- **use schema name in syntax definition** allows you to have queries based on several schemas, the schema name is then used for table and column name.
- **load table objects list at once**—if checked, automatically displays objects list in designer mode in the lower left-hand portion of the window. If not checked, the list is built when the user selects schema and object types from the Metadata Explorer window
- auto select all columns if checked, as you select an object, such as a Table, to be displayed in the Content pane of the Visual Query Builder, all Column objects are automatically checked or selected. If unchecked, none of the Column objects are checked or selected.

More on the COMMAND EDITOR Window

While the Visual Query Builder is fine for creating SELECT commands, you may find a time when you will need to perform more complex commands on the database. To perform commands other than SELECT you will need to have the appropriate RIGHTS or privileges on your user account. If you are reading this, we will assume that you do.

As you may well know, the SQL language is subdivided into other groups of commands often referred to as DDL (Data Definition Language), DML (Data Manipulation Language), DCL (Data Control Language), and TCL (Transaction Control Language). To refresh your understanding, the following is a breakdown of which commands fall under each category:

DDL:

- 1. CREATE to create objects in the database
- 2. ALTER alters the structure of the database
- 3. DROP delete objects from the database
- 4. TRUNCATE remove all records from a table
- 5. COMMENT add comments to the data dictionary
- 6. RENAME rename an object

DML:

- 1. SELECT retrieve data from the database
- 2. INSERT insert data into a table
- 3. UPDATE updates existing data within a table
- 4. DELETE deletes existing data within a table
- 5. MERGE UPSERT operation (insert or update)
- 6. CALL call a PL/SQL or Java subprogram
- 7. EXPLAIN PLAN explain access path to data
- 8. LOCK TABLE control concurrency

DCL:

- 1. GRANT gives user's access privileges to database
- 2. REVOKE withdraw access privileges given with the GRANT command

TCL:

- 1. COMMIT save work done
- 2. SAVEPOINT identify a point in a transaction to which you can later roll back
- 3. ROLLBACK restore database to original state since the last COMMIT
- 4. SET TRANSACTION change transaction option like isolation level and what rollback segment to use

While you may wish to try your hand at manually typing these commands in the COMMAND window of SQLeo, there is way to help you get the syntax correct when it comes to three of the DML commands: INSERT, UPDATE, and DELETE.

The DELETE Tab of the Command Dialog Box

As it happens, we have a division that has become obsolete; therefore we are going to remove it from the *division* Table. See IMAGE 8. If we have a look at the data in the *division* Table itself we can see its structure in the CONTENTS window. To call up the CONTENTS window return to the Metadata Explorer, right click on the *division* Table and select the *show content...* menu item.

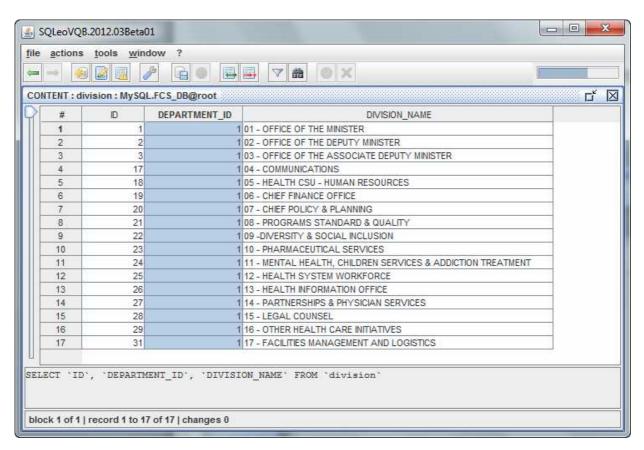
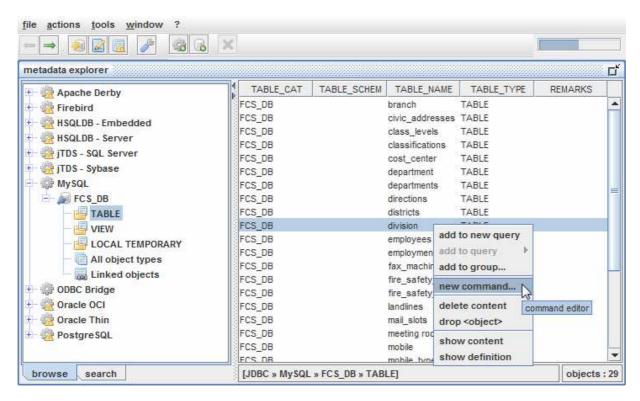


IMAGE 8

Of all the items listed, the last item under the DIVISION_NAME column labelled "17 – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND LOGISTICS" is the division that we wish to delete from the Table. Take note that the ID value for this record is 31. We will need to know this later.

Let us begin from the Metadata Explorer window and select the *division* Table again from the FCS_DB database. See IMAGE 9 and note that we are using our right mouse button to select the menu item labelled new command...



This will bring us to the COMMAND EDITOR, but at the same time, it opens a dialog box with three Tabs labelled: delete, insert, and update. See IMAGE 10.

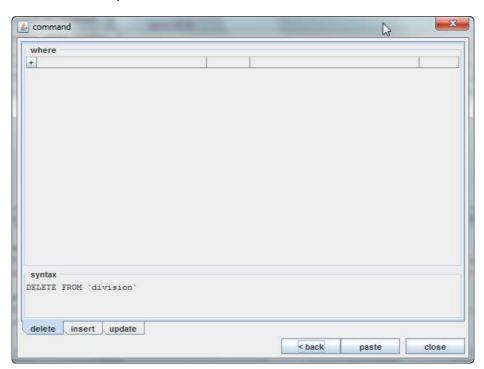
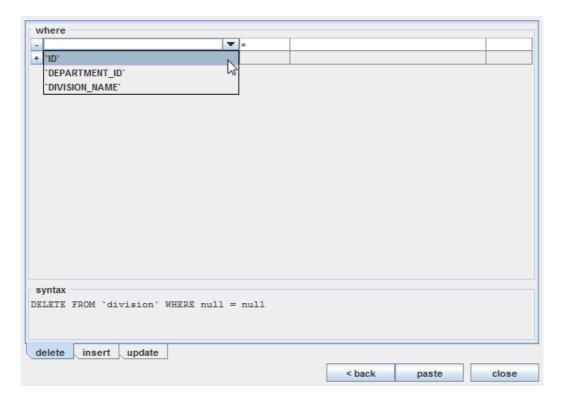


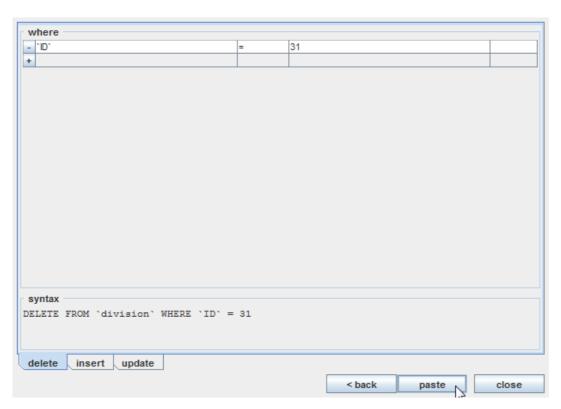
IMAGE 10

The default Tab is *delete*. We click on the + symbol to create a new WHERE clause for our DELETE command and from the first drop down combo box we select the ID column. See IMAGE 11.



We will leave the equals operator as it is. However, note that the operator can be changed to <, >, <=, >=, <>, LIKE, NOT LIKE, etc. In the second field we will type the ID value of 31, which is the ID for "17 – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND LOGISTICS". See IMAGE 12 for a completed DELETE command.

IMAGE 12



Notice in the **syntax** area of the dialog box it displays the correct form of the DELETE command. We click on the paste button causing the command to be copied into the COMMAND EDITOR window. See IMAGE 13.

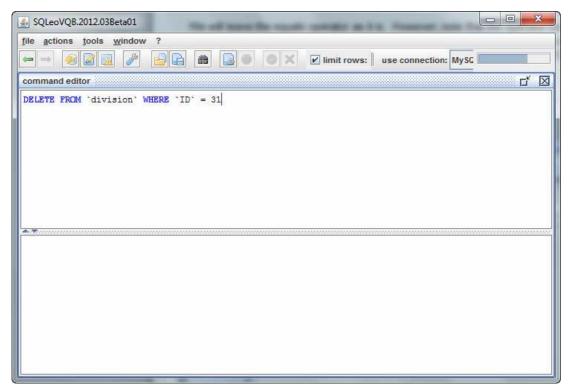


IMAGE 13

All that is left is to launch the command. To do this, we click on the *launch* button. As a response from the database, we see in the lower pane of the COMMAND EDITOR window how one row has been affected. See IMAGE 14. At this point we have successfully deleted the record with ID 31.

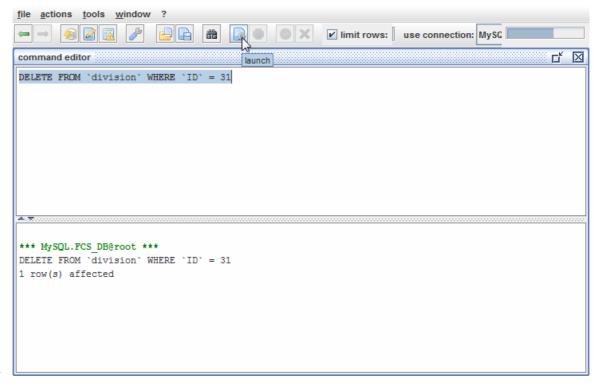
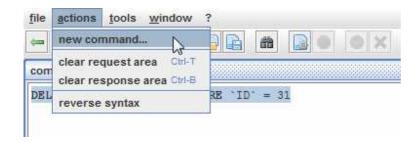


IMAGE 14

The INSERT Tab of the Command Dialog Box

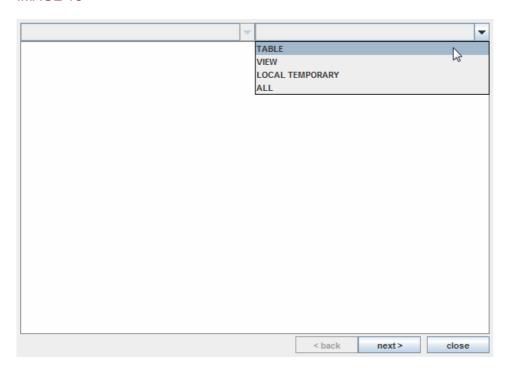
You may remember from IMAGE 9 that we accessed the Command Dialog box directly from the Metadata Explorer window by selecting a popup menu item. If you don't wish to be moving back and forth between windows, there is another way to access the Command Dialog box from inside the COMMAND EDITOR window. Simply select the *actions/new command...* menu. See IMAGE 15.

IMAGE 15

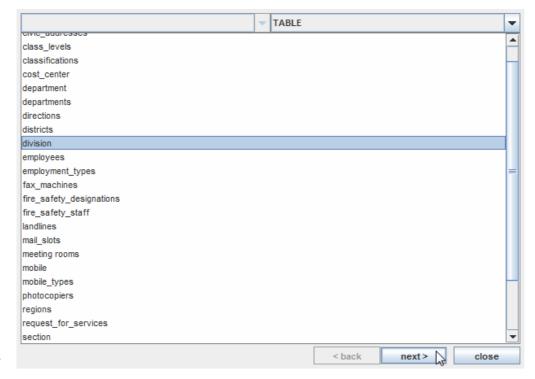


Calling up the Command Dialog box in this manner causes the dialog box to display an initial step requiring you to select from which objects you intend use the command on. See IMAGE 16.

IMAGE 16



We will select Table from the drop down combo box which displays all the Tables in the FCS_DB database. See IMAGE 17. We select the *division* Table and click the *next>* button to move to the next step.

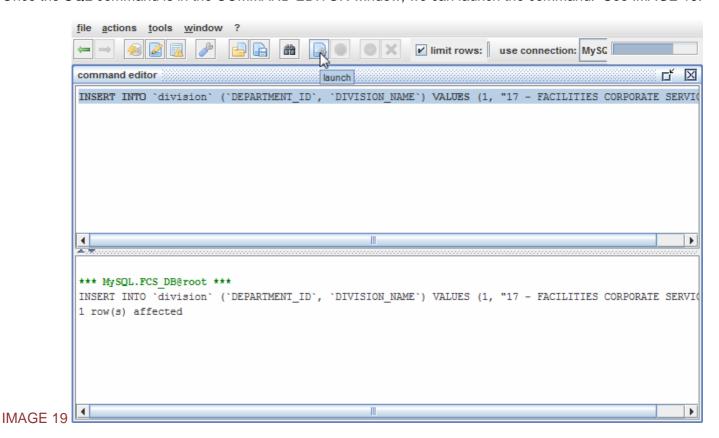


When we get to the next step, we select the **insert** Tab. See IMAGE 18. We wish to insert a new record into the *division* Table. Note that we removed the check from the checkbox for the ID column. This is because the ID column is set to *autoincrement* by 1. In other words, a value will be automatically assigned by the database to this column when a new record is inserted. We assign an integer value of 1 for the DEPARTMENT_ID and for the DIVISION_NAME we enter "17 – FACILITIES CORPORATE SERVICES" in quotes. We use quotes here because this column is of type VARCHAR or STRING. Now that we have entered all the pertinent data, we will click on the *paste* button.

values				
\n\p\				
✓ 'DEPARTMENT_ID'	1			
✓ 'DIVISION_NAME'	"17 - FACILITIES CORPORATE SERVICES"			
syntax				
INSERT INTO 'division' ('DEPARTMENT_ID', 'D	IVISION_NAME`) VALUES (1, "17 - FACILITIES			
CORPORATE SERVICES")				
delete insert update				
apart apart				
	< back paste close			

IMAGE 18

Once the SQL command is in the COMMAND EDITOR window, we can launch the command. See IMAGE 19.



To prove that the insert has worked, we have a look at the *division* Table in the CONTENT window. See IMAGE 20.

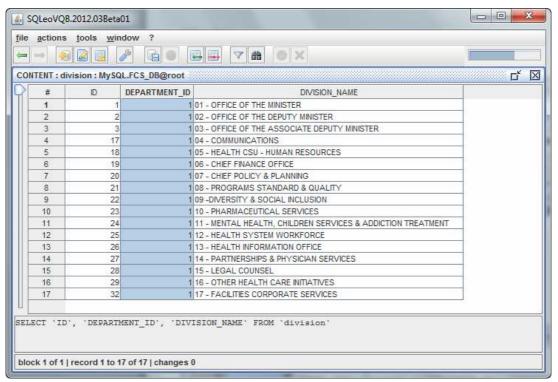
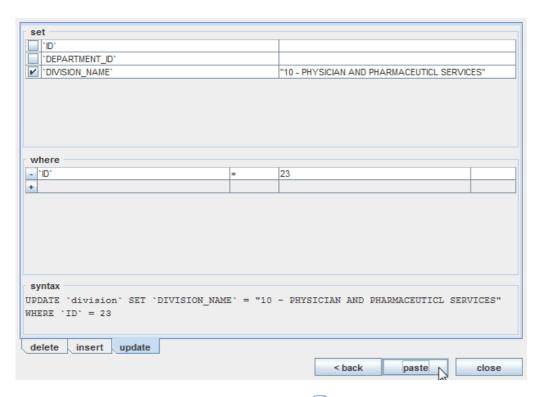


IMAGE 20

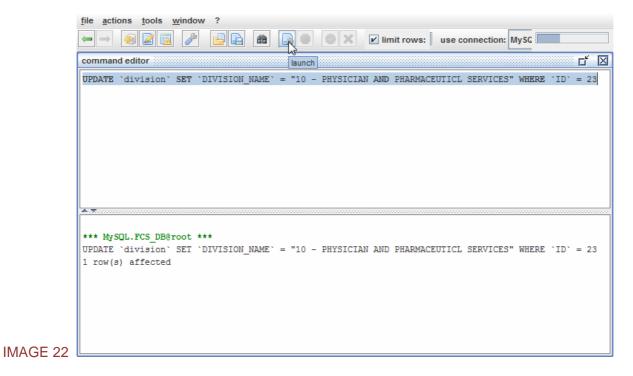
The UPDATE Tab of the Command Dialog Box

For the UPDATE command we will change the record with ID 23 from "10 – PARMACEUTICAL SERVICES" to "10 – PHYSICIAN AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES". We follow the same steps as depicted in IMAGES 15, 16, and 17. Then we choose the **update** Tab in the Command Dialog box and fill in the appropriate fields as in IMAGE 21 and click the *paste* button.

IMAGE 21



In the COMMAND EDITOR we click the *launch* button once again and get a response from the database that 1 row has been affected. See IMAGE 22.



To further prove that the change has taken place, we have another look at the CONTENT window. See IMAGE 23. The record with ID 23 has changed with the updated DIVISION_NAME: "10 – PHYSICIAN AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES".

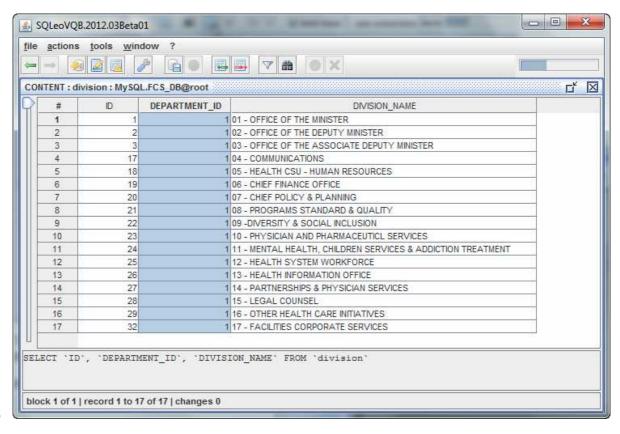


IMAGE 23

More on the CONTENT Window

Exporting Data

Since we are in the Content window as in IMAGE 23, we will draw your attention to the *actions* menu. The list of submenus that appear under the *actions* menuwhen you are looking at the CONTENT window, are different than when you are looking at any other window. Most notably you have two significant submenus: *export data...* and *import data...*

IMAGE 24

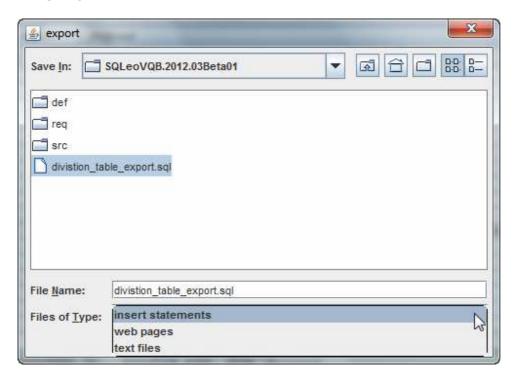


We will examine each one starting with export data...

If you are a database administrator you may find these optional features handy for backing up the data. Currently we are looking at the division Table in the CONTENT window. To export the data from this Table, we select *actions/export data...* as seen in IMAGE 24.

This action brings up a two-step dialog box, the first of which appears as in IMAGE 25.

IMAGE 25



Please note the three options under the drop down combo box labelled Files of Type: insert statements, web pages, and text files. We've named our exported file *division_table_export.sql*. When we click the Next button, we see step two of the dialog box. See IMAGE 26.

IMAGE 26

table name: divis	on			
with delete st	atement			
records: all	current block	O define:	1	

We fill in the appropriate options and click the OK button. The file that results looks like IMAGE 27 as it appears in the Notepad text editor.

IMAGE 27

If we refer back to IMAGE 25, the remaining options create either an html file or a txt file, both of which contain the *division* Table in tabular format. See IMAGES 28 and 29.



IMAGE 29

di	vision_export.txt	t - Notepad
File	Edit Format	View Help
μD	DEPART	MENT_ID DIVISION_NAME
1	1	01 - OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
2	1	02 - OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER
口 1 2 3	1	03 - OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEPUTY MINISTER
17	1	04 - COMMUNICATIONS
18	1	05 - HEALTH CSU - HUMAN RESOURCES
19	1	06 - CHIEF FINANCE OFFICE
20 21 22 23	1	07 - CHIEF POLICY & PLANNING
21	1	08 - PROGRAMS STANDARD & QUALITY
22	1	09 -DIVERSITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION
23	1	10 - PHYSICIAN AND PHARMACEUTICL SERVICES
24	1	11 - MENTAL HEALTH, CHILDREN SERVICES & ADDICTION TREATMENT
25	1	12 - HEALTH SYSTEM WORKFORCE
26 27	1	13 - HEALTH INFORMATION OFFICE
120	1	14 - PARTNERSHIPS & PHYSICIAN SERVICES
28 29	1	15 - LEGAL COUNSEL 16 - OTHER HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES
32	1	16 - OTHER HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES 17 - FACILITIES CORPORATE SERVICES
32	1	1/ - FACILITIES CORPORATE SERVICES

Importing Data

Refer to IMAGE 30 and recall that when you are in the Metadata Explorer window, and when you select a Table to view its contents, you get a dialog box that asks you if you want to retrieve all the records in that particular Table. See IMAGE 31.

IMAGE 30

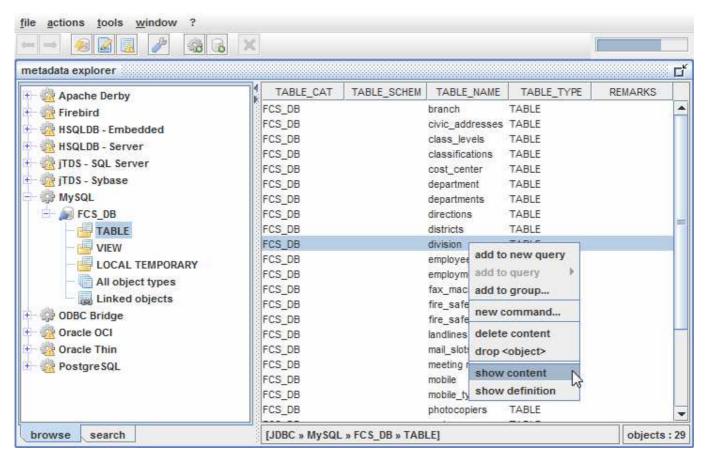
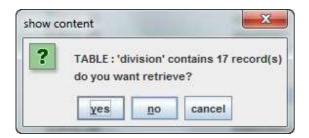
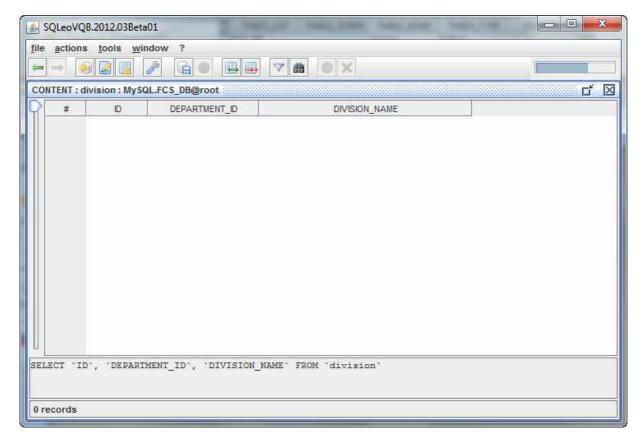


IMAGE 31

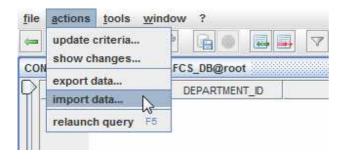


For the purposes of this example, we will select the **no** option. This gives us the CONTENT window without any data showing as in IMAGE 32.



At this point we can now import a saved file. We start by selecting the *actions/import data...*menu. See IMAGE 33.

IMAGE 33



Next, we select the file we exported earlier named division_export.txt and click the **next** button.

IMAGE 34

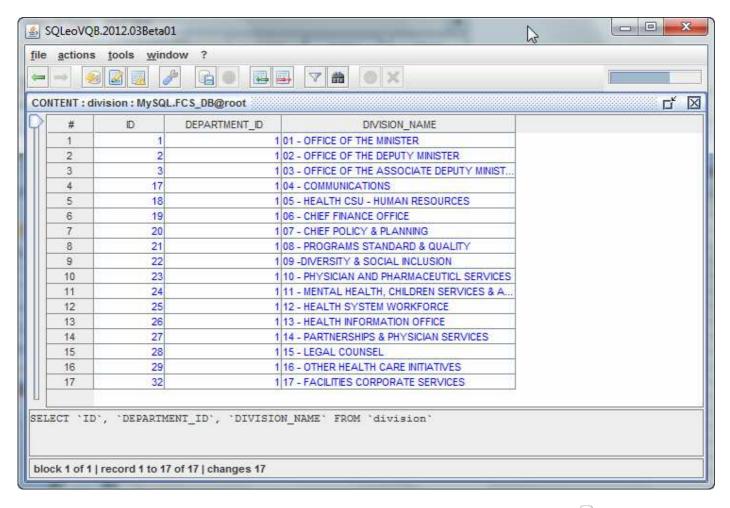
Look <u>i</u> n:	QLeoVQB.2012.03Beta01		-	a e	
def req src division_exp	ort.txt				
LICENSE.txt README.txt					
File Name:	division_export.txt				
Files of <u>Type</u> :	text files				_
		< back	n	ext>	close

We are presented with additional options; however we will accept the defaults and just click the \mathbf{OK} button. See IMAGE 35

IMAGE 35

options				
with header				
null if blanks				
trim value				
delimiter: tab	other	;		

The resulting CONTENTS window appears As in IMAGE 36. Note that all the records are in a blue font, indicating that the imported data has not been saved to the database yet.



At this point you can commit the data to the database by clicking the *apply changes to db* button or edit the data further.

Using Join Definition Files

Database administrators are often aware that the server containing the RDBMS (Rational Database Management System) can become slow in its ability to respond under heavy traffic loads, especially if the queries being sent for processing are complicated in nature. For the power user who is familiar with dealing with exceptionally complicated queries and the performance impact it has on databases with many Tables and foreign key relationships, SQLeo provides a feature that allows you to cache foreign key information to a file that is local to your hard drive. In this way, the user is able to obtain faster results while the data processing is performed locally and not on the server side. This helps to take some of the load off of the RDBMS and provides the user with faster results.

Before we can explore this feature further, it is important to understand some basic concepts. Please read the next section on *What are CSV files* followed by *Description Of A Join Definition File*.

What are CSV files?

CSV is an abbreviation for **comma-separated values**. There are database systems that allow export of data in a format that can be manipulated more easily by other applications. Typically CSV files use the following criteria:

- 1. They are plain text using a character set such as ASCII, or Unicode
- 2. They consist of records (typically one record per line),
- 3. with the records divided into fields or columns separated by delimiters (typically a single reserved character such as comma, semicolon, or tab; sometimes the delimiter may include optional spaces),
- 4. where every record has the same sequence of fields.

A CSV file is a flat representation of the database where its common use is to move tabular data between programs that natively operate on incompatible (often proprietary and/or undocumented) formats.

A Join Definition file, in the case of SQLeo, takes the form of a CSV file. It doesn't contain any table data, but instead contains a set of instructions arranged in tabular fashion, that describe how the tables are joined between primary and foreign keys.

Description of a Join Definition File

There is an example of a Join Definition file provided with the release of SQLeo. You will find it in the folder named *def*. The file you want to look at is named **FKdefinition.csv**. Let us have a look at the contents of this file.

join;jointype;tableowner;table;column;ref table owner;reftable;refAlias;refcolumn;comment DIM1_SOURCE;INNER;SYSTEM;DIM1;SOURCE_ID;SYSTEM;SOURCE;source_1;SOURCE_ID; DIM2_SOURCE;FULL;SYSTEM;DIM2;SOURCE_ID;SYSTEM;SOURCE;source_2;SOURCE_ID; FACT_DIM1;LEFT;SYSTEM;FACT;ID1;SYSTEM;DIM1;;ID; FACT_DIM2;RIGHT;SYSTEM;FACT;ID2;SYSTEM;DIM2;;ID;

How you view this file is important. To the human eye, while it may appear to be a mess of characters delimited by semi-colons, it makes perfect sense to SQLeo. If you could imagine all of this in a cell separated spreadsheet, it would probably be more visually appealing. Such is the example below in IMAGE 37.

IMAGE 37

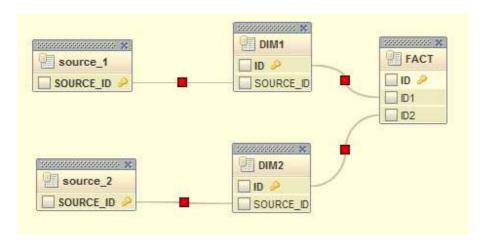
1	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н	I I	J
1	join	join type	table owner	table	column	ref table owner	ref table	ref Alias	ref column	comment
2	DIM1_SOURCE	INNER	SYSTEM	DIM1	SOURCE_ID	SYSTEM	SOURCE	source_1	SOURCE_ID	
3	DIM2_SOURCE	FULL	SYSTEM	DIM2	SOURCE_ID	SYSTEM	SOURCE	source_2	SOURCE_ID	
4	FACT_DIM1	LEFT	SYSTEM	FACT	ID1	SYSTEM	DIM1		ID	
5	FACT_DIM2	RIGHT	SYSTEM	FACT	ID2	SYSTEM	DIM2		ID	
6										

Now we see how the data is grouped into ten columns. The top row can be regarded as our HEADER. Each row below that provides a description of how each Table in the database is joined to another Table. Every join is given a name and the column named **join**displays these names: DIM1_SOURCE, DIM2_SOURCE, FACT_DIM1, FACT_DIM2. In the SQL (Structured Query Language) language there are four types of joins and each is represented in this example: INNER, FULL, LEFT, RIGHT.

This example is specific to an Oracle database. This being the case, the **table owner** column will refer to SYSTEM. Other database systems don't have a reference in their schema for **table owner** or **ref table owner**. If, for instance, we were accessing a MySQL database, the cells under both these columns should be left blank. The **table** column is to display the name of a Table. The **column**column refers to which field in the Table is to be joined. So, if we were to examine the first record, we can see that table **DIM1** and its field SOURCE_ID is joined to the SOURCE_ID field in another table named **source_1** (which is an alias to the SOURCE table). **ref column** denotes the field being joined in the second Table. In the case of the first record, it is SOURCE_ID.

If you were to try to visualize the entire Join Definition file in the Visual Query window, it would look like this:

IMAGE 38



Refer to the Tables: **source_1** and **DIM1**. The field SOURCE_ID in table **source_1** is the primary key for table source_1. The field SOURCE_ID in table **DIM1** is to be regarded as the foreign key. This join is noted as the first record in the join definition file. By comparing the remaining three records in the join definition file with the visual representation in the Query Builder, you can see how the rest of the primary keys of each Table is joined to the foreign keys of other tables.

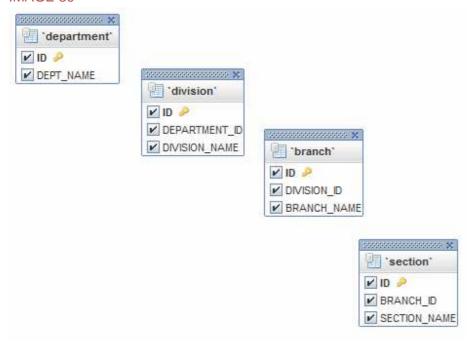
CSV MODE

How do we create a join definition file? We will begin with another example using a different database.

In government, there are so many offices that provide public service that these offices must be placed in categories of some sort of hierarchy. Often what you will find is the following hierarchy:

```
DEPARTMENT
|__DIVISION
|__BRANCH
|__SECTION
```

If we represent these in a database, then each becomes a Table unto itself. See IMAGE 39.



What we want to do is create a join definition file that links all four tables together. If you are using the Windows operating system, all you need to do is open a plain text editor named NOTEPAD. Without writing anything in it, simply save it to the *def* directory. Give the file an appropriate name so that you can find it in the next step. In our case, we named our file FCSdefinitions.csv. Be sure the file extension has .csv on the end.

Before we begin, you should ensure that certain preferences are set for the Query Builder:

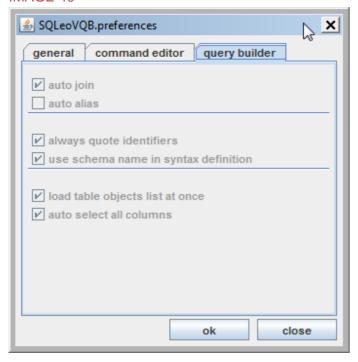
- 1. auto join ON
- 2. auto alias OFF
- 3. use schema name in syntax definition ON

See IMAGE 40.

SQLeoVQB.2012.07Beta01

browse

search



The database we will be using is named FCS_DB. Have a look at IMAGE 41. Notice that the FCS_DB database is highlighted. It has been selected, but it is not yet connected.

IMAGE 41

_ 🗆 🗙

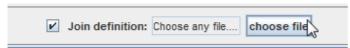
file actions tools window help 땁 metadata explorer jdbc:mysql://localhost:3306/FCS_DB 🛨 🎆 Apache Derby N. uid: root pwd: - 🎆 Firebird - 🔆 HSQLDB - Embedded M HSQLDB - Server 🎇 jTDS - SQL Server 🌃 jTDS - Sybase MySQL ODBC Bridge Oracle OCI Oracle Thin 🛨 🎇 PostgreSQL

SQLeo Help Page 27

Join definition: Choose any file.... choose file

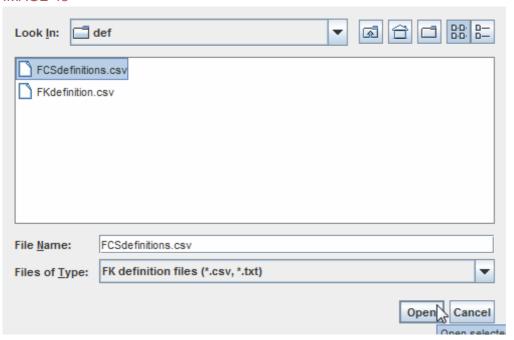
Notice also, at the bottom of the content window, there is a checkbox labeled **Join definition**with a button next to it labeled **choose file**. At this point we want to go into what we call the CSV MODE. To do this, we check the Join definition checkbox and click on the choose file button. See IMAGE 42.

IMAGE 42



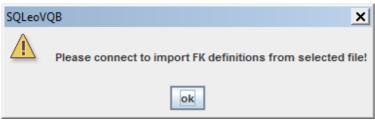
We then get an OPEN dialog box as in IMAGE 43. We select the file FCSdefinitions.csv and click the Open button.

IMAGE 43

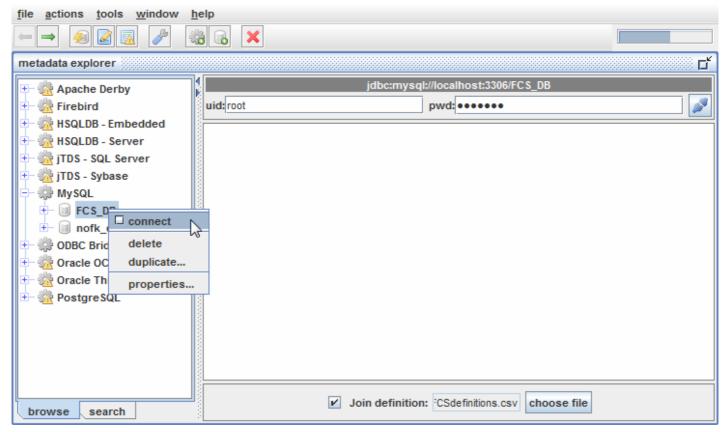


Immediately we will get a popup reminder as in IMAGE 44.

IMAGE 44



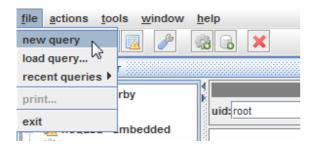
We close this and proceed to connect the FCS_DB database as in IMAGE 45.



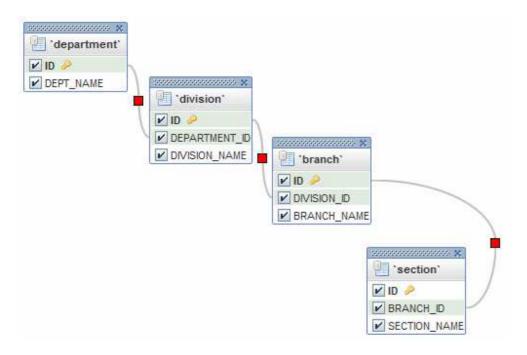
Once connected, we are in CSV MODE. Any information that exists inside the file FCSdefinitions.csv will be used to define all joins. At this point, however, there is no information in the file. Our next step is to create the joins and save them to the file.

We begin by selecting the File/New Query menu. See IMAGE 46.

IMAGE 46

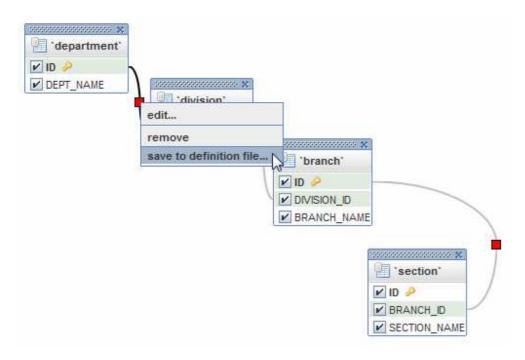


In the Visual Query Designer window we drag and drop the Tables: department, division, branch and section. See IMAGE 47. At this point, we can create our joins from primary keys to foreign keys. This action is done using the left mouse button and dragging a line from one table to another.



Now we get to save our joins. You will notice that each join line has a red square in the middle. We will right click each square of each join line, one at a time, and bring up a popup menu labeled **save to definition file...**See IMAGE 48.

IMAGE 48



At this point, if we were to have a look at the contents of the FCSdefinitions.csv file in NOTEPAD, it would look like this:

SQLeo_DEPARTMENT_DIVISION;INNER;;department;ID;;division;;DEPARTMENT_ID; SQLeo_DIVISION_BRANCH;INNER;;division;ID;;branch;;DIVISION_ID; SQLeo_BRANCH_SECTION;INNER;;branch;ID;;section;;BRANCH_ID;

Those three lines encapsulate all three joins connecting the four Tables: department, division, branch, and section.

In future, when we launch SQLeo and open the FCS_DB database in CSV MODE, SQLeo will automatically load these join definitions and you'll be able to launch your query without calling the JDBC drivers that communicate with the database system on the server, and you won't have to recreate the joins. This particular query is not complicated, but when you are accessing many more tables and trying to create joins between them, having a join definition file and a CSV MODE certainly makes the job easier.