

Questions and Answers

Advantage Data Dictionary Online Seminar

November 18 2003

Q: How do you rename tables, views or dictionaries?

A: The Data Dictionary files can be renamed after they are created. Make sure you rename both the ADD and AM files. The AI file will be automatically created. Dictionary objects(i.e. tables, views, triggers ...) cannot be renamed after they are added or created in the dictionary. You must remove the object and create it again.

Q: In 7.0 can the data dictionary be encrypted after it's created?

A: No, the data dictionary files must be encrypted when they are created. You cannot change this option after the dictionary is created.

Q: How does default and temp paths work when using an alias?

A: The alias points to the Dictionary file. The dictionary manages the default and temp path. The alias has no effect on these settings.

Q: Can dbf and ADT tables exist in a single add at the same time?

A: Yes a Data Dictionary can contain both ADT and DBF tables. However, only ADT tables are exclusively attached to the data dictionary. DBF tables defined in a Data Dictionary can still be accessed as free tables. DBFs cannot contain constraints or be used in an RI rule. DBFs can be used in Views and AEPs.

Q: Can fields be reordered in architect?

A: When viewing the table structure for a table you can Add, Delete, Modify or reorder the fields. This applies to both Free Tables and Dictionary Tables.

Q: When using AdsDDDDeployDatabase and a Free Table to be imported does not match the definition in the Dictionary what happens?

A: AdsDDDDeployDatabase will add new fields or remove old fields but cannot rename existing fields in the table. Therefore, the changes will be made to the existing table when it is imported and meets the above restrictions. For more information see AdsDDDDeployDatabase in the Advantage Help File under Advantage Client Engine->API Reference->Advantage Data Dictionary Functions.

Q: When you get a validation error that has both the Advantage error number and the message the user added in the dictionary, is there a way to get rid of the Advantage part of the message?

A: Advantage will always return the standard error message and append any configured message to the end of the error. If you want to display only the configured message you must parse the error message yourself

Q: Is there additional info on what functions and equations can be used for a fields default value?

A: The default field value can be any valid Advantage Expression Engine function or formula. The Advantage Expression Engine functions are described in the Advantage Help File under Advantage Concepts->Advantage Functionality->Advantage Expression Engine.

Q: Can the default values in Referential integrity be set dynamically, or by the user at runtime?

A: The Referential Integrity Set Default setting sets the field value to the Default value specified for that field. This value cannot be assigned dynamically in the data dictionary. The Default field value can be changed programmatically using an administrative connection, however, it would be changed for all table users not just the current user.

Q: How do I get a good quality visual image of RI rules for use in a Word document?

A: The Referential Integrity ER diagram can be printed from Data Architect, however, there is currently no export functionality for the diagram.

Q: Can DBFs be included in a data dictionary in ADS 6.2?

A: As mentioned above DBFs can be included in a data dictionary with certain limitations. This applies to all versions of the Advantage Data Dictionary.

Q: When comparing dictionaries do I have to do each individual and copy-paste each to get a whole SQL to run?

A: No, if you select the dictionary, the top node in the tree, and click Write Script a script for all the changes will be generated. You can also select specific dictionary objects to write the script for.

Q: What are the local server considerations for using the features that ADD's give us?

A: Both the Remote (ADS) server and Local (ALS) server can access Advantage Data Dictionaries. All dictionary features are available for all Advantage server types. However, if the data being accessed by ALS is on a network share you will

not see the dramatic speed improvements using AEPs since data will have to be transferred to the local machine for processing. ALS does not support transactions.