

SapSystemsOfReza

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013

TAW12 - Dynamic Programming

FIELD SYMBOL

The screenshot shows ABAP code on the left and its runtime behavior on the right. A callout box points to the code with the text "Generic or complete type definition".

Code:

```

FIELD-SYMBOLS <fs> TYPE|LIKE ... | TYPE ANY ).
ASSIGN dataobject TO <fs>.
UNASSIGN <fs>.
... <fs> IS ASSIGNED ...

DATA gv_int TYPE i VALUE 15.
FIELD-SYMBOLS <fs_int> TYPE i.

ASSIGN gv_int TO <fs_int>.
WRITE: / gv_int, <fs_int>.

<fs_int> = 17.
WRITE: / gv_int, <fs_int>.

UNASSIGN <fs_int>.
IF <fs_int> IS ASSIGNED.
  WRITE: / gv_int, <fs_int>.
ELSE.
  WRITE: / 'field symbol not assigned' (fna).
ENDIF.
  
```

Runtime Behavior:

- Initial state: <FS_INT> points to 15 INT.
- After `ASSIGN gv_int TO <fs_int>.`: <FS_INT> points to 15 GV_INT.
- After `<fs_int> = 17.`: <FS_INT> points to 17 GV_INT.
- After `UNASSIGN <fs_int>.`: <FS_INT> points to 17 GV_INT (the pointer remains, but the value is no longer valid).

Field symbols are dereferenced pointers that have 'symbolic' access to a data object. Therefore, data object can be accessed using the field symbol itself. Field symbols are declared using the keyword, FIELD-SYMBOLS, as shown. Angular brackets (<>) are a part of the naming convention. The field symbols that are defined using TYPE or LIKE addition statically refer to a particular type. They can also be generically defined using TYPE ANY. You can assign a data object to a field symbol using the ASSIGN statement. As shown in the slide, the field symbol <fs_int> after assignment contains the value of gv_int. When the UNASSIGN statement is used, the field symbols do not

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indicate any data object.

EXAMPLE: GENERIC FIELD SYMBOL IN DYNAMIC SELECT

```
DATA: lt_scurr TYPE TABLE OF scarr,  
      lt_sbook TYPE TABLE OF sbook.  
  
FIELD-SYMBOLS:  
  <fs_tab> TYPE ANY TABLE.  
  
CASE lv_table_name.  
  WHEN 'SCARR'.  
    ASSIGN lt_scurr TO <fs_tab>.  
  
  WHEN 'SBOOK'.  
    ASSIGN lt_sbook TO <fs_tab>.  
  
ENDCASE.  
  
IF <fs_tab> IS ASSIGNED.  
  SELECT * FROM (lv_table_name)  
    UP TO 100 ROWS  
    INTO TABLE <fs_tab>.  
  
ENDIF.
```

Field symbols with ANY TABLE type can point to any internal tables

An internal table that fits the name of the database table is selected

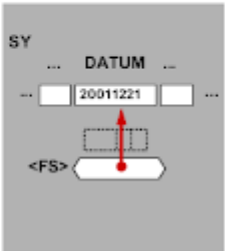
The field symbol is allowed at this point because it always points to an internal table

If a field symbol is typed generically, it can be assigned to any data object irrespective of the type of data object. In this example, <fs_tab> is a field symbol of type internal table. Depending on the parameter supplied to the variable, lv_table_name, <fs_tab> should hold values from SCARR or SBOOK table. The SELECT statement is used to fill the internal table using <fs_tab>.

TYPE CASTING FOR FIELD SYMBOLS

```
TYPES: BEGIN OF gty_s_date,  
      year TYPE n LENGTH 4,  
      month TYPE n LENGTH 2,  
      day TYPE n LENGTH 2,  
      END OF gty_s_date.  
  
* option 1: implicit  
FIELD-SYMBOLS <fs> TYPE gty_s_date.  
  
ASSIGN sy-datum TO <fs> CASTING.  
WRITE: / <fs>-year, <fs>-month, <fs>-day.  
  
* option 2: explicit  
FIELD-SYMBOLS: <fs> TYPE ANY.  
...  
ASSIGN sy-datum TO <fs> CASTING TYPE gty_s_date.  
...
```

Content of assigned data object is interpreted as if it had the implicitly or explicitly specified type



TAW10 - Introduction to Screen Programming

TAW 10 - Search Help

TAW10 - views and maintenance dialog

TAW 10 - Changing Tables

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TAW 10 - Object Dependencies - Where-Used List

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A field symbol assigned to a data object can be used to refer to a different data object using the CASTING addition in the ASSIGN statement. The data object then behaves as if it implicitly had the data type of the field symbol. However, if the CASTING TYPE addition is used in the ASSIGN statement, then the data object behaves as if it is explicitly specified with the type of the field symbol. After the first ASSIGN statement, the field symbol <fs> will hold current date as shown here.

DYNAMIC ACCESS TO DATA OBJECTS

Any data object:

```
lv_name = 'LV_CARRID' .  
ASSIGN (lv_name) TO <fs>.
```

Structure component:

```
lv_name = 'LS_SPFLI-CARRID' .  
ASSIGN (lv_name) TO <fs>.
```

Static attribute:

```
lv_name = 'LCL_VEHICLE=>N_O_AIRPLANES' .  
ASSIGN (lv_name) TO <fs>.
```

6.10 and higher

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Instance attribute:

```
lv_name = 'LO_VEHICLE->N_O_AIRPLANES' .  
ASSIGN (lv_name) TO <fs>.
```

6.10 and higher

As shown in the slide, any data object, including structure components, can be assigned to a field symbol. After the release of version 6.1, even static and instance attributes can be assigned to a field symbol.

DYNAMIC ACCESS TO OBJECT ATTRIBUTE AND CLASS ATTRIBUTE

Static attribute (using the full name):

```
lv_name = 'LCL_VEHICLE=>N_O_AIRPLANES'.  
ASSIGN (lv_name) TO <fs>.
```

Instance attribute:

```
lv_attribut_name = 'MAKE'.  
ASSIGN lo_vehicle->(lv_attribut_name) TO <fs>.
```

Attribute name in
uppercase or
lowercase.

Static attribute:

```
lv_attribut_name = 'N_O_AIRPLANES'.  
lv_class_name = 'LCL_VEHICLE'.  
ASSIGN (lv_class_name=>(lv_attribut_name)) TO <fs>.
```

Attribute name
and class name
in uppercase or
lowercase.

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Like data objects or structure components, dynamic access to the static attributes of a class or an instance of a class, can be made using field symbols, as shown here. The attribute name can be specified either in uppercase or lowercase. Even a class name can be mentioned either ways.

DYNAMIC ACCESS TO STRUCTURE COMPONENTS

Structure component (using the full name):

```
lv_name = 'LS_SPFLI-CARRID'.  
ASSIGN (lv_name) TO <fs>.
```

Structure component (using its component name):

```
lv_comp_name = 'CARRID'.  
ASSIGN COMPONENT lv_comp_name  
OF STRUCTURE ls_spfli TO <fs>.
```

Structure component (using its position in the structure):

```
lv_comp_number = 2.  
ASSIGN COMPONENT lv_comp_number  
OF STRUCTURE ls_spfli TO <fs>.
```

We already know that structure components can be assigned to a field symbol. Using the ASSIGN statement, it is possible to access a particular component of a structure. As shown here, the syntax used for this type of assignment is ASSIGN COMPONENT

variable_name OF STRUCTURE. The component of a structure can also be accessed using its position.

FULL PROCESSING OF ANY NON-NESTED, FLAT STRUCTURE

```
CLASS-METHODS:
  write_any_struct
    IMPORTING is_struct TYPE any.

METHOD write_any_struct.

  FIELD-SYMBOLS: <ls_comp> TYPE simple.

  DO.

    ASSIGN COMPONENT sy-index OF STRUCTURE is_struct
      TO <ls_comp>.

    IF sy-subrc <> 0.
      EXIT.
    ELSE.
      WRITE <ls_comp>.
    ENDIF.

  ENDDO.

ENDMETHOD.
```

Any structure
(with elementary
components)

sy-subrc <> 0:
No components
with this number
→ End of loop

The components of a structure can be accessed using its field symbols. Let us understand this with the example shown in the slide. The variable, is_struct, is an elementary structure declared as TYPE any. The system variable, sy-index, is used to assign the components of the structure to the field symbol, ls_comp.

The condition sy-subrc <> 0 (not equal to zero) checks the ASSIGN statement. If the condition is true, control exits the loop. Otherwise, the index value is displayed using the WRITE statement.

DATA REFERENCES

```

TYPES reftype { TYPE REF TO type_name |
                LIKE REF TO do_name |
                TYPE REF TO data }.

DATA ref { TYPE REF TO type_name |
           LIKE REF TO do_name |
           TYPE REF TO data }.

GET REFERENCE OF dataobject INTO ref.

1 SAP AG. All rights reserved.
TYPES gty_ref_int TYPE REF TO i.
DATA gr_int TYPE gty_ref_int.
DATA gv_int TYPE i VALUE 15.

...
GET REFERENCE OF gv_int INTO gr_int.
WRITE gr_int->.

MOVE 17 TO gr_int->.
WRITE gr_int->.

```

Any fully specified type

Generic type

Obtain reference to a data object

GR_INT

GV_INT 15

GR_INT

GV_INT 15

GR_INT

GV_INT 17

The reference type for a reference variable is defined using the TYPE REF TO addition in the TYPES statement. It can be either fully specified or generic. The DATA statement is used when you wish to assign a data object to a reference variable that is already defined with a specified type.

Let us understand the two statements with an example.

The reference variable gty_ref_int is of the type, Integer. The data object gr_int is also of the same type, as it refers to get_ref_int. The data object GV_INT holds a value 15.

By using the statement, GET REFERENCE OF, gr_int can point to gv_int. The dereferencing operator (→ *) is used to directly access the content of the data object.

VALIDATING REFERENCE VARIABLE: LOGICAL

Validity of References – Logical Expression

... ref IS [NOT] BOUND ...

The expression ref IS [NOT] BOUND is used to query whether the reference variable ref contains a valid reference. ref must be a data or object reference variable.

When a data reference is involved, this logical expression is true if it can be dereferenced. When an object reference is involved, it is true if it points to an object. The logical expression is always false if ref contains a null reference.

In contrast, you can only use the expression ... ref IS [NOT] INITIAL ... to determine whether ref contains the null reference or not.

The statement, ref IS [NOT] BOUND, is used to check if a reference variable contains a

valid reference. In the above statement, ref can be a data object or reference variable. If an object reference is involved, the logical expression returns “true” as the value. Otherwise, the value is “false.”

GENERIC DATA REFERENCES

- Parameter table (internal table) for dynamic procedure call
- During the dynamic generation of data objects using the CREATE DATA statement (see next lesson).

There are two options for addressing the contents of the referenced data object for references with type TYPE REF TO DATA. We discuss both of them below.

Reference variables that are generic can be created using TYPE REF TO DATA assignment. It is not possible to directly dereference a generically typed reference variable. Such reference variables can be used during dynamic internal table call and for dynamic creation of data objects.

CAST ASSIGNMENT FOR DATA REFERENCES

```
MOVE ref1 ?TO ref2.

DATA:
  lv_int  TYPE i VALUE 15,
  lv_date TYPE d VALUE '20040101'.

DATA:
  lr_int  TYPE REF TO i,
  lr_date TYPE REF TO d,
  lr_gen  TYPE REF TO data.
...
GET REFERENCE OF lv_int INTO lr_int.
* up cast:
lr_gen = lr_int.
* down cast:
lr_int ?= lr_gen.

* but:
GET REFERENCE OF lv_date INTO lr_date
* up cast:
lr_gen = lr_date.
* down cast:
lr_int ?= lr_gen.
```

Type fully specified

Generic type

No type conflict

Type conflict!
Runtime error if not caught

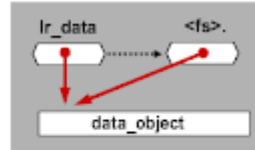
When values are assigned between two reference variables of different types, it can be defined as cast assignment. As shown in the slide, lr_int and lr_date are fully typed reference variables; whereas, lr_gen is generically typed. When a generically typed reference variable is assigned to a fully typed reference variable, it is known as down cast. However, the opposite assignment is called up cast.

As seen here, down cast in the first case is type compatible. Since the assignment is not type compatible in the second case, execution of the program will lead to runtime error.

DEFERENCING GENERICALLY TYPED DATA

Generically-typed data reference:

```
DATA lr_data TYPE REF TO DATA.  
... " Fill the generic data reference  
ASSIGN lr_data->* TO <fs>.
```



- Generically typed data references can only be dereferenced in the ASSIGN statement in ABAP.
 - After the ASSIGN statement, the (generic) field symbol points to the same data object as the data reference.
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- The field symbol can be used to address the content of the referenced data object.

You can dereference generically typed reference variables only by using the ASSIGN statement. As shown in the slide, lr_data is assigned to the field symbol <fs> using the ASSIGN statement. After assignment, the field symbol points to the same data object as the data reference. Value of the data object reference can be obtained using the field symbol.

OPTIONS FOR CREATING DATA OBJECT AT RUNTIME


```
DATA: lr_data TYPE REF TO data,  
      lr_spfli TYPE REF TO spfli.
```

Data type defined implicitly:

```
CREATE DATA lr_spfli.  
lr_data = lr_spfli.
```

Explicit up cast in generic
data reference

Data type defined explicitly:

```
CREATE DATA lr_data TYPE spfli.  
CREATE DATA lr_data TYPE p LENGTH 3 DECIMALS 2.  
CREATE DATA lr_data TYPE TABLE OF spfli.  
CREATE DATA lr_data LIKE lv_dataobject.
```

Implicit up cast in the
CREATE statement

Reference to any fully
typed data object

Data type defined dynamically:

```
lv_type_name = 'SPFLI'.  
CREATE DATA lr_data TYPE (lv_type_name).  
CREATE DATA lr_data TYPE TABLE OF (lv_type_name).
```

Character type data
object, contains the
name of the data type at
runtime

A data object pointing to a general data reference variable can be created dynamically using the CREATE DATA statement. As shown in the slide, when lr_spfli is assigned to lr_data, an up-cast is explicitly defined. However, the TYPE addition in a CREATE DATA statement implicitly generates an up-cast assignment. Using the LIKE addition in a CREATE DATA statement, references to an already existing data object can be specified. References to a character-type data object can be obtained by specifying the name of the object in parentheses in the CREATE DATA statement as shown here.

ACCESS TO DYNAMICALLY GENERATED DATA

```
DATA lr_data TYPE REF TO DATA.
```

```
FIELD-SYMBOLS <fs> TYPE ANY . . . .
```

```
CREATE DATA lr_data TYPE . . . .
```

```
ASSIGN lr_data->* TO <fs>.
```

Generate new data object
using generically typed data
reference

Assign a generically typed
field symbol

Why must a field symbol be assigned to the referenced data object?

- Because dereferencing of the generic data reference is only allowed in the ASSIGN statement!
- However, generically typed field symbols can be used (almost) everywhere

Hint: If the new data object is an internal table and you want to use it in the corresponding operand positions, the field symbol must have at least type ANY TABLE.

As shown in the slide, CREATE DATA lr_data creates a data object whose type is unknown. Therefore, in case of dynamically created data objects, reference variable should be generic in nature. Using the ASSIGN statement, the field symbol <fs> points to the content of the data object, lr_data.

A field symbol is required in this case because

- Only the ASSIGN statement can be used to dereference a reference variable.
- Generically typed field symbols can be used anywhere.

EXAMPLE: DYNAMICALLY GENERATED INTERNAL TABLE AND DYNAMIC SELECT

```

DATA: lv_tabname TYPE string,
      lv_max_rows TYPE i,
      lr_table TYPE REF TO data.

FIELD-SYMBOLS: <lt_table> TYPE ANY TABLE.

lv_tabname = 'SPFLI'.
lv_max_rows = 100.

CREATE DATA lr_table
  TYPE TABLE OF (lv_tabname).

ASSIGN lr_table->* TO <lt_table>.

SELECT * FROM (lv_tabname)
  UP TO lv_max_rows ROWS
  INTO TABLE <lt_table>.

```

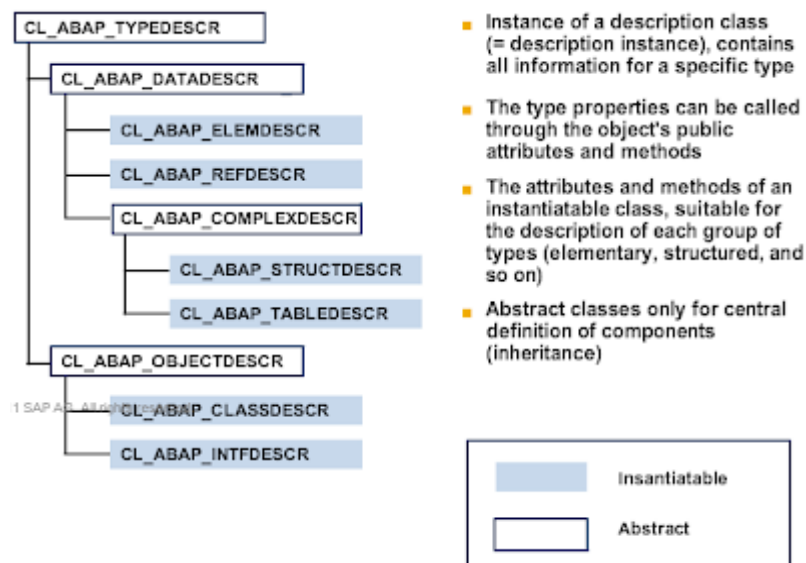
Dynamic generation of an internal table with line type matching for DB table

Assignment of generically typed field symbol for usage in the SELECT statement

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An internal table can be created dynamically using the TYPE TABLE OF addition in the CREATE DATA statement. The line type of the internal table is defined by specifying the name of the table in parentheses, as shown in the slide. In order to display the values, you can use a generically typed field symbol in the ASSIGN statement.

CLASS HIERARCHY OF RTTI DESCRIPTION CLASSES



ABAP defines a hierarchical list of global classes that can be used. An instance of the

class describes all the properties associated with the class which can be called using the public attributes and methods. Each class describes a specific category of types, for example CL_ABAP_TABLEDESCR is used to describe table types. The list is a combination of abstract classes used for inheritance, as well as those classes which can be instantiated.

RTTI CLASSES: INSTANTIATION POSSIBLE

CL_ABAP_ELEMDESCR

To describe elementary data types

CL_ABAP_REFDESCR

To describe reference types (=types of reference variables)

CL_ABAP_STRUCTDESCR

To describe structure types

CL_ABAP_TABLEDESCR

To describe table types

CL_ABAP_CLASSDESCR

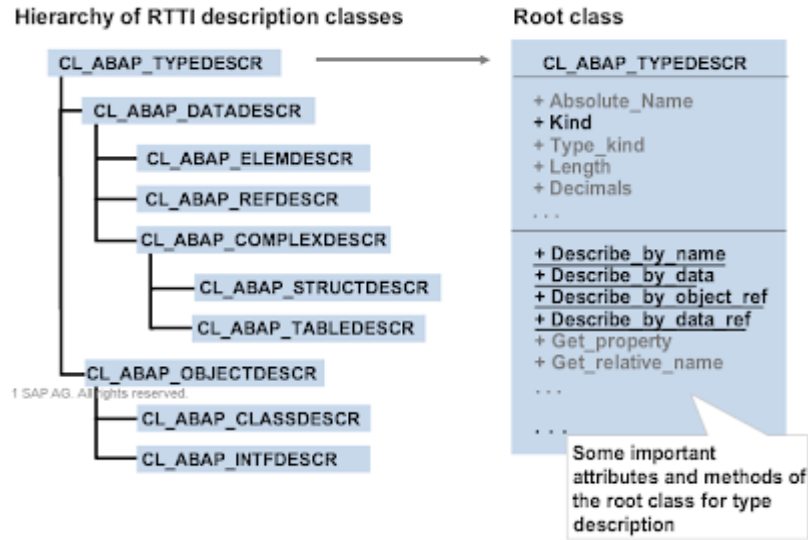
To describe classes (=object types)

CL_ABAP_INTFDESCR

To describe interfaces

Only six of the ten RTTI classes can be instantiated and used to describe specific types. All the other classes are abstract. They cannot be instantiated. This is because they are used to centrally define the attributes and methods in several other classes (and implement them if necessary). The METHODS attribute, which contains a list of the methods, is not defined in class CL_ABAP_CLASSDESCR. It is defined in class CL_ABAP_OBJECTDESCR, as it is also needed in the same form in class CL_ABAP_INTFDESCR.

RTTI: METHOD AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE ROOT CLASS



CL_ABAP_TYPEDESCR is the root class in the hierarchy of RTTI description classes. CREATE OBJECT cannot be used to instantiate class directly. As shown in the slide, you need to call the static methods, Describe_By_name and Describe_By_data of class CL_ABAP_TYPEDESCR to create an object reference.

DESCRIBING A TYPE BASED ON ITS NAME

```
DATA lo_type TYPE REF TO cl_abap_typedescr.
```

Analysis of a local data type

```
TYPES lty_type TYPE ....
lo_type = cl_abap_typedescr=>describe_by_name( 'LTY_TYPE' ).
```

Analysis of a global data type

```
lo_type = cl_abap_typedescr=>describe_by_name( 'SPFLI' ).
```

Analysis of a local object type (for example, local class)

```
CLASS lcl_class DEFINITION.
...
ENDCLASS.
lo_type = cl_abap_typedescr=>describe_by_name( 'LCL_CLASS' ).
```

Analysis of a global object type (for example, global interface)

```
lo_type = cl_abap_typedescr=>describe_by_name( 'IF_PARTNERS' ).
```

In order to access the attributes and methods of the respective type, you need to suitably cast the subclass with local or global data type. It is also possible to cast interfaces to the data objects.

CASING A SUITABLE REFERENCE FOR A TYPE DESCRIPTION OBJECT

```
DATA:lo_type    TYPE REF TO cl_abap_typedescr,  
      lo_elem   TYPE REF TO cl_abap_elemdescr,  
      lo_ref    TYPE REF TO cl_abap_refdescr,  
      lo_struct TYPE REF TO cl_abap_structdescr,  
      lo_table  TYPE REF TO cl_abap_tabledescr,  
      lo_intf   TYPE REF TO cl_abap_intfdescr,  
      lo_class  TYPE REF TO cl_abap_classdescr.
```

```
lo_type = cl_abap_typedescr=>describe_by_ ... .
```

```
CASE lo_type->kind.  
  WHEN cl_abap_typedescr=>kind_elem.  
    lo_elem ?= lo_type.  
  WHEN cl_abap_typedescr=>kind_ref.  
    lo_ref ?= lo_type.  
  WHEN cl_abap_typedescr=>kind_struct.  
    lo_struct ?= lo_type.  
  WHEN cl_abap_typedescr=>kind_table.  
    lo_table ?= lo_type.  
  WHEN cl_abap_typedescr=>kind_intf.  
    lo_intf ?= lo_type.  
  WHEN cl_abap_typedescr=>kind_class.  
    lo_class ?= lo_type.  
ENDCASE .
```

Evaluation of KIND
(child) attribute, then
down cast to correct
subclass

If the user has no idea about the RTTI class that was instantiated, then the public instance attribute, kind, can be used. However, a downcast to a suitable subclass must be done.

DESCRIBING TYPES BASED ON DATA OBJECTS AND REFERENCES

Analysis of a generic parameter

```
... IMPORTING ig_data_object TYPE any ...
...
lo_type = cl_abap_typedescr=>describe_by_data( ig_data_object ).
```

Returns description of type of current parameter

Analysis of a reference variable (object reference)

```
DATA: lo_vehicle TYPE REF TO lcl_vehicle.

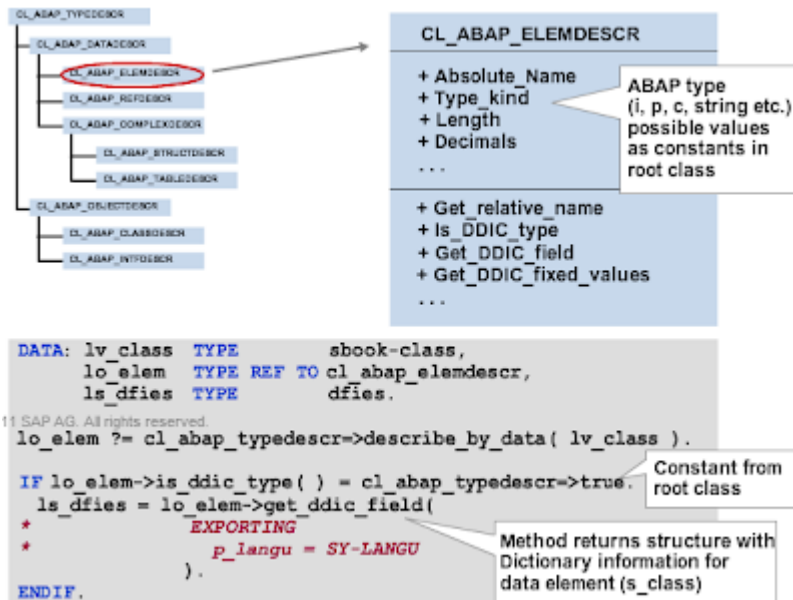
lo_type = cl_abap_typedescr=>describe_by_data( lo_vehicle ).
lo_type = cl_abap_typedescr=>describe_by_object_ref( lo_vehicle ).
```

Returns type description of reference variable

Returns type description of object, reference variable is pointing to

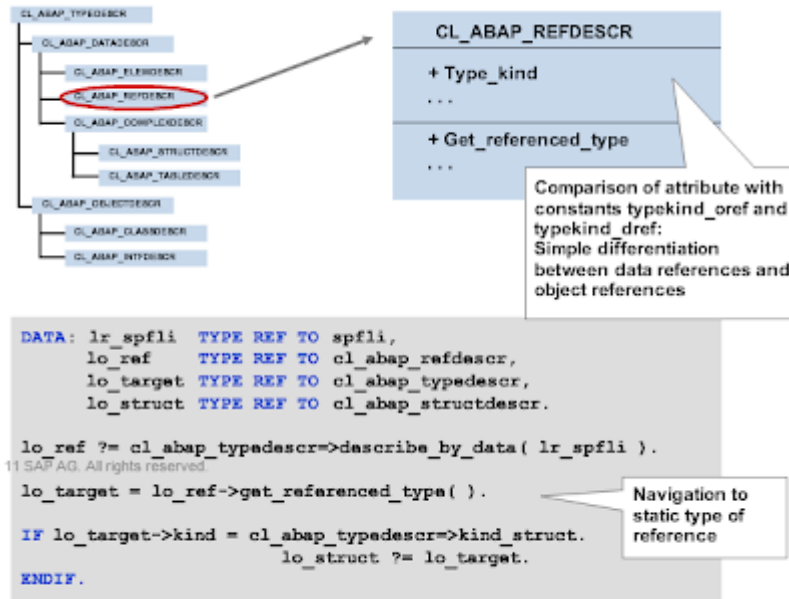
As shown in the slide, static methods can be used to describe different reference types. The method, describe_by_data, returns description about the type of current parameter in the first example whereas, the same method returns type description of the reference variable in the second example. Similarly, the method, describe_by_object_ref, gives the type description of the object that is pointed to by the reference variable.

ANALYSIS OF AN ELEMENTARY DATA TYPE



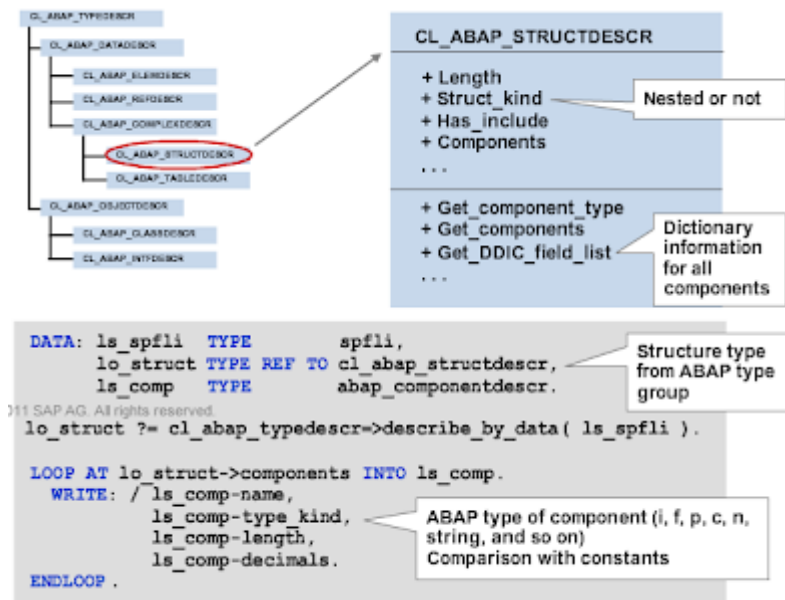
All the properties of an elementary data type can be accessed using the RTTI class, CL_ABAP_ELEMDESCR. Technical properties, such as type, length, and decimal places are defined in the respective public attributes. The public attribute, Type_kind, stores constants, which must be evaluated against the corresponding constant for the root class. The method, Get_DDIC_field, returns the structure with dictionary information for the data element.

ANALYSIS OF THE TYPE OF A REFERENCE VARIABLE



The RTTI class, CL_ABAP_REFDESCR, can be used to obtain the type of a reference variable. The inherited public attribute differentiates between data references and object references. The method, get_referenced_type, is used to describe the details of the static type of the reference variable.

ANALYSIS OF A STRUCTURE TYPE



The class, CL_ABAP_STRUCTDESCR, is used to determine the structure of the reference variable at runtime. It contains public attributes, such as Length, Struct_Kind, Has_include, and Components. The attribute, struct_kind, determines whether the structure is nested or elementary. Similarly, the Components attribute is an internal table, which contains the names of all components and their technical properties. The method, Get_DDIC_field_list, describes the semantic information of all the components.

NAVIGATION FROM STRUCTURE TYPE TO COMPONENT TYPES

Type description of a specific component

```
DATA: lo_struct TYPE REF TO cl_abap_structdescr,  
      lo_comp  TYPE REF TO cl_abap_datadescr.  
  
* fill lo_struct with reference to structure type  
  
lo_comp = lo_struct->get_component_type( 'CARRID' ).
```

Name of component
as literal or variable

Type description of all components

```
DATA: lo_struct TYPE REF TO cl_abap_structdescr,  
      lo_elem  TYPE REF TO cl_abap_elemdescr,  
      lt_comp  TYPE cl_abap_structdescr=>component_table,  
      ls_comp  TYPE cl_abap_structdescr=>component.
```

Types are defined
in the class

```
* fill lo_struct with reference to structure type
```

```
lt_comp = lo_struct->get_components( ).
```

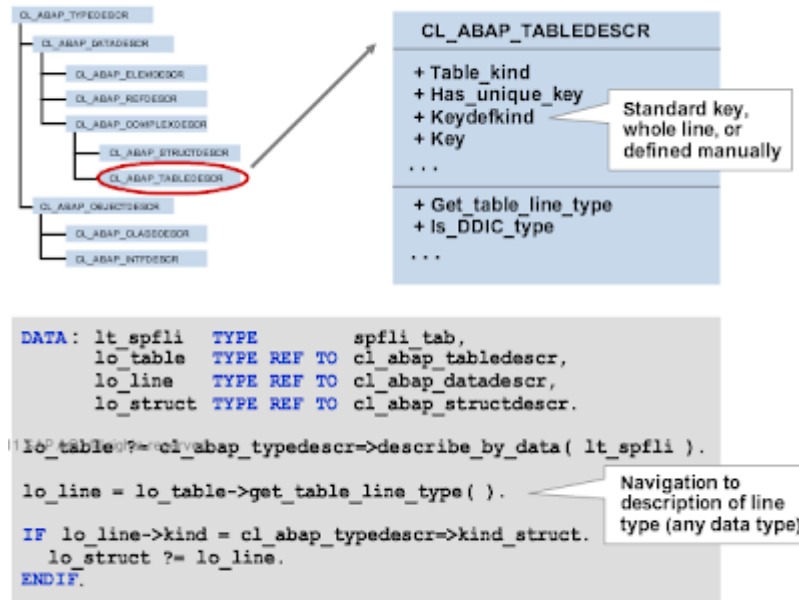
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```
LOOP AT lt_comp INTO ls_comp.  
  IF ls_comp-type->kind = cl_abap_typedescr->kind_elem.  
    lo_elem ?= ls_comp-type.  
    ...  
  ENDIF.  
ENDLOOP.
```

Table with component names
and references to corresponding
description objects

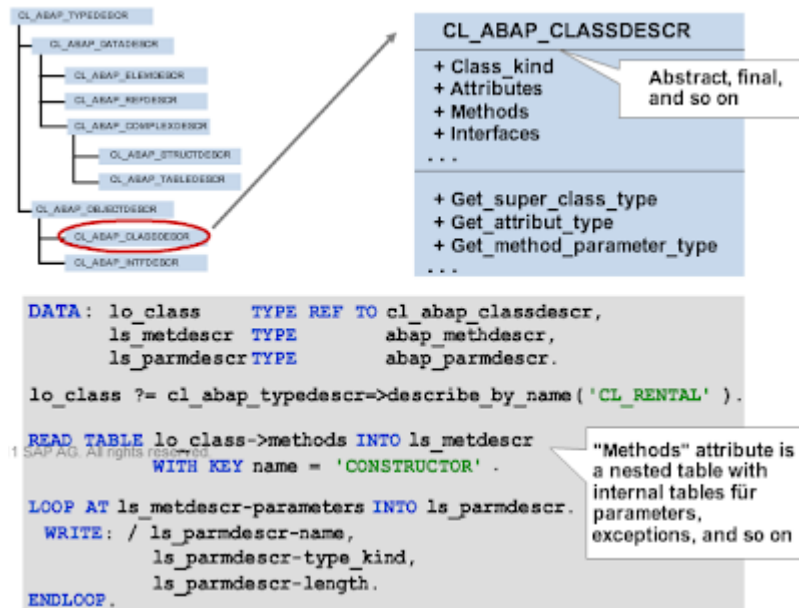
As shown in the slide, the method, `get_component_type`, returns the description object for the specified component. The type of reference variable, `lo_elem`, is identified by the class `cl_abap_elemdescr`. Using the variable, `ls_comp`, in the `LOOP AT` statement, description objects for all the components of the structure can be obtained.

ANALYSIS OF A TABLE TYPE



The RTTI class, `CL_ABAP_TABLEDESCR`, is used to determine the table type of the reference variable at runtime. Its public attributes contain information, such as whether the internal table is standard or sorted; and whether it has a unique key. The method, `get_table_line_type`, can be used to get the line type of the description object.

ANALYSIS OF AN OBJECT TYPE



The public attributes of class CL_ABAP_CLASSDESCR contain information about attributes, methods, and interfaces of the described class. The attribute, Class_kind, determines if the class is declared as abstract or final. The Methods attribute is defined as a nested internal table, which contains parameters and exceptions for the respective method.

Posted by Fachreza R at 11:27 PM

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