MathOps.Dev Generalized Database Layer

The MathOps system provides a generalized interface for data access that can use a variety of back-end products or persistence strategies, presented to applications as a **generalized database layer** with a flexible **API**.

This is based on a set of generalized classes that represent:

* Logical ***tables*** that define ***fields*** and store ***records***.
* Generalized ***query criteria*** that can be used for queries or to select records in a table for updates, deletes, or counting
* Generalized ***updated data*** objects that can store new fields values for updates.
* A generalization of a ***connection*** to a server product, and support for configuration of multiple products, databases, user logins etc.

The core classes are provided within the **dev.mathops.db.generalized** package.

It is worth noting some features that are NOT provided by this system:

* Foreign keys and referential integrity between tables.
* Joins, or queries that access multiple tables.
* Transactions. Every operation that changes data is committed at the time it completes or rolled back if it fails.

# Tables, Fields, and Records

A ***table*** is represented by an instance of a concrete subclass of the **dev.mathops.db.generalized.Table** class. Such subclasses should be immutable (thread-safe) and are typically singletons with private constructor and static instance.

A ***table*** exists within a ***schema*** (a named collection of tables, typically implemented in a single database product or installation). The table stores the unique name of its schema, its unique table name, and a list of the ***fields*** that records in that table may contain.

Each ***field*** defined within a table is represented by an instance of the (final) **dev.mathops.db.generalized.Field** class, which is an immutable (thread-safe) object that stores the field name (unique within the table), the field's data type (see below), the field's role in the table (see below), and zero or more ***constraints*** that values for this field must obey. **Field** objects are suitable for use as map keys, and implement **Comparable<Field>** so they can be used in contexts that require a well-defined order (such as keys in a **TreeMap**).

A ***constraint*** on a field of type **T** is an instance of one of a set of pre-defined concrete subclasses of **dev.mathops.db.generalized.constraint.AbstractFieldConstraint<T>**, or possibly a custom subclass provided by an application.

The data types supported by fields, along with the corresponding Java object type and the pre-defined types of constraint that a field may define for each type are listed below:

* String (java.lang.String)
  + **StringEnumeratedConstraint**, which defines a fixed list of allowed String values.
  + **StringLengthConstraint**, which defines a minimum and maximum allowed length.
* Boolean (java.lang.Boolean)
* Byte (java.lang.Byte)
  + **ByteRangeConstraint**, which defines a minimum and maximum allowed byte value.
* Integer (java.lang.Integer)
  + **IntegerRangeConstraint**, which defines a minimum and maximum allowed int value.
* Long (java.lang.Long)
  + **LongRangeConstraint**, which defines a minimum and maximum allowed long value.
* Float (java.lang.Float)
  + **FloatRangeConstraint**, which defines a minimum and maximum allowed float value and specified whether NaN or inifinite values are allowed.
* Double (java.lang.Double)
  + **DoubleRangeConstraint**, which defines a minimum and maximum allowed double value and specified whether NaN or inifinite values are allowed.
* Blob (java.sql.Blob)
* LocalDate (java.time.LocalDate)
* LocalTime (java.time.LocalTime)
* LocalDateTime (java.time.LocalDateTime)

The roles within their containing table that a field may be assigned include:

* Partition Key
  + The field participates in the primary key (the tuple of all fields that participate in the primary key together must have a unique value for each record in the table)
  + The field can be used to partition data across multiple servers. Fields used as partition keys are often chosen so that the majority of queries will select only records with the same value for the partition key.
* Clustering Key
  + The field participates in the primary key
  + The field can be used to cluster data within a single partition for faster selection of data by queries.
* Not-null
  + The field does NOT participate in the primary key.
  + The field may not have a NULL value – it must have a specified value in each record. Note that an empty string is not considered a NULL value.
* Nullable
  + The field does NOT participate in the primary key.
  + The field may not have any value, including NULL.

Typically, concrete subclasses of the **Table** class will define their fields, with all required constraints, as class-static instances of **Field** with names that are upper-case underscore-separated versions of the field's name. The field's name itself is often required to map to an actual field name in a database product, so it should limit itself to lowercase ASCII letters and digits and underscores. For example, a field with the name "user\_id" would be defined by a class-static instance of Field named "USER\_ID".

A ***record*** is represented by an immutable instance of the **dev.mathops.db.generalized.Record** class, which contains an immutable array of values for all fields defined in a table. A record carries a reference to the table to which it belongs so its fields can be interpreted at runtime. Each field value in a record has either the Java object type that corresponds to its field, or is null. Field values are guaranteed to satisfy the constraints of the corresponding field definition.

A concrete subclass of **Table** should provide static utility methods to retrieve field values from records with their proper type. These methods should take a single **Record** argument, and should have a method name that is the CamelCase rendition of the field name, plus "Of".

For example, if a table defines a String field named "last\_name", it should provide a static method with this signature:  
 **static String lastNameOf(Record rec)**

This method should test that the record's owning table matches the single instance of the **Table** that owns the field, but it does not need to test the data type of the record, since it will have been validated on construction.

# Selection Criteria

When performing queries, updates, deletes, and counts, applications can provide ***selection criteria*** to determine which records from a table are considered. This is provided to the database layer in the form of an immutable instance of the final **dev.mathops.db.generalized.SelectionCriteria** class.

This class stores a reference to the table being queried, as well as an array of zero or more ***field criterion*** objects.

If no field criterion objects are provided, every record in the table is to be considered. If one or more criterion objects are provided, only records that satisfy ALL supplied criteria will be considred.

***Field criterion*** objects are concreate subclasses of the **dev.mathops.db.generalized.criteria.AbstractFieldCriterion** class, and are either one of a pre-defined set of criteria, or a custom criteria provided by the application. Every implementation of the database layer for a particular database engine or product will have to interpret these slection criteria objects and convert them into, for example, SQL "where" clauses, or other forms of criteria as appropriate to the product.

The set of pre-defined field criteria for each allowed field type are:

* String
  + **StringFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type with associated data:  
    IS\_NULL  
    IS\_NOT\_NULL  
    EXACT\_IN (with a list of matching String values)  
    EXACT\_NOT\_IN (with a list of excluded String values)  
    CASE\_INSENSITIVE\_IN (with a list of matching String values)  
    CASE\_INSENSITIVE\_NOT\_IN (with a list of excluded String values)  
    EXACT\_STARTS\_WITH (with a list of matching String prefixes)  
    EXACT\_NOT\_STARTS\_WITH (with a list of excluded String prefixes)  
    CASE\_INSENSITIVE\_STARTS\_WITH (with a list of matching String prefixes)  
    CASE\_INSENSITIVE\_NOT\_STARTS\_WITH (with a list of excluded String prefixes)
* Boolean
  + **BooleanFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type:  
    IS\_NULL  
    IS\_NOT\_NULL  
    IS\_TRUE  
    IS\_FALSE
* Byte
  + **ByteFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type with associated data:  
    IS\_NULL  
    IS\_NOT\_NULL  
    EXACT\_IN (with a list of matching Byte values)  
    EXACT\_NOT\_IN (with a list of excluded Byte values)  
    GREATER\_THAN (with a single Byte value)

GREATER\_THAN\_OR\_EQUAL (with a single Byte value)  
LESS\_THAN (with a single Byte value)  
LESS\_THAN\_OR\_EQUAL (with a single Byte value)  
BETWEEN\_EXCLUDE\_BOUNDS (with an ordered pair of Byte values)

BETWEEN\_EXCLUDE\_LOWER\_BOUND (with an ordered pair of Byte values)

BETWEEN\_EXCLUDE\_UPPER\_BOUND (with an ordered pair of Byte values)

BETWEEN\_INCLUDE\_BOUNDS (with an ordered pair of Byte values)

* Integer
  + **IntegerFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type with associated data (as the match types for Byte, but with Integer values rather than Byte values)
* Long
  + **LongFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type with associated data (as the match types for Byte, but with Long values rather than Byte values)
* Float
  + **FloatFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type with associated data (as the match types for Byte, but with Float values rather than Byte values)
* Double
  + **DoubleFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type with associated data (as the match types for Byte, but with Double values rather than Byte values)
* LocalDate
  + **LocalDateFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type with associated data:  
    IS\_NULL  
    IS\_NOT\_NULL  
    EXACT\_IN (with a list of matching LocalDate values)  
    EXACT\_NOT\_IN (with a list of excluded LocalDate values)  
    GREATER\_THAN (with a single LocalDate value)

GREATER\_THAN\_OR\_EQUAL (with a single LocalDate value)  
LESS\_THAN (with a single LocalDate value)  
LESS\_THAN\_OR\_EQUAL (with a single LocalDate value)  
BETWEEN\_EXCLUDE\_BOUNDS (with an ordered pair of LocalDate values)

BETWEEN\_EXCLUDE\_LOWER\_BOUND (with an ordered pair of LocalDate values)

BETWEEN\_EXCLUDE\_UPPER\_BOUND (with an ordered pair of LocalDate values)

BETWEEN\_INCLUDE\_BOUNDS (with an ordered pair of LocalDate values)

* LocalTime
  + **LocalTimeFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type with associated data (as the match types for LocalDate, but with LocalTime values rather than LocalDate values)
* LocalDateTime
  + **LocalDateTimeFieldCriterion**, which specifies a match type with associated data (as the match types for LocalDate, but with LocalTime values rather than LocalDateTime values)

# Updated Values

When performing updates, applications need to supply new values for a subset of the fields in a table, but the **Record** class is unsuitable for this task since every record must have values that match its constraints for every field.

Therefore, an immutable (final) **dev.mathops.db.generalized.UpdatedValues** class is defined as a container for new values for an update operation.

This class contains a reference to the table being updated, and a list of new field values, some of which may be null to indicate the corresponding field is not to be updated. A special **dev.mathops.db.generalized.NullValue** object is provided to allow applications to specify that a field's value is to be set to NULL.