Firebird 5.0 Release Candidate 1
Release Notes

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Chapter 1. General Notes

Thank you for choosing Firebird 5.0. We cordially invite you to test it hard against your expectations and engage with us in identifying and fixing any bugs you might encounter.

ODS (On-Disk Structure) 13.1 is introduced. It’s a minor ODS upgrade, so databases in ODS 13.0 (created by Firebird 4.0) may still be opened with a Firebird 5.0 server (with some new features being unavailable), but databases in older ODS cannot be opened.

Databases created in pre-Beta builds of Firebird 5.0 may be inaccessible in the Release Candidate 1 release and have to be recreated. ODS was changed a few times during the development cycle and the Firebird Project generally does not guarantee ODS being stable before the Beta stage.

RC1 has an ODS change affecting the profiler, specifically with nullability and default values of its procedures and functions. If you intend to use (or have already used) the profiler, it is advisable to recreate the database.

Also, if you used the profiler in a pre-RC1 build, and don’t intend to recreate the database, you will need to drop the tables and views prefixed with `PLG$PROF` due to changes in these tables (which are not considered part of the ODS). The next use of the profiler will recreate these tables and views.

The engine library is still named `engine13.dll` (Windows) and `libEngine13.so` (POSIX). The security database is named `security5.fdb`. Binaries layout and configuration are unchanged from Firebird 4.

That said, you can copy the Firebird engine library from the Firebird 3.0 distribution package (named `engine12.dll` (Windows) and `libEngine12.so` (POSIX), and located inside the `/plugins` sub-directory) to continue working with databases in ODS 12 without needing a backup/restore. However, new features introduced with Firebird 4.0 and Firebird 5.0 will not be accessible.

Compatibility with Older Versions

Known incompatibilities are detailed in the Compatibility Issues chapter.

Bug Reporting

Bugs fixed in this release are listed and described in the chapter entitled Bugs Fixed.

- If you think you have discovered a new bug in this release, please make a point of reading the instructions for bug reporting in the article How to Report Bugs Effectively, at the Firebird Project website.

- If you think a bug fix has not worked, or has caused a regression, please locate the original bug report in the Tracker, reopen it if necessary, and follow the instructions below.

Follow these guidelines as you attempt to analyse your bug:
1. Write detailed bug reports, supplying the exact build number of your Firebird kit. Also provide details of the OS platform.

2. Include reproducible test data in your report and post it to our Tracker.

Documentation

You will find all the README documents referred to in these notes — as well as many others not referred to — in the doc subdirectory of your Firebird 5.0 installation.

— The Firebird Project
Chapter 2. New In Firebird 5.0

Summary of New Features

Firebird 5.0 introduces many improvements without any changes in architecture or operation, the most important are:

- Parallel (multi-threaded) operation for backup/restore, sweep and index creation;
- Partial indices;
- SKIP LOCKED clause for SELECT WITH LOCK, UPDATE and DELETE statements;
- Inline minor ODS upgrade;
- Compiled statement cache;
- PSQL and SQL profiler;
- Support for WHEN NOT MATCHED BY SOURCE for MERGE statement;
- Support multiple rows for DML RETURNING;
- New built-in functions and packages;
- Denser record-level compression;
- Network support for scrollable cursors;

The following list summarises the features and changes, with links to the chapters and topics where more detailed information can be found.

Complete In Firebird 5.0 Release Candidate 1

Avoid truncation of the access path information inside the PLG$PROF_RECORD_SOURCES table to 255 characters  
#7752 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

MacOS: build libc and static libc++ using vcpkg  
#7720 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Better processing and optimization of IN <list> predicates  
#7707 by Dmitry Yemanov

For more details, see Improvements to IN.

Make trace config parser resolve symlinks in database file path in trace configuration  
#7692 by Vlad Khorsun

Allow tracing database events even if the trace/audit is configured using a symbolic link instead of a real database file path.

Profiler should not miss query’s top-level access paths nodes  
#7688 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes
Add **LEVEL** column to PLG$PROF_RECORD_SOURCES and PLG$PROF_RECORD_SOURCE_STATS_VIEW

#7687 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Column **LEVEL** is added to the profiler record source tables/views. It returns the actual indentation level that allows proper reconstruction of multi-line access path nodes.

**Add overload FbVarChar::set function for non null-terminated string**

#7685 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

**Use ParallelWorkers setting from firebird.conf as default for all parallelized operations**

#7682 by Vlad Khorsun

This allows utilities started via the Service Manager to use the server-side *ParallelWorkers* setting without a need to specify the number of workers explicitly.

**Make boot build on Windows a bit more user-friendly**

#7680 by Vlad Khorsun

**Make the profiler store aggregated requests by default, with an option for the detailed store**

#7652 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Make the profiler data aggregated at the statement level by default (with REQUEST_ID = 0), thus making the flushing faster. A detailed (non-aggregated) data may be requested explicitly by specifying the 'DETAILED_REQUESTS' value in the PLUGIN_OPTIONS parameter of the RDB$PROFILER.START_SESSION function.

**Getting the current DECFLOAT ROUND/TRAPS settings**

#7642 by Alexander Peshkov

New context variables DECFLOAT_ROUND and DECFLOAT_TRAPS are added to the SYSTEM namespace of the RDB$GET_CONTEXT function. They return the current settings of the corresponding session options.

**Run as application not specifying switch -a**

#7637 by Vlad Khorsun

Command-line switch -a is no longer required on Windows to start the Firebird server as an application.

**Include Performance Cores only in default affinity mask**

#7634 by Vlad Khorsun

Some modern CPUs may contain two sets of cores - Efficient (E) and Performance (P). By default Firebird runs on all available cores and that may cause performance degradation in CPU-bound tasks. Now, E-cores are excluded from the default affinity mask. If the AffinityMask configuration setting is used explicitly, please pay attention which types of cores are specified to be enabled.

**Allow nested parenthesized joined table**

#7576 by Mark Rotteveel
Optimize creation of expression and partial indices

#7559 by Dmitry Yemanov

Add support for \texttt{-parallel} in combination with \texttt{gfix \ -icu}

#7550 by Vlad Khorsun

\texttt{gfix \ -icu} rebuilds indexes and thus can benefit from parallelization. Now it's allowed to use the \texttt{-icu} and \texttt{-parallel} switches together, to override the \texttt{ParallelWorkers} setting used by default.

Compiler warnings raise when build cloop-generated \texttt{Firebird.pas} in RAD Studio 11.3

#7542 by Vlad Khorsun

\texttt{RDB\$GET/SET\_CONTEXT()} — enclosing in apostrophes or double quotes of a missed namespace/variable will make output more readable

#7539 by Vlad Khorsun

Add ability to query current value of parallel workers for an attachment

#7536 by Vlad Khorsun

- New column \texttt{MON\$PARALLEL\_WORKERS INTEGER} was added into \texttt{MON\$ATTACHMENTS} table.
- New variable \texttt{PARALLEL\_WORKERS} is now available in the \texttt{SYSTEM} context of the \texttt{RDB\$GET\_CONTEXT} function.
- New tag \texttt{fb\_info\_parallel\_workers} (value 149) is available in \texttt{IAttachment\::getInfo()} and \texttt{isc\_database\_info()} API calls.

Reduce output of the \texttt{SHOW GRANTS} command

#7506 by Artyom Ivanov

Firebird performance issue — unnecessary index reads

#7494 by Vlad Khorsun

Index scan algorithm has been improved to avoid unnecessary record reads for partial lookups in compound indices.

\texttt{SHOW SYSTEM} command: provide list of functions belonging to system packages

#7475 by Alexander Peshkov

Make Android port (client/embedded) work inside apps

#7469 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Add \texttt{COMPILE} trace events for procedures/functions/triggers

#7466 by Dmitry Yemanov

Allows to trace parse/compile events for the stored modules, corresponding elapsed time and also plans for queries inside those PSQL modules.

Add \texttt{REPLICA MODE} to the output of the \texttt{isql SHOW DATABASE} command

#7425 by Dmitry Yemanov
Surface internal optimization modes (all rows vs first rows) at the SQL and configuration levels

#7405 by Dmitry Yemanov

For more details, see OptimizeForFirstRows, OPTIMIZE FOR Clause, and SET OPTIMIZE.

Use Windows private namespace for kernel objects used in server-to-server IPC

#7213 by Vlad Khorsun

This improvement allows to synchronize Firebird processes across different Windows sessions.

Add ability to add comment to mapping (COMMENT ON MAPPING ... IS ...)

#7046 by Alexander Peshkov

For more details, see COMMENT ON MAPPING.

ISQL showing publication status

#7001 by Dmitry Yemanov

Add support for QUARTER to EXTRACT, FIRST_DAY and LAST_DAY functions

#5959 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

For more details, see QUARTER added to EXTRACT, FIRST_DAY and LAST_DAY.

Complete In Firebird 5.0 Beta 1

Parallel (multi-threaded) operations

#1783, #3374, #7447 by Vlad Khorsun

Such operations as logical backup/restore, sweeping and CREATE INDEX statement execution can be executed in parallel by multiple threads, thus decreasing the total operation time.

See chapters Support for parallel operations, Parallel backup/restore and Parallel sweep and ICU dependencies rebuild for more details.

Support for partial indices

#7257 by Dmitry Yemanov

The CREATE INDEX DDL statement has been extended to support partial indices, i.e. an index may now declare a condition that defines the subset of records to be indexed.

SKIP LOCKED clause

#7350 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

New clause SKIP LOCKED was introduced for statements SELECT WITH LOCK, UPDATE and DELETE. It allows to skip the already locked records while reading the table.

Inline minor ODS upgrade

#7397 by Dmitry Yemanov
An ability to **upgrade the database** to the latest minor ODS version has been introduced, it does not require a backup/restore cycle.

**Compiled statement cache**  
*#7144 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*  
A per-attachment **cache of compiled SQL statements** has been implemented.

**PSQL and SQL profiler**  
*#7086 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*  
A built-in ability to **profile SQL and PSQL statements** has been added, making it possible to measure execution time at different levels.

**Support for WHEN NOT MATCHED BY SOURCE in the MERGE statement**  
*#6681 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*  
The **MERGE** statement has been extended to support the **WHEN NOT MATCHED BY SOURCE** clause.

**Built-in functions UNICODE_CHAR and UNICODE_VAL**  
*#6798 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*  
New **built-in functions UNICODE_CHAR and UNICODE_VAL** have been added to allow conversion between Unicode code point and character.

**RDB$BLOB_UTIL new system package**  
*#281 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*  
New **system package RDB$BLOB_UTIL** has been added to allow various operations with BLOBs in the PSQL modules.

**Support multiple rows being returned by DML with the RETURNING clause**  
*#6815 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*  
The **RETURNING** clause, if used in DSQL queries, now **allows multiple rows to be returned**.

**Optimize the record-level RLE algorithm for a denser compression of shorter-than-declared strings and sets of subsequent NULLs**  
*#4723 by Dmitry Yemanov*  
The built-in **compression algorithm has been improved** to allow denser compression of records.

**More cursor-related details in the plan output**  
*#7441 by Dmitry Yemanov*  
Execution plan now contains **more information about cursors**.

Other improvements are briefly listed below, please follow the tracker references for more information.
Unify display of system procedures & packages with other system objects

#7411 by Alexander Peshkov

System procedures and packages are now shown by SHOW SYSTEM.

Simplify client library build

#7399 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Performance improvement for BLOB copying

#7382 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Cost-based choice between nested loop join and hash join

#7331 by Dmitry Yemanov

Create Android packages with all necessary files in all architectures (x86, x64, arm32, arm64)

#7293 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Unify release filenames

#7284 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Improve ICU version mismatch diagnostics

#7169 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Provide ability to see in the trace log events related to missing security context

#7165 by Alexander Peshkov

For more details, see Trace events before a valid security context is established.

ResultSet.getInfo() new API method

#7083 by Dmitry Yemanov

Network support for scrollable cursors

#7051 by Dmitry Yemanov

Add table MON$COMPILED_STATEMENTS and also column MON$COMPILED_STATEMENT_ID to both MON$STATEMENTS and MON$CALL_STACK tables

#7050 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Results of negation must be the same for each datatype (SMALLINT / INT / BIGINT / INT128) when argument is minimum value for this type

#7025 by Alexander Peshkov

Transform OUTER joins into INNER ones if the WHERE condition violates the outer join rules

#6992 by Dmitry Yemanov

Add way to retrieve statement BLR with Statement.getInfo() and ISQL's SET EXEC_PATH_DISPLAY BLR

#6910 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes
For `isql`, see Display statement BLR.

**SIMILAR TO** should use index when pattern starts with non-wildcard character (as LIKE does)

#6873 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Add column MON$SESSION_TIMEZONE to the table MON$ATTACHMENTS

#6794 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Allow parenthesized query expression for standard-compliance

#6740 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

For more details, see Allow parenthesized query expressions.

System table with keywords

#6713 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Support full SQL standard character string literal syntax

#5589 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

For more details, see Full SQL standard character string literal syntax.

Support full SQL standard binary string literal syntax

#5588 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

For more details, see Full SQL standard binary string literal syntax.

Allow subroutines to access variables/parameters defined at the outer/parent level

#4769 by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

For more details, see Allow subroutines to access variables/parameters defined at the outer/parent level.

Avoid data retrieval if the WHERE clause always evaluates to FALSE

#1708 by Dmitry Yemanov
Chapter 3. Changes in the Firebird Engine

Quick Links

- Support for parallel operations
- Inline minor ODS upgrade
- More cursor-related details in the plan output
- Compiled statement cache
- Denser compression of records
- SQL and PSQL profiler
- RDB$BLOB_UTIL package

Support for parallel operations

Vlad Khorsun

Tracker ticket: #7447

The Firebird engine can now execute some tasks using multiple threads in parallel. Currently, parallel execution is implemented for the sweep and the index creation tasks. Parallel execution is supported for both automatic and manual sweep.

To handle a task with multiple threads, the engine runs additional worker threads and creates internal worker attachments. By default, parallel execution is not enabled. There are two ways to enable parallelism in a user attachment:

1. set the number of parallel workers in DPB using new tag `isc_dpb_parallel_workers`,
2. set the default number of parallel workers using new setting `ParallelWorkers` in `firebird.conf`.

The `gfix` utility has a new command-line switch, `-parallel`, that allows to set the number of parallel workers for the sweep task.

For example, the following will run sweep on the given database and asks the engine to use 4 workers:

```
gfix -sweep -parallel 4 <database>
```

`gfix` uses DPB tag `isc_dpb_parallel_workers` when attaches to `<database>`, if switch `-parallel` is present.

A similar option was also added to `gbak`.

The new `firebird.conf` setting `ParallelWorkers` sets the default number of parallel workers that can be used by any user attachment running parallelizable task. The default value is 1 and means no use of additional parallel workers. The value in the DPB has a higher priority than the setting in
firebird.conf.

To control the number of additional workers that can be created by the engine, there are two new settings in firebird.conf:

**ParallelWorkers**

Sets the default number of parallel workers used by a user attachments. Can be overridden by attachment using tag `isc_dpb_parallel_workers` in DPB.

**MaxParallelWorkers**

Limits the maximum number of simultaneously used workers for the given database and Firebird process.

Internal worker attachments are created and managed by the engine itself. The engine maintains per-database pools of worker attachments. The number of threads in each pool is limited by the value of the `MaxParallelWorkers` setting. The pools are created by each Firebird process independently.

In SuperServer architecture worker attachments are implemented as light-weight system attachments, while in Classic and SuperClassic they look like usual user attachments. All worker attachments are embedded into the creating server process. Thus, in Classic architectures there are no additional server processes. Worker attachments are present in monitoring tables. Idle worker attachments are destroyed after 60 seconds of inactivity. Also, in Classic architectures, worker attachments are destroyed immediately after the last user connection detaches from the database.

Examples:

Set in firebird.conf `ParallelWorkers = 4, MaxParallelWorkers = 8` and restart Firebird server.

1. Connect to test database not using `isc_dpb_parallel_workers` in DPB and execute a `CREATE INDEX ...` SQL statement. On commit, the index will be created and the engine will use three additional worker attachments. In total, four attachments in four threads will work on index creation.
2. Ensure auto-sweep is enabled for test database. When auto-sweep runs on that database, it will also use three additional workers (and run within four threads).
3. More than one task at a time can be parallelized: make two attachments and execute a `CREATE INDEX ...` in each of them (of course indices to be built should be different). Each index will be created using four attachments (one user and three worker) and four threads.
4. Run `gfix -sweep <database>` without specifying switch `-parallel`: sweep will run using four attachments in four threads.
5. Run `gfix -sweep -parallel 2 <database>`: sweep will run using two attachments in two threads. This shows that value in DPB tag `isc_dpb_parallel_workers` overrides value of setting `ParallelWorkers`.

**Inline minor ODS upgrade**

Dmitry Yemanov

Tracker ticket: [#7397](#7397)
This feature allows to upgrade the existing database to the newest ODS version without backup/restore, provided that the database belongs to the same major ODS version.

For example, a database created by Firebird 4.0 uses ODS 13.0 and thus can be upgraded to the ODS 13.1 used by Firebird 5.0.

**Notes**

- The upgrade must be done manually, using `gfix -upgrade` command
- It requires exclusive access to the database, an error is thrown otherwise
- The system privilege `USE_GFIX.Utility` is required
- An upgrade is transactional, all changes are reverted if any error happens
- After the upgrade, Firebird 4.0 can no longer open the database

**Usage**

```
gfix -upgrade <database>
```

See also **ODS upgrade by gfix**.

![Warning](https://example.com/warning.png)

This is a one-way modification, downgrading backward is impossible. So please make a database copy before upgrading, just to have a recovery point if something goes wrong during the process.

**More cursor-related details in the plan output**

Dmitry Yemanov

Tracker ticket: [#7441](https://example.com/issue)

Detailed plan output now distinguishes between user-specified `SELECT` statements (reported as `select expressions`), PSQL declared cursors and sub-queries. Both legacy and detailed plans now also include information about cursor’s position (line/column) inside their PSQL module.

**Examples:**

**Legacy plan**

```
-- line 23, column 2
PLAN (DISTRICT INDEX (DISTRICT_PK))
-- line 28, column 2
PLAN JOIN (CUSTOMER INDEX (CUSTOMER_PK), WAREHOUSE INDEX(WAREHOUSE_PK))
```

**Detailed plan**

```
Select Expression (line 23, column 2)
  -> Singularity Check
    -> Filter
```
Denser compression of records

Dmitry Yemanov

Tracker ticket: #4723

Starting with ODS 13.1, the engine uses an advanced RLE compression method (with variable-length counter) that stores repeating byte sequences more effectively, thus reducing the storage overhead. This improves compression for long VARCHAR fields (especially UTF8 encoded) that are filled only partially.

Compiled statement cache

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: #7144

The engine now maintains a per-attachment cache of compiled SQL statements. By default, caching is enabled, the caching threshold is defined by the MaxStatementCacheSize parameter in firebird.conf. It can be disabled by setting MaxStatementCacheSize to zero.

The cache is maintained automatically; cached statements are invalidated when required (usually when some DDL statement is executed).

SQL and PSQL profiler

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: #7086
The profiler allows users to measure performance cost of SQL and PSQL code. It's implemented with a system package in the engine passing data to a profiler plugin.

This documentation treats the engine and plugin parts as a single thing, in the way the default profiler (Default_Profiler) is going to be used.

The RDB$PROFILER package can profile execution of PSQL code, collecting statistics of how many times each line was executed along with its minimum, maximum and accumulated execution times (with nanoseconds precision), as well as open and fetch statistics of implicit and explicit SQL cursors.

To collect profile data, a user must first start a profile session with RDB$PROFILER.START_SESSION. This function returns a profile session ID which is later stored in the profiler snapshot tables to be queried and analyzed by the user. A profiler session may be local (same attachment) or remote (another attachment).

Remote profiling just forwards commands to the remote attachment. So, it's possible that a client profiles multiple attachments simultaneously. It's also possible that a locally or remotely started profile session have commands issued by another attachment.

Remotely issued commands require that the target attachment is in an idle state, i.e. not executing others requests. When the target attachment is not idle, the call blocks waiting for that state.

If the remote attachment is from a different user, the calling user must have the system privilege PROFILE_ANY_ATTACHMENT.

After a session is started, PSQL and SQL statements statistics are collected in memory. A profile session collects data only of statements executed in the same attachment associated with the session. Data is aggregated and stored per requests (i.e. a statement execution). When querying snapshot tables, the user may do extra aggregation per statement, or use the auxiliary views that do that automatically.

A session may be paused to temporarily disable statistics collecting. It may be resumed later to return statistics collection in the same session.

A new session may be started when a session is already active. In that case, it has the same semantics of finishing the current session with RDB$PROFILER.FINISH_SESSION(FALSE), so snapshots tables are not updated.

To analyze the collected data, the user must flush the data to the snapshot tables, which can be done by finishing or pausing a session (with FLUSH parameter set to TRUE), or calling RDB$PROFILER.FLUSH. Data is flushed using an autonomous transaction (a transaction started and finished for the specific purpose of profiler data update).

Below is a sample profile session and queries for data analysis.

1. Preparation — create table and routines that will be analyzed

```sql
create table tab ( id integer not null,
```
val integer not null
);
set term !;
create or alter function mult(p1 integer, p2 integer) returns integer
as
begin
    return p1 * p2;
end!
create or alter procedure ins
as
    declare n integer = 1;
begin
    while (n <= 1000)
    do
        begin
            if (mod(n, 2) = 1) then
                insert into tab values (:n, mult(:n, 2));
            n = n + 1;
        end
    end
set term ;!

2. Start profiling

select rdb$profiler.start_session('Profile Session 1') from rdb$database;
set term !;
execute block
as
begin
    execute procedure ins;
    delete from tab;
end!
set term ;!
execute procedure rdb$profiler.finish_session(true);
execute procedure ins;
select rdb$profiler.start_session('Profile Session 2') from rdb$database;
select mod(id, 5),
    sum(val)
from tab
```sql
where id <= 50
  group by mod(id, 5)
order by sum(val);

execute procedure rdb$profiler.finish_session(true);

3. Data analysis

```sql
set transaction read committed;

select * from plg$prof_sessions;

select * from plg$prof_psql_stats_view;

select * from plg$prof_record_source_stats_view;

select preq.*
from plg$prof_requests preq
join plg$prof_sessions pses
  on pses.profile_id = preq.profile_id and
     pses.description = 'Profile Session 1';

select pstat.*
from plg$prof_psql_stats pstat
join plg$prof_sessions pses
  on pses.profile_id = pstat.profile_id and
     pses.description = 'Profile Session 1'
order by pstat.profile_id,
        pstat.request_id,
        pstat.line_num,
        pstat.column_num;

select pstat.*
from plg$prof_record_source_stats pstat
join plg$prof_sessions pses
  on pses.profile_id = pstat.profile_id and
     pses.description = 'Profile Session 2'
order by pstat.profile_id,
        pstat.request_id,
        pstat.cursor_id,
        pstat.record_source_id;

**Package routines**

**Function START_SESSION**

RDB$PROFILER.START_SESSION starts a new profiler session, makes it the current session (of the given ATTACHMENT_ID) and returns its identifier.
If FLUSH_INTERVAL is different from NULL, auto-flush is set up in the same way as manually calling RDB$PROFILER.SET_FLUSH_INTERVAL.

If PLUGIN_NAME is NULL (the default), it uses the database configuration DefaultProfilerPlugin.

PLUGIN_OPTIONS are plugin specific options and currently should be NULL for the Default_Profiler plugin.

**Input parameters**

- DESCRIPTION type VARCHAR(255) CHARACTER SET UTF8 default NULL
- FLUSH_INTERVAL type INTEGER default NULL
- ATTACHMENT_ID type BIGINT NOT NULL default CURRENT_CONNECTION
- PLUGIN_NAME type VARCHAR(255) CHARACTER SET UTF8 default NULL
- PLUGIN_OPTIONS type VARCHAR(255) CHARACTER SET UTF8 default NULL

**Return type**

BIGINT NOT NULL

---

**Procedure PAUSE_SESSION**

RDB$PROFILER.PAUSE_SESSION pauses the current profiler session (of the given ATTACHMENT_ID), so the next executed statements statistics are not collected.

If FLUSH is TRUE, the snapshot tables are updated with data up to the current moment, otherwise data remains only in memory for later update.

Calling RDB$PROFILER.PAUSE_SESSION(TRUE) has the same semantics as calling RDB$PROFILER.PAUSE_SESSION(FALSE) followed by RDB$PROFILER.FLUSH (using the same ATTACHMENT_ID).

**Input parameters**

- FLUSH type BOOLEAN NOT NULL default FALSE
- ATTACHMENT_ID type BIGINT NOT NULL default CURRENT_CONNECTION

---

**Procedure RESUME_SESSION**

RDB$PROFILER.RESUME_SESSION resumes the current profiler session (of the given ATTACHMENT_ID), if it was paused, so the next executed statements statistics are collected again.

**Input parameter**

- ATTACHMENT_ID type BIGINT NOT NULL default CURRENT_CONNECTION

---

**Procedure FINISH_SESSION**

RDB$PROFILER.FINISH_SESSION finishes the current profiler session (of the given ATTACHMENT_ID).

If FLUSH is TRUE, the snapshot tables are updated with data of the finished session (and old finished sessions not yet present in the snapshot), otherwise data remains only in memory for later update.

Calling RDB$PROFILER.FINISH_SESSION(TRUE) has the same semantics of calling
RDB$PROFILER.FINISH_SESSION(FALSE) followed by RDB$PROFILER.FLUSH (using the same ATTACHMENT_ID).

**Input parameters**

- FLUSH type BOOLEAN NOT NULL default TRUE
- ATTACHMENT_ID type BIGINT NOT NULL default CURRENT_CONNECTION

**Procedure CANCEL_SESSION**

RDB$PROFILER.CANCEL_SESSION cancels the current profiler session (of the given ATTACHMENT_ID).

All session data present in the profiler plugin is discarded and will not be flushed.

Data already flushed is not deleted automatically.

**Input parameter**

- ATTACHMENT_ID type BIGINT NOT NULL default CURRENT_CONNECTION

**Procedure DISCARD**

RDB$PROFILER.DISCARD removes all sessions (of the given ATTACHMENT_ID) from memory, without flushing them.

If there is an active session, it is cancelled.

**Input parameter**

- ATTACHMENT_ID type BIGINT NOT NULL default CURRENT_CONNECTION

**Procedure FLUSH**

RDB$PROFILER.FLUSH updates the snapshot tables with data from the profile sessions (of the given ATTACHMENT_ID) in memory.

After flushing, the data is stored in tables PLG$PROF_SESSIONS, PLG$PROF_STATEMENTS, PLG$PROF_RECORD_SOURCES, PLG$PROF_REQUESTS, PLG$PROF_PSQL_STATS and PLG$PROF_RECORD_SOURCE_STATS and may be read and analyzed by the user.

Data is updated using an autonomous transaction, so if the procedure is called in a snapshot transaction, data will not be directly readable in the same transaction.

Once flush happens, finished sessions are removed from memory.

**Input parameter**

- ATTACHMENT_ID type BIGINT NOT NULL default CURRENT_CONNECTION

**Procedure SET_FLUSH_INTERVAL**

RDB$PROFILER.SET_FLUSH_INTERVAL turns periodic auto-flush on (when FLUSH_INTERVAL is greater than 0) or off (when FLUSH_INTERVAL is equal to 0).

FLUSH_INTERVAL is interpreted as number of seconds.
Input parameters

- FLUSH_INTERVAL type INTEGER NOT NULL
- ATTACHMENT_ID type BIGINT NOT NULL default CURRENT_CONNECTION

Snapshot tables

Snapshot tables (as well views and sequence) are automatically created in the first usage of the profiler. They are owned by the database owner, with read/write permissions for PUBLIC.

When a session is deleted, the related data in other profiler snapshot tables are automatically deleted too through foreign keys with DELETE CASCADE option.

Below is the list of tables that stores profile data.

**Table PLG$PROF_SESSIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROFILE_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Profile session ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATTACHMENT_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Attachment ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USER_NAME</td>
<td>CHAR(63) CHARACTER SET UTF8</td>
<td>Username</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>VARCHAR(255) CHARACTER SET UTF8</td>
<td>Description passed in RDB$PROFILER.START_SESSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START_TIMESTAMP</td>
<td>TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE</td>
<td>Moment the profile session was started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINISH_TIMESTAMP</td>
<td>TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE</td>
<td>Moment the profile session was finished (NULL when not finished)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary key**

| Profile_ID |

**Table PLG$PROF_STATEMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROFILE_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Profile session ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATEMENT_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Statement ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARENT_STATEMENT_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Parent statement ID — related to sub routines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATEMENT_TYPE</td>
<td>VARCHAR(20) CHARACTER SET UTF8</td>
<td>BLOCK, FUNCTION, PROCEDURE or TRIGGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACKAGE_NAME</td>
<td>CHAR(63) CHARACTER SET UTF8</td>
<td>Package of FUNCTION or PROCEDURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROUTINE_NAME</td>
<td>CHAR(63) CHARACTER SET UTF8</td>
<td>Routine name of FUNCTION, PROCEDURE or TRIGGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQL_TEXT</td>
<td>BLOB SUB_TYPE TEXT CHARACTER SET UTF8</td>
<td>SQL text for BLOCK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary key**

| PROFILE_ID, STATEMENT_ID |
### Table PLG$PROF_CURSORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROFILE_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Profile session ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATEMENT_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Statement ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURSOR_ID</td>
<td>INTEGER</td>
<td>Cursor ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>CHAR(63) CHARACTER SET UTF8</td>
<td>Name of explicit cursor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINE_NUM</td>
<td>INTEGER</td>
<td>Line number of the cursor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLUMN_NUM</td>
<td>INTEGER</td>
<td>Column number of the cursor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary key: `PROFILE_ID`, `STATEMENT_ID`, `CURSOR_ID`

### Table PLG$PROF_RECORD_SOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROFILE_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Profile session ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATEMENT_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Statement ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURSOR_ID</td>
<td>INTEGER</td>
<td>Cursor ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECORD_SOURCE_ID</td>
<td>INTEGER</td>
<td>Record source ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARENT_RECORD_SOURCE_ID</td>
<td>INTEGER</td>
<td>Parent record source ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEVEL</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indentation level for the record source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCESS_PATH</td>
<td>BLOB SUB_TYPE TEXT CHARACTER SET UTF8</td>
<td>Access path for the record source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary key: `PROFILE_ID`, `STATEMENT_ID`, `CURSOR_ID`, `RECORD_SOURCE_ID`

### Table PLG$PROF_REQUESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROFILE_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Profile session ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATEMENT_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Statement ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REQUEST_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Request ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALLER_STATEMENT_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Caller statement ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALLER_REQUEST_ID</td>
<td>BIGINT</td>
<td>Caller request ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START_TIMESTAMP</td>
<td>TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE</td>
<td>Moment this request was first gathered profile data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINISH_TIMESTAMP</td>
<td>TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE</td>
<td>Moment this request was finished</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapter 3. Changes in the Firebird Engine
Chapter 3. Changes in the Firebird Engine

### Table PLG$PROF_PSQL_STATS
- **PROFILE_ID** type BIGINT: Profile session ID
- **STATEMENT_ID** type BIGINT: Statement ID
- **REQUEST_ID** type BIGINT: Request ID
- **LINE_NUM** type INTEGER: Line number of the statement
- **COLUMN_NUM** type INTEGER: Column number of the statement
- **COUNTER** type BIGINT: Number of executed times of the line/column
- **MIN_ELAPSED_TIME** type BIGINT: Minimal elapsed time (in nanoseconds) of a line/column execution
- **MAX_ELAPSED_TIME** type BIGINT: Maximum elapsed time (in nanoseconds) of a line/column execution
- **TOTAL_ELAPSED_TIME** type BIGINT: Accumulated elapsed time (in nanoseconds) of the line/column executions

**Primary key**: PROFILE_ID, REQUEST_ID

### Table PLG$PROF_RECORD_SOURCE_STATS
- **PROFILE_ID** type BIGINT: Profile session ID
- **STATEMENT_ID** type BIGINT: Statement ID
- **REQUEST_ID** type BIGINT: Request ID
- **CURSOR_ID** type INTEGER: Cursor ID
- **RECORD_SOURCE_ID** type `INTEGER`: Record source ID
- **OPEN_COUNTER** type BIGINT: Number of open times of the record source
- **OPEN_MIN_ELAPSED_TIME** type BIGINT: Minimal elapsed time (in nanoseconds) of a record source open
- **OPEN_MAX_ELAPSED_TIME** type BIGINT: Maximum elapsed time (in nanoseconds) of a record source open
- **OPEN_TOTAL_ELAPSED_TIME** type BIGINT: Accumulated elapsed time (in nanoseconds) of the record source openings

**Primary key**: PROFILE_ID, REQUEST_ID, LINE_NUM, COLUMN_NUM
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FETCH_COUNTER</td>
<td>Number of fetch times of the record source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FETCH_MIN_ELAPSED_TIME</td>
<td>Minimal elapsed time (in nanoseconds) of a record source fetch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FETCH_MAX_ELAPSED_TIME</td>
<td>Maximum elapsed time (in nanoseconds) of a record source fetch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FETCH_TOTAL_ELAPSED_TIME</td>
<td>Accumulated elapsed time (in nanoseconds) of the record source fetches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary key**

PROFILE_ID, REQUEST_ID, CURSOR_ID, RECORD_SOURCE_ID

### Auxiliary views

These views help profile data extraction aggregated at statement level.

They should be the preferred way to analyze the collected data. They can also be used together with the tables to get additional data not present on the views.

After hotspots are found, one can drill down in the data at the request level through the tables.

**View PLG$PROF_STATEMENT_STATS_VIEW**

```sql
select req.profile_id,
       req.statement_id,
       sta.statement_type,
       sta.package_name,
       sta.routine_name,
       sta.parent_statement_id,
       sta_parent.statement_type parent_statement_type,
       sta_parent.routine_name parent_routine_name,
       (select sql_text
          from plg$prof_statements
          where profile_id = req.profile_id and
            statement_id = coalesce(sta.parent_statement_id, req.statement_id)
       ) sql_text,
       count(*) counter,
       min(req.total_elapsed_time) min_elapsed_time,
       max(req.total_elapsed_time) max_elapsed_time,
       cast(sum(req.total_elapsed_time) as bigint) total_elapsed_time,
       cast(sum(req.total_elapsed_time) / count(*) as bigint) avg_elapsed_time
from plg$prof_requests req
join plg$prof_statements sta
    on sta.profile_id = req.profile_id and
       sta.statement_id = req.statement_id
left join plg$prof_statements sta_parent
    on sta_parent.profile_id = sta.profile_id and
       sta_parent.statement_id = sta.parent_statement_id
group by req.profile_id,
        req.statement_id,
        sta.statement_type,
        sta.package_name,
        sta.routine_name,
        sta.parent_statement_id,
        sta_parent.statement_type,
        sta_parent.routine_name,
        (select sql_text
           from plg$prof_statements
           where profile_id = req.profile_id and
             statement_id = coalesce(sta.parent_statement_id, req.statement_id)
        )
```
select pstat.profile_id,
    pstat.statement_id,
    sta.statement_type,
    sta.package_name,
    sta.routine_name,
    sta.parent_statement_id,
    sta_parent.statement_type parent_statement_type,
    sta_parent.routine_name parent_routine_name,
    (select sql_text
        from plg$prof_statements
        where profile_id = pstat.profile_id and
            statement_id = coalesce(sta.parent_statement_id, pstat.statement_id)
    ) sql_text,
    pstat.line_num,
    pstat.column_num,
    cast(sum(pstat.counter) as bigint) counter,
    min(pstat.min_elapsed_time) min_elapsed_time,
    max(pstat.max_elapsed_time) max_elapsed_time,
    cast(sum(pstat.total_elapsed_time) as bigint) total_elapsed_time,
    cast(sum(pstat.total_elapsed_time) / nullif(sum(pstat.counter), 0) as bigint) avg_elapsed_time
from plg$prof_psql_stats pstat
join plg$prof_statements sta
    on sta.profile_id = pstat.profile_id and
       sta.statement_id = pstat.statement_id
left join plg$prof_statements sta_parent
    on sta_parent.profile_id = sta.profile_id and
       sta_parent.statement_id = sta.parent_statement_id
group by pstat.profile_id,
    pstat.statement_id,
    sta.statement_type,
    sta.package_name,
    sta.routine_name,
    sta.parent_statement_id,
    sta_parent.statement_type,
    sta_parent.routine_name,
    pstat.line_num,
    pstat.column_num
order by sum(pstat.total_elapsed_time) desc
View PLG$PROF_RECORD_SOURCE_STATS_VIEW

select rstat.profile_id,
    rstat.statement_id,
    sta.statement_type,
    sta.package_name,
    sta.routine_name,
    sta.parent_statement_id,
    sta_parent.statement_type parent_statement_type,
    sta_parent.routine_name parent_routine_name,
    (select sql_text
        from plg$prof_statements
        where profile_id = rstat.profile_id and
            statement_id = coalesce(sta.parent_statement_id, rstat.statement_id)
    ) sql_text,
    rstat.cursor_id,
    cur.name cursor_name,
    cur.line_num cursor_line_num,
    cur.column_num cursor_column_num,
    rstat.record_source_id,
    recsrc.parent_record_source_id,
    recsrc.level,
    recsrc.access_path,
    cast(sum(rstat.open_counter) as bigint) open_counter,
    min(rstat.open_min_elapsed_time) open_min_elapsed_time,
    max(rstat.open_max_elapsed_time) open_max_elapsed_time,
    cast(sum(rstat.open_total_elapsed_time) as bigint) open_total_elapsed_time,
    cast(sum(rstat.open_total_elapsed_time) / nullif(sum(rstat.open_counter), 0) as bigint) open_avg_elapsed_time,
    cast(sum(rstat.fetch_counter) as bigint) fetch_counter,
    min(rstat.fetch_min_elapsed_time) fetch_min_elapsed_time,
    max(rstat.fetch_max_elapsed_time) fetch_max_elapsed_time,
    cast(sum(rstat.fetch_total_elapsed_time) as bigint) fetch_total_elapsed_time,
    cast(sum(rstat.fetch_total_elapsed_time) / nullif(sum(rstat.fetch_counter), 0) as bigint) fetch_avg_elapsed_time,
    cast(coalesce(sum(rstat.open_total_elapsed_time), 0) +
        coalesce(sum(rstat.fetch_total_elapsed_time), 0) as bigint)
    open_fetch_total_elapsed_time
from plg$prof_record_source_stats rstat
join plg$prof_cursors cur
    on cur.profile_id = rstat.profile_id and
        cur.statement_id = rstat.statement_id and
        cur.cursor_id = rstat.cursor_id
join plg$prof_record_sources recsrc
    on recsrc.profile_id = rstat.profile_id and
        recsrc.statement_id = rstat.statement_id and
        recsrc.cursor_id = rstat.cursor_id
join plg$prof_statements sta
    on sta.profile_id = rstat.profile_id and
        sta.statement_id = rstat.statement_id
left join plg$prof_statements sta_parent
  on sta_parent.profile_id = sta.profile_id and
  sta_parent.statement_id = sta.parent_statement_id
group by rstat.profile_id,
        rstat.statement_id,
        sta.statement_type,
        sta.package_name,
        sta.routine_name,
        sta.parent_statement_id,
        sta_parent.statement_type,
        sta_parent.routine_name,
        rstat.cursor_id,
        cur.name,
        cur.line_num,
        cur.column_num,
        rstat.record_source_id,
        recsrc.parent_record_source_id,
        recsrc.level,
        recsrc.access_path
order by coalesce(sum(rstat.open_total_elapsed_time), 0) +
        coalesce(sum(rstat.fetch_total_elapsed_time), 0) desc

RDB$BLOB_UTIL package

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: #281

This package provides procedures and functions to manipulate BLOBs in a way that standard Firebird functions, like BLOB_APPEND and SUBSTRING, cannot do or are very slow.

These routines operate on binary data directly, even for text BLOBs.

Package routines

Function NEW_BLOB

RDB$BLOB_UTIL.NEW_BLOB creates a new BLOB SUB_TYPE BINARY. It returns a BLOB suitable for data appending, similar to BLOB_APPEND.

The advantage over BLOB_APPEND is that it's possible to set custom SEGMENTED and TEMP_STORAGE options.

BLOB_APPEND always creates BLOBs in temporary storage, which may not always be the best approach if the created BLOB is going to be stored in a permanent table, as this will require a copy operation.

The BLOB returned from this function, even when TEMP_STORAGE = FALSE, may be used with BLOB_APPEND for appending data.
Input parameters

- SEGMENTED type BOOLEAN NOT NULL
- TEMP_STORAGE type BOOLEAN NOT NULL

Return type

BLOB SUB_TYPE BINARY NOT NULL

**Function OPEN_BLOB**

RDB$BLOB_UTIL.OPEN_BLOB opens an existing BLOB for reading. It returns a handle (an integer bound to the transaction) suitable for use with other functions of this package, like SEEK, READ_DATA and CLOSE_HANDLE.

Handles which are not explicitly closed are closed automatically when the transaction ends.

Input parameter

- BLOB type BLOB NOT NULL

Return type

INTEGER NOT NULL

**Function IS_WRITABLE**

RDB$BLOB_UTIL.IS_WRITABLE returns TRUE when a BLOB is suitable for data appending using BLOB_APPEND without copying.

Input parameter

- BLOB type BLOB NOT NULL

Return type:

BOOLEAN NOT NULL

**Function READ_DATA**

RDB$BLOB_UTIL.READ_DATA reads chunks of data of a BLOB handle opened with RDB$BLOB_UTIL.OPEN_BLOB. When the BLOB is fully read and there is no more data, it returns NULL.

If LENGTH is passed with a positive number, it returns a VARBINARY with its maximum length.

If LENGTH is NULL it returns just a segment of the BLOB with a maximum length of 32765.

Input parameters

- HANDLE type INTEGER NOT NULL
- LENGTH type INTEGER

Return type

VARBINARY(32765)
**Function SEEK**

RDB$BLOB_UTIL.SEEK sets the position for the next READ_DATA, it returns the new position.

MODE may be 0 (from the start), 1 (from current position) or 2 (from end).

When MODE is 2, OFFSET should be zero or negative.

**Input parameters**

- HANDLE type INTEGER NOT NULL
- MODE type INTEGER NOT NULL
- OFFSET type INTEGER NOT NULL

**Return type**

INTEGER NOT NULL

SEEK only works on stream blobs. Attempting to seek on a segmented blob results in error “invalid BLOB type for operation”.

**Procedure CANCEL_BLOB**

RDB$BLOB_UTIL.CANCEL_BLOB immediately releases a temporary BLOB, like one created with BLOB_APPEND.

If the same BLOB is used after cancel, an “invalid blob id” error will be raised.

**Input parameter**

- BLOB type BLOB

**Procedure CLOSE_HANDLE**

RDB$BLOB_UTIL.CLOSE_HANDLE closes a BLOB handle opened with RDB$BLOB_UTIL.OPEN_BLOB.

Handles which are not explicitly closed are closed automatically when the transaction ends.

**Input parameter**

- HANDLE type INTEGER NOT NULL

**Examples**

*Create a BLOB in temporary space and return it in EXECUTE BLOCK*

```sql
execute block returns (b blob) as begin
  -- Create a BLOB handle in the temporary space.
  b = rdb$blob_util.new_blob(false, true);

  -- Add chunks of data.
  b = blob_append(b, '12345');

end;
```
Open a BLOB and return chunks of it with EXECUTE BLOCK

execute block returns (s varchar(10)) as
  declare b blob = '1234567';
  declare bhandle integer;
begin
  -- Open the BLOB and get a BLOB handle.
  bhandle = rdb$blob_util.open_blob(b);

  -- Get chunks of data as string and return.
  s = rdb$blob_util.read_data(bhandle, 3);
  suspend;

  s = rdb$blob_util.read_data(bhandle, 3);
  suspend;

  s = rdb$blob_util.read_data(bhandle, 3);
  suspend;

  -- Here EOF is found, so it returns NULL.
  s = rdb$blob_util.read_data(bhandle, 3);
  suspend;

  -- Close the BLOB handle.
  execute procedure rdb$blob_util.close_handle(bhandle);
end

Seek in a blob

set term !;

execute block returns (s varchar(10)) as
  declare b blob;
  declare bhandle integer;
begin
  -- Create a stream BLOB handle.
  b = rdb$blob_util.new_blob(false, true);

  -- Add data.
  b = blob_append(b, '0123456789');

  -- Open the BLOB.
bhandle = rdb$blob_util.open_blob(b);

-- Seek to 5 since the start.
rdb$blob_util.seek(bhandle, 0, 5);
s = rdb$blob_util.read_data(bhandle, 3);
suspend;

-- Seek to 2 since the start.
rdb$blob_util.seek(bhandle, 0, 2);
s = rdb$blob_util.read_data(bhandle, 3);
suspend;

-- Advance 2.
rdb$blob_util.seek(bhandle, 1, 2);
s = rdb$blob_util.read_data(bhandle, 3);
suspend;

-- Seek to -1 since the end.
rdb$blob_util.seek(bhandle, 2, -1);
s = rdb$blob_util.read_data(bhandle, 3);
suspend;
end!

set term ;!

Check if blobs are writable

create table t(b blob);

set term !;

execute block returns (bool boolean)
as
  declare b blob;
begin
  b = blob_append(null, 'writable');
  bool = rdb$blob_util.is_writable(b);
suspend;

  insert into t (b) values ('not writable') returning b into b;
  bool = rdb$blob_util.is_writable(b);
suspend;
end!

set term ;!
Chapter 4. Changes to the Firebird API and ODS

since Firebird 4.0 release

ODS (On-Disk Structure) Changes

New Minor ODS Number

Firebird 5.0 creates databases with an ODS (On-Disk Structure) version of 13.1. It can also work with databases created in ODS 13.0 (by Firebird 4.0), but some new features will be unavailable.

See Inline minor ODS upgrade for a new method of upgrading an ODS 13.0 database to 13.1.

New System Tables

System tables added in ODS 13.1:

- **RDB$KEYWORDS**: Virtual table that enumerates keywords used by the SQL parser
- **MON$COMPIL"ED_STATEMENTS**: Virtual table that reports compiled statements

New Columns in System Tables

- **RDB$CONDITION_SOURCE** and **RDB$CONDITION_BLR** were added to the system table **RDB$INDICES**, they belong to the partial indices feature
- **MON$SESSION_TIMEZONE** was added to virtual table **MON$ATTACHMENTS**
- **MON$COMPIL"ED_STATEMENT_ID** was added to the virtual tables **MON$STATEMENTS** and **MON$CALL_STACK**
- **SEC$DESCRIPTION** was added to virtual table **SEC$GLOBAL_AUTH_MAPPING**

Application Programming Interfaces

The wire protocol version for the Firebird 5.0 API is 18. Additions and changes are described in the sections below.

Main API Extensions

A number of new methods have been added to the following interfaces.

ResultSet

```c
void getInfo(Status status,
    uint itemsLength, const uchar* items,
    uint bufferLength, uchar* buffer);
```
Used to query cursor information. Currently, only one information item is supported, \texttt{INF\_RECORD\_COUNT}. \texttt{INF\_RECORD\_COUNT} returns the number of records cached by the scrollable cursor, or -1 for a uni-directional (forward-only) cursor.

### Extensions to various \texttt{getInfo()} Methods

**Statement::\texttt{getInfo()}**

The following actions were added:

- \texttt{isc\_info\_sql\_exec\_path\_blr\_bytes}  
  Execution path as BLR (binary format)
- \texttt{isc\_info\_sql\_exec\_path\_blr\_text}  
  Execution path as BLR (textual format)

### Services API Extensions

**Support for parallel operations**

Added support for parallel operations.

The following options were added:

- \texttt{isc\_spb\_b kp\_parallel\_workers}  
  number of parallel workers for backup
- \texttt{isc\_spb\_res\_parallel\_workers}  
  number of parallel workers for restore
- \texttt{isc\_spb\_rpr\_par\_workers}  
  number of parallel workers for sweep

Examples of use of new parameters in \texttt{fbsvcmgr} utility (login and password were left out for brevity):

\begin{verbatim}
fbsvcmgr -action_backup -bkp_parallel_workers 4 <dbname> <backupname>
fbsvcmgr -action_restore -res_parallel_workers 4 <backupname> <dbname>
fbsvcmgr -action_repair -rpr_sweep_db -rpr_par_workers 4 <dbname>
\end{verbatim}

**Support for gfix -upgrade**

Added support for minor ODS upgrade.

The following option was added:

- \texttt{isc\_spb\_rpr\_upgrade\_db}  
  upgrade database

Example of use of new parameter in \texttt{fbsvcmgr} utility (login and password were left out for brevity):

\begin{verbatim}
fbsvcmgr -action_repair -rpr_upgrade_db <dbname>
\end{verbatim}
Chapter 5. Reserved Words and Changes

New Keywords in Firebird 5.0

Non-reserved

LOCKED
OPTIMIZE
QUARTER
TARGET
TIMEZONE_NAME
UNICODE_CHAR
UNICODE_VAL
Chapter 6. Configuration Additions and Changes

New configuration parameters:

Parameters for Parallel Operations

MaxParallelWorkers

Limits the total number of parallel workers that can be created within a single Firebird process for each attached database. Integer values in the range between 1 (no parallelism) and 64 are allowed. All other values are silently ignored and the default value of 1 is used.

Workers are accounted for each attached database independently.

ParallelWorkers

Specifies the default number of parallel workers for a single task. Integer values in the range between 1 (no parallelism) and MaxParallelWorkers (see above) are allowed. All other values are silently ignored and the default value of 1 is used.

Other Parameters

MaxStatementCacheSize

Defines the maximum amount of memory used to cache unused DSQL compiled statements. A value of zero (‘0’) means no statement caching is used. Default value is 2 megabytes.

OnDisconnectTriggerTimeout

Configures a timeout (in seconds) that is applied to the ON DISCONNECT trigger execution. The trigger will be automatically cancelled by the engine after the specified time has passed. A value of zero (‘0’) means no timeout is set. Default value is 180 seconds.

DefaultProfilerPlugin

Specifies the default profiler plugin used to profile connections using the RDB$PROFILER package.

OptimizeForFirstRows

Defines whether queries should be optimized to retrieve the first records as soon as possible rather than returning the whole dataset as soon as possible. By default, retrieval of all rows is implied by the optimizer.

See also OPTIMIZE FOR Clause and SET OPTIMIZE.
Chapter 6. Configuration Additions and Changes

**Changed configuration parameters**

**WireCryptPlugin**

A new variant of the ChaCha#20 plugin was added. It uses a 64-bit internal counter rather than 32-bit. The new default value of this parameter is now ChaCha64, ChaCha, Arc4.

**Replication Configuration Additions and Changes**

**cascade_replication**

Specifies whether changes applied to the replica database will be also subject of further replication (if any configured). Default value is false (cascading is disabled).

**Allow macros in replication.conf**

Configuration file macros are now also supported in replication.conf.

**Removed configuration parameters**

**RemotePipeName**

This parameter was removed along with the removal of WNET (aka named pipes) protocol support for Windows.

**TcpLoopbackFastPath**

This parameter was removed because Microsoft discourages using the SIO_LOOPBACK_FAST_PATH socket option.
Chapter 7. Security

Security enhancements in Firebird 5 include:

System privilege PROFILE_ANY_ATTACHMENT

New system privilege PROFILE_ANY_ATTACHMENT has been added to the engine.

When remote SQL profiling is used and the attachment being profiled is from a different user, the calling user must have this system privilege.

See more details in the SQL and PSQL profiler chapter.

Trace events before a valid security context is established

Alex Peshkov

Tracker ticket: #7165

A privileged trace session (e.g. by an administrator or user with TRACE_ANY_ATTACHMENT) can now report events (i.e. errors) taking place before validation of an attachment’s security context.

As an example:

Set up a conflicting mapping for a user:

```sql
# ./isql employee
Database: employee, User: SYSDBA
SQL> create user qq password 'qq';
SQL> create global mapping z1 using * from user qq to user z1;
SQL> create global mapping z2 using * from user qq to user z2;
SQL> ^D
```

Because of the conflicting mapping user QQ can not attach to a database even with valid login/password:

```sql
# ./isql localhost:employee -user qq -pas qq
Statement failed, SQLSTATE = 08004
Multiple maps found for QQ
Use CONNECT or CREATE DATABASE to specify a database
SQL> ^D
```

In the trace output one can see the following:

```
2023-03-17T13:38:41.5240 (25380:0x7f282c10c750) FAILED ATTACH_DATABASE
```
employee (ATT_0, QQ, NONE, TCPv4:127.0.0.1/39474) /opt/firebird/bin/isql:25396
Chapter 8. Management Statements

**SET OPTIMIZE**

Dmitry Yemanov

Configures whether the optimizer should optimize for fetching first or all rows.

**Syntax**

```
SET OPTIMIZE <optimize-mode>

<optimize-mode> ::= FOR {FIRST | ALL} ROWS | TO DEFAULT
```

This feature allows the optimizer to consider another (hopefully better) plan if only a subset or rows is fetched initially by the user application (with the remaining rows being fetched on demand), thus improving the response time.

It can also be specified at the statement level using the `OPTIMIZE FOR` clause.

The default behaviour can be specified globally using the `OptimizeForFirstRows` setting in `firebird.conf` or `databases.conf`. 
Chapter 9. Data Definition Language (DDL)

Quick Links

- Support for partial indices
- COMMENT ON MAPPING

Support for partial indices

Dmitry Yemanov

Tracker ticket: #7257

This feature allows to index only a subset of table rows defined by the search condition specified during index creation.

Syntax

```
CREATE [UNIQUE] [{ASC[ENDING] | DESC[ENDING]}] INDEX <index_name> ON <table_name>
{ (<column_list>) | COMPUTED [BY] ( <value_expression> ) }
WHERE <search_condition>
```

Examples

```
-- 1.
CREATE INDEX IT1_COL ON T1 (COL) WHERE COL < 100;
SELECT * FROM T1 WHERE COL < 100;
-- PLAN (T1 INDEX (IT1_COL))

-- 2.
CREATE INDEX IT1_COL2 ON T1 (COL) WHERE COL IS NOT NULL;
SELECT * FROM T1 WHERE COL > 100;
-- PLAN (T1 INDEX IT1_COL2)

-- 3.
CREATE INDEX IT1_COL3 ON T1 (COL) WHERE COL = 1 OR COL = 2;
SELECT * FROM T1 WHERE COL = 2;
-- PLAN (T1 INDEX IT1_COL3)
```

Notes:

1. A partial index definition may include the UNIQUE specification. In this case, every key in the index is required to be unique. This allows to enforce uniqueness across some subset of table rows.

2. A partial index is usable only in the following cases:
   - The WHERE condition includes exactly the same boolean expression as the one defined for
the index;

- The search condition defined for the index contains ORed boolean expressions and one of them is explicitly included in the WHERE condition;
- The search condition defined for the index specifies IS NOT NULL and the WHERE condition includes an expression on the same field that is known to ignore NULLs.

**COMMENT ON MAPPING**

Alex Peshkov

Tracker ticket: #7046

The `COMMENT ON` statement was extended to be able to add a comment to a `MAPPING`.

```sql
COMMENT ON [GLOBAL] MAPPING <mapping name> IS {<comment> | NULL};
```
Chapter 10. Data Manipulation Language (DML)

Quick Links

- SKIP LOCKED clause
- Support for WHEN NOT MATCHED BY SOURCE in the MERGE statement
- Support multiple rows for DML RETURNING
- Allow parenthesized query expressions
- Changes to literals
- New Expressions and Built-in Functions

**SKIP LOCKED clause**

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: #7350

SKIP LOCKED can be used with SELECT … WITH LOCK, UPDATE and DELETE statements. It makes the engine skip records locked by other transactions instead of waiting on them or raise conflict errors.

This is very useful to implement work queues where one or more processes post work to a table and issue an event, while workers listen for events and read/delete items from the table. Using SKIP LOCKED multiple workers can get exclusive work items from the table without conflicts.

**Syntax**

```
SELECT
  [FIRST ...]
  [SKIP ...]
FROM <sometable>
[WHERE ...]
[PLAN ...]
[ORDER BY ...]
[{ ROWS ... } | {OFFSET ...} | {FETCH ...}]
[FOR UPDATE [OF ...]]
[WITH LOCK [SKIP LOCKED]]

UPDATE <sometable>
  SET ...
[WHERE ...]
[PLAN ...]
[ORDER BY ...]
[ROWS ...]
[SKIP LOCKED]
[RETURNING ...]
```
DELETE FROM <sometable>
WHERE ...
[PLAN ...]
ORDER BY ...
ROWS ...
[SKIP LOCKED]
RETURNS ...

As it happens with subclauses FIRST/SKIP/ROWS/OFFSET/FETCH, record lock (and "skip locked" check) is done in between of skip (SKIP/ROWS/OFFSET/FETCH) and limit (FIRST /ROWS/OFFSET/FETCH) checks.

Examples:

• Prepare metadata

create table emails_queue ( subject varchar(60) not null, text blob sub_type text not null );
set term !;
create trigger emails_queue_ins after insert on emails_queue as
begin
   post_event('EMAILS_QUEUE');
end!
set term ;!

• Sender application or routine

insert into emails_queue (subject, text) values ('E-mail subject', 'E-mail text...'); commit;

• Client application

-- Client application can listen to event 'EMAILS_QUEUE' to actually send e-mails using this query:

delete from emails_queue
   rows 10
   skip locked
More than one instance of the application may be running, for example to load balance work.

Support for *WHEN NOT MATCHED BY SOURCE in the MERGE statement*

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: [#6681](#)

**Syntax**

```
<merge when> ::=  
     <merge when matched> |  
     <merge when not matched by target> |  
     <merge when not matched by source>  

<merge when not matched by target> ::=  
     WHEN NOT MATCHED [ BY TARGET ] [ AND <condition> ] THEN  
     INSERT [ <left paren> <column list> <right paren> ]  
     VALUES <left paren> <value list> <right paren>  

<merge when not matched by source> ::=  
     WHEN NOT MATCHED BY SOURCE [ AND <condition> ] THEN  
     { UPDATE SET <assignment list> | DELETE }  
```

*<merge when not matched by target>* is called when a source record matches no record in target. *INSERT* will change the target table.

*<merge when not matched by source>* is called when a target record matches no record in source. *UPDATE* or *DELETE* will change the target table.

**Example**

```
MERGE  
    INTO customers c  
USING new_customers nc  
ON (c.id = nc.id)  
WHEN MATCHED THEN  
    UPDATE SET name = nc.name  
WHEN NOT MATCHED BY SOURCE THEN  
    DELETE  
```

Support multiple rows for DML RETURNING

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes
In DSQL, the \texttt{RETURNING} clause is now able to return multiple rows for DML statements than can affect multiple rows.

See compatibility notes on \texttt{RETURNING} for more information.

## Allow parenthesized query expressions

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: \#6740

The DML syntax was extended to allow a parenthesized \textit{query expression} (select including \texttt{order by}, \texttt{offset} and \texttt{fetch} clauses, but without \texttt{with} clause) to occur where previously only a \textit{query specification} (select without \texttt{with}, \texttt{order by}, \texttt{offset} and \texttt{fetch} clauses) was allowed.

This allows more expressive queries, especially in \texttt{UNION} statements, and offers more compatibility with statements generated by certain ORMs.

Using parenthesized \textit{query expressions} comes at a cost, as they consume an additional query context compared to a plain \textit{query specification}. The maximum number of query contexts in a statement is 255.

\textbf{Example}

```
( 
  select emp_no, salary, 'lowest' as type 
  from employee 
  order by salary asc 
  fetch first row only 
) 
union all 
( 
  select emp_no, salary, 'highest' as type 
  from employee 
  order by salary desc 
  fetch first row only 
);
```

## Support \texttt{PLAN} and \texttt{ORDER BY} on \texttt{MERGE}

The \texttt{MERGE} statement now supports the \texttt{PLAN} and \texttt{ORDER BY} clauses.

\textbf{Syntax}

```
MERGE INTO target [[AS] target_alias] 
USING <source> [[AS] source_alias] 
ON <join_condition>
```
Support PLAN, ORDER BY and ROWS on UPDATE OR INSERT

The UPDATE OR INSERT statement now supports the PLAN, ORDER BY and ROWS clauses.

Syntax

```
UPDATE OR INSERT INTO
target [(<column_list>)]
[<override_opt>]
VALUES (<value_list>)
[MATCHING (<column_list>)]
[PLAN <plan-expr>]
[ORDER BY <ordering-list>]
[ROWS <m> [TO <n>]]
[RETURNING <returning_list> [INTO <variables>]]
```

OPTIMIZE FOR Clause

Dmitry Yemanov

SELECT statements now support the OPTIMIZE FOR clause.

Syntax

```
SELECT ...
[WITH LOCK [SKIP LOCKED]]
[OPTIMIZE FOR {FIRST | LAST} ROWS]
```

The OPTIMIZE FOR clause can only occur on a top-level SELECT.

This feature allows the optimizer to consider another (hopefully better) plan if only a subset or rows is fetched initially by the user application (with the remaining rows being fetched on demand), thus improving the response time.

It can also be specified at the session level using the `SET OPTIMIZE` management statement.

The default behaviour can be specified globally using the `OptimizeForFirstRows` setting in `firebird.conf` or `databases.conf`. 

Chapter 10. Data Manipulation Language (DML)
Changes to literals

Full SQL standard character string literal syntax

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: #5589

The syntax of character string literals was changed to support the full SQL standard syntax. This means a literal can be “interrupted” by whitespace or a comment. This can be used, for example, to break up a long literal over several lines, or provide inline comments.

```
<character string literal> ::= 
[ <introducer> <character set specification> ] 
<quote> [ <character representation>... ] <quote> 
[ { <separator> <quote> [ <character representation>... ] <quote> }... ] 

<separator> ::= 
{ <comment> | <white space> }...
```


Examples

```
-- whitespace between literal
select 'ab'
 'cd'
from RDB$DATABASE;
-- output: 'abcd'

-- comment and whitespace between literal
select 'ab' /* comment */ 'cd'
from RDB$DATABASE;
-- output: 'abcd'
```

Full SQL standard binary string literal syntax

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: #5588

The syntax of binary string literals was changed to support the full SQL standard syntax. This means a literal can contain spaces to separate hexadecimal characters, and it can be “interrupted” by whitespace or a comment. This can be used, for example, to make the hex string more readable by grouping characters, or to break up a long literal over several lines, or provide inline comments.

```
<binary string literal> ::= 
```
Examples

-- Group per byte (whitespace inside literal)
select _win1252 x'42 49 4e 41 52 59'
from RDB$DATABASE;
-- output: BINARY

-- whitespace between literal
select _win1252 x'42494e'
'415259'
from RDB$DATABASE;
-- output: BINARY

The usage of the _win1252 introducer in above example is a non-standard extension and equivalent to an explicit cast to a CHAR of appropriate length with character set WIN1252.

Improvements to IN

Dmitry Yemanov

Processing of IN <list> predicates is now linear rather than recursive, thus no runtime stack limitations. The limit of 1500 items has been raised to 65535 items.

Lists that are known to be constant are pre-evaluated as invariants and cached as a binary search tree, making comparisons faster if the condition needs to be tested for many rows or if the value list is long.

If the list is very long or if the IN predicate is not selective, the index scan supports searching groups using the sibling pointer (i.e. horizontally) rather than searching every group from the root (i.e. vertically), thus utilizing a single index scan for the whole IN list.

New Expressions and Built-in Functions

UNICODE_CHAR and UNICODE_VAL

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

UNICODE_CHAR

Returns the Unicode character with the specified code point.
Syntax

UNICODE_CHAR( <number> )

The argument to UNICODE_CHAR must be a valid Unicode code point and not in the range of high/low surrogates (0xD800 to 0xDFFF), otherwise it throws an error.

Example

select unicode_char(x) from y;

UNICODE_VAL

Returns the Unicode code point of the first character of the specified string, or zero if the string is empty.

Syntax

UNICODE_VAL( <string> )

Example

select unicode_val(x) from y;

QUARTER added to EXTRACT, FIRST_DAY and LAST_DAY

The scalar functions EXTRACT, FIRST_DAY and LAST_DAY now support the date part QUARTER.

Example

select
    extract(quarter from date '2023-09-21') as Q,
    first_day(of quarter from date '2023-09-21') as Q_START,
    last_day(of quarter from date '2023-09-21') as Q_END
from rdb$database;

  Q      Q_START       Q_END
  ====== =========== ===========
  3 2023-07-01  2023-09-30
Chapter 11. Procedural SQL (PSQL)

Allow subroutines to access variables/parameters defined at the outer/parent level

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: #4769

Subroutines can now read from and write to variables and parameters of the outer/parent routine. This does not apply to cursors: subroutines cannot access cursors of their parent.

Variables and parameters that are accessed by subroutines may have a small performance penalty (even in the main routine) when being read.

The restriction on cursors may be lifted in a future version.

See tracker ticket #7120.
Chapter 12. Monitoring & Command-line Utilities

Improvements and additions to the Firebird utilities continue.

Monitoring

New virtual tables:

**RDB$KEYWORDS:**
- **RDB$KEYWORD_NAME**: Keyword name
- **RDB$KEYWORD_RESERVED**: Whether keyword is a reserved word

**MON$COMPILED_STATEMENTS:**
- **MON$COMPILED_STATEMENT_ID**: Compiled statement ID
- **MON$SQL_TEXT**: Text of the SQL query
- **MON$EXPLAINED_PLAN**: Plan (in the explained form) of the SQL query
- **MON$OBJECT_NAME**: PSQL object name
- **MON$OBJECT_TYPE**: PSQL object type
- **MON$PACKAGE_NAME**: Package name of the PSQL object
- **MON$STAT_ID**: Runtime statistics ID (references MON$*_STATS tables)

New columns in the tables:

In **MON$ATTACHMENTS:**
- **MON$SESSION_TIMEZONE**: Actual timezone of the session

In **MON$STATEMENTS:**
- **MON$COMPILED_STATEMENT_ID**: Compiled statement ID (references MON$COMPILED_STATEMENTS)

In **MON$CALL_STACK:**
- **MON$COMPILED_STATEMENT_ID**: Compiled statement ID (references MON$COMPILED_STATEMENTS)

In **SEC$GLOBAL_AUTH_MAPPING:**
- **SEC$DESCRIPTION**: Textual description
### isql

**Unify display of system procedures and functions & packages with other system objects**

Alex Peshkov

Tracker tickets: [#7411, #7475]

The `SHOW SYSTEM` command of `isql` now lists system packages and their procedures and functions.

### Display statement BLR

Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Tracker ticket: [#6910]

The `SET EXEC_PATH_DISPLAY` command is a debug command to show the BLR (compiled form) of the statement. When a statement is executed, it retrieves the compiled execution path of a DML statement formatted as BLR text.

```plaintext
SET EXEC_PATH_DISPLAY {BLR | OFF};
```

⚠️ This feature is intimately tied to engine internals. Its usage is discouraged if you do not understand very well how these internals are subject to change between versions.

### Replication information added to `SHOW DATABASE` output

Dmitry Yemanov

Tracker tickets: [#7001, #7425]

The `SHOW DATABASE` command now reports the “Replica mode” and “Publication” state.

### gbak

**Parallel backup/restore**

Vlad Khorsun

Tracker tickets: [#1783, #3374]

A new command-line switch has been added to `gbak`: `-PAR[ALLEL] <N>`. It defines how many parallel workers will be used for the requested task.

Usage examples:
gbak -b -par 4 -user <username> -pass <password> <dbname> <backupname>
gbak -r -par 4 -user <username> -pass <password> <backupname> <dbname>

**gfix**

**Parallel sweep and ICU dependencies rebuild**

Vlad Khorsun

Tracker tickets: [#7447, #7550]

A new command-line switch has been added to *gfix*: `-PARALLEL <N>`.

It defines how many parallel workers will be used for the requested task.

Usage example:

```
gfix -sweep -par 4 -user <username> -pass <password> <dbname>
gfix -icu -par 4 -user <username> -pass <password> <dbname>
```

The `-parallel` option is only valid in combination with the `-sweep` and `-icu` tasks.

**ODS upgrade**

Dmitry Yemanov

Tracker tickets: [#7397]

A new command-line switch has been added to *gfix*: `-UPGRADE`.

It allows to upgrade ODS of the database to the latest supported minor version (within the supported major version).

Usage example(s):

```
gfix -upgrade <dbname> -user <username> -pass <password>
```
Chapter 13. Compatibility Issues

This section lists features and modifications that might affect the way you have installed and used Firebird in earlier releases.

Migrating the security database from Firebird 4.0 to 5.0

To migrate the security database from Firebird 4.0 to 5.0, backup `security4.fdb` with `gbak` of Firebird 4.0 and restore it as `security5.fdb` with `gbak` of Firebird 5.0. Use `gbak` locally (using an embedded connection) while Firebird Server is not running.

Copying `security4.fdb` and renaming it to `security5.fdb` and upgrading the ODS with `gfix` option `-UPGRADE` will work as well, but we recommend backing up and restoring.

SQL

Changes that may affect existing SQL code:

Multi-row RETURNING behaviour

Client-side `INSERT … SELECT`, `UPDATE`, `DELETE`, `MERGE` and `UPDATE OR INSERT` queries containing the `RETURNING` clause may now return multiple records instead of raising error “multiple rows in singleton select” as it happened before.

These queries are now described as `isc_info_sql_stmt_select` during preparation, while in previous versions they were described as `isc_info_sql_stmt_exec_procedure`.

Singleton `INSERT … VALUES` statements, as well as positioned `UPDATE` and `DELETE` statements (i.e. the ones containing the `WHERE CURRENT OF` clause) preserve the existing behaviour, being described as `isc_info_sql_stmt_exec_procedure`. They also preserve the ability of being executed within a single protocol roundtrip to the server.

However, all these queries, if used in PSQL and the `RETURNING` clause is applied, are still treated as singleton.

Removal of WNET protocol

Network protocol `WNET` (a.k.a. Named Pipes, a.k.a. NetBEIU) previously supported on Windows platform is removed in Firebird 5.0. Those Windows users who operated with any `WNET` connection string (`\server\dbname` or `wnet://server/dbname`) should switch to `INET` (TCP) protocol instead (connection string `server:dbname`, `server/port:dbname`, `inet://server/dbname`, or `inet://server:port/dbname`).
Removal of QLI

Command-line utility QLI is removed in Firebird 5.0, in accordance with its deprecation announcement published in the Firebird 4.0 release notes.
Chapter 14. Bugs Fixed

Firebird 5.0 Release Candidate 1: Bug Fixes

Core Engine

#7747 — Fix an issue where the garbage collection in indexes and blobs is not performed in VIO_backout

Fixed by Ilya Eremin

#7737 — Fix cases where the precedence relationship between a record page and a blob page is not set

Fixed by Ilya Eremin

#7731 — Display length of TIMESTAMP WITH TIMEZONE is wrong in Dialect 1

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

#7730 — Server ignores the size of VARCHAR when performing SET BIND ... TO VARCHAR(N)

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

#7729 — SET BIND OF TIMESTAMP WITH TIMEZONE TO VARCHAR(128) uses the date format of Dialect 1

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

#7727 — Index for integer column cannot be used when INT128/DECFLOAT value is being searched

Fixed by Dmitry Yemanov

#7723 — Wrong error message on login if the user doesn’t exist and WireCrypt is disabled

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

#7713 — FOR SELECT statement can not see any changes made in DO block

Fixed by Vlad Khorsun
#7710 — Expression index — more than one null value cause attempt to store duplicate value error

Fixed by Vlad Khorsun

#7703 — Requests leak in AutoCacheRequest

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

#7696 — SELECT from external procedure validates output parameters even when fetch method returns false

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7694 — Fix false positives of “missing entries for record X” error during index validation when a deleted record version is committed and has a backversion

Fixed by Ilya Eremin

#7691 — WITH CALLER PRIVILEGE has no effect in triggers

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

#7683 — RDB$TIME_ZONE_UTIL.TRANSITIONS returns an infinite result set

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7676 — Error “attempt to evaluate index expression recursively”

Fixed by Dmitry Yemanov

#7670 — Cursor name can duplicate parameter and variable names in procedures and functions

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7665 — Wrong result ordering in LEFT JOIN query

Fixed by Dmitry Yemanov
### #7664 — DROP TABLE executed for a table with big records may lead to “wrong page type” or “end of file” error

*Fixed by Vlad Khorsun, Ilya Eremin*

### #7662 — Fix performance issues in prepare_update()

*Fixed by Ilya Eremin*

### #7661 — Classic Server rejects new connections

*Fixed by Vlad Khorsun*

### #7649 — Switch Linux performance counter timer to CLOCK_MONOTONIC_RAW

*Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*

### #7641 — Fix wrong profiler measurements due to overflow

*Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*

### #7638 — OVERRIDING USER VALUE should be allowed for GENERATED ALWAYS AS IDENTITY

*Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*

### #7627 — The size of a database with big records becomes bigger after backup/restore

*Fixed by Ilya Eremin*

### #7626 — Segfault when new attachment is done to shutting down database

*Fixed by Alexander Peshkov*

### #7611 — Can’t backup/restore database from v3 to v4 with SEC$USER_NAME field longer than 10 characters

*Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes*
Chapter 14. Bugs Fixed

7610 — Uninitialized/random value assigned to RDB$ROLES → RDB$SYSTEM PRIVILEGES when restoring from FB3 backup

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

7604 — PSQL functions do not convert the output BLOB to the connection character set

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

7603 — BIN_SHR on INT128 does not apply sign extension

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

7599 — Conversion of text with \0 to DECIMAL without errors

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

7598 — DDL statements hang when the compiled statements cache is enabled

Fixed by Vlad Khorsun

7582 — Missing isc_info_end in Firebird.pas

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

7574 — Derived table syntax allows dangling AS

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

7569 — Multi-level order by and offset/fetch ignored on parenthesized query expressions

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

7562 — Profiler elapsed times are incorrect in Windows

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

7556 — FB Classic can hang when attempts to attach DB while it is starting to encrypt/decrypt
Chapter 14. Bugs Fixed

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

#7555 — Invalid configuration for random fresh created database may be used after drop of another one with alias in `databases.conf`

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

#7553 — Firebird 5 profiler error with subselects

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7548 — `SET BIND OF TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE TO CHAR` is not working with UTF8 connection charset

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7537 — Wrong name in error message when unknown namespace is passed into `RDB$SET_CONTEXT()`

Fixed by Vlad Khorsun

#7535 — High CPU usage connect to Firebird 3 database using Firebird 4 Classic and SuperClassic service

Fixed by Vlad Khorsun

#7499 — Error during restore: “Index cannot be used in the specified plan”

Fixed by Vlad Khorsun

#7488 — Invalid real to string cast

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov, Artyom Abakumov

#7486 — No initialization of rpb’s runtime flags causes problems with `SKIP LOCKED` when config `ReadConsistency = 0` and SuperServer

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Bugs</th>
<th>Fixed by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7484</td>
<td>External engine SYSTEM not found</td>
<td>Adriano dos Santos Fernandes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7480</td>
<td>Firebird server stops accepting new connections after some time</td>
<td>Alexander Peshkov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7456</td>
<td>Impossible to drop function in package with name of PSQL-function</td>
<td>Adriano dos Santos Fernandes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7387</td>
<td>Unreliable replication behaviour in Linux Classic</td>
<td>Dmitry Yemanov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7233</td>
<td>Postfix for #5385 (CORE-5101): Fix slow database restore when Classic server mode is used</td>
<td>Ilya Eremin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Server Crashes/Hangups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Bugs</th>
<th>Fixed by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7738</td>
<td>Crash on multiple connections/disconnections</td>
<td>Alexander Peshkov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7658</td>
<td>Segfault when closing database in valgrind-enabled build</td>
<td>Alexander Peshkov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7554</td>
<td>Firebird 5 partial index creation causes server hang up</td>
<td>Vlad Khorsun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7514</td>
<td>Segfault when detaching after deleting shadow on Classic</td>
<td>Alexander Peshkov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 14. Bugs Fixed

#7504 — Segfault when closing SQL statement in remote provider during shutdown

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

#7472 — Window functions may lead to crash interacting with others exceptions

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7464 — Crash on repeating update in 5.0

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

Utilities

gbak

nbackup

#7579 — Cannot nbackup a Firebird 3.0 database in Firebird 4.0 service with engine12 setup in Providers

Fixed by Alexander Peshkov

Firebird 5.0 Beta 1 Release: Bug Fixes

This sections enumerates only bugfixes not already fixed in maintenance releases of earlier Firebird versions.

Core Engine

#7422 — Seek in temporary blob level 0 makes read return wrong data

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7388 — Different invariants optimization between views and CTEs

Fixed by Dmitry Yemanov

#7304 — Events in system attachments (like garbage collector) are not traced

Fixed by Alex Peshkov
Chapter 14. Bugs Fixed

#7227 — Dependencies of subroutines are not preserved after backup restore

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7220 — TYPE OF COLUMN dependency not tracked in package header and external routines

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7183 — Regression when derived table has column evaluated as result of subquery with IN, ANY or ALL predicate: “invalid BLR at offset … / context already in use”

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7164 — Multi-way hash/merge joins are impossible for expression-based keys

Fixed by Dmitry Yemanov

#7133 — ORDER BY for big (>34 digits) int128 values is broken when index on that field is used

Fixed by Alex Peshkov

#7077 — EXECUTE BLOCK (without RETURNS) do not work with batches

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#7009 — IReplicatedTransaction receives wrong savepoint event

Fixed by Dimitry Sibiryakov, Dmitry Yemanov

#6942 — Incorrect singleton error with MERGE and RETURNING

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

#6869 — Domain CHECK-expression can be ignored when we DROP objects that are involved in it

Fixed by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes
Chapter 14. Bugs Fixed

### #6807 — Regression: error “Unexpected end of command” with incorrect line/column info

 FIXED by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

### #5749 — “Token unknown” error on formfeed in query

 FIXED by Adriano dos Santos Fernandes

### #3812 — Query with a stored procedure doesn’t accept explicit plan

 FIXED by Dmitry Yemanov

### #3218 — Optimizer fails applying stream-local predicates before merging

 FIXED by Dmitry Yemanov

**Server Crashes/Hangups**

### #7195 — Crash when accessing already cleared memory in the sorting module

 FIXED by Andrey Kravchenko

**Utilities**

### gbak

### #7436 — Backup error for wide table

 FIXED by Alex Peshkov
## Chapter 15. Firebird 5.0 Project Teams

### Table 1. Firebird Development Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developer</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Major Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dmitry Yemanov</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Full-time database engineer/implementor; core team leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Peshkov</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Full-time security features coordinator; buildmaster; porting authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vladyslav Khorsun</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>Full-time DB engineer; SQL feature designer/implementor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adriano dos Santos Fernandes</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>International character-set handling; text and text BLOB enhancements; new DSQL features; code scrutineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Simakov</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Engine contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimitry Sibiryakov</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Engine and replication contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilya Eremin</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Engine contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Beach</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Release Manager; MacOS Builds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavel Cisar</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>QA tools designer/coordinator; Firebird Butler coordinator; Python driver developer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pavel Zotov</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>QA tester and tools developer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Reeves</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>Windows installers and builds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Rotteveel</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>Jaybird implementer and co-coordinator; Documentation writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiri Cincura</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Developer and coordinator of .NET providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Koeditz</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Developer and coordinator of PHP driver Documentation translator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexey Kovyazin</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Website coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Borrie</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Release notes editor; Chief of Thought Police</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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The Initial Writer of the Original Documentation is: Helen Borrie. Persons named in attributions are Contributors.

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