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DAL: How to Insert a NULL Character

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TOPIC -----

The DAL API function "CLSend" accepts as input parameters: a session ID, a character string, and a length. If the length is -1, the character string is assumed to be null-terminated (that is, a C string). If the length is greater than zero, it is accepted as the length of the character string.

I run into a problem if I provide an explicit length because one of the characters in my character string happens to be a null (hex 00). The string is truncated at the null (rather than using the full length specified in the length parameter).

Fortunately, I can read a null from a column of data type character. It seems that I should be able to insert a null character into the database also. Therefore, I should be able to include a null character in a character string that I'm sending with "CLSend".

DISCUSSION -----

The following is described in detail in the DAL Programmer's Reference:

A special literal, \$NULL, is used to indicate that a DAL value is NULL. The \$NULL literal can appear in assignment statements, for example:

```
integer x;  
x = $NULL;
```

SQL statements and expressions can also contain the \$NULL literal:

```
insert into mytable values ( 1, "ABC", $NULL );
```

In the strictest sense, \$NULL is not a value, but an indication that a value isn't known. In most cases, however, you can use the symbolic constant \$NULL as a DAL literal in expressions.

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