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DAL: Support for ANSI/ISO SQL Commands

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TOPIC -----

As of April 1991, the Data Access Language (DAL) doesn't have access to all the abilities in the ANSI/ISO SQL specifications. Specifically, the GRANT/REVOKE commands for identifiers, the CREATE TABLE command, and the DROP TABLE command are not supported. Many SQL environments (such as VMS/Rdb) support these commands.

DISCUSSION -----

The DAL's "EXECUTE IN DBMS" command can be used as a workaround to access special DBMS facilities, such as the data definition language statements of a relational database, stored procedures, or additional data-dictionary information not available through DAL.

The EXECUTE statement in DAL passes a command to a host DBMS for execution. The command bypasses any DAL data-manipulation facilities.

Syntax: EXECUTE [<IN> dbbrand]

The named DBMS brand must have been previously opened with the OPEN DBMS statement.

Here are a few things to watch for:

- Error codes returned by the DBMS as a result of using the EXECUTE statement are not mapped into DAL errors. If an error occurs, the DAL error "CEDBMS" (DBMS-specific error) is reported as the primary error code. The secondary error code and error message contain the error as reported by the host DBMS software.
- Since DAL is passing command string directly to the host DBMS, there is no DAL facility to handle any output generated by the command string. Therefore, you should not use a command that will return any output (such as SELECT * from ..); this will abend your session.

- In Rdb, if EXECUTE is used to alter or destroy a table, a second EXECUTE IN RDB with a COMMIT or ROLLBACK statement should be issued to unlock the table locked during the first transaction.

For more information on the EXECUTE statement, please consult the Data Access Language Programmer's Manual.

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