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DAL: Supported Rdb/VMS Data Types

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TOPIC -----

Which of the following Rdb data types does DAL support?

- SEGMENTED STRING
- LONG VARCHAR
- tiny INT

DISCUSSION -----

DAL has standard data types that represent data commonly found in data processing files and databases. DAL automatically maps the native data types supported by a host system into these standard types when it manipulates host data sources.

SEGMENTED STRING is a special Rdb/VMS data type that handles large pieces of data with a segmented internal structure. In a segmented string, you can store large amounts of text, long strings of binary input from a data collecting device, or graphics data. This is likely to be mapped into DAL's LONGCHAR or LONGBIN which are not yet supported (as of DAL 1.3.6).

LONG VARCHAR specifies that the column is a varying-length sequence of 8-bit ASCII bytes with a maximum number of 16383 characters. LONG VARCHAR is equivalent to specifying VARCHAR (16383). This will map to LONGCHAR which is not supported at this time.

We can't find any Rdb/VMS data type of tiny INT. Instead there is a SMALLINT, which specifies that the column is a signed 16-bit word. The SMALLINT data type can store a range of values from -32767 to 32767. This is mapped into DAL's SMINT.

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