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ConnectedDB - An Overview of BLOBs

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BLOBs

Traditional storage values for databases are limited to numbers and strings. The Binary Large Object (**BLOB**) specification in SQL 92 overcomes this limitation as it enables the storage of images, sound, video, and any other form of computer media in a database. A BLOB column can hold an arbitrary string of bytes. ConnectedDB fully supports the use of BLOBs.

For example, in Open Advantage documents are tracked. Upon receipt of a document it is often desirable to scan and store this for later retrieval. Because BLOBs can be used to store a variety of file types, including multimedia files and images, they enable all of these elements to be stored together in a database. The use of BLOBs can dramatically simplify the management of these images as each page of an document can be stored as an image (in a variety of formats with different compression options).

BLOBs can also be used to store external documents made from other programs. In Open Advantage documents can be associated with tasks. This can allow customer service to track the documents sent in response to a customer inquiry. These documents could be Microsoft Word / Excel files.

For some BLOB types the file formats are viewable directly such as images which can be viewed in place inside ConnectedDB. Whereas other file types must be saved and loaded in other programs, in these cases ConnectedDB provides a import/export mechanism.