Introduction

Subject matter

What's this book about?

This guide documents the *changes* made in the Firebird SQL language between InterBase 6 and Firebird 2.1.x. It covers the following areas:

- Reserved words
- Data types and subtypes
- DDL statements (Data Definition Language)
- DML statements (Data Manipulation Language)
- Transaction control statements
- PSQL statements (Procedural SQL, used in stored procedures and triggers)
- Context variables
- Operators and predicates
- Aggregate functions
- Internal functions
- UDFs (User Defined Functions, also known as external functions)

To have a complete Firebird 2.1 SQL reference, you need:

- The InterBase 6.0 beta SQL Reference (LangRef.pdf and/or SQLRef.html)
- This document

Non-SQL topics are not discussed in this document. These include:

- ODS versions
- Bug listings
- Installation and configuration
- Upgrade, migration and compatibility
- Server architectures
- API functions
- Connection protocols
- Tools and Utilities

Consult the Release Notes for information on these subjects. You can find the *Release Notes* and other documentation via the *Firebird Documentation Index* at https://www.firebirdsql.org/index.php?op=doc.

Versions covered

This document covers all Firebird versions up to and including 2.1.4.

Authorship

More than 90% of the text in this document is new. The remainder was lifted from various *Firebird Release Notes* editions, which in turn contain material from preceding sources like the *Whats new* documents.

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