

CREATE COLLATION

Available in: [DSQL](#)

Added in: 2.1

Changed in: 2.5

Description

Adds a [collation](#) to the database. The collation must already be present on your system (typically in a library file) and must be properly registered in a `.conf` file in the `intl` subdirectory of your Firebird installation. You may also base the collation on one that is already present in the database.

Syntax

```
CREATE COLLATION collname
  FOR charset
  [FROM basecoll | FROM EXTERNAL ('extname')]
  [NO PAD | PAD SPACE]
  [CASE [IN]SENSITIVE]
  [ACCENT [IN]SENSITIVE]
  ['<specific-attributes>']
```

collname	::= the name to use for the new collation
charset	::= a character set present in the database
basecoll	::= a collation already present in the database
extname	::= the collation name used in the <code>.conf</code> file
<specific-attributes>	::= <attribute> [; <attribute> ...]
<attribute>	::= attrname=attrvalue

- If no [FROM](#) clause is present, Firebird will scan the `.conf` file(s) in your `intl` subdirectory for a collation with the name specified after `CREATE COLLATION`. That is, omitting the `FROM` clause is the same as specifying `FROM EXTERNAL ('collname')`.
- The single-quoted `extname` is case-sensitive and must be exactly equal to the collation name in the `.conf` file. The `collname`, `charset` and `basecoll` parameters are case-insensitive, unless surrounded by double-quotes.

Specific attributes: The table below lists the available specific attributes. Not all specific attributes apply to every collation, even if specifying them doesn't cause an error. Please note that specific attributes are case sensitive. In the table below, `1 bpc` indicates that an attribute is valid for collations of character sets using 1 byte per character (so-called narrow character sets). `UNI` stands for “`UNICODE` and `UNICODE_CI`”.

Table 5.1. Specific collation attributes

Name	Values	Valid for	Comment
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Name	Values	Valid for	Comment
DISABLE-COMPRESSIONS	0, 1	1 bpc	Disables compressions (aka contractions). Compressions cause certain character sequences to be sorted as atomic units, e.g. Spanish c+h as a single character ch.
DISABLE-EXPANSIONS	0, 1	1 bpc	Disables expansions. Expansions cause certain characters (e.g. ligatures or umlauted vowels) to be treated as character sequences and sorted accordingly.
ICU-VERSION	default or M.m	UNI	Specifies the ICU library version to use. Valid values are the ones defined in the applicable <code><intl_module></code> element in <code>intl/fbintl.conf</code> . Format: either the string literal default or a major+minor version number like 3.0 (both unquoted).
LOCALE	xx_YY	UNI	Specifies the collation locale. Requires complete version of ICU libraries. Format: a locale string like du_NL (unquoted).
MULTI-LEVEL	0, 1	1 bpc	Uses more than one ordering level.
NUMERIC-SORT	0, 1	UNI	Treats contiguous groups of decimal digits in the string as atomic units and sorts them numerically. (This is also known as natural sorting.)
SPECIALS-FIRST	0, 1	1 bpc	Orders special characters (spaces, symbols etc.) before alphanumeric characters.

Note: The `NUMERIC-SORT` specific attribute was added in Firebird 2.5.

Examples

Simplest form, using the name as found in the `.conf` file (case-insensitive):

```
create collation iso8859_1_unicode for iso8859_1
```

Using a custom name. Notice how the “external” name must now exactly match the name in the `.conf` file:

```
create collation lat_uni
for iso8859_1
from external ('ISO8859_1_UNICODE')
```

Based on a collation already present in the database:

```
create collation es_es_nopad_ci
for iso8859_1
from es_es
no pad
case insensitive
```

With a special attribute (case-sensitive!):

```
create collation es_es_ci_compr
for iso8859_1
from es_es
```

```
case insensitive  
'DISABLE-COMPRESSIONS=0'
```

Tip: If you want to add a new character set with its default collation in your database, declare and run the stored procedure `sp_register_character_set(name, max_bytes_per_character)`, found in `misc/intl.sql` under your Firebird installation directory. Please note: in order for this to work, the character set must be present on your system and registered in a `.conf` file in the `intl` subdirectory.

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