

# BLR (Binary Language Representation)

As Firebird/InterBase® internally does not understand **SQL**, all **statements** (**queries**, updates, **metadata** manipulation) are internally represented in a binary notation. When **stored procedure** or **trigger** code is **compiled**, it is translated into BLR and the BLR representation is kept in a **Blob subtype field**. This translation is performed only once, which is why stored procedures are good for efficiency. The command-line tool **isql** shows the BLR representation of stored procedures (and triggers, **constraints** and **table** definitions) after issuing a SET BLOB ALL command and then using a **SELECT statement** to get the appropriate BLR fields from the **system tables** which are accessed as RDB\$RELATIONS.

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