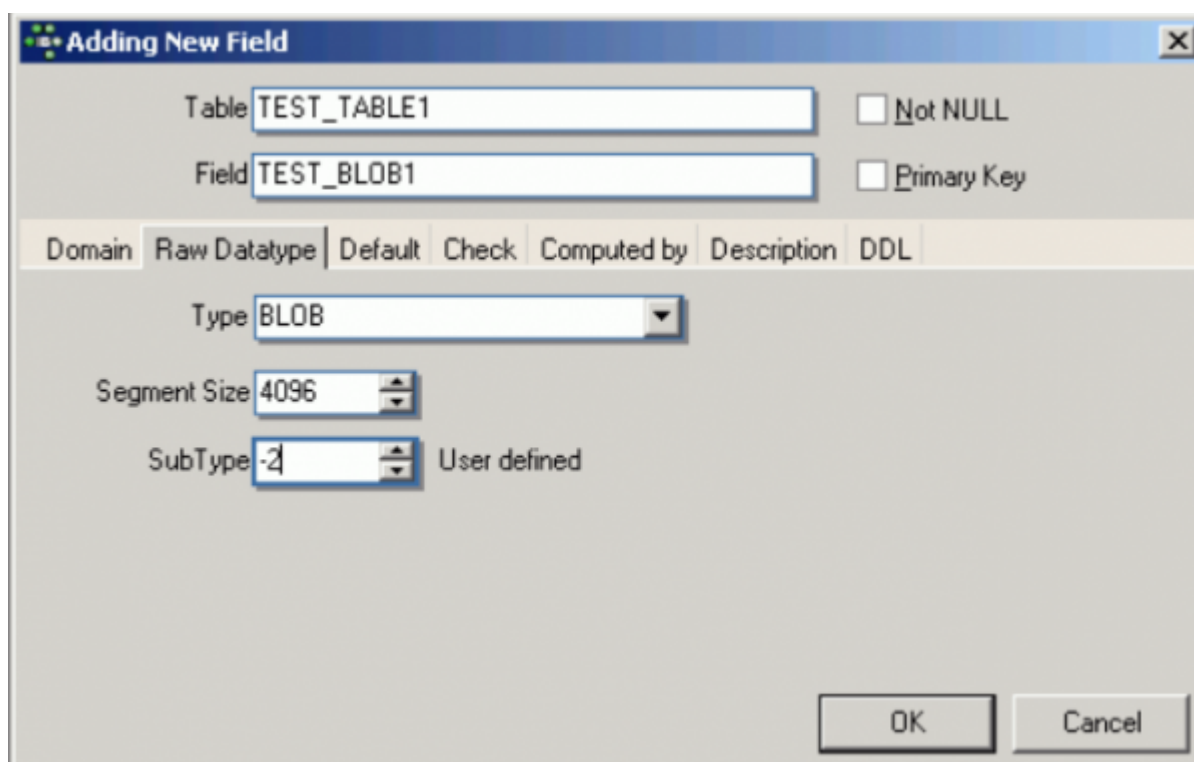


Subtype (Blob)

Subtypes are specified for blobs. They are used to categorize the data type when defining blobs. A subtype is a positive or negative numerical value, which indicates the type of blob data. The following subtypes are predefined in Firebird/InterBase®:

Subtype	Meaning
0	Standard blob, non-specified binary data (image, video, audio, whatever)
1	Text blob, e.g. memo fields (basic character functions work)
2	BLR (used for definitions of Firebird procedures, triggers, etc.)
Text	Alternative for defining subtype 1
Positive value	Reserved for InterBase®
Negative value	User-defined blob subtypes

User applications should only use subtypes 0, 1 and negative values.



Blob fields can be specified using the [Domain Editor](#) or the [Table Editor](#) (started from the [IBExpert DB Explorer](#)).

The specification of a user-defined blob subtype has no effect upon Firebird/InterBase®, as the Firebird/InterBase® server treats all blob fields the same, i.e. it simply stores the data and delivers it to the client program when required.

The definitions are however required by the client programs in order to display the blob content correctly. For example, SUB_TYPE -200 could be defined as a subtype for GIF images and SUB_TYPE -201 as a subtype for JPG images.

Subtype specification is optional; if nothing is specified, Firebird/InterBase® assumes 0 = binary data.

As mentioned above, under the menu item [Tools](#), the [IBExpert Blob Viewer/Editor](#) can display blob

contents as text, hex, images, RTF, Unicode and web pages.

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