

Field Definition Table (FDT)

This chapter is organized as follows:

- Changing Field Parameters
- Releasing Descriptors
- Predict Parameters
- Adding New Fields in the Field Definition Table (FDT)

▶ **To review the Field Definition Table (FDT) for a file:**

1. List the files in a database, as described in *Listing Database Files*.
2. If an icon appears in the Fields column of the list of files table in detail-view, click on the icon.

The FDT for the file appears in detail-view. The table provides the following information:

Field	Explanation
Level	the field level
Name	the field name
Length	the field length
Format	the data type of the field: A alphanumeric B binary F fixed point P packed decimal G floating point U unpacked decimal W wide-character

Field	Explanation
Option	DE descriptor FI fixed storage LA long alphanumeric LB large object field MU multiple-value field NC null/not counted NN null not allowed NU null value suppression NV not converted (alpha and wide-character fields) PE periodic group UQ unique descriptor XI index (occurrence) number excluded from UQ in PE
Predict Name	equivalent Predict name, if any

When available, the Special Descriptor Table (SDT) is also displayed. It shows field information about all sub-/super-/hyperdescriptors, collation descriptors, phonetic descriptors, and sub-/superfields for the file.

The table provides the following information:

Column	Explanation
Type	<p>SUB subfield/subdescriptor</p> <p>SUPER superfield/superdescriptor</p> <p>PHON phonetic descriptor</p> <p>HYPER hyperdescriptor</p> <p>COL collation descriptor</p>
Name	the field name
Length	the field length
Option	<p>DE descriptor field</p> <p>FI fixed point</p> <p>LA long alphanumeric</p> <p>MU multiple-value field</p> <p>NC null/not counted</p> <p>NN null not allowed</p> <p>NU null value suppression</p> <p>NV not converted (alpha and wide-character fields)</p> <p>PE periodic group</p> <p>UQ unique descriptor</p> <p>XI index (occurrence) number excluded from UQ in PE</p>
Parent	the name of the parent field for this descriptor.
Predict Name	equivalent Predict name, if any

Changing Field Parameters

 **To change field parameters:**

1. In the Field Definition Table (FDT), click on the name of the field you want to change the parameters for.

The **Change Field Parameters** panel is displayed.

- To modify the standard length of an Adabas field, update the **Length** value as required. You can also select the **LA** option to change a normal alphanumeric (A) field to a long-alpha (LA) field. If the file is protected, supply the password.
- Click **OK** to save your entries or **Cancel** to return to the file list display.

Releasing Descriptors

Field names listed in the Field Definition Table (FDT) with an option "DE" are descriptors. You can remove a descriptor by freeing the specified field's inverted list in the Associator.

To release a descriptor:

- In the Field Definition Table (FDT), click on the name of the field you want to release the descriptor for.

The **Change Field Parameters** panel is displayed.

- Click on **Release Descriptor** to release the descriptor and return to the FDT.
- If a Special Descriptor Table (SDT) is shown, click on the name of the descriptor you want to release.

The **Change Field Parameters** panel is displayed.

- Click on **Release Descriptor**.
- In the resulting panel, confirm that you want to release the descriptor by clicking on **OK**, or **Cancel**. Both options will return you to the FDT display.

Predict Parameters

The following Predict parameters must be specified in the FDT to enable the display of the Predict field name of a file.

To set the Predict parameters:

- In the Field Definition Table (FDT), click on the name of the field you want to set the parameters for.

The **Change Field Parameters** panel is displayed.

- In the upper left corner of the FDT display, click on the **Properties** button ().

The **Predict Parameters** panel appears.

- Enter the following parameters:

FDIC DBID	The ID of the database containing the Predict repository.
FDIC FNR	The file number of the FDIC file.

4. Click **OK** to save your entries or **Cancel** to return to the file list display.

Adding New Fields in the Field Definition Table (FDT)

To add new fields in the Field Definition Table (FDT):

1. In the Field Definition Table detail-view, click on **Add**.

The **Add New Fields** panel for the file is displayed.

2. Specify the new fields you want to add to the file.
3. Click **New** to add more rows to the table if necessary.
4. Click **OK** to save your modifications or **Cancel** to return to the previous panel.