

Chapter 15

Large data objects

Here, we study how to store and extract large objects such as documents and pictures.

15.1 Beyond elementary data items

In all the data manipulations we have performed so far, we have collected, read, written, computed and compared *small data items*: numbers, names, dates and sometimes short sentences. The world of information is also populated with larger data pieces, like documents, sounds, images, videos and computer programs. We generally call them *large objects*. We will study how to manipulate large objects in SQLfast scripts.

15.2 Reading and writing (large) text files

In this first experiment, we store a text in an external file, then we read it back in an SQLfast variable (Script 15.1). This small text is created by a simple set statement that stores it in a source variable. To be quite frank, it is not really a *large* object but manipulating larger texts just follows the same procedure.

Statement [1] stores a sample text in variable **var1**. For the sake of the demonstration, and with some imagination, we will consider it a *large text*.