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BTR2SQL for MS SQL - Version 5.3 Release Notes

New Features

BTR2SQL 5.3, a Microsoft SQL Server-only release, includes the following new features:

- **Large Objects (LOBs) Now Split to Individual SQL Columns.** The BTR2SQL migration now splits LOBs (type 21) into multiple SQL columns, rather than lumping all LOB data together. This split divides the distinct pieces of data you may be storing in the final segment of your Btrieve records (notes, media, etc.) into multiple, variably-sized columns that are easily accessible post-migration.
- **Specify Tables and Fields' SQL Data Type and Collation as You Add Them.** When you add a table or field while performing a migration, or when using our MdsAddTable or MdsAddField APIs, you can now specify the SQL data type and collation of the table or field you're adding. For example, you could specify a SQL-specific datetime type for data that benefits from a unique datetime range.
- **Fetch Files Within Multi-tenant Structures More Easily.** All commands that accept a file path, most notably B_OPEN, now also accept templated schema and table names, allowing you to easily retrieve specific files within multi-tenant structures that use multiple schemas and tables.
- **Improved Performance for a Variety of Operations.** We've improved the speed of a number of Btrieve operations, including the ExtendedFetch, GetGE, and GetLE commands.
- **Access Data Defined Within Your Btrieve Records' Variable Portion.** During migration, you can now split the defined data stored within the variable portion of your Btrieve records into separate, defined SQL columns, making this data accessible post-migration.
- **Save Users' Server Login Credentials.** New, SQL Server Management Studio-style support for remembering users' server logins saves users and developers the trouble of entering their server credentials each time they access or test your application.
- **Use Your App With SQL Server 2016 and 2017, Microsoft Azure, and Microsoft's 2018 OLE DB SQL Server Client.** BTR2SQL 5.3 officially supports using your app alongside MS SQL 2016, MS SQL 2017, and Azure databases, as well as with Microsoft's 2018 OLE DB SQL Server client.
- **Assigned Names for Default Constraints.** BTR2SQL now assigns custom names to default constraints, rather than using SQL's automatically assigned names.

This allows you to more easily compare multiple versions of the same database when performing a database diff, since each version now uses the same names for the same constraints.

- **More Comprehensive View Support.** BTR2SQL now more fully supports using views to manipulate and abstract data returned by a particular query or contained within a particular table.
- **Limit Data Fetch Queries to a Set Number of Records for Faster Performance.** If you know you need to read only a handful of records, you can use the new B_SET_QUERY_CONSTR command to limit the number of records a fetch query reads.
- **Specify a Custom Path to Your BTR2SQL License.** If our default license search logic doesn't meet your needs, you can use the new LICENSE_FILE_PATH setting to manually specify the path to your BTR2SQL license. You can add this setting and specify your license file path within either BTR2SQL's mds_global.ini file or within your application itself.
- **Create and Drop Triggers Using New APIs.** New MdsCreateTriggers and MdsDropTriggers APIs allow you to create and drop triggers when adding or modifying data using outside, non-BTR2SQL applications. For example, if an outside application attempts to modify a LOB used by your application, you can use the MdsCreateTriggers API to ensure your application synchronizes these modifications with the data stored on your SQL database.

To take advantage of these new BTR2SQL for MS SQL features, download Version 5.3 of BTR2SQL for MS SQL from the Mertech website, and then install the application using your typical upgrade process.

If you're using BTR2SQL with a SQL database other than MS SQL or Azure, DO NOT DOWNLOAD AND INSTALL THIS VERSION OF BTR2SQL. Instead, continue using version 5.2. We're planning to release version 5.3 for Oracle, PostgreSQL, and MySQL, including many of the same features detailed above, at a later date.

If you need help upgrading or implementing a feature, refer to BTR2SQL's product documentation or contact us at support@mertechdata.com.