

ALTIBASE® HDB™ Application Development

C/C++ External Procedures Manual

Release 6.5.1

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ALTIBASE HDB Application Development C/C++ External Procedures Manual

Release 6.5.1

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Preface

About This Manual

This manual explains how to use stored procedures with an ALTIBASE HDB.

Audience

This manual has been prepared for the following ALTIBASE HDB users:

- Database administrators
- Application developers
- Programmers

It is recommended that those reading this manual possess the following background knowledge:

- Basic knowledge in the use of computers, operating systems, and operating system utilities
- Experience in using relational databases and an understanding of database concepts
- Computer programming experience

Software Environment

This manual has been prepared assuming that ALTIBASE HDB 6.3.1 will be used as the database server.

Organization

This manual is organized as follows:

- [Chapter1: Introduction](#)

This chapter introduces C/C++ external procedures and functions. Circumstances in which the use of external procedures is necessary are explained and an overview of ALTIBASE external procedures is provided.

- [Chapter2: How to Use External Procedures](#)

This chapter describes how to use external procedures in ALTIBASE HDB.

- [Chapter3: SQL Statements for External Procedures](#)

This chapter describes SQL statements supported by ALTIBASE HDB for the use of external procedures.

Documentation Conventions



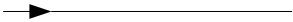
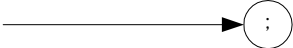

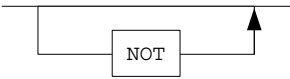
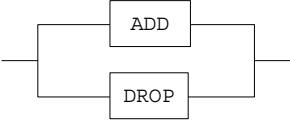
This section describes the conventions used in this manual. Understanding these conventions will make it easier to find information in this manual and in the other manuals in the series.

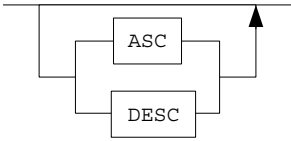
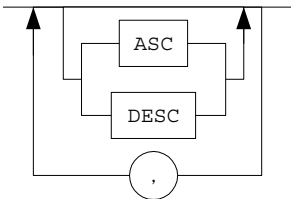
There are two sets of conventions:

- Syntax Diagram Conventions
- Sample Code Conventions

Syntax Diagram Conventions

In this manual, the syntax of commands is described using diagrams composed of the following elements:

Element	Description
	Indicates the start of a command. If a syntactic element starts with an arrow, it is not a complete command.
	Indicates that the command continues to the next line. If a syntactic element ends with this symbol, it is not a complete command.
	Indicates that the command continues from the previous line. If a syntactic element starts with this symbol, it is not a complete command.
	Indicates the end of a statement.
	Indicates a mandatory element.
	Indicates an optional element.
	Indicates a mandatory element comprised of options. One, and only one, option must be specified.

Element	Description
	<p>Indicates an optional element comprised of options.</p>
	<p>Indicates an optional element in which multiple elements may be specified. A comma must precede all but the first element.</p>

Sample Code Conventions

The code examples explain SQL statements, stored procedures, iSQL statements, and other command line syntax.

The following table describes the printing conventions used in the code examples.

Convention	Meaning	Example
[]	Indicates an optional item.	VARCHAR [(size)] [[FIXED] VARIABLE]
{ }	Indicates a mandatory field for which one or more items must be selected.	{ ENABLE DISABLE COMPILE }
	A delimiter between optional or mandatory arguments.	{ ENABLE DISABLE COMPILE } [ENABLE DISABLE COMPILE]
. . .	Indicates that the previous argument is repeated, or that sample code has been omitted.	iSQL> select e_lastname from employees; E_LASTNAME ----- Moon Davenport Kobain . . . 20 rows selected.
Other symbols	Symbols other than those shown above are part of the actual code.	EXEC :p1 := 1; acc NUMBER(11,2);

Convention	Meaning	Example
Italics	Statement elements in italics indicate variables and special values specified by the user.	<code>SELECT * FROM <i>table_name</i>; CONNECT <i>userID/password</i>;</code>
Lower Case Letters	Indicate program elements set by the user, such as table names, column names, file names, etc.	<code>SELECT e_lastname FROM employees;</code>
Upper Case Letters	Keywords and all elements provided by the system appear in upper case.	<code>DESC SYSTEM_.SYS_INDICES_;</code>

Sample Schema

Some of the examples in this manual are based on sample tables, including the *employees*, *departments* and *orders* tables. These tables can be created using the `schema.sql` file in the `$ALTIBASE_HOME/sample/APRE/schema` directory. For complete information on the sample schema, please refer to the *ALTIBASE HDB General Reference*.

Related Reading

For additional technical information, please refer to the following manuals:

- ALTIBASE HDB Installation Guide
- ALTIBASE HDB Getting Started
- ALTIBASE HDB SQL Reference
- ALTIBASE HDB iSQL User's Manual
- ALTIBASE HDB Error Message Reference

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When you send your feedback, please make sure to include the following information:

- The name and version of the manual that you are using
- Any comments that you have about the manual

About This Manual

- Your full name, address, and phone number

For immediate assistance with technical issues, please contact Altibase's Customer Support site(<http://support.altibase.com/>).

We always appreciate your comments and suggestions.

1 Introduction

This chapter introduces C/C++ external procedures and functions. Circumstances in which the use of external procedures is necessary are explained and an overview of ALTIBASE external procedures is provided.

1.1 What are C/C++ External Procedures?

A C/C++ external procedure refers to a function written in C or C++, that is compiled and stored in the Dynamic Link Library(DLL). C/C++ external procedures can be used by calling them within SQL statements. An external procedure can be executed through HDB's external procedure object, and is executed in the same manner as calling a stored procedure within a SQL statement or an application program.

1.1.1 Features

External procedures provided by ALTIBASE HDB have the following features and advantages:

- Since the implementation body and the call specification of C/C++ external procedures are unassociated, alteration of the C/C++ external procedure body does not require alteration of the calling program which calls the procedure.
- Since the execution of C/C++ external procedures and HDB server processes are separated, the database is not affected even if there is an error in the C/C++ external procedure written by the user.
- Inherent functions of the C/C++ languages, previously unsupported by PSM(Stored procedures), are available for use.
- Some computation-intensive tasks are executed most efficiently, when written in lower level programming languages, such as the C language.
- By simply converting previously written C/C++ functions to external procedures, calls can be directly made from PSM. Thus, with the reuse of previously written C/C++ functions, development costs can be cut.

1.1.2 Flow of Calling External Procedures

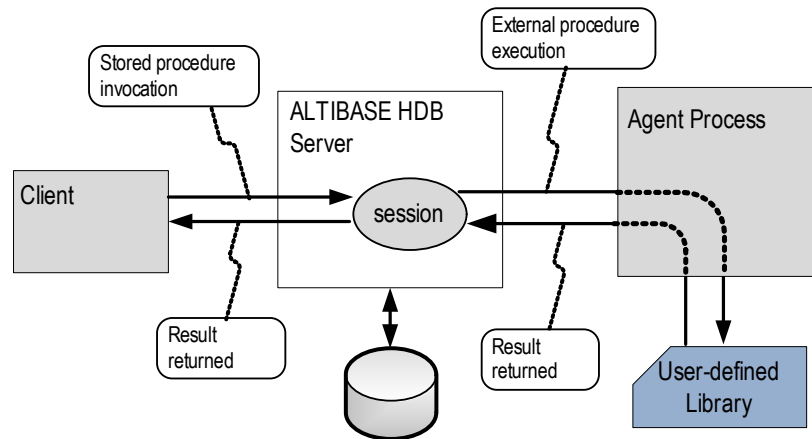
Like regular stored procedures(PSM), external procedures can also be called in the client session. The overall flow from the creation of an external procedure to its invocation is depicted below.

After building a dynamic library from a user-written function in C or C++(an external procedure) and storing it in a location identifiable by ALTIBASE HDB, you should create an external procedure object (a stored procedure that registers the external procedure) with a SQL statement.

Afterwards, the stored procedure that registered the external procedure is called in the client session, and the ALTIBASE HDB server starts the Agent Process.

The Agent Process loads the dynamic library file related to the external procedure and executes the related C/C++ function within the library, and then sends the result to the HDB server, which then returns the result to the client.

The following figure schematizes the flow of an external procedure called by the client and executed through the Agent Process.

Figure 1-1 The flow of a call to an external procedure and its execution

1.1.3 Agent Process

The Agent Process is a process separately created by the ALTIBASE HDB server to load DLL files storing C/C++ functions for external procedures, and to execute functions within the DLL files.

When the stored procedure that registered an external procedure is invoked in the client session, the ALTIBASE HDB server starts the Agent Process for external procedures. And when the execution of external procedures is complete, the ALTIBASE HDB server stands by for a while and, if no other external procedure is being executed, terminates the Agent Process.

Since the Agent Process is subordinate to the service session of the HDB server, a number of n Agent Processes are created when external procedures are invoked in a number of n client sessions. Also, the Agent Process created by a session also terminates when the session does.

1.1 What are C/C++ External Procedures?

2 How to Use External Procedures

This chapter describes how to use external procedures in ALTIBASE HDB.

An overview of C/C++ data types and database objects supportive of external procedures, and an explanation on how to write and create dynamic libraries that the ALTIBASE HDB server can identify are given.

2.1 Data Types and Database Objects

This section introduces data types supported for writing external procedures, and external library objects and external procedure objects provided for using external procedures.

2.1.1 Data Types

The following table concatenates valid PSM data types of arguments for the creation of external procedure objects, and valid data types of user-defined C/C++ function arguments. The user should note that pointer types can vary for user-defined C/C++ functions depending on the input/output mode of arguments.

PSM Data Types	IN	INOUT/OUT	RETURN	Comments
BIGINT	long long	long long *	long long	
BOOLEAN	char	char *	char	For BOOLEAN, the following two values are valid. 0: FALSE 1: TRUE
SMALLINT INTEGER	int	int *	int	
REAL	float	float *	float	
DOUBLE	double	double *	double	
CHAR VARCHAR NCHAR NVARCHAR	char *	char *	char *	
NUMERIC DECIMAL NUMBER FLOAT	double	double *	double	For arguments with high Precision, data loss can occur during conversion to double type.
DATE	SQL_TIMESTAMP_STRUCT	SQL_TIMESTAMP_STRUCT *	SQL_TIMESTAMP_STRUCT	
INTERVAL	SQL_TIMESTAMP_STRUCT	SQL_TIMESTAMP_STRUCT *	SQL_TIMESTAMP_STRUCT	

2.1.2 External Library Objects

It is necessary for user-defined functions or, in other words, the dynamic library file in which the external procedure resides to be made identifiable by the ALTIBASE HDB server. For this purpose, ALTIBASE HDB provides the external library object, which is a database object, and SQL statements

for its management.

To use an external procedure as a stored procedure, the user must first create an external library object and save the related dynamic library file in the \$ALTIBASE_HOME/lib directory. It is possible to create an external procedure object without the dynamic library file. However, the existence of a related dynamic library file is a prerequisite for the execution of an external procedure.

2.1.3 External Procedure/Function Objects

ALTIBASE HDB differentiates a stored procedure that registered an external procedure from a regular stored procedure and defines it as an external procedure object. An external procedure object is a database object that corresponds to a user-defined function on a one-to-one basis. User-defined functions(external procedures) are executed through external procedure objects. All information on related library objects and user-defined functions must be specified when creating external procedure objects.

ALTIBASE HDB provides SQL statements for the management of external procedure objects.

2.2 Basic Instructions

The general steps in using an external procedure is as follows:

- [Writing User-Defined Functions](#)
- [Writing Entry Functions](#)
- [Creating External Library Objects](#)
- [Creating External Procedure/Function Objects](#)
- [Creating the Dynamic Library](#)
- [Calling External Procedures](#)

This section offers an explanation of the above steps, along with examples.

2.2.1 Writing User-Defined Functions

The user can write C/C++ functions for external procedures in the same manner as when creating regular C/C++ functions.

This section provides an example of a user-defined function which corresponds to a stored procedure and a function with the following arguments and return type.

```
procedure str_uppercase_proc( a1 in char(30), a2 out char(30) )

function str_uppercase_func_int( a1 in char(30), a2 out char(30) ) return int

function str_uppercase_func_char( a1 in char(30), a2 out char(30) ) return
char(30)
```

The user-defined function, `str_uppercase`, which corresponds to `str_uppercase_proc` requires three arguments, and the function prototype is as follows.

```
extern "C" void str_uppercase( char* str1, int str1_len, char* str2 );
```

Here, the second argument is used to pass the length of the string, to be input to the first argument, to the user-defined function.

The prototypes of the C/C++ user-defined functions corresponding to `str_uppercase_func_int` and `str_uppercase_func_char` are as follows.

```
extern "C" int str_uppercase_count( char* str1, int str1_len, char* str2 );
extern "C" char* str_uppercase_return( char* str1, int str1_len, char* str2
);
```

The following is an example code of user-defined functions.

```
void str_uppercase(char *str1, int str1_len, char * str2)
{
    for( int i=0; i < str1_len; i++ )
    {
        str2[i] = toupper(str1[i]);
    }
}
```

```

int str_uppercase_count(char *str1, int str1_len, char * str2)
{
    int capCount = 0;
    int i         = 0;

    while( i < str1_len )
    {
        if( str1[i] >= 'A' && str1[i] <= 'Z' )
        {
            capCount++;
        }

        i++;
    }

    return capCount;
}

char* str_uppercase_return(char *str1, int str1_len, char * str2)
{
    for( int i=0; i < str1_len; i++ )
    {
        str2[i] = toupper(str1[i]);
    }
    return str2;
}

```

Note: The extern "C" keyword must be written in the declaration of a user-defined function.

2.2.2 Writing Entry Functions

Apart from user-defined functions, standardized functions to execute user-defined functions are required. These functions are called entry functions.

When the Agent Process calls an entry function, the entry function calls a user-defined function and returns the result. Thus, entry functions must exist in the dynamic library.

A routine that actually calls user-defined functions must be included in an entry function.

The following is an example of an entry function that calls the above user-defined functions, str_uppercase, str_uppercase_count and str_uppercase_return.

```

extern "C" void entryfunction(char* func_name, int arg_count, void ** args,
void ** returnArg);

// ...

void entryfunction(char* func_name, int arg_count, void ** args, void **
returnArg)
{
    // User definition
    if(strcmp(func_name, "str_uppercase") == 0)
    {
        str_uppercase((char*)args[0], *((int*)args[1]), (char*)args[2]);
    }
    else if(strcmp(func_name, "str_uppercase_count") == 0)
    {
        if( *returnArg != NULL ) // Returns int type
        {
            **(int**)returnArg = str_uppercase_count ((char*)args[0],

```

2.2 Basic Instructions

```
*((int*)args[1]), (char*)args[2]);
    }
    else if(strcmp(func_name, "str_uppercase_return") == 0)
    {
        if( returnArg != NULL ) // Returns char* type
        {
            *(char**)returnArg = str_uppercase_return ((char*)args[0],
*((int*)args[1]), (char*)args[2]);
        }
    }
}
```

The following are explanations for each argument of entry functions.

- `func_name`: The string which indicates the function name.
- `arg_count`: The number of arguments.
- `args`: The array of arguments. The order specified in the external procedure must be followed. The user should note that each mapped C data type differs, depending on the input/output mode of arguments and PSM data types.
- `returnArg`: The argument for the return value. NULL is always returned for external procedures having no return values, and the pointer pointing to the return value is returned for external functions.

2.2.2.1 Notes

- The user must not discretionally change the name of the entry function(entryfunction) and the data types of arguments within the dynamic library.
- If two or more user-defined functions are contained in one library, the source code must be written as to make separate calls to each user-defined function within one entry function.
- If a user-defined function in an external procedure, instead of an external function, is called and its return value is assigned to the `returnArg` variable, there is a possibility of the Agent Process terminating abnormally. For external functions, therefore, whether or not the `returnArg` is NULL must be checked and afterwards, the return value should be typecasted according to the function return type.
- As for user-defined functions, the extern "C" keyword must also be written in the declaration of entry functions.
- The user should take note of the code in the above example, where the user-defined function is being processed. The code checks whether or not the `returnArg` variable(the last argument of the entry function) which is to be assigned the return value is NULL, and differs, depending on the function return type.

```
if( *returnArg != NULL ) // When int type is returned
...
if( returnArg != NULL ) // When char* type is returned
```

2.2.2.2 Typecasting the Return Value

After making a call to a user-defined function corresponding to an external function, it is necessary to typecast the return value to the appropriate return type of the function.

Return Types	Typecasting In Code
char	** (char**)returnArg = ...
int	** (int**)returnArg = ...
long long	** (long long**)returnArg = ...
float	** (float**)returnArg = ...
double	** (double**)returnArg = ...
char *	*(char**)returnArg = ...
SQL_TIMESTAMP_STRUCT	** (SQL_TIMESTAMP_STRUCT**)returnArg = ...

2.2.3 Creating External Library Objects

For the ALTIBASE HDB server to identify the dynamic library file, the library object must be created in the database first. For example, if the user wishes to use the dynamic library file shlib.so, the external library object can be created in the database as below.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE LIBRARY lib1 AS 'shlib.so';
```

Now ALTIBASE HDB can identify the dynamic library file shlib.so, as the external library object lib1.

2.2.4 Creating External Procedure/Function Objects

An external procedure object which registers a user-defined function must be created in the database before executing an external procedure(C/C++ user-defined function).

An external procedure object can be created as shown below.

```
create or replace procedure str_uppercase_proc( a1 in char(30), a2 out
char(30) )
as
language c
library lib1
name "str_uppercase"
parameters( a1, a1 LENGTH, a2 )
;
```

The return type must be specified for external functions. The following is an example of a SQL statement which creates an external function which returns an int type and a char array.

```
create or replace function str_uppercase_func_int( a1 in char(30), a2 out
char(30) ) return int
as
language c
library lib1
name "str_uppercase_count"
parameters( a1, a1 LENGTH, a2 )
```

2.2 Basic Instructions

```
;
/  
  
create or replace function str_uppercase_func_char( a1 in char(30), a2 out  
char(30) ) return char(30)  
as  
language c  
library lib1  
name "str_uppercase_return"  
parameters( a1, a1 LENGTH, a2 )  
;  
/
```

2.2.5 Creating the Dynamic Library

If the source file of one or more user-defined functions and entry functions is prepared, it can be compiled to create the dynamic library. The *.so file for UNIX-like operating systems and the *.dll file for Windows are the dynamic library files.

The following example shows how to create the dynamic library by compiling the source file on UNIX-like operation systems.

```
$ g++ -g -fPIC -shared -o shlib.so extproc.cpp
```

If the user-defined functions and entry point functions are composed of multiple files, each source file can be compiled, and then linked, as shown below.

```
$ g++ -fPIC -c extproc.cpp  
$ g++ -fPIC -c entry.cpp  
$ g++ -shared -o shlib.so entry.o extproc.o
```

The created dynamic library file must be moved to a location which is identifiable by the ALTIBASE HDB server. The location is \$ALTIBASE_HOME/lib; you cannot change this location at your discretion.

```
$ mv shlib.so $ALTIBASE_HOME/lib/
```

2.2.6 Calling External Procedures

The following example shows the execution of an external procedure on iSQL.

```
var var1 char(30);  
var var2 char(30);  
  
exec :var1 := 'hello world';  
exec str_uppercase_proc( :var1, :var2 );
```

```
iSQL> print var;  
[ HOST VARIABLE ]
```

```
-----  
NAME                TYPE                VALUE  
-----  
VAR1                 CHAR(30)            hello world  
VAR2                 CHAR(30)            HELLO WORLD
```

2.2.7 extproc.cpp

The following source file, `extproc.cpp`, has written the user-defined functions used as an the example in the previous section.

```
#include <string.h>
#include <ctype.h>

extern "C" void str_uppercase( char* str1, int str1_len, char* str2 );
extern "C" int str_uppercase_count( char* str1, int str1_len, char* str2 );
extern "C" char* str_uppercase_return( char* str1, int str1_len, char* str2
);

extern "C" void entryfunction(char* func_name, int arg_count, void ** args,
void ** returnArg);

void entryfunction(char* func_name, int arg_count, void ** args, void **
returnArg)
{
    if(strcmp(func_name, "str_uppercase") == 0)
    {
        str_uppercase((char*)args[0], *((int*)args[1]), (char*)args[2]);
    }
    else if(strcmp(func_name, "str_uppercase_count") == 0)
    {
        if( *returnArg != NULL ) // int ??? ??
        {
            **((int**)returnArg = str_uppercase_count ((char*)args[0],
*((int*)args[1]), (char*)args[2]);
        }
    }
    else if(strcmp(func_name, "str_uppercase_return") == 0)
    {
        if( returnArg != NULL ) // char* ??? ??
        {
            *(char**)returnArg = str_uppercase_return ((char*)args[0],
*((int*)args[1]), (char*)args[2]);
        }
    }
}

void str_uppercase(char *str1, int str1_len, char * str2)
{
    for( int i=0; i < str1_len; i++ )
    {
        str2[i] = toupper(str1[i]);
    }
}

int str_uppercase_count(char *str1, int str1_len, char * str2)
{
    int capCount = 0;
    int i = 0;

    while( i < str1_len )
    {
        if( str1[i] >= 'A' && str1[i] <= 'Z' )
        {
            capCount++;
        }

        i++;
    }
}
```

2.2 Basic Instructions

```
        return capCount;
    }

char* str_uppercase_return(char *str1, int str1_len, char * str2)
{
    for( int i=0; i < str1_len; i++ )
    {
        str2[i] = toupper(str1[i]);
    }
    return str2;
}
```


2.3 Related Meta Tables and Performance Views

Information on external library objects that have been created and are currently existent in the database can be obtained from the meta table below.

- `SYS_LIBRARIES_`

Information on Agent Processes that have been created for the execution of external procedures and are currently existent can be obtained from the performance view below.

- `V$EXTPROC_AGENT`

For further information on each meta table and performance view, please refer to General Reference.

2.4 Related Properties

The following are properties related to agent operations for external procedures.

- EXTPROC_AGENT_CALL_RETRY_COUNT
- EXTPROC_AGENT_CONNECT_TIMEOUT
- EXTPROC_AGENT_IDLE_TIMEOUT

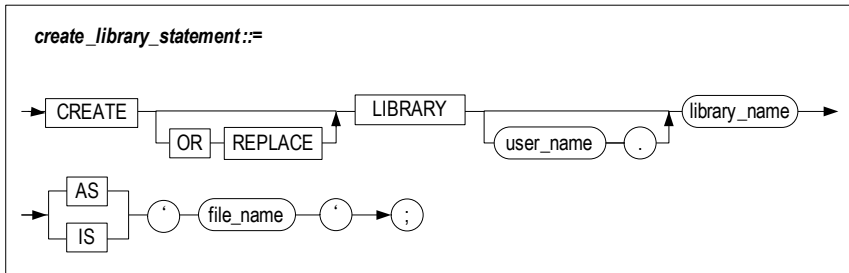
For further information on each property, please refer to General Reference.

3 SQL Statements for External Procedures

This chapter describes SQL statements supported by ALTIBASE HDB for the use of external procedures.

3.1 CREATE LIBRARY Statement

3.1.1 Syntax



3.1.2 Description

Creates a new external library object or changes the previously existing external library into a new external library.

3.1.2.1 library_name

This specifies the name of the library object.

3.1.2.2 file_name

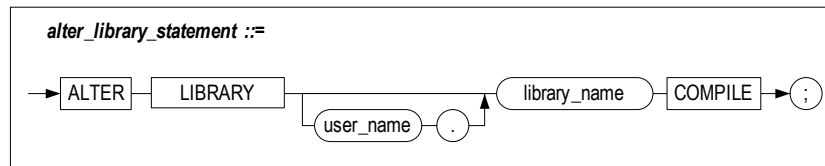
This specifies the name of the dynamic library file. This file must be located at `$ALTIBASE_HOME/lib`. Even if the user-specified file does not exist in the given directory, however, a library object is created. Whether or not the dynamic library file exists is checked at the execution of an external procedure; if it does not exist, the given external procedure object status changes to 'INVALID'.

3.1.3 Examples

```
CREATE OR REPLACE LIBRARY lib1 AS 'shlib.so';
```

3.2 ALTER LIBRARY Statement

3.2.1 Syntax



3.2.2 Description

Compiles the library object.

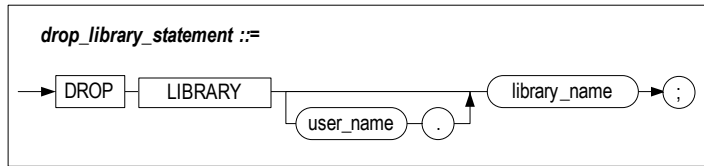
Since only the C/C++ languages are supported for external procedures, the execution of this statement does not set off any operations on the server. This is a reserved statement for the support of other languages in the future.

3.2.3 Examples

```
ALTER LIBRARY lib1 COMPILE;
```

3.3 DROP LIBRARY Statement

3.3.1 Syntax



3.3.2 Description

Drops the external library object in the database.

Even if an external procedure, which is included in the library object to be dropped, is being executed, the given library object is dropped. Only the library object is dropped from the database, however, and the related dynamic library file is left intact.

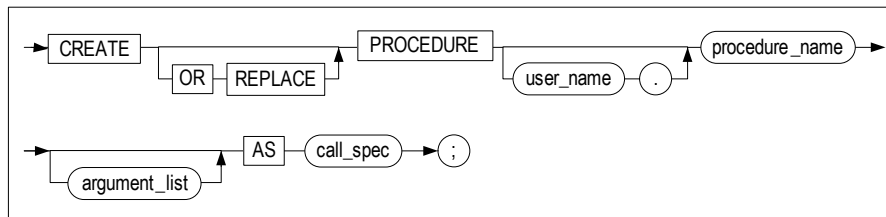
3.3.3 Examples

```
DROP LIBRARY lib1;
```

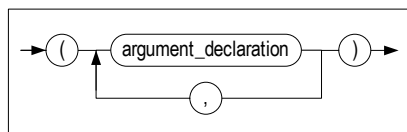
3.4 CREATE PROCEDURE Statement

3.4.1 Syntax

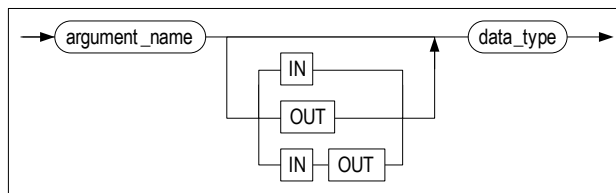
3.4.1.1 create_procedure ::=



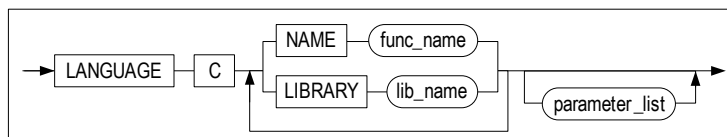
3.4.1.2 argument_list ::=



3.4.1.3 argument_declaration ::=

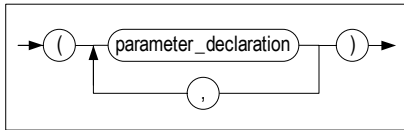


3.4.1.4 call_spec ::=

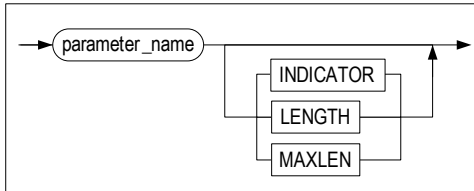


3.4 CREATE PROCEDURE Statement

3.4.1.5 parameter_list ::=



3.4.1.6 parameter_declaration ::=



3.4.2 Description

Creates a new external procedure, or changes a previously existing external procedure into a new external procedure.

3.4.2.1 procedure_name

This specifies the name of the external procedure object.

3.4.2.2 argument_list

The argument can be omitted; on specification, the name, data type and input/output of the argument must be defined. Valid input/output types must be one of the following; on omission, IN is the default value.

- IN: The input argument which receives an input value when a procedure is called.
- OUT: The argument which returns the output value after executing the procedure.
- INOUT: The shared argument for input and output; it receives an input value when a procedure is called and returns an output value after a procedure is executed.

When the external procedure is being executed, the value is passed to the procedure with the IN argument, and the procedure returns the value to the called routine with the OUT argument.

3.4.2.3 call_spec

This specifies the names of user-defined functions, library objects and parameters. The order in which user-defined functions and library objects are specified is irrelevant, however, they must be specified only once.

3.4.2.4 fun_name

This specifies the name of the user-defined function corresponding to the external procedure.

3.4.2.5 lib_name

This specifies the name of the external library object which contains the user-defined function corresponding to the external procedure.

3.4.2.6 parameter_list

This clause is specified to assign the arguments of the external procedure object to the corresponding arguments of the user-defined function. In general, the argument names of argument_list should be taken as they are for the argument names of this clause.

With the following properties, additional information for each parameter can be passed to user-defined functions. Property parameters that are specified with properties merely assist the actual parameter and are not related to the arguments of external procedure objects.

Property Name	For IN, Data Type	INOUT/ OUT/ For RETURN, Data Type	Description
INDICATOR	short	short *	Indicates whether or not the value of the given parameter is NULL. One of the following values can be taken. ALTIBASE_EXTPROC_IND_NULL ALTIBASE_EXTPROC_IND_NOTNULL
LENGTH	int	int *	Indicates the length of the given parameter value in bytes. Note that for strings, the number of bytes, instead of the number of characters, is displayed. For data types other than strings, the size of the given data type is displayed.
MAXLEN	-	int	Indicates the buffer size of the given parameter. For IN mode parameters, this property parameter cannot be specified.

In the following example, the PARAMETERS clause specifies the arguments and properties of the arguments that are passed to user-defined functions.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PROCEDURE proc1 (
  a1 IN CHAR(30),
  a2 OUT CHAR(30) )
AS
LANGUAGE C
LIBRARY lib1
NAME "str_uppercase"
```

3.4 CREATE PROCEDURE Statement

```
PARAMETERS( a1, a1 LENGTH, a2 );  
/
```

From the PARAMETERS clause of the above procedure, the str_uppercase function prototype can be surmised to be as below:

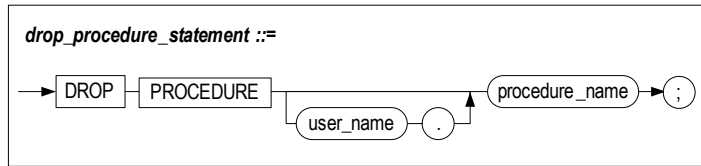
```
extern "C" void str_uppercase( char* str1, int str1_len, char* str2 );
```

3.4.3 Examples

```
create or replace procedure proc1( a1 in char(30), a2 out char(30) )  
as  
language c  
library lib1  
name "str_uppercase"  
parameters( a1, a1 LENGTH, a2 )  
;  
/
```

3.5 DROP PROCEDURE Statement

3.5.1 Syntax



3.5.2 Description

Drops the external procedure object from the database.

If the external procedure to be dropped is being executed, an error is raised, instead of performing deletion.

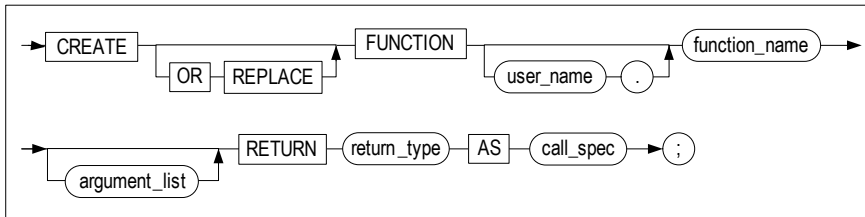
3.5.3 Examples

```
DROP PROCEDURE proc1;
```

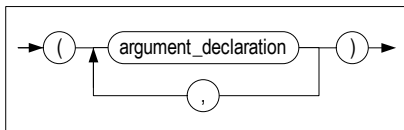
3.6 CREATE FUNCTION Statement

3.6.1 Syntax

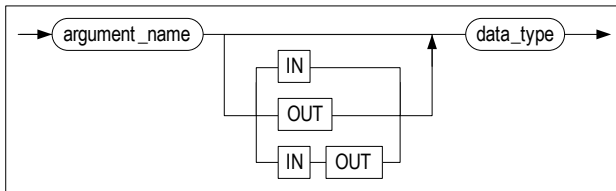
3.6.1.1 create_function ::=



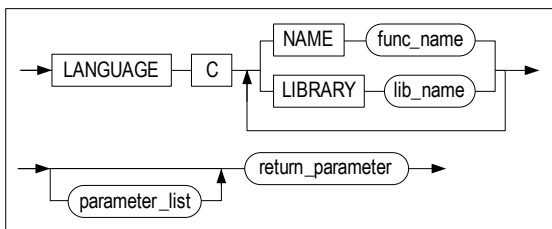
3.6.1.2 argument_list ::=

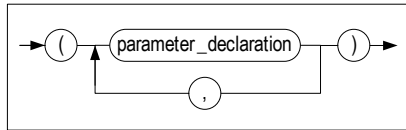
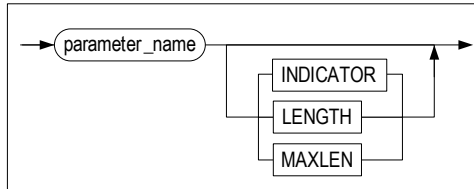
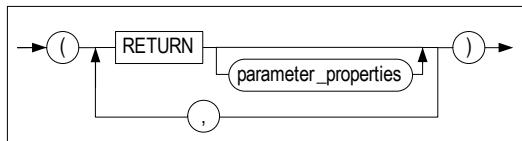


3.6.1.3 argument_declaration ::=



3.6.1.4 call_spec ::=



3.6.1.5 parameter_list ::=**3.6.1.6 parameter_declaration ::=****3.6.1.7 return_parameter ::=****3.6.2 Description**

Creates a new external function or changes a previously existing external function into a new external function.

3.6.2.1 func_name

This specifies the name of the external function object.

3.6.2.2 argument_list

Please refer to the section of the CREATE PROCEDURE statement.

3.6.2.3 call_spec

This specifies the names of user-defined functions, library objects and parameters and return values. The order in which user-defined functions and library objects are specified is irrelevant, however, they must be specified only once.

3.6 CREATE FUNCTION Statement

3.6.2.4 fun_name

This specifies the name of the user-defined function corresponding to the given external procedure.

3.6.2.5 lib_name

This specifies the name of the external library object which contains the user-defined function corresponding to the given external procedure.

3.6.2.6 parameter_list

Please refer to the section of the CREATE PROCEDURE statement.

3.6.2.7 RETURN

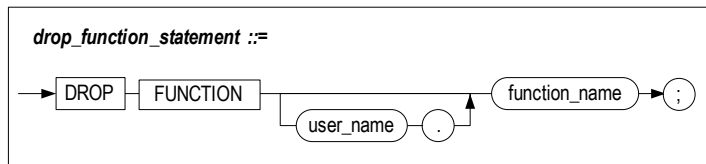
This keyword specifies that the given parameter is used to get the return value of the external function. After the RETURN clause, property parameters can be additionally specified, as with function parameters. For further information on property parameters, please refer to the description of the CREATE PROCEDURE statement.

Restrictions:

- The RETURN clause must be specified at last, after specifying all of the parameters for function arguments; otherwise, an error is raised.
- Not specifying property parameters after the RETURN clause is equivalent to not specifying the RETURN clause at all. Thus, (a, b, RETURN) and (a, b) are the same.

3.7 DROP FUNCTION Statement

3.7.1 Syntax



3.7.2 Description

Drops the external function object from the database.

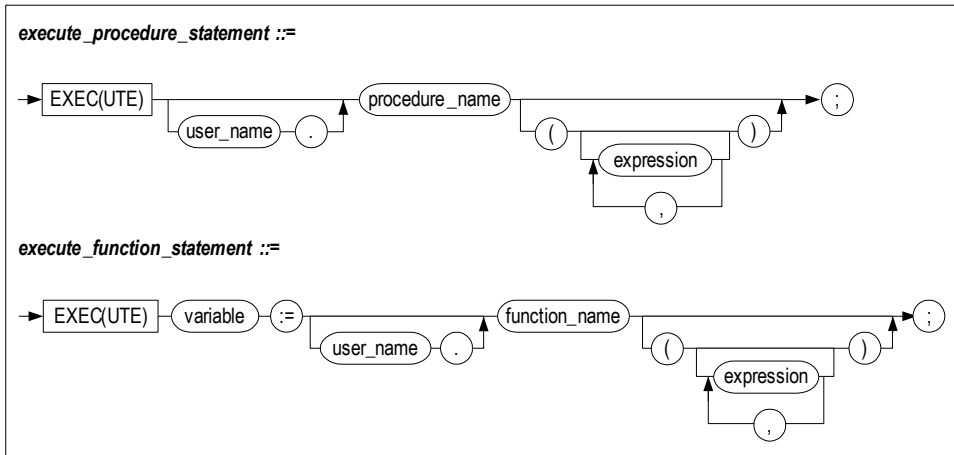
If the external function to be dropped is being executed, an error is raised, instead of performing deletion.

3.7.3 Examples

```
DROP FUNCTION func1;
```

3.8 EXECUTE Statement

3.8.1 Syntax



3.8.2 Description

Executes the external procedure or external function.

3.8.3 Examples

```
var var1 char(30);
var var2 char(30);

exec :var1 := 'hello world';
exec procl( var1, var2 );

print var2;
```


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