Import & Export Utilities

GridSQL

Version 2.0

February 2010

EnterpriseDB™

GridSQL Import & Export Utilities

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1 Introduction

The EnterpriseDB GridSQL offers three different methods for importing and exporting data.

GridSQL supports EnterpriseDB's COPY command. This can be invoked from edb-psql, psql, or cmdline. A description of it appears in the GridSQL SQL Reference Manual.

Another utility described in this document is gs-loader is available that adds additional features that COPY lacks, such as retries.

The gs-impex utility is for both importing and exporting data to and from the database. It is not as fast as gs-loader when importing, so using gs-loader or COPY is recommended.

1.1 Performance Considerations

In populating the database as fast as possible, there are some things to consider.

1. After creating the tables, it is best to load data before creating any indexes or primary or foreign key constraints. The entire process will complete sooner.

2. Modifying the parameters of the underlying database. You may want to change the database configuration temporarily to speed up the loading or data. For example:

    a. Temporarily increasing the `checkpoint_segments` variable can also make large data loads faster. This is because loading a large amount of data into EnterpriseDB Advanced Server can cause checkpoints to occur more often than the normal checkpoint frequency (specified by the `checkpoint_timeout` configuration variable). Whenever a checkpoint occurs, all dirty pages must be flushed to disk. By increasing `checkpoint_segments` temporarily during bulk data loads, the number of checkpoints that are required can be reduced.

    b. Increase `maintenance_work_mem`. Temporarily increasing the `maintenance_work_mem` configuration variable when loading large amounts of data can lead to improved performance. This is because when a B-tree index is created from scratch, the existing content of the table needs to be sorted. Allowing the merge sort to use more memory means that fewer merge passes will be required. A larger setting for `maintenance_work_mem` may also speed up validation of foreign-key constraints.

    c. Fsync. Setting `fsync` in the `postgresql.conf` file to false is generally not a good idea since it does not guarantee writes to disk have

occurred, but can be considered to disable temporarily when doing initial loading of the database. We recommend leaving it set to the default, true, but wanted to point out this option nonetheless.

2 gs-loader

Syntax:

```
gs-loader <connect> -t <table>  [-c <column_list>] [-i <inputfilename>]
        [-f <delimiter>] [-z <NULL>]
        [-v [-q <quote>] [-e <escape>] -n <column_list>
        [-o] [-a] [-r <prefix>] [-w [<count>]] [-b <filename>]
        [-k <commit_interval>[,<autoreducing_rate>[,<min_interval>]]
                -y <badchunkdir>[-x]]
        where <connect> is –j jdbc:edb://<host>:<port>/<database>?
                  user=<username>&password=<password>
          or
        [-h <host>] [-s <port>] -d <database> -u <user> [-p <password>]

        -h <host> : Host where XDBServer is running. Default is localhost
        -s <port> : XDBServer's port. Default is 6453
        -d <database> : Name of database to connect to.
        -u <user>, -p <password> : Login to the database
        -t <table> : target table name
        -c <column_list> : comma or space separated list of columns
        -i <inputfilename> : name of file with data to be loaded.
                Standard input is used if omitted
        -f <delimiter> : field delimiter. Default is \t (tab character)
        -z <NULL> : value to indicate NULL. Default is \N
        -v : CSV mode
        -q <quote> : Quote character, default " (CSV mode only)
        -e <escape> : Escape of character. Default is quote character (double)
                 (CSV mode only)
        -n <column_list>: Force not null. Values for this column are never
                 treated as NULL, as if they was qouted
        -a : remove trailing delimiter
        -o : same as WITH OIDS
        -r <prefix> : ignore data lines starting from specified prefix
        -w [<count>] : verbose- every <count> lines (default 100000)
                 display number of lines read
        -b <filename> : file where to output invalid lines for simple checks
        -k <commit_interval>[,<autoreducing_rate>[,<min_interval>]]:
           <commit_interval> : number of lines to commit at a time
           <autoreducing_rate> : if chunk failed, divide into this
            number of chunks and retry
           <min_interval> : do not further divide chunks of specified size
        -y <badchunkdir> : directory where to output failed chunks
        -x keep original format for failed chunks
```

The gs-loader utility acts as a front-end to the COPY command, and can connect to either GridSQL or EnterpriseDB Advanced Server. The primary benefit it adds is the retry functionality, so that data can be loaded even if some of the input lines are malformed.

Options:

-a	Added ending delimiter. By default, a field delimiter is required only between the fields, not after the final field. Including -a indicates that a trailing final delimiter is present.
-b bad_file	Some basic checks will be done on the lines of the input file, like number of fields. The bad lines are written to bad_file, but the load will continue. This should not be confused with -k, which handles rejected lines from the backend.
-c column_list	List of columns to load. This allows for specifying a subset of columns in the table that correspond to the file being loaded up.
-d database	The GridSQL database to connect to.
-e escape	Only used in conjunction with -v, indicates the quote escape character.
-f separator	Separator. The field delimiter. Default is \\t (tab character)
-h host	Host to connect to
-i inputfile	Input file to load from. If not specified, data is loaded from stdin.
-j jdbcurl	The JDBC url to use to connect to the GridSQL Server
-k chunk_interval	This instructs the loader to break up committing the bulk load operations into "chunks", every chunk_interval rows. This is useful because normally if even a single insert fails on the back end, the entire load will fail. Instead, -k will still allow good segments of data to be committed, and just flag bad ones that contain problematic input. The bad chunks are created as new files at the path location specified by -o. It is recommended to try and use a fairly high chunk count if possible, like 100000, for performance reasons when loading a lot of data.
-o	Generate an internal unique row identifier (WITH OIDs).
-p	The password to use when connecting. If not included, the user will be prompted
-q quote	Quote character
-r string	Remark (comment) string. Lines that start with this will be ignored. If used in conjunction with -b, all bad input lines will be written out to the bad file, preceded by a comment line starting with the string here, explaining the reason for the rejection.
-s port	The socket port to connect to. By default it is 6453.
-t table	Target table
-u username	The username to use when connecting
-v	CSV mode. File is comma separated value file.
-w count	Write information (verbose). Displays how many

	rows have been read every count lines, default 100000.
-x	Used in conjunction with –k and –o. Without –x, rejected lines appear in a format friendly to the underlying database. With –x, they appear in the original format.
-y bad_chunk_directory	This is used in conjunction with –k, and instructs the loader where to create bad chunk files.
-z	Value to indicate null. Default is \\N.

2.1 Handling Bad Input Lines

The loader contains additional options for handling input files that may cause errors when loading. This will allow you to try and continue loading as much data as possible, even if you encounter an error.

With –k, the input is broken out into the "chunk" row count specified. This allows smaller discrete segments of the input file to be committed if there are not any errors. Should an error occur on one of the backends, a new file will be created in the directory specified by –y. This allows the user to try and clean up any problems and reload the data, potentially in turn processing it in smaller and smaller chunks until the data is clean.

The bad chunk files are created in the format:

```
<database>_<table>_<internalid>.tbl
```

There is one file per minimum sized chunk.

The –k option also allows you to specify an auto-reduce rate and minimum row amount, in addition to the chunk size, separated by commas, without any spaces. The advantage of this is if a chunk is bad, the loader will automatically break it out into "line count/auto-reduce rate" separate sub-chunks and to retry loading the rows and narrow down the particular problematic lines. This process is repeatedly recursively up until the minimum amount of specified rows.

The exact options to use with –k depend on how clean you think your data is. For performance, if few errors are expected, a large count number should be used.

Example: -k 100000,10,1.

This will result in a chunk size of 100,000 being used. If a chunk fails, that is broken out into 10 sub-chunks, resulting in chunks of 10,000 lines being used. Those that fail will be broken out to 1,000, then 100, then 10, and finally 1. The loader will have loaded up all of the lines that it could; the only remaining lines in the bad chunk files are the ones that it could not load up.

2.2 Example Usage

```
gs-loader.sh –d BIGDB –u myuser –p mypassword –h localhost
  -i /home/extendb/mig/order_fact.tbl -t orders -f '|'
  -k 100000,20,1 –y /home/extendb/mig/bad
```

3 gs-impex

Like gs-loader, gs-impex can also be used to import data. It offers a little more flexibility at the cost of **much** slower load speeds. Therefore, it is recommended to use gs-loader for loading data.

On the other hand, gs-impex includes the ability to export data from arbitrary data sources.

Modes

There are 2 operating modes, import and export, the modes of which are mutually exclusive. Import is invoked with the "-i" and export with –x, where in either case it is followed by the source or target file.

An optional format file may be used with the "-f" option to allow more complex mapping information to appear. If the import is relatively simple, the user can also just enter the desired options on the command line.

3.1 Format File and Command Line options

Importing

```
[INFILE=file_name]
[TARGET=table_name]
[ OVERWRITING=[0|1] (default is 0)
   | IGNORE=[0|1] ]     (default is 0)  (at most only one of these two can be set)
[ [ DELIMITER=delimiter]
 |[ column_name delimited_position, [n…] ] ]
[ADD_TRAILING_DELIMITER=[0|1]] (default is 0)
[ TERMINATOR=terminator ]
[ LOCK=[0|1]]   (default is 0)
[ SILENT=[0|1]]  (default is 0)
[ START_LINE=line_num ]
[ END_LINE=line_num ]
[ POSITION_FORMATTED { column_name start:stop, [n...] } ]
[ QUOTED=quote_character ]
[ COMMIT_INTERVAL=integer ]
[ MAX_ERRORS=integer ]
[ DATA_ERROR_FILE=filename ]
```

[DRIVERCLASS=driverclass] (default to extendb.connect.XDriver)]

[JDBC_URL=jdbc_url of target database]

Exporting

[EXTRACT=query_string]

[OUTFILE=file_name]

[TRIM_TRAILING_SPACES=[0|1] (default is 0)

A table appears below that describes both the command line options and the format file parameters, depending on the preferred mode of usage.

Format File Value	**Command Line Option**	**Description**
	-f	Specifies a format file to use to allow more complex mapping information to appear. Followed by the file name for the formatting. Command line option only.
INFILE	-i	Import (-i), followed by the source file. If no source file specified, data is read from stdin. Required for command line operation
TARGET	-t	The target table, if importing
OUTFILE	-x	Export (-x), followed by the query sting and output or target file name. Required for command line operation
EXTRACT (query string)	-y	The SQL query to run to get the data. If it is just a single word, it is assumed to be the name of the table and will do a “SELECT * FROM <table>”.
OVERWRITING or IGNORE	-w, -g	Used for handling input records that duplicate existing records on primary key values. If OVERWRITING is specified, rows will get overwritten with the new data, provided they have the same value for primary or unique index as the row to be replaced. If IGNORE is specified, rows will be ignored with the new data if they have the same value for primary or unique index as the row to be replaced. If neither option is present, it will always try and insert the row (default). These are mutually exclusive.
DELIMITER	-d	Default delimiter is TAB (\t). Optionally, in the format file, it can be followed by matching column names with the positional delimited items, to allow the data to be mapped. Command line option for mapping column names is not available.
ADD_TRAILING_DELIMITER	-a	Indicates that a final delimiter follows the last field.
TERMINATOR	-z	Default is carriage return
LOCK	-l	Whether or not to lock the entire table
SILENT	-h	If Omitted, the number of rows processed will be displayed every 10,000 rows. Default is verbose
START_LINE	-s	Default will begin at 1. This is useful if importing from a large file and

		something goes wrong after 210,000 records for example. The import can be restarted with the same import file, but told to start on line number 210,001.
END_LINE	-e	Default will be the end of file
POSITION_FORMATTED	-p	Used to match column_name with start and stop character positions of data in the row, for non-delimited, fixed format import files.
QUOTED	-q	Used if data is quoted, surrounded by " or '.
COMMIT_INTERVAL	-c	Default is to commit after each insert. Otherwise, batches will be used, and the batch will be committed after every COMMIT_INTERVAL number of rows. **It is important to use this for faster loads.** If exporting, this is the fetch size used. In both cases, the default value is 1000.
MAX_ERRORS	-m	Default is 1. Set to any positive integer to instruct the loader to continue processing up until at least that many errors occur. Setting to 0 (zero) will ignore all errors, and always continue to load the next line from the file.
DATA_ERROR_FILE	-r	Specifies target file for rows that could not be loaded up successfully. This way, the user can first try and load entire file, then just work with problematic data in a separate file that could not be loaded up, and try again.
JDBC_URL	-j	The JDBC URL for connecting to the server. For example: jdbc:xdb:BIGDB:myuser/mypassword@extendbhost
DRIVERCLASS	-C	The driver class name, if exporting from other databases, for example, like: com.edb.Driver.
TRIM_TRAILING_SPACES	-T	If set, strings that are read from the source that have trailing spaces in them will be trimmed when writing to the output file. That is useful for saving disk space for large files, but it can impact your data- if you were expecting a column to contain a single space, for example, it will now be empty.

3.2 Importing

A command line option should be available for use with all the commands unless there are mapping columns used, as available POSITION_FORMATTED. If the column order differs in the source file from the target table, the user must use a format file to describe the mapping and cannot do this via the command line.

Example:

Note that we must preceed & with backslash here.

```
gs-impex –c 1000 –d '|' -i customer.dat –t customer
      –j jdbc:edb://host:6453/BIGDB?
user=usermyuser\&password=mypassword
```

This will import the customer.data file into customer, with a pipe delimiter and a batch size of 1000, using the specified jdbc string.

3.3 Exporting

Examples:

Note that we must preceed & with backslash here.

```
gs-impex –x orders.out –t orders
      –j jdbc:edb://host:6453/BIGDB?
user=myuser\&password=mypassword


gs-impex –x orders.out –y orders
      –j jdbc:edb://host:6453/BIGDB?
user=usermyuser\&password=mypassword


gs-impex –x orders.out –y "select * from orders"
      –j jdbc:edb://host:6453/BIGDB?
user=usermyuser\&password=mypassword
```

The following example demonstrates using a format file and exporting from a PostgreSQL database:

```
gs-impex –f format.txt
```

where format.txt is:

```
EXTRACT=select * from atable
DRIVERCLASS=org.postgresql.Driver
JDBC_URL=jdbc:postgresql://localhost/mydb?
user=myuser&password=mypassword
OUTFILE=/tmp/atable.txt
```