



## Passing a NULL Value Through the SQL Object into a Database

This how-to implements the `_qval()` string function to pass a NULL value through the SQL object into a database. This function belongs to the iWay Functional Language (iFL) set. In addition, steps that are included in the iWay how-to ([Inserting Data Into a RDBMS Using the SQL Object](#)) are applicable.

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In this example, an input document contains an empty space as the data element to be converted to a NULL value.

1. From the iWay Service Manager (ISM) command prompt, type `tool testfuncs` and load the input file.

For example:

```
Enter command:>tool testfuncs C:\input\d.xml
```

The simple input document `d.xml` has the following structure and contents:

```
<root>  
  <e> </e>  
</root>
```

The iSM `testfuncs` tool enables you to test an iFL expression against a specific document or set of Special Registers (SREGs), and verify if a function returns the desired result.

2. Execute the `_qval()` string function as follows:

```
_qval(_xpath(/root/e),single,empty)
```

For more information on the `_qval()` function, see the *iWay Functional Language Reference Guide*.

A value of **NULL** is returned for this `_qval()` string function, as shown in the following image.

```

funcs->_qval(_xpath(/root/e),single,empty)
Expression needs a document for execution
NULL

<_qval result='NULL' offsets='0,34'>
  <_xpath result=' ' offsets='6,20'>
    <literal offsets='13,19'>/root/e</literal>
  </_xpath>
  <literal offsets='22,27'>single</literal>
  <literal offsets='29,33'>empty</literal>
</_qval>
funcs->
ended
Tool testfuncs complete

```

3. Insert **NULL** as the value.

The SQL object uses the following **INSERT** statement:

```

INSERT INTO "dbo"."Countries" ("France", "Germany", "Belgium", "Russia")
VALUES ('Paris', NULL, NULL, ?Russia)

```

Note that the literal values **Paris**, **NULL**, and **?Russia** are specified.

The value **?Russia** is based on an SREG defined in the User Properties section of the SQL Object dialog in iWay Integration Tools (iIT), as shown in the following image.

SQL Object			
General	Name	Type	Value
Connection	Russia	string	_qval(_xpath(/root/e),single,empty)
SQL Statement			
Properties			
<b>User Properties</b>			

For more information on configuring the SQL object, see [Inserting Data Into a RDBMS Using the SQL Object](#).

When this configured SQL object is added to process and executed, the database table is updated, as shown in the following image.

SQLQuery1.sql - CSS...RESS.Test (sa (62)) X

```
/****** Script for SelectTopNRows command from SSMS *****/  
SELECT TOP 1000 [France]  
    , [Germany]  
    , [Belgium]  
    , [Russia]  
FROM [Test].[dbo].[Countries]
```

100 % <

Results Messages

	France	Germany	Belgium	Russia
1	FR	DE	BE	NULL
2	NULL	NULL	Flanders	NULL
3	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL
4	Paris	NULL	NULL	NULL

Notice that in row 4, under the Russia column, a value of NULL is returned.