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.

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.
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.

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