

Retek Extract Transform and Load (RETL) 10.2



Release Notes



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Contact Method Contact Information

Internet (ROCS) www.retek.com/support
Retek's secure client Web site to update and view issues

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When contacting Customer Support, please provide:

- Product version and program/module name.
- Functional and technical description of the problem (include business impact).
- Detailed step by step instructions to recreate.
- Exact error message received.
- Screen shots of each step you take.

Retek Extract Transform and Load (RETL)

The Retek Extract Transform and Load (RETL) is a high-performance runtime tool useful in parallel processing systems where high volumes of data must be processed quickly. By incorporating RETL into an application, the amount of time required to process data from databases and flat files may be reduced. Increasing the number of processors on Unix servers can scale RETL to handle larger volumes of data.

RETL 10.2 product labeling

Commencing with the RETL 10.2 product release, RETL labeling has been changed from the internal labels of "1.n" to the external labels of "10.n" to align with Retek release and marketing communications.

RETL 10.2 functional enhancements

The RETL 10.2 product release includes several important product improvements that enhance the product's performance, provide greater independence from environmental variables and dynamic libraries as well as allow the RETL to operate as a stand-alone binary. RETL 10.2 includes a tool to verify and diagnose issues and the product's operating system and database compatibilities have been expanded to include AIX 5.1L and Oracle 9.2.

The RETL 10.2 product release is backward compatible with previous releases, however it strictly enforces input schemas and data fields. In some instances, the RETL 10.2 product release will find data and / or flow errors that previously went unreported. The result may be more discarded, rejected records and / or error messages than previously identified.

Clients that took delivery of the RETL 1.7.1 (or prior releases) are strongly encouraged to upgrade to the RETL 10.2 in order to take advantage of the product improvements:

- Several performance enhancements have significantly improved processing speed. The processing improvements will be most noticeable with complex flows that process larger numbers of records;
- Dynamic library dependencies are minimized, therefore, dependencies on environment variables have been reduced;
- A new tool to verify and diagnose problems with a RETL installation is now being packaged. The `verify_retl` tool is run as part of the RETL installation. (See the `README.verify_retl` in the base of the package for more information regarding this tool);
- The OraRead operator may run stored procedures if "sp_prequery" and /or "sp_postquery" properties are specified. One of usages is Flashback for Oracle 9i. See the [RETL 10.2 Programmer's Guide](#) for more details;
- The new property "primaryindex" has been added to the TeraWrite operator allowing users to specify primary indexes for created tables. This property improves performance when tables are created or recreated. If the "primaryindex" property is not specified, no primary indexes will be created;

- TeraWrite uses FastLoad rather than MLoad when writing to empty tables. This should result in better performance in that specific case;
- Improved messages within TeraWrite when Rfx_Show_sql is exported - shows when MLoad and FastTLoad are being called;
- If Rfx_Debug and Rfx_Show_sql are specified TeraWrite will write the data that is being written to the DB also to a flat file for debugging;
- Modified Filter operator to alert user when multiple outputs have been specified but 'rejects' property is not specified or set to false. Previously the user would have seen the message: 'Num outputs does not match attached datasets';
- Differences of int64 on 32bit and 64bit platforms have been resolved to check underflow and overflow conditions. The differences resulted in erroneous data being returned when performing conversions of large numbers;
- DB2Write now defaults to conventional mode loading;
- Improved error messaging with sql loader failures. The error messages include more information (LogFile and control file, rather than just ParFile) when RFX_SHOW_SQL=1
- RETL no longer accepts blank lines as valid input;
- The RETL allows "" to represent a blank string for a null value of fixed length records within the schema files. Previously, RETL required the developer to specify a null value of exactly the same length as the fixed length field. Thus for a 500 character field RETL required that RETL developers specify "<with 500 blanks>". Developers may now simply enter "" to represent any number of blanks for the null value of the fixed length field;
- Better detection and reporting of field lengths and other properties;
- When converting from number to string, string now receives a Maxlength which is necessary for writing to a database. This enhancement allows developers to collapse flows into one flow that is capable of converting and writing to the database;
- Permissions of any files RETL uses are now checked. This includes making sure flows/schemas/configuration files/import files are readable, and any temp space RETL uses is writable. Appropriate error messages will be displayed if files don't have the correct permissions;
- During an import, if a null value existed in a date field and the field could not be null, a seg fault / core dump occurred. Now the record is rejected since it does not meet the schema specification;
- Previously, multiple string statements within Filter caused RETL to fail with the message "Invalid String passed to filter. String must be enclosed in single quotes." Filter now handles the problem without error;

- Import operator now generates an error message when a new line is the last character of the import data file. This empty line is equivalent to an empty record and is rejected as not meeting the file schema;
- Filter now treats all null values as being less than numeric values. Previously it would have treated, for example, '100' as being less than a 'null' value;
- If the "filter" property of the Filter operator is empty, the following error is displayed "RFX Unexpected Error: FilterOperator.cpp:119: '[filter:0]: Empty value for 'filter' property.'";
- Error message printing has been improved;
- A memory issue has been resolved. The issue occurred when delimited non-string fields were too long (invalid data). The result was a garbled error message;
- Environment checks to ensure that RFX_HOME, ORACLE_HOME and other needed variables are set in order. The user is now given better error messages when these variables aren't set;
- The MaxLength of string is set when a non-string is converting to string in the Convert operator;
- When BufSize is set to a very small number, there are no longer deadlocks;
- Time and Timestamp fields are now validated and will be dealt with as improperly formatted fields upon IMPORT

RETL 10.2 technical enhancements

The RETL 10.2 product release includes the following technical verification.

- Several performance enhancements have significantly improved processing speed. The processing improvements are most noticeable with complex flows that process larger numbers of records;
- Dynamic library dependencies are minimized, therefore, dependencies on environment variables have been reduced;
- Support for Oracle Version 9, Release 2 (9.2);
- Support for AIX 5.1L;

OS	Version	Arch	DB	Version	RETL Executable
AIX	4.3.3	32	none	None	rfx.a433.o92.64
AIX	4.3.3	64	none	None	rfx.a433.o817.32
AIX	4.3.3	64	Oracle	9.2	rfx.a433.o9x.64
AIX	4.3.3	64	Oracle	9.0.1	rfx.a433.o9x.64
AIX	4.3.3	32	DB2	7.2.3	rfx.a433.d723.32
AIX	4.3.3	32	Oracle	8.1.7	rfx.a433.o817.32
AIX	4.3.3	32	TeraData	2r4.2	rfx.a433.t241.32
AIX	5.1	64	Oracle	9.2	rfx.a51.o9x.64
HP-UX	11i	64	none	None	rfx.h11i.o9x.64
HP-UX	11i	32	none	None	rfx.h11i.o817.32
HP-UX	11i	64	Oracle	9.2	rfx.h11i.o9x.64
HP-UX	11i	64	Oracle	9.0.1	rfx.h11i.o9x.64
HP-UX	11i	32	Oracle	8.1.7	rfx.h11i.o817.32
HP-UX	11i	32	TeraData	2r4.2	rfx.h11i.t241.32
Solaris	8	32	None	None	rfx.s58.o9x.32
Solaris	8	64	None	None	rfx.s58.o9x.64
Solaris	8	32	DB2	7.2.3	rfx.s58.d723.32
Solaris	8	64	Oracle	9.2	rfx.s58.o9x.64
Solaris	8	64	Oracle	9.0.1	rfx.s58.o9x.64
Solaris	8	32	Oracle	9.0.1	rfx.s58.o9x.32
Solaris	8	32	Oracle	8.1.7	rfx.s58.o817.32
Solaris	8	32	TeraData	2r4.2	rfx.s58.t241.32

Notes:

- Entries of 'none' (above) signify that the corresponding RETL executable may run standalone from a database. For example, if RETL is to be used standalone on Solaris 8 32bit, the 'rfx.s58.o9x.32' binary should be installed and used;
- Solaris 2.8, Solaris 8 and SunOS 5.8 are the same platform.
- If your current Operating System or Database is not specified above, please contact Retek Customer Support. Additional configuration will be supported on a case-by-case basis.

RETL 10.2 known issues with resolution

The following issues have been identified in the RETL 10.2 product release:

- Translation from number to string for large arbitrary precision floating point numbers;
- When specifying fields in the Filter operator, they must all be uppercase or else they will not be recognized;
- The DropEdit of the Diff operator does not work properly;
- RFX leaves some temporary files in temp directories. These directories should be purged on a regular basis until this issues is resolved.