



Caché Release Notes

Version 2008.1
30 January 2008

Caché Release Notes

Caché Version 2008.1 30 January 2008
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Table of Contents

1 New and Enhanced Features for Caché 2008.1	1
1.1 Caché Zen	1
1.2 MultiValue	2
1.3 Support For RIGHT and Full OUTER JOIN	2
1.4 New Online Documentation Search	3
2 New and Enhanced Features for Caché 2007.1	5
2.1 Call In / Call Out Enhancements	6
2.2 New Error Handling Syntax	6
2.3 Long String Support	6
2.4 Security Enhancements	7
2.5 SQL Gateway via JDBC	7
2.6 Objective C Binding	8
2.7 New Distribution Mechanism for C++ Binding	8
2.8 Zen	8
2.9 SQL Enhancements	8
2.10 Enhanced T-SQL Support	9
2.11 Routine Performance Enhancements	9
2.12 Journal Enhancements	10
2.13 Light C++ Binding	10
2.14 CSP Gateway on OpenVMS	11
2.15 Support for GB18030 Character Set	11
2.16 Other Changes	11
2.17 New Supported Platforms	12
3 New and Enhanced Features for Caché 5.2	13
3.1 Jalapeño	14
3.2 Caché Managed Provider for .NET	14
3.3 IEEE 8-byte Floating Point Support	14
3.4 Direct FileMan Dictionary Converter	15
3.5 Code Completion in Caché Studio	15
3.6 Process-Private Globals	15
3.7 Caché Journal File Encryption	16
3.8 Version Checking (and Optimistic Concurrency)	16
3.9 Dynamic Dispatch	16
3.10 Free Text Search	16
3.11 ODBC Multiple Result Sets	17
3.12 WMI Support	17

3.13 Enhanced Debugging Capabilities	17
3.14 T-SQL Support	17
3.15 Device Level SSL and TLS support	18
3.16 Enhanced ECP Performance	18
3.17 Enhanced Windows Cluster Resource Management	18
3.18 Improved RPM Linux Installation	18
4 New and Enhanced Features for Caché 5.1	19
4.1 Upgrading and Installation	19
4.2 Major New Features	20
4.3 Caché Advanced Security	22
4.3.1 Key Features	23
4.3.2 Caché Advanced Security Concepts	24
4.4 System Management Portal	26
4.5 System Improvements	26
4.5.1 Nested Rollbacks	27
4.5.2 Namespace Mapping for Class Packages	27
4.5.3 New Method \$SYSTEM.Util.CleanDeadJobs()	28
4.5.4 New Class \$SYSTEM.Monitor.Line	28
4.5.5 New Method \$System.Device.GetNullDevice()	28
4.5.6 New Optional Argument for \$ZF(-2)	28
4.5.7 Option to Filter Records before Dejournaling on a Shadow	28
4.5.8 Callin Enhancements	29
4.5.9 64K Routine Buffer Support	29
4.5.10 CVENDIAN Enhancements	30
4.6 Object Improvements	30
4.6.1 New Option to Index on Computed Fields	31
4.6.2 New Object Synchronization	31
4.6.3 New Studio Extension Classes and Source Control Hooks	31
4.6.4 New Stream Syntax	33
4.6.5 New %SwizzleObject Class	33
4.6.6 Extended POPSPEC Syntax	33
4.6.7 Performance Improvements for Relationships	33
4.6.8 Enhanced VisM OCX	34
4.7 Language Improvements	34
4.7.1 Improved Runtime Error Reporting	35
4.7.2 New \$FACTOR Function	35
4.7.3 New \$LISTNEXT, \$LISTTOSTRING, and \$LISTFROMSTRING Functions	35
4.7.4 New \$ROLES and \$USERNAME Special Variables	36
4.7.5 New \$ZUTIL(62,1) Function	36
4.7.6 New \$ZUTIL(69) System Configuration Functions	36

4.7.7 New \$ZUTIL(158) Function	36
4.7.8 New \$ZUTIL(186) Function	36
4.7.9 New \$ZUTIL(193) Function	37
4.7.10 New Error Trapping Syntax	37
4.7.11 More Efficient Code Generation	37
4.7.12 Pattern-Match “E” Adapted For Unicode	37
4.7.13 Faster MERGE Command	37
4.7.14 New Perl and Python Bindings	37
4.7.15 Improved ActiveX Bindings	38
4.8 SQL Improvements	38
4.8.1 New SQL/XML Support Functions	39
4.8.2 New SAVEPOINT Features	39
4.8.3 CREATE TABLE: New IDENTITY Keyword	40
4.8.4 DROP VIEW: New CASCADE Keyword	40
4.8.5 INSERT: New DEFAULT VALUES Clause	40
4.8.6 New RowId Counter Validation Option	41
4.8.7 New Query Optimizer Plan Verification	41
4.8.8 JDBC 3.0 Support	41
4.8.9 GRANT and REVOKE Command Changes	41
4.8.10 CREATE USER Command Changes	42
4.8.11 Subquery Flattening	42
4.8.12 Enhanced Locking Behavior for Foreign Key References	42
4.8.13 READONLY Tables and Fields	43
4.8.14 SQLCODE Changes	43
4.8.15 Support for %%CLASSNAMEQ and %%TABLENAME	44
4.8.16 CREATE BITMAP INDEX Support for Oracle Import Compatibility	45
4.8.17 Extended Support for Milliseconds	45
4.8.18 Date and Time Function Enhancements	45
4.9 Connectivity Improvements	47
4.9.1 New ECP Cluster Support	47
4.9.2 New SNMP Support	48
4.9.3 New LDAP Client	48
4.9.4 New Mac OS X server support	48

1

New and Enhanced Features for Caché 2008.1

The following features have been added to Caché for the 2008.1 release:

- [Caché Zen](#)
- [MultiValue](#)
- [Support For RIGHT and Full OUTER JOIN](#)
- [New Online Documentation Search](#)

1.1 Caché Zen

The Caché Zen application framework makes the development of Web-based applications easier. It provides a simple way to rapidly create complex, data-rich Web applications by assembling prebuilt object components.

Zen is based on the established Caché Server Page (CSP) and Caché Object Database technologies that offer a robust, scalable, and portable platform for hosting Web applications. Zen builds upon the basic features provided by CSP: performance, data access, security, localization, and configuration.

Zen components automatically create standard HTML and JavaScript needed to render complex Web applications. They provide a common object model that is shared between the user's browser and the application logic running on the server.

1.2 MultiValue

This version of Caché extends [support for MultiValue](#) applications. Existing applications from more than a dozen MultiValue environments may be moved to Caché and run with little or no changes. Caché provides integrated support for MultiValue features such as accounts, [terminal types](#) and [pooling](#). In addition, MultiValue applications have unimpeded access to all existing Caché facilities:

- web application development using [Caché Server Pages](#) and [Zen](#)
- language bindings to [Java](#), [Perl](#), [Python](#), [C++](#), [.NET](#), and [ActiveX](#) applications
- [web services and service-oriented architectures](#)
- [common data storage](#) with Caché applications
- [transaction processing](#)
- [enhanced security](#)
- the ability to run in [distributed, high-availability and/or replicated systems](#)

MultiValue data is fully available to Caché applications. In addition, Caché classes now support the use of MVBASIC as an implementation language for methods along with [Caché Objectscript](#) and [Caché Basic](#).

1.3 Support For RIGHT and Full OUTER JOIN

With Release 2008.1, Caché SQL now fully supports LEFT, RIGHT, and FULL outer join using the ON clause. Any standard operations and most Caché SQL extensions are allowed in the ON clause, including subqueries. Outer join operations may be nested, for example:

```
Table1 full join Table2 right join Table3 on Table3.x < Table2.y  
on Table1.x > Table3.x
```

Parentheses are supported wherever they are legal. For example, the previous join expression is equivalent to:

```
Table1 full join ( Table2 right join Table3 on Table3.x < Table2.y )  
on Table1.x > Table3.x
```

You may use views of any type anywhere in the join syntax in place of a table.

See the [Conversion Checklist](#) for remaining restrictions on JOINS.

1.4 New Online Documentation Search

The following changes have been made to the online documentation application, DocBook:

- Prior to this release, the online documentation created and used its own index for the documentation. In this release, the documentation now uses the `%Library.Text` class for indexing and searching documents. This allows automatic, incremental maintenance of DocBook word indices (so customers that load their own content do not have to rebuild indices).
- The changes implement a new Search page that uses the Caché text searching capabilities built into Caché SQL.
- The new search page is simple to use and better ranks the results of searches. For example:
 - The user interface is much simpler: you can enter a word or words; you can place double quotes around word(s) to force an exact match.
 - The application maintains a cache of recent searches and results (so you can remember what you already looked for).
 - Instead of finding each paragraph, the search finds “documents” (books, chapters, sections, and so on) and may show links to sections within such documents. This makes the results more concise and useful.
 - Search terms that appear in titles are ranked higher in value (and appear earlier in the list) than terms that appear in paragraphs or lists. Among titles, book titles take precedence over chapter titles; chapter titles rank higher than section titles; subsection titles follow sections.
- The search facility user interface is now implemented using [Caché Zen](#) classes.

2

New and Enhanced Features for Caché 2007.1

The following features have been added to Caché for the 2007.1 release:

- [Call In / Call Out Enhancements](#)
- [New Error Handling Syntax](#)
- [Long String Support](#)
- [Security Enhancements](#)
- [SQL Gateway via JDBC](#)
- [Objective C Binding](#)
- [New Distribution Mechanism for C++ Binding](#)
- [Zen](#)
- [SQL Enhancements](#)
- [Enhanced T-SQL Support](#)
- [Routine Performance Enhancements](#)
- [Journal Enhancements](#)
- [Light C++ Binding](#)
- [CSP Gateway on OpenVMS](#)
- [Support for GB18030 Character Set](#)
- [Other Changes](#)

- [New Supported Platforms](#)

2.1 Call In / Call Out Enhancements

The following call in / call out enhancements are included in this project:

- Applications can now call into Caché as a DLL / shared library, rather than as an executable, eliminating the need for static linking. This enhancement will be available for all platforms except OpenVMS.
- Call in is now multithreaded on some platforms. This enables multithreaded applications to call into Caché, with multiple threads effectively executing simultaneously but independently within a single Caché process. Initially, this capability will be available on the following platforms: Windows (32-bit, 64-bit Intel Extended Memory, 64-bit AMD, not Itanium), Linux (32-bit, 64-bit Intel Extended Memory, 64-bit AMD, not Itanium), and Solaris (64-bit SPARC and 64-bit AMD). Other platforms may be added in the future.
- For all other platforms, Caché is now thread safe. It can be called safely from multithreaded applications, with Caché automatically providing any necessary synchronization. While one application thread is executing within a Caché process, other threads are blocked from executing within Caché, although they may be executing other (non-Caché) application code.

2.2 New Error Handling Syntax

This project adds new Caché error handling syntax similar to that in Java, C++ and VB. It utilizes three commands: TRY, to identify the scope of an error handler; CATCH, to identify the code to execute on an error; and THROW, to explicitly signal an error.

Note: For those familiar with other language implementations, FINALLY is not supported.

2.3 Long String Support

With this project, the maximum length of local and global strings is extended to 3.6 million characters. Storage of long strings is only supported for databases using 8KB blocks.

Enabling support for long strings is done via the Management Portal at **[Home] > [Configuration] > [Advanced Settings]**. The category is “Miscellaneous” and the setting name is “EnableLongStrings”

This can also be set by the function, `$ZUTIL(69, 69)`.

2.4 Security Enhancements

- *LDAP User Management* — This enhancement enables user authentication and roles to be managed outside of Caché using LDAP.
- *Delegated Authentication* — The enhancement enables user authentication to be carried out using site-specific Caché code.
- *Row-Level Security* — This enhancement adds extended SQL row-level security capabilities to Caché. Essentially, a column in the table contains a list of roles for each row. When a query is run, the user must have at least one of the row’s roles in order to see that row. Typically, the list of roles is calculated (based on other data in the table) and a method is automatically called to perform this calculation whenever a row is inserted or updated. This security column can be indexed to provide row-based security with minimum performance impact.
- *Journal Auditing* — Changes to the state of journaling (both system-wide and process-specific) are now recorded in the audit log.

2.5 SQL Gateway via JDBC

In previous releases, the Caché SQL Gateway required an ODBC driver for each “foreign” database on each Caché platform. While this is not an issue for Windows, where good ODBC drivers are available for all databases supported by the Gateway, it has been an ongoing problem for other platforms, particularly UNIX.

To address this, with this release we will begin using JDBC, rather than ODBC, for Gateway connections. Because all of the databases supported by the Gateway have platform-independent JDBC drivers, this will significantly reduce the testing and deployment of the Gateway and Gateway-based applications.

Note: SQL Gateway is supported on all Caché platforms except OpenVMS. For Caché 2007.1, we will support both the ODBC-based Gateway (on the same platforms as 5.2) and the JDBC-based Gateway. In later releases, for all platforms other than Windows, only the JDBC-based Gateway will be supported. On Windows systems, both the ODBC-based and JDBC-based Gateway will continue to be supported.

2.6 Objective C Binding

This enhancement provides an object binding to the Objective C language on Mac systems.

2.7 New Distribution Mechanism for C++ Binding

With this release we are changing the way that the C++ binding is packaged and delivered, in order to reduce our dependence on specific C++ compilers and libraries.

2.8 Zen

Zen is an extensible framework for rapid development of Web applications. Pages are defined via high-level XML-based definitions using a rich set of components. Zen includes a strong, easy-to-use security model; built-in support for multi-lingual applications; server- and client-side event handling; and very good extensibility.

2.9 SQL Enhancements

- *Aggregate Optimizations* — This release includes performance enhancements for SQL queries with multiple aggregates or with a combination of aggregates and GROUP BY.
- *SQL Temporary Tables* — This release adds support for SQL temporary tables.
- *Outer Joins* — Left outer joins can now be based on non-equality conditions, e.g. greater than or %startswith.
- *Text Search* — Text search enhancements include %CONTAINSTERM, use of indices for processing %SIMILARITY, and multi-term substitutions in the thesaurus facility.

2.10 Enhanced T-SQL Support

This release includes enhancements in T-SQL support, including compilation and run-time performance improvements, support for statement-level triggers, exposure of Sybase-compatible system tables, improved error handling, and some additional T-SQL syntax support.

2.11 Routine Performance Enhancements

COS routine management has been extensively revised in 2007.1. As a result, the way routines are managed by Caché is now much more efficient. The amount of overhead spent invoking a new routine may be up to an order of magnitude less in this release. Furthermore, in prior releases, the number of routine buffers could become a source of contention in systems with dozens of cpus; this is now far less likely.

Among the changes is the addition of a new per-process cache identifying recently used routines. The cache speeds up the process of locating routines which are used frequently within the process. In addition, the cache changes the way routine buffers are managed by the system.

In prior releases, only the actual routine buffers being executed were protected against change. All others could be modified. A consequence of this was that prior routines on the call stack could be changed (for example, by recompilation). To illustrate the issue, suppose a routine, A, was executing and then called routine, B. When B started running, A was available to be changed. If A was re-compiled while B was executing, the buffer holding A became obsolete and was released. When B attempted to return to A, Caché would notice this fact and report an <EDITED> error.

With the per-process cache in place, the <EDITED> error no longer occurs. This is because all routines on the call stack of any process have their current versions locked. So the associated buffers do not become obsolete. B always returns to the proper version of its caller, A.

To carry the examination further, if B returns to A and, while A is executing, B is recompiled. The next call from A to B will execute the re-compiled version of B. Similarly, if A is re-compiled while B is executing and B then calls A, the new version of A will be invoked. When the new A returns to B and B subsequently returns, it will return to the prior version of A that was preserved in the routine buffer.

The initial size of the per-process cache (called the "routine vector") is set at system startup. The default is 256. This number can be changed via the function, `$ZU(96,29,<value>)`. The cache can be cleared of all routines not in use with `$ZU(96,31)`. Note that routines are cached by namespace; changing namespaces clears the cache. Changing the routine search path via `$zu(39,...)` also clears the cache.

Because the per-process cache causes system routine buffers to be held until they are no longer in use, it is possible for a large collection of processes to consume all available buffers. When this happens,

Caché will force the reduction of each of the per-process caches by some amount, freeing unused buffers. This reduction may recur until sufficient buffers are available for sustained operation.

The command

```
cstat -s<MgrDirectory> -R2048
```

where <MgrRoutine> is the pathname of the Caché manager directory will display the routine buffer usage for running jobs in the “rbuf#” column. If the number of routines in use for most jobs exceeds 30, then the administrator should increase the [shared heap size](#) by 512 bytes times the number of expected simultaneously running jobs.

Note: By default each process may cache up to 256 routines. As the system starts running out of available buffers, it will adjust the number of cached routines allowed per process down by 10% every quarter-second. When the number of cached routines per process is 30% of the originally configured number, Caché will log a message to the console, indicating the system may no longer be running efficiently.

When the number reaches 20% of the original setting, Caché will log a warning; and at the 10% threshold will log a “severe” message to the console that indicates the system may hang.

The system will hang when it runs out of routine buffers and cannot free any for use.

CAUTION: The routines held in the cache by dead processes keep the buffers they hold in use until the dead process is removed or the system shuts down.

2.12 Journal Enhancements

With this release, a number of internal improvements have been made to the performance and reliability of synchronous journal writes. In addition, system management improvements have been made to enable journal files to be retained on shadow systems for a limited period of time.

2.13 Light C++ Binding

The Light C++ Binding is a high-performance object binding that operates “in process”, i.e. the client application executes in the same process as Caché. With this binding, objects are fetched directly from the database to the client, without the requirement to maintain an open object in memory within Caché. The Light C++ Binding is available for the same platforms as [multithreaded call in](#).

2.14 CSP Gateway on OpenVMS

With this release, support is added for the CSP Gateway on OpenVMS systems (Alpha and Itanium) running the Apache Web server.

2.15 Support for GB18030 Character Set

This release adds support for GB18030, the official character set of the People's Republic of China in the Simplified Chinese locale (chsw). Since the internal representation used by Caché is Unicode, only those code points in GB18030 that map to Unicode are supported. This includes all the 1, 2 and 4-byte sequences that map to characters in the Basic Multilingual Plane (characters U+0000 to U+FFFF; approximately 64K code points), plus all the 4-byte sequences that map to the additional Unicode planes (U+10000 to U+10FFFF; 1M code points).

This latter range is represented in Caché in UTF-16 as surrogate pairs. This is the same representation used by Microsoft since Windows 2000.

Note: There are approximately 500K code points in GB18030 that don't map to Unicode and are currently unassigned. These code points are not supported by Caché.

2.16 Other Changes

- *Increased file name length* — The maximum path length for databases and other files has been increased from 64 to 232 characters.
- *Licensing Improvements* — With this release, the value of \$USERNAME can be used to identify users for licensing purposes. This enables more accurate counting in situations where the IP address cannot be used to reliably identify distinct users.
- *Double Literals* — Large numeric literals (>1E146) are now automatically stored as double values.
- *JOB Improvements* — A process started with the JOB command can now be terminated by its parent, regardless of security settings.
- *Visual Studio 2005* — This release makes use of Microsoft's Visual Studio 2005 for Windows client components. This change affects customers who make programmatic access (e.g. using call in) to Caché executables.

- *MultiNet Support* — We will support the MultiNet implementation of TCP/IP on OpenVMS Alpha systems (but not on OpenVMS Itanium). We may discover and document limitations with this software.
- *Hibernate* — The released version of Hibernate 3.2.1 contains support for Cache2007.1. For further information, or to obtain this version, please visit the [Hibernate organization website](#).
- *Studio Improvements* — A number of smaller changes have been made to the Studio IDE:
 - The toolbar has a View WebPage button that allows the developer to see a preview of the page
 - The toolbar now has Forward and Backward buttons
 - The options dialog has been revised
 - The StudioAssist feature now works with selected XML documents, notably Zen

2.17 New Supported Platforms

The following platforms are added:

- Sun Solaris AMD
- OpenVMS 8.3 for Alpha and Integrity
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10

3

New and Enhanced Features for Caché 5.2

The following features have been added to Caché for the 5.2 release:

- Jalapeño Java Persistence API
- Caché Managed Provider for .NET
- IEEE 8-byte Floating Point Support
- Direct FileMan Dictionary Converter
- Code Completion in Caché Studio
- Process-Private Globals
- Caché Journal File Encryption
- Version Checking (and Optimistic Concurrency)
- Dynamic Dispatch
- Free Text Search
- ODBC Multiple Result Sets
- WMI Support
- Enhanced Debugging Capabilities
- T-SQL Support
- Device Level SSL and TLS support
- Enhanced ECP Performance

- [Enhanced Windows Cluster Resource Management](#)
- [Improved RPM Linux Installation](#)

3.1 Jalapeño

Using our traditional object bindings, each client class has, in addition to its developer-defined properties and methods, a set of Caché supplied methods related to object persistence, e.g. `Save()` and `OpenId()`. With Jalapeño this paradigm is changed slightly by separating the persistence behavior into a separate "controller" class that can be used with any Java object.

- *Java Object Schema Import*

As part of Jalapeño, we are adding Java Object Schema Import. Traditionally, our approach to language bindings has been to start with a Caché class definition from which Caché generates one or more "projection" classes. Java object schema import turns this around: it enables Caché class definitions to be created from existing Java class definitions.

- *Database Neutral Deployment*

Jalapeño provides an additional feature: the ability to deploy applications on any database supported via the Caché SQL Gateway. It does this by substituting SQL requests for the object mechanisms normally used to link the Jalapeño client with the database (Caché) server. Of course the performance of this approach will be inferior to that of Caché, but it provides a convenient way to construct a database-independent application without giving up the power and performance of Caché.

3.2 Caché Managed Provider for .NET

The Caché Managed Provider for .NET supplies high performance relational and object database capabilities through a single client — something that no one else delivers for .NET. This release also provides a Visual Studio .NET plug-in that automatically generates .NET assemblies from Caché class definitions.

3.3 IEEE 8-byte Floating Point Support

Support has been added for IEEE 8-byte floating point (a.k.a. "double") values, making Caché more attractive for calculation-intensive applications.

This enhancement includes:

- A new internal data type for both scalars and list members
- A new intrinsic function to cast a value to a double
- Assembler optimizations to enable Caché to take advantage of processor-specific floating point instructions
- Object and SQL client enhancements to handle new server data types

3.4 Direct FileMan Dictionary Converter

The Direct FileMan Dictionary Converter enables Caché table definitions to be automatically created from FileMan file definitions. (Previously, the conversion was a two-step process, from Fileman to F DBMS and then to Caché.)

A more detailed description is contained in the technical article, [Converting FileMan Files into Caché Classes](#).

3.5 Code Completion in Caché Studio

Code completion simplifies editing in Caché Studio by enabling developers to pick from a list of context-sensitive choices when entering code. For instance, Studio will assist in specifying a class name when "##CLASS(...)" syntax is used or in specifying a property or method name when the type of a variable is known.

3.6 Process-Private Globals

Support has been added for process-private globals. Like local variables, they are accessible only by the process that creates them and are automatically deleted when that process halts. However, like globals they are essentially unlimited in size.

3.7 Caché Journal File Encryption

Support has been added for encryption and decryption of Caché journal files.

3.8 Version Checking (and Optimistic Concurrency)

At the object level, this feature adds automatic support for version checking. If turned on (via a class parameter) it increments the value of a version number property whenever an object is saved. You can use this set of features to implement optimistic concurrency.

3.9 Dynamic Dispatch

Dynamic dispatch enables a Caché class to respond to references to properties and methods that are not part of the class definition at compile time.

3.10 Free Text Search

Support has been added for indexing and searching textual data, specifically:

- A new %Text data type.
- A new SQL selection operator, %CONTAINS.
- Language-specific parsers for English, Spanish, French, Italian, German, Japanese, and Portuguese.
- Support for multi-word ("n-gram") indices. For instance, with an n-gram length of 1, all individual words are indexed. With an n-gram length of 2, all word pairs that occur together are also indexed.
- Support for "stemming" to map multiple forms of a word (go, goes, going, went, ...) to a common root.
- Noise word filtering, to eliminate common words (a, and, the, ...) from an index.

3.11 ODBC Multiple Result Sets

Support has been added to Caché ODBC for stored procedures that return multiple result sets.

3.12 WMI Support

Support has been added for Windows Management Instrumentation (WMI), the Microsoft implementation of Web-Based Enterprise Management. This enables Caché to be monitored by a variety of Windows management tools, including Microsoft Management Console.

3.13 Enhanced Debugging Capabilities

Caché debugging capabilities have been enhanced in a number of areas:

- Ability to debug macro routines, class definitions, and CSP files
- New system-level mechanism to make the debugger connection more robust
- New stack trace mechanism
- Ability to BREAK into a READ
- Additional debugging commands / options.

3.14 T-SQL Support

A number of capabilities have been added to simplify migration from SYBASE or SQL Server to Caché, including support for the T-SQL language in stored procedures. T-SQL is currently supported on 32 bit Windows, 32 bit Linux (RedHat and Suse distributions), 64 bit AIX, and 64 bit Solaris.

3.15 Device Level SSL and TLS support

Device level support has been added for secure sockets layer communication using SSL 2, SSL 3, or TLS.

3.16 Enhanced ECP Performance

Improvements have been made to ECP and the ECP/jrnsync mechanism to enhance performance and scalability.

3.17 Enhanced Windows Cluster Resource Management

This enhancement enables Caché to be managed more easily in a Windows cluster.

3.18 Improved RPM Linux Installation

A new RPM install package has been created for Caché on Linux.

4

New and Enhanced Features for Caché 5.1

Welcome and thank you for using Caché!

This chapter provides an overview of the new and improved features in Caché 5.1.

See the [Major New Features](#) section for a description of the important new features and enhancements included in this release.

If you are new to Caché, you can refer to the Getting Started page which contains a variety of links to documentation organized by topic.

4.1 Upgrading and Installation

If you are upgrading existing applications and databases from prior versions, please read the [Caché 5.1 Upgrade Checklist](#) and the [Upgrading](#) chapter of the *Caché Installation Guide*.

For information on installing Caché, refer to the following sources:

- the *Caché Installation Guide* for [Windows](#), [OpenVMS](#), and [UNIX](#)
- the list of [Supported Platforms](#) for this release

4.2 Major New Features

Caché 5.1 introduces a significant number of new features as well as enhancements to existing features. These features are focused on:

- Advanced Security
- Maximizing Scalability
- Maximizing Development Speed
- Minimizing Support Load

The new features are summarized here. For additional details, refer to the cited chapters or guides.

Caché Advanced Security

A host of new capabilities have been added to give Caché the most advanced security of any mainstream database.

System Management Portal

A new integrated system management interface, built with CSP, replaces Control Panel, Explorer, and SQL Manager. This removes the requirement for a Windows PC in order to manage Caché and, because no Caché client software is required, eliminates potential client/server version mismatch issues and simplifies management of multiple versions of Caché from a single device.

System Improvements

Caché system improvements include many new or enhanced classes and methods, plus major enhancements such as nested rollback and the ability to map class packages to namespaces.

- [Nested Rollback](#) — When nested TSTARTs are used, this enhancement enables the innermost TSTART to be rolled back, without rolling back the entire open transaction.
- [Namespace Mapping for Class Packages](#) — Namespace mapping has been extended with the ability to map class packages by name, just as routines and globals are mapped.

ObjectScript Language Improvements

The ObjectScript language now provides significantly improved runtime error reporting. Many other enhancements have been introduced, including the following items:

- New **\$FACTOR** Function
- New **\$LISTNEXT**, **\$LISTTOSTRING**, and **\$LISTFROMSTRING** Functions

- New **\$ROLES** and **\$USERNAME** Special Variables
- New Error Trapping Syntax
- More Efficient Code Generation
- Pattern-Match “E” Adapted For Unicode
- Faster **MERGE** Command

New Language Bindings

With this release, Caché introduces new Perl and Python bindings, as well as an improved version of the Caché ActiveX binding.

Object Improvements

The Caché 5.1 Class Library provides many new features and major enhancements.

- [Index on Computed Fields](#) — An index definition can now reference properties defined as **CALCULATED** and **SQLCOMPUTED**.
- [Object Synchronization](#) — Caché can now track records of all object filing events (insert, update and delete) for journaled classes, export the journaled object data, and synchronize it with other databases. Applications with no access to the original database can then resolve references to the synchronized objects.
- [Studio Enhancements](#) — New **%Studio.Extension** classes provide mechanisms for custom menus and user defined data entry. **%Studio.SourceControl** classes now provide enhanced source control hooks, allowing customized checkout and checkin to a source control system.
- [Performance Improvements](#) — Significant improvements have been made to the in-memory performance of relationships.
- [Syntax for defining stream and collection properties](#) has been improved, and enhancements have been made to the behavior of streams and collections.

SQL Improvements

Caché SQL support includes many new or enhanced features, including the following items:

- [New SQL/XML Support Functions](#)
- [JDBC 3.0 Support](#)
- **SAVEPOINT**: New Transaction Processing Feature
- **CREATE TABLE**: New **IDENTITY** Keyword
- **DROP VIEW**: New **CASCADE** Keyword

- **INSERT:** New DEFAULT VALUES Clause
- New RowId Counter Validation Option
- New Query Optimizer Plan Verification
- Subquery Flattening
- Enhanced Locking Behavior for Foreign Key References
- READONLY Tables and Fields
- Support for %%CLASSNAMEQ and %%TABLENAME
- CREATE BITMAP INDEX Support for Oracle Import Compatibility

Connectivity Improvements

Caché 5.1 introduces many new options for network connectivity.

- **ECP Enhancements** — A number of enhancements have been made to the Caché Enterprise Cache Protocol. It is now supported in shared disk cluster configurations with OpenVMS and Tru64 UNIX.
- **SNMP Support** — Support for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) has been added to enable monitoring of Caché by a variety of systems management tools and frameworks.
- **LDAP Client** — Programmatic access to LDAP servers has been added.
- **Mac OS X Server Support** — Support has been added for Mac OS X as a server plus the following client components: ODBC, JDBC, Objects, CSP Gateway for Apache.

4.3 Caché Advanced Security

With version 5.1, InterSystems introduces Caché Advanced Security. This release of Caché contains a host of new capabilities that provide the most advanced security of any mainstream database. Caché Advanced Security provides a simple, unified security architecture that offers the following advantages:

- It offers a strong, consistent, and high-performance security infrastructure for applications.
- It meets certification standards.
- It makes it easy for developers to build security features into applications.
- There is a minimal burden on performance and operations.
- It ensures that Caché can operate effectively as part of a secure environment and that other applications and Caché can work together well.

See the [Caché Security Administration Guide](#) for detailed information on Caché Advanced Security.

4.3.1 Key Features

Here are a few of the more important new security features offered in Cache 5.1:

- **Kerberos based Security Infrastructure**

Two Authentication models are now available. In addition to Caché Authentication (Username/Password), Cache now provides Kerberos based Security Infrastructure. Kerberos libraries are available on all supported platforms (Windows Single Sign-on for Win32/64 platforms in an Active Directory Domain = Kerberos Realm, since Microsoft uses Kerberos at the heart of their Authentication model).

- **Security Management Interface**

The Caché Management Portal's web-based Security Management facility allows complete access to Users, Roles, Services, Resources (including Schemas), Auditing, and all other aspects of Caché security management.

- **Security Advisor Utility**

The new Security Advisor utility makes recommendations for securing a Caché DBMS (Security settings, Applications and Auditing).

- **Authentication in ODBC/JDBC**

ODBC and JDBC drivers now offer both Caché and Kerberos Authentication. Kerberos mode provides three levels of Encryption: Clear, Integrity (Source and Content Validation), and Encrypted (complete, end-to-end AES Encryption).

- **Auditing Facilities**

Caché provides detailed auditing facilities that store audit information in a specially protected Audit Database. Auditing capabilities are available from an Automated/Management and Programmatic/API point of view.

- **Encrypted Database Management Facility**

The new Encrypted Database facility allows you to create fully encrypted (AES, up to 256 bit) CACHE.DAT files that stay Encrypted on Disk at all times. I/O is encrypted and decrypted on the fly, with minimal performance impact. The database is encrypted with a Special Key file that is stored on removable devices (like USB Flash Drives) and must be present to mount the DB for use.

Security Advisor

To assist system managers in securing a Caché system, Caché includes a Security Advisor. This is a Web page that shows current security-related system configuration information, recommends changes

or areas for review, and provides links into other system management Web pages to make recommended changes.

Caché 5.1 contains the initial version of the Security Advisor. Its function and range will expand in future versions. It is accessed through the System Management Portal at **[Home] > [Security Management] > [Security Advisor]**.

InterSystems strongly recommends a review and resolution of the issues raised by the Security Advisor before allowing a secured system to attain production status.

Low-level Security Interfaces

System administrators can exercise low-level control over the security of Caché systems through two character-oriented interfaces:

- **^SECURITY** allows examination and editing of security data related to users, roles, domains, services, applications, and auditing. An overview of **^SECURITY** can be found in [The CHUI-Based Management Routines](#).
- **^DATABASE** provides low-level management capabilities related to Caché databases. An overview of **^DATABASE** can be found in [The CHUI-Based Management Routines](#).

Common Criteria Security Certification

Security certification is becoming an increasingly frequent requirement for government purchases, and is more and more requested for private sector purchases. Because of this, InterSystems is in the process of having Caché certified according to the Common Criteria standard. In fact, InterSystems is aiming to have Caché be the first product certified against the Common Criteria DBMS security profile.

The Common Criteria provides a set of common security standards for a wide number of nations in North America, Europe, and the Far East. It provides an assurance scale from 1 to 4, where a product's rating indicates the rigor of testing to which it has been subjected; commercially available products are rated from 1 (least rigorous testing) to 4 (most rigorous). Caché is currently under consideration for a level-3 rating. Such a rating indicates that Caché can effectively serve as part of a highly secure operational environment.

4.3.2 Caché Advanced Security Concepts

- Authentication ensures the verification of the identity of all users.
- Authorization ensures that users can access the resources that they need, and no others.
- Auditing keeps a log of pre-defined system and application-specific events, to provide forensic information about the database activities.

Authentication: Establishing Identity

Authentication is how you prove to Caché that you are who you say you are. Without trustworthy authentication, authorization mechanisms are moot — one user can impersonate another and then take advantage of the fraudulently obtained privileges.

The authentication mechanisms available depend on how you are accessing Caché. Caché has a number of available authentication mechanisms:

- Kerberos — The most secure means of authentication. The Kerberos Authentication System, developed at MIT, provides mathematically proven strong authentication over an unsecured network.
- Operating-system-based — Available for UNIX and OpenVMS, OS-based authentication uses the operating system's user identity to identify the user for Caché purposes.
- Caché login — With Caché login, Caché maintains a table of hashed password values for each user account; at login, Caché confirms user identity by comparing the value in the table with a hash of the password provided by the user.

Authorization: Controlling User Access

Once a user is authenticated, the next security-related question to answer is what that person is allowed to use, view, or alter. Authorization manages the relationships of users and *assets* such as databases, Caché services like ODBC access, and user-created applications.

In the most basic authorization model, there are all possible assets, a list of users, and all the relationships between the first group and the second.

Auditing: Knowing What Happened

Auditing provides a verifiable and trustworthy trail of actions related to the system. Auditing serves multiple security functions:

- It provides proof — the proverbial “paper trail” — recording of the actions of the authentication and authorization systems in Caché and its applications.
- It provides the basis for reconstructing the sequence of events after any security-related incident.
- Knowledge of its existence can serve as a deterrent for attackers (since they know they will reveal information about themselves during their attack).

The auditing facility automatically logs certain system events; it also allows you to enable logging for other system events, as well as site-defined application events. All audited events are placed in a tamper-resistant log file. Authorized users can then create reports based on this audit log, using tools that are part of Caché. Because the audit log can contain sensitive information (such as regarding positive or negative values for medical tests), running an audit report itself generates an entry for the audit log. The included Caché tools support report creation, archiving the audit log, and other tasks.

4.4 System Management Portal

Caché 5.1 now uses a browser-based interface, the System Management Portal, for system management. This new interface subsumes the functions previously distributed among Explorer, SQL Manager, Configuration Manager, and Control Panel functions of the Windows Caché Cube. In 5.1, these have been removed from the Cube.

An advantage of this approach is that it is no longer a requirement that Caché be installed on the system you use to manage an installation. Remote management of systems over the web, subject to access control established for the site, is now much easier. No Caché client software is required, simplifying management of multiple versions of Caché from a single device. Cross-release compatibility issues are minimized because both the data and its formatting information come directly from the system being managed.

See [Using the System Management Portal](#) for a detailed description of the new interface.

4.5 System Improvements

New Caché 5.1 system features and enhancements:

New Features:

- Nested Rollbacks
- Namespace Mapping for Class Packages
- New Method `$$SYSTEM.Util.CleanDeadJobs()`
- New Class `$$SYSTEM.Monitor.Line`
- New Method `$$System.Device.GetNullDevice()`
- New Optional Argument for `$$ZF(-2)`

Enhanced Features:

- Option to Filter Records before Dejournaling on a Shadow
- Callin Enhancements
- 64K Routine Buffer Support
- CVENDIAN Enhancements

4.5.1 Nested Rollbacks

This version of Caché introduces multiple transaction levels, which make it possible to roll back part of a transaction without losing all work completed to that point. When nested **TSTART**s are used, this enhancement enables the innermost **TSTART** to be rolled back, without rolling back the entire open transaction. When two **TSTART**s are issued without an intervening **COMMIT** or **TROLLBACK**, the transaction level (**\$TLEVEL**) is incremented by 1 (limited to a maximum of 255). When a **TCOMMIT** or **TROLLBACK 1** is issued, the transaction level is decremented by 1. When an unqualified **TROLLBACK** is issued, the transaction level is decremented to 0, and the entire transaction is rolled back.

Transaction commands now work as follows:

- The argumentless **TROLLBACK** command works as usual, rolling back to the very top level transaction and closing the transaction.
- The **TROLLBACK 1** command rolls the current open transaction back one level. All the globals changed within this transaction will be restored, and **\$TLEVEL** is decremented by 1. If there is no open transaction (**\$TLEVEL** is zero) then no action is taken. **TROLLBACK 1** won't roll back globals mapped to a remote system that doesn't support nested transactions unless **\$TLEVEL** is 1.
- The **TCOMMIT** command works as usual. In nested transactions, it decrements **\$TLEVEL** and writes a 'PTL' (pending commit with transaction level) journal record to the journal file.
- The **TSTART** command also works as usual. In nested transactions, it increments **\$TLEVEL** and writes a 'BT'(begin transaction) record in the journal file. If the new **\$TLEVEL** is greater than 1, it writes a 'BTL'(Begin Transaction with level) instead of 'BT'.

Caché SQL now includes standard SQL commands that take advantage of nested rollbacks (see [New SAVEPOINT Features](#)).

4.5.2 Namespace Mapping for Class Packages

Namespace mapping has been extended with the ability to map class packages from a database to one or more namespaces, just as routines and globals are mapped. Automatic namespace mapping is provided for system classes. All the schemas that begin with '%' from %sys are mapped to all namespaces automatically. These mappings allow the user to access SQL Table, View, Procedures, and classes across multiple namespaces. For example, assume a class %Test that has the following query:

```
Select field1 From %Test
```

Without mapping, attempting to inherit from this class in a user namespace would result in error: "Table %Test not found". With mapping, the class will compile successfully in any namespace.

For detailed information, see [Configuring Data](#) in the *Caché System Administration Guide*.

4.5.3 New Method `$$SYSTEM.Util.CleanDeadJobs()`

New class method `$$SYSTEM.Util.CleanDeadJobs()` is used to roll back a dead job's open transaction (if any) and clean up the dead job's Process Table (pidtab) slot so it can be re-used.

4.5.4 New Class `$$SYSTEM.Monitor.Line`

New class `$$SYSTEM.Monitor.Line` is a programmer API for the line-by-line monitor (`^%MONLBL`). It allows integration with Studio, and is also generally useful as a programmable alternative to `^%MONLBL`. For details, see the [Programming Interface](#) section in the `MONLBL` chapter of the *Caché Monitoring Guide*.

4.5.5 New Method `$$System.Device.GetNullDevice()`

New class method `$$System.Device.GetNullDevice()` returns the name of the null device appropriate for the current operating system type (`/dev/null` for Unix, `_NLA0` for OpenVMS, `\\.nul` for Windows). It facilitates development of applications that reference the Null device, and provides an OS-independent method for obtaining the name of the Null Device.

4.5.6 New Optional Argument for `$ZF(-2)`

Function `$ZF(-2)` now has an optional fifth argument that specifies whether or not the spawned process ID should be stored in `$ZCHILD`. For example:

```
s rc=$zf(-2,"program", "", "", 1)
s childpid=$ZCHILD
```

If the new argument is zero or not specified then `$ZCHILD` is unchanged, otherwise `$ZCHILD` is set to the spawned process ID when it is successfully spawned.

4.5.7 Option to Filter Records before Dejournaling on a Shadow

To filter journal records before they get dejournalled on a shadow, set the global node `^SYS("shdwcli",shdw_id,"filter")` to the name of the filter routine (without the leading `^`). The input parameters of the filter routine are:

- `pid`: process ID of the record
- `dir`: SOURCE (not SHADOW) database directory
- `glo`: global reference in the form of `global(subscripts)` (without leading `^`)
- `addr`: offset of the record in the journal file

- `type`: type of the record: "S" = SET, "s" = BITSET, "K" = KILL, "k" = ZKILL
- `time`: timestamp of the record

In compatible mode shadowing, the `pid` and `timestamp` parameters passed to the filter routine always have the value `""`. The filter routine should return 0 if the record should be skipped; otherwise the record will be journaled by the shadow. For example:

```
^SYS("shdwcli", "MyShadow", "filter")="MyShadowFilter"
MyShadowFilter(pid,dir,glo,type,addr,time) ;
i ${e($qs(glo,0))="X" & q 0 ;skip X* globals
d MSG^%UTIL(pid_,"_dir_", "_glo_", "_type_", "_addr_", "_time,1,0) ;log
q 1
```

4.5.8 Callin Enhancements

The Callin include files `ccallin.h` and `mcallin.h` have been enhanced to merge common functionality and provide greater flexibility for building user-defined C and C++ Callin modules. Defines have been added to make building user Callin modules as independent of interface details as possible. Two features control the selection of interfaces:

#define ZF_DLL

If `ZF_DLL` is not defined, the Callin module is built for linking with the Caché engine. If it is defined, the module is built as a dynamic shared library using Callback and invoked through the Callout facility. This is the same define employed by `cdzf.h`.

#define CACHE_UNICODE

If `CACHE_UNICODE` is not defined, string handling functions and arguments are treated as 8-bit characters. If defined, strings are treated as 16-bit Unicode. String handling functions are available with the "A" suffix, meaning 8-bit (or ASCII), the "W" suffix, meaning 16-bit Unicode (or wide), and no suffix. In the last case the function resolves to either the "A" or "W" suffix according to the definition of `CACHE_UNICODE`.

New functionality has been implemented to permit NLS translation using the **CacheCvtInW()** and **CacheCvtOutW()** functions for Unicode Callin to 8-bit Caché. They will now convert data within the 8-bit character set range of the Caché engine, instead of reporting an "unimplemented" error. **CacheCvtInA()** and **CacheCvtOutA()** functions for 8-bit Callin to Unicode Caché are not currently implemented.

You can further refine 8-bit argument prototypes with the new macro **USE_CALLIN_CHAR**, which declares them as `(char *)` rather than `(unsigned char *)`.

4.5.9 64K Routine Buffer Support

It is now possible to run with routine sizes up to 64K, by changing the `Memory/RoutineBufSize` value on the [Home] > [Configuration] > [Advanced Settings] page of the Management Portal from 32 to 64.

The default and minimum value is still 32 (32K), but now values can be specified from 33..64 (rounded to the nearest 2K increment). Routines or class descriptors greater than 32K will be stored as two global values, the first chunk in `^rOBJ(<routine name>)` as currently, and the second chunk in `^rOBJ(<routine name>,0)`.

4.5.10 CVENDIAN Enhancements

The `cvendian` database endian conversion utility has been enhanced to allow for positive identification of the desired endian orientation, or to optionally just inform the current endian orientation with no conversion. The command syntax is:

```
cvendian [-option] file1 [file2 ... file8]
```

where *option* is one of the following:

- `-big` — convert the database to big-endian
- `-little` — convert the database to little-endian
- `-report` — report the endian orientation of the database

The options may be shortened to their initial letter. If this is a conversion request, and the database already is of the specified endian orientation, a warning message is displayed and no further processing is done. Prior **cvendian** call formats remain supported.

4.6 Object Improvements

New Caché 5.1 object features and enhancements:

Object Enhancements

- New Option to Index on Computed Fields
- New Object Synchronization
- New Studio Extension Classes and Source Control Hooks
- New Stream Syntax
- New `%SwizzleObject` Class
- Extended POPSPEC Syntax
- Performance Improvements for Relationships
- Enhanced VisM OCX

4.6.1 New Option to Index on Computed Fields

An index definition can now reference properties defined as `CALCULATED` and `SQLCOMPUTED`. The property value calculation must be deterministic, always returning the same value for a given set of parameters. For example, it would be a mistake to use a function such as `$Horolog`, which returns different values depending on when it is called. Indexing on a property whose computation is non-deterministic will result in an index that is not properly maintained.

To support this option, properties defined as `SQLCOMPUTED` are now computed in Caché Objects. A new class method, `Compute`, is called by the property's `Get` method. The `Compute` method generates a return value by scanning `SQLCOMPUTECODE` for field references and converting those references to property or literal values. If the property also has `SQLCOMPUTEONCHANGE`, the `Compute` method is called whenever the property is changed.

4.6.2 New Object Synchronization

This new feature enables Caché to synchronize objects between databases. All object filing events (insert, update and delete) for journaled classes are automatically tracked. Object synchronization utilities provide methods to export the journaled object data and synchronize it with other databases. Applications with no access to the original database can then resolve references to the synchronized objects.

A new class, `%SYNC.SyncSetObject`, supplies methods to externalize an object and apply it to the target database. All references to persistent objects from the object being externalized are converted to GUID (Globally Unique Identifier) values. The GUID values are used to look up the corresponding object on import.

Another class, `%SYNC.SyncSet`, implements methods to manage the set of objects being synchronized. A 'synchronization set' is a set of externalized object values which guarantee that all object references can be resolved, either because the referenced object is in the same sync set, or because it already exists in the target database.

4.6.3 New Studio Extension Classes and Source Control Hooks

This release enhances the flexibility of Caché Studio by introducing the `%Studio.Extension` classes, which provide mechanisms for custom menus and user defined data entry. The `%Studio.SourceControl` classes now provide enhanced source control hooks, allowing customized checkout and checkin to a source control system.

When the user performs an action in Studio that may require user interaction with the server (for example, attempting to edit a document that is in source control but is not checked out), Studio now calls the **UserAction** method.

UserAction (Type, Name, InternalName, SelectedText, .Action, .Target, .Msg)

Type options are:

- Server defined menu item selected
- Other Studio action

Name is the menu item name if Type is a menu item, otherwise Name indicates one of the following options:

- User has tried to change a document that is locked in source control
- User has created a new document
- User has deleted a document

InternalName is the name of the document this action is concerned with.

SelectedText contains any selected text in the document that has focus.

Action returns an action that Studio should perform:

- Do nothing (this method can still perform some action such as check an item out of source control, but Studio will not ask for user input).
- Display the default Studio dialog with a yes/no/cancel button. The text for this dialog is provided in the Target return argument.
- Run a CSP Template. Target is the start page name for the template. The template will be passed the current document name, any selected text, the project name, and the namespace.
- Run an EXE on the client. Target is the name of an executable file on the client machine.
- Insert the text in Target in the current document at the current selection point
- Studio will open the documents listed in Target

You can define custom menus for Studio to display. Studio obtains the menus when it first connects to a namespace by running two queries, **MainMenus** and **MenuItems**. **MainMenus** returns the list of top level menu names. After this top level menu is selected, **MenuItems** is used to return the list of items on a specific menu. **MainMenus** can be either a regular menu or a context submenu that is added to all the context menus. The **MenuItems** query is passed the current document name and any selected text in case you wish to vary the menu based on these arguments.

By default, the source control class inherits these queries from %Studio.Extension.Base, where they are defined as SQL queries against prebuilt tables. To load data into these tables, define an XData block called Menu in your source control class. When the source control class is compiled, this data is loaded and used automatically. Queries defined in the source control subclass can be changed or completely customized. When data is being returned from the **MenuItems** query, each menu name

will generate a call to an **OnMenuItem** method in the source control class, where you may disable/enable this menu item. This allows simple modification of the menus without having to write a custom query.

4.6.4 New Stream Syntax

The class hierarchy for current stream classes has been changed so that `%Stream.Object` is the top class. This change does not alter stream runtime behavior.

In prior versions of Caché, it was necessary to define a stream property as `type = %Stream`, with a collection value of `binarystream` or `characterstream`. Now a stream property is defined by specifying the actual stream class as the type, and the collection keyword values of `binarystream` and `characterstream` are no longer used. A stream class is declared with a `classtype = stream`. This declaration is automatic for any class that extends a new class, `%Stream.Object`. For backward compatibility, the classes `%Library.GlobalCharacterStream`, `%Library.GlobalBinaryStream`, `%Library.FileCharacterStream`, and `%Library.FileBinaryStream` have been converted to use the new representation, and are to be used for all existing stream data.

For more detailed information, see the [Streams](#) chapter in *Using Caché Objects*.

4.6.5 New %SwizzleObject Class

A new class, `%SwizzleObject`, is now the primary (and only) superclass of both `%Persistent` and `%SerialObject`. The purpose of the new class is to define the swizzling interface and implement the parts of that interface that are common to both `%Persistent` and `%SerialObject`.

See the `%Library.SwizzleObject` class documentation for more detailed information.

4.6.6 Extended POPSPEC Syntax

The syntax of `POPSPEC` has been extended to allow an SQL table name and an SQL column name to be specified. When they are specified, the **Populate()** method constructs a dynamic query to return the distinct column values from the table. The requested number of values will then be randomly selected from the distinct column values and placed in a value set. The property will then be assigned values randomly from the resulting value set.

See [The Caché Data Population Utility](#) for more detailed information.

4.6.7 Performance Improvements for Relationships

The in-memory performance of relationships has been significantly improved by using additional in-memory indexes to keep track of `oref`'s and `oid` of items already in the relationship. Previously, when a new item was inserted into the relationship (either using the **Insert** method, or indirectly via the **Relate** method) it would scan the entire relationship to avoid inserting a duplicate item. By keeping

an index of the oref's and oid's in the relationship, the cost of checking for duplication items is kept very low even for large numbers of items.

Partition memory used is lower, speed is significantly faster (94x in the second insert of 1000 items) and %Save time is faster. When measured with a small number of items in the relationship, there was no measurable slowdown in performance associated with the upkeep of the additional in-memory indexes.

4.6.8 Enhanced VisM OCX

This release contains a new version of the Caché Direct control (VISM.OCX) that features enhancements such as security upgrades, support for multithreading, and improved error handling.

4.7 Language Improvements

New Caché 5.1 ObjectScript features and enhancements:

- Improved Runtime Error Reporting
- New **\$FACTOR** Function
- New **\$LISTNEXT**, **\$LISTTOSTRING**, and **\$LISTFROMSTRING** Functions
- New **\$ROLES** and **\$USERNAME** Special Variables
- New **\$ZUTIL(62,1)** Function
- New **\$ZUTIL(69)** Configuration Functions
- New **\$ZUTIL(158)** Function
- New **\$ZUTIL(186)** Function
- New **\$ZUTIL(193)** Function
- New Error Trapping Syntax
- More Efficient Code Generation
- Pattern-Match “E” Adapted For Unicode
- Faster **MERGE** Command

New Language Bindings:

- New Perl Binding
- New Python Binding

- New ActiveX Bindings

4.7.1 Improved Runtime Error Reporting

Many runtime errors now report additional information. For instance, an "<UNDEFINED>" error will now report the name of the undefined variable.

Error information is stored in the system variable **\$ZERROR**, which now returns more information than before. For example, when a routine attempts to use a variable that has not been defined, **\$ZERROR** now includes the name of the undefined variable. Whereas in previous versions of Caché the value of **\$ZERROR** might look like this:

```
<UNDEFINED>zMethodName^Pkg.Class.1
```

in version 5.1, it looks generically like this (adding " *someinfo"):

```
<ERRCODE>Tag^Routine+line *someinfo
```

A consequence of this change is that error handling routines that made assumptions about the format of the string in **\$ZERROR** may now require redesign to work as before. For further information, see the [Cache Conversion Guide](#), and the **\$ZERROR** special variable in the *Caché ObjectScript Reference*.

4.7.2 New \$FACTOR Function

\$FACTOR is a new ObjectScript function for 5.1 that converts a numeric value to a bitstring. Its primary use is for the creation of bitslice indices. For further information, see the **\$FACTOR** function in the *Caché ObjectScript Reference*.

4.7.3 New \$LISTNEXT, \$LISTTOSTRING, and \$LISTFROMSTRING Functions

Caché 5.1 adds three new functions for processing list structures: **\$ListNext**, **\$ListToString** and **\$ListFromString**.

\$ListNext(list, ptr, val) allows extremely rapid traversing of a list structure (up to 400x faster than doing a loop with **\$LIST**).

Before the first call to **\$ListNext**, **ptr** should be initialized to 0. After each call, **ptr** will contain the position of the next element in **list** (0 if the end of the list was reached), and **val** will contain the value of the element at that position (undefined if there was no value at that position). **\$ListNext** will return 1 if it found another list element, or 0 if it is at the end of the list.

\$ListToString(list[,delim]) takes **list**, and returns the elements as a string separated by **delim** (default ",").

\$ListFromString(string[,delim]) takes `string`, delimited by `delim` (default `" , "`), and returns the pieces as a list.

For further information, see the [\\$LISTNEXT](#), [\\$LISTTOSTRING](#), or [\\$LISTFROMSTRING](#) function in the *Caché ObjectScript Reference*.

4.7.4 New \$ROLES and \$USERNAME Special Variables

At Caché 5.1, the **\$ROLES** special variable lists the security roles currently assigned to the user. The **\$USERNAME** special variable list the user name for the current process. For further information, see the [\\$ROLES](#), [\\$USERNAME](#) special variables in the *Caché ObjectScript Reference*.

4.7.5 New \$ZUTIL(62,1) Function

The **\$ZUTIL(62,1)** function performs syntax checking on a line of Caché ObjectScript code. It returns the character position of the error and the text of an error message. For further information, see the [\\$ZUTIL\(62,1\)](#) function in the *Caché ObjectScript Reference*.

4.7.6 New \$ZUTIL(69) System Configuration Functions

Caché 5.1 documents the following additional system-wide configuration functions: [\\$ZUTIL\(69,19\)](#), [\\$ZUTIL\(69,21\)](#), [\\$ZUTIL\(69,31\)](#), [\\$ZUTIL\(69,35\)](#), [\\$ZUTIL\(69,37\)](#), [\\$ZUTIL\(69,44\)](#), [\\$ZUTIL\(69,49\)](#), and [\\$ZUTIL\(69,60\)](#).

Caché 5.1 also supports the new [\\$ZUTIL\(69,63\)](#) and [\\$ZUTIL\(68,63\)](#) functions that control whether a lowercase “e” should be interpreted as an exponent symbol.

For further information, see the [\\$ZUTIL\(69\)](#) functions in the *Caché ObjectScript Reference*.

4.7.7 New \$ZUTIL(158) Function

The **\$ZUTIL(158)** function can be used to return the number of installed printers and the pathname of a specified printer. For further information, see the [\\$ZUTIL\(158\)](#) function in the *Caché ObjectScript Reference*.

4.7.8 New \$ZUTIL(186) Function

The **\$ZUTIL(186)** function can be used to specify the information displayed as part of the Terminal prompt. For further information, see the [\\$ZUTIL\(186\)](#) function in the *Caché ObjectScript Reference*.

4.7.9 New \$ZUTIL(193) Function

The **\$ZUTIL(193)** function inter-converts Coordinated Universal Time and local time values. For further information, see the **\$ZUTIL(193)** function in the *Caché ObjectScript Reference*.

4.7.10 New Error Trapping Syntax

This version of Caché implements a special syntax that allows an error trap to pass control up the program stack to a previously established error trap. The syntax is **ZTRAP \$ZERROR**. This command will pop entries off the program stack until a level is found with an error trap. Then that error trap will be executed with **\$ZERROR** and **\$ECODE** unchanged.

This command replaces the two commands `ZQUIT 1 GOTO @$ZTRAP`, which did not work in new-style procedures. This new command syntax can be used in both procedures and old-style subroutines. The old style of passing control up to a previous error trap will continue to work in old-style subroutines. If a **ZQUIT** command is issued in a procedure, it will now result in a `<COMMAND>` error.

The **ZQUIT** command is obsolete as of 5.1, and should not be used for new programming.

4.7.11 More Efficient Code Generation

The CacheBasic compiler now uses an improved algorithm that generates significantly smaller and faster code.

4.7.12 Pattern-Match “E” Adapted For Unicode

In prior version of Caché, the options used with the pattern-match operator(s) assumed 8-bit characters. This caused the “E” pattern (match every character) to fail when Unicode characters above **\$CHAR(255)** were present in the string.

In Caché 5.1, the “E” pattern matches all characters.

4.7.13 Faster MERGE Command

The **MERGE** command is now much faster and more efficient when merging two local variables.

4.7.14 New Perl and Python Bindings

The Caché Perl and Python bindings provide a simple, direct way to manipulate Caché objects from within Perl or Python applications. They allow binding applications to establish a connection to a database on Caché, create and open objects in the database, manipulate object properties, save objects, run methods on objects, and run queries. All Caché datatypes are supported.

See [Using Perl with Caché](#) and [Using Python with Caché](#) for more detailed information.

4.7.15 Improved ActiveX Bindings

Caché 5.1 includes a new version of the [Caché ActiveX](#) binding, CacheActiveX.dll. Internally this new version uses the Caché C++ binding to get object-level access to a Caché server. Using this new binding provides the following benefits:

- access to the client/server security model available within Caché 5.1 (for example, the ability to use Kerberos authentication)
- better performance in some cases due to more sophisticated object caching.

While every attempt has been made to make this new DLL functionally compatible with the older CacheObject.dll it is not 100% binary compatible.

To preserve complete compatibility with existing applications, Caché installs two ActiveX bindings; the newer CacheActiveX.dll as well as the original CacheObject.dll. By default, existing applications will continue to use the original CacheObject.dll. If you wish to use the newer binding you have to modify your existing application to reference this new DLL and test that your application performs as expected.

4.8 SQL Improvements

New Caché 5.1 SQL features and enhancements:

New Features

- New SQL/XML Support Functions
- **SAVEPOINT**: New Transaction Processing Feature
- **CREATE TABLE**: New IDENTITY Keyword
- **DROP VIEW**: New CASCADE Keyword
- **INSERT**: New DEFAULT VALUES Clause
- New RowId Counter Validation Option
- New Query Optimizer Plan Verification

SQL Enhancements

- JDBC 3.0 Support
- **GRANT** and **REVOKE** Command Changes

- **CREATE USER** Command Changes
- Subquery Flattening
- Enhanced Locking Behavior for Foreign Key References
- READONLY Tables and Fields
- SQLCODE Changes
- Support for %%CLASSNAMEQ and %%TABLENAME
- CREATE BITMAP INDEX Support for Oracle Import Compatibility
- Extended Support for Milliseconds
- Date and Time Function Enhancements

4.8.1 New SQL/XML Support Functions

5.1 implements a collection of new built-in SQL functions for transforming “flat” relational queries into hierarchical XML documents. Application programs that need to generate HTML, or that need to export data in XML format, now have a general and portable interface that has wide industry support (ANSI/ISO SQL-2003 standard).

The following SQL/XML functions are available:

- **XmlElement** – Creates an XML element of the form: <tagName>body</tagName>, with optional attributes. **XmlElement** creates one tagged element that can contain multiple concatenated values.
- **XmlAttributes** – Specifies attributes for an XML element. **XmlAttributes** can only be used within an **XmlElement** function.
- **XmlConcat** – Concatenates two or more XML elements.
- **XmlAgg** – Aggregate function that concatenates the data values from a column.
- **XmlForest** – Creates a separate XML element for each item specified. **XmlForest** provides a convenient shorthand for specifying multiple elements nested within another element, where element instances that are NULL are omitted.

For more detailed information see [XMLELEMENT](#), [XMLAGG](#), [XMLCONCAT](#) and [XMLFOREST](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference*.

4.8.2 New SAVEPOINT Features

With version 5.1, Caché introduces multiple transaction levels (see [Nested Rollbacks](#)), which make it possible to roll back part of a transaction without losing all work completed to that point. Caché SQL now offers the following standard SQL commands that take advantage of this ability:

- `SAVEPOINT <savepointName>` — establishes a savepoint within a transaction.
- `ROLLBACK TO SAVEPOINT` — rolls back to the most recent savepoint.
- `ROLLBACK TO SAVEPOINT <savepointName>` — rolls back to the specified savepoint.
- `COMMIT` – commits only the current sub-transaction when `$TLEVEL > 1`.

For more detailed information see [SAVEPOINT](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference*.

4.8.3 CREATE TABLE: New IDENTITY Keyword

Caché SQL now supports the ability to define a column with a system-generated numeric value in a **CREATE TABLE** statement. An **IDENTITY** column is an exact non-negative integer column whose values are system-generated, and may not be assigned by the user in either **INSERT** or **UPDATE** statements. It may, however, be viewed using **SELECT ***. The syntax is:

```
CREATE TABLE <tablename> (  
  [ other-table-elements , ]  
  <columnname> [ <datatype> ] IDENTITY  
  [ UNIQUE | NULL | NOT NULL |  
    DEFAULT [(|<default-spec>[|)] |  
    [COLLATE] <sqlcollation> |  
    %DESCRIPTION <literal>  
  ]  
[ , other-table-elements ]  
)
```

An **IDENTITY** column is always data type **INTEGER** with unique non-null values. You can specify a datatype and constraints, but these are ignored by Caché.

This syntax is consistent with Microsoft SQL Server and Sybase syntax.

For more detailed information, see [CREATE TABLE](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference*.

4.8.4 DROP VIEW: New CASCADE Keyword

Caché SQL now supports the ability to cascade the deletion of a view to also delete any view that references that view. The new keywords are **CASCADE** and **RESTRICT**. The **RESTRICT** keyword is the default and is the same as prior **DROP VIEW** behavior.

For more detailed information, see [DROP VIEW](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference*.

4.8.5 INSERT: New DEFAULT VALUES Clause

Caché SQL now supports the ability to use default field values when inserting a row into a table. The syntax is:

```
INSERT INTO <tablename> DEFAULT VALUES
```

The statement will insert a single row into the table. Each field that has a default value will have the value assigned to the column. Fields without default values will be NULL for the row.

For more detailed information, see [INSERT](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference*.

4.8.6 New Rowid Counter Validation Option

A new configuration option now makes it possible to validate new system-assigned ID values. The option is activated by setting `^%SYS("dbms", "validate system-assigned id")` to 1. Although such validation is not normally necessary, it is possible that the ID could be invalid if the user has modified the value manually, or if objects are inserted into the table without using the object or SQL filer. Other system recovery errors could also allow this condition to exist (bad recovery of a journal file, disk failure, etc.).

When this option is enabled, the table compiler will generate a uniqueness check on insert for the ID value. If validation fails, `SQLCODE=-119`, will be returned to the caller and a message will be written to the console log. After writing a message to the `Console.log` file and before returning from the filer, the user-defined routine `^%ZOIDERROR` will be called. It is important to review the console log when this error is reported.

When this error is reported, it will be necessary to bring the ID counter back into sync with the data. Each failure will cause the system ID counter to be incremented, so it is possible that the problem will correct itself over time. At the point the error is reported it is not necessarily true that the counter is wrong, since the data itself may be incorrect. It is the responsibility of the user to determine how the counter became invalid.

4.8.7 New Query Optimizer Plan Verification

Regression tests based on **TestSQLScript** now have an easy way to verify query plan stability. Defining the class parameter `SHOWPLAN=1` in `%UnitTest.TestSQLScript` will cause the query optimizer plan to be written to an output file.

4.8.8 JDBC 3.0 Support

Cache 5.1 supports JDK 1.4 and JDBC 3.0. All required features and most optional features are supported.

4.8.9 GRANT and REVOKE Command Changes

Due to the extensive improvements to Caché security at 5.1, the SQL **GRANT** and **REVOKE** commands no longer support the following syntactical forms:

- GRANT ACCESS ON *namespace*
- GRANT %THRESHOLD *number*
- The %GRANT_ANY_PRIVILEGE, %CREATE_USER, %ALTER_USER, %DROP_USER, %CREATE_ROLE, %GRANT_ANY_ROLE, and %DROP_ANY_ROLE privileges

The **GRANT** and **REVOKE** command support the following additional options:

- Granting a role to a role, creating a hierarchy of roles
- The EXECUTE object privilege
- The granting of object privileges to stored procedures, as well as tables and views
- The use of the asterisk (*) to grant EXECUTE object privileges to all stored procedures

For more detailed information, see [GRANT](#) and [REVOKE](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference*.

4.8.10 CREATE USER Command Changes

At 5.1, issuing a **CREATE USER** does not automatically assign any roles or privileges to the user, regardless of the privileges held by the creator. Privileges and roles must be assigned to a new user using the **GRANT** command.

For more detailed information, see [CREATE USER](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference*.

4.8.11 Subquery Flattening

In many cases the SQL engine will now attempt to “flatten” certain types of SQL queries. That is, a query will be internally converted into an equivalent form that does not contain a subquery. In many cases, it is easier for the SQL optimizer to recognize this equivalent form, and a better execution plan is generated.

4.8.12 Enhanced Locking Behavior for Foreign Key References

Locking behavior during table filing has been changed in the following ways:

- During SQL **DELETE**, for every foreign key reference a long-term shared lock will be acquired on the row in the referenced table. This row will be locked until the end of the transaction. This ensures that the referenced row is not changed before a potential rollback of the SQL **DELETE**
- During SQL **INSERT**, for every foreign key reference a long term shared lock will be acquired on the referenced row in the referenced table. This row will be locked until the end of the transaction. This ensures that the referenced row is not changed between the checking of the referential integrity and the end if the **INSERT**'s transaction.

- During SQL **UPDATE**, for every foreign key reference which has a field value being updated, a long-term shared lock will be acquired on the old referenced row in the referenced table. This row will be locked until the end of the transaction. This ensures that the referenced row is not changed before a potential rollback of the SQL **UPDATE**.
- During SQL **UPDATE**, for every foreign key reference that is being changed, a long term shared lock will be acquired on the new referenced row in the referenced table. This row will be locked until the end of the transaction. This ensures that the referenced row is not changed between the checking of the referential integrity and the end if the **UPDATE**'s transaction.

4.8.13 READONLY Tables and Fields

Prior to this version of Caché, trying to INSERT, UPDATE, or DELETE into a ReadOnly table would not result in an error until the statement was executed. In this version, an `SQLCODE=-115` error will be raised during compilation.

When a property is defined as ReadOnly, the field in the corresponding SQL table is also now defined as ReadOnly. READONLY fields may only be defined via an initial expression or SQL Compute code; they may never be explicitly insert or updated via SQL statements. Any attempt to INSERT or UPDATE a value for the field (even a NULL value) will result in an `SQLCODE=-138` error ("Cannot INSERT/UPDATE a value for a ReadOnly field").

4.8.14 SQLCODE Changes

The following SQLCODE error codes have been added for 5.1:

- -129: This error is raised when you attempt to set a Caché Locale setting to an invalid value. See [SET OPTION](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference* for further details.

```
SQLCODE = -129: Illegal value for SET OPTION locale property
```

- -138: This error is raised when you attempt to compile an INSERT or UPDATE that references a read-only field. See [INSERT](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference* for further details.

```
SQLCODE = -138: Cannot INSERT/UPDATE a value for a ReadOnly field
```

- -142: This error is raised when the **CREATE VIEW** command contains a mismatch between the number of columns in the view definition and number of columns in the query. See [CREATE VIEW](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference* for further details.

```
SQLCODE = -142: Cardinality mismatch between the View-Column-list and View Query's SELECT clause
```

- -308: This error is raised when you attempt to define more than one IDENTITY field for a table. See [CREATE TABLE](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference* for further details.

```
SQLCODE = -308 Identity column already defined for this table
```

- -316: This error is raised when a Foreign key references a non-existent column.
`SQLCODE = -316 Foreign key references non-existent key/column collection`
- -321: This error is raised when you attempt to drop a view when another view references that view. See [DROP VIEW](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference* for further details.
`SQLCODE = -321 Cannot DROP view - One or more views reference this view`
- -356 and -357: These two errors may be raised by an attempt to use a user-defined SQL function.
`SQLCODE = -356: SQL Function (function Stored Procedure) is not defined to return a value`
`SQLCODE = -357: SQL Function (function Stored Procedure) is not defined as a function procedure`
- -375: This error is raised when you attempt to roll back to a savepoint that was either never established or has already been rolled back.
`SQLCODE = -375 Cannot ROLLBACK to unestablished savepoint`
- -417: This error is raised when login fails. Usually this is due to username and password checking failure. It can also occur if the username is not privileged.
`SQLCODE = -417 Cache Security Error`
- -431: This error is raised when you attempt to pass a literal as a stored procedure parameter when the underlying argument type is an object type.
`SQLCODE = -431 Stored procedure parameter type mismatch`
- -459: This error is raised when you try to connect using Kerberos and security authentication fails. Possible reasons include: the Kerberos security executable cconnect.dll is missing or fails to load; your connection is rejected because of the Kerberos credentials you supplied.
`SQLCODE = -459 Kerberos authentication failure`

The following obsolete SQLCODE values have been removed:

SQLCODE -340, -341, -342, -343, -344, -345, -346, -347

For a complete list of SQLCODE values, refer to [Error Codes](#) in the *Caché SQL Reference*.

4.8.15 Support for %%CLASSNAMEQ and %%TABLENAME

Caché SQL now supports {%%CLASSNAMEQ} and {%%TABLENAME} references in class definition SQL specific COS code in the following locations:

- SQL Computed field code

- SQL Trigger code
- %CacheSQLStorage conditional map condition expression.

{%%CLASSNAMEQ} (case insensitive) will translate to the quoted string for the name of the class which projected the SQL table definition.

{%%TABLENAME} (case insensitive) will translate to the quoted string for the qualified name of the table

For example, assume the following trigger in the class User.Person:

```
Trigger AfterInsert1 [ Event = INSERT, Order = 1, Time = AFTER ]
{
Set ^Audit("table",{%%TABLENAME},$j,"AFTER INSERT TRIGGER")=1
Set ^Audit("class",{%%CLASSNAMEQ},$j,"AFTER INSERT TRIGGER")=1
}
```

If User.Employee extends User.Person, the following SQL trigger code will be pulled as an AFTER INSERT trigger in the SQLUSER.EMPLOYEE table:

```
Set ^Audit("table","SQLUser.Employee",$j,"AFTER INSERT TRIGGER")=1
Set ^Audit("class","User.Employee",$j,"AFTER INSERT TRIGGER")=1
```

4.8.16 CREATE BITMAP INDEX Support for Oracle Import Compatibility

When loading an Oracle SQL script file through `$$SYSTEM.SQL.DDLImport()` or `$$SYSTEM.SQL.Oracle()`, Caché SQL now recognizes the **CREATE BITMAP INDEX** statement.

4.8.17 Extended Support for Milliseconds

Caché SQL now supports fractional seconds in all date/time functions. The **DATEADD**, **DATEDIFF**, **DATENAME**, and **DATEPART** functions now support a datepart of "ms" or "milliseconds". The ODBC Scalar functions {fn **TIMESTAMPADD()**} and {fn **TIMESTAMPDIFF()**} now support the `SQL_TSI_FRAC_SECOND` parameter.

See **DATEPART** in the *Caché SQL Reference* for more detailed information.

4.8.18 Date and Time Function Enhancements

- The SQL Scalar functions `TO_DATE` and `TO_CHAR` now accept `%Library.TimeStamp` logical values as input. In addition, the following format codes have been added for support of `TimeStamp` values:
 - HH – hour of day (1-12)
 - HH12 – hour of day (1-12)

- HH24 – hour of day (0-23)
 - MI – minute (0-59)
 - SS – second (0-59)
 - SSSSS – seconds past midnight (0-86388)
 - AM – meridian indicator
 - PM – meridian indicator
- There is a new configuration setting for the default format value for the **TO_DATE()** function. The default format is still "DD MON YYYY", but it can be changed using the following commands:

```
Do $SYSTEM.SQL.SetToDateDefaultFormat(<value>)
```

or

```
Do SetToDateDefaultFormat^%apiSQL(<value>)
```

For example:

```
Do $SYSTEM.SQL.SetToDateDefaultFormat("YYYY-MM-DD HH24:MI:SS")
```

The current setting for the **TO_DATE()** default format can be displayed with:

```
Do CurrentSettings^%apiSQL
```

or

```
Do $SYSTEM.SQL.CurrentSettings()
```

- The following **CAST** and **CONVERT** operations are now supported for **%FilemanDate** and **%FilemanTimeStamp**:
 - CAST (<%FilemanDate value> AS CHAR)
 - CAST (<%FilemanDate value> as DATE)
 - CAST (<%FilemanDate value> as TIMESTAMP)
 - CAST (<%FilemanDate value> as VARCHAR)
 - {fn CONVERT(<%FilemanDate value>, SQL_DATE)}
 - {fn CONVERT(<%FilemanDate value>, SQL_TIMESTAMP)}
 - {fn CONVERT(<%FilemanDate value>, SQL_VARCHAR)}
 - CAST (<%FilemanTimeStamp value> AS CHAR)
 - CAST (<%FilemanTimeStamp value> as DATE)
 - CAST (<%FilemanTimeStamp value> as TIME)

- `CAST (<%FilemanTimeStamp value> as TIMESTAMP)`
- `CAST (<%FilemanTimeStamp value> as VARCHAR)`
- `{fn CONVERT(<%FilemanTimeStamp value>, SQL_DATE)}`
- `{fn CONVERT(<%FilemanTimeStamp value>, SQL_TIME)}`
- `{fn CONVERT(<%FilemanTimeStamp value>, SQL_TIMESTAMP)}`
- `{fn CONVERT(<%FilemanTimeStamp value>, SQL_VARCHAR)}`

4.9 Connectivity Improvements

New Caché 5.1 connectivity features and enhancements:

- New ECP Cluster Support
- New SNMP Support
- New LDAP Client
- New Mac OS X server support

4.9.1 New ECP Cluster Support

Enterprise Cache Protocol is now supported in shared disk cluster configurations with OpenVMS and Tru64 UNIX.

Differences between ECP cluster and failover cluster:

- Faster failover
- Active shared disk(s).
- No network reconfiguration.
- Roll in and out cluster member for repair, upgrade, maintenance and etc.
- All cluster members are live.

Features

- ECP Cluster server will provide higher availability.
- Locks and transactions are preserved during failover.
- Only the cluster master serves the ECP clients.

- The cluster members could be used for other applications.

InterSystems strongly recommends the use of ECP for clustered systems. ECP represents a significant advance over predecessor networking approaches such as DCP. Customers currently using DCP for communications among members of a cluster will see improvements in performance, reliability, availability, and error recovery by converting to ECP.

4.9.2 New SNMP Support

To enable monitoring of Caché by a variety of systems management tools and frameworks, support for the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) has been added. The `%SYSTEM.MonitorTools.SNMP` class allows for control of SNMP agents and functions. This class contains methods to start and stop the Caché SNMP agent, as well as the `CreateMIB()` method which generates a custom MIB file based on an application description in the Monitor Framework.

For details, see [Using SNMP to Monitor Caché](#) in the *Caché Monitoring Guide*.

4.9.3 New LDAP Client

Programmatic access to LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) servers has been added. See the `%Net.LDAP.Client.Session` class documentation for details.

4.9.4 New Mac OS X server support

This version of Caché now installs and executes natively on Mac OS X 10.3. The installation kit is a standard ".dmg" distribution produced by PackageMaker.

Support has been added for Mac OS X as a server plus the following client components:

- ODBC
- JDBC
- Objects
- CSP Gateway for Apache

A native Objective-C binding is also available.