



# How to Change to a Different Namespace

Version 5.1  
15 June 2006

*How to Change to a Different Namespace*  
Caché Version 5.1 15 June 2006  
Copyright © 2006 InterSystems Corporation.  
All rights reserved.

This book was assembled and formatted in Adobe Page Description Format (PDF) using tools and information from the following sources: Sun Microsystems, RenderX, Inc., Adobe Systems, and the World Wide Web Consortium at [www.w3c.org](http://www.w3c.org). The primary document development tools were special-purpose XML-processing applications built by InterSystems using Caché and Java.



The Caché product and its logos are trademarks of InterSystems Corporation.



The Ensemble product and its logos are trademarks of InterSystems Corporation.



The InterSystems name and logo are trademarks of InterSystems Corporation.

This document contains trade secret and confidential information which is the property of InterSystems Corporation, One Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02142, or its affiliates, and is furnished for the sole purpose of the operation and maintenance of the products of InterSystems Corporation. No part of this publication is to be used for any other purpose, and this publication is not to be reproduced, copied, disclosed, transmitted, stored in a retrieval system or translated into any human or computer language, in any form, by any means, in whole or in part, without the express prior written consent of InterSystems Corporation.

The copying, use and disposition of this document and the software programs described herein is prohibited except to the limited extent set forth in the standard software license agreement(s) of InterSystems Corporation covering such programs and related documentation. InterSystems Corporation makes no representations and warranties concerning such software programs other than those set forth in such standard software license agreement(s). In addition, the liability of InterSystems Corporation for any losses or damages relating to or arising out of the use of such software programs is limited in the manner set forth in such standard software license agreement(s).

THE FOREGOING IS A GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY INTERSYSTEMS CORPORATION ON THE USE OF, AND LIABILITY ARISING FROM, ITS COMPUTER SOFTWARE. FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE STANDARD SOFTWARE LICENSE AGREEMENT(S) OF INTERSYSTEMS CORPORATION, COPIES OF WHICH WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

InterSystems Corporation disclaims responsibility for errors which may appear in this document, and it reserves the right, in its sole discretion and without notice, to make substitutions and modifications in the products and practices described in this document.

Caché, InterSystems Caché, Caché SQL, Caché ObjectScript, Caché Object, Ensemble, InterSystems Ensemble, Ensemble Object, and Ensemble Production are trademarks of InterSystems Corporation. All other brand or product names used herein are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies or organizations.

For Support questions about any InterSystems products, contact:

**InterSystems Worldwide Customer Support**

Tel: +1 617 621-0700  
Fax: +1 617 374-9391  
Email: [support@InterSystems.com](mailto:support@InterSystems.com)

# Table of Contents

<b>How to Change to a Different Namespace</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1 Namespaces and the Caché Terminal .....	2
2 Changing Namespaces within an Application .....	3
<b>List of Tables</b>	
Predefined Namespaces .....	2



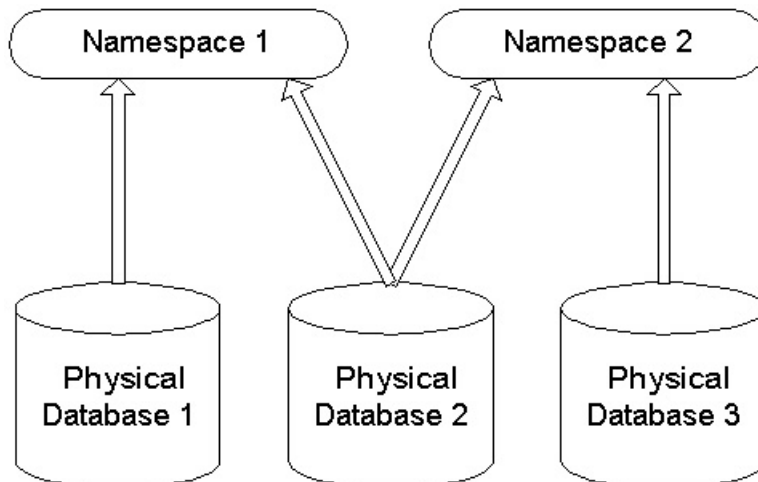
# How to Change to a Different Namespace

Caché data is stored in databases and accessed via namespaces.

A *database* is a file (actually it could be more than one file, but we'll skip that complication for now) that can contain many different sorts of information—data from many classes, in object terms, or from many tables, in relational terms.

A *namespace* is a logical view of data in one or more databases. In the simplest case, there is a one-to-one correspondence between a namespace and a database, but in the real world it's very powerful to define a namespace which provides access to data in multiple databases.

A given Caché system has multiple “namespaces” each of which provides a different logical view of the data stored within one or more physical databases. This is illustrated in the following diagram:



Caché comes with the following namespaces predefined.

### *Predefined Namespaces*

Namespace	Contents	Fate when a new Caché version is installed
%CACHELIB	Components of the Caché system itself, such as the definitions of built-in classes.	Replaced
%SYS	System management information and utilities.	Preserved
SAMPLES	Sample code and applications.	Replaced
USER	Empty at installation. Typically used for application development.	Preserved

## 1 Namespaces and the Caché Terminal

When you are using the Caché terminal to interact with a Caché system, the command prompt shows the current namespace you are in:

```
USER>
```

From the command line you can switch to a different namespace using the Caché ObjectScript **ZNAMESPACE** command (short form:**ZN**):

```
USER>  
USER>ZN "SAMPLES"  
SAMPLES>
```

The **ZNAMESPACE** command takes a single string as argument that is the name of the namespace you wish to switch to. If you enter an invalid namespace name, **ZNAMESPACE** will throw a `<NAMESPACE>` error.

Alternatively, you can use the **^%CD** (Change Directory) command line utility which provides a simple user interface that prompts you about which namespace to change to. If you enter “?” at the prompt, **^%CD** will give you a list of available namespaces to choose from.

## 2 Changing Namespaces within an Application

Within an application you can determine the current namespace using the **\$ZU(5)** system command:

```
Write $ZU(5)
```

You can switch to different namespace from within an application using the [ZNAMESPACE](#) command:

```
ZN "SAMPLES"
```

You should take care when changing namespaces within applications. In particular, object and SQL code assumes that it is running in a single namespace; changing namespaces with open object instances or SQL cursors will lead to code running incorrectly. Typically you do not have to worry about this; the various Object, SQL, and CSP servers automatically ensure that application code is run in the correct namespace. Changing namespaces is a fairly expensive operation (as compared to other commands); application code should avoid it as possible.

