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Advisor Answers

Visual FoxPro 5.0 and 3.0 and FoxPro 2.x

Q: Does the SELECT statement support creation of empty memo fields as it supports creating empty character fields?

For example, consider:

```
SELECT SPACE(10) AS TAG, ;
       ???? AS MY_MEMO, ;
       NAME, ADDR ;
  FROM SRC_DBF ;
  INTO TABLE TARG_TBL ;
  WHERE...
```

What is the syntax of "???? AS MY_MEMO" where MY_MEMO is to be a memo field in the target table?

The workaround I have been using is to get the memo field from another table that has one blank memo field record and join the two tables in the WHERE clause. But a more direct method would be much faster, I'm sure.

–Arden Weiss (via Advisor.Com)

A: Actually, there is no direct way to create empty memo fields using SELECT. There's also no direct way to create empty fields of type Integer or Double.

The work-around you're using is very close to what I recommend. Rather than keeping a table around for this purpose, I suggest you use a cursor that you create on the fly:

```
CREATE CURSOR Dummy (My_Memo M)
```

Add one empty record to it:

```
APPEND BLANK
```

Then you can use this cursor in the query. You don't put any special code in the WHERE clause because you're doing what's known as a Cartesian join. Normally, a Cartesian join, where every record of one table is joined with every record of another, is a terrible idea. But, in this case, where the cursor contains only a single record, it gives you exactly the results you want.

```
SELECT SPACE(10) AS TAG, ;
       My_Memo AS MY_MEMO, ;
       NAME, ADDR ;
  FROM SRC_DBF, Dummy ;
  INTO TABLE TARG_TBL ;
  WHERE...
```

Finally, when you're done, clean up:

```
USE IN Dummy
```

As I noted above, integer and double present the same problem and lend themselves to the same solution. For other field types, use SPACE(), as shown in the example, for character fields, {} for empty date fields, TTOC(" ") to create datetimes, .F. to create logicals and $0 to create currency.

–Tamar