



# myFMbutler DoSQL User Manual

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## 1° What does it do?

myFMbutler DoSQL is a FileMaker® Pro plug-in for Windows and Macintosh that allows you to manipulate FileMaker data from FileMaker calculations. The plug-in uses SQL statements to select, update, create or delete FileMaker records.

### Features:

- write to FileMaker fields directly, using a calculation with SQL statements
- do complex portal filtering
- easily update data in unrelated tables
- keep a change log of your records, or add rollback functionality

### Benefits:

- doesn't require any drivers
- limits the number of tables, relationships, fields, and scripts required for certain tasks

## 2° What do I need?

FileMaker Pro 11 (versions 9 and 10 also supported)

Please note there are **two versions of DoSQL** plug-in:

Version **1.4** is for FileMaker Pro 11

Version **1.3.1** is for earlier versions 9 and 10.

## 3° How do I make this work?

### a. Installation

- On **Windows**, make sure to quit FileMaker first if it is running.

Then copy the appropriate version of the plug-in to the **Extensions folder** of the FileMaker application or to the **Application Data folder**:

```
C:\Documents and Settings\[user]\Local Settings\Application  
Data\FileMaker\Extensions (on Windows XP)
```

```
C:\Users\[user]\Local Settings\Application Data\FileMaker\  
Extensions (On Windows Vista/7)
```

- On **Mac OS X**, copy the appropriate version of the plug-in to the **Extensions folder** of the FileMaker application or to the **Application Support folder**:

~/Library/Application Support/FileMaker/Extensions/

In order to remove the plugin, quit FileMaker and remove the plugin file from the same location.

## **b. Example Files**

We have supplied a couple of **example files** that demonstrate different ways of how the DoSQL plug-in may be used. Please refer to these files to get a better idea of how DoSQL works.

## **c. DoSQL Reference**

The 'DoSQL Reference' file offers a concise overview of exactly what each DoSQL function does.

## **d. Supported SQL Statements**

DoSQL supports all SQL statements that are supported by FileMaker's ODBC and JDBC client drivers:

SELECT	DELETE	INSERT	UPDATE (*)
CREATE TABLE (*)	ALTER TABLE (*)	CREATE INDEX	DROP INDEX

(\*) These statements have certain limitations: please refer to the 'Caveats' chapter on the next page for more details.

You can refer to the FileMaker documentation for more detailed information about using these statements. The document is called 'FileMaker 11 ODBC and JDBC Guide'

It is also available for download at:

[http://www.filemaker.com/support/product/docs/fmp/fm11\\_odbc\\_jdbc\\_guide\\_en.pdf](http://www.filemaker.com/support/product/docs/fmp/fm11_odbc_jdbc_guide_en.pdf)

Another great general resource about SQL can be found at [W3 Schools.com](http://W3Schools.com).

## 4° Caveats: what you should know

DoSQL relies on an ExecuteSQL method in the FileMaker plug-in SDK. Therefore, it is important to know that the plug-in has certain limitations, inherent to the use of that method.

### a. IMPORTANT: Using the 'UPDATE' statement

The SQL engine is behaving like another user using your file with the same credentials you have. It's as if it is accessing your data from another window. This means you have to be careful when modifying records (using the 'UPDATE' statement). You could be in the process of modifying yourself manually, or within a script.

Because FileMaker does not return a record locking error when that happens, use the 'UPDATE' statement with caution.

### b. IMPORTANT: Using the 'CREATE', 'ALTER' or 'DROP' statements

If you want to use the 'CREATE', 'DROP' or 'ALTER' statements, the parameter *executeOnIdle* is required.

Keep in mind, however that this particular feature is still **experimental**, so proceed with caution!

### c. Avoid the use of spaces in table or field names

Although the use of field and table names with spaces is not recommended, it is possible:

for data source and field names with spaces, you need to escape your spaces using quotes: e.g. `select "My Field Name", "My Table"."My Other Field" from "My Table"`

You can also use the function `mFMb_DoSQL_QuoteField( fieldname )` to automatically conversion of "FileMaker-style" syntax like `my Table::my Field` to SQL syntax like `"my Table.my Field"` (with quotes) - this requires DoSQL 1.2 or higher)

### d. Avoid making stored calculations that do DoSQL queries

Avoid making stored calculations that do DoSQL queries, because it will not work reliably. Use auto-enter calculations instead.

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