ABS Tech Note: DAL29 UPDATE Statements and $sqlcode (8/93)

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TOPIC ---

When a DAL UPDATE statement is executed and does not modify any rows,
$sqlcode returns 0, even though some kind of error response would be
appropriate.

DISCUSSION --

The problem is that DAL is using dynamic SQL statements, and DBMS vendors
do not return an appropriate SQLCODE to DAL under this circumstance, so
there is no way for DAL to return an error.

If this information is necessary, you can check for a non-zero set of data
by doing a SELECT FOR EXTRACT and checking $rowcnt to make sure it is
greater than zero.

For instance, the following SQL will update no rows in the demonstration
tables, but return an $sqlcode of 0:

```
UPDATE offices SET city = 'Port Ludlow' WHERE office_nr = 444;
print $sqlcode;
```

To verify whether or not this command modifies rows, the following code can
be used:

```
SELECT city FROM offices WHERE office_nr = 444 FOR EXTRACT;
print $rowcnt;
```

If $rowcnt is greater than zero, then the equivalent UPDATE statement will
modify rows.

This limitation may be resolved in a future release of DAL if the
appropriate information is available from the host DBMS.
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