

Structure of SYSTABLES and SYSVOLUMES

The **SYSTABLES** table is keyed by the name of the table (as you would pass it to the BASIC+ [OPEN statement](#)) and contains five fields:

1. The key to the **SYSVOLUMES** table for the volume that contains this table name;
2. The name by which the volume knows this table (i.e. the name that this table is listed as in the volume's media map);
3. The database name that owns this table, or **GLOBAL** if this table is meant to be available to all applications;
4. The name of the filing system function (or an **@vm**-delimited list of functions, when one or more MFSs are used) that implements access to this table;
5. The information that the filing system function(s) need to access this particular table, or blank if this table has not been opened; this field is called the "handle".

The **SYSVOLUMES** table has a two-part key in OpenInight:

1. The base filing system that implements access to the volume;
2. The name of the volume, which may be a path name in the case of directory-based implementations such as Linear Hash;

The **SYSVOLUMES** table contains six fields:

1. A **volume stamp** (or **label**) which is intended to uniquely identify a volume even if two different volume names (for example, two mapped drives that refer to the same directory) refer to the same volume;
2. Generally referred to as the **volume's location**, this field contains information that the filing system function needs to access the media map (and perhaps the tables too);
3. The **list of tables** (**@vm**-delimited) from this volume that are in **SYSTABLES**; note that each of the referenced tables will have this volume's key in the first field of their **SYSTABLES** records;
4. The name of the **filing system** function (or an **@vm**-delimited list of functions, when one or more MFSs are used) that implements access to the volume's media map;
5. The information that the filing system function(s) need to access the media map; this field is called the **handle**;
6. This field is used for control information; this was added either for the VMARK or SQL Server bond, so chances are you will never see anything in field 6.

If you look at the **SYSTABLES** information for the tables named **SYSTABLES** and **SYSVOLUMES**, you will see that the filing system is **RTP50** and the handles (field 5) are **T** and **V**. **RTP50** is a filing system function that presents the information as if it were a table called **SYSTABLES**, and it presents the information in as if it were a table called **SYSVOLUMES**.