

# EVL - QVD Utils

---

version 2.7

This manual is for **QVD Utils** (version 2.8), an EVL Microservice which read QVD, write QVD/QVX and get information from QVD/QVX (Qlik's file formats). Using QVD Utils stand-alone, i.e. without other EVL Microservices, allows only to read/write QVD files from/into CSV. But together with other EVL Microservices, or with full EVL installation, you can transform Qlik QVD files also from/into many other formats or to read/write directly from/into various databases.

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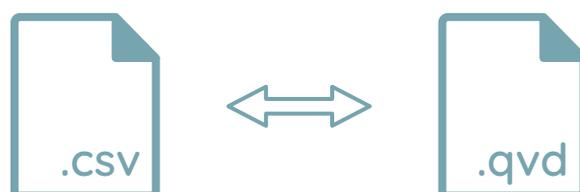
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# 1 Introduction

QVD Utils enables reading/writing QVD files without a need to use Qlik Sense or QlikView. Also provides metadata from QVD/QVX header. It is useful when you need to convert various sources directly to/from a QVD file and you don't want to overload your Qlik server by processing many, or large, QVD files.

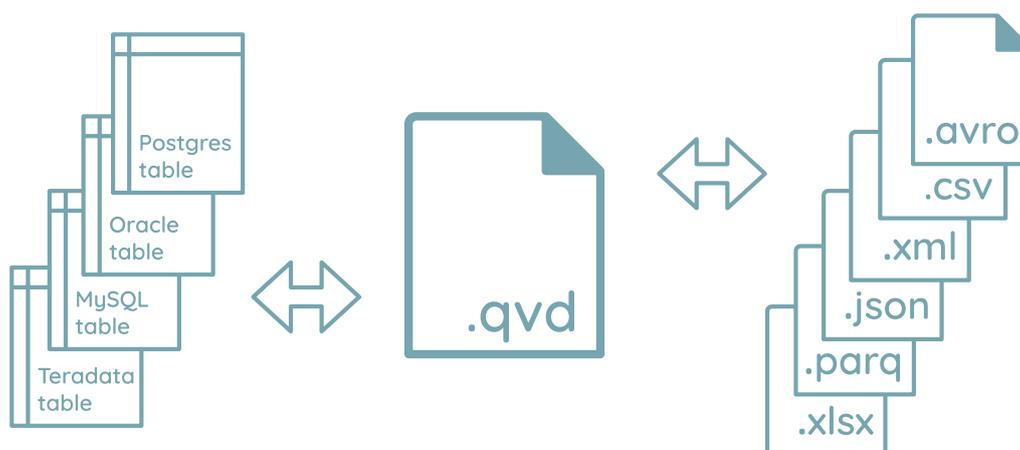
## 1.1 QVD Utils used standalone



Having QVD Utils without any other EVL Microservice contain these scripts:

- Section 4.1 [csv2evd], page 6, – generate EVL data definition file (EVD file) based on CSV
- Section 4.2 [csv2qvd], page 8, – convert CSV to QVD
- Section 4.3 [qvd2csv], page 11, – convert QVD to CSV
- Section 4.4 [qvd2evd], page 14, – generate EVL data definition file (EVD file) based on QVD
- Section 4.5 [qvd-header], page 15, – get information from QVD header, like field names as JSON, or number of records

## 1.2 QVD Utils in combination with other Microservices

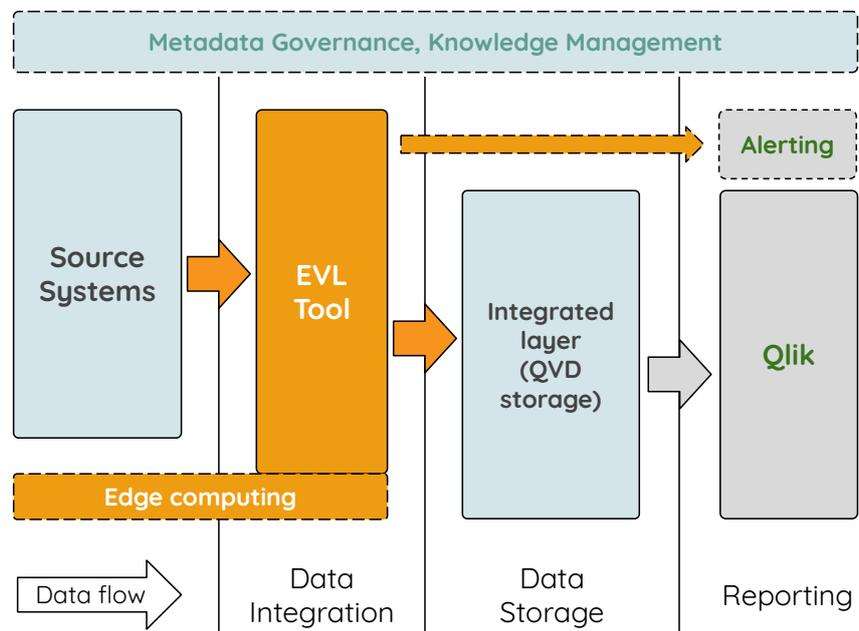


In join with other EVL Microservices, like *Hadoop Utils* or *EVL Data Hub*, you can also read/write:

- various file formats: **Avro**, **json**, **Parquet**, **xlsx**, and **xml**,
- database tables: **MySQL**, **PostgreSQL**, **Oracle**, **SQLite**, **Teradata**, or any other by ODBC.

### 1.3 QVD Utils with EVL Tool

Together with **EVL Tool** (an ETL tool) it can be used for example in QVD-based architecture:



## 2 Release Notes

**Versions numbering:** EVL – QVD Utils *x.y.z*

Version numbers synchronized with EVL Tool.

*x* – major release, i.e. big changes must happen to advance this number

*y* – minor releases, i.e. introduce new features

*z* – bugfixes

### Overview

Version 0.1 (2019/10)

Initial version of QVD Utils Microservice.

New features: write QVD files.

New utils: `csv2evd`, `csv2qvd`.

Version 0.2 (2020/04)

Reading QVD files added.

New features: read QVD.

New utils: `qvd-header`.

Version 2.4 (2020/10)

Version numbers synchronized with EVL Tool.

New utils: `qvd2csv`, `qvd2evd`.

Version 2.5 (2021/04)

New options added to `qvd-header` and `qvd2csv`: `--all-as-string` and `--real-as-decimal`.

Version 2.6 (2021/10)

New options added to `qvd2csv`: `--filter`, `--first-record`, `--guess-uniform-symbol-size`, and `--low-memory`.

Version 2.7 (2022/04)

Version for Windows available, with simple GUI.

## 3 Installation and Settings

### Installation

- Section 3.1 [Linux RPM], page 4, – installation on RedHat-like systems,
- Section 3.2 [Linux DEB], page 4, – installation on Debian-like systems,
- Section 3.3 [Windows], page 4, – installation on Windows 10.

### Standard, Premium and Enterprise Installation

- Section 3.4 [Standard-Premium-Enterprise Installation], page 5,

#### 3.1 Trial – Linux RPM

I.e. RedHat, CentOS, Fedora, Oracle Linux.

For *CentOS 8* firstly install required packages from *powertools* repo:

```
sudo dnf -y install dnf-plugins-core
sudo dnf config-manager --set-enabled powertools
sudo dnf install --enablerepo=powertools snappy-devel
```

Get the package for your OS from <https://www.evltool.com/downloads> and

```
tar xvf evl-qvd-utils-trial.*.rpm.tar
sudo dnf install ./evl-utils-2.8*.noarch.rpm
sudo dnf install ./evl-tool-2.8*.x86_64.rpm
sudo dnf install ./evl-qvd-utils-2.8*.x86_64.rpm
```

Then to initiate the installation for current user by

```
/opt/evl/bin/evl --init
```

#### 3.2 Trial – Linux DEB

I.e. Ubuntu, Debian, etc.

Get the package from <https://www.evltool.com/downloads> and

```
tar xvf evl-qvd-utils-trial.ubuntu.*.deb.tar
sudo apt install ./evl-utils_2.8*_all.deb
sudo apt install ./evl-tool_2.8*_amd64.deb
sudo apt install ./evl-qvd-utils_2.8*_amd64.deb
```

Then initiate the installation for current user by

```
/opt/evl/bin/evl --init
```

#### 3.3 Trial – Windows

Get the zip package from <https://www.evltool.com/downloads> and unzip it into some folder.

For simple graphical user interface run `qvd-utils.ps1` in PowerShell.

There are also PowerShell scripts `csv2qvd.ps1` and `qvd2csv.ps1` to run conversions programmatically from command line.

### 3.4 Standard, Premium and Enterprise Installation

After purchase appropriate version, a key file is available at <https://www.evltool.com/downloads>. Just place this key file:

- on Linux systems as  
`/opt/evl/etc/evl_license_key`
- on Windows system just (re)place the key file as  
`QVD-Utils-Windows/libexec/evl_license_key`  
in the folder where the zip with QVD Utils was unzipped.

There is also possibility to set up RPM repository to get the latest version by regular system updates:

```
sudo dnf update
```

just ask [support@evltool.com](mailto:support@evltool.com) for details.

## 4 Utils

- Section 4.1 [csv2evd], page 6,
- Section 4.2 [csv2qvd], page 8,
- Section 4.3 [qvd2csv], page 11,
- Section 4.4 [qvd2evd], page 14,
- Section 4.5 [qvd-header], page 15,

### 4.1 csv2evd

(since EVL 0.1)

Read <file.csv> or standard input, and guess:

- data types,
- field separator (unless option ‘--separator=<char>’ is used),
- if strings are quoted (unless option ‘--quote=<char>’ or ‘--optional-quote=<char>’ is used),
- end-of-line character(s) (unless option ‘--dos-eol’ or ‘--lin-eol’ or ‘--mac-eol’ is used)

and write EVD to standard output or to <file.evd>.

It uses header line for field names, spaces are replaced by underscores.

Separator is trying to be guessed in this order: ‘,’ (comma), ‘;’ (semi-colon), ‘|’ (pipe), ‘\t’ (tab), ‘:’ (colon), ‘ ’ (space).

Quotation character is guessed in this order: double quotes, single quotes.

EVD is EVL data definition file, for details see man 5 evd.

### Synopsis

```
csv2evd
  [<file.csv>] [-o|--output=<file.evd>]
  [--inline]
  [-d|--date=<format>]
  [-h|--header=<field_name>,...]
  [-n|--no-header]
  [-l|--null=<string>]
  [-q|--quote=<char> | --optional-quote=<char>]
  [-s|--separator=<char>]
  [-t|--datetime=<format>]
  [--timestamp=<format>]
  [--dos-eol | --lin-eol | --mac-eol]
  [-v|--verbose]
```

```
csv2evd
  ( --help | --usage | --version )
```

### Options

-d, --date=<format>

by default it tries only ‘%Y-%m-%d’, then ‘%d.%m.%Y’

-h, --header=<field\_name>,...

use comma separated list of field names instead of header line, for example when there is no header in csv file (option ‘-n’ must be used) or when other field names would be used

`--inline`  
output EVD in the inline format (for example to use EVD by other component with ‘-d’ option)

`--dos-eol`  
do not guess end-of-line character(s), but suppose the input is text with CRLF as end of line,

`--lin-eol`  
do not guess end-of-line character(s), but suppose the input is text with LF as end of line

`--mac-eol`  
do not guess end-of-line character(s), but suppose the input is text with CR as end of line

`-n, --no-header`  
with this option it suppose there is no header. Fields will be named ‘field\_001’, ‘field\_002’, etc.

`-l, --null=<string>`  
to specify what string is used for NULL values in CSV, empty string is allowed

`-o, --output=<file.evd>`  
write output into file <file.evd> instead of standard output

`--optional-quote=<char>`  
suppose optional quote character <char>, must be used together with ‘--separator’

`-q, --quote=<char>`  
do not guess if fields are quoted, but suppose <char> as quotation character

`-s, --separator=<char>`  
do not guess the separator, but use <char> instead

`-t, --datetime=<format>`  
by default it tries only ‘%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S’

`--timestamp=<format>`  
by default it tries only ‘%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S.%E\*f’

`-v, --verbose`  
print to STDERR info/debug messages

`--help`  
print this help and exit

`--usage`  
print short usage information and exit

`--version`  
print version and exit

## Examples

1. Having table.csv:

```
id;started;value
1;2019-06-06;some string
```

This command:

```
csv2evd table.csv
```

will try to guess data types, field separator and if strings are quoted or not, and use header line for field names, to produce EVD to standard output:

```
id          int          null="" sep=";"
started    date("%Y-%m-%d") null="" sep=";"
value      string       null="" sep="\n"
```

2. Just an alternative invocation forwarding output EVD to a file:

```
csv2evd < table.csv > table.evd
```

3. To skip header and use different field names:

```
csv2evd --header="first_field,other_field,last_one" \
table.csv > table.evd
```

4. Case when there is no header in CSV file, but use specified field names:

```
csv2evd --no-header --header="first_field,other_field,last_one" \
table.csv > table.evd
```

5. No header in CSV and use generated field names 'field\_001', 'field\_002', etc.:

```
csv2evd --no-header table.csv > table.evd
```

6. Consider specific date format, here day of year ('001..366'), and '|' as a field separator:

```
csv2evd --date="%j" -s '|' table.csv > table.evd
```

## 4.2 csv2qvd

(since EVL 0.1)

Read <file.csv> with sturcture defined either in <evd> file or by <inline\_evd> or guess

- data types,
- field separator (unless option '--separator=<char>' is used),
- if strings are quoted (unless option '--quote=<char>' or '--optional-quote=<char>' is used),
- end-of-line character(s) (unless option '--dos-eol' or '--lin-eol' or '--mac-eol' is used)

and write QVD file to <file.qvd> or standard output. For guessing data types (EVD) it uses utility 'csv2evd'.

EVD is EVL data definition file, for details see man 5 evd.

### Synopsis

```
csv2qvd
<file.csv>
[-o|--output=<file.qvd>]
[-d|--date=<format>]
[-h|--header=<field_name>,...]
[-n|--no-header]
[-l|--null=<string>]
[-q|--quote=<char> | --optional-quote=<char>]
[-s|--separator=<char>]
[-t|--datetime=<format>]
[--timestamp=<format>]
[--dos-eol | --lin-eol | --mac-eol]
[-v|--verbose]
```

```
csv2qvd
<file.csv> (<evd>|-d <inline_evd>)
```

```
[-o|--output=<file.qvd>]
[--dos-eol | --lin-eol |--mac-eol]
[-v|--verbose]
```

```
csv2qvd
( --help | --usage | --version )
```

## Options

### Standard options:

```
-d, --data-definition=<inline_evd>
    either this option or the file <evd> must be presented to use already defined EVD

--dos-eol
    do not guess end-of-line character(s), but suppose the input is text with CRLF as
    end of line,

--lin-eol
    do not guess end-of-line character(s), but suppose the input is text with LF as end
    of line,

--mac-eol
    do not guess end-of-line character(s), but suppose the input is text with CR as end
    of line,

-o, --output=<file.qvd>
    write output into <file.qvd> instead of standard output

-v, --verbose
    print to STDERR info/debug messages

--help
    print this help and exit

--usage
    print short usage information and exit

--version
    print version and exit
```

### EVD options:

```
--date=<format>
    by default it tries only '%Y-%m-%d', then '%d.%m.%Y'

-h, --header=<field_name>,...
    use comma separated list of field names instead of header line, for example when
    there is no header in csv file (option '-n' must be used) or when other field names
    should be used

-n, --no-header
    with this option it suppose there is no header. Fields will be named 'field_001',
    'field_002', etc.

-l, --null=<string>
    to specify what string is used for NULL values in CSV, empty string is allowed

--optional-quote=<char>
    suppose optional quote character <char>, must be used together with '--separator'
```

- q, --quote=<char>  
do not guess if fields are quoted, but suppose <char> as quotation character
- s, --separator=<char>  
do not guess the separator, but use <char> instead
- t, --datetime=<format>  
by default it tries only '%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S'
- timestamp=<format>  
by default it tries only '%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S.%E\*f'

## Examples

1. Having 'some.csv':

```
id;started;value
1;2019-06-06;some string
```

The command:

```
csv2qvd --null="NULL" some.csv > some.qvd
```

will produce some.qvd file with these field:

```
id      int      null="NULL"  sep=";"
started date("%Y-%m-%d") null="NULL"  sep=";"
value   string   null="NULL"  sep="\n"
```

2. Following invocation will guess data types, field separator and if strings are quoted or not, and use header line for field names:

```
csv2qvd table.csv > table.qvd
```

With the '--verbose' option it will write to standard error the whole EVD file which was used:

```
csv2qvd --verbose table.csv > table.qvd
```

3. To skip header and use different field names:

```
csv2qvd --header="first_field,other_field,last_one"
table.csv > table.qvd
```

4. Case when there is no header in CSV file, but use specified field names:

```
csv2qvd --no-header --header="first_field,other_field,last_one" \
table.csv > table.qvd
```

5. No header in CSV and use generated field names 'field\_001', 'field\_002', etc.:

```
csv2qvd --no-header table.csv > table.qvd
```

6. Consider specific date format, here day of year ('001..366'), and '|' as a field separator:

```
csv2qvd --date="%j" -s '|' table.csv > table.qvd
```

7. To use own (specific or already generated) EVD file (i.e. data types definition):

```
csv2qvd table.csv table.evd > table.qvd
```

## Another example

Let's have following sample\_1.csv file with header and with semicolon as a field separator:

```
ID;Name;Code;Price;Created at
1;item_11;11;15,85;2016-05-04
2;item_12;12;21,25;2019-11-11
3;item_13;13;12,99;2019-05-05
```

Then by running:

```
csv2qvd -v < sample_1.csv > sample_1.qvd
```

will guess data types and use field names from the header and produce `sample_1.qvd` file. And it will also write to standard error EVL data types which were used:

```
Used EVD:
-----
ID          int          null="" sep=";"
Name       string       null="" sep=";"
Code       int          null="" sep=";"
Price      decimal(8,2) null="" sep=";"
Created_at date        null="" sep="\n"
-----
```

### More complex example

If guessed data types are not correct for some reason, for example the date format would be different or field which looks like an integer might be next time a string, then it is better to provide own EVD file with EVL data definition description.

Suppose following `sample_2.csv` file with header and with semicolon as a field separator:

```
ID;Name;Code;Price;Created at
1;item_11;11;15,85;05/04/2016
2;item_12;12;21,25;11/11/2019
3;item_13;13;12,99;05/05/2019
```

Let's start by guessing EVD by `csv2evd` utility:

```
csv2evd sample_2.csv > sample_2.evd
```

It will result in `sample_2.evd`:

```
ID          int          null="" sep=";"
Name       string       null="" sep=";"
Code       int          null="" sep=";"
Price      decimal(8,2) null="" sep=";"
Created_at string      null="" sep="\n"
```

We can either use option `--date="%m/%d/%Y"` or simply edit `sample_2.evd` manually. Both will result in:

```
ID          int          null="" sep=";"
Name       string       null="" sep=";"
Code       int          null="" sep=";"
Price      decimal(8,2) null="" sep=";"
Created_at date("%m/%d/%Y") null="" sep="\n"
```

## 4.3 qvd2csv

(since EVL 2.4)

Read `<file.qvd>` and write CSV file to `<file.csv>` or standard output. It uses data types from QVD header or from existing `<evd>` file or from `<inline_evd>`.

EVD is EVL data definition file, for details see `man 5 evd`.

### Synopsis

```
qvd2csv
  <file.qvd>
  [-o|--output=<file.csv>]
  [--all-as-string | --real-as-decimal[=<precision>,<scale>]]
  [-d|--date=<format>]
  [-h|--header=<field_name>,...]
```

```

[-n|--no-header]
[-l|--null=<string>]
[-q|--quote=<char>]
[-s|--separator=<char>]
[-t|--datetime=<format>]
[-a|--dos-eol | -b|--mac-eol]
[--filter=<condition>]
[--first-record=<n>]
[--guess-uniform-symbol-size]
[--low-memory]
[-v|--verbose]

```

```

qvd2csv
<file.qvd> (<evd>|-d <inline_evd>)
[-m|--match-fields]
[-o|--output=<file.csv>]
[-h|--header=<field_name>,...]
[-n|--no-header]
[-a|--dos-eol | -b|--mac-eol]
[--filter=<condition>]
[--first-record=<n>]
[--guess-uniform-symbol-size]
[--low-memory]
[-v|--verbose]

```

```

qvd2csv
( --help | --usage | --version )

```

## Options

- all-as-string**  
interpret all fields as strings. (Since EVL 2.5.)
- d, --data-definition=<inline\_evd>**  
either this option or the file <evd> must be presented to use already defined (custom) EVD
- a, --dos-eol**  
output DOS end-of-line, i.e. CR+LF ('\r\n')
- b, --mac-eol**  
output Mac end-of-line, i.e. CR ('\r')
- date=<format>**  
to specify a <format> for date data type
- filter=<condition>**  
read only records with given <condition>. (Since EVL 2.6.)
- first-record=<n>**  
start to read from the record number <n>. (Since EVL 2.6.)
- guess-uniform-symbol-size**  
might speed up indexing of dictionary, but it could not work in all cases. Use only in special cases when need really good performance. (Since EVL 2.6.)

`-h, --header=<field_name>,...`  
 use comma separated list of field names instead of header line, for example when you don't want to use field names from QVD header.

`--low-memory`  
 do not read dictionary into memory. This could save memory consumption, but slows down reading the source file. (Since EVL 2.6.)

`-l, --null=<string>`  
 to specify what string is used for NULL values in CSV, empty string is allowed

`-m, --match-fields`  
 to read only a subset of fields from QVD file or to read them in different order

`-n, --no-header`  
 with this option it produces no header line

`-o, --output=<file.csv>`  
 write output into <file.csv> instead of standard output

`-q, --quote=<char>`  
 to use quoted fields for the CSV output. When data contains such <char>, all of them are escaped by duplicating them. For example using '`--quote="\\"`' will serve data like 'some "text"' as '"some ""text""'.

`--real-as-decimal[=<precision>,<scale>]`  
 interpret 'real' data types as 'decimal(<precision>,<scale>)'. When no <precision> or <scale> is specified, use values from environment variables 'EVL\_DEFAULT\_DECIMAL\_PRECISION' and 'EVL\_DEFAULT\_DECIMAL\_SCALE', which are by default set to 18 and 2. (Since EVL 2.5.)

`-s, --separator=<char>`  
 to use <char> as field separator for the CSV output

`-t, --datetime=<format>`  
 to specify a <format> for datetime data type

`-v, --verbose`  
 print to standard error output info/debug messages

`--help`  
 print this help and exit

`--usage`  
 print short usage information and exit

`--version`  
 print version and exit

## Examples

1. Having 'some.qvd', the command to produce CSV file with empty strings representing NULL values, dates in format 'DD.MM.YYYY' and with Windows end-of-line (i.e. CRLF):  
`qvd2csv --null="" --date="%d.%m.%Y" --dos-eol some.qvd > some.csv`
2. To filter only particular records from 'large.qvd', for example we would like to read only latest records represented by field 'invoice\_id':  
`qvd2csv --filter="invoice_id>7654000" large.qvd > latest.csv`
3. To cut only particular columns from 'large.qvd', for example only column 'invoice\_id':  
`qvd2csv --match-fields -d 'invoice_id int null=""' large.qvd > latest.csv`

4. To read only after by some number of rows:

```
qvd2csv --first-record=1234000 huge.qvd > latest.csv
```

This could be quite useful when reading a huge QVD file.

## 4.4 qvd2evd

(since EVL 2.4)

Read header of <file.qvd> or standard input, guess data types, and write EVD to standard output or to <file.evd>.

EVD is EVL data definition file, for details see man 5 evd.

### Synopsis

```
qvd2evd
  [<file.qvd>] [-o|--output=<file.evd>]
  [--all-as-string | --real-as-decimal [=<precision>,<scale>]]
  [-d|--date=<format>]
  [--inline]
  [-l|--null[=<string>]]
  [-q|--quote=<char>]
  [-r|--record-separator=<char>]
  [-s|--field-separator=<char>]
  [-t|--datetime=<format>]
  [-v|--verbose]
```

```
qvd2evd
  ( --help | --usage | --version )
```

### Options

**--all-as-string**

produce EVD with all fields as strings. (Since EVL 2.5.)

**-d, --date=<date\_format>**

use format argument for date data type

**--inline**

output EVD in the inline format (for example to use EVD by other component with '-d' option)

**-l, --null=<string>**

to specify what string is used for NULL values in QVD, empty string is allowed

**-o, --output=<file.evd>**

write output into file <file.evd> instead of standard output

**-q, --quote=<char>**

to use a quote argument in EVD

**--real-as-decimal [=<precision>,<scale>]**

produce EVD with 'decimal(<precision>,<scale>)' instead of 'double'. When no <precision> or <scale> is specified, it uses values from environment variables 'EVL\_DEFAULT\_DECIMAL\_PRECISION' and 'EVL\_DEFAULT\_DECIMAL\_SCALE', which are by default set to 18 and 2. (Since EVL 2.5.)

**-r, --record-separator=<char>**

use 'sep="<char>"' for last field

```

-s, --field-separator=<char>
    add 'sep="<char>"' to each field, except the last one
-t, --datetime=<format>
    use format for datetime data type by default it produces no format for datetime, so
    the EVL_DEFAULT_DATETIME_PATTERN is then used (which is by default set
    to "%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S")
-v, --verbose
    print to STDERR info/debug messages

--help
    print this help and exit

--usage
    print short usage information and exit

--version
    print version and exit

```

## Examples

1. Having 'some.qvd', this command:

```
qvd2evd --null -r '\n' -s ';' -d '%d.%m.%Y' some.qvd
```

will produce:

```

id      int      null="" sep=";"
started date("%d.%m.%Y") null="" sep=";"
value   string   null="" sep="\n"

```

## 4.5 qvd-header

(since EVL 0.2)

Take the header of <file.qvd> or standard input and produce to standard output particular information, for example EVL data definition file or number of records.

### Synopsis

```

qvd-header
  [<file.qvd>] --output=evd
  [--all-as-string | --real-as-decimal[=<precision>,<scale>]]
  [-d|--date=<format>]
  [--inline]
  [-l|--null=<string>]
  [-q|--quote=<char>]
  [-r|--record-separator=<char>]
  [-s|--field-separator=<char>]
  [-t|--datetime=<format>]
  [-v|--verbose]

```

```

qvd-header
  [<file.qvd>] --output=(json|xml)
  [--fields]
  [-v|--verbose]

```

```

qvd-header
  [<file.qvd>]

```

```
[ --table-name | --no-of-records | --fields | --tag=<xml_tag_name> ]
[-v|--verbose]
```

```
qvd-header
( --help | --usage | --version )
```

## Options

```
--no-of-records
    return the value of 'NoOfRecords' tag

--fields
    provide only fields' information

--table-name
    return the value of 'TableName'

--tag=<xml_tag_name>
    return the value of <xml_tag_name>
```

## Output Options:

```
--output=evd
    return EVD data types definition

--output=json
    return information as JSON

--output=xml
    return information as XML
```

## EVD options:

```
--all-as-string
    produce EVD with all fields as strings. (Since EVL 2.5.)

-d, --date=<date_format>
    use format argument for date data type

--inline
    output EVD, XML or JSON in the inline format (for example to use EVD by other
    component with '-d' option)

-l, --null=<string>
    to specify what string is used for NULL values in EVD

-q, --quote=<char>
    to use a quote argument in EVD

--real-as-decimal[=<precision>,<scale>]
    produce EVD with 'decimal(<precision>,<scale>)' instead of 'double'. When
    no <precision> or <scale> is specified, it uses values from environment variables
    'EVL_DEFAULT_DECIMAL_PRECISION' and 'EVL_DEFAULT_DECIMAL_SCALE', which are
    by default set to 18 and 2. (Since EVL 2.5.)

-r, --record-separator=<char>
    use 'sep="<char>"' for last field

-s, --field-separator=<char>
    use 'sep="<char>"' for each field

-t, --datetime=<date_format>
    use format for datetime data type
```

## Standard options:

- `--help`  
print this help and exit
- `--usage`  
print short usage information and exit
- `-v, --verbose`  
print to stderr info/debug messages of the component
- `--version`  
print version and exit

## Examples

1. EVD example:

```
qvd-header some.qvd --output=evd --record-separator="\n" \
  --null="" --date="%Y-%m-%d"
```

will produce for example:

```
id          int          null=""
some_stamp  datetime     null=""
some_date   date("%Y-%m-%d") null=""
value       string      null="" sep="\n"
```

2. JSON example:

```
qvd-header some.qvd --output=json --fields
```

will produce for example:

```
{
  "fields":
  [
    {
      name: "REQUEST_HOUR",
      type: "timestamp",
      format: "%Y-%m-%d"
    },
    ...
  ]
}
```

And:

```
qvd-header some.qvd --output=json
```

will produce for example:

```
{
  "name": "Table1",
  "records": 3615,
  "fields":
  [
    {
      name: "REQUEST_HOUR",
      type: "timestamp",
      format: "%Y-%m-%d",
      "tags": [
        "$numeric",
```

```
        "$timestamp"  
    ]  
  },  
  ...  
]  
}
```

## Appendix A EVD and Data Types

‘EVD’ stands for ‘EVL Data Definition’ and it is the way how to specify structure of data sets in EVL. It can be used either inline, as a component option, or in an \*.evd file.

EVL uses mostly standard C++ data types, so most of them are well known.

### A.1 EVD Structure

Example first: Let’s have a CSV file:

```
1;Otto Wichterle;27.10.1913;12,345.78;2025-03-19 14:34:07
2;;1.1.1970;0.00;2025-03-19 14:35:44
```

then following evd file would describe its structure:<sup>1</sup>

```
ID          int          sep=";"
Name        string       sep=";"  null=""
"Birth Date" date("%-d.%-m.%Y") sep=";"  null="1.1.1970"
Amount      decimal(12,3)  sep=";"  thousands_sep=","
"Created At" datetime  sep="\n" null="0000-00-00 00:00:00"
```

In general each nonempty line of EVD file looks like this:

```
<indent> Field_Name <blank> Data_Type <blank> EVD_Options
```

where

‘<indent>’

might be empty, 2 spaces, 4 spaces, 6 spaces, etc., to define a substructure of compound data types, see [Section A.8 \[Compound Types\]](#), page 28, for details.

‘Field\_Name’

is a sequence of any printable ASCII characters below 128. When a space is used, then whole field name must be quoted by double quotes. Special characters (also only ASCII ones under 128) must be escaped, e.g. ‘\n’, ‘\r’, ‘\t’, ‘\v’, ‘\b’, ‘\f’, ‘\a’, ‘\”’, ‘\\’, or in hexa ‘\x??’. Characters other than letters, numbers and underscore are replaced by underscore in mappings. All these field names are valid:

```
recommended_field_name // Name in mapping:
"Field with a Space"   // recommended_field_name
'field-with-a-hyphen'  // Field_with_a_Space
"$field_with_dollar"  // _field_with_a_hyphen_
'single_quoted'field' // _field_with_dollar
"with\nnewline"       // _single_quoted_field_
                       // with_newline
```

‘Data\_Type’

is one of:

- `string`, `ustring`, see [Section A.3 \[String\]](#), page 22,
- `char`, `uchar`, `short`, `ushort`, `int`, `uint`, `long`, `ulong`, `int128`, `uint128`, see [Section A.4 \[Integral Types\]](#), page 23,
- `decimal`, see [Section A.5 \[Decimal\]](#), page 23,

<sup>1</sup> By setting environment variables `EVL_DEFAULT_FIELD_SEPARATOR=";"` and `EVL_DEFAULT_RECORD_SEPARATOR="$'\n'` one can avoid to use `sep` options.

- float, double, see [Section A.6 \[Float and Double\]](#), page 24,
- date, time, time\_ns, interval, interval\_ns, datetime, timestamp, see [Section A.7 \[Date and Time\]](#), page 24,

‘EVD\_Options’

is <blank> separated list of options, see [Section A.2 \[EVD Options\]](#), page 20,

‘<blank>’ is one or more spaces and/or tabs.

### A.1.1 Comments

Standard C-style comments can be used in evd file, for example:

```
street_id    int
street_name  string
street_code  string null="" // but NOT NULL in DB
/* COMBAK: street_code will be replaced by street_num later this year
street_num   long
*/
```

### A.1.2 Inline EVD

For the most of the EVL Components an inline EVD can be specified as an option. In such case comments are not allowed and the format is simply the same as for EVD in a file, just instead of newlines, commas are used to separate each field definition.

The same structure, as in above EVD Example, but as a component option (a comma separated list of fields with data types and options):

```
--data-definition='id int sep=";",
name string sep=";" null="",
birth_date date sep=";" null="1970-01-01",
amount decimal(12,3) sep=";" thousands_sep="," ,
created_at datetime sep="\n" null="0000-00-00 00:00:00"
```

## A.2 EVD Options

Structure of the data is described in an EVD file – an EVL data types definition file – with file extension .evd.

### A.2.1 Separator Definition

Field separator is defined by ‘sep=“X”’, where ‘X’ can be an empty string or an ascii character below 128 specified as normal string or special character ‘\n’, ‘\r’, ‘\t’, ‘\v’, ‘\b’, ‘\f’, ‘\a’, ‘\’, ‘\’, or in hexa ‘\x??’ (0-7E) (as it is always a single character, ‘\x?’ is also possible).

Default separators can be defined:

**EVL\_DEFAULT\_FIELD\_SEPARATOR**

defines default field separator, when not set, EVL\_DEFAULT\_FIELD\_SEPARATOR='|' is used,

**EVL\_DEFAULT\_RECORD\_SEPARATOR**

defines default record separator, i.e. the last field separator, when not set, EVL\_DEFAULT\_RECORD\_SEPARATOR='\n' is used.

When these variables are set, then no ‘sep=’ options are needed in the above EVD example and these defaults are used instead.

**Note:** It is recommended to use these variables only for project-wide settings in project.sh. Try to avoid to set them in jobs. Better use ‘sep=’ option in evd file.

In case we want to have an empty separator, for example after fixed length field, we can use `'sep=""`'.

### A.2.2 Null Option

A null string by `'null="X"` or list of strings `'null=["X", "Y", ...]'` can be specified. Then such string(s) will be read as `'null'` values when `'--text-input'` is used by the component.

When writing the `'null'` value by the output component with `'--text-output'` option, such string will be used instead.

When the list of null values is specified, then the first one will be used to write.

To type a special character, like newline or `'TAB'`, standard hexadecimal notation can be used: `'\x??'`, or also special notation for often used special characters: `'\n'`, `'\r'`, `'\t'`, `'\v'`, `'\b'`, `'\f'`, `'\a'`, `'\"'`, `'\\'`. So then to interpret a tabulator as NULL value use `'null="\t"`'.

### A.2.3 Quote Option

When reading `csv` files, fields might be quoted by some character, usually by double quotes: `'"`'.

Proper parsing of such field is done by specifying attributes `'quote='` or `'optional_quote='`.

Specified string might be any ascii character below 128 specified as normal string or special character `'\n'`, `'\r'`, `'\t'`, `'\v'`, `'\b'`, `'\f'`, `'\a'`, `'\"'`, `'\\'`, or in hexa `'\x??'` (0-7E) (as it is always a single character, `'\x?'` is also possible).

`quote="<quote_char>"`

Use this attribute when the field is always quoted.

`optional_quote="<quote_char>"`

Using this attribute, the field doesn't need to be quoted.

### A.2.4 Encoding and Locale

*(since EVL 2.5)*

`enc="<encoding>"`

To specify an encoding of given field, string functions then behaves according to that.

`locale="<locale>"`

To specify a locale of given field, components (like sort) then behaves according to that.

Examples

`czech_string_in_utf8 string enc="utf8" locale="cs_CZ"`

`en_string_in_utf8 string enc="utf8" locale="en_GB"`

When there is no encoding or locale specified in an EVD, then following environment variables can be used:

`EVL_DEFAULT_STRING_ENC=""`

defines default encoding, when not set, empty encoding is used,

`EVL_DEFAULT_STRING_LOCALE="C"`

defines default locale, when not set, generic `'C'` locale is used.

### A.2.5 Max string length

*(since EVL 2.5)*

Attributes which are used to specify maximal length of given string field. So far used only in case of load/unload tables.

`max_bytes="<number>"`

To specify maximum Bytes of given string field. Is populated when generated based on table definition, e.g. `'VARCHAR(100 BYTES)'`.

`max_chars=<number>`

To specify maximum characters of given string field. Is populated when generated based on table definition, e.g. 'VARCHAR(100 CHARS)'.

Examples:

```
string_20_bytes string enc="utf8" max_bytes="20" // VARCHAR(20 BYTES)
string_20_chars string enc="utf8" max_chars="20" // VARCHAR(20 CHARS)
```

Both attributes are currently used in 'Writeora' component to know the maximal length of a string field.

### A.2.6 QVD options

(since EVL 2.4)

`qvd:format=<format_string>`

To specify a format string for 'timestamp', 'datetime', and 'date' data types when read/write Qlik's QVD files. Example:

```
request_dt timestamp qvd:format="%d/%m/%Y %H:%M:%S"
some_date date qvd:format="%d.%m.%Y"
```

`qvd:interval`

`qvd:time` To be used as an attribute for 'timestamp' and 'datetime' data types to get an interval or time data type in Qlik's QVD files. Example:

```
request_time1 timestamp qvd:time
request_time2 timestamp qvd:interval
```

Compared to Qlik's time data type, interval can be larger than 24 hours. For example input timestamp '1970-01-02 03:05:30' would be '03:05:30' as time, but '27:05:30' as interval.

## A.3 String

Standard C++ library 'std::basic\_string' is used for strings. For details see

[http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/string/basic\\_string](http://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/string/basic_string)

`string` size: up to 2<sup>64</sup> Bytes (i.e. limited only by memory)

An EVD file Example:

```
field_name1 string(10)
field_name2 string(10) sep=""
field_name3 string sep=";" null="NULL"
field_name4 string null="" quote="\\""
field_name5 string null=["", "N/A", "NA"]
last_field string
```

where

'field\_name1'

cannot be NULL and has fixed length 10 bytes, followed by the value of \$EVL\_DEFAULT\_FIELD\_SEPARATOR environment variable.

'field\_name2'

cannot be NULL and has fixed length 10 bytes, with no separator.

'field\_name3'

is nullable and string 'NULL' is interpreted as NULL value. End of the field is represented by character ';'.

`'field_name4'`

is nullable and empty string is interpreted as NULL value. Field is quoted by `'`, but for an empty string, quotes are not needed. The end of the field is represented by `$EVL_DEFAULT_FIELD_SEPARATOR`.

`'field_name5'`

is nullable and empty string, `'N/A'` and `'NA'` are interpreted as NULL value when reading, but when writing into text file, NULL is represented by the first one, i.e. an empty string. The end of the field is represented by `$EVL_DEFAULT_FIELD_SEPARATOR`.

`'last_field'`

cannot be NULL and the end of the field is represented by `$EVL_DEFAULT_RECORD_SEPARATOR`.

Example of four records which can be parsed by above EVD file definition.

```

      |          NULL;"second string field"|NA|last field
0123456789|0123456789first string field;"|N/A|last field
-----|-----;" ; second field | "|third string field|last field
abcdefghij|abcdefghij ;||last field

```

Neither `EVL_DEFAULT_FIELD_SEPARATOR` nor `EVL_DEFAULT_RECORD_SEPARATOR` is set, so default values are used, i.e. `'|'` and `'\n'`.

## A.4 Integral Types

All integral data types are standard C++ ones.

<code>char</code>	size: 1 Byte, min: -128, max: 127
<code>uchar</code>	size: 1 Byte, min: 0, max: 255
<code>short</code>	size: 2 Bytes, min: -32 768, max: 32 767
<code>ushort</code>	size: 2 Bytes, min: 0, max: 65 535
<code>int</code>	size: 4 Bytes, min: -2 147 483 648, max: 2 147 483 647
<code>uint</code>	size: 4 Bytes, min: 0, max: 4 294 967 295
<code>long</code>	size: 8 Bytes, min: $-2^{63}$ (approx. $-9 \times 10^{18}$ ), max: $2^{63}-1$ (approx. $9 \times 10^{18}$ )
<code>ulong</code>	size: 8 Bytes, min: 0, max: $2^{64}-1$ (approx. $18 \times 10^{18}$ )
<code>int128</code>	size: 16 Bytes, min: $-2^{127}$ (approx. $-1.7 \times 10^{38}$ ), max: $2^{127}-1$ (approx. $1.7 \times 10^{38}$ )
<code>uint128</code>	size: 16 Bytes, min: 0, max: $2^{128}-1$ (approx. $3.4 \times 10^{38}$ )

Except `'sep='`, `'null='`, `'quote='`, `'optional_quote='`, no other options are possible for these data types.

## A.5 Decimal

Decimal data type is defined by `'decimal(m,n)'`, where `'m'` is number of all digits and `'n'` is the number of decimal places. Decimal is EVL custom data type.

`decimal(m,n)`

when `'n'` is missing, zero is supposed  
size: 8 Bytes for `'m'` up to 18 digits  
size: 16 Bytes for `'m'` from 19 to 38 digits

Next to standard EVD options (i.e. 'sep=', 'null=', 'quote=', 'optional\_quote=') decimal and thousands separator can be specified:

`decimal_sep="."`

to specify a decimal separator, which can be any single ascii character below 128; by default it is a decimal point

`thousands_sep=""`

defines how to separate thousands, it can be any single ascii character below 128; by default there is no thousands separator.

An EVD file example:

```
revenues decimal(9,4) decimal_sep="," thousands_sep="." // e.g. 12.345,6789
expenses decimal(18) // e.g. 123456789012345678
taxes decimal(18,6) thousands_sep=" " // e.g. 123 456 789 012.345678
latitude decimal(10,6) // e.g. 49.8197203
longitude decimal(10,6) decimal_sep="," // e.g. 18,1673552
```

## A.6 Float and Double

Float and double are standard C++ data types.

`float` size: 4 Bytes, range:  $\pm 3.4 \times 10^{\pm 38}$  (about 7 digits)

`double` size: 8 Bytes, range:  $\pm 1.7 \times 10^{\pm 308}$  (about 15 digits)

Except 'sep=', 'null=', 'quote=', 'optional\_quote=', no other options are possible for these data types.

**Note:** Compared to `decimal(m,n)` data type, operating with floats and doubles (doing summations for example), usually leads to approximated values. So it is usually good idea to avoid using these data types for money and such.

### Example

With EVD file

```
sent_mb float sep="|" null=""
received_mb float sep="\n" null=""
```

you can read source csv file like this:

```
0.321e12|1.234E-02
12.78E11|3.798
```

## A.7 Date and Time

Date, time, time\_ns, interval, interval\_ns and datetime are data types based on standard C++ library 'std::time'. Timestamp is built upon Google's 'cctz' library.

`date`

(since EVL 1.0)

to store a date, i.e. day, month and year

size: 4 Bytes, range: 1970-01-01  $\pm$  approx.  $6 \times 10^{11}$  years

first 2 Bytes keeps a year, then 1 Byte for month and 1 Byte for day

example: 2008-04-20

`time`

(since EVL 2.8)

to store a day time, i.e. hour, minute and second

size: 4 Bytes, range: 00:00:00 – 23:59:59  
example: 13:35:00

`time_ns` *(since EVL 2.8)*

to store a day time with nanoseconds  
size: 8 Bytes, range: 00:00:00.000000000 – 23:59:59.999999999  
example: 13:37:00.350000000

`interval` *(since EVL 2.8)*

to store a time interval in hours, minutes and seconds  
size: 4 Bytes, min: 00:00:00  
example: 165:35:00

`interval_ns` *(since EVL 2.8)*

to store a time interval with nanoseconds  
size: 8 Bytes, min: 00:00:00.000000000  
example: 165:35:00.123456789

`datetime` *(since EVL 1.0 as timestamp, since EVL 2.4 as datetime)*

to store a date and time, i.e. year, month, day, hour, minute and second  
size: 8 Bytes, range: 1970-01-01 00:00:00 ± approx.  $6 \times 10^{11}$  years  
example: 2010-07-01 09:02:00

`timestamp` *(since EVL 2.4)*

to store a date and time with nanoseconds and with a time zone, i.e. year, month, day, hour, minute, second, nanoseconds and possibly a time zone  
size: 12 Bytes, range: 1970-01-01 00:00:00 ± approx.  $6 \times 10^{11}$  years  
example: 2015-05-09 13:37:00.000 +02:00

### A.7.1 Format string

As an argument (in curly brackets) formatting pattern can be specified. Standard C notation is used.

When no argument to date and time data types are provided, defaults are used:

`EVL_DEFAULT_DATE_PATTERN`

to specify default formatting string for ‘date’ data type,  
by default it is "%Y-%m-%d"

`EVL_DEFAULT_TIME_PATTERN`

to specify default formatting string for ‘time’ data type,  
by default it is "%H:%M:%S"

`EVL_DEFAULT_DATETIME_PATTERN`

to specify default formatting string for ‘datetime’ data type,  
by default it is "%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S"

`EVL_DEFAULT_TIMESTAMP_PATTERN`

to specify default formatting string for ‘timestamp’ data type,  
by default it is "%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%E\*S"

All possible format strings:

`%%` a literal ‘%’  
`%a` locale’s abbreviated weekday name (e.g. ‘Sun’)  
`%A` locale’s full weekday name (e.g. ‘Sunday’)  
`%b` locale’s abbreviated month name (e.g. ‘Jan’)

%B	locale's full month name (e.g. 'January')
%c	locale's date and time (e.g. 'Thu Mar 3 23:05:25 2005')
%C	century; like '%Y', except omit last two digits (e.g. '20')
%d	day of month (e.g. '01')
%D	date; same as '%m/%d/%y'
%e	day of month, space padded; same as '%_d'
%Ez	RFC3339-compatible numeric UTC offset (+hh:mm or -hh:mm)
%E*z	full-resolution numeric UTC offset (+hh:mm:ss or -hh:mm:ss)
%E#S	seconds with # digits of fractional precision
%E*S	seconds with full fractional precision (a literal '*')
%E#f	fractional seconds with # digits of precision
%E*f	fractional seconds with full precision (a literal '*')
%E4Y	four-character years (-999 ... -001, 0000, 0001 ... 9999)
%ET	the RFC3339 "date-time" separator "T"
%F	full date; same as '%Y-%m-%d'
%g	last two digits of year of ISO week number (see '%G')
%G	year of ISO week number (see '%V'); normally useful only with '%V'
%h	same as '%b'
%H	hour ('00'..'23')
%I	hour ('01'..'12')
%j	day of year ('001'..'366')
%k	hour, space padded (' 0'..'23'); same as '%_H'
%l	hour, space padded (' 1'..'12'); same as '%_I'
%m	month ('01'..'12')
%M	minute ('00'..'59')
%n	a newline
%p	locale's equivalent of either 'AM' or 'PM'; blank if not known
%P	like '%p', but lower case
%r	locale's 12-hour clock time (e.g. '11:11:04 PM')
%R	24-hour hour and minute; same as '%H:%M'
%s	seconds since '1970-01-01 00:00:00 UTC'
%S	second ('00'..'60')
%t	a tab
%T	time; same as '%H:%M:%S'
%u	day of week ('1'..'7'); '1' is Monday
%U	week number of year, with Sunday as first day of week ('00'..'53')

%V	ISO week number, with Monday as first day of week ('01'..'53')
%w	day of week ('0'..'6'); '0' is Sunday
%W	week number of year, with Monday as first day of week ('00'..'53')
%x	locale's date representation (e.g. '12/31/99')
%X	locale's time representation (e.g. '23:13:48')
%y	last two digits of year ('00'..'99')
%Y	year
%z	+hhmm numeric time zone (e.g., -0400)
%Z	alphabetic time zone abbreviation (e.g., EDT)

By default, date pads numeric fields with zeroes. The following optional flags may follow '%':

-	(hyphen) do not pad the field
_	(underscore) pad with spaces
0	(zero) pad with zeros
^	use upper case if possible
#	use opposite case if possible

### A.7.2 EVD Example

Following dates definition are equivalent.

```
valid_from date
valid_from date("%F")
valid_from date("%Y-%m-%d")
```

Following datetimes are all the same.

```
request_dt datetime
request_dt datetime("%F %T")
request_dt datetime("%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S")
```

Following timestamps are all the same.

```
request_dt timestamp
request_dt timestamp("%F %T.%E9f")
request_dt timestamp("%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S.%E9f")
```

QVD's format string can be specified:

```
request_dt timestamp qvd:format="%d/%m/%Y %H:%M:%S"
some_date date qvd:format="%d.%m.%Y"
```

### A.7.3 Qlik's time

When time need to be specified in QVD file, then standard timestamp need to be provided, just with 'qvd:time' option. Then the date is simply cut off from the timestamp to be stored in QVD:

```
request_time timestamp("%H:%M:%S") qvd:time
```

### A.7.4 Qlik's interval

When interval data type need to be specified in QVD file, then standard timestamp need to be provided, just with 'qvd:interval' option. Then the time is taken since '1970-01-01':

```
request_time timestamp("%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S") qvd:interval
```

**Note:** Compared to Qlik's time data type, interval can be larger than 24 hours. For example input timestamp '1970-01-02 03:05:30' would be '03:05:30' as time, but '27:05:30' as interval.

## A.8 Compound Types

**Note:** Compound data types cannot be used to read/write QVD/QVX files. These file formats do not support it.

## Appendix B Software License, Support and Service Terms

Last modified: January 15, 2021

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Incidents shall be classified into 3 severities:

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- b. severity 2 – EVL QVD Utils functionality differs to documentation, but EVL QVD Utils runs at least with workaround; and
- c. severity 3 – minor difference of functionality comparing to documentation which does not prevent EVL QVD Utils usage.

Response time differs according to the incident severity and shall be as follows:

- severity 1 – response time 4 business hours
- severity 2 – response time 12 business hours
- severity 3 – response time 24 business hours

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- b. [support@evltool.com](mailto:support@evltool.com).

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