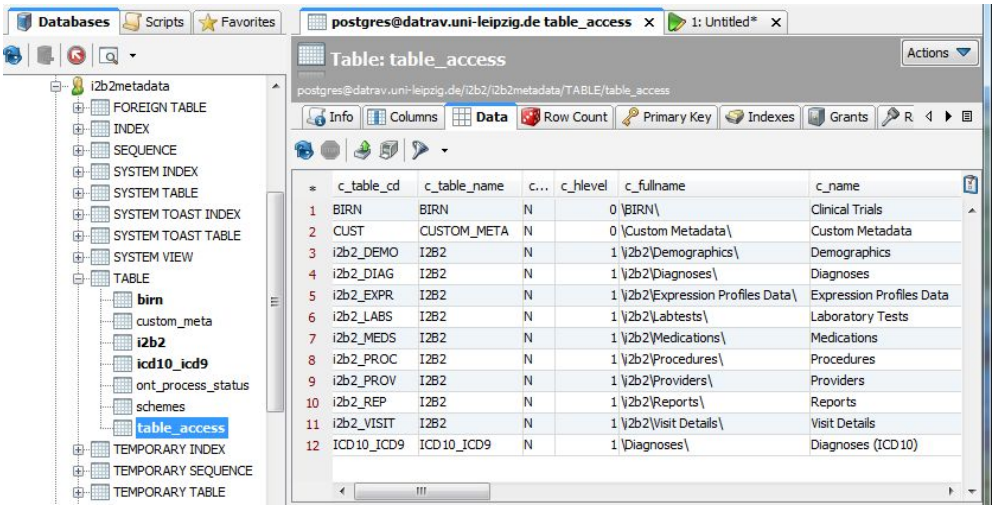
725. Partitioning of the i2b2 ontology tables

Background

In most projects, the i2b2 ontology resides in a default database table called **I2B2**. If you have a large ontology, maybe consisting of concepts from different sources, it might be a good idea to split the ontology into multiple tables. That will simplify maintenance as you need to update only the table where the ontology has changed.

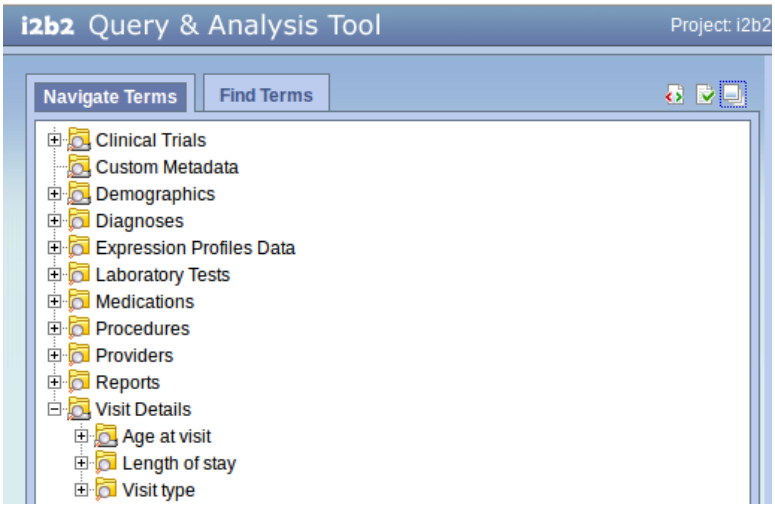
Methods

The table **TABLE_ACCESS** contains references to all other tables that are part of the ontology. See the example Boston demo database:



	c_table_cd	c_table_name	c...	c_hlevel	c_fullname	c_name
1	BIRN	BIRN	N	0	\BIRN\	Clinical Trials
2	CUST	CUSTOM_META	N	0	\Custom Metadata\	Custom Metadata
3	i2b2_DEMO	I2B2	N	1	\i2b2\Demographics\	Demographics
4	i2b2_DIAG	I2B2	N	1	\i2b2\Diagnoses\	Diagnoses
5	i2b2_EXPR	I2B2	N	1	\i2b2\Expression Profiles Data\	Expression Profiles Data
6	i2b2_LABS	I2B2	N	1	\i2b2\Labtests\	Laboratory Tests
7	i2b2_MEDS	I2B2	N	1	\i2b2\Medications\	Medications
8	i2b2_PROC	I2B2	N	1	\i2b2\Procedures\	Procedures
9	i2b2_PROV	I2B2	N	1	\i2b2\Providers\	Providers
10	i2b2_REP	I2B2	N	1	\i2b2\Reports\	Reports
11	i2b2_VISIT	I2B2	N	1	\i2b2\Visit Details\	Visit Details
12	ICD10_ICD9	ICD10_ICD9	N	1	\Diagnoses\	Diagnoses (ICD10)

The column **C_TABLE_NAME** contains the names of tables (BIRN, ICD10_ICD9) in the i2b2 database schema that comprises the ontology. **C_TABLE_CD** contains a key which is used as a prefix for the path (C_FULLNAME) when i2b2 cells communicate.



This mechanism also allows for creating additional root nodes for the ontology (from additional tables as well as from second level nodes in I2B2).