

ACL is able to access almost all data sources. As there is no file size limitation in ACL, it can process even the most complex data structures. When the **Data Definition Wizard** is used to create a new table, ACL detects the data type of each field. Although this process is usually automatic, in some cases, you have to define the source data type manually. Below are some common data formats that can be imported into ACL:

- ◆ **Flat File:** A flat file is one that does not have a complex file structure. An example of a flat file is the text file created when exporting an OS390 data file.
- ◆ **Delimited Files:** ACL can read almost all delimited files with field separators and string delimiters. Examples of delimited files are CSV (Comma Separated Values) and TAB delimited files.
- ◆ **ACCPAC Data Files:** There are 3 ways that ACL can read ACCPAC data files. The user can use a predefined set of ACL table layouts for ACCPAC files, or use the ACL Data Definition Wizard. Besides, ODBC can also be used to connect to an ACCPAC data file. However, the required ODBC Drivers must be installed.
- ◆ **Print Image (Report) Files:** Print Image (report) files are usually exact duplicates of hard copy reports. These files usually contain page headers, column titles, sub-totals, spaces and page breaks. ACL has built-in tools that allow the user to define even the most challenging print image data easily.
- ◆ **XML (Extensible Markup Language) Data Files:** Text files using tags to encode information on the Internet. XML allows companies to exchange information across the Internet.
- ◆ **MS Excel and Access:** ACL is able to read data files created from Microsoft Office applications such as Excel and Access. This is possible with the inclusion of Microsoft ADO and ODBC technologies.
- ◆ **Cobol Data:** ACL can import COBOL files if an electronic copy of the Cobol Copybook exists that ACL uses to convert them into ACL table layouts. The Cobol Copybook file can be provided by the user's IT department and in ASCII format.
- ◆ **AS/400 Data:** When importing an AS/400 file, the user will need the FDF (field definition file) that will be created when the data file is downloaded from the AS/400 server. ACL will read the FDF File and convert the AS/400 file into an ACL table.