



Why and How of Using Oracle Development Tools with Rdb

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Abstract

This brief session is designed to explain why JCC is using Oracle (Developer) tools with Rdb for

- Distributed client server environments
- Flexible options on hardware and software choices
- Rapid change in a change resistant environment

The session will also

- introduce the example that we will use for discussing advanced techniques
- give you a very brief glimpse of how to use the tools, particularly the forms tool

Extra material on getting started with Forms is provided as a reference.

Abstract for Session to Follow

Oracle (development) Tools enable you to provide powerful and easy access to your Rdb databases. There are, however, some challenges that deserve careful attention. This session draws from an array of solutions that we have developed at JCC to provide you with examples.

Topics will include:

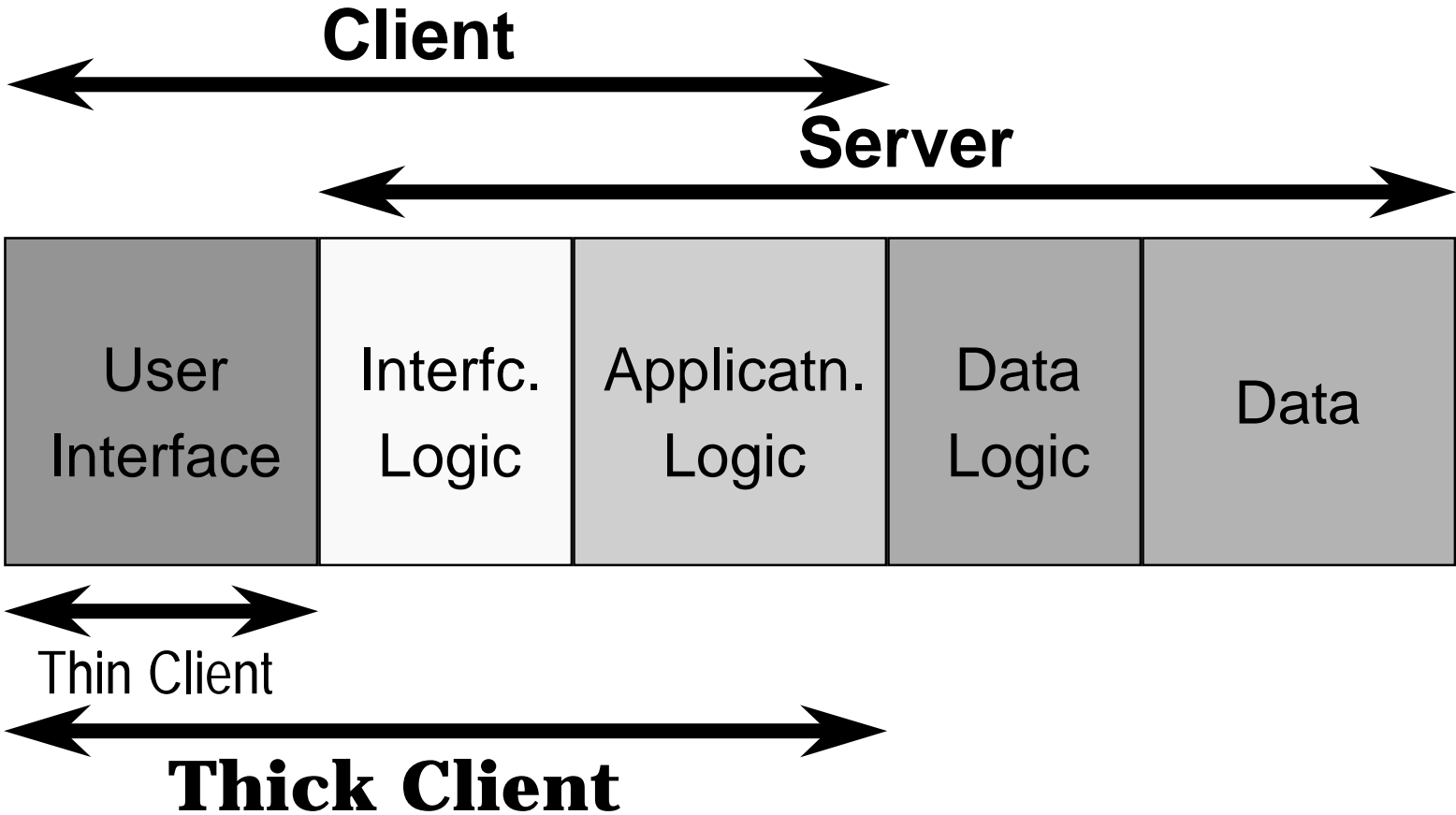
- Using stored procedures
- Controlling concurrency
- Performance tuning
- Approaches to date issues
- ... *and a few extras* ...



Oracle Development Tools for Rdb

- Easing dependence on specific hardware
- Separating the parts for less dependence on a unified software solution
- Distributing the application
- Providing user access to your data
- Speeding the development cycle
- Incorporating non-traditional applications and presentations
- Gaining the advantage of a single vendor
- Prototyping and Joint Application Development (JAD)

Client Server Choices — Five Tier Model



Why?

Freedom

- Hardware issues
 - VMS
 - Distribution
 - Development
- Client/Server decomposition and flexibility
 - Database
 - Application
 - User presentation

VMS
Freedom
GUI



Presentation Styles

Your users need access to your data for it to be truly valuable.

- GUI styles
- PC familiarity
- Standards
- Intuitive use
- Ad hoc and structured



Alternatives

- DECforms?
- ACCESS?
- Visual Basic?
- Other packages?



Freedom vs Single Vendor

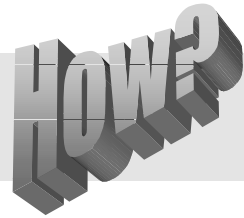
Confession: We also chose the Oracle development tools because we don't totally reject the advantages of a single vendor.

- We chose the Oracle development tools partially because of a greater confidence that they would work with Rdb.
- We chose the Oracle development tools partially because we suspected that we would want a gateway to the other Oracle database.



Development Styles

- Speed
- Prototyping
- Revisions
- Additions
- Object-oriented
- Standards
- Event-driven
- Interactive development

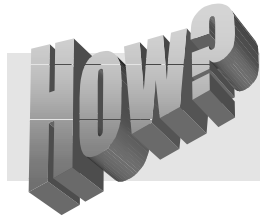


Making It Happen

We cannot cover all the how to do it issues.

We will *briefly* discuss

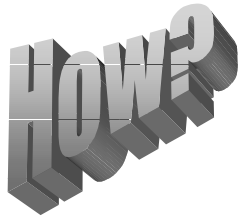
- Components that you need
- Basics of Forms use
- Basics of Reports use
- The “learning curve”



Components that You Need

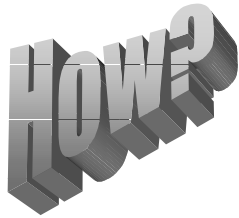
- Database
 - Oracle 7 or 8
 - Rdb (Use Version 7.0 or higher to use SQL*net.)
- User Interface
 - Developer Forms (Version 6.0 is released, but we will defer until after Y2K.)
 - For VMS terminals (Developer V1.3.2, Forms V4.5.7.1.6)
- Data Transport Mechanism
 - SQLNet for Rdb V1.0.2.5 (preferred)
 - ODBC (Required for earlier versions or non-Oracle db.)
- Operating Systems
 - VMS
 - NT
 - W95
 - NT TSE

} We have used all these.



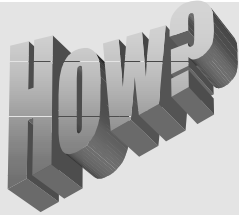
Production Systems — Requisite Software

- On Client
 - Developer
 - SQL*net
 - SQL*net network adapter [e.g., TCP/IP]
 - Operating System Network [e.g., W '95 or W/NT]
- On VMS Server
 - Network Software, e.g. UCX/DECnet
 - Native Connect (Part of SQL Services)
 - SQL*net (This is installed with SQL Services if not already present on system.)
 - Rdb V7.0



Other Software Pieces and Parts

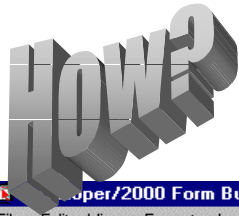
- Other data stores
- Other clients
- Other servers
- Other operating systems
- ActiveX controls
- Batch processing
- eXcel and such
- Icon editors
- Documentation support



Forms Introduction

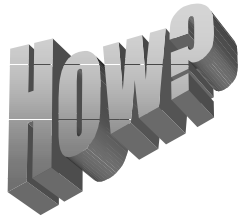
Developer's Primary Tools

- Object Navigator
 - Lists each different type of object and the objects in that type for each module that is open for development work.
 - Main work space
 - Details can be expanded or contracted on the display
- Property Palette
 - Easy way to change the characteristics of objects.
 - Not all characteristics will be of interest for all objects.
- Layout Editor
 - Editor for the form presentation.
 - Where graphics and text is added.
 - Easy place to add buttons and extra fields.



Developer's Tools in an Example

The screenshot displays the 'Form Builder for Windows 95 / NT' application. The main window is titled 'FOC_PAYM: PAYMENT_CANVAS (PAYMENT_BLOCK)'. The interface includes an 'Object Navigator' on the left showing a tree view of 'Forms' (FOC_PAYM) with sub-items like 'Triggers', 'Alerts', 'Attached Libraries', and 'Data Blocks' (PAYMENT_BLOCK, PAYMENT_BUTTON_BLOCK, GENERIC_TOOLBAR_BLOCK). A 'Property Palette' on the right shows properties for the selected 'Data Block: PAYMENT_BLOCK', including 'General' (Name: PAYMENT_BLOCK) and 'Navigation' (Navigation Style: Same Record). The central canvas shows a form design with a grid background. The form contains a red 'Payment' header and several input fields: 'Payment Id' (PAYMENT), 'Amount' (AMOUNT), 'Account Id' (ACCOUNT), 'Payment Date' (PAYMENT D), 'Sequence #' (SEQUENC), 'Payment Entry User Name' (PAYMENT_ENTE), 'Payment Entry Date Time' (PAYMENT_ENTERED), 'Payment Code' (PAYME), 'Adjustment Code' (ADJUS), and 'Payment For Account Code' (PAYME). A status bar at the bottom shows 'Mod: FOC_PAYM File: foWeb\Working\Chery\FOC_PAYM.FMB'.



Wizards

Forms includes numerous wizards.

- Speed the learning curve
- Speed development of complex applications
- Relief from the need to remember how to do detailed things that are done sporadically

Wizards let you focus on *what* you are doing instead of the details of how to do it.

HOW?

Example of a Wizard

Welcome to the Form Builder [X]

Where to start

Designing:

- Use the Data Block Wizard
- Build a new form manually
- Open an existing form
- Build a form based on a template

Learning:

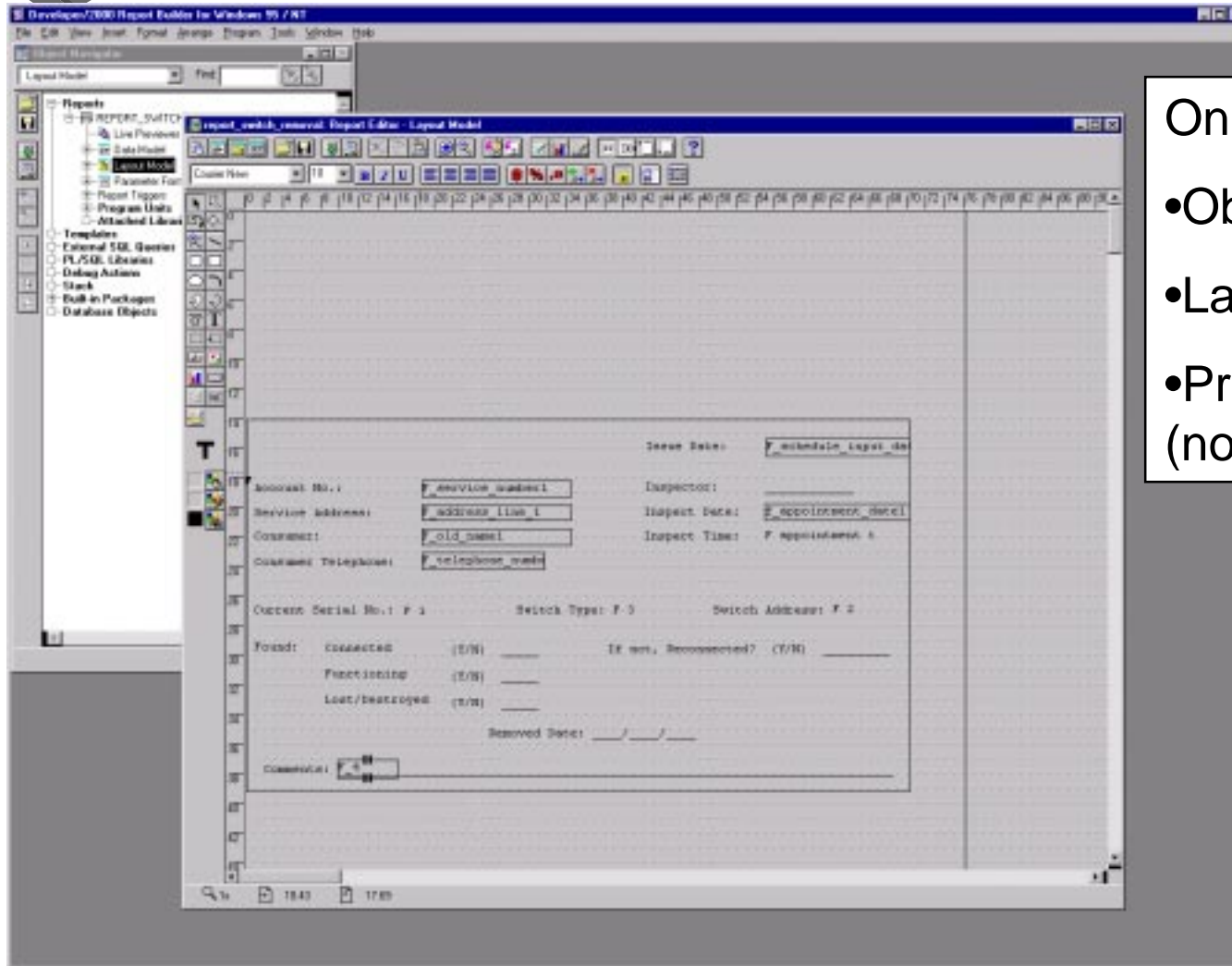
- Run the Quick Tour (concepts)
- Explore the Cue Cards (tasks)

Display at startup

OK Cancel Help

HOW?

Reports Introduction

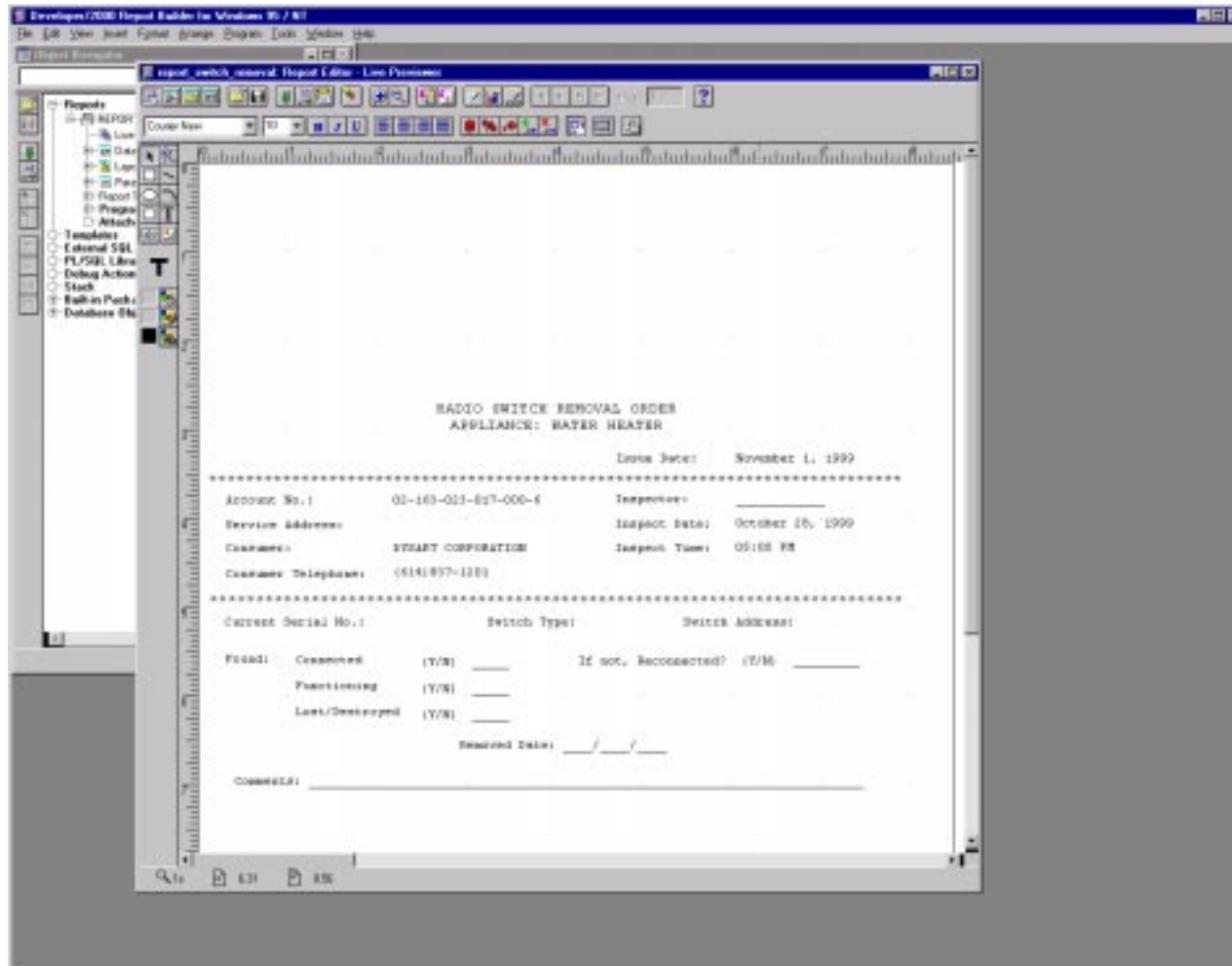


Once again:

- Object Navigator
- Layout Editor
- Property Palette (not shown)

HOW?

Live Preview



HOW?

Wizards

Report Wizard [X]

Choose the report style that most closely resembles the report you would like to create. You may also include a title for your report.

Title:

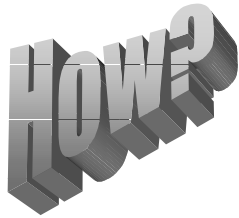
Iabular Group Left

Form-like Group Above

Mailing Label Matrix

Form Letter Matrix with Group

Cancel Help Back Next Finish



Batch Reports

To get one attach

- Run reports from the Report Background Engine
- Run it as an NT service

Questions?

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List Server: RdbD2K



To subscribe to the list server:

- *Send mail to majordomo@JCC.com.*
- *Include "subscribe RdbD2K" in the body of your message.*