

SPREZZATURA

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SEN

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Sprezzatura's Electronic Newsletter

For Revelation developers by Revelation developers

MAKING DATABASES HAPPEN

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Welcome

WELCOME - to this, the much delayed next edition of S/ENL - the Sprezzatura Electronic Newsletter.

The delay in publication has been quite deliberate - with the new broom in place at RevSoft we can get back to doing what we do best. Under the old regime it didn't seem worthwhile producing SENL. We'd no sooner document a cool technique than it seemed the old management would change the license to make it illegal. As those of you who've been to the road show will know - all that has changed! So now we can concentrate on enabling! And enable we do - in this new bumper issue of SENL (specially beefed up by way of apology for absence) you can find ways of extending ALL of your apps from Rev G to AREV to OI! We're especially pleased to be able to announce S/List for AREV users! Thanks to RevSoft for finally seeing sense and allowing users to report on their own data!

For those of you who are reading SENL for the first time - welcome - just for you our editor has been allowed to indulge himself with a monologue on what the Rev community is and where it seems to be heading. Those of you bored by polemic diatribes might wish to skip this article, xenophobically wittily entitled "Care in the Community". (This is only funny in the UK where medical assistance is state provided but cuts in the mental health budget have allowed previously institutionalized mental health patients to be released to look after themselves with some external support. This policy has been called (without a hint of irony) "Care in the Community".)

Interspersed with our Advertorial articles we've also managed to include some handy reference materials, bringing @Attack up to date for OpenInsight 3.7.x, documenting undocumented OpenInsight trivia along with a whole host of other goodies. And we're pleased to welcome back a strangely resuscitated Eric the Emu - we don't know if he's alive or whether this is an archival flash back!

Those of our colleagues in the antipodes may be interested in knowing that a UK contingent have arrived for the roadshow on the 19th of July and are staying around in Australia/New Zealand until early August. If you'd like to meet to talk about how the Sprezz Group can help you then let us know! Similarly if you're on the West Coast of America we hope to stop over for a week or so during the first week of August - so if you'd like to meet/get some cheaper (no flights <g>) consultancy, again let us know!

Thanks to all of you who've been so supportive during the past year or so - it has been a bad time for the whole Rev community. But at last we're back on track with RevSoft's new management and InsiTech's cool new JOI product.

So without further ado let's move on to the main journal and feed straight into some accumulated feedback!

Welcome back - it's good to be with you again!

Regard

All at Sprezz.

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Feedback

On the recent roadshow, Mike of Revelation (see Celebrity Interview later in the journal) commented jokingly that he (being of Irish descent) can listen to his own voice for hours - reminiscent of that old Celtic invention the Lord Weird Slough Feg - "Eyes without life...sundered heads...piles of carcasses...these are pleasing words to me".

Well, not really but... gives us an excuse to practice our Celtic meanderings...

In similar vein we like to recycle customer feedback (changing the names to protect the innocent).. so on the subject of Utility32 (see article later) PR writes "MANY thanks for the product, it is a real boost to our OI applications."

Meanwhile in the S/List raves corner RC writes "S/List is a very nice product. I was amazed at it being able to literally reuse our R/List statement. Really really nice. I can see that it will save us many hours of work in our conversion to OI.". MP chips in on the same subject "the S/List 2 product ... and have found it to be a very impressive bit of programming. An excellent product. Thanks for developing it!"

At the same time S/List for S/Web is picking up some quaintly understated praise, as GH writes "THIS IS AWESOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You guys are geniuses. Everyone here is blown away! Thanks for this, it is unbelievable, much more than I expected!".

Not to be outdone, Sprezz Oz's Steve Smith's CPUPlus utility continues to garner praise "Have installed CPUPLUS; it works - reduction in processor usage on our terminal servers is significant. Thanks for your help"

BS writes "Is there any chance of the article that was alluded to:- a follow-up on "OIWin_Comm_Init"...what each variable was and it's fields, plus examples of the use they can be put to.". Well we're pleased to say that your wish is our command - see the article by Aaron later in this issue.

DS writes "how can I abort a long select or list process?"... Carl replies "use a symbolic dictionary item in the query (put it in SYSDICT so it's global) that checks to see if a cancel flag has been set - if so then kill the select list which should break the selection process.

eg.. create a symbolic something like this called CANCELCHECK

```
*// Check if Cancel Flag is set
if cancelFlag then
    clearSelect 0
    @List.Active = 0
    @RecCount = 0
end
return 1
```

and use it like this

```
SELECT THISTABLE WITH DATA EQ "THIS" AND WITH CANCELCHECK EQ "1"
```

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Joke Section - An Oldie But Goldie From Several People

Once upon a time in the Kingdom of Heaven, God went missing for six days. Eventually, Michael the archangel found him, resting on the seventh day.

He inquired of God, "Where have you been?"

God sighed a deep sigh of satisfaction and proudly pointed downwards through the clouds, "Look Michael, look what I've made."

Archangel Michael looked puzzled and said, "What is it?"

"It's a planet,- replied God, "and I've put LIFE on it. I'm going to call it Earth and it's going to be a great place of balance"

"Balance?" inquired Michael, still confused.

God explained, pointing to different parts of Earth. "For example, Northern Europe will be a place of great opportunity and wealth while Southern Europe is going to be poor; the Middle East over there will be a hot spot. Over there I've placed a continent of white people and over there is a continent of black people" God continued, pointing to different countries. "This one will be extremely hot and arid while this one will be very cold and covered in ice"

The Archangel, impressed by Gods work, then pointed to a small island in the northern hemisphere with subdivisions within it and asked "What's that?". God said "Well that my friend is England". Pointing further north within the island Michael indicated one of the subdivisions and repeated the query.

"Ah" said God. "That's Lancashire, the most glorious place on Earth. There are beautiful mountains, rainforests, rivers, streams and an exquisite coastline. The people are good looking, intelligent and humorous and they're going to be found ravelling the world. They'll be extremely sociable, hardworking and high-achieving, and they will be known throughout the world as diplomats and carriers of peace. I'm also going to give them superhuman, undefeatable cricket players who will be admired and feared by all who come across them".

Michael gasped in wonder and admiration but then "You said there will be BALANCE!"

God replied wisely. "Wait until you see the ugly, whinging, sheep rooting, Yorkshire buggers I'm putting next to them".

Care in the Community

The Revelation community has been through a turbulent few years recently and as the dust starts to settle and the new owners of RevSoft start to work on recapturing the community's interest I thought it might be interesting to reflect on where we are and how we got there.

Early Days

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Back in the early 80's the PC as a business tool was only just beginning to become widely accepted, and along with it a profusion of new products for the PC all aimed ostensibly at making the everyday life of the average user easier. Users were revolting against the restrictions placed upon them by a mini/mainframe dominated IT industry and welcomed the chance to set their own standards. Users didn't want interconnectivity and compatibility, they wanted to be able to do their own thing and exchange files by exporting if needs be. They wanted to be freed from the tyranny of custom hardware and expensive peripherals.

It will come as no surprise to learn that the majority of initial sales of Revelation (Revelation C) were to users of the PICK database - primarily because Rev contained a terminal emulator which could be used with Pick minicomputers and mainframes.

To put this into context, Lotus 1-2-3 dominated the marketplace and Norton Utilities had just been introduced. In fact I remember writing to Peter Norton thanking him for his useful tool but suggesting he get rid of the ridiculous kipper tie if he wanted to be taken seriously in the UK. The database competition was provided primarily by dBASE and Clipper - Paradox didn't become a contender until AREV was well established. Revelation databases were normally used on twin floppy machines, with Rev in drive A: and the data in drive B:.

DOS 2.0 was introduced and included sub-directories for the first time. It confused me for days. At this stage the community was supported primarily by the Revelation BBS and a couple of independent boards.

The Mid 80's

As users began to get more from their PCs, the market began to create new products to feed the demand. As modem cards became popular, telex cards waned. As colour adapters decreased in price, monochrome monitors became less used. Finally I remember Howard Hegwer from RevSoft coming to the UK to tell us all about the latest version of Rev - which contained networking support. This was a new concept - what was networking? We knew soon enough as Novell opened a UK office in Tunbridge Wells with 8 employees and a product called G Net. Our first users adopted the AT (I had abandoned my previous stance "AT's? 20MBs of disk? That's for power users mate..." a few months earlier) and networked Revelation became one of the first networked databases available for the PC.

Back in the 80's the PC computer community was not as MS homogenous as it is these days. Rival database manufacturers flourished, each with their own different strengths. The group of users who made up the Revelation user base all tended to share certain characteristics. I know that this is editorial opinion and some may disagree but...

Revelation users were in some way maverick, this was normally marked by left or right leaning tendencies. There were extremes of belief on all sides but united by the belief that it was "us" and "them". "They" were always bigger with better targeted marketing budgets and a lack of interest in individuality. "We" knew that the only way to compete was to form a guerrilla style community with lots of self help. And so the community grew. In its hey day there were lots of user groups, bulletin boards, fora, magazines, newsletters, Dan & Jerry, ELF, Ira & Dave and towards the end of the '80s including what we believe remains the best source of technical information for Advanced Revelation users, "REVMEDIA - The Developer's Link".

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As the 80's reached conclusion, SQL Server was all the rage. Advanced Revelation had better support for SQL Server than any other database, and this along with its exciting BFS concept (the ability to use AREV as a front end to pretty much any back end) enabled AREV to push into companies where it was not formerly popular. Revelation were shipping lots of units - in fact they sold more SQL Server than any other database company.

Somewhere along the way the original developers in Cosmos decided to sell the company to a client company which was making money hand over fist - enter Mainframe Micros, an HR company started by Steve Perry, and now so successful in their marketplace that Steve and Jim Acquaviva (Steve's partner) could take over Cosmos - thus ensuring control of their primary tool.

One of the first things to go was the name - people identified with Revelation (the software) so the company name was changed to Revelation Technologies Inc. (not abbreviated to RTI originally as this was already taken) - a smart move at the time. Unfortunately, Mainframe Micros were East Coast and Cosmos was West Coast so suddenly we had a bipolar organization. The developer base tended to side with the West Coast all the more so as the internal realpolitik divided the company into two camps. The East Coast had more of a "business hat" - sensing the raise in stature of the PC from a personal device to just another extension of the Mainframe culture that preceded it. The West Coast was still more firmly grounded in the "hacker" mentality that so epitomized the enthusiast PC marketplace. But this attitude was to prove damaging for the company.

The East Coast "suits" insisted that Advanced Revelation should become more mainstream and that the target marketplace was Fortune 500 companies - a goal which surprised most of the developers (whose OWN clients were Fortune 500 and who realized the nature of the sale into such beasts - a sales that the AREV product was not geared up for). The instruction was given "make AREV more mainstream compliant" and thus was launched the fiasco which we more lovingly refer to as "AREV 3.0 - Lightspeed".

The West Coast cabal in a fit of what can only seem with hindsight as awe-inspiring petulance, released a "more mainstream compliant" AREV - one which no longer understood AREV 2.X commands and one which required major rewrites to work with. Now admittedly Mike Pope (Technical Writer and all round nice guy) had been trailing the potential problems on non-SQL compliant dictionary naming conventions (read . Vs _) but the act of REPLACING the commands rather than just ALIASING them was a stab in the back for the existing community. "You want SQL - we'll give you SQL" - "Oh you wanted compatibility too?!"

"Lightspeed" was another indirect kick in the teeth. The East Coast proudly trailed the speed increases coming in "Lightspeed" AREV. But when the product was released it was slower than ever. Spokespeople for the East, egg showing clearly on face apologized with reference to specific test results. There are two theories here - one, the West Coast allowed the East Coast to go public to embarrass the East Coast and two, the East Coast refused to listen to subsequent information from the West Coast in their enthusiasm to plug AREV 3.0 sales. Whichever way you look at it, here was another kick in the teeth for the community.

If you really want to judge how ill-advised this move was... look at Rev's internal systems at the time, they stayed 2.1 because moving to 3.0 broke them!

At this stage, relations between the community and the developers changed subtly. Add in an East Coast management team whose increasingly autocratic behaviour towards their customer base

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showed the contempt in which they were held and it is no surprise that the developer attitude towards RevSoft changed.

Meanwhile work on OpenInsight was progressing. Rather than build a team who knew the market, C programmers were drafted in and trained (incompletely) in MV techniques. Rather than listening to their existing user base and providing AREV for Windows, OpenInsight was released as an unworkable piece of middleware to a largely indifferent market. The lack of front end tool set lead to some highly speculative announcements from RevSoft management (including a Mac style OpenBook interface whose announcement at conference was the allegedly the first the developers had heard about it) but no really useful/saleable tools. So management hunkered down and began a rethink. This time they included external developers as channels for market feedback and came up with OpenInsight 2.0.

At this stage the community began to pick up hope again and the release of 2.5 made it begin to look as though the developers in the community (who ultimately sell the product) were once again being listened to. Around this time the West Coast was subsumed into the East Coast - a merger caused by the increasing difficulties of running and managing two offices that far apart with one senior management team.

Meanwhile as the 90s progressed the marketplace was moving towards GroupWare. Microsoft were attempting to mutate Exchange into Lotus Notes and the market was abuzz with the concept of WorkGroups. The newly focused management team arrived at a truly exciting destination - OpenInsight for Workgroups, Lotus Notes Edition. The plan was to release an edition of OI for each major piece of GroupWare. It was a good plan and had the potential to crack new marketplaces. Internally at RevSoft, the old marketplace was seen as restrictive and a commercial hindrance to the bold plans of the new direction. Aspiring Larry Ellisons were not traditionally encumbered with a fiercely loyal developer base who loved their product the way it was and resisted change for arbitrary reasons. The only use for the dinosaur community was as a cash cow.

So OpenInsight for Workgroups was released - not as an upgrade but as a completely new product. The fact that it shared a code base with OpenInsight for LANs was irrelevant - if you wanted the latest and greatest version you HAD to pay for your OpenInsight again - even though several key features in 2.5 still didn't work as advertised and would only be fixed in the Workgroups version. So after years supporting an evolving product the loyal community was treated in the same way as new prospective clients - pay up or shut up.

The covering letter provided with 3.0 was the final nail in the coffin of community Vs RevSoft trust. The letter (signed by Kurt Baker) explained that Revelation were in the business of providing development software to "Lotus Notes Developers" and Revelation Authorized Training Centres had to be Lotus certified if they wanted to remain authorized. Unsurprisingly the community revolted - forcing a reluctant climb down from RevSoft who opined that the developers had missed the point - the letter was for "new users".

However the developer community found new champions. Cameron Purdy and Gene Gleyzer became more responsible for the direction of OpenInsight and slowly but surely the old spirit of AREV began to rise again in the product. More tools were written in the tools themselves and with Cameron's pushing more sample source code (and product source code) began to emerge. Once again the community began to feel that whilst management might not understand them, at least the technical people at RevSoft did!

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So when in around 1997 RevSoft announced that they were embracing Microsoft's COM model for OI32, the community whilst surprised, waited to see what would happen, trusting that the lead developers had their interests at heart.

When in 1998 RevSoft announced a change of direction towards Java, this made more sense to the community and the change was embraced with enthusiasm. Developers signed up for Works willingly, knowing that they would, as promised, get jREV included (the full final release, not some cut down non-commercial version) when it came to fruition shortly.

These next few years marked a downwards spiral as RevSoft management set about more effectively alienating the community they professed to serve. Every aspect of licensing which could be tweaked was tweaked. Restrictions on runtime copies became increasingly draconian. Literal interpretation of the license would lead to the product's being undeployable out of the box. Add to this the addition of retrospective licensing conditions (that which was provided as part of Works suddenly became a chargeable item (c.f. WDP) etc) and refusal to listen to opinion of the various fora - especially the licensing forum - and developer ennui became complete.

Developers in the community split into two camps, helped in part by the cultural apartheid inspired by the Works program. Virtually no technical support questions were answered in the non-Works section by RevSoft personnel showing how RevSoft were defining community (someone who is currently paying for a subscription service rather than somebody who buys/works with my products). So community stalwarts sprang to the rescue and began an almost CompuServe Sysop style of contribution.

As the relationship deteriorated yet further RevSoft in our opinion seemed to renege on previous promises - restricting the scope of the Works program vis a vis jRev, changing the license to prevent deployment of specific 3rd party tools.

Shortly thereafter, Cameron and Gene (the chief architects for jREV) left to form Tangosol and jREV to all intents and purposes died. At this stage things seemed to be unable to get any worse. The Rev community was still there and kept together by the public fora on the Rev Website - by this time comp.databases.revelation had all but died and no other viable discussion boards were out there (yes - we know of at least two others but they have failed to gain critical mass) but RevSoft management were no longer trusted over anything by the community. The Works program had stagnated and there seemed little point in renewing - new content was trivial and few and far between.

Just where this could have began to take on the characteristics of a eulogy the plot took on a surprising twist. RevSoft UK was sold to Clive Booth - the UK MD, marking an end to RevSoft US's involvement - the reins were slackening. The future began to look mutable.

Jim Acquaviva put his majority stake in RevSoft up for sale. Jim has left the Rev community and gone to work as CEO at Kada Systems (www.kadasystems.com) formerly www.emwerks.com. Kurt has gone with him and all former employees of RevSoft are gone - the end of an 18 year old era.

So here we are at the present - and the future looks interesting. jREV is dead, JOI looms. Works is actually receiving input for the first time in a long time. Technical issues are being addressed and bugs resolved. Mike Ruane is attempting to reach out to the developer community. Licensing is becoming more reasonable, and the developer community are again being asked to contribute. Once again the community has come full swing and RevSoft is becoming community lead again. The community

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continues to thrive - the collective that would not die. Will this mark a rebirth or is it just another hiccup in a slow and lingering death? We don't have answers but we do know that our efforts are going to go into the rebirth and not into euthanasia! See you there?

Celebrity Interview - Mike Ruane

Who are you?

Mike Ruane

Who do you work for?

Revelation Software

What is your role in the RevSoft community?

Currently, President and CEO of Revelation Software. Also, developer, consultant, for WinWin Solutions Inc. Trainer, tech Support, documenter,...

How long have you been involved with RevSoft?

Since about 1989

Which products do you use?

Arev, OI, JOI, some RevG

What do you most like about RevSoft products?

Multivalued, dynamic arrays, ease of access to the data. I also especially like Basic+/Rbasic.

What do you most dislike about RevSoft products?

The 64k Limit

If you HAD to use another database what would it be and why?

MS SQL. Well known API, lots of documentation, plenty of work.

What are your favourite 3 books and why?

Atlas Shrugged, by Ayn Rand. I like the story and the ideas, but the basic premise is a little too black and white for me. Sometimes you have to compromise.

Starship Troopers, by Robert A Heinlein. I enjoyed the technology in this book, as well as the ideas of patriotism and citizenship.

The Princess Bride, William Goldman. Just a very funny story.

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What are your favourite 3 CDs/Albums and why?

Born to Run, Bruce Springsteen- A flashback to my early days when I could do anything- or so I thought. Some of Bruce's best poetry-Jungleland, Born to Run, and some great musical mixes. You don't hear glockenspiels on the Radio everyday.

Gershwin Rhapsodies, Michael Tilson Thomas- I like Thomas' interpretation of George and Ira's work- and he had a lot of interaction with Ira.

Rattle and Hum, U2- Just a stack of great songs, with some great twists.

What are your three favourite films and why?

Rio Bravo, John Wayne. One of the quintessential westerns- the good-guy takes on the bad guys, and good-guy wins.

Forbidden Planet, Leslie Nielsen et al. A great, early sci-fi movie (based on Shakespeare), that invented the formula used by countless series and movies that followed.

Animal House. A look at a college life that is suspiciously similar to my own. 'Nuff said.

What event in history would you most like to have been present at?

Hmm. That's a tough call. I'd like to have been at Kitty Hawk, seeing Wilbur and Orville flip a coin to see who would take that flight. I'd like to have been at Pearl Harbour, not for the battle so much, but to see the Nevada pulling out of Battleship Row when all her sisters were dead or dying, the flag out behind her fantail in the wind. It seems like a great example of knowing that the odds were difficult, overwhelming even, but that there was a fight to be fought, and she was the one to do it.

And finally Your motto/witty aphorism

Yow- I have a lot. Some are wittier than others.

Do the right thing.

Make it work.

Fix the problem, not the blame

We can do it in twice the time, with half the functionality, at three times the cost.<g>

OI Window Common Revisited - Aaron Kaplan

One of the items most ARev developers miss most about OpenInsight is the loss of Window_Common variables. While Window_Common was a great boon to ARev, most of its functionality is handled through GET_PROPERTY and SET_PROPERTY, a method I much prefer. However, there are some properties that are not accessible through these functions, and some which do not have SET_PROPERTY methods.

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These values must be stored somewhere though, and that place is in the OI Window Common area. The OI Window Common area is a variably labelled common area.

Before we go any further, let's talk a little about variably labelled common areas. This a new feature added into Basic+ for OpenInsight. It's something most of us would have killed for in ARev. OK, not killed, but maimed. Well, maybe not maimed, but busted some kneecaps for. How about selling our mother-in-laws?

The idea behind this is that you can variably define the name of the labelled common block. As with standard labelled common, when the names match, the variables are the same. Otherwise, they are a different set of variables.

This was the reason the Window_Common was a common block, and not a labelled common block in ARev. Common blocks are instantiated with each execution of a MAIN program, not a subroutine. WINDOW is a MAIN program so each time a new window was loaded over an existing window, the MAIN routine would instantiate a new instance of the common block. OpenInsight does not have that luxury, since all windows exist side by side. So, variable named labelled commons were created.

The syntax for these is very simple:

```
common //someVar// lcVar1@, lcVar2@, lcVar3@
```

Notice how the labelled common name is delineated by a double slash instead of a single slash. This tells OpenInsight that the areas name is a variable, not a literal.

This feature can come in handy in many places, especially on web applications, where all users are potentially sharing a single variable space. By loading up a labelled common block per registered user or session ID, the server can store specific values for each session.

However, this all beyond this document. We're here to talk about OI's window common area. OpenInsight's common area is defined in a SYSPROG insert record called OIWIN_COMM_INIT. Here's the contents of the row

```
compile insert OIWin_Comm_Init
* to access the internal attributes of a particular window, set the
variable
* WinID to the name of the window immediately before inserting this record
equ COMMON_PREFIX$ to "%COM_"
CommName@ = COMMON_PREFIX$: WinID
common //CommName@// JoinMap@, RowMaps@, MasterRowMap@, KeyMap@,
ControlMap@, ControlList@, OrigResultRow@, ControlSemantics@, QBFIde@,
QBFRows@, QBFCOUNT@, QBFPoS@, RowLocks@, SubRows@(10), QBFMODE@,
DataSourceMap@, OIWinReserved@
```

Each block is defined by WinID, which is assigned from @WINDOW or CtrlEntID during the Create Event.

JoinMap@

Contains information on each OpenInsight Linear Hash Data Table bound to this window.

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RowMaps@	Contains information on each dictionary field used in the window. These items are in the same order as MasterRowMap@. The sequential order of this field indicates the structure of OrigResultRow@
MasterRowMap@	Contains information on how each dictionary field maps to window controls. These items are in the same order as RowMap@. The sequential order of this field indicates the structure of OrigResultRow@
KeyMap@	Contains a listing of the window controls mapped to key prompts.
ControlMap@	Contains an @FM listing of window controls. The first field contains the window name. The controls start at field 2.
Controllist@	Contains an @FM listing of all window controls and their information. The first field contains information about the window itself. The first controls starts at field 2. The fields are stored in the same order as ControlMap@
OrigResultRow@	This field contains the "display" row as read from disk. See note below
ControlSemantics@	Contains @FM delimited information about each control as it related to OpenInsight specific issues, for example prompt validation and prompt recalculation. The fields are stored in the same order as ControlMap@. This field also has the dubious distinction of holding the "display" row. See note below.
QBFIids@	An @FM listing of the keys returned from the QBF query.
QBFRows@	Appears to be unused. (The author's failing memory seems to recall a time when this variable was populated with the rows as added to QBFIids@)
QBFCCount@	The count of keys in QBFIids@
QBFPoS@	The position in QBFIids@ that contains the active row
Rowlocks@	The listing of rows locked by the current read.

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SubRows@(10)	Contains the real record as read off disk. Each elements contains the row for the specific table. Normally, information will only be in element 1. For multi-table windows, each subsequent table row will be placed in next element.
QBFMode@	If TRUE\$ the the window is in Define QBF mode
DataSourceMap@	Maps and information used for SQL.
OIWinReserved@	This field is reserved

Note:

OpenInsight works on a very different principle than ARev. In ARev, the window was a representation of @RECORD. In OpenInsight, @RECORD doesn't really exist. The RECORD property is loaded on demand from the SubRows@(0). SubRows@(0) is only updated programmatically by setting DEFPROP, RECORD or INVALUE. Normal window operations also set this value. @RECORD in OpenInsight is transient and flaky. You can be assured of its correctness and completeness when referenced from symbolics, but that's about all. For the sake of completeness, @RECORD, @ID and @WINDOW are updated when RUN_EVENT is called. @RECORD comes from SubRows@(0), @ID from RowLocks@< 1, 1, 1 > and @WINDOWS comes from the window name passed into RUN_EVENT.

The reason for this is that OpenInsight is form based. The form is the primary controlling item. When you write from an OpenInsight form, the system first compares what changed on the form from what was originally read (which would be SubRows@(0) and OrigResultRow@). Once that list is determined, the system reads the record from disk, inserts the changed fields, then writes the record back to disk. You are reading this correctly. Data on the screen might not actually be written back to disk. Only information different from when the record was originally read will be written back.

There's more information on these field definitions in Sprezzatura's Technical Bulletin #2, Compiled Window Structures and in the OIWIN_EQUATES insert record in OpenInsight.

AREV Trivia

I don't know about you but I sometimes have the need to ensure that associated MVs in a window are stored in sorted order. I'm sure we've all written a generic beast to deal with this over the years but here's a simple one I knocked up recently. (And no, that doesn't mean the same in the UK...)

```
Subroutine Sort_Row(Param)
  SortOrder = Field(Param, "*", 1)
  FieldsLeft = Field(Param, "*", 2, 999)
  FieldsToSort = FieldsLeft
  Convert "*" To @Fm In FieldsToSort
  Ctr = Count(FieldsToSort, @Fm) + 1
  dataArray = ''
```

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```

LoopCtr = Count (@Record<FieldsToSort<1>>, @Vm) +
(@Record<FieldsToSort<1>>#"")
For X = 1 To LoopCtr
  For Y = 1 To Ctr
    DataArray := @Record<FieldsToSort<Y>, X> : @Fm
  Next
  DataArray := @Rm
Next
Call V119("S", "", SortOrder[1,1], SortOrder[2,1], DataArray, Flag)
Convert @Rm : @Fm To @Fm : @Vm In DataArray
For X = 1 To LoopCtr
  For Y = 1 To Ctr
    @Record<FieldsToSort<Y>, X> = DataArray<X, Y>
  Next
Next
Return

```

OpenInsight Trivia

Windows NT/2000 Editor Annoyances

If like us you've been frustrated by trying to open rows in the System Editor using Windows NT or Windows 2000 (you open the dialog and try as you might you can't select the row in the row box by typing or clicking, meaning you have to type it in yourself in full) you will be pleased to hear that for once, the product favours keyboard users!

Rather than using File/Open from the menu, press Ctrl-R to open the dialog directly. Now suddenly you'll find that the old selection functionality has been restored! (Thanks Aaron - you mouse luddite you!)

If you've got one of those weird situations where you search to find a term and the editor finds it but refuses to move focus to the line, simply press arrow left and the cursor will relocate on the line in question. Same for Ctrl-G for GOTO.

The Emperor's New Clothes - Carl Pates

Ok, so you've spent hours designing your user interface – it's perfect in every detail and looks just like part of the latest UI masterpiece from Redmond...and then the user decides that they want their system in a lovely shade of pink and green, ruining your carefully-wrought design and making the beautiful grey and blue shades of your app hideous and unsightly (hey, we all use 'Windows Standard' right? J)

So how can you cope with this tragedy? – Well it's quite simple really; when the user decides that they are fed up with the same color scheme and wants to use something more obnoxious and visually painful, the system broadcasts a special message to all the running top-level windows to flag that a color change has taken place. We just need to respond to this message and change the colors of our windows to match the system ones and hey presto – now our app looks ugly too!

So the first thing to do is trap the system broadcast message. It's called WM_SYSCOLORCHANGE and is defined in Windows as:

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```
#define WM_SYSCOLORCHANGE 0x0015
```

Which to you and me means 21. So for any OI forms where we want to react to this message we need to define a WINMSG event handler that responds to it.

First we need to tell OI that we want to trap the message by using the Send_Message() QUALIFY_EVENT method . The CREATE event of a form is usually the best place to do this:

```
$insert logical
equ WM_SYSCOLORCHANGE$ to 21
call send_Message( @window, "QUALIFY_EVENT", WM_SYSCOLORCHANGE$, TRUE$ )
```

Then we need to create a WINMSG event handler that OI calls to handle the change. Something like this would do using Event script:

```
$insert logical
equ WM_SYSCOLORCHANGE$ to 21
begin case
  case ( Message = WM_SYSCOLORCHANGE$ )
    call exampleDoChangeColors()
  end case
return 0
```

...or something similar if you used Quickevents and commuter modules.

OK, so now you can write a function to actually find out what the colors are and change them. For this you're going to need to use a Windows API function called GetSysColor() which is exported from User.Exe. It's defined in the Windows API as:

```
GetSysColor(nDspElement)
int nDspElement; /* display element */
```

The GetSysColor function retrieves the current color of the specified display element. Display elements are the various parts of a window and the Windows display that appear on the system screen.

Display Element	Description
COLOR_ACTIVEBORDER	Active window border.
COLOR_ACTIVECAPTION	Active window title.
COLOR_APPWORKSPACE	Background color of multiple document interface (MDI) applications.
COLOR_BACKGROUND	Desktop.
COLOR_BTNFACE	Face shading on push buttons.

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COLOR_BTNHIGHLIGHT	Selected button in a control.
COLOR_BTNSHADOW	Edge shading on push buttons.
COLOR_BTNTEXT	Text on push buttons.
COLOR_CAPTIONTEXT	Text in title bar, size button, scroll-bar arrow button.
COLOR_GRAYTEXT	Greyed (dimmed) text. This color is zero if the current display driver does not support a solid grey color.
COLOR_HIGHLIGHT	Background of selected item in a control.
COLOR_HIGHLIGHTTEXT	Text of selected item in a control.
COLOR_INACTIVEBORDER	Inactive window border.
COLOR_INACTIVECAPTION	Inactive window title.
COLOR_INACTIVECAPTIONTEXT	Color of text in an inactive title.
COLOR_MENU	Menu background.
COLOR_MENUTEXT	Text in menus.
COLOR_SCROLLBAR	Scroll-bar grey area.
COLOR_WINDOW	Window background.
COLOR_WINDOWFRAME	Window frame.
COLOR_WINDOWTEXT	Text in windows.

So you pass it an integer representing the display element to want to get and it returns an integer that represents the RGB color value of the element you asked for. So, if you're still interested at this point here's what those display elements mean in OI:

Equ	COLOR_SCROLLBAR\$	To	0
Equ	COLOR_BACKGROUND\$	To	1
Equ	COLOR_ACTIVECAPTION\$	To	2
Equ	COLOR_INACTIVECAPTION\$	To	3
Equ	COLOR_MENU\$	To	4
Equ	COLOR_WINDOW\$	To	5
Equ	COLOR_WINDOWFRAME\$	To	6

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Equ	COLOR_MENUTEXT\$	To	7
Equ	COLOR_WINDOWTEXT\$	To	8
Equ	COLOR_CAPTIONTEXT\$	To	9
Equ	COLOR_ACTIVEBORDER\$	To	10
Equ	COLOR_INACTIVEBORDER\$	To	11
Equ	COLOR_APPWORKSPACE\$	To	12
Equ	COLOR_HIGHLIGHT\$	To	13
Equ	COLOR_HIGHLIGHTTEXT\$	To	14
Equ	COLOR_BTNFACE\$	To	15
Equ	COLOR_BTNSHADOW\$	To	16
Equ	COLOR_GRAYTEXT\$	To	17
Equ	COLOR_BTNTEXT\$	To	18
Equ	COLOR_INACTIVECAPTIONTEXT\$	To	19
Equ	COLOR_BTNHIGHLIGHT\$	To	20

Of course you'll have to prototype GetSysColor before you use it but that's easy. Open the DLL_USER record in your SYSPROCS table and add the following line to the end if it's not already in there:

```
LONG PASCAL GetSysColor(USHORT)
```

Save the record and from the System Editor Exec line do this:

```
RUN DECLARE_FCNS "DLL_USER"
```

So onto a function that reacts to color changes. Basically you want it go through the controls on your forms and change them as necessary. You don't need to worry about the menus either as the system takes care of these for you.

```
* // Sets the colors on a window to match the system controls
* //
* // object ->      Window name to apply changes to

if len( object ) else
  object = @window
end
if Len( object ) then
  ctrlMap = object : @fm : get_Property( object, "CTRLMAP" )
  backColor3D      = GetSysColor( COLOR_BTNFACE$ )
  textColor3D      = GetSysColor( COLOR_BTNTEXT$ )
  windowColor      = GetSysColor( COLOR_WINDOW$ )
  windowTextColor  = GetSysColor( COLOR_WINDOWTEXT$ )
  hiLightColor     = GetSysColor( COLOR_HIGHLIGHT$ )
  hiLightTextColor = GetSysColor( COLOR_HIGHLIGHTTEXT$ )

  ctrlArray = ""
  propArray = ""
  dataArray = ""

  pos = 1
  loop
    nextCtrl = ctrlMap[POs,@fm]
    POs      = col2()+1
  while Len( nextCtrl )
    ctrlArrayX =      nextCtrl
    propArrayX =      "TYPE"
    dataArrayX =      ps_Get_Property( ctrlArrayX, propArrayX )
```

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```

ctrlType = dataArrayX[1,@rm]
locate ctrlType in "EDITFIELD,EDITBOX,COMBOBOX,LISTBOX" using ", "
setting something then
  ctrlArray := nextCtrl      : @rm
  propArray := "BACKCOLOR"   : @rm
  dataArray := windowColor   : @rm

  ctrlArray := nextCtrl      : @rm
  propArray := "FORECOLOR"   : @rm
  dataArray := windowTextColor : @rm
end else
  CtrlArray := nextCtrl      : @rm
  propArray := "BACKCOLOR"   : @rm
  dataArray := backColor3D    : @rm

  ctrlArray := nextCtrl      : @rm
  propArray := "FORECOLOR"   : @rm
  dataArray := textColor3D    : @rm
end
repeat
  ctrlArray[-1,1] = ""
  propArray[-1,1] = ""
  dataArray[-1,1] = ""
  call ps_Set_Property( ctrlArray, propArray, dataArray )
end

```

That's a pretty basic way of handling the color change, but at least you should get the idea.

One thing to watch out for: The colors of the column headers and row buttons in an Edit Table cannot be changed. They are hardcoded to be grey!

Anyway, if you want to see this work in action download the S/Param wizard from our website and have a go at changing the system colors when it's running.

Enjoy!

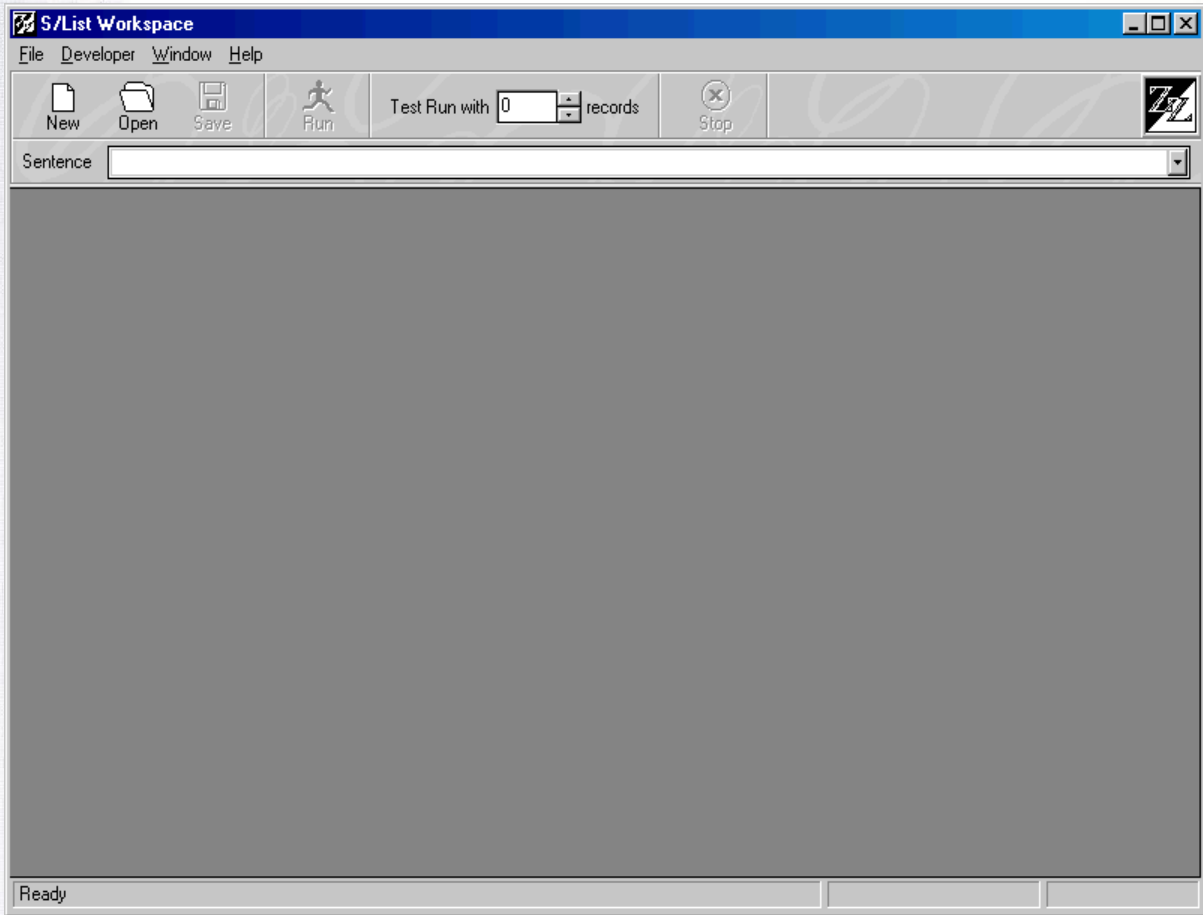
S/List For AREV

One of the most welcomed licensing changes on the recent roadshow has been the permission to create RList style reports on a runtime copy of OpenInsight. The idea that you were not allowed to report against your own data seemed one of the most ludicrous ideas in the history of databases - magnified by the suggestion by Kurt Baker that if you wanted to report on a runtime you should export the data using the data warehousing feature and use Crystal reports!

With this returning to normal of licensing we have the capability to help existing AREV developers provide Windows reporting tools to their client base, a chargeable upgrade that adds both flexibility and value. We're pleased to announce the availability of S/List for AREV - our premier reporting tool on an OpenInsight runtime with tools to allow the attachment of AREV files for sophisticated Windows based reporting.

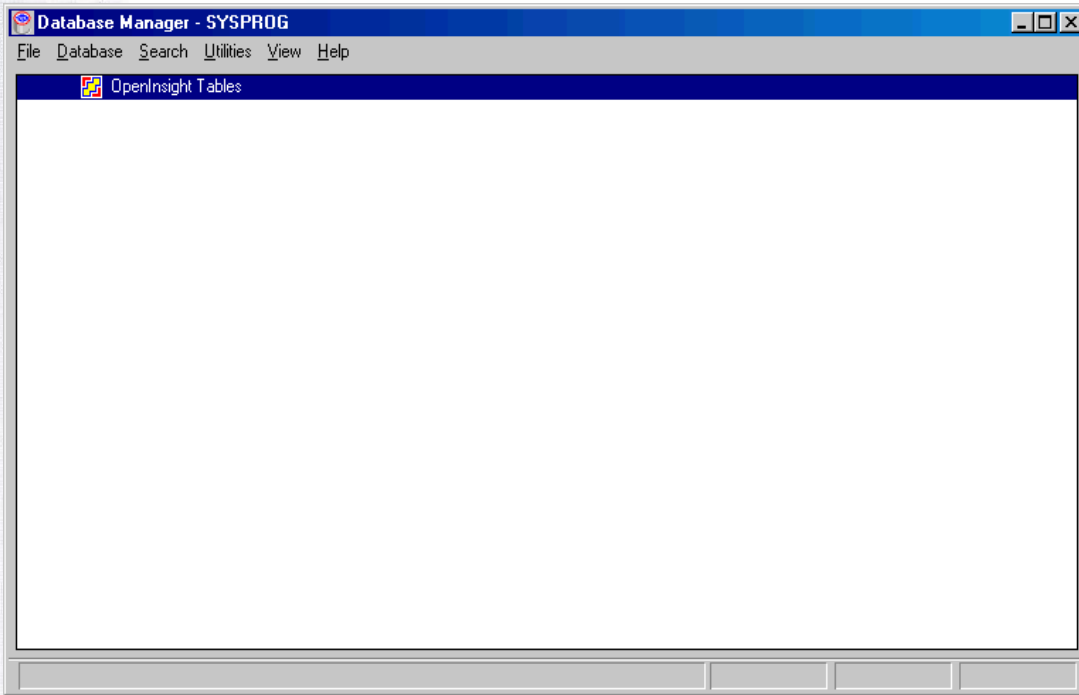
S/List is a Wizard driven replacement for EasyWriter - with the added benefit that you have full access to the entire range of Windows fonts along with special effects like shading and grids. Upon launching the S/List application the user is presented with the S/List main screen as follows :-

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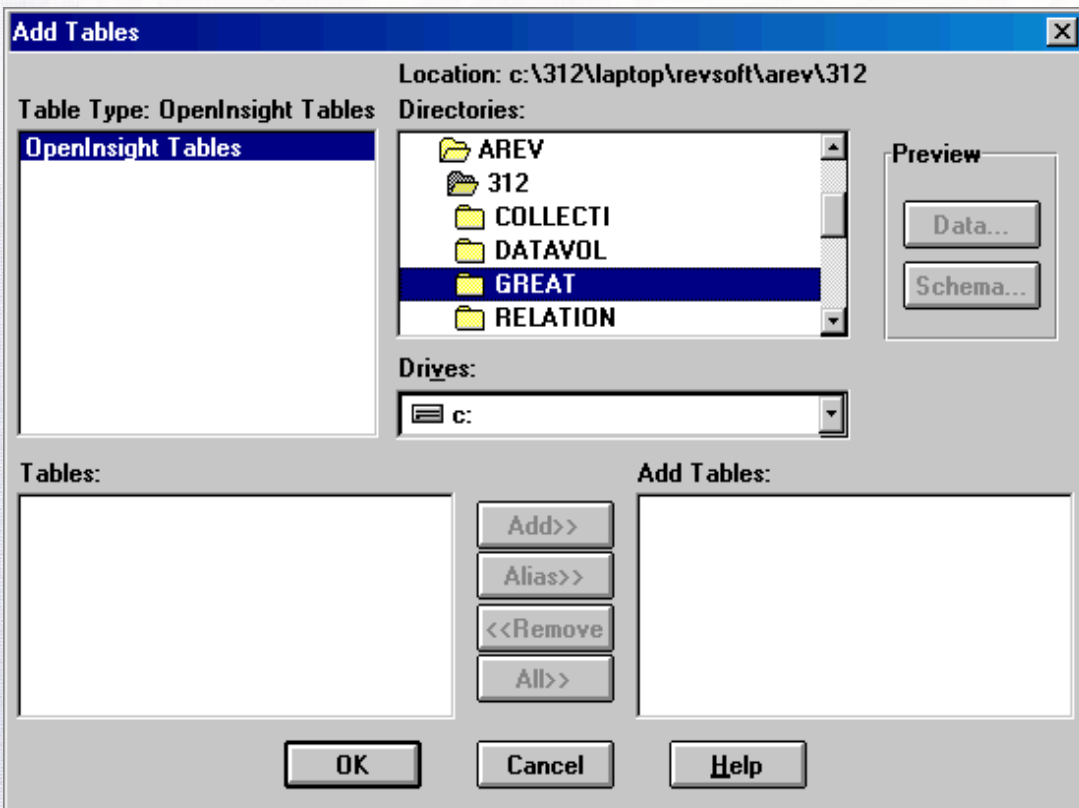


Firstly the developer or user must define the AREV files that they want included for the end user to report on. To do this they go to the developer menu and choose Tools, Database Manager. This launches the Database Manager window :-

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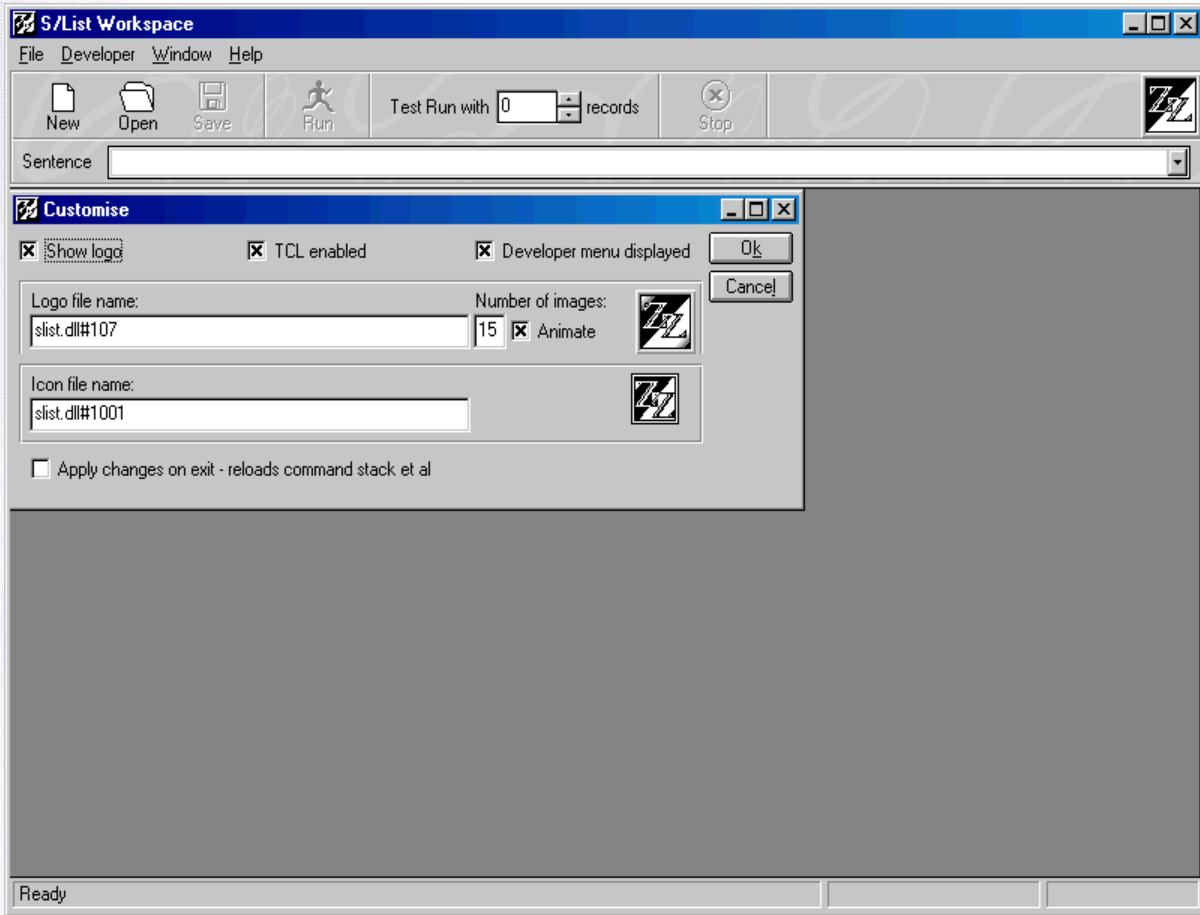


from where the AREV tables can be navigated to and added to the database.



Once there and the database is saved, the developer can further customize the product by going to the Developer, Options menu which displays the product customization window

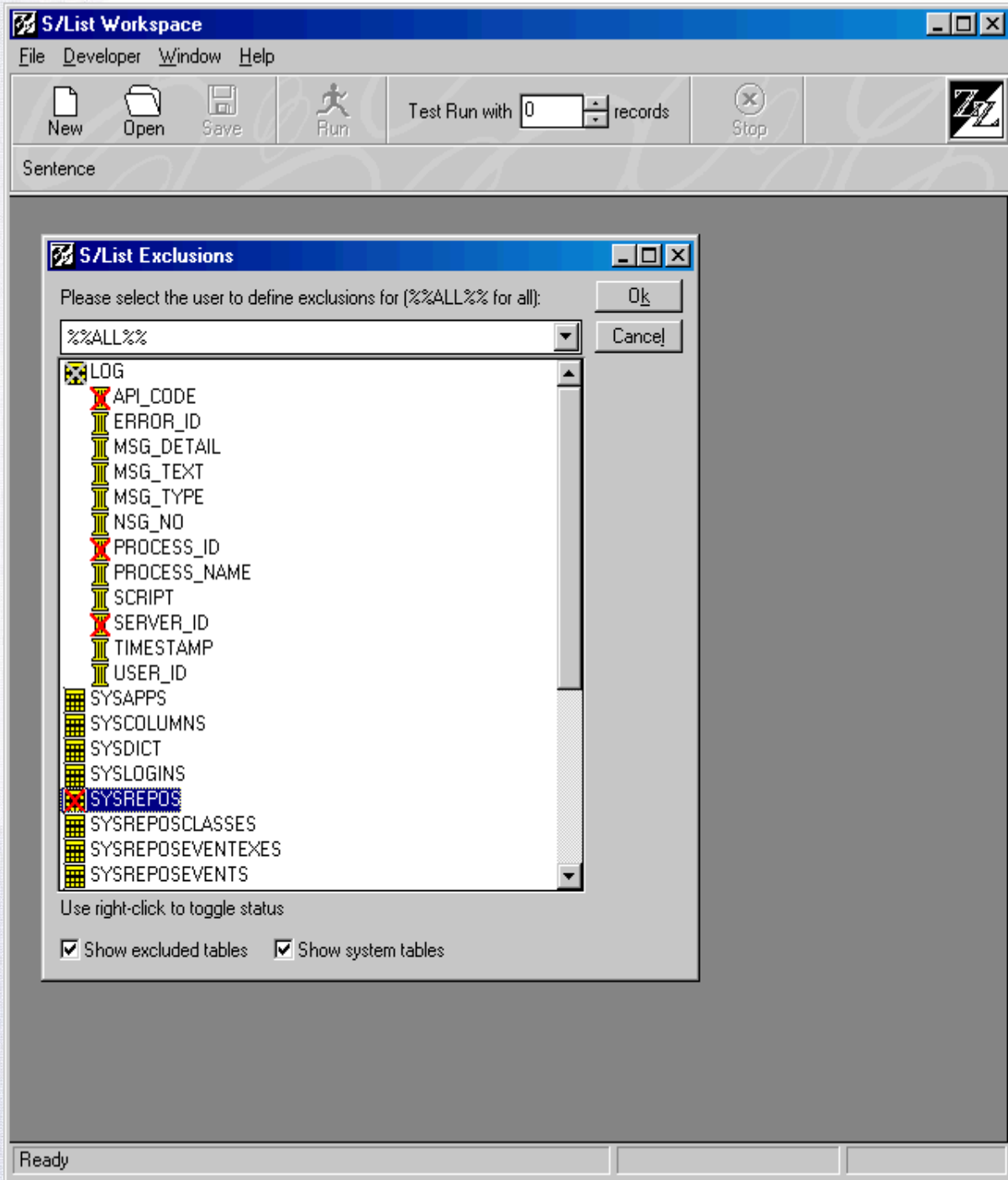
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The customization Window permits the developer to "Brand" the product with their own logo, and even to determine whether the user should have TCL access - an important consideration with some users!

Finally the developer can decide specifically which tables and columns a user has access to by choosing the Developer, Options menu - this provides a drill down hierarchical view of the tables and columns available for reporting on and allows the exclusion of specific columns for the current user. This provides a visual display using intuitive icons to assist

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In the example above, the user has partial access to LOG but will not even be shown the existence of SYSREPOS.

Once setup is complete the user can start to create reports. S/List provides both a "Wizard" approach to reporting and a data entry screen approach - both will be shown here.

We think this wizard is largely self explanatory so mostly we'll just show screen shots!

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Create a New Report

Create a New Report

This wizard will help you to add a new report to the system. To begin, please select the name of the table you wish to report against and then click the 'Next' button to continue.

Available Tables:

- ABBEY
- LOG
- SYSAPPS
- SYSCOLUMNS
- SYS_DICT
- SYSLHGROUP
- SYSLHVERIFY
- SYSLOGINS
- SYSREPOS
- SYSREPOSAPPNOTES
- SYSREPOSCLASSES
- SYSREPOSEVENTEXES
- SYSREPOSEVENTS
- SYSREPOSLOCKS
- SYSREPOSLOG

< Back Next > Cancel

Create a New Report

Create a New Report

Please select the columns you wish to appear in the report. Note that they will appear in the order shown in the 'Selected Columns' box. When you have finished click 'Next' to continue.

Available Columns:

- MDATE
- MESSAGE
- MFROM
- MSENT
- MSUBJECT
- RECORDED
- REFERENCE

Selected Columns:

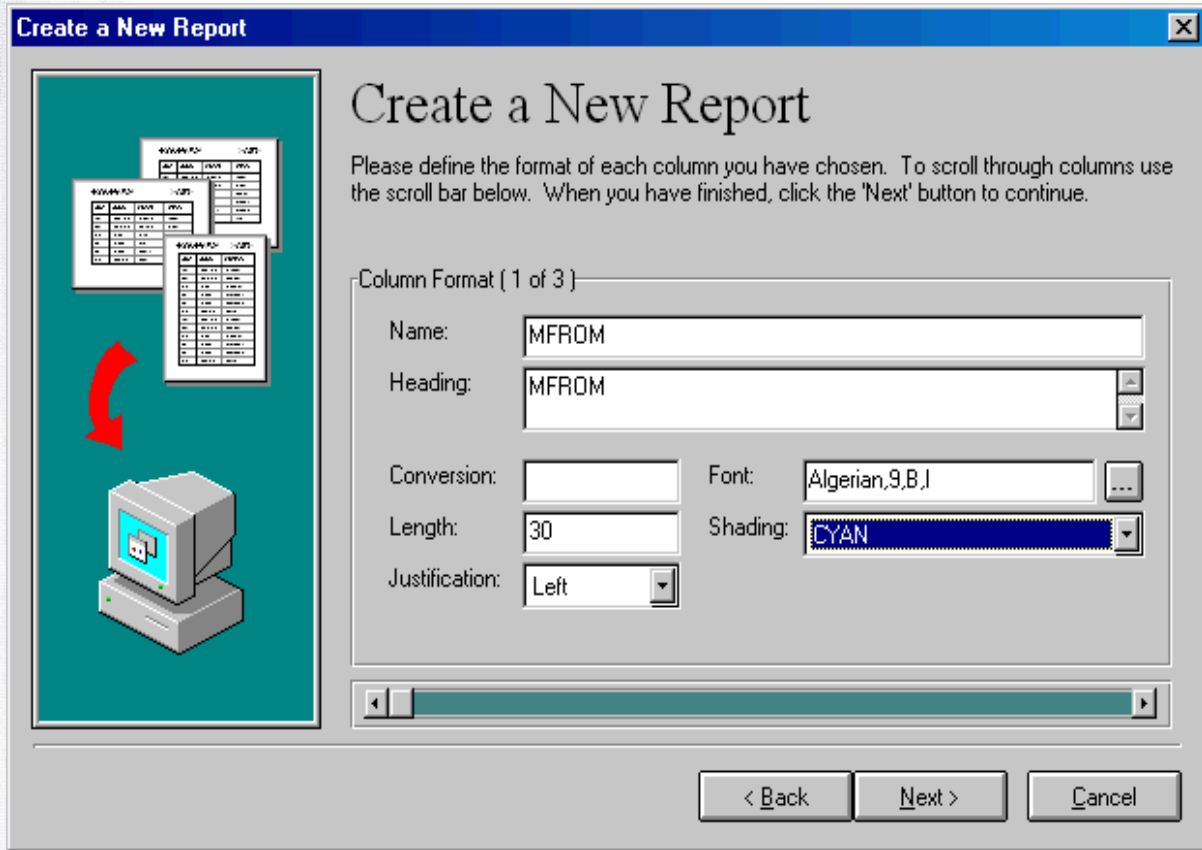
- MFROM
- MSENT

Add > < Remove

Add All >> << Remove All

< Back Next > Cancel

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Note that we eventually chose 3 columns so for each column we can define display characteristics such as font or shading.

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Create a New Report

Create a New Report

Please define the break details for each column you have chosen. To scroll through columns use the scroll bar below. When you have finished, click the 'Next' button to continue.

Column Format (1 of 3)

Name:

Break-On:

Average:

Total:

Limit Clause: ...

< Back Next > Cancel

Create a New Report

Create a New Report

Please define the format of the column headings (Note that this formatting applies to all columns, not individual ones), and also the Heading and Footing Details. When you have finished, click the 'Next' button to continue.

Column Header Formatting:

Font: ... Shading:

Report Header And Footer Details

Header Text:

Font: ...

Footer Text:

Font: ...

< Back Next > Cancel

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Create a New Report

Create a New Report

Please define the Options for this report. When you have finished, click the 'Next' button to continue.

Report Formatting Options

- Show Report Heading
- Draw a Box
- Show Column Headings
- Draw a Grid
- Display Keys

< Back Next > Cancel

Create a New Report

Create a New Report

Please define the Formatting Options for this report. When you have finished, click the 'Next' button to continue.

Report Formatting Options

- Display data Double-Spaced
- Display data without full details
- Display Multi-Values together on the same page if possible
- Display a Grand-Total for totalled columns

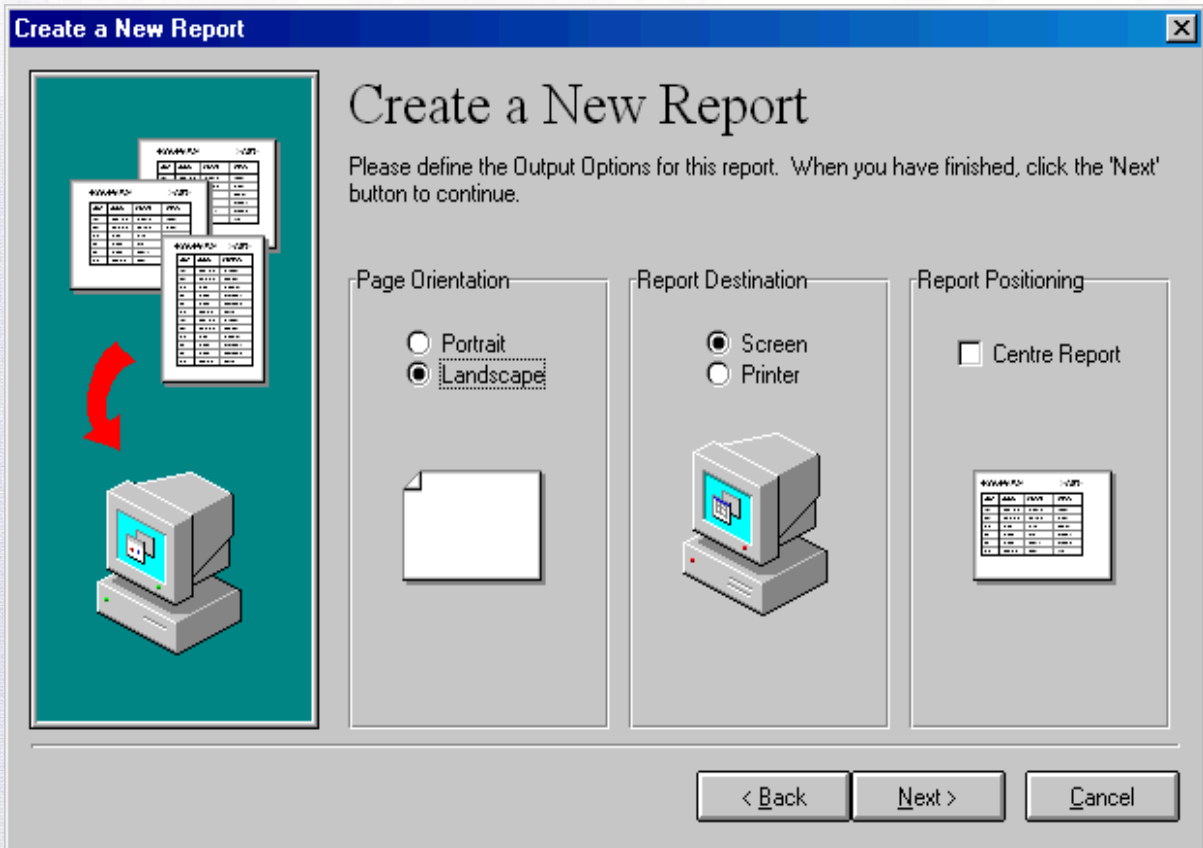
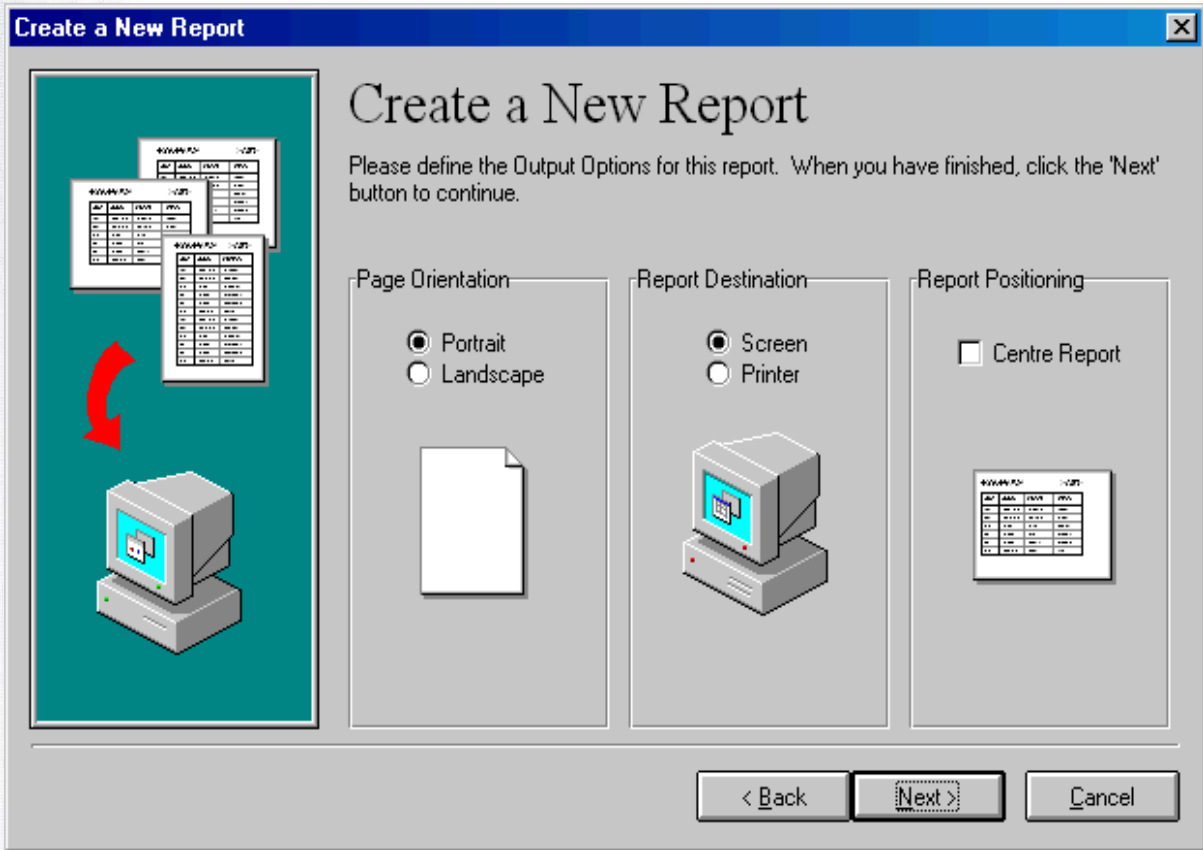
Grand Total Options:

Report Font Options

Font: ...

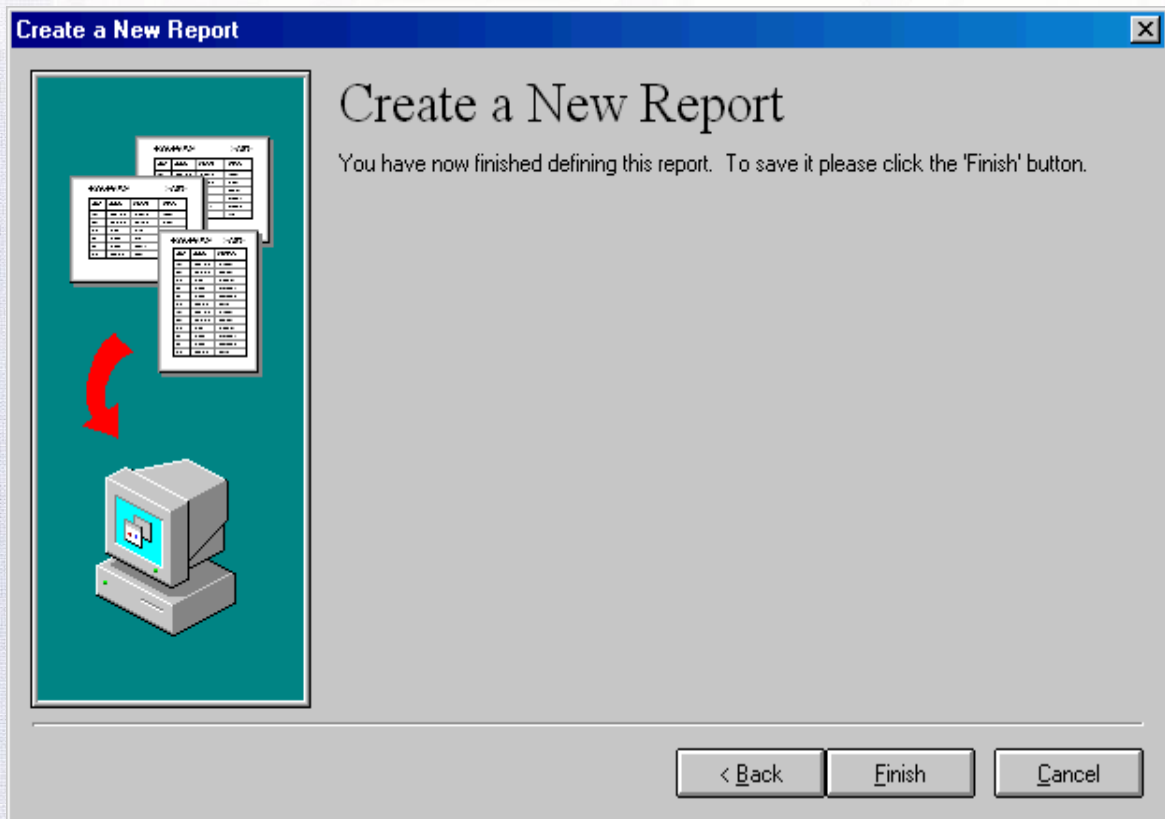
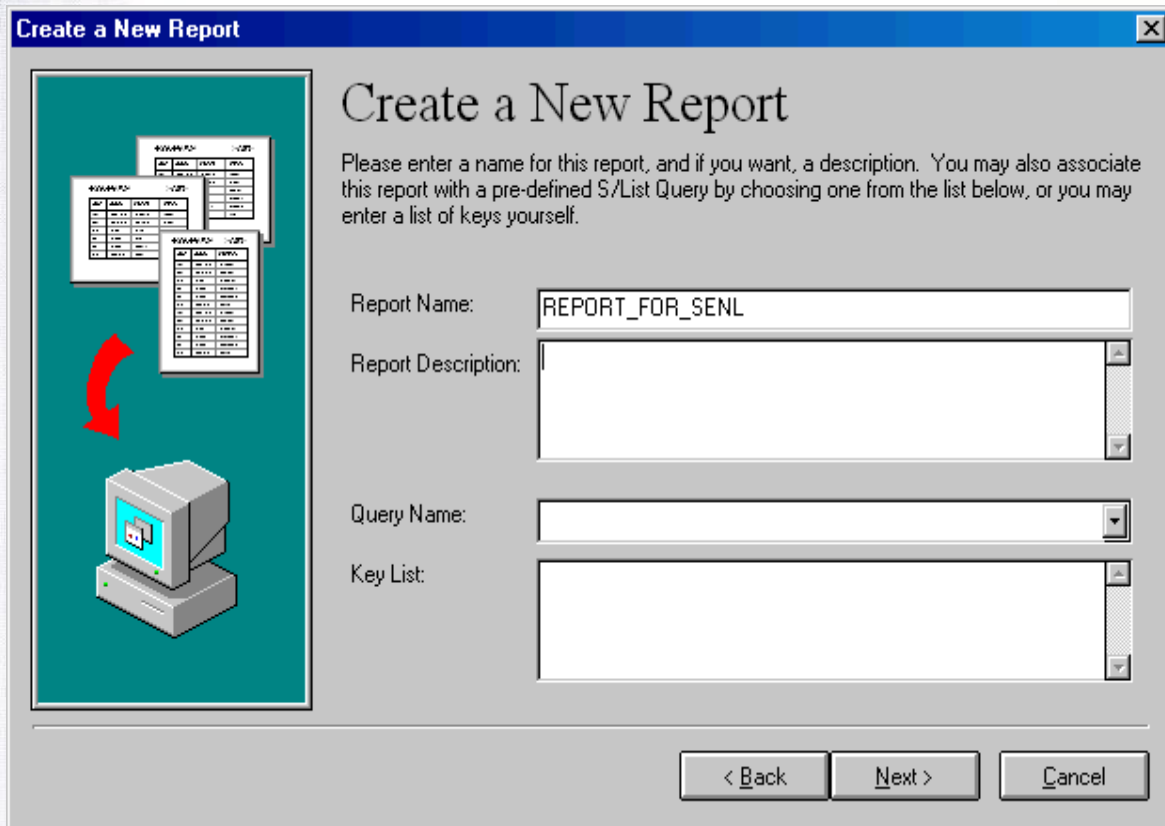
< Back Next > Cancel

SPREZZATURA



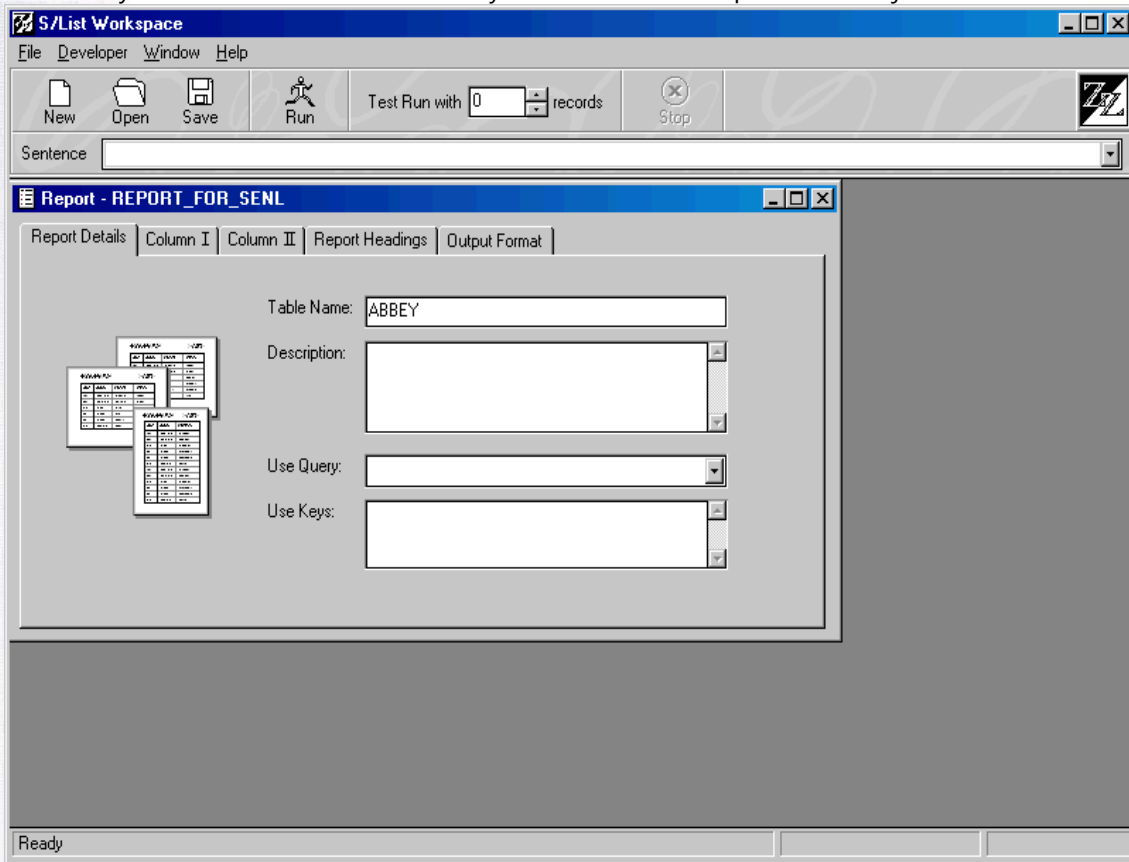
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The screen icons change to represent the choices made.

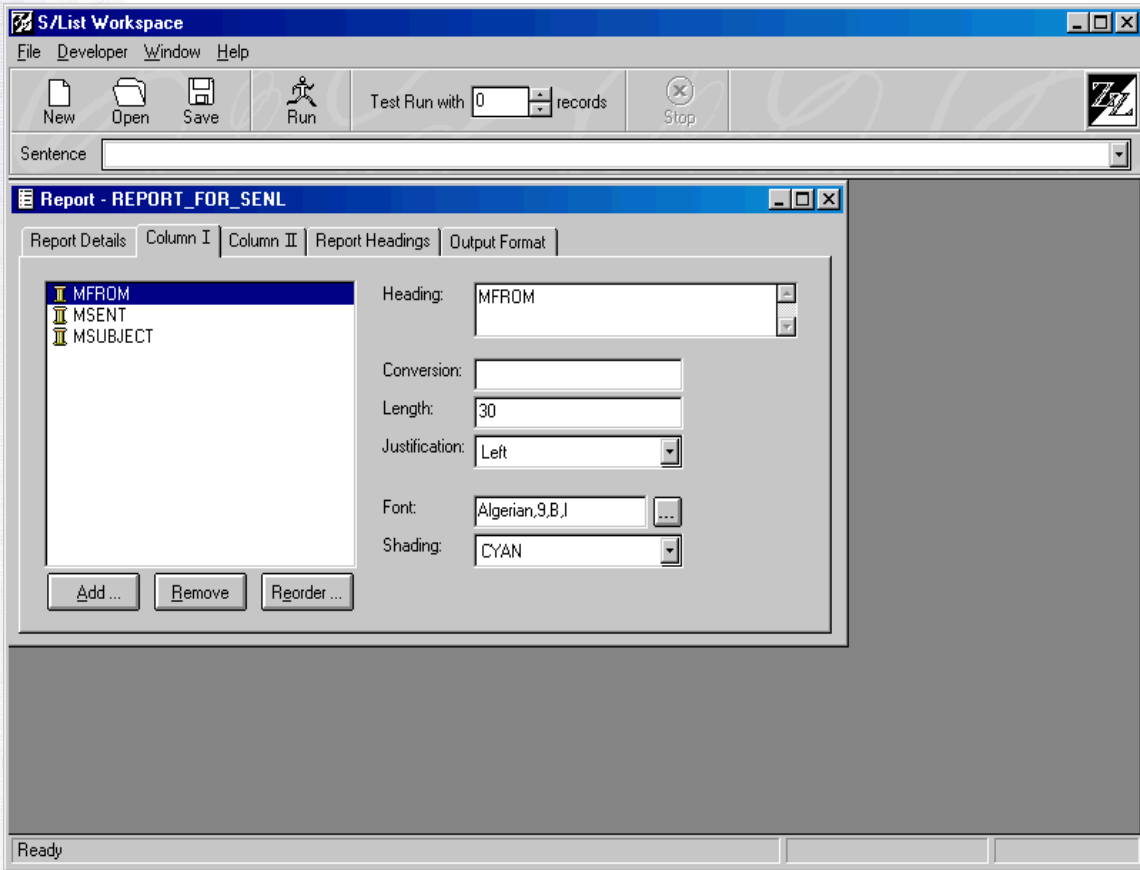


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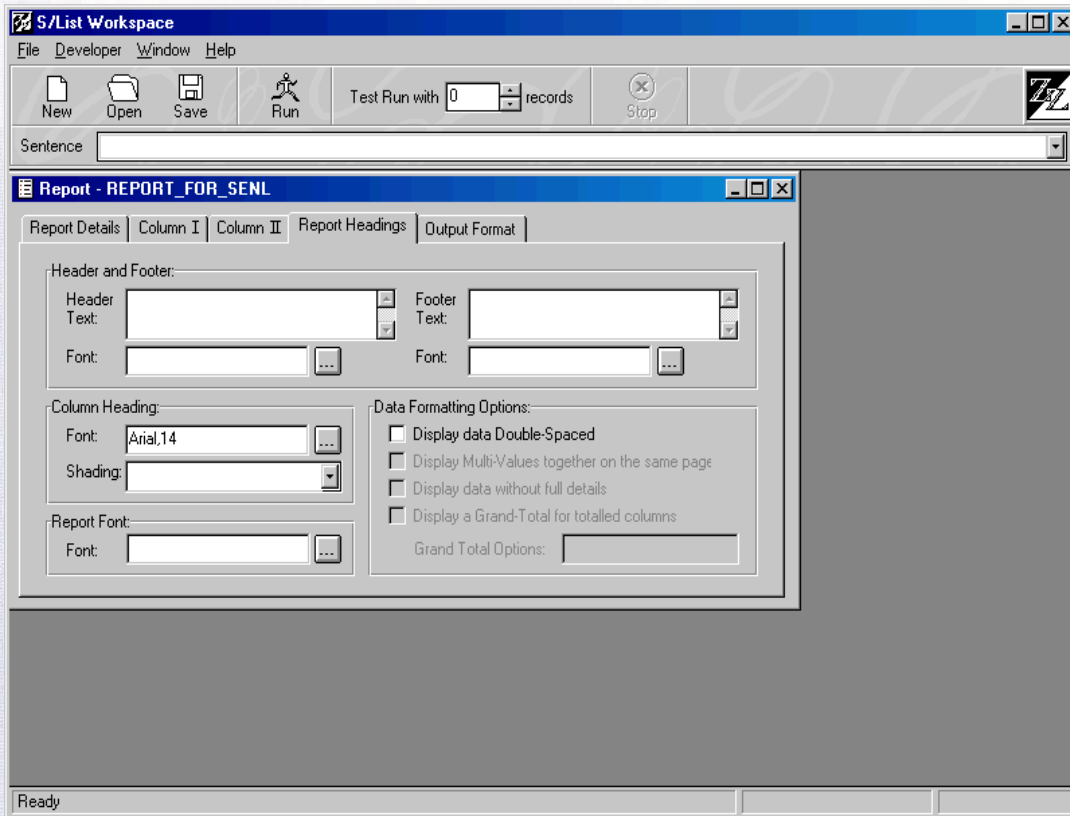
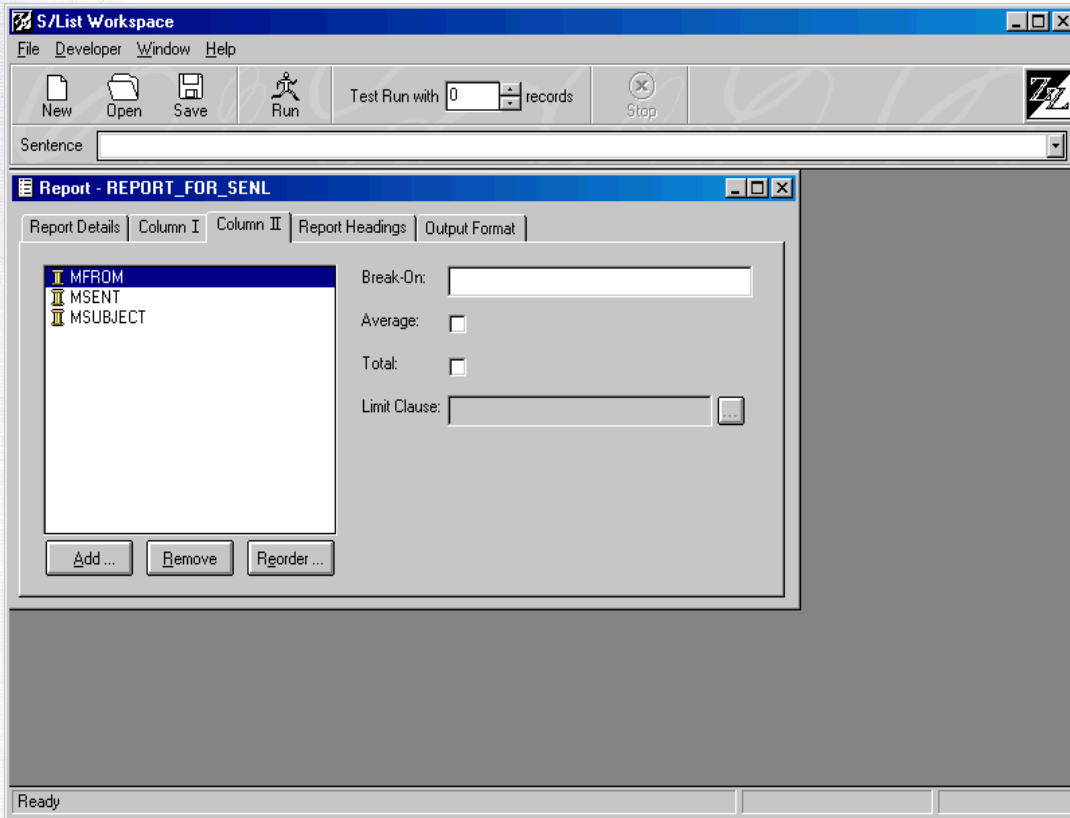
Now the system launches the normal entry window with the report we have just defined



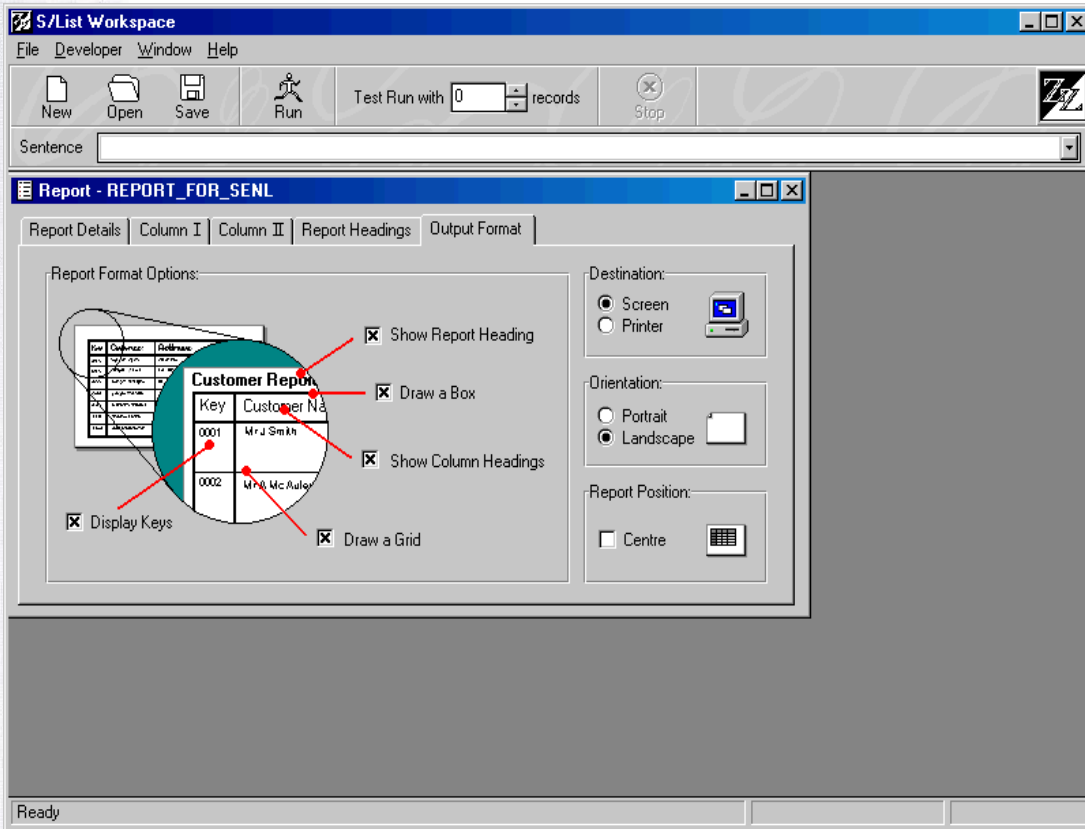
SPREZZATURA



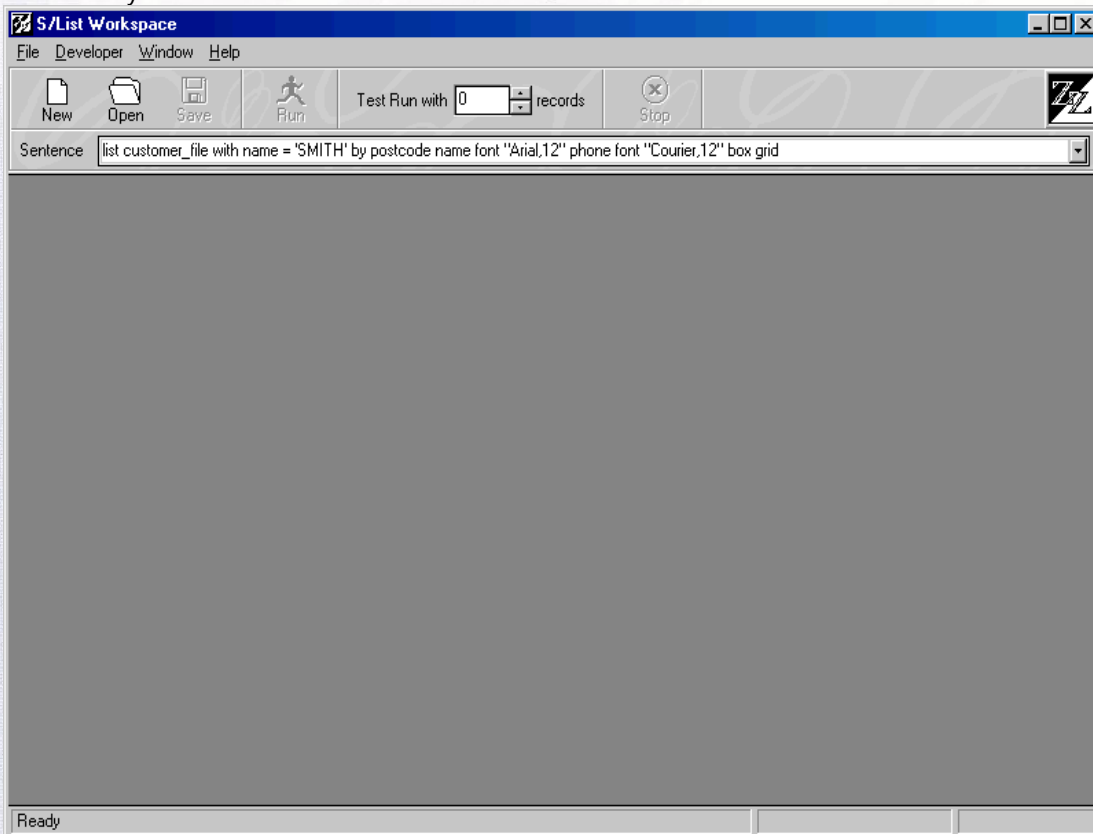
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Alternatively the user could just type in a list statement into TCL - if they want to remember the extended syntax!



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S/List for AREV is kept current with S/List for OI - so it too will shortly be able to produce not just printouts and screen displays, but PDFs, HTML, RTF et al.

So to the crunch - what does it cost to provide real time true Windows reporting to your AREV users - the answer is probably a lot less than you think!

Existing OpenInsight S/List users may be surprised by this but the price for AREV S/List has to be greater to accommodate the OpenInsight license seat required to ensure data integrity between AREV and OI. Still it represents great value for money at only \$499 per Reporter seat. As more seats are required the price decreases in proportion like normal AREV bump disk licensing. Unlimited user seats are available and for the package developer reasonable licensing is available to make it possible to make S/List part of your product.

As the many happy existing users testify (see feedback earlier) S/List is a great product to use - we're VERY pleased to finally be able to make it available to the AREV market. To order your copy mail Sprezzatura now!

A Primer in CSS Styles - Jahveen Davis and Palminder Sangha

Definition

CSS is an abbreviation of Cascading Style Sheets that can be utilized to optimize document style management on your website. It allows one to change the appearance of the site without having to update each web page.

History

The World Wide Web Consortium, known as W3C, first released CSS Styles in 1996. The sole purpose for introducing CSS styles was to separate the document layout from the document appearance. However, the idea of this separation was hatched right at the very beginning of the creation of HTML back in 1990, but poorly made decisions by browser firms staggered the release and development of style design.

Advantages

- ☑ CSS Style definitions can be stored in one file, which removes inconsistency in document layouts.
- ☑ A single style can define multiple formatting attributes.
- ☑ CSS styles take up less space than HTML tag styles.
- ☑ Any amendment to the CSS styles file produces instant, accurate and site wide modification.

Disadvantages

- ☑ CSS styles are not fully supported on browsers earlier than 4.0.

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- ☑ In order to implement CSS styles site-wide, all manual HTML formatting must be removed, and replaced with CSS style formatting.

When to use them and why

The usage of CSS styles is recommended when an organization boasts a large web site, which requires regular maintenance. This goes without saying that changes made to the CSS styles will be reflected in the entire web site, reducing maintenance by orders of magnitude.

Major HTML Editor Vendors

- ☑ [Macromedia Dreamweaver](#)
- ☑ [Microsoft FrontPage](#)
- ☑ [Sothink CoolMenu](#) (Freeware)
- ☑ [CoffeeCup Software](#)
- ☑ [Adobe PageMill](#)
- ☑ [Allaire HomeSite](#)
- ☑ [Softquad HoTMetal](#)

Examples of CSS Styles

The following example shows the most common ways of incorporating CSS styles into a web site. Styles can be user-defined, or can be modifications of HTML styles.

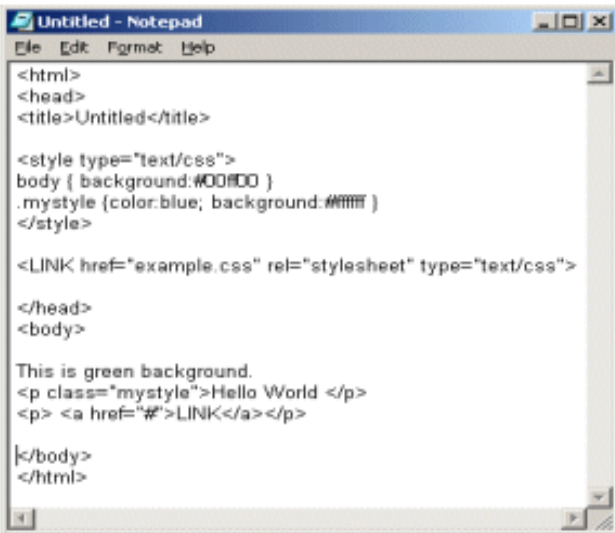
In Figure 1 below, there is a mixture of CSS styles uses; styles are defined in-between the <head> tags of the page:

The "<LINK>" tag is a reference to an external file that contains style sheets. This file can contain as many style sheets as is necessary. Figure 2 below show the styles added to this file. The example shows that the first line contains a style for a link when the user hovers over the link. The font-family is set, the font-size is set, the colour is and the font-weight is set - all for this single style. The external CSS file can be added to any web page, yielding the same results.

The "<style>" tags contain a definition of an HTML style that will be modified (body), and a custom style as well (.mystyle). The body style modifies the body tag and no other additions are required. The ".mystyle" style requires the addition of a class attribute inside the tag where you want it.

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Figure 3 shows the expected output from the application of CSS.



```
<html>
<head>
<title>Untitled</title>

<style type="text/css">
body { background:#00FF00 }
.mystyle { color:blue; background:#FFFF }
</style>

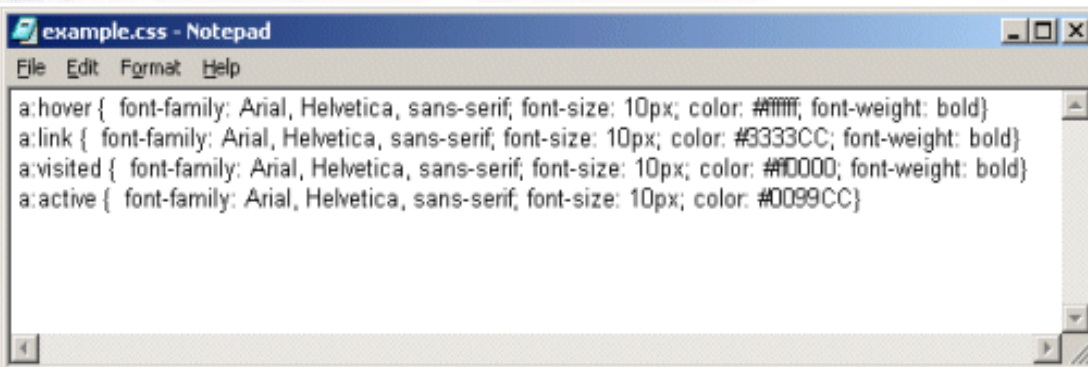
<LINK href="example.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css">

</head>
<body>

This is green background.
<p class="mystyle">Hello World </p>
<p> <a href="#">LINK</a></p>

</body>
</html>
```

Figure 1: A Web Page using CSS



```
a:hover { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 10px; color: #FF0000; font-weight: bold}
a:link { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 10px; color: #3333CC; font-weight: bold}
a:visited { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 10px; color: #000000; font-weight: bold}
a:active { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 10px; color: #0099CC}
```

Figure 2: An external style sheet file

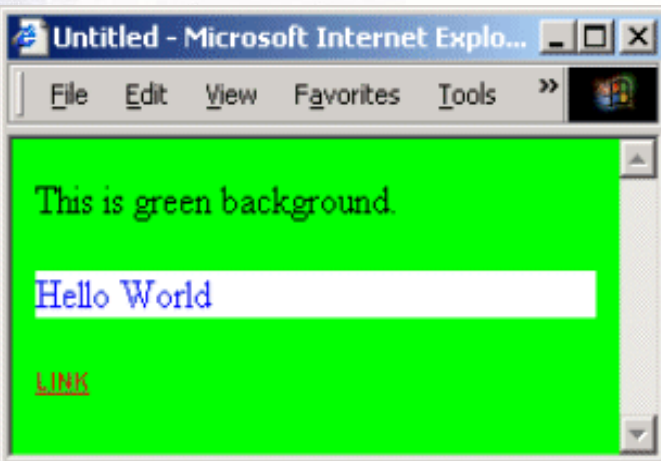


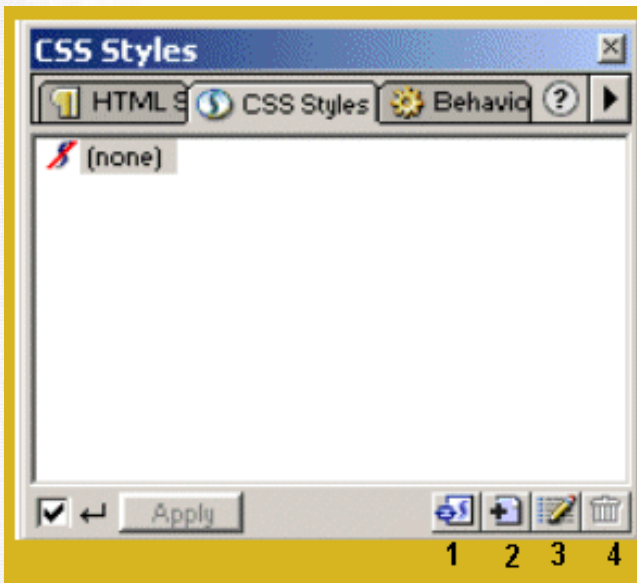
Figure 3: The CSS effect!

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How to set up CSS Styles in Dreamweaver

We will now go through a step-by-step process of how to create CSS Styles in Dreamweaver.

- Open Macromedia Dreamweaver
- Open your file you would like to use CSS Styles for
- Go to Window and select CSS Styles; you will get a blank CSS window come up.



- 1= Attach Style Sheet
- 2= New Style
- 3= Edit Style Sheet
- 4= Delete Style

Figure 4: A CSS Style Window in Dreamweaver

- To create a style you need to click on New Style

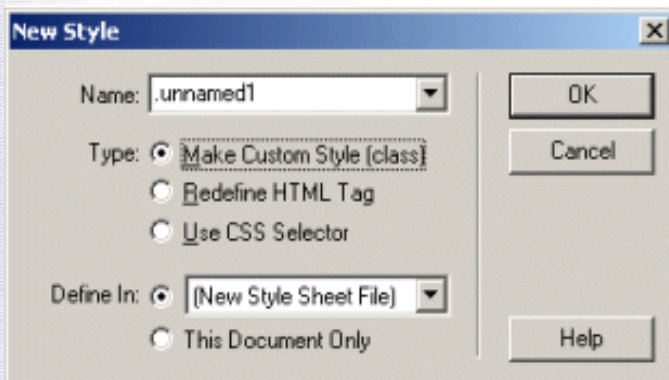


Figure 5: A New Style window

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Note there are 3 different Types of CSS Styles you can use.

1. Make Custom Styles

Custom Styles can be applied to any text in a document regardless of which tags control the text. You have an option to design your own styles. Note, under Name you will not have any options to choose from. Instead you type the name of your style here.

2. Redefine HTML Tag

Default formatting of specified HTML tags such as body, table, paragraph and so on. Note, under Name there is a list of options you can select.

3. Use CSS Selector

Defines the formatting of particular combination of tags i.e. link tags which are available and listed under 'Name'.

The bottom half shows you can define the style in this document alone or an External Style Sheet file.

Style sheets created in a document alone can be exported to create a new style sheet file.

As an example we will be designing a Style by selecting the following:

- Make Custom Style
- This Document Only

Note: Our style sheet will only be used for this document, not for the entire site.

Any custom style that you create has a period appended to the front of the definition. In order to use custom styles you apply it as a Class Attribute into the tag in which you intend to use.

- Once you have selected the above options, you need to name your style. For the purpose of this tutorial we will be calling our style zzbld.
- Press Ok and another screen will come up called style definition.

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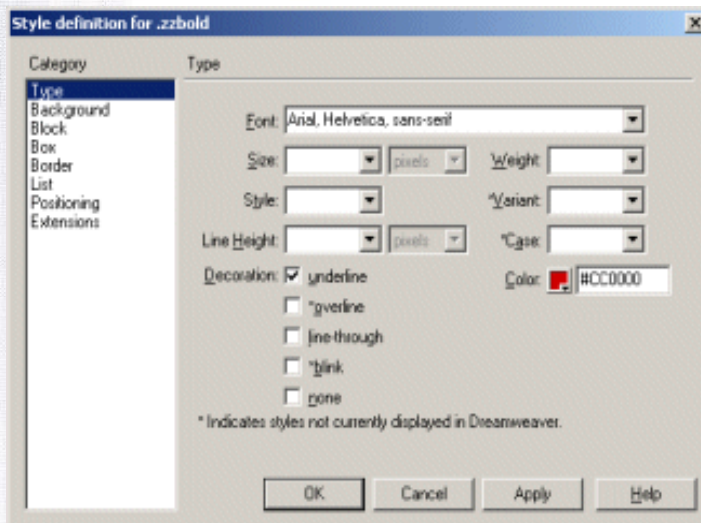


Figure 6: A Style Definition window for your new style

In this window you can modify your style to your preference. You can change font colours, size, font name and so on. The Category list allows the user to change various attributes such as the background, list, box and so on.

- ☑ Once modifications have been made to the style, you click Apply and then OK

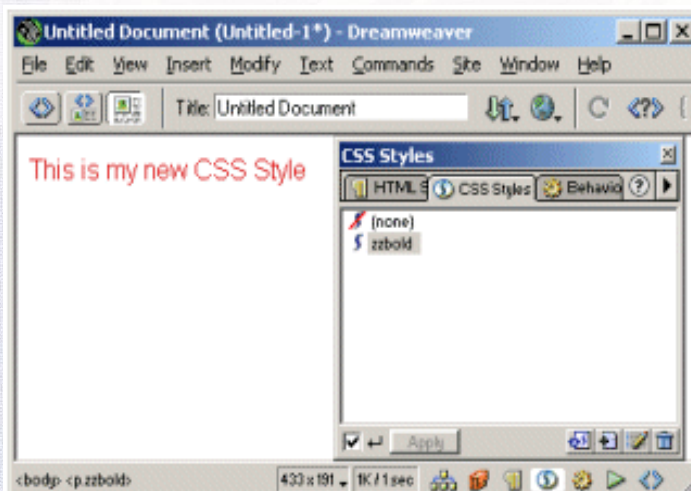


Figure 7: An example of a CSS Style being used on your document

The CSS Style has added zzbold to the window. You can apply the style to your text as shown in the above example, by highlighting the text and clicking onto the style.

To make instantaneous changes to the style you can double click on the style or by clicking the third icon on the right hand side of the window.

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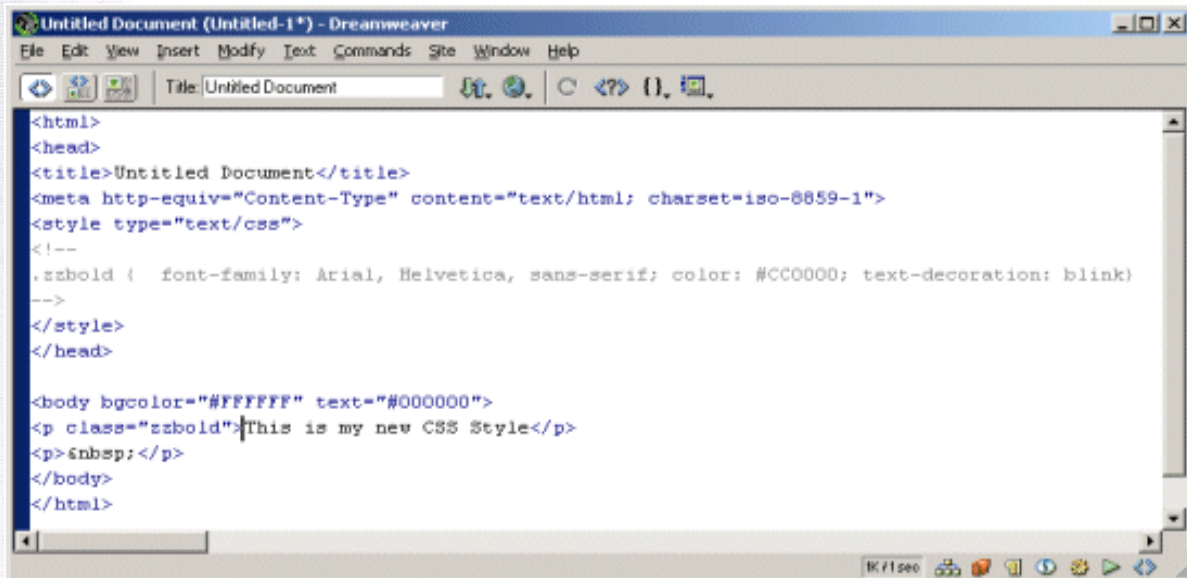


Figure 8: An HTML window showing where CSS Style is placed

As you can see in the HTML, the style is placed in the head tag. The comments are for browsers, which do not support CSS Styles.

Exporting Internal CSS to File

To do this you do the following: -

Go to:

File Export
Select Export CSS Styles
Save the file

You can access this CSS Style Sheet from your files and make instantaneous changes to your document.

How to Import Style Sheets to your page

You go to:

Attach File
Find and open the CSS Style Sheet.
Look at your page in HTML and you will see a link to the External Style sheet file.

Note you can have more than one style sheet files, for example one can contain text styles and another one can contain all the table styles and together they complete CSS Style solution.

Please find below website addresses on CSS Tutorials and FAQ which you may find useful:

<http://www.dynamicdeezign.com/css/introduction.html>

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http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/reference/stylesheet_guide/

<http://www.hwg.org/resources/FAQs/cssFAQ.html>

Opinion

It's either this or hours of erroneous web site updating - it's your choice! Simply put, this is the only way to ensure site-wide consistency, especially if you have a large web site to maintain. Templates are a useful method of keeping site consistency, but if the site requires a face-lift, every page needs to be updated.

CSS styles provide the Webmaster with the ability to separate site appearance from site layout - and this is a welcome load reduction for all webmasters out there.

@Attack Revisited

In an attempt to provide some additional documentation to OpenInsight we have opted to document all of the @Variables within OpenInsight. Note that some of these are already covered in the documentation but are covered here for the sake of completeness. At Sprezzatura we do not use SQL against OI tables, nor do the majority of our clients. For this reason OI related SQL variables are only mentioned in passing.

Variable	Description						
@Admin	The level of the user currently logged in - three possible values :- <table border="1"> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>User</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Administrator</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Systems Administrator</td> </tr> </table>	0	User	1	Administrator	2	Systems Administrator
0	User						
1	Administrator						
2	Systems Administrator						
@Ans	Temporary variable primarily used for returning the results of a symbolic dictionary item						
@AppId	The inheritance chain for the current application, field mark delimited. In the majority of cases this will just be APPNAME : @Fm : "SYSPROG"						
@AppInfo	Information about the current application. A dynamic array having 15 fields (documented in DICT.SYSAPPS as follows) <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Application title</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Database ID (name of DBT file)</td> </tr> </table>	1	Application title	2	Database ID (name of DBT file)		
1	Application title						
2	Database ID (name of DBT file)						

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	3	Application inherited from
	4	Date/Time created
	5	Company name
	6	Author
	7	MVed create permissions
	8	Abstract
	9	Multivalued document refs
	10	Multivalued tool types for documents
	11	Application entry point type id
	12	Application entry point class id
	13	Application entry point entity ID
	14	Boolean flag for whether columns are maintained in repository
	15	Name of the logon banner
@CM_Names	Variable containing details of loaded language sets	
@Consistency_Level	Shows the consistency lock level for concurrency controls. Four possible values as follows	
	0	None
	1	Update
	2	Transaction
	3	Query
	See Database Manager/Database/Environment Settings/Concurrency for more details	
@Cpu_Type	(Variant @Cpu.Type). Ostensibly indicates the cpu type but not actually reliable.	

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@CursConv	Seems to be unused																																
@Cursors	<p>A dimensioned array, containing 8 sets of 12 pieces of information about each active cursor. The insert record SELECT.EQUATES documents them as follows :-</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>List - the group of ids in the current block of ids awaiting ReadNext</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>List Off</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Extended list</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Next group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>List active - the value of @List.Active</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>No select list active</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Latent file select active</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Latent index select active</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Resolved select active</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Long list</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Query dict - the dictionary variable of the file in the query</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Primary file - the file variable of the file in the query</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>Reduction Specification</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>Sort specification</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>Reduction Done - true for resolved, false for not</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>IO Proc</td> </tr> </table>	1	List - the group of ids in the current block of ids awaiting ReadNext	2	List Off	3	Extended list	4	Next group	5	List active - the value of @List.Active	0	No select list active	1	Latent file select active	2	Latent index select active	3	Resolved select active	6	Long list	7	Query dict - the dictionary variable of the file in the query	8	Primary file - the file variable of the file in the query	9	Reduction Specification	10	Sort specification	11	Reduction Done - true for resolved, false for not	12	IO Proc
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10	Sort specification																																
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12	IO Proc																																
@Curs_Params	Seems to be in some way associated with the generation of SQL code <i>within</i> the OpenInsight environment, in other words, SQL statements against linear hash tables rather than external tables via ODBC/Datasets.																																
@DBId	The name of the current database (Same as @AppInfo<2>)																																

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@Default_Stops	(Variant @Default.Stops) value mark delimited array of "Stop words" for XREF indexes. (See Database Manager, Database, Environment Settings, Indexes.																														
@Dict	Used to store the file variable of the primary dictionary file																														
@DictMode	Seems to be used when compiling dictionary items. Internal variable, use uncertain.																														
@Environ_Set	(Variant @Environ.Set) field mark delimited array of environment settings for the current user. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Default data directory</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Sort volume</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Transaction volume</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Default stops</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Delay before indexing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Boolean flag - Update indexes before select</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Boolean flag - whether to perform an "Unlock All" when a transaction is committed.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Time in seconds for deadlock checking to commence after deadlock process has been started.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>Time before transaction times out in seconds</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>Consistency level for locking (0-4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>Number of allowable locks from this workstation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>Boolean flag - auto transaction start mode</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>Number of seconds before deadlock checking is begun and locks are posted</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>Boolean flag - for network cacheing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>Active language set default name</td> </tr> </table>	1	Default data directory	2	Sort volume	3	Transaction volume	4	Default stops	5	Delay before indexing	6	Boolean flag - Update indexes before select	7	Boolean flag - whether to perform an "Unlock All" when a transaction is committed.	8	Time in seconds for deadlock checking to commence after deadlock process has been started.	9	Time before transaction times out in seconds	10	Consistency level for locking (0-4)	11	Number of allowable locks from this workstation	12	Boolean flag - auto transaction start mode	13	Number of seconds before deadlock checking is begun and locks are posted	14	Boolean flag - for network cacheing	15	Active language set default name
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15	Active language set default name																														

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16	List of language sets to load into memory
17	Boolean flag - whether queries should be case sensitive
18	TimeDate() override format
19	Boolean flag - suppress non-numeric error messages
20	Height of printer (@LptrHigh)
21	Width of printer (@LptrWide)
22	Null display string for SQL
23	Boolean flag - debugger enabled
24	Documented as being the default folder for stored procedures
25	Boolean flag - whether I/O conversion should take place at read/write time (use of this adds Protect.MFS to a file)
26	Volume to use for COMMIT
27	Boolean flag - commit protection flag
28	number indicating how to resolve deadlock victim selection
29	Boolean flag - default implicit lock type (1 for Record, 0 for Table)
30	Boolean flag - whether table/record locks are coordinated
31	No of entries to maintain in the entity log per entity
32	Name of the procedure to call at initialisation (starting off or changing applications). Takes two parameters, a boolean flag indicating whether this is the first time the routine has been called, and an optional value to set @Station to.
33	Name of the procedure to call at shut down.

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	34	Concurrency Scheme - used for SQL Bond optimisation
	35	Name of procedure to call to return a field mark delimited list of allowable files in param1.
	36	Name of procedure to call to return a field mark delimited array of allowable column names in param2 of the table passed in param1
	37	Datasource type
	38	Dataset/connection object defaults
	39	Boolean flag for AREV compatibility mode for RTP9 (file open)
@Ep	Seems to be associated with environmental bonds. Probably security related.	
@Exist8087	Historical anomaly - when the numeric coprocessor was optional rather than built into the main processor, some system routines used to operate different ways depending upon its existence. This variable indicates whether a numeric coprocessor is present.	
@File_Error	A field mark delimited array of three values containing error information returned from an MFS/BFS.	
	<1>	Message number (See Inserts FS_ERRORS_NNN in SYSPROCS)
	<2>	Standard error parameters
	<3>	Additional error parameters
@File_Error_Mode	A boolean flag indicating whether the system should deal with file errors, or if true, return errors to the user program.	
@Files.System	A field mark delimited array of files the system considers as "System files" - one that several filing system operations are not permitted against	
@Files_SysDict	The file variable of the SYSDICT file	
@Files_SysEnv	The file variable of the SYSENV file	

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@Files_SysObj	The file variable of the SYSOBJ file								
@Files_SysPtrs	The file variable of the SYSPTRS file								
@Fm	Char(254) - a field mark								
@HFActive	Indicates whether a "Heading/Footing" is active in rlist commands.								
@Id	The row key of the current primary row - NB this is of use chiefly from within dictionary items as it's setting is not guaranteed consistent elsewhere								
@IOConv	Indicator as to whether data read from disk should be oconvded on read and iconved on write automatically in a "domain validation" exercise. Primarily used with internal OI SQL via PROTECT.MFS.								
@Limit	Seems to be in some way rlist related but probably now unused.								
@List_Active	The state of the current select list <table border="1"> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>No select list active</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Latent file select active</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Latent index select active</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Resolved select active</td> </tr> </table>	0	No select list active	1	Latent file select active	2	Latent index select active	3	Resolved select active
0	No select list active								
1	Latent file select active								
2	Latent index select active								
3	Resolved select active								
@LockMode	Boolean indicator whether locking should be optimistic or pessimistic. It seems unlikely that this was ever implemented.								
@Lower_Case	String containing lower case characters.								
@LptrHigh	Height of printer								
@LptrWide	Width of printer								
@Mv	Indicator as to the current multivalued value being processed. Generally used in {} resolutions. If set to 0 all multivalued values are returned, if set to <i>n</i> the <i>n</i> th multivalued value is returned.								
@NCacheData	Used by SQL internally to OI								
@NCacheIds	Used by SQL internally to OI								

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@Null_Eval	Used by SQL internally to OI
@Page	The current page number for RList commands
@PDisk_On	Redundant indicator showing whether print is currently directed to printer or file
@Precision	Redundant indicator showing digits of numeric precision - unused
@Pri_File	File variable of primary file referenced in Rlist/Reduce command
@Query_Dict	File variable of primary dictionary file referenced in Rlist/Reduce command
@RecCount	Number of rows in the current resolved select list
@Record	Contents of the current primary row. Set specifically by certain system processes such as RLIST.
@Recur0	User customisable at variable
@Recur1	User customisable at variable
@Recur2	User customisable at variable
@Recur3	User customisable at variable
@Recur4	User customisable at variable
@Reduction_Done	Boolean variable indicating whether the current select list is resolved (and the reduction process has completed) or latent
@Return.Value	Redundant variable ostensibly used for return values from functions
@Rm	Char(255) - a record mark
@Rn_Counter	Counter variable incremented by Readnext statement.
@SkipWhere	Used by SQL internally to OI
@SQBufs	Used by SQL internally to OI
@SQL_Params	Used by SQL internally to OI

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@Station	The current station id.												
@Stm	Char(250) - a sub text mark												
@Svm	Char(252) - a sub value mark												
@System_Tables	Field mark delimited array of tables that cannot be detached												
@Tables	<p>When accessed via Basic+ the only exposed information in @Tables is a field mark delimited list of currently attached tables. If accessed via subscripts more information is available as follows</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>@Tables(0)</td> <td>As above</td> </tr> <tr> <td>@Tables(1)</td> <td>Field mark delimited array of volumes (filingsystem*volumename)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>@Tables(2)</td> <td>Field mark delimited array of table names</td> </tr> <tr> <td>@Tables(3)</td> <td>Field mark delimited array of applications</td> </tr> <tr> <td>@Tables(4)</td> <td>Field mark delimited array of MFS/BFS associated with a table</td> </tr> <tr> <td>@Tables(5)</td> <td>Field mark delimited array of file handles</td> </tr> </table>	@Tables(0)	As above	@Tables(1)	Field mark delimited array of volumes (filingsystem*volumename)	@Tables(2)	Field mark delimited array of table names	@Tables(3)	Field mark delimited array of applications	@Tables(4)	Field mark delimited array of MFS/BFS associated with a table	@Tables(5)	Field mark delimited array of file handles
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@Tables(3)	Field mark delimited array of applications												
@Tables(4)	Field mark delimited array of MFS/BFS associated with a table												
@Tables(5)	Field mark delimited array of file handles												
@Tm	Char(251) - a text mark												
@Upper_Case	String containing uppercase characters												
@User0	User customisable at variable												
@User1	User customisable at variable												
@User2	User customisable at variable												
@User3	User customisable at variable												
@User4	User customisable at variable												
@UserName	The username of the currently logged in user												
@Vm	Char(253) - a value mark												

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@Volumes	When accessed via Basic+ the only exposed information in @Volumes is a field mark delimited list of filing systems and locations in the format FILINGSYSTEM*LOCATION e.g. RTP57*DATAVOL. If accessed via subscripts more information is available as follows
@Volumes(0)	As above
@Volumes(1)	Field mark delimited array of volume labels
@Volumes(2)	Field mark delimited array of volume names
@Volumes(3)	Field mark delimited array of multivalued (per volume) file names
@Volumes(4)	Field mark delimited array of filing systems associated with a volume
@Volumes(5)	Field mark delimited array of file handle to the volume map
@Window	The name of the window that currently has focus

Gary Gnu's Networking for the Masses

One of the most common questions I'm asked during lunch is paper or plastic. The other one is "Look buddy, you gonna pay for dat?"

Interestingly enough, people tend to ask me the same questions when I'm working. That's why I prefer to work with other animals, that and nothing seems to stick to their fur.

What I'd like to talk about today is of serious concern to all ARev and OI users. Networking. If you ever want to get out of this dead-end product, you'll need to...pardon? What was that? You mean computer networking? Oh, well, that's different.

So, computer networking. The main choice for networking is Novell. Novell and NT. The two main choices for networking are Novell and NT. Novell, NT and Linux. The three main choices are Novell, NT and Linux. Linux is well beyond the scope of this article, but I'm sure it can be done. I've seen it with my own eyes. Well, not really, but I have a customer that uses it. Well, not a customer, my brother-in-law, and he doesn't pay. Actually, he runs a hardware store. He specializes in hard to find screws or something like that because every time I walk in there I hear people yelling screw gnu.

Most developers these days are migrating their workstations to new and fancy operating systems, and they want to know what network runs with what operating system and what runs under what. I'm starting to run out of time, and I'm feeling a bit run down. Stanley was a bit run down as well, after all, he could have been a contender, he could have been somebody, not a bum, which he is.

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Anyway, technically Windows NT and Novell are Operating Systems in their own right and do not run under anything. Novell does run on DOS, which is required to load, but that's only a boot-up procedure. My car runs on unleaded gas, unless I bring it to the UK. Then it runs on unleaded petrol. My car once ran over a 'possum, but that was an accident. It shouldn't have. Tech support told me it was impossible.

One difference between the networks is that Windows NT was written by Microsoft. Novell Netware was written by Novell. It's similar to Johnny Hart and Frank Baum. One wrote the Wizard of Oz and the other The Wizard of Id.

Another difference is that Windows NT has a really cool GUI with all sorts of whiz-bang colours and graphics and cool little pictures of computers and computer users. Novell has some OK graphics, mostly ASCII art. Windows NT is New Technology. You can tell by its name. Netware is Advanced and good for use as an intranet server. You can also tell by its name. You know this has to be valid, since it would be false advertising otherwise, and that's illegal and immoral.

Windows NT allows programs to run on the server in a special context. It's called a service. However, the service generally doesn't service anything, but most services do almost everything else. Novell allows programs to run on the server in a special context. It's called an NLM. That stands for Netware Loadable Module. If something is an NLM it means you can load the module on Netware. See, truth in advertising. It works. Most NLMs do not service anything either. This shows that in this instance Novell has taken a higher moral stand since they could have called it an NLS for Netware Loadable Service.

Windows NT is at version 2000, Service Pack 1. This service pack is not the same as an NT Service so be careful. Microsoft has the habit of using the same names for many different things. A good example of this is the English Language is cobbler. A better example might be British English and American English use of the word fanny. Novell is at 5.1 and various patches.

Patches is another example of how a word can mean very different things in different situations. Novell being at 5.1 is 1995 revisions behind Windows NT. However, NT started at 3.1 and Novell went to 4 and moved back to 2, but not before jumping to 286 and 386 so magnitude of version numbers might be the computer version of pyrite. Interesting that version and pyrite (accent differences notwithstanding) are another instance of words meaning differing things in different places.

Novell was written in Provo. Windows NT was written in Seattle, but most of it was written in C++ attle. There are distinct cultural differences between C++ attle and Provo. C++ attle is a society based upon a love/hate relationship of strong coffee. In Provo, a society based upon the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, coffee is forbidden. This would explain why NT has embraced the Java philosophy while Novell has been hesitant.

Windows NT and Novell support almost the same protocols. Windows NT has the advantage of supporting diplomatic protocols as well. That's why they have so many language versions. You can load NT in any number of languages which is important. I load Hebrew NT on my workstations because I like typing from right to left. I do this in case Di Vinci ever comes to look at my screen. I also do this so I can communicate with my brother. I wonder if by using Hebrew NT I could have a Yiddish version since they use the same character set. Then I'd be able to communicate with my father.

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What, you think Gnu's don't speak Yiddish? We have to. Jews speak to us all the time. Think of all the old Jews you know, just about every sentence they say, is directed directly to us. "So, gnu, you know where maybe we can find a bissle nosh?" or, "You think, maybe, we should reboot the servers, gnu?".

I suppose they would have to load in a different set of message text, but they could just use German since most of the words mean the same. Sometimes the differences can be pretty funny. The German word for snake is schlong. If you are a German speaker and invite a Yiddish speaker over to your place to see your schlong, well you can imagine the hilarity that could ensue from something like this.

I think this clearly explains the differences and similarities between Windows NT and Novell. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I'll try not to hesitate to answer.

Handling Errors In OpenInsight - Carl Pates

So just what's with all this Get_Status and Set_Status stuff anyway? What was wrong with @file.error and status() like in the good 'ol days eh?

To answer this question we have to take a look at the low-level architecture of OpenInsight, and how it's designed to process information. Back in the early nineties when RTI first started work on OI they developed a version of ARev to run natively on the Windows platform and called it OpenEngine. Well, almost. Y'see it was designed to be middleware, following a client/server model, and the idea was to allow any Windows application to run Basic+ programs (SSP's - System Stored Procedures) and access LH data, and so not all of Arev got ported: The user interface functionality was completely removed, as the idea was this would be supplied by whatever client application that you linked to OpenEngine (examples were supplied of client applications written in C, C++, Object Pascal and VB).

Now to do this, a DLL was written called RevCAPI.dll that used DDE to manage communication between a client and OpenEngine. The basic way this works is that the client uses the functions in RevCAPI.dll to connect to OpenEngine and send it command strings (just like the ones you type in the System Editor Exec line) and then wait for a response.

OpenEngine processes the command and sends back the results to the client application. If the command executed successfully then the client receives a message (DATA_AVAIL as described in the OpenEngine reference manual) telling it everything's OK along with any requested data. If there was an error then OpenEngine sends a special message (PROC_ERROR) to the client along with any information it can find to describe the error. The crucial point here is how to tell OpenEngine to send that error code?

Well, there are two basic error flags in the Basic+ language, status() and @file.error, but let's face it, their use is not exactly consistent! What if @file.error was null but status() was 1 after a command was executed?. What if that was the result of an unsuccessful iconv() function that wasn't critical - is it really an error condition? - Does that mean the client should be informed of an error here? What do we do if @file.error is FS100 and status() is 0? Is that an error? Who knows?

Return values from functions are no use either as there's no defined convention for what values they should return in the case on an error and there are 2 types of SSP that don't return a value anyway! (Subroutines and Routines)

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To solve this problem the RTI engineers created two new functions, `Get_Status()` and `Set_Status()`, that allowed access to a special variable that OpenEngine uses to determine the result of any executed SSP's. If this variable is not empty by the time a command has finished executing then OpenEngine sends back the `PROC_ERROR` message to the waiting client application along with any text describing the error. Now we have a uniform way of informing the client when an error worthy of its attention has occurred!

So do you need to use them?

At the end of the day, OpenInsight is just another client application that links to OpenEngine (and it's usually referred to as the Presentation Server or PS). However, the difference here is that OpenInsight uses OpenEngine to run special Basic+ SSPs to respond to user-interface events, so it's easy from within your Basic+ user interface code to use `status()` and `@file.error` as all your logic is executed within the context of OpenEngine and you have full access to them. You'll know when an error has occurred so you can deal with it using Basic+ functions to handle the event, rather than look at see if an error code was flagged in OpenEngine. You don't need to worry about informing a client application of an error.

The only place you'll really need to look out for `Get_Status()` and `Set_Status()` is when using system routines like `Repository()`, `RList()` and `Create_Table()` that were written to be called directly from a client applications. These sort of SSPs use `Set_Status()` to flag any errors so you'll need to call `Get_Status()` to find out if anything went wrong when using them in your Basic+ code.

What's `Set_FSError()` all about?

This is just a function used to transfer and translate the contents of `@file.error` across to the error variable used with `Get_Status()` and `Set_Status()`. Unless you're relying on these functions then there's no reason for you to use `Set_FSError()` either.

So what about `Get_EventStatus()` and `Set_EventStatus()` then?

OK, so this leads on to the other pair of functions used for error reporting within Basic+. These were created for use exclusively with OpenInsight and are used when writing Event Code to respond to user interface messages. When the PS needs to run an event like `CREATE` or `READ` for example it does so in several stages:

These are usually to run any user-defined Basic+ code first, followed by any quick-events, followed by the default system event handler. Now if any of these stages failed for any reason we'd need to know about it, hence the need for a way to do this.

We can't use `@file.error` or `status()` for the reasons described above, and `Get_Status()` and `Set_Status()` are used for a different purpose, so RTI created another error variable for exclusive use with event handling, accessed with `Get_EventStatus` and `Set_Event status`.

Setting this flag at any point in your code will force the event chain to stop. It's also a good way of checking the results of any `Forward_Event()` calls in your event-handlers such as in Pre and Post Write logic to see if actual write succeeded for example.

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So that's why we have so many ways of looking for errors in OpenInsight. Still, if you're as good as me then you'll never need to use then anyway will you?

S/Web

Let's face it - if you're writing web applications which have to operate in the real world, Revelation's OICGI just doesn't cut it. It's a great prototyping tool but it was never meant for anything other than low volume low usage applications. If you've tried to develop commercial grade applications with OICGI you'll doubtless have run into some of its many limitations. Do any of these sound familiar to you?

- Inability to scale the application to cope with increasing demand
- Unexplained crashes
- Inability to feed pages greater than 64K
- Inability to run with current versions of IIS without giving an anonymous user administrator rights.
- Inability to work with non Windows Web Servers
- Lack of easy way to manipulate HTTP headers
- Inability to isolate application behind multiple firewalls
- Requirement to upgrade AREV application to 3.12 before OICGI can be used
- Requirement not to use periods in column names
- Requirement to learn OpenInsight to publish AREV data to the web
- Complete lack of support for Rev G

Most of them were familiar to us at Sprezzatura, so we decided to do something about it. In conjunction with several of our major clients we developed a replacement for OICGI called S/Web. S/Web has been in testing now at these clients for several months and results are outstanding!

The major benefits of S/Web that we and our clients have seen are as follows:-

- Incredibly scalable, just add new AREV/OI processes (each process is a network user)
- Improved speed of response
- Ability to serve pages of up to 4MB (AREV and OI versions only (if expanded memory available in AREV))

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- ✓ ISAPI technology more in tune with current Microsoft product directions
- ✓ PERL version for non-Microsoft Web Servers
- ✓ Object based model for ease of programming, exposing both document model and header model
- ✓ Compatible with any version of AREV/OI and Rev G2B
- ✓ Program in the language of your database - no need for AREV users to migrate to OI

In the next S/ENL we'll go into more detail about the many features contained in S/Web but for now, additional information can be found at our web-site at www.sprezzatura.com or directly from us by mail.

Two goldfish called Brunolesci and Floyd - Windows Haikus

In Japan, they have replaced the impersonal and unhelpful Microsoft Error messages with Haiku poetry messages (Suspect the goldfish made this up, but what do they know they only have an eight second memory - Ed). Haiku poetry has strict construction rules. Each poem has only three lines, 17 syllables: five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, five in the third. Haikus are used to communicate a timeless message often achieving a wistful, yearning and powerful insight through extreme brevity -- the essence of Zen:

Your file was so big. It might be very useful. But now it is gone.

The Web site you seek cannot be located, but Countless more exist.

Chaos reigns within. Reflect, repent, and reboot. Order shall return.

Program aborting: Close all that you have worked on. You ask far too much.

Windows NT crashed. I am the Blue Screen of Death. No one hears your screams.

Yesterday it worked. Today it is not working. Windows is like that.

First snow, then silence. This thousand-dollar screen dies So beautifully.

With searching comes loss And the presence of absence: "My Novel" not found.

The Tao that is seen Is not the true Tao - until You bring fresh toner.

Stay the patient course. Of little worth is your ire. The network is down.

A crash reduces Your expensive computer To a simple stone.

Three things are certain: Death, taxes and lost data. Guess which has occurred.

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You step in the stream, But the water has moved on. This page is not here.

Out of memory. We wish to hold the whole sky, But we never will.

Having been erased, The document you're seeking Must now be retyped.

Serious error. All shortcuts have disappeared. Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

To express errors In seventeen syllables Is very difficult.

Eric the Emu - Posthumorously

HTML Tips

You can access the revelation forums via URLs with the forum username and password imbedded so you don't have to type it every time into the token fields:

<http://username:password@www.revelation.com/WEBSITE/DISCUSS.NSF/4539f515a2139aa98525652c004759c0?OpenView&Start=1>

You can also set a file with a Javascript URL generator to brute-force its way into any website by setting various combinations of username and password and then calling the URL repeatedly within a frame. Or you can just hold (name deleted - Ed) hostage, torture his password out of him, and then have no one call with the ransom money.

I know IE users can have the passwords stored automatically, because IE is for wimps, but we loyal Netscape users are forced to use other less sophisticated tricks (like impersonating (name deleted - Ed)) or even like bookmarking the above URL.

Another idea. Why not have your startup web page on your local drive by setting the default browser URL to a local file (e.g. an HTML file c:\default.htm) and placing all your passwords and useful links on the local file? Then again, why not stick carrots up your nose? (Jnutht necoth ipth unccnumfnable dnuthn meem ipth thnuphid).

Catch you on Mars Space Captains.....

Eric Emu

(in space no-one can hear you vacuuming)

Emu's Guide to Corporate Philosophy

Don't be irreplaceable; if you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.

Timing has an awful lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

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A closed mouth gathers no foot.

Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your mouth is moving.

It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbour's newspaper, that's the time to do it.

Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat & drink beer all day.

If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

If you drink, don't park; accidents cause people.

Some days you are the bug, some days you are the windshield.

Don't worry, it only seems kinky the first time.

Good judgement comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

Duct tape is like the force; it has a light side & a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it

More HTML Tips!

The exasperated emu has been perplexed recently by the enigmatic smile of the Mona Lisa, now enshrined in *.jpg form for all time. For those who have been to La Louvre, the actual size of the work can be surprising. Leonardo must have had the same bug in his copy of Adobe Photoshop as we do here in the Black Stump Caravan Park.

The dimensions of *.jpg files are frustratingly difficult to deduce in code, and there are few examples on the Internet which involve less than 3000 lines of code. So if La Giaconde happens to confront you wearing little more than a smile, you can quickly determine the actual dimensions of jpgs, gifs and

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bmps with the following RBASIC code (inefficient, yet workable). And you won't be the only one smiling..... especially if (as many AREV users do) you have to turn an uploaded image (nudge nudge wink wink) into a correctly scaled image on a webpage.

Eric Emu

(history never repeats, it just does projectile vomits)

```

FUNCTION JPFSIZE (FILENAME)
  FILESIZE=DIR (FILENAME)<1>
  IF FILESIZE < 1 THEN RETURN ""
  IF FILENAME[-4,4] <> ".JPG" THEN RETURN ""
  X = 0
  Y = 0
  OFFSET = 0
  OSOPEN FILENAME TO HANDLE THEN
    LOOP WHILE OFFSET < FILESIZE
      OSBREAD CHUNK FROM HANDLE AT OFFSET LENGTH 40000
      IF INDEX(CHUNK,\FFC0\,1) THEN
        FOR I = 1 TO LEN(CHUNK)
          IF CHUNK[I,2] = \FFC0\ THEN
            OSBREAD DIMS FROM HANDLE AT (OFFSET+I+4) LENGTH 4
            Y = (SEQ(DIMS[1,1]) * 256) + SEQ(DIMS[2,1])
            X = (SEQ(DIMS[3,1]) * 256) + SEQ(DIMS[4,1])
          END
        NEXT I
      END
      OFFSET = OFFSET + 39999
    REPEAT
  END
RETURN X:@FM:Y
OSOPEN 'MYFILE.GIF' TO G THEN
  OSBREAD GIF FROM G AT 0 LENGTH 20 THEN
    IF GIF[1,4] = "GIF8" THEN
      WIDTH = SEQ(GIF[8,1]) * 256 + SEQ(GIF[7,1])
      HEIGHT = SEQ(GIF[10,1]) * 256 + SEQ(GIF[9,1])
    END
  END
END
END

OSOPEN 'BITMAP.BMP' TO BMP THEN
  OSBREAD HEADER FROM BMP AT 0 LENGTH 32
  IF HEADER[1,2] = 'BM' THEN
    X = SEQ(HEADER[19,1])
    X = X + (256 * SEQ(HEADER[20,1]))
    X = X + (4096 * SEQ(HEADER[21,1]))
    X = X + (65536 * SEQ(HEADER[22,1]))
    Y = SEQ(HEADER[23,1])
    Y = Y + (256 * SEQ(HEADER[24,1]))
    Y = Y + (4096 * SEQ(HEADER[25,1]))
    Y = Y + (65536 * SEQ(HEADER[26,1]))
    CALL MSG(' Bmp dimensions are ':X:' wide ':Y:' high','','','')
  END ELSE
    CALL MSG('Error reading format of *.bmp file')

```

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END

END

Celebrity Interview – Dave Pociu

Who are you?

Hmmm, I find that people close to me keep asking me that same question with a perplexed look on their faces... But I digress:

I am David Pociu and here are the vital statistics:

- ☑ Age 32 as of the summer of 2001
- ☑ Married, no children (yet)
- ☑ Aside from English, proficient in French and Romanian, and somewhat OK in German, Italian, and Greek.
- ☑ Born and raised in continental Europe
- ☑ Started college/university there, finished in the US
- ☑ Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Connecticut.
- ☑ Another streak of masochism led to a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the same University
- ☑ Member of AAA (American Automobile Association), National Geographic Society, Costco Price Club, Connecticut Public Library System, Blockbuster Video, and Mensa
- ☑ Home is in Connecticut, USA

Who do you work for?

The shareholders of InsiTech Group Inc., so I have to be quick with this interview before they realize I'm not working!

What is your role in the RevSoft community?

Lately, I've been tasked with bringing JOI to the world... I guess the role would be developer, opener of RevSoft products to the world, and optimizer at large. (Also, general nuisance all around, when I find things I don't like.)

How long have you been involved with RevSoft?

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Hey, "involved" sounds a little personal! Actually, it seems like forever, as my first linear hash exposure was to Pick. I guess since early 1990s with RevSoft products.

Which products do you use?

Right Guard deodorant, Crest toothpaste (rejoice), Goodyear tires, Gateway computers, but really why do you need the whole list?

When it comes to software, a wide variety of products:

- First and foremost InsiTech's entire XTT (XML Tunneling Technology) suite, and implicitly JOI on a daily basis against RevSoft, Oracle, MS SQL-Server databases, XML, EDI, and a myriad different format data sources
- Java technology in all shapes and forms (Standard Edition, Enterprise Edition, Micro Edition, etc.)
- C++, Visual Basic (only if I'm forced to create Windows-specific components so I can wrap them as Java Beans <g>)
- Weblogic, Apache/Tomcat, JRun as application servers
- Variations of Napster and BearShare (shhh...)

What do you most like about RevSoft products?

- Their half-time Super Bowl commercials!
- The fact that everything is just a string of text.
- The fact that applications written 20 years ago still run without changes.

What do you most dislike about RevSoft products?

- The fact that applications written 20 years ago still run without changes. (How are consultants supposed to make a living <g>?)
- No Revelation swimsuit/cheerleading team...

If you HAD to use another database what would it be and why?

I'd write my own! Just imagine a linear hash database that can store whole objects of any size, use the same indexing techniques, but be able to store anything from Unicode to sound and video. Hmmm...

What are your favourite 3 books and why?

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I guess they varied along the way, so I'll give you some reference points:

At age 9:

- ☑ The tales of the Brothers Grimm - 'cause saving the Princess is cool
- ☑ The best of Greek Mythology - heroes, Gods, need I say more?
- ☑ 20000 Leagues under the Sea by Jules Verne - The spirit of discovery and adventure

At age 20:

- ☑ The Cursed Kings by Maurice Druon - History without the rosy glasses
- ☑ Aesop's Fables - Because human nature doesn't change across the ages
- ☑ All the Sails Up by Radu Tudoran - 19th century adventures from the Mediterranean to Magellan's Straights. Great local atmosphere descriptions, and well-defined characters.
- ☑ Foundation Series - Isaac Asimov - self-explanatory

Currently:

- ☑ The Grass Crown - Colleen McCullough - Republican Rome at it's best and worst (The whole trilogy is actually superb)
- ☑ Red Storm Rising - Tom Clancy - Interesting vision of what could have been.
- ☑ Sarum - Edward Rutherford - Great historical fiction set in the Salisbury/Stonehenge area

What are your favourite 3 CDs/Albums and why?

Just 3? That's a tough one. Let's see, my tastes range from classical to reggae and hard rock so here are a few choices:

Sickness by Disturbed

All out energy and some melody too!

Perfect Self by Stereomud

Latest addition to my hard rock/alternative collection

Metallica (Black Album) - Metallica

In my opinion their best album yet

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Carmina Burana by Carl Orff

Superb composition

Requiem by Mozart

Chilling yet uplifting at the same time

Wisdom – Bob Marley/Peter Tosh

Great programming music <g>

(OK!OK! Yes, yes, yes, I'll stop here)

What are your three favourite films and why?

Saving Private Ryan and Enemy at the Gates

Reality meets action movie, and yeah, there's some history there also.

Babylon 5 series

A 5 year long film really, that actually had the whole plot written in advance and not made up as they went along. What a concept!

Any movie on Mystery Science Theater

Just can't resist the peanut gallery concept.

What event in history would you most like to have been present at?

Well, any of these really:

- The invention of the wheel.
- The submission of the report on effects of Preparations A through G.
- A lecture by Socrates
- A day in the Great Library in Alexandria
- Establishment of the 100th colony outside the Solar System (assuming forward time travel is allowed by the folks at Sprezz <g>)

And finally Your motto/witty aphorism

Quitters never win, winners never quit, but those who never win and never quit are idiots.

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Peripheral Trivia

As this issue of S/ENL was put to bed we fed the inner man with:

- TV: Spin City - Charlie Sheen version
- Book: "Me talk pretty one day" - David Sedaris
- CD: Snoop Doggy Dogg - "Tha Last Meal"
- WEB: www.politicalcompass.org

Join us :	Send Mail to Admin@Sprezzatura.com with subject SUBSCRIBE SENL or complete our online registration form .
Leave Us:	Send Mail to Admin@Sprezzatura.com with subject UNSUBSCRIBE SENL
Change of Address:	Leave at the old address & join at the new one
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