DataAccess
WORLDWIDE

Using Some of those Nifty New Features You Might Have Missed

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So why this talk?

o   New versions of DataFlex are released on a regular basis

o   Releases often add major new capabilities such as the new web application framework, the mobile web application framework and managed connections. Those we remember

o   While these big features get a lot of attention, new releases also include incremental enhancements. Those we may forget about.

o   After a while these small improvements start to add up! They are worth a review

o   Remember:
   • Not everyone is up to the latest version
   • And even if you are, you may not be using the latest features

The review

- This will be a quick review. We have a lot of items to show and not much time

- So what nifty features have you forgotten about?

- Let's see

DDs just keep getting better

o   Local DD Relationships (17.0)
o   SQL DD Filters (18.0)
o   Better handling of deleted records in views (18.1)
  •   FindByRowIdEx (18.1)
o   Performance
  •   DD buffer much faster (18.1)
  •   Attach faster (18.1)
  •   Smart-Relates make relates faster (18.2)
  •   Extended Fields use less memory (18.1)
o   Far more control over cascade deletes (18.1)
o   Constraint Improvements (18.0)
  •   RebuildAllConstraints (18.2)
o   Null parent support (17.0)
o   Pre find/Post find events (17.0)
o   DD Remember (17.0)
o   Committed Records (17.0)

DD_Debugger (the DD Inspector)

DD_Debugger let's you inspect your DDOs at runtime. Some developers can't live without it, others forget it's there

o DD SQL filters and constraint info (18.0)
o Web Version (18.2)

New Language and class capabilities

o   Many new date, datetime and time functions (18.2)
  •   e.g., DateSet(), DateAddDay()

o   RefTable added to the other RefXxxx functions commands (18.2)
  •   In addition to, RefClass(), RefProc(), etc.

o   Many new Array Functions (18.1)
  •   e.g., IsSameArray(), InsertInArray(), InsertInArray(), extended array search

o   Base64 Encoding (17.1)

o   Character Encoding (18.0 on up)
  •   cCharTranslate adds over 20 functions to convert character encoding

o   Http support for any verb (18.1)
  •   Can't do REST services without it

UChar Array improvements

o Major changes added to 18.1
  - Used to bypass string length limitations
  - Read and write to table columns
  - Read and write to sequential files
  - DDs use them for large columns
  - New functions convert between strings and UChar array types
o Later today you will see how they are used with JSON

Table and SQL Enhancements

o   Long Table and Columns names (17.0)

o   SQL Connectivity
  • PKs support (18.1)
  • Clustered indexes (18.1)
  • GUID support (18.1)
  • Azure (18.1)
  • Large data handling (18.1)
  • Client cache tuning makes it faster (18.1)
  • Auto reconnect (17.1)
  • Embedded SQL: Fetching data is faster (18.0)
  • Embedded SQL: New fetch to array functions (18.0)
          SQLFetchRowValues and SQLFetchResultSetValues

Windows Framework Improvements

o Sometimes it seems like we focus all of our attention on web applications and the new web framework. We haven't forgotten about Windows. Here's a few.

o Font Appearance and scaling (17.0 & 19.0)
o Controls
   • dbParentCombo (18.2)
   • dbSugggestionList (18.0)
   • New button capabilities (18.0)
o Views can be modal or modeless (18.0)

Client SOAP Web Services

o Client web services are improved with each release making it easier to consume web-services

o Major changes in 18.0

- Null and Nillable data type support
- SOAP 1.2 Support (17.1)
- Lots more – hard to explain. The more current you version, the more likely your service will work (or work more easily)

Studio and Debugger Goodies

o   Table Viewer (18.0)
o   Table Explorer filtering (18.0)
o   Table Editor: Native SQL Column Editing (18.1)
o   Find in Files is better (18.0 and up)
   •   Find results toolbar, better directory/file search, whole word search,
o   Smart Todo support (17.0)
o   Drag and Drop from Class Palette in source mode (17.1)
o   WebApp previewer so much better it's a designer now (18.1 and up)
o   Pre-compile / Post-compile (18.2)
o   Debugger: Much faster debugging (18.1)
o   Debugger: Add to Watch (18.1)

The virtues of being up to date

o There is a big overhead in constantly updating to the latest
  - Trust us on this one – we *feel* your pain

o You can always fall back to "If it's not broke, don't fix it"
  - This strategy is no longer viable in the 21st Century

o Keep your DataFlex applications up to date
  - You get all these nifty new features
  - We will keep your application working in an ever changing environment
  - We can't help you, if you won't help yourself
  - When 64-bit / Unicode DataFlex is here, will you be ready?

Some of my personal indispensables

o   Here are a few Studio development features I use all the time. YMMV
  - Goto Definition
  - Pop Quick Mark (and Push Ctrl+Shift+Q))
  - Code Sense (ctrl-J and ctrl-space)
  - Quick Open tool bar
  - Open Windows Explorer
  - Starting Browser (or not) for WebApp
  - Adding Run current project to the Tools menu
  - Ctrl+F7 in Studio
  - Run multiple Studio instances
  - Debug - Set Next Instruction
  - Debug - Change variable values

That's all for now

I do hope you learned or relearned something