Use DBUnifier for Application Development!

Warren Transport finds solution in DBUnifier!

Problem: Every iSeries 400 interactive application has F4 pick lists to help the user input the correct values for dynamic fields. Or at least they should in order to be deemed 'user-friendly'! Typically programmers spend quite a bit of development time working these pick lists into their programs. This tedious task extends already tight deadlines even further. Plus each program is customized and looks different, which causes maintenance to become a programmer's worst nightmare.

Solution: DBUnifier provides relief by offering a quick and easy way to create standard F4 pick lists. As an IBM Server Proven software product, DBUnifier is field-tested and increases programmer productivity in companies instantly. One such company is Warren Transport located in Waterloo, Iowa.

Since 1949, Warren Transport has been part of Iowa with its tractors and trailers carrying everything from farm machinery to building materials around North America. In 1990, Warren purchased its first iSeries AS/400 and has continued to run its back-office processes on this reliable platform ever since. Interactive programs on the iSeries support the primary business of scheduling, accounts receivables and payables and sales support. Dave McKeown heads the technology department which develops and maintains these systems. Recently, McKeon was tasked with new development which required the integration of F4 pick lists. "We were in the initial stages of development, when I saw an ad for DBUnifier. I obtained a trial and installed the product. It was so simple, within no time I had it loaded and running and in another hour I had it integrated in the program we were developing. I am estimating that it saves about two hours of work every time we need a new F4 list!"

DBUnifier allows programmers to generate windows that appear on the screen overlapping the user's display. The window shows valid values for an underlying field. The user can 'pick' from the list of values and this can be passed back to the desired field.

"When I first worked with the tool, I noted how very natural it was because it is based on the query400 interface," McKeown said. Only a couple steps are needed to implement F4 windows with the utility. Through the query-like interface, programmers define the file, fields and window size then call the list processor from any high level language. Hundreds of F4 windows can be created and incorporated into programs in no time.

For Warren Transport, DBUnifier provided increased productivity at just the right time. "The price was very reasonable and with the economy, we need all that we can get for our money." McKeown stated, "Thanks, this is a great tool for automating software production."

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