

Runtime Executable Prompting for dates

Product: R&R Report Writer®
ARPEGGIO™
Version: All

Oper Sys: Microsoft® Windows® 3.x
Microsoft Windows 95
Microsoft Windows NT®

Summary

We've received many calls from R&R users asking how to make the runtime executable be able to prompt the user for data to be used in a query. The most popular prompt request is the START and END dates to return a subset of data from a database. The following procedure applies to all versions of R&R Xbase.

Procedure

There are four steps to follow to apply this prompting technique:

1. Create the Control File with the entries for START and END.
2. Create a report with two calculated fields (SDATE and EDATE) and a Query.
3. Run the report and enter the date parameters at the prompts.
4. View the report.

We'll work with the sample files making up the Basic Columnar Report. These files are located in R&R directory structure in the SAMPLE sub directory. The Master File/Related File and Index File's are: RRORDERS.dbf, RRITEMS.dbf, RRPRICES.dbf, RRITEMS.idx, and RRPRICES.idx.

1. Control File

In this example, our Control File is named C:\Rrw\MyControl. The prompt is generated by the question mark, ?, in the Control File for the parameters START and END. The following list shows the parameters for this example:

```
RI_LIBRARY=C:\RRW6508\RRSAMPLE\RRSAMPLE.RP5
RI_REPORT=RRWRUN DATE Prompt
RI_PRINTER=D
RI_WTITLE=RRWRUN DATE Prompt
RI_STATUS=T
RI_WPTR=
RI_Query=
```

```
RI_Scope=  
RI_DISPERR=T  
start=?Enter START DATE  
end=?Enter ENDING DATE
```

2. Report Definition

Add the following two calculated fields in your report "RRWRUN DATE Prompt":

```
EDATE = IIF(ERROR(CTOD(RIPARAM("end"))),date(),  
CTOD(RIPARAM("end")))
```

```
SDATE = IIF(ERROR(CTOD(RIPARAM("start"))),date(),  
CTOD(RIPARAM("start")))
```

If the user enters an invalid date value for either parameter, the report will use the system date in place of the bad date. Therefore, the default, if left blank, is today's date. If you prefer not to error check as shown above, then do the following:

```
EDATE      CTOD(RIPARAM("end"))  
SDATE      CTOD(RIPARAM("start"))
```

Next, build a query in the report as follows:

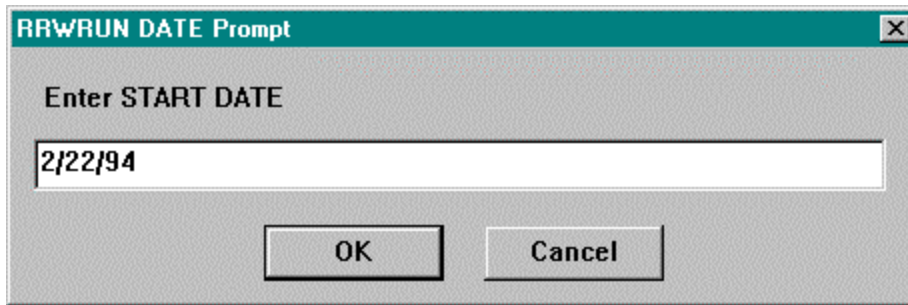
```
Include all records where RRORDERS → DATE is > = SDATE and  
RRORDERS → DATE is < = to EDATE
```

3. Runtime Prompts

To execute the report, enter the following command in the Windows Run Dialog or at the DOS prompt:

```
C:\Rrw\Rrwrn /TC:\Rrw\MyControl.txt
```

When the runtime is executed the following dialog boxes are displayed and the user enters the dates requested. Dates are entered in the format expected by the CTOD() function. (You may want to mention the format in the prompt to help users.)

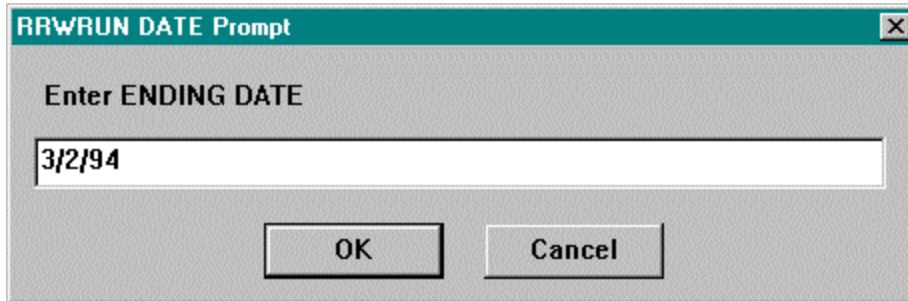


RRWRUN DATE Prompt

Enter START DATE

2/22/94

OK Cancel



RRWRUN DATE Prompt

Enter ENDING DATE

3/2/94

OK Cancel

4. Viewing the Report

The resulting report from in this example is displayed as follows:

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Start date: 2/22/94
End date: 3/2/94

Sales By Product

Product Description	Unit Price	Qty	Order Total
PC Database	02/22/94 149.00	50	7,450.00
PC Com	02/22/94 49.95	25	1,248.75
PC Spreadsheet	02/22/94 149.00	30	4,470.00
PC Project Planner	02/22/94 149.00	10	1,490.00
PC Database	02/22/94 149.00	15	2,235.00
PC Com	02/22/94 49.95	5	249.75
PC Spreadsheet	02/22/94 149.00	15	2,235.00
PC Project Planner	02/22/94 149.00	5	745.00
PC Database	03/02/94 149.00	20	2,980.00
PC Com	03/02/94 49.95	5	249.75
PC Database	03/02/94 149.00	45	6,705.00
PC Com	03/02/94 49.95	45	2,247.75
Grand Totals: 12 Orders		270	\$32,306.00

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