

Optimize and Enhance IBM i Spool Files

- Condense pages, concatenate lines, reposition content and more without coding
- Conditionally merge DB2 data into spool files
- Add-on module for electronic forms solution Formtastic

Business Challenges

Many companies depend on IBM i generated spool files to generate invoices, purchase orders and other business critical documents. Unfortunately, spool files can be unnecessarily lengthy because of disjointed content and inopportune line breaks resulting in half empty or blank pages, all of which can cost thousands in wasted printing costs. Essential information may also be missing entirely which can lead to time spent manually piecing together documents. One solution is to modify the original spool file generating application, but this is time consuming, expensive and not always possible.

The Solution: Formatter

Formatter is an easy-to-use add-on component of Quadrant Software's Formtastic, an electronic forms solution for IBM i. Business users can delete blank lines and unnecessary information that is printed on every page and Formtastic formats the desired data into an efficient, aesthetically pleasing document. Formatter can also concatenate multiple rows into a single row, reposition text field data anywhere on the page, or capture and insert important data required for your forms that exists outside of the original spool file.

Using Formatter, you can:

- ▶ Simplify long and complex spool files without recoding or development
- ▶ Cut printing costs by reducing outputted document length by up to 75 percent
- ▶ Customize and enhance document content by fetching external data
- ▶ Empower users to quickly integrate, customize and condition their forms

How it Works

By mapping spool file data to different locations on the page layout, Formatter can convert long, disorganized spool files, like the three-page spool file example below, into condensed, organized and easy-to-read documents.

Condensing a three-page spool file to one formatted page with data merged from a DB2 file



The number of pages in a spool file can often be reduced by 75 percent

Format, condense and integrate spool files without recoding

Optimized Layouts

Reposition data and remove blank spaces to shorten spool files

Reusable Templates

Create, edit and reuse spool file mapping templates

Integrated Data

Capture and merge DB2 data based upon spool file text values

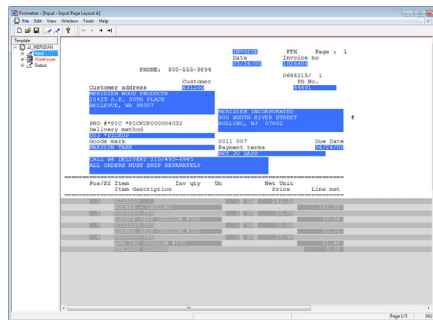
No Coding Required

GUI designer makes it easy to create new templates without coding

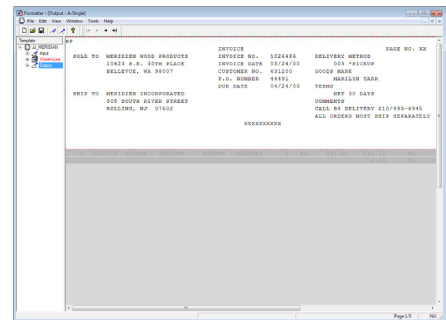
Formatter's dual screen PC-based designer allows user to quickly create templates

“Formatter and Formtastic have allowed us to make qualitative improvements to just about every piece of correspondence that we send to customers or vendors. When I'm asked about changing our forms, I always say I'm sure we can do that.”

– Diane Toby, Peruvian Connection



Identify and select content in the Input Window



Map and reformat data in the Output Window

Integrate with these tools to further design and distribute your documents and reports



Formtastic

Quadrant Software's Formtastic is an easy-to-use tool for designing and creating graphical forms, checks, and labels from IBM i spool files. Users create templates in a PC-based designer, after which documents are created automatically.

Learn more at quadrantsoftware.com



Catapult

BCD's Catapult is an award-winning automated distribution tool that reliably delivers spool files and PC files via email, print, network drives or a web portal in popular formats including PDF, RTF, HTML, TXT and XLS.

Learn more at bcdsoftware.com



For information, call 800.258.3399 or visit quadrantsoftware.com

Requirements:

IBM i OS/400 V5R2 or Above | PC Client IBM Client Access Express 4R4 or Above | IBM Client Access for Windows V3R2 | Quadrant Software Formtastic Forms V5.3 or Above | Printer Protocol HP-PCL 4 or 5

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