THE RIGHT
TOOLS
FOR THE JOB

SPOTLIGHT
iSERIES TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICE

SPRING 2005

CASE STUDY

The Many Uses of ALC's File Edit Utility (FEU)

Database and Spool File Issues and Solutions.

Missing Transactions
Retrieving Deleted Records

At a trucking company in New Jersey, Programmer Analyst Ernie Robertson has developed a reputation in the company as the "go to" guy when problems arise. When a transaction report was missing an entire sequence of records, it wasn't surprising that people looked to him for a solution. If you've ever accidentally deleted the wrong records or found out that records were somehow missing, you know the terrible sinking feeling. If only there was a way to get that data back!

Ernie knew they had a recent backup, but he wasn't even sure when the records had been deleted. And, restoring from the backup takes a lot of time and effort, and he could little afford to hold up the processing. So, before beginning the process of starting with the most recent backup, Ernie decided to take a quick look at the transaction file with FEU (File Edit Utility), a database tool from Applied Logic Corporation that the IT staff often uses.

The FEU database tool provides a very unique and powerful capability for retrieving previously deleted records.

*When records are deleted from an iSeries database file, the data can no longer be accessed by programs. Although the data itself is not available, the deleted records continue to occupy space in the file until they are removed using a function such as RGZPFM or CPYF with COMPRESS(*YES),*

Using FEU, you can interactively view the actual deleted records in a file and restore the desired records. You're able to retrieve individual records, blocks of records, or only those records that match specified criteria.

Within three minutes Ernie had scanned for and found the entire batch of missing data. He was then able to automatically retrieve each deleted record that matched his selection criteria. Hours of time were saved, the reports went out on time, and a disaster was avoided.

Global Issues
Making Mass Database Changes

At a wholesaler in Ontario, IS Manager Janet Pemberton had a different problem . With more than 20,000 different inventory items and a thin profit margin, accurately managing pricing is extremely important.

When prices for one class of items needed to be temporarily increased by 2.5%, she turned to the File Edit Utility.

Using the FEU database tool, Janet was able to select all of the appropriate item classes and codes and use FEU's *global update* function to automatically increase them by the specified amount. Then, because FEU saves the global changes for possible *Undo*, she was able to later simply reverse the process when they were ready to reinstate the original pricing.

Of course, with this kind of power at her fingertips, Janet knows that security is an important issue. FEU provides both user-based and object-based security and logs all changes to a special Log File and Audit Report. This way Janet can restrict how her staff uses FEU and she can easily review their activity.

A False Report
Editing Spool Files and Converting Reports to PDF Format

Enzo Piazzardi works for a large insurance company in Italy. His company uses the iSeries to process vast amounts of data. Thousands upon thousands of pages of reports are produced out of that information. If a report has a problem, the typical solution is to correct the problem in the database and re-run all of the necessary processes again to re-produce the report. When this was not possible, Enzo fortunately had another option.

Because his company uses the FEU database tool, Enzo was able to make the proper updates to the database and then securely make the necessary minor changes directly in the spooled report. All activity was logged to a secured Audit Log file that tracks all file maintenance and was also printed on FEU's Audit Trail report. By simply changing the spool file in less than ten minutes, Enzo saved several hours of time and kept everything on schedule.

But there was still one more thing to do. A mid-level manager wanted a copy of the corrected report the moment it was available. So, Enzo used FEU to convert the spool file to PDF format on the IFS and then immediately emailed it to the manager.

The Right Tools for the Job
FEU (File Edit Utility) for the iSeries

The problems encountered and solved in New Jersey, Ontario and Italy are not unique. These types of issues are shared by a wide variety of businesses and agencies. Fortunately, in each of the scenarios the company had provided their IT staff with the tools they needed to increase their productivity.

The FEU (File Edit Utility) database tool used in each of these situations offers many other capabilities, and is relied upon by thousands of users in more than 100 countries worldwide. A no-obligation trial of FEU can be downloaded from Applied Logic's website. R

Contact:

Applied Logic Corporation
174 Shore Pointe Place N, Suite 100
Keizer, OR 97303
Tel: 800.588.8695 / 503.390.7991
Fax: 503.390.8058
info@alcsoftware.com
http://www.alcsoftware.com/iseries