New Features and Changes in PowerHouse 4GL 8.4E

Updated Documentation

The PowerHouse 4GL Reference books have been updated to incorporate the new features and additional information and corrections. The documentation is available in Adobe Acrobat Reader format on the Cognos PowerHouse 4GL Series 8 Books 4th Edition CD. Adobe Acrobat reader is available from http://www.adobe.com/.

New Features and Changes Specific to Relational Database Support

ITEM OMIT Option for Read-Only Items

PowerHouse does not include read only or calculated or computed columns in insert and update actions, nor does PowerHouse include such columns in checksums. If PowerHouse cannot determine whether the column is read only, use the OMIT option on the ITEM statement in QDESIGN and QTP to exclude the column. For more information, see the ITEM statement in Chapter 3, QDESIGN Statements, in the *QDESIGN Reference* and in Chapter 3, QTP Statements, in the *QTP Reference*.

Oracle External Procedures and User-Defined Functions

PowerHouse now supports Oracle external procedures (also known as user-defined functions). For more information, see Creating User-Defined Functions in Chapter 1, About PowerHouse and Relational Databases, in *PowerHouse and Relational Databases*.

autodetach Program Parameter

The **autodetach** program parameter and the AUTODETACH Resource file statement instruct QUICK to automatically detach from the database if transactions are committed or rolled back and are not locally active when the screen exits. They apply only to relational databases that support a single transaction per database attach. For more information, see the **autodetach** program parameter in Chapter 2, Program Parameters, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

bulkfetch Program Parameter

The **bulkfetch** program parameter and the BULKFETCH Resource file statement allow you to specify how many rows to retrieve. This may improve performance when retrieving rows. The improvement depends on the type of retrieval and linkage, and the number of rows retrieved. For best results, various values, such as 128, 256, 512, etc., should be tested to determine the optimal value. Typically the optimal value will be different for each retrieval For more information, see the **bulkfetch** program parameter in Chapter 2, Program Parameters, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

dbdetach Program Parameter

The dbdetach program parameter and DBDETACH Resource file statement instruct QUICK to detach from the database when the user returns to the screen ID prompt. For more information, see the **dbdetach** program parameter in Chapter 2, Program Parameters, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

initnulls Program Parameter

If NULL values are allowed, then the documentation indicated that QTP was supposed to initialize columns to

NULL in rows that are not retrieved in optional retrieval. QTP was not operating as documented while QUIZ was. Even though the documented functionality was correct, there was concern that changing QTP would cause data integrity issues with applications that were processing correctly and accounting for the discrepancy. The **initnulls** program parameter and INITIALIZE NULLS Resource file statement can be used to make QTP initialize columns to NULL as documented. The default operation is unchanged from previous versions. For more information, see the **initnulls** program parameter in Chapter 2, Program Parameters, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

Databases and Syntax no longer supported

ALLBASE/SQL is no longer supported on HP-UX.

SQLSERVER has been removed as a database type. Microsoft SQL Server support is provided using the ODBC database type.

The NOTRANSACTION option of the SQL DECLARE CURSOR statement and the SQL CALL verb has been removed. It was only valid with a database that is no longer supported.

New Features and Changes Specific to PowerHouse for Windows

QKView

QKView is a shell client for QUICK for Windows that provides a more appealing user interface than the Command Prompt window used by QUICK. It is basically a simple terminal emulator that generates a user interface by trapping the output that QUICK sends to the Command Prompt window. For more information, see QKView in Chapter 2, QUICK User Interface, in the *QDESIGN Reference*.

NOCONSOLE Option

The NOCONSOLE option on the COMMAND, REPORT, and RUN statements and the RUN COMMAND, RUN REPORT, and RUN RUN verbs in QDESIGN tells QUICK not to open a Command Prompt window for the subprocess. If the subprocess runs in the background with no user input required or output displayed, the second Command Prompt window is not needed. For more information, see the COMMAND statement in Chapter 3, QDESIGN Statements, in the *QDESIGN Reference*.

Function Keys in QUICK for Windows and the consolekeys Program Parameter

QUICK on Windows now supports 8 function keys that correspond to F1 through F8 on a standard PC keyboard. The keys can be used as dynamic function keys in conjunction with the KEY statement and appropriate QKGO settings. For more information, see the KEY statement in Chapter 3, QDESIGN Statements, and Chapter 6, Customizing QUICK with QKGO, in the *QDESIGN Reference*.

The function keys can also have labels that are activated using the **consolekeys** program parameter or the CONSOLE KEYS ON Resource file statement. The labels are not visible by default. For more information, see the **consolekeys** program parameter in Chapter 2, Program Parameters, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

QKGO Changes for Windows

QKGO for Windows now supports tic file creation and specifying dynamic function keys. This support requires that DISAM file support is licensed. For more information, see Chapter 6, Customizing QUICK with QKGO, in the *QDESIGN Reference*.

QKGO is started with the **consolekeys** program parameter so that function keys can be used. There is a QKView version of QKGO that can be launched from the Start menu.

Temporary File Location on Windows

Temporary file folder names were changed to phnnnnn.tmp where nnnnn is a process id. This is the same naming convention used on UNIX.

Locating Subfiles on Windows

The process used to locate subfiles has been simplified. For more information, see Locating Files in Chapter 1, Running PowerHouse, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

Since the changes also affect locating permanent subfiles, you may have to use the PH_SBF_LOC environment variable to identify the location of your permanent subfiles.

Local Language Messages

Messages that appear in a Command Prompt window and a GUI window use different code pages. If the messages use the extended character set, a message that appears correctly in a Command Prompt window may not appear correctly in a GUI window and vice versa. Two sets of messages are now provided. For more information, see Using Alternative Message Files (Windows) in Chapter 4, Messages, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

XBASE No Longer Supported

XBASE is no longer supported in PowerHouse 4GL or PowerHouse Web for Windows. Indexed file support is provided by DISAM.

In PDL, TYPE XBASE for ORGANIZATION INDEXED has been removed. The default is DISAM.

In QSHOW, the TYPE XBASE option of the SHOW SUBFILE statement has been removed.

In QUIZ and QTP, the TYPE XBASE option of the ACCESS statement has been removed.

Syntax Cleanup

UIC was allowed as a ASC ID METHOD. UIC is not available on Windows. It is a UNIX method. It was removed from the Windows syntax.

The MODULE statement and RUN MODULE verb were identical to the COMMAND statement and RUN COMMAND verb. The MODULE syntax has been hidden and may be removed in a future release.

Additional New Features and Changes

QUIZ Report Line Size Limit

The report size limit in QUIZ has been increased from 264 to 32,767.

PHTEMPKEEP Environment Variable (UNIX, Windows)

If the PHTEMPKEEP environment variable is set on UNIX and Windows, temporary subfiles are not deleted when the QUIZ or QTP session ends. This allows you to do batch compiles in much the same manner as MPE/iX and OpenVMS. For more information, see Locating Files in Chapter 1, Running PowerHouse, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

ASC ID METHOD LOGONID (UNIX)

LOGONID is now supported as an ASC ID METHOD in PDL on UNIX. You can specify logonids on the ASC statement. Now all platforms support the LOGONID ASC ID METHOD.

ETOP Utility - Eloquence to PDL (UNIX, Windows)

ETOP allows you to generate PDL source code from Eloquence databases on UNIX and Windows. For more information, see Chapter 7, ETOP Utility, in the *PDL Reference*.

Reverse Indexed Reads for RMS ISAM Files (OpenVMS)

Reverse or backward indexed reads are now supported for RMS ISAM files in QUICK on OpenVMS. Support is implemented using the BACKWARDS option of the ACCESS statement, the BACKWARDS suboption of the LOOKUP option of the FIELD statement, and the BACKWARDS options of the GET verb and the WHILE RETRIEVING control structure. The Previous Data QUICK command, by default a backslash (\), is also supported. For more information, see the appropriate statements, verb, or control structure in the *QDESIGN Reference*.

reuse_screen_buffers Program Parameter

The **reuse_screen_buffers** program parameter and REUSE SCREEN BUFFERS Resource file statement cause QUICK to reuse previously allocated buffers when the user moves back and forth between a screen and a subscreen. For more information, see the **reuse_screen_buffers** program parameter in Chapter 2, Program Parameters, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

HEARTBEAT_TIMEOUT Environment Variable (UNIX, Windows)

The HEARTBEAT_TIMEOUT environment variable is used to ensure that the Axiant client is still active in a thin-client environment. If set, the server listens for a signal from the client indicating that it is still active. If the server does not receive a signal in the time set by HEARTBEAT_TIMEOUT, the server rolls back all transactions, backs out, and terminates. For more information, see Modifying the Time-Out Periods for Idle Connections in Chapter 1, Installing PowerHouse 4GL and PowerHouse Web, in the *PowerHouse 4GL & PowerHouse Web Getting Started*.

IA64 and PARISC Conditional Compile Parameters (OpenVMS, UNIX)

Two new conditional compile parameters are supported. IA64 is true on OpenVMS Integrity (Itanium) and HP-UX Integrity (Itanium). PARISC is true on HP-UX HP9000 PA-RISC. For more information, see the **cc** program parameter program parameter in Chapter 2, Program Parameters, and Entering Conditional Compile Statements in Chapter 5, PowerHouse Language Rules, in *PowerHouse Rules*.

Program Parameter Cleanup

Program parameters and Resource file statements relating to relational databases and components that are no longer supported have been removed.

The program parameters are:

- dbkeyscope
- form|noform
- ibasever
- ibase_buffers
- library
- starbase_buffers

The Resource file statements are:

- DBKEYSCOPE
- FORM
- IBASE
- IBASEVER
- LIBRARY