

Accounting & Technical Support For Petroleum Marketers!

RxDB provides ODBC access to PDS data as well as Query-by-form access to the data as well. The system will synchronize selected PDS files at least nightly to insure all your data is available. Use ODBC connectivity through any ODBC enabled program such as Crystal Reports, Excel, or Access to harvest and aggregate critical data at a moment's notice.

The standard RxDB functionality includes access to many major tables such as Customers, Products, Cards, Points of Origin, Orders, Trucks, Drivers, etc. Many new tables and fields have been exported, and many new database features insure the data is delivered quickly and accurately while minimizing the impact to the rest of your business.

New to RxDB in the month of January are many more critical tables:

- ◆ Inventory table: This table shows inventory movements
- ◆ GITrans table: This table shows General Ledger transactions
- ◆ Contact table: This table shows all customer phone numbers and related contact information, and links to Customer Message Types. Standard customer messages (without a phone number) are still stored in the CustMess table.
- ◆ MessType table: shows Message Types for CustMess table and Contact table. This gives descriptions to the contact information types (e.g. fax, email, home, office, etc.)
- ◆ Sic and Naics tables: shows the codes, their descriptions, and whether you've chosen to use them
- ◆ Settings table: shows major system settings, such as company name, G/L and A/P date, etc. Many control file settings and dat file settings can be exported to this table for easy ODBC access.
- ◆ Security Audit Tables: Many new tables provide data necessary for a security audit of the PDS system including:
 - Users table: show all unix users, their PDS group #, and other critical user data
 - Groups table: show all groups from PDSPWPORT
 - Programs table: show all PDS program numbers and descriptions, and whether the security is enabled or disabled
 - Prgm_grp table: show whether each user has access to each program with security enabled

In addition to the new tables, many more fields are exported to more accurately describe your data:

- ◆ Invoice and Customer tables now show the Ship-to as the Bill-to if the Bill-to is 0
- ◆ Customer table exports an additional field – “Master” – which shows if this is a master account, e.g. does the Ship-to code equal the Bill-to code?
- ◆ Sales and Inventory table exports P-Cat: Some systems have cardlock set up to post transactions to a different pcat than the product’s pcat to track things like site, pump, domestic, foreign, etc. Use this pcat rather than the product’s pcat to aggregate sales reports by pcat.
- ◆ Many fields have been renamed so linking in Access and Crystal Reports will be easier. For example, where we used to say “wh_code” in some places and “warehouse” in others, all references to a warehouse number will now read “warehouse_code”.
- ◆ Pack Codes are now not space-trimmed. Some pack codes depend on the trailing spaces. Bulk is a great example. Were we to trim the spaces from “ ”, it would become “”, signifying we bought nothing.
- ◆ OpenAR table now contains all A/R whether open or closed. This aids in harvesting financial trends or compiling a customer payment history.

Many new features in the database streamline data management and facilitate ease of use. Here’s a brief overview of new items in January:

- ◆ TableInf and FieldInf tables now show more detail: The TableInf table will show each table in the database, and a brief description about it. The FieldInf table will show each field in the database, the data type and characteristics, a brief description of the data and uses of this field.
New in January, this table now shows the last time data was loaded into this table, and the tables have been updated to show all new tables and fields.
- ◆ Referential integrity is now enforced on data import: Referential integrity is the process of validating all lookup information. For example, if invoice 1234 is for customer 101, insure customer 101 is in the database before importing this invoice. This integrity check insures reports are accurate and fast. By correcting referential integrity issues, the data is also cleaner for PDS use as well.
- ◆ RxDB export timing and process priority: The export process now runs under a lower system priority (called “nicing a process down”) so that it won’t interfere with other system operations. Also, many large exports have been split into smaller exports, or forced to run after hours. In addition, RxDB won’t run again if a previous export process is currently running, insuring the minimum resource demand on the system.
- ◆ RxDB no longer requires space on /usr1: RxDB can now safely be moved from /usr1 to any location on the drive. By changing a simple data line in a settings file, all system operations can look to a new location for placement of RxDB data.

- ◆ **Compiling and Installing updates:** We now have a script for automating the build process of update patches and encrypting source code. All unibasic programs and shell scripts will be encrypted to avoid prying eyes or accidental changes, and all software and database builds are built uniformly and completely each time.
- ◆ **Crystal Reports Viewer:** We have a beta version of a universal Crystal Reports viewer. Rather than buying a license of Crystal for each machine wanting to access the Crystal reports, copy the .rpt files to a central location, and use this program to access the reports. This report viewer can print and save reports to pdf, but can not modify the report structure or create new reports.

If you have any suggestions for additional data to export or additional mechanisms for more accurately representing or harvesting the data, please let us know. We can also build custom reports in both the Query-by-Form methodology or in Crystal Reports.