



# The Inside Track

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Frequently asked questions, tech tips, & problem reports for users of Thoroughbred Software Products

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## Thoroughbred *Basic*<sup>TM</sup>

- Q** Is there a way to store the results of a SYSTEM command in a variable, so Thoroughbred *Basic* can use it? For example, if we wanted to use SYSTEM "who" or SYSTEM "ps".
- A** The best methodology of doing this is to store the results of the SYSTEM command in a text file and write to a program to have *Basic* read that file to obtain the results of the SYSTEM command.
- Q** Why am I receiving an Error 7 attempting to open a file called UTCUST? I understand that I can use \*CNVT86, but I need to just correct this one issue. How can I do this?
- A** The Error 7 is occurring because of corruption within the header of the file. The program \*CNVT86 will correct this or you can use the following code to allow your program to open the file. This does not apply to auto-expanding DIRECT and SORT files.

```
00010 OPEN(1,ISZ=512)"UTCUST"  
00020 READRECORD(1,IND=0)A$  
00030 LET A$(41,1)="F"  
00040 WRITERECORD(1,IND=0)A$  
00050 CLOSE (1)
```

## Thoroughbred IDOL-IV<sup>TM</sup>

- Q** What is the syntax for setting up a message in *Report-IV*<sup>TM</sup> to ask the user for approval before an update?
- A** The following INPUT MESSAGE command will ask the user for verification to run the update. The code is placed in the ENTRY SECTION of the *Report-IV* report.

```
ENTRY SECTION  
DN INPUT-FLAG(1)  
I101 W0$="Y,3,,,,"+STR(TOTAL)  
I102 INPUT MESSAGE W0$ INTO INPUT-FLAG USING "UTMSGs"
```

This message uses the replacement values to customize the message to the particular application. The message text is defined in the IDOL-IV Message Dictionary (UTMSGs) as a "Yes/No" type message. Using "replacement values" it might look like the following:

**This customer's subtotal is \*1. Is this correct?**

- Q** I am running 8.4.1 under Windows NT. I have a Format/Link that has a date field (type 8), which has a numeric length of 6.0. I want to subtotal (ST1) on that field, but I only want to include the Year and Month only. I've tried taking the NTD of the field and masking, etc., but it always results in a syntax error. How do I do this with the following example:

```
CONTROL-SECTION  
ST01 WHEN DATA-NAME(mask) CHANGES;TOTAL-DATA-NAME  
REPORT-SECTION  
ST01 ST01(1):"mask"
```

- A** This is a known issue with *Report-IV* version 8.4.1. In order for this to work for you, please download and install our IDOL-IV 8.4.1 update # 7 from our web page [www.tbred.com](http://www.tbred.com), (Downloads & Updates IDOL-IV 8.4.1).

## Thoroughbred *Source-IV*<sup>TM</sup>

- Q** How do I print a directory listing of the sources with a *Source-IV* library?
- A** Remembering that this task can be accomplished using the standard IDOL-IV Object View options, the following steps outline this procedure:
- 1) Enter *Source-IV*.
  - 2) Select **Library Source Maintenance**
  - 3) Highlight the source library you want to print a listing of.
  - 4) Press **F1** to display a list of the sources within that library.
  - 5) Press **F8** and select **PRINT** from the menu.
  - 6) Enter the criteria (just press the **Enter** key through all the options if you want all sources).
  - 7) Select the desired printer.

## *Solution-IV*<sup>TM</sup> Accounting

- Q** One of my customers just changed their company name. I made the appropriate changes in the Company File, but when I run purchase orders, the old name shows in the SHIP-TO area. Where do I change the name for the SHIP-TO field to print correctly?
- A** In Inventory Control, select **Code File Maintenance**, then select **Warehouse Code Maintenance**. Correct all of the appropriate names/addresses in this file and in the future. Purchase Orders should print the correct address.
- Q** I understand that there is a new form and magnetic media being required by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) for all employers who hire independent contractors. What do I need to do?
- A** In an attempt to better collect child support payments, the state of California will require all employers who hire independent contractors (such as those working in construction) to report to the state when they pay someone more than \$600 during the year. They are required to file this form as soon as someone is paid more than \$600 during the year, but once they've filed the form, they do not need to report the person again.
- Unfortunately, the requirements for this reporting are still not fully defined. There is a bill in the California legislature right now that could change the requirements. Also, the state is not requiring that the reporting be on magnetic media at this time even though they have provided magnetic media layouts.
- The enhancement to *Solution-IV* for this update is not scheduled at this time. To satisfy this requirement, you can print the 1099 Edit Report to determine those vendors who have been paid more than \$600 during the year. This report can be printed any time, and they can disregard contractors they have already reported.

## TS ODBC DataServer<sup>TM</sup>

- Q** After upgrading our ODBC from 3.0 to 4.02, we noticed a dramatic decrease in speed. We are running the SCO UNIX Server on Pentium-II 266Mhz processor with 256mb RAM with Windows 98 clients. The queries are performed using Microsoft Query (from the Office 2000 Professional bundle) and are pulled into Excel 2000.
- A** You must re-expose the data sources using the new Expose utility (a requirement when upgrading) and use the new client ODBC Administrator to recreate each data source.
- Make sure that you have sort sequences defined in IDOL-IV based on the same criteria you are using for your Query in Microsoft Query. Also, you cannot use BETWEEN statements when using date fields, you need to use <= and >= instead.

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