Out of My Mind

First, You Have to Know What’s Inside the Box...

All of us in the JDE space applaud innovative, creative solutions when we see them. Out of the box thinking is responsible for many solutions to unusual implementation requirements.

But, to get to those moments of inspiration, you need to first know what's "inside the box" of JDE functionality. Once you are intimate with what the software can be configured to do, then you are prepared to let your mind wander as you attempt to come up with an out of the box solution.

I remember well one of those times. It was 1996 and I was happily working in my home town of Denver, at Gary Williams Energy, bringing them live with JD Edwards World A7.1. As a refiner of petroleum products, they had quite a few requirements for the system to handle various Federal and State taxes. Since these were per gallon taxes, and not percentage taxes, we used Advanced Pricing for all of the setup.

But there was one requirement that had the consulting team stumped. Gary Williams needed to display the Federal Excise Tax (FET) on each invoice, then show it being subtracted on each invoice, and defer it until the end of the month, when they needed to print a separate invoice just for that month’s FET per customer.

You know how it feels to be stumped, right? We knew how to set up the tax as a price adjustment of $.184 per gallon, and back it out with a negative matching adjustment. We just could not figure out how to defer the FET and create a separate invoice, per customer, that included only the FET on the entire month’s sales orders.

I’m going to pause here to let those of you who are JDE Sales Order and Advanced Pricing experts think about this requirement. Any ideas? OK, let's keep moving.
I remember the solution we came up with quite well, but I wasn’t the one who came up with it. The client did, based on their training, of course, and their knowledge gained during the project.

We had discussed rebates during the project, but refined fuels producers don’t do traditional rebates, like "we’ll pay you 1% in the form of an end-of-year rebate.”

The client FET requirement was presented, and at first I was stumped. Then as the discussion proceeded, somebody called the FET “deferred motor fuel tax” – and I think the word “defer” was the key, as we had referred to a conventional rebate at one point as deferred discount. Then the client wondered if JDE would allow you to reverse the sign of the amount in the rebate setup and it did! Requirement met. No customization.

So the answer turned out to be a negative rebate. Instead of summarizing the qualifying order lines, and producing a rebate credit order, we were able to produce a sales order and invoice for the FET due at each month end. Cool! Fun! And a good story to tell!

And the lesson to be learned? It really helps to know what is "inside the box" when it comes to coming up with creative solutions to JDE requirements.

PostScript: After I wrote this, I googled "thinking inside the box". This excellent article popped up: http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424127887324188604578541843266186054. Well worth reading!

Andy Klee, Publisher and President
JDEtips, Inc.

Visit www.JDEtips.com for information on JDEtips University schedule, on-site training and consulting, and our JDEtips Document Library.

License Information: The use of JDE is granted to JDEtips, Inc. by permission from J.D. Edwards World Source Company. The information on this website and in our publications is the copyrighted work of JDEtips, Inc. and is owned by JDEtips, Inc.

NO WARRANTY: This documentation is delivered as is, and JDEtips, Inc. makes no warranty as to its accuracy or use. Any use of this documentation is at the risk of the user. Although we make every good faith effort to ensure accuracy, this document may include technical or other inaccuracies or typographical errors. JDEtips, Inc. reserves the right to make changes without prior notice.

Oracle and J.D. Edwards EnterpriseOne and World are trademarks or registered trademarks of Oracle Corporation. All other trademarks and product names are the property of their respective owners.