

Advanced Development: Using Table Handles

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Editor's Note: For those of you who want to: a) Get a handle on tables, or b) are walking around with handleless tables... Seriously, we love it when our authors of technical topics provide not only the technical steps, but also the practical business case for their tricks of the trade. In this article, Mike Wright takes the case of creating an exploded bill of materials list using table handles to simplify what could otherwise turn out to be some fairly complex coding.

This article will go through the setup and usage of table handles, which are really just special variables to keep track of specific table operations. Using them is an advanced development technique that can be very useful. However, I'm sure the first question you might have is why would I ever want to use table handles? What are the benefits?

There are two reasons that table handles come in handy. The first is in the case where you want to do multiple selects on the same table. The best example in the system is the bill of material table, F3002. You have an item and want to know what items make up that item. You then want to find the items in those items, etc. You can use table handles to accomplish this recursive logic. A second reason to use table handles is in the case where you want to fetch records from a table that is in a different environment than the one you are signed into. You should be able to do both of these tasks after going through the setup in the following order:

- 1. Creating a data item
- 2. Creating variables in the Event Rules
- 3. Table Handle Input/Output

Creating a Data Item

The first thing you will need to use table handles is a special data item. These data items are very specific and must be created for each table with which you want to use table handles. Most of the EnterpriseOne standard data items that are table handles begin with HF for the alias. If you go to application P92001, Work with Data Dictionary Items, on menu GH951, you will see the screen in Figure 1 after doing a search on HF* in the alias field.



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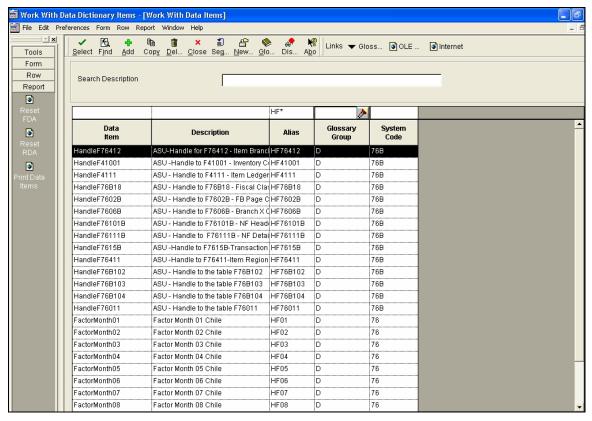


Figure 1 - Work with Data Dictionary Items

If you select one of the Handle items; for example, HF4111, you will see the screen in Figure 2.



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