FASTR Tips

By Leanne Landers

Editor's Note: Whether you are getting ready to build your first FASTR report or already have your sea legs, this assortment of helpful tips can help you ensure report integrity, minimize report maintenance, and reduce runtime. Tips learned over the years from the trenches that can't be found in the manual.

1. Introduction

I have spent many years designing and implementing thousands of FASTR reports and have learned a few tricks… sometimes the hard way. In this article, I'll share some of those here; they should be of use whether you are new to FASTR or have been using it all along. These tips do assume you already know at least the basics.

There are three main objectives when you create a FASTR report:

- Ensure the data integrity of the report: Is all the data being picked up properly in the report?
- Maintenance: How can we reduce the maintenance of the reports, i.e., updating the parameters?
- Runtime: How can we reduce the runtime of the reports as well as minimize the time required producing the month end package?

The images and other references in this document relate to release A7.3 but the only changes to this program from A7.3 Cum 13 to A9.4 are the following:

- Ability to select library other than QGPL for PC download in A7.3 Cum 14
- Increase in maximum number of rows in A7.3 Cum 15
- New security features added in A9.3

Otherwise, there have been very few changes to this program for some time, other than bug fixes and the ability to access more codes as they are added to the Account Master and Business Unit Master.

I have sectioned this document into the parameters of the definition of a FASTR report.

2. Override Default Information

2.1 Report Date

In order to reduce the time spent maintaining reports, there are two ways that you can specify the date for a report:

- Through Override Default Information, where you can either specify the date in the Current Period field…
- Or leave Current Period blank so that it defaults to the Current Fiscal Reporting Date.

If you enter the date into the Current Period, you will have to change this every time you run the report for your month end. Instead, let the Current Financial Reporting date default in; this date should be updated as part of your month end process. Do not forget to change the Default Company 00000 as well! (See section 3.1 regarding General Specifications.)
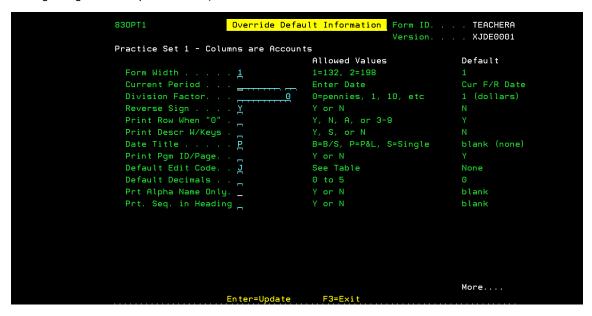


```
83OPT1                          Override Default Information   Form ID. . . . TEACHERA
                                                               Version. . . . XJDE0001
            Practice Set 1 - Columns are Accounts
                                                   Allowed Values          Default
             Form Width . . . . . 1                1=132, 2=198            1
             Current Period . . .  _____ __      Enter Date              Cur F/R Date
             Division Factor. . .         0          0=pennies, 1, 10, etc   1 (dollars)
             Reverse Sign . . . . Y                 Y or N                  N
             Print Row When "0" .  _                Y, N, A, or 3-9         Y
             Print Descr W/Keys .  _                Y, S, or N              N
             Date Title . . . . . P                 B=B/S, P=P&L, S=Single  blank (none)
             Print Pgm ID/Page. .  _                Y or N                  Y
             Default Edit Code. . J                 See Table               None
             Default Decimals . .  _                0 to 5                  0
             Prt Alpha Name Only. _                Y or N                  blank
             Prt. Seq. in Heading _                Y or N                  blank




                                                                More....
                          Enter=Update      F3=Exit
```

Figure 1: Override Default Information: Current Period Field


```
001019                          Revise Financial Report Date


        Action Code. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . I

        Company. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 00000   Test Company

        Financial Reporting Period . . . . . . . 1

        Financial Reporting Year . . . . . . . . 12
```

Figure 2: Revise Financial Report Date found on menu G0924

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