

Soft Coding Smart Field Column Headings

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Editor's Note: Another winner from Doctor Dan, the Financials Man! This is a great tip—it will save you a lot of time changing Financial Report column headings, especially when the year changes, and you want your reports to reflect the current year in the title. In the true JDEtips style, Dan takes you through every step in detail.

With OneWorld®, it is indeed a Brave New World out there. Previously, functional consultants (and Super Users) didn't have to be very technical. In fact, Andy Klee tells me that he didn't even do SQL or WorldWriters for a number of years. But, with OneWorld, everyone has to be more technical. This is particularly true with regards to the Object Management Workbench and the Enterprise Report Writer.

Enterprise Report Writer has a lot more functionality than WorldWriter—of course this functionality is not "free." You have to get down and get technical with it. One area that is fairly technical for application people is Smart Fields. This article looks at customizing Smart Field column headings.

A Smart Field is a column or a cell in the report where JDE® has done some preprogramming for you. For example, when doing a financial report, you can set up a column and use a Smart Field called YTD through current period. What the system will do is add up the net change to all of the periods up to and including the current period.

Date Title Type	Language	Description	User ID
A		As of Date	GA5807541
B		Balance Sheet	GA5807541
P		Profit and Loss	GA5807541
S		Single Period	GA5807541

Figure 1. Date Titles

This will be done based on the period and year you choose when running the report. Without a Smart Field you would have to go into the column and tell it to add all the periods individually, and you would have to hard code it, i.e., you could not have a floating ytd function like the Smart Field has.

However, and this is a big point for those of you with a lot of financial reports—you would normally have to go into the Column Heading and change the year being reported on next year—this is a lot of work. In this tip, I'll show you how to "soft-code" your Smart Fields so that you don't have to change them every year.

Step 1 – Define the Custom Date Title

The first step in the process of setting up this particular type

of Smart Field (YTD through Current Period) is to define the date title that you will use. Go to menu G1041 (Financial Reporting Setup) and then select Date Title (P83100). After clicking Find, you will notice that there are four pre-defined Date Titles. (See Figure 1)

- As of Date
- Balance Sheet
- Profit and Loss
- Single Period

One of the nice features of the Date Title screen is that you can preview what the Date Title will look like. To do this, click the Preview Row Exit and fill in the following fields on the screen that appears next.

- Date Title Type
- Company
- Period Number
- Fiscal Year

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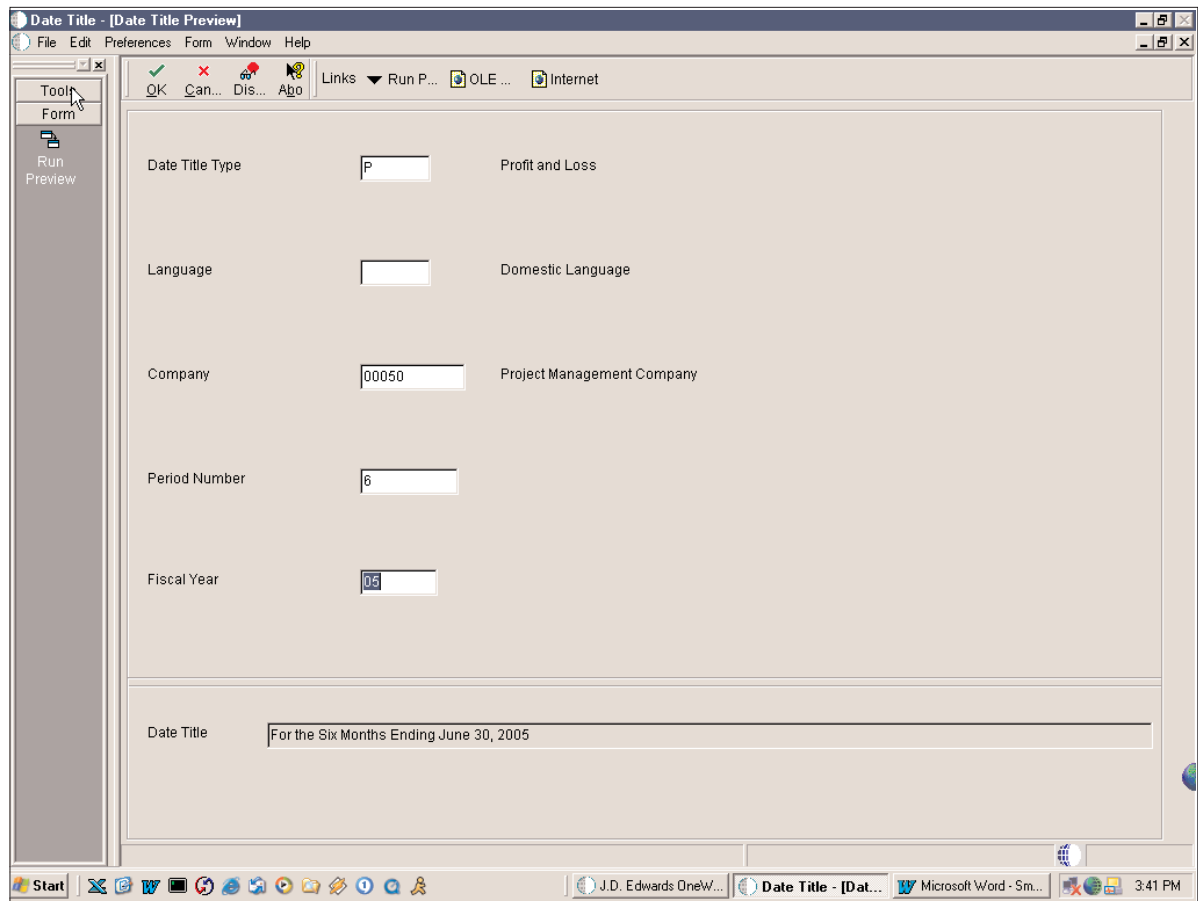


Figure 2. Date Title Preview Screen After Running Preview

After selecting the Run Preview Form Exit, the Date Title as it would appear on the report is shown at the bottom of the screen (See Figure 2).

As you can see in Figure 2, the Date Title for this period would read “For the Six Months Ending June 30, 2005.” What if you are in the field and your client has asked you for a title that would read “YTD For Six Periods Ended June 30, 2005” for a column on their Profit And Loss Statement? From the Date Title screen shown in Figure 1, you would select the Add button and then fill in the columns with the necessary information. It is important to note that there are some items that JDE has preprogrammed for the Date Title Function, and they all start with an “@”. Figure 3 (on the next page) is a listing of the “@” functions available to you.

Your client has

asked you for a title

that would read

"YTD For Six Periods

Ended June 30, 2005".

In setting up the Date Title, there can be up to 14 “Elements” to the date. You have the choice of hard coding the element or using the “@” functions. If you are going to use a combination of hard coding and “@” functions, it is important to note that you should not combine hard coding and “@” functions on the same element line. Figure 4 shows what you would do to set up the following date title: YTD For The XX Period Ended Month Date, Year. All of the elements except for the year are on this screen. The year element (@3) will be Element 8 on the second screen. Note that Element 7 is a “,” (comma). This is needed for the comma to show up in the Date Title.

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