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On Reporting, Query, and
Business Intelligence

Enterprise Report Writing: Subtotaling with the Tabular Section

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E1 Editor's Note: *So, you're using Enterprise Report Writer, and you want to subtotal in a tabular section. Seems simple enough, but is it really? As Penny Allen notes, "ease" in JDE® report writing only happens once you fully understand the dynamics involved. And with tabular sections, there's more than meets the eye. Penny demonstrates how tabular sections interact within the report and the best practices you'll want to follow in order to achieve the correct report output.*

Introduction

I'm often asked: How can I do subtotaling in a tabular section? Before I can answer what would appear to be a simple question, I'd like to provide you with an overview on this section type.

With the EnterpriseOne® Report Writing tool, ERW, there are seven section types. Four of them are self explanatory: Report Header, Page Header, Page Footer, and Report Footer. The three remaining section types are Columnar, Group, and Tabular. It is these last three section types to which you generally attach a business view in order to access and display data from a table(s). What differentiates the Columnar and Group sections is simply formatting. A Columnar section is fixed in format, and any data item inserted into the Columnar Section takes the form of a column. Group sections are very flexible in format, and data items can be placed anywhere you want. Examples of standard batch jobs utilizing a Group section(s) are the Purchase Order print program, Accounts Payable checks, Work Orders, Payroll checks, etc.

Tabular sections are fixed in format, and appear exactly like the Columnar Section. But the Tabular section is the only section that provides automatic totaling and complete spreadsheet functionality. With a Tabular section, you have column specs and row specs; therefore, you can get to the cell level to provide cell overrides for very specific calculations. The Tabular section is also the only section that supports Drill Down and Smart Fields.

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When they first start using a Tabular section, many report writers have trouble with the fact that you must define the row specs. The most straightforward method, albeit undesirable from a development strategy point of view, is to hard code the rows. If possible, however, the most dynamic and flexible way to define rows is to simply sequence and define level break objects. This way, nothing is hard coded, and rows (and totaling) can be changed easily by simply altering sequencing and level breaks. But let's consider that a financial report is reading through the Chart of Accounts Master File (F0901), and simply printing a row every time an account number changes; you quickly realize that this method of defining rows assumes a "perfect world" with respect to your COA master. And what's the likelihood of a perfect world? Hence the need for special totaling!



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Setting Level Break Objects

Let's start by looking at the output in Figure 1. The rows in this report are defined by setting the level break objects as shown in Figure 2. Notice that I am displaying the Object account in the Description column so that you can better understand my event rule logic.

Worldwide Company Conventional Trial Balance For the Six Months Ending June 30, 2005	
Description	YTD Actual
5010 Store Sales	8,204,473
5015 Wholesale Sales	(8,000)
5020 Direct Ship Sales	1,336,325
5030 Contract Sales	513,664
5040 Deferred Revenue	1,113
5050 Interplant Sales	5,465
5070 Less Sales Discounts	1,188
5080 Freight Out	40,093
5090 Service Sales	53,183
5202 Inter-Company Sales	486,550
5204 Training Revenue	341,696
5210 Other Revenue	35,812
6020 Prime Cost of Goods	5,933,218
6040 Freight	40,207
6200 Damage Credit/Writeoff	57,205
7450 Outside Operations	27,450
8315 Depr-Building & Improvement	8,950
8320 Depr-Office Furn/Equipment	4,786
8330 Insurance-General Liability	13,350
8336 Depreciation - Computer Equip	53,333
8350 Rent Expense	50,662
8355 Repair and Maintenance	23,975
8360 Telephone Expense	4,580
8370 Utilities Expense	4,455
8399 Bldg Contra Clearing Account	780

Figure 1: Output with Object Account and Subsidiary, Set as Level Break Objects

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