

Z File Processing Explained

By Paul Hanson

WE1 Editor's Note: Looking for the "Z" in "EZ"? Paul Hanson continues his quest to simplify JD Edwards for your technical staff. This issue, he presents a case for the Z-file process that already exists in both EnterpriseOne or World. With his overview and real-life example, Paul shows how this interface can make transferring data between an external system and JD Edwards a lot "EZ-er" than you think! Better yet, it uses a process already available in the system!

Introduction

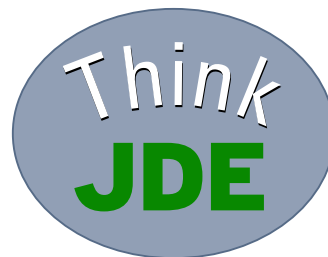
A lot of my past articles have focused on custom integrations between third party applications and key JD Edwards application modules, including: Accounts Payable, Bank Account Reconciliation, Payroll Timecards, Bill of Material (BOM) changes, Work Order processing, Sales Order Management, and General Ledger. Whenever possible, I always use an existing Z file process.

In addition to interfaces, these same Z file processes outlined below can be used to convert your non-JD Edwards data into JD Edwards during an implementation. This is a great way to make sure your external data is validated and edited before it is written into the JD Edwards database.

My intention with this article is to give you an overview of the Z file processes that are available in both EnterpriseOne and World and the reasons you would use them. I will also present a more detailed example of the use of one of them to further illustrate the reasons to use Z file processes.

Business Case

The purpose of any interface is to move data between an external system and JD Edwards. Many large organizations use other software applications in addition to their ERP system. If they are large enough or are a global operation, they may even use more than one brand of ERP.



So you need to import data into JD Edwards, but you're not sure how to go about validating the incoming data. If we "Think JDE", then we will know that JD Edwards has developed many interoperability solutions including Z File Processes. If we use what is already available, the data will be validated to JD Edwards' standards and take advantage of existing business rules.

Usually, the data is moved using one of the following methods:

- File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- Direct folder-to-folder copy across the network
- DTS (Data Transformation Services)
- Data replication
- Data transformation middleware (DataMirror, Mercator, Tibco)

Even if you are already moving your data with one of the methods above, remember to avoid populating the production JD Edwards files directly. There are many system edits that need to be performed to ensure data integrity.

We'll assume for the purposes of this article that the method of moving the data has already been established and that the only components of the interface solution left undone are the editing, validation, and insertion of the data into the production JD Edwards database.

Remember that the processes described here are not related to EDI processes in any way. The EDI processes are similar in that you populate a file or table and then run a program or UBE to populate the transaction tables. However, EDI offers some added functionality over and above what you can find with Z files. Simply put, Z files are a simple alternative to EDI with much of the same data editing that EDI offers.

Z File Process Overview

A typical Z file process flow consists of six main components:

- The source data or interface file
- A program or UBE that populates the Z file
- The Z file itself
- The batch processor program or UBE
- An edit/error report
- The transaction files or tables

Figure 1 illustrates the flow:

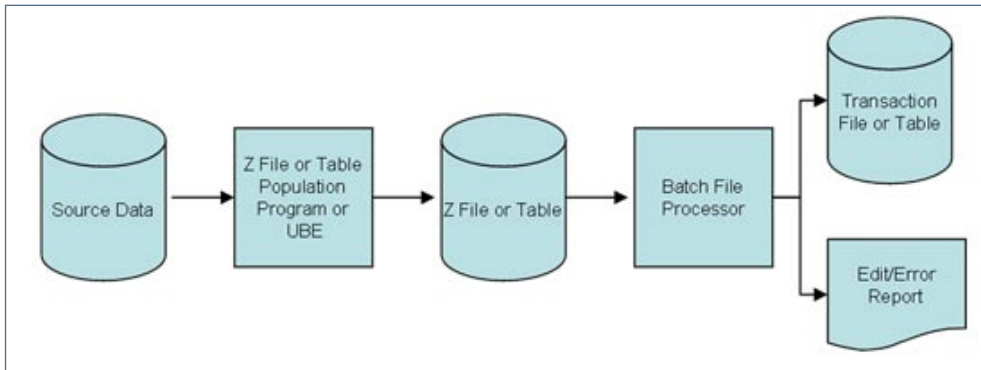


Figure 1 – Z File Batch Process Flow

Figure 2 shows some of the most commonly used Z file processes. The UBE name (for EnterpriseOne) or the program name (for World) that runs each process is shown, along with the file or table names that are associated with each Z file process.

The source data can either be imported into the Z file or it can be manually entered via a JD Edwards application. These applications can be found on the advanced operations menus in both EnterpriseOne and World. If you are using EnterpriseOne, you can format the source data in Excel and paste it into the application grid. This proves to be very useful and can eliminate the need to develop a UBE to import the data into the Z file.

Address Book Batch Upload

The Address Book Batch Upload is normally used to perform an initial population of the address book during an implementation. But, it can also be used to import records from an external system on an ongoing basis. In addition to ‘add’ transaction, the Address Book Batch Upload also accommodates an ‘update’ transaction. This Z file process also populates Supplier Master (F0401) and Customer Master (F0301) records.

Batch Contact Information (EnterpriseOne Only)

The Batch Contact Information process is similar to the Address Book Batch process. It is normally used for initial population, but can also be used to interface with a non-

JD Edwards system on an ongoing basis. This process populates Who’s Who information and is specific to EnterpriseOne.

Batch Invoice Processor

If your invoices are created in an external system, this Z file process gives you what you need to import those invoices into your JD Edwards Financials. It will only process open invoices,

not paid or partially paid invoices.

Voucher Batch Processor

If you create vouchers using an external system and need to transfer them to JD Edwards, this should be the tool of choice. This Z file pro-

Process Description	EnterpriseOne		World	
	UBE Name	Tables Used	Program Name	Files Used
Address Book Batch Upload	R01010Z	F0101Z1	P0110Z	F0101Z1 F0301Z1 F0401Z1 F0101 F0301 F0401
Batch Contact Information (EnterpriseOne Only)	R011110Z	F01111Z1 F01112Z1 F0111Z1 F01151Z1 F01161Z1	N/A	N/A
Batch Invoice Processor	R03B11Z11	F03B11Z1 F03B13Z1 F0911Z1	P03110Z	F0311Z1 F0911Z1 F0311 F0911
Voucher Batch Processor	R04110ZA	F0411Z1	P04110Z F0911Z1	F0411Z1 F0911Z1 F0411 F0413 F0414 F0911
Batch Time Entry Processor	R05116Z11	F06116Z1	P06110Z	F06116Z1 F06116
Journal Entry Batch Processor	R09110Z	F0911Z1	P09110Z	F0911Z1 F0911
Batch Sales Order Entry	R40211Z	F4201 F4211	P40211Z	F4201 F4211

Figure 2 – Popular Z File Processes

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