

Questions from the Java Break session



JB Q & A - "Transforming Your BBx Data Output in a Jiffy"

1. Can the document be auto-saved so that no user input is needed?

A. *Absolutely yes, you can do that in the same way that Barista does it...programmatically. The archiving option is also under the programmer's control so you can archive your document automatically per the mandatory legal requirements you want to meet. In addition, users can also save their own copy in a location of their choice.*

2. With the server options, do we need to install BBj Services on the client machine?

A. *There is no need to install BBj Services on the client. At TechCon2011, we demonstrated how to run in a 'green screen' terminal emulation environment or just a 'green screen' dumb terminal and invoke XCALL on the server. Since XCALL executes on the server, there is no UI taking place. If you are running Visual PRO/5, then you have the option to execute BBj programs on the client in a BBj window. Thin client BBj needs to be installed on the desktop. Web Start can facilitate remote installation via a click on a URL.*

3. Is there a way to archive statements/invoices created with iReport?

A. *Absolutely, yes. You have programmatic control so it is really up to you as to how you construct the iReport output format and where you save it. Your choices with iReport are to either show the report in the BBjJasper Viewer and save it to disk, or save it to disk and view it.*

4. Can you specify a 'save' to different disks (i.e. network drives)?

A. *Yes. As just mentioned, you have programmatic control so the full resources of the programming language are available to you. Therefore, the network drives that you have specified under your configuration that are accessible to the programmer are thereby accessible to the auto-save and/or the user's own save options. In the demo, we showed saving to the Google Doc drive and to the local disk.*

5. Does iReport work for BUI? If so, what are limitations for BUI?

A. *In the session, we demonstrated BBjJasper running the iReport Statement print in BUI inside a browser. We re-wrote BBjJasper to be pure BBj so that we could run in BUI. BBjJasper (the viewer) can then present an iReport in a browser. The BASIS Advantage article [The Beauty of Charts and Graphs in BUI](#) shows you how to work around some constraints that might exist for client-side objects that can't run in BUI. The article shows how we save the chart off to a PDF and pop it up in an HTML viewer on the desktop.*

6. Do we have to purchase Barista to use DocOut?

A. Yes, you would purchase as many Barista feature lines as you expect to consume concurrently for your reporting. So, depending upon the application and how much printing will be done, you might add a Barista feature to approximately 10% of your user count.

7. Does iReport require DocOut?

A. No, iReport does not require DocOut. However, we have given you the ability to customize the BBJasper Viewer, which is what we use to view the iReport. When we say that you can customize it, we mean that you can add the same icons that appear in DocOut to give you the similar functionality that DocOut provides. There are some features that the BBJasper Viewer has that DocOut may not have and vice versa. We've tried to make them as compatible as possible from a UI perspective. So depending on your choices as to which output you require, you can use the two interchangeably and your user experience will be similar.

8. When printing customer statements, can I autosave each customer "section" under a predetermined type of name (IE Cust#_yearmoda)?

A. Yes, certainly you can do that. We show some good examples of these choices in our product demos. The next time you download our product, check the box for AddonSoftware and launch the demos to see how they handle tasks like running statements. You can specify "email" output for one particular customer, "fax" to another customer, and "print" for yet another customer. So yes, you can specify by the customer on one statement print run the specific method of delivery they require. Similarly, in your code, you can determine that you wish to save each customer statement with a different name. You would have separate print streams or reports per customer rather than one long run.

9. When are the version 12.0 enhancements forthcoming, over and above the version 11.0 feature set?

A. Go to our documentation online and enter an Index search for the words "BBj 12". You will see a list of all the upcoming "preview" 12.0 features that are documented. This is also a useful way to keep track of changes in prior versions. One of the other features in version 12 is a fantastic improvement to the table analysis that is just now being added into the nightly builds.

10. When creating that 5-page report, can I auto-save it as a 2-page, 3-page, and 1-page, for each customer, without having to run the report for each customer?

A. Yes, you can generate them as separate reports.

11. What would be the best way to populate a calendar in Outlook?

A. The MS Office POI, an open source Java library, may offer you some interface choices. We used this library to populated the Excel and Word formatted output.

12. Which version of iReport is supported?

A. The current BBj version 11.11 supports iReport 4.1 and we will support the iReport version current at the time of the release of the next version of BBj, for example, the nightly builds support version 4.5. We strive to stay current, so when we have a BBj release, we incorporate

the version of iReport that was current at the time of our release candidate (RC) status. The later the version of BBj, the better because it supports a more recent version of iReport.

13. Can the language in the DocOut objects be internationalized?

A. Yes, we do have internationalization of the DocOut object since it is a component of Barista and Barista itself is available in seven different languages.

14. Please review the licensing implications of using DocOut. Does it require Barista?

A. Yes, Barista is required since DocOut will consume a Barista feature line during the period of its invocation. So for example, if you are in a BBj program running via Thin Client, you would be consuming a BBj Enterprise Edition license. You then decide to invoke the DocOut object and for that period of time it will check out the Barista feature line, no additional license is consumed. You can have a different user count for your Barista feature line versus your umbrella BASIS license. So you may have a 50 user BASIS license and you may require 5 Barista feature lines to allow for concurrent invocations of DocOut. In terms of pricing, we do have the option to move to an expiring license, a consumption rental-type license, where we waive the upfront cost of Barista entirely and you merely pay for the annual SAM on your selected features.

15. Is iReport usable with pure PRO/5, 10-year-old data with no ODBC?

A. The answer is Yes! You would need to be running the latest version of PRO/5 (no reason to change your code) that supports XCALL. XCALL is a verb much like CALL, the only difference being that you would XCALL a BBj program rather than CALLing a PRO/5 program. BBj could be running on the server. When your 'green screen' or 'dumb' terminals execute the XCALL verb, that will execute on the server and will generate the output and save it in the format that you want. When you design the iReport initially you would be using a developer's license - a current license to support BBj. When you deploy, you can do so with pure PRO/5 and then access your 10-year-old data without any data dictionary. We used a Stored Procedure in today's example - which is merely a BBx program that we've written with READ RECORD syntax. There was no SQL involved. That Stored Procedure would also run on the server-side and would deliver up the data to iReport as if it were an SQL-resultset even though there were no data dictionary.

16. What was the first version of BBj to incorporate iReport?

A. BBj version 9 was when the iReport functionality was added so it has been available for several years. Since then, BBjJasper has been rewritten in pure BBj code, removing the Java code, in order to facilitate BASIS' browser user interface.

17. What is needed to run iReport?

A. You will need SQL access to your data. If you have READ/WRITE RECORD access you can use our Stored Procedure structures which are contained in the BASIS database under BBj's control. Your choices for the interpreters would be PRO/5, Visual PRO/5, or BBj though if you want to view it on your desktop, you will need to run BBj on the desktop.

18. What about the ODBC connection?

A. *There is no requirement to use the BBJ database, but the ODBC driver is a BBJ-ODBC driver which will give you the best access. ODBC needs to use a data dictionary definition. If you do not have a data dictionary definition, a stored procedure will run in the BBJ database and you can call the stored procedure as you would any other SQL. You would use SQL CALL*

19. Is PRO/5 and ODBC enough to run iReport?

A. *You could use PRO/5 at the interpreter level, but the recommendation would be to use the BBJ database. Remember you can mix-and-match our interpreters.*

20. I moving my development from PRO/5 to BBJ. What is the best way to print my reports?

A. *We have demonstrated several options in this session for printing reports and we believe that Barista is the quickest way to get there. Of course, you don't need Barista to use the iReport. It can function with a Standard BBJ license and the BBJasper utility that is provided with BBJ. iReports gives you the most aesthetically pleasing reports with hyperlinks. You also have the ability in the language to use the mnemonics to do graphics and drawing styles and the BBJForm object, the object-oriented method of using Java objects to construct a very complex report. We added new functionality to the SYSPRINT in standard BBJ, your PRINT@ statement can now output to PDF without any program changes.*