

Re: Is a General File Maintenance Routine possible?

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Cobol/comp.lang.cobol/2004-09/1086.html>

From: Tom Morrison (t.morrison_at_liant.com)

Date: 09/17/04

Date: Fri, 17 Sep 2004 21:13:53 GMT

"Robert Wagner" <robert@wagner.net.yourmammaharvests> wrote in message news:5samk09shog31hem7ccpipiohi6bht8u6i@4ax.com...

[snip]

> *IBM mainframers may be interested to know the ODBC driver also*
> *provides access to MVS files.*

If this is meant to say that Relativity is available for MVS files on a mainframe, this is no longer true. That product has been withdrawn from the market. If you came to this conclusion from our marketing materials on the web, please tell me where (I didn't see any mainframe references in a quick review).

There **do** exist ODBC drivers for MVS files from other companies. They are not as feature rich as Relativity (see below) in my estimation (but I stopped evaluating these products several years ago).

>

>> *For the truly self-abusive, you may find additional interest in the US*

>> *Patent 5,826,076,*

>> <http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=/netacgi/srchnum>.

>

> *I skimmed it wondering about Prior Art. People have been accessing 3GL*

> *files via ODBC for many years. The patent is about the Relativity*

> *schema format and tools that maintain it.*

Of course, prior art is acknowledged in the patent disclosure and the twenty-three claims speak for themselves, assuming one can interpret patent-ese. The advances of the art are significant in the area of dealing with, for lack of a better term, automatic normalization of typical COBOL data structures and data definition practices.

Tom Morrison