

What's in Ffenics v 1.21 Quickfix

Introduction

At the end of the Ffenics 1.2 release process, it became evident that there were a number of rarely encountered (but irritating) problems that could use our attention. Since they were not so severe as to counteract the numerous improvements in 1.2, it was decided to release that version and follow up with a quick release to attend to these issues.

In the month this has taken, some other issues also came to light, and they have been incorporated in this release.

Changes:

- Ffenics no longer hangs when printing a document definition.
- Dynamic Lookup (Ctrl-F10) no longer fails to display first column. It re-sizes the dialog to get as much of the looked-up table on screen as possible
- Copy Special and Paste are no longer limited to 64k. It has been tested up to 300,000 records. Messages have been added to give some idea of progress when copying.
- You can now cut and paste fields onto a page header/footer.
- The 'hide' option has been added to Object Display properties. This will hide both in record entry and report modes. It can be overridden by script.
- The 'Don't Print' option has been fixed so that items flagged are included in the data extraction for the print run, and thus can be summarised etc., This flag only affects report output (anything 'printed' even if print to file or print to window), and it cannot be overridden from script.
- The inadvertent internal limit on lock table removed – this was the local table that keeps track of locks placed by that session. Caused GPF when 60,000 or so locks were placed (Lock records lock records, for example).
- An **IMPORTANT** but obscure problem that generated duplicate RDRR records when editing forms in multi-user mode has been resolved. (Multi-user mode – Ffenics set for network locking and database not locked). This could have

multiple results – **forms apparently losing their data files, forms gpf'ing on opening, 'ghost forms' (deleted but still 'there' in some way), form changes being partly saved, or further changes not being able to be saved at all.** The problem was triggered when a normal error (e.g. a syntax error in a derivation), while saving, required reverting to the in-memory version of the form. It was compounded because the error message on further saves was incorrect, thus setting everyone off on the wrong track whilst problem-solving. **The fix will recover existing damaged forms in many cases. If you still have ghost forms please contact tech support for advice on removing them!**

- There were numerous places where summary (band) headers and footers were being treated differently from page headers and footers for no plausible reason. The only differences should be that when they are triggered for printing, and where the right hand margin is set. **Reminder** – normally you should use summary headers and footers as report page headers and footers, except where you expect the report to be wider than your paper.
- 'Print' was sometimes calling 'Paint' by accident – this had the effect of defeating print time options such as 'Don't Print'.
- The Runtime (RT) Gpf when concat function had unmatched brackets. This should have been caught at compile time and now is.
- RT Gpf when certain kinds of scripts tried to operate on forms with more than 400 records (maximum no of pages held in memory in the MultiView).
- Print Converter – all options are now available additionally at runtime. Default 'what to do if file exists' has been changed to 'add date and time'; the error message has been removed from the 'overwrite' option. **IMPORTANT: Please check any existing output to the Print Converter to make sure it retains your desired behaviour for this option – you may need to reset it and resave the document.**
- There have been some fixes to documents that 'auto close' – procedures and reports other than live reports. This is so as to avoid heap corruption and memory leaks. It is not normally visible to the user but responsible for some cases of 'instability'.
- 'Convert to DQL' did not flag the document as dirty, and so it was possible to exit with the conversion partially saved – you now must save changes before exiting.
- Resource handle leakage from status bar has been fixed. Showed as screen corruption after many documents were opened and closed rapidly, but also would occur after user had been in Ffenics for long periods.

- You can now mix MultiBoxes and memo fields in a subform, in table view, without causing a GPF.
- Fixed memory leaks in memo fields.

Relayout / Layout Editor:

- Steps have been taken to prevent the script editor and layout editor getting out of sync when changing objects or changing between headers/footers/body.
- The ‘Create new layout and merge changes’ option has been removed as it is no longer required. (Merging changes with an old layout works more successfully.)
- Further fixes have been made to the re-linking process –there is now improved re-linking of header/footer fields.
- All DT viewing options are now refreshed after a re-layout (show field outlines etc.,)
- An attempt is now made to pass up the previous form layout when re-layout adds a new outer form – the DQL Scheduler, for example.
- Scrollbars are no longer added to objects on report / procedure layouts (except Live Reports).
- Temp/Global variables have their display attributes retained on a re-layout unless you add or remove a form. Even if you do, their data connection is reinstated, although at that point the display info is reset to default.
- Temp/Global fields now default to a shorter display length which should result in less layout adjustment.
- New bug that tended to junk form layouts when reinserting fields from the data model – this has now been now fixed.
- Also new in 1.2 was a bug that caused re-layouts on non-procedures to not ‘take’ – this has also been fixed.
- Auto title is now set to off by default.
- The restrictions on placing fields where you like on the layout body have been removed – this does not always mean they will produce data at runtime, however. Nor it is a bug when they do not do so – if you are

using this facility you must think about where data is to come from and when you want it generated.

- LOV fields in headers/footers are now preserved and re-linked after re-layout (**Note:** Summary variables are not preserved if you 'create new' – this is by design as summary variables are simply a flag on the parent field in the body and you will have discarded those fields with the old layout).
- Proper default justification is now applied to fields which appear on the body as the result of calculations in the DQL 'list records' statement.
- 'Container Labels' have been completely re-implemented to avoid causing a partial re-layout when they are turned off and on. They now are superimposed (rather like tooltips) and have no effect on the layout at all. They can be clicked through to get at objects they may have hidden. The side of the label attached to the parent object is 'open' – no border – to help sort out what they are labelling in complex cases.

Script Editor:

- All object browser pick list options now appear on the relevant menus.
- All the pick list buttons now correctly synchronise with their displayed state.
- The option to enter the script editor from the menu is now greyed out except in Procedures – it accidentally fell through to 'convert to DQL'.
- Minor display inconsistencies between different pick lists have been ironed out.

Exports:

DQL Export:

- We have removed page break and attendant header/footer processing from DQL export to improve performance, along with the removal of surplus messages for the same reasons.
- Added a record counter to avoid impression of export 'going to sleep'.
- Export to null was needlessly attempting to open a output file with no name – this caused a substantial delay while waiting for a timeout.

- Fixed Gpf where pointers were being used after a realloc – this is normally encountered with a large number of records, but could be at any time and thus be put down as ‘instability’.
- We have cleaned up PRISM level processing loops for performance to try to regain speed lost in correctly processing group headers/trailers.

UI Export:

- Now has internal flag (like DQL Export) to inform PRISM what is occurring – this should make future debugging/enhancement of this feature much easier.

Both types:

- No longer lock records unless ‘set shared locks in list records’ is on.
- Optimised file caching for better performance.

Web Elements:

Transformer:

- Will now correctly access documents over an OLEDB or ODBC link.
- No longer Gpf’s after error messages.

Hub:

- Now displays subforms in table view and reports correctly.

Customizer:

- Can now disable all default buttons including logoff and subform navigation. **Reminder** – customisation is lost on republishing an application.

Release Notes:

The following known problems remain:

- The cutting and pasting of image fields is broken.
- The concatenate option in Document Print Options for converter output remains unavailable.
- The Relationships form needs slight adjustment to fit better on an 800x600 screen.
- The parameter to Help Search doesn't work – see MS article KB241381
- The default delimiter is not set correctly for CSV type on import/export screen (when first in).
- Scrollbars on subforms that are on tabs don't always paint.
- Additionally, the 'Help Menus' and 'Help Toolbar' actions are obsolete but still appear in the actions dialog.
- The 2000 table limit in OLEDB / ODBC remains. The process for creating a native form from a remote table needs to be simplified.
- Re-layout – there is still work in progress to improve the decision making in this complex process – please report anything you feel is an anomaly and we will continue to refine this feature.