

What's in ffenics v 1.6

Introduction

Ffenics 1.6 contains further interface improvements and some important functional changes, particularly concerned with preventing conflicting changes to documents.

There is the usual sprinkling of bug fixes, as well as attending to a small but very important selection of issues reported by new, old and very advanced users! Some of these have been a nuisance for a very long time.

There have also been improvements to the migration tool.

Changes

Functional changes:

- Various defaults for new applications have been altered (many were actually defaulting incorrectly due to inadequate checking of the .ini files we ship).
 - Run mode - Clear form after save record
 - Design mode - Show dots (8DPI)
 - Basic toolbar
 - Large icons
 - Images – Maintain aspect ratio
 - System forms – not visible.
- Default Run mode toolbars have been revised to be more logical.
- Extra DT tools (actions/menu options) added:
 - Go to script or query editor from toolbar
 - Next/previous script
 - Next/previous *altered* script.
- When creating a non-data-connected Visual Object, you no longer see the 'definition' – actually rename – dialog. It is still available on a right click but it should be less frequently required as a new algorithm for duplicate name resolution should result in more sensible names for such objects..

- The product should now always be in INS mode.
- Minor adjustments to various dialogs, several error messages made more informative.
- Button on Workstation Preferences to clear down the ‘recent applications’ on the Welcome screen.
- Obsolete import/export types removed
- Imports from DataEase can now handle standard dates.

General Fixes:

- The dot grid in Design mode has been rewritten to draw faster, however it is still too slow on densities smaller than 8 dpi.
- Grid Lines now always draw (have been given their own pen to avoid them being invisible).
- Subform in table view – fields are now created in the order they are in the underlying table (as opposed to the reverse order).
- Import dialog now accepts paths and file names with spaces.
- Sorts with large numbers of the same value no longer GPF.
- Save As on procedure body now does what it is supposed to.
- Relational operators (e.g. Sum Of, CountOf) now work on Aspects – previously in some cases they were only counting visible records, for example in an Aspect that was in table layout (as opposed to Table View).
Note: This doesn't mean they will be able to count new subform records that have been saved by other users or by scripts while the current user is browsing a record – that needs a refresh still.
- Multibox:
 - Improvements to definition dialog, in particular you can no longer have both ‘Hide bound field’ and ‘Override’
 - Confusion between relationships and forms when changing from ‘direct’ to ‘relational’ lookup and vice versa now fixed.
- Mistake in superstring handling logic fixed – would sometimes return a full match when in reality only a partial match was achieved. This actually

is the second fix to Multibox above, but I list it separately as it may affect other behaviour too.

- Background images now correctly respect 'stretch to fit' and 'size to fit' options.
- You can now directly enter a LongText field length of greater than 999. There are some other minor adjustments to defaults on the Field Defn. dialog.
- Adding a script to a form or aspect with no fields no longer GPF's.
- Migrate now removes obsolete Long:Text flag. (Sometimes was still attached to DFW memo fields where these had originally been converted from DFD Long:Text)
- Migrate no longer displays error messages over the top of the display telling you which document it is working on (!)
- Catalog now goes to the document above the doc you deleted on a delete, and redisplaying is somewhat reduced.
- Duplicate name resolution rewritten – now goes Button1, Button2 etc and copes with long names correctly – also has error checking!
- A failure to display certain kinds of subform in Design mode has been fixed.
- Misguided caching of memo fields that led to corrupt records has been changed, but it will be less efficient (for now, until I have the time to rewrite it.)
- More Info reports now (mostly) display what document they are working on.
- Cut and paste GPF on label with invalid association fixed.
- Fix to the dialog that appears when you can't find an image – now defaults to the first path in the image search paths (if any).
- Metric dates now work with months beyond September
- The System Configuration form is now correctly aligned. Note that many of the values in this form are either in internal format or are no longer used - for all normal purposes you should set these values through the appropriate dialogs.

'Haunted' documents.

General note. Most (not all) of the damaged documents I have encountered have been a legacy of past – sometimes long past – versions which has not been weeded out in migrations or upgrades. Migration does try to clean documents as well as migrate them, but the possibilities for minor damage to a document that may spread after future saves are pretty much infinite.

So the fixes below are a combination of measures to deal more helpfully with damaged documents from the past, and to prevent any further damage happening in the future. Previous fixes address this problem as well, in particular the introduction some time ago of stack overflow checking in the Runtime recalculation stack.

- The locking intended to stop two people making conflicting changes to a document's definition has been made to actually work.
- There is now locking when a document is actually saved to stop:
 - A user opening a document in Run mode while a save of that document is actually in progress.
 - A designer saving a Form document while the Form's data is actually in use by another user. (If there are changes to the Form's data definition, that is). This didn't so much haunt documents as callously murder them.
- Error checking added to the code that relinks data to objects after a layout to avoid the new code for variables/virtuals/LOV's from GPF'ing or causing other damage on an invalid object or link.
- Error checking added to layout reconstruction layouts on a document load.
- The duplicate name processing was incorrectly producing over length names which produce buffer overruns that would corrupt a document.
- Code introduced to realign temporary variables in scripts.
- Can no longer create a document name with a trailing space (this affected internal comparisons and searches – as only some were affected by it you would get oddities like fields found in some places and not others).
- Cumulative lengthening of the image file search path could cause a buffer overrun and hence GPF's or other damage on documents with images.
- **NOTE:** If you delete a script it remains important to recompile the script and make sure it is deleted. In particular, white space may remain and can confuse the product. If the script is successfully deleted it will be 'unbolded'.

Release Notes:

The following known problems remain:

- Initial display of Help screen often goes off bottom of screen.
- The concatenate option in Document Print Options for Converter output remains unavailable.
- Sometimes the Catalog info for a document is not updated on a save – usually because the catalog's data (the Application Objects Form) is in use by another user when the save takes place.
- If you hide the bound value in a Multibox, it is possible for the user by tabbing or arrowing around to sometimes get in and edit the value even though override is not permitted.
- The parameter to Help Search doesn't work – see MS article KB241381
- Convert to DQL does not always produce DQL that conforms to best-practice syntax rules – in rare cases this results in scripts that need editing before they produce correct results.
- The '+' boxes in the catalog that indicate more information quite often appear when there is no more information – this is a Windows misfeature.
- It is possible to have a derivation on a Multibox. This sometimes causes GPF's or other weird behaviour. It can sometimes be worked around by adding the derivation first before the visual control is changed to a Multibox.
- Text on buttons sometimes misaligns in design view.