Web Development - General

Easy Web Reports and Documents with JODReports 🏅

Would you like to be able to provide your users or customers with PDF reports and documents via a web interface? Looking for a low cost or no cost solution, involving minimal programming? JODReports is an open source solution that allows you to define report templates in a word processor supporting the Open Document Text (ODT) standard. You can easily design a document using Open Office Writer, and specify variable fields that can receive data from your IBM i applications. Single page documents such as invoices, order confirmations, statements, work orders, etc., as well as database reports are easily merged with data supplied as XML, and the resulting document can be retrieved as PDF, which can be delivered immediately to a web user to be viewed, printed, saved, or sent as an email attachment. You can also add simple scripting within your document to conditionally display parts of a document based on a test expression, repeat a document portion (e.g. a table row), and more. Setup is simple, and requires a windows server to run OpenOffice as a service, plus a Tomcat web server to run the JODReports jar file, both of which are free and easy to install.

Come to this presentation and learn how to generate PDF reports and documents dynamically, with no licensing costs! In this session we will use a PHP script to call JODReports, but any language that can generate XML and can process an HTTP request/response can make use of this free tool.

SQL Stored Procedures and Application Modernization 🏅

Among the many modernization technologies available on IBM i, SQL is perhaps the one best known by RPG developers. This session won't focus on how to write SQL statements, but rather how to write scripts that combine SQL statements together into procedures that encapsulate database access and core business logic for use in a myriad of modern applications. We'll discuss how stored procedures fit into a modernization strategy, and why they are such a good fit for RPG programmers who want to participate in modernization projects. They're also a great fit for anyone new to IBM I who needs access to its database for applications in PHP, Java, Crystal Reports, IBM Web Query, Excel, Web Services, conversion projects, etc.

SQL is often embedded in other languages, such as RPG, PHP, Java, etc. But IBM provides the SQL Procedure Language (SQL/PL), which can be used to code complex or multiple SQL statements into procedures that can form the backbone of a service oriented architecture. These procedures can be called from any programming language. This can simplify the database access code in PHP, Java, and other host languages, while taking full advantage of DB2-specific SQL features.

Come and learn about the many features and benefits of SQL stored procedures, how to code them, and how to use them in your modernization strategy.