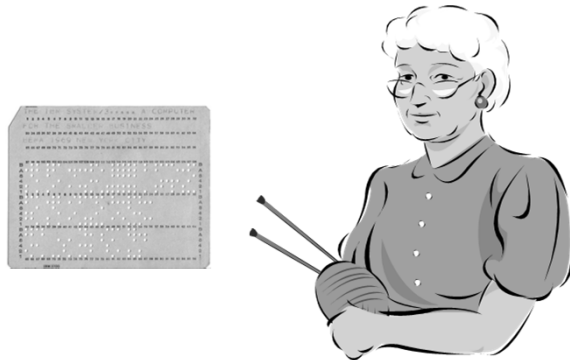


**Get With The Program!
It's Not Your Grandma's RPG Anymore**



Charles Guarino

Twitter @charlieguarino
Central Park Data Systems, Inc.

About The Speaker

With an IT career spanning over 30 years, Charles Guarino has been a consultant for most of them. Since 1995 he has been founder and President of Central Park Data Systems, Inc., a New York area based IBM midrange consulting company. In addition to being a professional speaker, he is a frequent contributor of technical and strategic articles and webcasts for the IT community. He is a proud member of COMMON's Speaker Excellence Hall of Fame and also Long Island Software and Technology Network's Twenty Top Techies of 2009. Charles currently serves as a member of COMMON's Strategic Education Team (SET) and is also Immediate Past President and monthly Q&A host of LISUG, a Long Island IBM i User's Group www.lisug.org. Charles can be reached at cguarino@centralparkdata.com. LinkedIn - <http://www.linkedin.com/in/guarinocharles> Twitter - @charlieguarino

The Evolution of a Computer Language

Free Form RPG

RPG Open Access

RPG IV

RPG 400

RPG III

RPG II

RPG



What's the BIG news?

Converted H, F, D and P specs
to free-form.

/Free and /End-free are no longer
required and are ignored
by the compiler.

Works with any technology refresh of 7.1

File and Declaration specs can be intermingled.

Integrated new free-form enhancements into RDi.

WOW!

What's important to know?

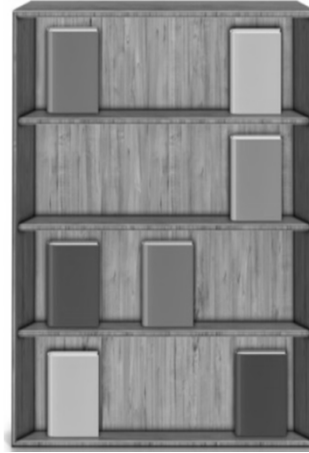
Statements always end with a semi-colon.

Free form calculations remain unchanged.

Source must be between columns 8 and 80.

I and O specs remain fixed format.

Can intermingle free form with fixed format.



What about the changes?

Works with ANY Technology Refresh of i7.1

Is NOT OS backward compatible – must be TGTRLS(*CURRENT).

**Available with PTF SI51094 or later.
SQL Pre-Compiler available with DB2 PTF Group SF99701 level 26**



Immediate Benefits

White Space

Non-RPG Programmers can understand

Code looks more modern



Can you figure out what these are?

CTL-OPT

DCL-F

DCL-S

DCL-DS

DCL-C

DCL-PR

DCL-PI

DCL-SUBF

DCL-PARM

DCL-PROC



Can you figure out what these are?

CTL-OPT	control options – “H” spec
DCL-F	defines a file
DCL-S	defines a standalone field
DCL-DS	defines a data structure
DCL-C	defines a constant
DCL-PR	defines a prototype
DCL-PI	defines a procedure interface
DCL-SUBF	defines a subfield (<i>mostly optional</i>)
DCL-PARM	optional
DCL-PROC	defines a procedure

Control specifications – KEY Points

CTL-OPT replaces H in column 6

Can be specified without any parameters.

Identical values from traditional H spec.

If keywords ACTGRP, BNDDIR or STGMDL are specified then DFACTGRP(*NO) is assumed.



Control specifications (cont.)

Data Area Control Specifications

During program compilation a control spec is searched for in this sequence:

One included in your source code (including /copy)

A data area name RPGLEHSPEC in your library list

A data area named DFTLEHSPEC in library QRPGL

Control specifications (cont.)

Before:

```
H bnmdir('UTILITIES' : 'QC2LE') dftactgrp(*no) actgrp('QILE')  
H option(*srcstmt : *nodebugio) debug(*input)
```

After:

```
ctl-opt bnmdir('UTILITIES' : 'QC2LE') dftactgrp(*no) actgrp('QILE')  
option(*srcstmt: *nodebugio) debug(*input);
```

File specifications – KEY Points

DCL-F replaces F in column 6

Has some new built-in assumptions

Unless otherwise noted:

All files are assumed to be *DISK* files

All files are assumed to be *INPUT*

File are assumed to be *externally* defined



File specifications – A breakdown

Usage keywords:

*INPUT (default, not required)

*UPDATE (assumes INPUT)

*OUTPUT

*DELETE

(New! Implies *INPUT and UPDATE)

*UPDATE is not sufficient if you need to delete records
You MUST also specify *DELETE

File specifications – Specify usage(*delete) to delete records

```
dcl-f custmast2 keyed usage(*update);
```

```
delete (01:123) custmast2;
```

```
RNF5198: File in Factor 2 is not allowed for UPDATE or DELETE operation.
```

```
*inlr = *on;  
return;
```

File specifications – A breakdown

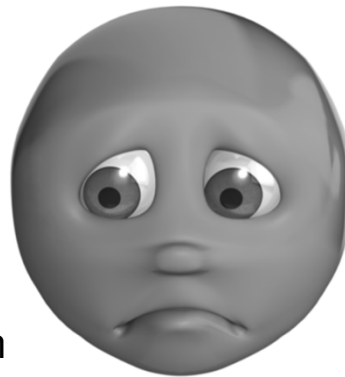
What is NOT supported?

“IP” and “UP” – Primary files

“IS” and “US” – Secondary files

“IT” and “CT” – Table files

“O A” – Output with file addition



File specifications (cont.)

These are all the same to the compiler:

Before:

```
fcustmast if e      k disk
```

After:

```
dcl-f custmast disk(*ext) usage(*input) keyed; - OR -
```

```
dcl-f custmast disk usage(*input) keyed; - OR -
```

```
dcl-f custmast usage(*input) keyed; - OR -
```

```
dcl-f custmast keyed;
```

File specifications (cont.)

Before:

```
* Custmast using procedure 'readproc' in service program 'DISKSVCPGM'  
fcustmast if e      k disk handler('DISKSVCPGM(readproc)')
```

After:

```
// Custmast using procedure 'readproc' in service program 'DISKSVCPGM'  
dcl-f custmast keyed handler('DISKSVCPGM(readproc)');
```

File specifications (cont.)

Before:

```
* itemmast with ability to input and update and ADD records
fitemmast uf a e          k disk  extdesc('devlib/itemmast')
f                          extfile(*extdesc)
f                          extmbr(production)
```

After:

```
dcl-f itemmast usage(*update:*output) keyed
extdesc('devlib/itemmast') extfile(*extdesc) extmbr(production);
```

- OR -

```
dcl-f itemmast  usage(*update:*output)
                keyed
                extdesc('devlib/itemmast')
                extfile(*extdesc)
                extmbr(production);
```

File specifications (cont.)

Before:

```
* vendormst with ability to input and update AND DELETE records
fvendormst uf a e          k disk  prefix('vm') commit
```

After:

```
// vendormst with ability to input and update AND DELETE records
dcl-f vendormst usage(*update:*output:*delete)
                keyed prefix('vm') commit;
```

- OR -

```
dcl-f vendormst usage(*update:*output:*delete)
                keyed
                prefix('vm')
                commit;
```

File specifications (cont.)

Before:

```
fcusingfm cf e          workstn usroprn infds(cusingqs)
```

After:

```
dcl-f cusingfm workstn usroprn infds(cusingqs); - OR -
```

```
dcl-f cusingfm workstn
      usroprn
      infds(cusingqs);
```

File specifications (cont.)

Before:

```
freport o e          printer oflind(*in98)
```

After:

```
dcl-f report printer oflind(*in98); - OR -
```

```
dcl-f report printer
      oflind(*in98);
```

Definition specifications – KEY Points

DCL-xx replaces D in column 6

Several “blocks” have corresponding END-xx statement.

Ellipses are allowed but MUST continue a field name. You cannot specify ellipses and then follow with a keyword, the compile will combine the two to form a new field name.



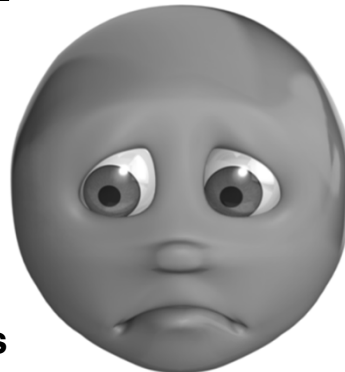
Declaration specifications – A breakdown

What keywords are NOT supported?

CLASS
DATFMT
PROCPTR
TIMFMT
VARYING

***The above keywords have functional free form replacements**

FROMFILE (pre-runtime tables)
TOFILE (array or table file)



Definition specifications - Standalone fields

Character	D returndata	s	24	
	dcl-s returndata char(24);			
Character variable length	D returndata	s	24	varying
	dcl-s returndata varchar(24);			
Zoned	D interestrate	s	5S 2	inz(5.5)
	dcl-s interestrate zoned(5:2) inz(5.5);			
Packed	D vouchernumber	S	5P 2	
	dcl-s vouchernumber packed(5:2);			

Definition specifications - Standalone fields (cont.)

Indicator	D EndOfJob		N	inz('0')
	dcl-s EndOfJob ind inz('0');			
Dates	D invoicedate		D	datfmt(*mdy)
	dcl-s invoicedate date(*mdy);			
	*ISO is the default if <i>date</i> specified without a format			
Zoned	D transtime		T	timfmt(*usa)
	dcl-s transtime time(*usa);			
	*ISO is the default if <i>time</i> is specified without a format			
Timestamp	D transtime		Z	
	dcl-s transtime timestamp;			

Definition specifications - Constants

Before:

```
D arraysize C const(200)
```

After:

```
dcl-c arraysize const(200); - OR -
```

```
dcl-c arraysize 200;
```

Definition specifications – Data structures

Requires a DCL-DS to start and END-DS to complete.

Unnamed data structures are represented with “*N”

END-DS statement can optionally contain name of data structure.

Program Status Data Structures are identified with new PSDS keyword

Definition specifications – Data structures (cont.)

External data structures are identified with EXT or EXTNAME keywords.

LDA previously defined as UDS is now identified as DTAARA(*AUTO)

Data areas processed with IN and OUT require *AUTO keyword.

In RDi, new data structure wizard still uses fixed-format.

Can optionally specify the name of the DS after END-DS

Definition specifications – Data structures (cont.)

Before:

```
D WeatherData    ds                qualified
D Forecast              likeds(WeatherDetail)
D                          dim(7)
```

After:

```
dcl-ds WeatherData    qualified;
      Forecast              likeds(WeatherDetail)
                               dim(7);
end-ds;
```

Definition specifications – When dcl-subf is required

Before:

D dspindicators	DS		
D endofjob		3	3n
D return		12	12n
D subfileclear		60	60n
D subfiledsp		62	62n

After:

```
dcl-ds dspindicators;
  endofjob      ind pos(3);
// optional dcl-subf is required when a field name is the same as an op code
dcl-subf return  ind pos(12); ← Reserved words require
subfileclear    ind pos(60);      dcl-subf keyword
subfiledsp      ind pos(62);
end-ds;
```

Definition specifications – OVERLAY

Before:

D MonthlyData	ds		
D Month		9	
D Sub1a		1	overlay(month)
D Sub1b		1	overlay(month:*next)
D Sub2a		1	overlay(monthlydata)
D Sub2b		1	overlay(monthlydata:2)
D Low		3	
D High		3	

After:

```
dcl-ds MonthlyData;
  Month      char(9);
  sub1a      char(1) overlay(month);
  sub2a      char(1) overlay(month:*next);
  sub1b      char(1) pos(1);
  sub2b      char(1) pos(2);
  Low        char(3);
  High       char(3);
end-ds;
```


Definition specifications – Program Status Data Structure

Before:

```
D* Program status data structure
D programstatus SDS                QUALIFIED
D ROUTINE      *ROUTINE             * Routine name
D PARS        *PARMS                * Num passed parms
D EXCP_TYPE    40 42                 * Exception type
D PGM_LIB      81 90                 * Program library
```

After:

```
dcl-ds programstat psds qualified;
  routine      *routine;
  parms        *parms;
  excp_type    char(3)    pos(40);
  pgm_lib      char(10)   pos(81);

end-ds programstat;
```

Definition specifications - Local data area

Here the LDA is updated automatically

```
- OR - {
        d          uds
        d parameter1          1    10
      }
      {
        dcl-ds *n dtaara(*auto);
        parameter1 char(10) pos(1);
        end-ds;

        parameter1 = '12345ABCDE';

        *inlr = *on;
        return;
      }
```

Definition specifications – Updating a named data area

```
      {
d nextordnum      ds          10      dtaara('NEXTORDNUM')
d counter          1          10      0
      }

-OR- {
      dcl-ds nextordnum dtaara('NEXTORDNUM');
      counter zoned(10);
      end-ds;

      /free
      in *lock nextordnum;
      counter +=1;

      out nextordnum;
      *inlr = *on;
      return;
}
```

Definition specifications – Prototypes

Before:

```
D*-----
D* Program name: DisplayHourly
D* Purpose:      Launches www.weather.com with selected zip code
D*-----
D DisplayHourly PR          EXTPGM('HOURLYCL')
D zipcodealpha          5  const
```

After:

```
/* Purpose: Launches www.weather.com with selected zip code
/* Returns:
dcl-pr displayhourly extpgm('HOURLYCL');
zipcodealpha char(5) const;
end-pr;
```

Definition specifications – Prototypes (cont.)

Before:

```
D EventHandler    pr          10i 0
D commArea      likeds(myCommArea)
D event         10i 0 value
D return        *    value
D stringlen     20i 0 value
D exceptionID   10i 0 value
```

After:

```
dcl-pr EventHandler int(10);
  commArea      likeds(MyCommArea);
  event         int(10)  value;
  dcl-parm return pointer value;
  dcl-parm stringlen int(20) value;
  exceptionID   int(10)  value;
end-pr;
```

Definition specifications – Procedures and procedure interfaces

Procedures start with DCL-PR and end with END-PR.

Procedure interfaces require DCL-PI and END-PI.

The DCL and END statements can be on the same line.

If no name is used for the PI then *N must be specified.

Definition specifications – Procedures (cont.)

Before:

```
* Procedure interface
p secretdata      b          export
d                 pi          24
d datastring      char(24)    value
d direction       char(1)     value
d
```

After:

```
dcl-proc  secretdata export;
  dcl-pi  *n  char(24);
  datastring char(24) value;
  direction char(1) value;
end-pi;

// Insert all your great code here

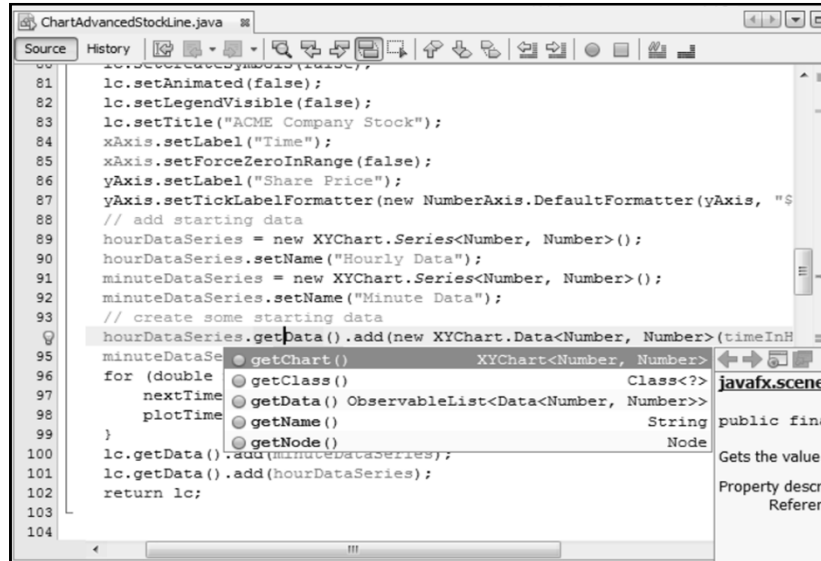
end-proc  secretdata;
```

Is it just “compiler sugar” or is it something more?



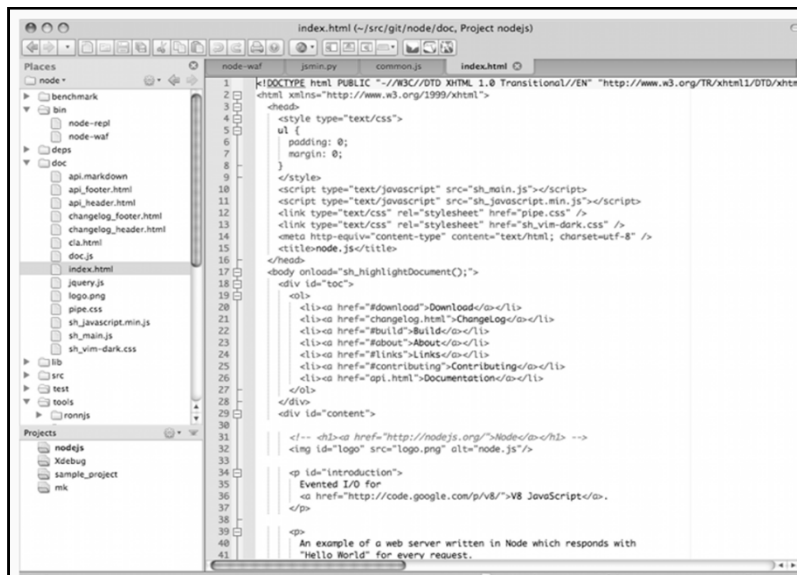
What are modern developers using today?

NetBeans IDE for Java – www.netbeans.org



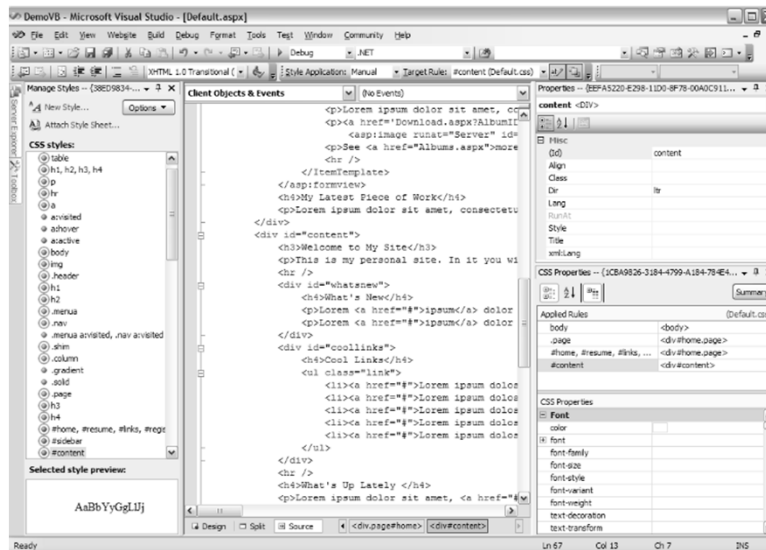
What are modern developers using today?

Komodo Edit - <http://www.activestate.com/komodo-edit>



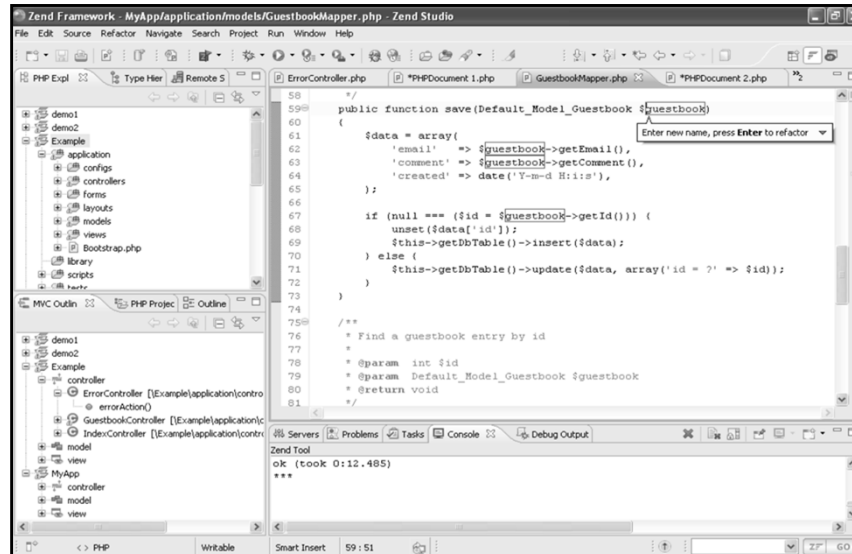
What are modern developers using today?

Visual Studio – www.visualstudio.com

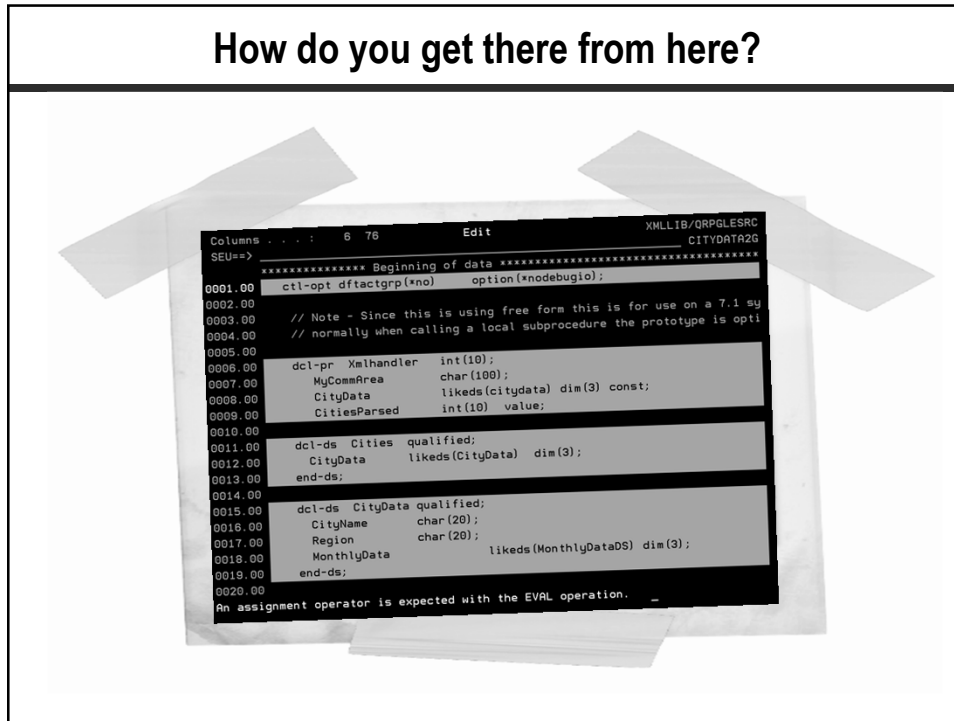


What are modern developers using today?

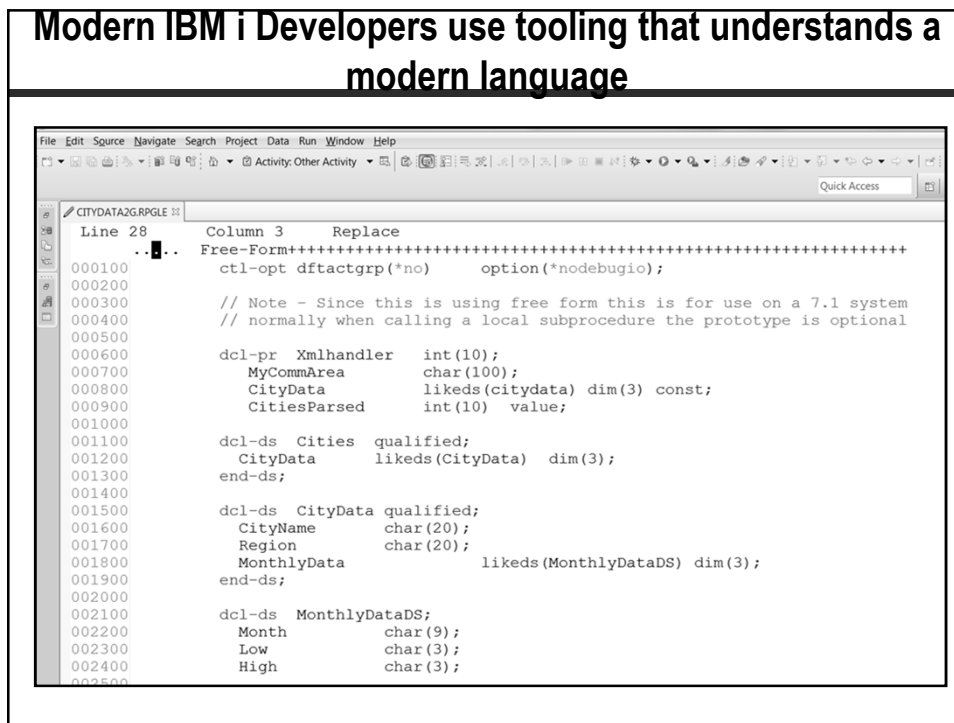
Zend Studio for PHP – www.zend.com



How do you get there from here?



Modern IBM i Developers use tooling that understands a modern language



Putting it all together – comparison #2

Line 1	Column 1	Replace	Line 1	Column 1	Replace
000100	h	dfactgrp("no) option(*nodebugio)	000100	ctl-opt	dfactgrp("no) option(*nodebugio);
000300			000200		
000400	D XMLHandler	pr 10i 0	000300		// Note - Since this is using free form this is for
000500	D MyCommArea	100	000400		// normally when calling a local subprocedure the pr
000600	D CityData	likeds(citydata) d:	000500		
000700	D citiesparsed	10i 0 value	000600	dcl-pr Xmlhandler	int(10);
000800			000700	MyCommArea	char(100);
000900	D Cities	ds qualified	000800	CityData	likeds(citydata) dim(3) const;
001000	D CityData	likeds(CityData) d:	000900	CitiesParsed	int(10) value;
001100	D		001000		
001200	D CityData	ds qualified	001100	dcl-ds Cities	qualified;
001300	D CityName	20	001200	CityData	likeds(CityData) dim(3);
001400	D Region	20	001300	end-ds;	
001500	D MonthlyData	likeds(MonthlyData)	001400		
001600			001500	dcl-ds CityData	qualified;
001700	D MonthlyDataDS	ds	001600	CityName	char(20);
001800	D Month	9	001700	Region	char(20);
001900	D Low	3	001800	MonthlyData	likeds(MonthlyDataDS) dim
002000	D High	3	001900	end-ds;	
002100			002000		
002200	D options1	s 100a	002100	dcl-ds MonthlyDataDS;	
002300	D filename	s 25a inz('/xmldocs/city	002200	Month	char(9);
002301	*	MyCommArea can be defined as any type/size you'd like	002300	Low	char(3);
002302	*	It is used to communicate to the handler.	002400	High	char(3);
002401	D MyCommArea	s 100	002500		
002500			002600	dcl-s options1	char(100);
002600	/free		002700	dcl-s filename	varchar(25) inz('/xmldocs/cityda
002700			002800		
002800			002900		

Syntax Check Selection is your friend

Select any block of code and right click.

Any errors will appear immediately below the selected block.

```
dcl-ds CityDataDS qualified;
  CityName char(20);
  Region char(20);
  State char(20);
  MonthlyData likeds(
end-ds;
```

Syntax Check Selection
Convert Selection To Free-Form
Remote Actions

```
dcl-ds CityDataDS qualified;
  CityName char(20);
  Region char(20);
  State char(20);
  MonthlyData likeds(MonthlyData) dim(3);
end-des;
```

RNF3308E Keyword name is not valid; the keyword is ignored.
RNF5347E An assignment operator is expected with the EVAL operation.

Writing free form code using RDi (must have version 9.0.1 min)

Content assist (CTRL-SPACE) helps you write your code

The screenshot shows a code editor with the following text:

```
D CityDatads ds qualified
D CityName 20
D Region 20
D State 20
D MonthlyData likeds (MonthlyData) dim(3)
```

A content assist popup is visible, showing a list of keywords: noopt, occurs(numeric-constant), prefix(prefix), prefix(prefix;numeric-constant), psds, qualified, static, static(*allthread), and template. The 'qualified' keyword is selected. To the right of the popup, a tooltip explains: 'The QUALIFIED keyword specifies that the subfields of a data structure will be accessed by specifying the data structure name followed by a period and the subfield name. The data structure must have a name.'

RDi Wizards have been updated as well! D specs or Free Form?

The screenshot shows the 'RPG Definition Specification Wizard' dialog box. The title is 'New RPG D-Specification'. The main text says 'Create a new RPG D-Specification.' The fields are:

- Name: []
- Purpose: []
- Type: Standalone field
- Constant value: []

Under 'Where to insert the new specification', the radio buttons are:

- At the current cursor location
- In the D-Specifications of the current procedure
- In the global D-Specifications

At the bottom, there are two checked checkboxes:

- Refresh Outline view upon completion
- Generate free-form code

The dialog has buttons for '< Back', 'Next >', 'Finish', and 'Cancel'.

New Procedure Wizard in RDi

RPG Procedure Wizard

RPG Procedure
Create RPG procedure

Procedure type: Subprocedure

Procedure name:

External name (EXTPROC):

Purpose:

Exportable for use with other code (EXPORT)

Run only one thread in this procedure at any one time (SERIALIZE)

Parameters created for this procedure:

Name	Type	Length	Decimal	Keywords	Comments

Pass the operational descriptors with the parameters

Return a value

Refresh Outline view upon completion

Generate free-form code

Convert Selection to Free-form still only for calcs

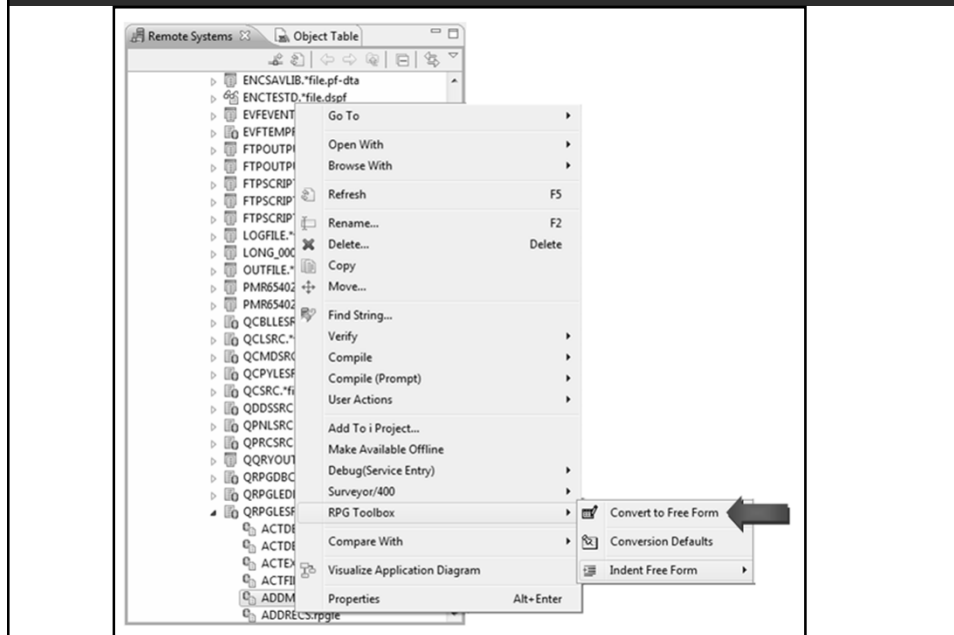
```
Fcustmast UF E K DISK  
Fprinter o e printer
```

Syntax Check Selection
Convert Selection To Free-Form

```
Fcustmast UF E K DISK  
Fprinter o e printer
```

Conversion complete.

Linoma RPG Toolbox – www.linoma.com



Google “DeveloperWorks Free Form RPG”

IBM - developerWorks. Technical topics Evaluation software Community Events

Free-form RPG support on IBM i

Overview of recent RPG compiler free-form changes

This article explains the free-form RPG function supported on IBM i, its advantages, and how to program for H, F, D and P specs within free-form. The support is intended to allow RPG to be easier to write and understand for programmers who are familiar with other high-level languages.

Scott Hanson (sphanson@us.ibm.com), Software Engineer, IBM
Jing Li (lijingn@cn.ibm.com), Staff Software Engineer, IBM
09 January 2014

PDF (257 KB) | Comments

Table of contents

Overview

RPG programming on IBM i was greatly improved on IBM i 7.1 in the Technology Refresh 7 (TR7) time frame. Additional free-form support for the RPG language and embedded SQL precompiler was provided for H, F, D, and P specs. Free-form C specs were previously supported, and now all RPG specs have free-form support except I and O specs.

Each free-form statement begins with an operation code and ends with a semicolon. Here is a list of the new operation codes:

- CTL-OPT for control specs (H)
- DCL-F for file specs (F)
- DCL-S, DCL-DS, DCL-SUBF, DCL-C, DCL-PR, DCL-PT, DCL-PARM for data specs (D)
- DCL-PROC for procedure specs (P)

Google “DeveloperWorks Free Form RPG”

IBM

developerWorks®

Free-form RPG support on IBM i

Overview of recent RPG compiler free-form changes

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Software Engineer
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09 January 2014

Jing Li (lijingnn@cn.ibm.com)
Staff Software Engineer
IBM

This article explains the free-form RPG function supported on IBM i, its advantages, and how to program for H, F, D and P specs within free-form. The support is intended to allow RPG to be easier to write and understand for programmers who are familiar with other high-level languages.

Overview

RPG programming on IBM i was greatly improved on IBM i 7.1 in the Technology Refresh 7 (TR7) time frame. Additional free-form support for the RPG language and embedded SQL precompiler was provided for H, F, D, and P specs. Free-form C specs were previously supported, and now all RPG specs have free-form support except I and O specs.

Each free-form statement begins with an operation code and ends with a semicolon. Here is a list of the new operation codes:

- CTL-OPR for control specs (H)
- DCL-F for file specs (F)
- DCL-S, DCL-DS, DCL-SUBF, DCL-C, DCL-PR, DCL-PI, DCL-PARM for data specs (D)
- DCL-PROC for procedure specs (P)

Advantages

RPG syntax in free form is similar to other modern languages and can be understood easily. It allows programmers who are familiar with other languages such as Microsoft® Visual Basic,

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Free-form RPG support on IBM i

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Page 2 of 12

Where to learn more? – IBM i Information Center 7.1

<http://pic.dhe.ibm.com/infocenter/series/v7r1m0/topic/books/sc092508a.pdf>

IBM i
Version 7.1

*Programming
IBM Rational Development Studio for i
ILE RPG Reference*

IBM

Where to learn more? (cont.)

<http://pic.dhe.ibm.com/infocenter/series/v7r1m0/topic/books/sc092508a.pdf>

What's New since 7.1?

This section describes the enhancements made to ILE RPG after 7.1.

Free-form Control, File, Definition, and Procedure statements

- Free-form Control statements begin with CTL-OPT and end with a semicolon. See "Free-Form Control Statement" on page 5-14.

```
CTL-OPT OPTION(+SRCSTMT : +NODEBUGIO)
ALWNULL(+USRCTL);
```

- Free-form File definition statements begin with DCL-F and end with a semicolon. See "Free-Form File Definition Statement" on page 5-38.

The following statements define three files

- An externally-described DISK file opened for input and update.
- An externally-described WORKSTN file opened for input and output.
- A program-described PRINTER file with record-length 132.

```
DCL-F custFile usage(+update) extfile(custFilename);
DCL-F screen workstn;
DCL-F qprint printer(132) oflind(qprintOfIow);
```

- Free-form data definition statements begin with DCL-C, DCL-DS, DCL-PI, DCL-PR, or DCL-S, and end with a semicolon. See "Free-Form Definition Statement" on page 5-74.

The following statements define several items

- A named constant `MAX_ELEMS`.
- A standalone varying length character field `fullName`.

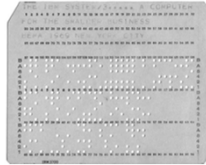
Where to learn more? - IBM's RPG Cafe

Search for "IBM i DeveloperWorks RPG 7.1"

The screenshot shows the IBM DeveloperWorks website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Technical topics', 'Evaluation software', 'Community', and 'Events'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'RPG Cafe'. The main content area displays a search result for the article 'New with IBM i 7.1 TR 7 - Free-form H, F, D and P statements for RPG'. The article is dated 'Updated 12/29/14 by barbara_morris' and has tags 'rpg', 'rpgcafe', and 'rpgfree'. A 'Page Actions' button is visible. The article text includes a 'Please note' section stating that RPG support is not a physical part of TR7 and that users need RPG compiler PTF SI51094 or its latest supersede. It also provides 'PTF information' for RPG Compiler support (PTF SI51094) and SQL Precompiler support (DB2 PTF Group SF99701 level 26). An 'Example' section is partially visible at the bottom.

Get With The Program!
It's Not Your Grandma's RPG Anymore

I'll Take It!



Charles Guarini

THANK YOU!!!