TARGET/400 Release Notes

TARGET/400 9.0 Product Revisions

The main enhancement in 9.0 is to convert RPG II directly to RPG IV (ILE). This effectively allows user's to combine two conversions into one project to save time. RPG IV offers enhanced functionality over RPG III and is easily understandable by programmer's who are conversant in RPG II or RPG III. RPG IV is rapidly becoming the language of choice on the iSeries due to it's modular capabilities and web deployment features. Another advantage to be taken into account is like S/36 RPG II, RPG IV has the ability to correct decimal data errors in programs at runtime whereas RPG III (RPG/400) does not.

The file description externalization features in 9.0 have also been updated to work with program described files in RPG IV programs. This effectively allows user's to replace internal RPG IV file layouts with the corresponding external definitions (DDS) in the same way as when working with RPG III file descriptions.

In a nutshell TARGET/400 9.0 makes converting S/36 applications to RPG IV (ILE) as easy as moving to RPG III (RPG/400) on the AS/400 and iSeries.

TARGET/400 9.1 Product Revisions

9.1 OCL Conversion Enhancements

The User now has the option to control where job files are created. In previous releases when the *OPTIMIZE default (recommended) was selected when converting OCL, job files were created in the current library (*CURLIB) along with the permanent files. This is generally desirable and is more efficient as the files are created only once and then cleared with CLRPFM as needed. However this approach does not suite shops which use the same job and work file names repeatedly for different processes. In this case the file attributes (rec length etc) may not be the same each time the file is used by the converted application. To address this problem 9.1 has a new default option which when set on will cause job and scratch files originally created by the OCL // FILE statement to be allocated to the temporary library QTEMP. This can be done while still using the *OPTIMIZE default so the user still benefits from more efficient file handling and multi member file processing for ?WS? files. However it removes any job file naming contention by allocating the work files to the QTEMP library.

Another new default has been added to control OCL parameter mapping. Prior to 9.1 if an OCL procedure contained parms ?1? ?4? ?9? the OCL conversion process would result in these being converted to &P01, &P02 and &P03. While this resequencing is technically correct, it is more difficult for programmers working with the converted code to make the correlation to the original code. This renumbering of parameters is now removed from 9.1. In conjunction with this new approach the user can now manually set the limit on the maximum number of parms declared on the PGM statement line of the converted CL programs. This effectively prevents passing parameters around on calling statements which may not be required by the called CL program. This default can be set to *AUTO mode in which case TARGET/400 works out the best method to use when working with CL parameter mapping. *AUTO is not suitable however if the original S/36 application passes the same fixed number of parameters around to all OCL procedures even when only some of them may be needed by the invoked procedures. This may sound strange, but it is a technique used from time to time. The new 9.1 default option effectively delivers the best approach for your conversion and makes sure parameter usage is implemented appropriately. The CHKCLPARM command has also been updated to work with this update. CHKCLPARM automatically restructures all parameter usage in the converted code to make sure CL parameter mismatch errors are corrected and eliminated from the conversion..

9.1 OCL Conversion Enhancements (continued)

Mixed environment conversions (OCL contains native commands). While previous releases catered for this 9.1 has been enhanced to handle the more complex S/36 expressions that may occur within the embedded native mode command parameter keyword values. This has become a requirement due to the increasing number of S/36 shops now running S/36 applications which have over time become more tightly integrated with native mode functions and procedures.

9.1 RPG Conversion Enhancements

A new default can now be set to remove LH indicators even when only a single LH indicator is coded. Although this does not impact the efficiency of the code some users prefer to adopt this standard of using no LH indicators whatsoever in the converted native RPG III or RPG IV code.

9.1 OCL Interactive Conversion Update

9.1 Includes cosmetic changes to the user interface. It now incorporates a split screen display which is better suited for simultaneously viewing OCL and the resulting converted CL code.

The New 9.1 "ESTIMATE" command.

Due to popular demand this has been added to 9.1 to help shops estimate the amount of time and effort required to complete their conversion to native mode.