



RQ

The Reflex Querying Tool

Easy to Use
Powerful
Cost Effective
Flexible

Includes:

- ◆ Comparison tests
- ◆ Range tests
- ◆ Membership tests
- ◆ Pattern matching
- ◆ Sub-queries
- ◆ Grouped queries
- ◆ Multi-table queries
- ◆ Summary queries

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In addition to the multitude of reports provided as standard with KDS, CSfD can also provide a dedicated report writing application, Reflex Query (RQ).

What is RQ?

RQ provides open access to data and has been designed to enable users and developers alike to write reports simply and effectively. Accessible directly from the standard OPAL menu control screen, RQ is available under licence with Reflex, CSfD's standard development tool. There are three basic licensing levels: developer, launcher and programmer, which can be purchased in any combination according to the needs of your organisation. Full training, documentation and ongoing support are provided.

RQ can create three types of report:

- * Plain and simple reports which list data in columns across the page.
- * More sophisticated reports where users define a specific layout using RQ's formatting features.
- * Complex reports where developers can program embedded logic into the body of the report.

Queries may range from the simple, such as "select all customers whose credit limit is greater than zero and less than 1000", to the complex, for example "list all invoices, showing the invoice number and the amount, and the name and credit limit of the customer who received it". Alternatively, you can retrieve summary information, such as "what is the average invoice value?"

You can either print your results directly to a report or extract the results and record the output in XML, CSV or HTML format. One advantage of extracting your report into HTML is that it makes it much easier to publish. You can attach the HTML document to an email, include a hyperlink in an email, or publish it on an Intranet - as long as the recipient has access to a browser which can interpret HTML, they can view the report.

How does RQ work?

Definition stage

You define the report using Extensible Markup Language, commonly known as XML. XML is text, known as markup, that identifies the different parts which make up your report. You can define the selection parameters, results and report layout in this way.

Generation stage

Once the report has been defined, the RQ report generator interprets the definition to create a program, which you can run just like any other report within your system.

Benefits of RQ

Easy to use

- ◆ Quick and easy definition using XML
- ◆ Shorthand notations for easier report writing
- ◆ Ability to automatically join tables and check selection parameters
- ◆ Full training provided
- ◆ Comprehensive user guide available
- ◆ Users productive very quickly

Powerful

- ◆ Uses SQL to access data
- ◆ Can be used to write complex reports
- ◆ Reports can be formatted to look like standard CSfD reports
- ◆ Generated reports run like any other program and can be added to menu
- ◆ Extracts information to XML, CSV or HTML files

Cost Effective

- ◆ Not reliant on 3rd party to write reports
- ◆ Cuts down on development costs

Flexible

- ◆ Reports range from simple to sophisticated
- ◆ Users manage own licence configuration.