

Run SQL Script – Part I



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I receive a lot of questions from customers asking about running SQL statements on their iSeries. Many don't realize that with the Enterprise Edition software package you automatically receive "DB2 Query Manager and SQL Development Kit". This software allows you to execute SQL statements from a green screen using the STRSQL command. A much nicer alternative that everyone has access to is the "Run SQL Scripts" component of iSeries Navigator. To access the complete database functionality from your workstation you need to do a full install and not default to the basic install when you load iSeries Navigator.

This month I want to show you how to get started with "Run SQL Scripts" and introduce you to some of the many capabilities available within this component. Next month we will delve into some of the additional capabilities in greater detail.

"Run SQL Scripts" uses a JDBC connection to your iSeries database. This connection is automatically created the first time you select "Run SQL Scripts" against a specific iSeries server. Using the Connections option on the toolbar, you can modify this JDBC definition. You can specify that you will be using either the SQL or the system naming convention. One difference between the two conventions is the separator character (i.e., library.table for SQL, and library/table for system.) Another difference is the implicit library or schema name used to qualify a table. With SQL naming, the system looks for an unqualified table to be located in the default SQL library specified in the JDBC connection. If you don't specify

a library then the system will expect the table to be in a library with the same name as your user profile. Based on ANSI standards, the library list is not searched with SQL naming. Your library list is searched when you use the system (*SYS) naming convention. The JDBC connection definition is also where you can choose to turn on "extended dynamic package" support. By default it is set off. You can also specify that you want to use commitment control. If you turn on commitment control, don't forget that unless you actually perform a commit, any changes that you might have made in the "Run SQL Scripts" window will be rolled back.


The first thing you will notice when you open the "Run SQL Scripts" window is a message at the bottom that says "Connected to relational database". The system will automatically connect you to the system you were working with in iSeries Navigator. To connect to a remote database simply issue a CONNECT TO *database name* statement.

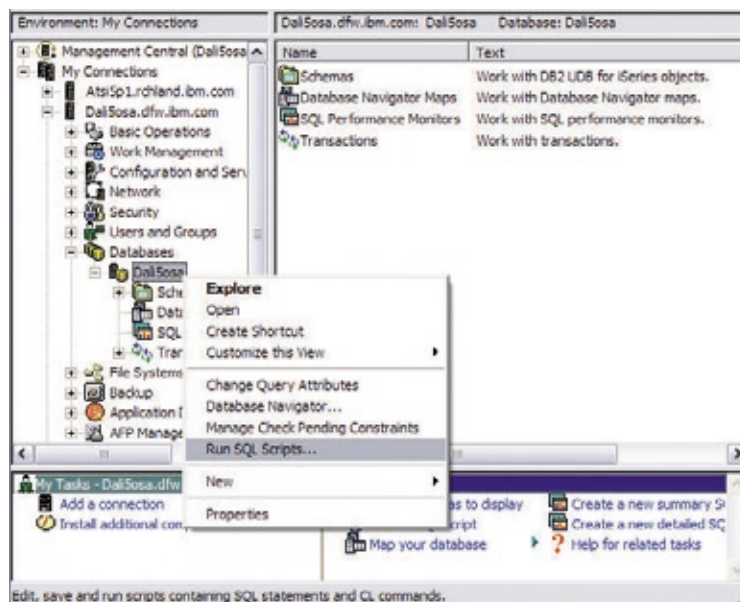
For those of you who aren't very familiar with SQL syntax there are a few aids to assist you. A drop down box labeled "Insert"

provides you with many sample statements that you can modify. An interesting example that is provided, shows you how to execute CL commands from within the "Run SQL Scripts" window. You can run any OS/400 command that can be executed in batch by preceding the command with "CL:" (i.e., "CL: DSPLIB *libraryname* OUTPUT(*PRINT)").

Another aid is one we will delve into in more detail in my next column. This is the SQL Assist feature. This feature is very much like F4 for command assistance in green screen mode.

I seem to have run out of space but I would like to mention some of the other features found within this tool. You can invoke the Visual Explain component, highlighted in previous columns, directly from the toolbar. Next month we will look at Smart Statement Selection, the inclusion of your debug messages in your joblog, and changing your runtime query options. "Run SQL

Scripts" is such an important component of iSeries Navigator that – who knows – this column might be Part I of many. 



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