

From the Edge: Converting Variable Forms to Windows
Section: Upgrading to R:BASE 2000 for Windows
Chapter: Running R:BASE Your Way!
Platform: R:BASE 2000 (version 6.5) and Higher ...
Build: 1.839xRT03 and Higher ...

While upgrading the legacy versions of R:BASE for DOS to the latest and the greatest R:BASE 2000 (ver 6.5) for Windows, one very challenging job is to convert previously supported DOS Variable Forms to the new windows version, without losing the list and function of all associated variables.

So, instead of re-creating those DOS variable forms in Windows version, follow these simple 5 steps to keep the same form with all variables, etc.

Step 01:

UPGRADE your legacy version of R:BASE Database to the latest R:BASE 2000 (ver 6.5) for Windows.

Follow step-by-step colorful graphical conversion chart at: <http://www.rbase2000.com/support/upgrade.htm>

Note:

- . At this time do not open any form using Object Manager.
- . All forms are still stored as DOS forms in SYS_FORMS
- . SYS_FORMS2 (sys table to hold windows version of forms) is totally blank at this stage.

Step 02:

Define a new DummyTbl with only one column and one row.

Example:

```
CREATE TABLE `DummyTbl` +  
(`DummyColumn` TEXT (1) )  
LOAD `DummyTbl`  
NONUM  
'R'  
END  
COMMENT ON TABLE `DummyTbl` IS +  
'Dummy table for all variable/menu forms'  
COMMENT ON `DummyColumn` IN `DummyTbl` IS +  
'Dummy Column'
```

Step 03:

- . Know the list/names of all Variable Form(s)
- . At the mighty R> prompt, type:

```
LIST FORMS
```

Forms associated with no Table/View are the Variable Forms.

Example:

Form	Table / View	Form Description
MSDSEINTR	MSDS	MSDS Data Entry Form
MSDSEEDIT	MSDS	MSDS Data Update Form
MSDSDATA		

Step 04:

Very carefully, edit SYS_FORMS to update the table name for MSDSDATA.

Example:

```
EDIT * FROM SYS_FORMS WHERE #1 = 'MSDSDATA'
```

In the two rows that have 1 and 3 in #3 (SYS_FORM_SEQ), replace the first 8 bytes of blanks with the 8-character name of dummy table, i.e, DummyTbl

Voila, this is no longer a variable form.

It is a regular form that happens to use nothing but variables.

- . At the mighty R> prompt, type:

```
LIST FORMS
```

Example:

Form	Table / View	Form Description
MSDSEINTR	MSDS	MSDS Data Entry Form
MSDSEEDIT	MSDS	MSDS Data Update Form
MSDSDATA	DummyTbl	

Notice the associated table/view name with MSDSDATA form.

STEP 05:

- . Start Form Designer using Object Manager.
- . Highlight MSDSDATA
- . Click on Design
- . Click on [Yes] when first Conversion warning message appears
- . Click on [Yes] when second Conversion question is asked
- . Click on [Yes] when third Conversion question is asked
- . Adjust Resolution Guidelines accordingly
- . Check Form Settings accordingly
- . Customize Form Background Color, etc ... accordingly
- . Simply, make all form modifications accordingly
- . Save the form

Now, this form can be used as dummy form:

Example:

```
MAXIMIZE
CLEAR ALL VAR
SET CAPTION ' '

-- Start getting used to RBTI System Variables

SET VAR RBTI_NoStatus INTEGER = 1

-- Pre-Define all form variables

SET VAR Vwhatever1 TEXT = NULL
SET VAR Vwhatever2 TEXT = NULL
SET VAR Vwhatever3 INTEGER = NULL
SET VAR Vwhatever4 DATE = NULL
SET VAR Vwhatever5 CURRENCY = NULL

-- Take advantage of new features in R2K

SET RBGSIZE CENTER CENTER 640 480
CLS
EDIT USING MSDSDATA CAPTION 'Your Caption Here'

-- Do all checking, processing, etc .. here ...

-- Check up-to-date R2K Syntax and on-line help
-- with examples at:

http://www.RSyntax.com/RSyntax

There you have it!

Happy Conversion.
```