Rational Developer for IBM i (RDi)
Screen Designer Technology Preview

Featuring: GUI screen designer to edit DDS source for 5250 Display Files

Agenda

- Remote System Explorer (RSE) Screen Design Editor
  - Screen Design editor basics
  - Creating a screen, adding controls
  - Working with the Properties view
  - Creating a subfile
**Screen Designer: What it is**

- Eclipse based DDS Display File designer for layout of terminal screens
- Follow-on to Code/400 Designer
- Screen designing joins the rest of the RDi based tooling
- Launchable from Remote Systems Explorer
- Fully integrated with the Lpex DDS editor and RDi views
- Technical Preview for V7.5

**Screen Designer: Why we did it**

- Continued support of our existing customer applications
- Continued investment in terminal application development
- Migration path from SDA and Code/400 for display files
- Update to the latest RDi technologies, Java / Eclipse / RSE
Starting Screen Designer

- In RSE view
  - Right click DSPF member type
  - Two choices under Open with action
    1. Default LPEX source editor
    2. Screen Designer

**For working with Screen Designer**

**Switch to the Screen Designer perspective**

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Expand the middle Designer area to the left and right to gain more space.

Switch to the Screen Designer perspective.

New concept: Screen design controls. Assemble records to create screens. Screens should contain the records used at runtime, so the developer can see how the end result will look like at runtime.

By default, one screen is defined. All records are shown in the record list. All records in the member are shown in the record list.

Select a record to display it in the Design editor. Now you can work with it in the design editor.

Only one record will show unless you change transparency.
Screen Design Control Area

Change transparency setting to show all records in screen

Not a workable solution for all records

You need to be able to select the records that get displayed together at runtime to show a true layout of the screens

Create a new screen

Create screen for prompt display

In your code this screen is made up of 2 records

Add these 2 records to the new screen
Screen Design Control Area

- Select the screen
- The design editor will show both records
- Select one record to work with in the editor

Selected record is highlighted in the editor
- Non-selected records are dimmed
- You can only work with the selected record in the editor

Screen information is stored in DDS source
- Comment lines are added to the source
The Screen Designer Palette

All DDS controls are available on the palette view
Divided into 4 main categories
- Records
  - Standard record
  - Subfile record
- Fields
  - Continued
  - Date
  - Named
  - Time
  - Timestamp
- Constants
  - Date
  - Message
  - System Name
  - Text
  - Time
  - User
- Help
  - Help specification

Build a new screen

Click new button
Name the screen
Click the standard record to select control in palette
Click in Design Editor
Record gets created with default name and gets added to screen
Designer indicates with black background that a record is available
Palette now shows all categories of controls
Add controls

- Adding DDS controls is simple
- Click the control you need on the palette
- Move cursor over design editor
- Hover text will indicate location of cursor
- Click at target position
- Default control gets added to record

Designer and source are always synchronized

Changing controls in design editor

- Select constant control in designer
- Type text you need
- Control expands in length as you type

- Need different length
- Grab the edge and drag

- Don't like the location
- Just drag and drop to new location
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Using the properties view

- Properties view shows properties for selected control
- Select control in design editor or Outline view

- Properties view changes with control type
- Field properties are different from constant properties
Property pages

- Basic page contains info like:
  - Name
  - Position on screen
  - Length
  - Usage
  - Type
  - etc

Attributes page contains:
- List of valid DDS attributes
- List of attributes applied to the control
- Add/remove attributes used for control with buttons

Keyword page contains:
- List of valid DDS keywords for selected control
- Add/remove keywords using push buttons

Color page contains:
- Color to apply
- Indicator page contains:
  - Indicator to specify
**Property pages for referenced fields**

- Basic page contains info like:
  - Name
  - Location
  - Override info

- Reference page contains:
  - Reference info
  - Browse button to get info from reference files

**Design tab and source tab**

- Change between:
  - Design editor
  - Source editor

  - Click on the tab to switch
  - Make changes in one of them
  - Change will be reflected in the other editor
Preview screen

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How about subfiles?

- Select subfile record on palette view
- Click on Design editor to create the subfile records

Subfile record and subfile control record created

- Add controls from palette to subfile record
- Subfile page size and subfile size can be changed in properties view
- Default is 6
Subfile control record

- Select control record
- Add controls from palette to design editor
- DDS source that got created for subfile

Summary

Remote System Explorer (RSE) LPEX Editor
- Full functional screen design editor
- Switch between design editor and source editor
- Properties view handles DDS keywords
- Use outline view to navigate through your DDS source
- Use screens to assemble multiple records
- Create subfiles easily
- A great productivity aid for the seasoned or new DDS developer

- Lots of resources available to get you started:
  - RPG Café with RDi hub
    - midrange mailing list
    - Webcasts and System i magazines
    - COMMON and IBM Power Technical Conferences
    - User group meetings
The IBM Rational RPG Café

ibm.com/rational/cafe

Rational Developer for System i

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Thank You