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Welcome

Introduction to The Scoop™

Welcome to the User's Manual for The Scoop™ by Man's Best Friend Software. The Scoop™ is designed to work with The Breeder's Standard™, our dog pedigree and kennel management flagship program.

What The Scoop™ gives you is pure *power* when it comes to reports. You can easily create powerful reports, using any of the data stored in your licensed copy of The Breeder's Standard™.

The Scoop™ is designed to work with any of the following programs:

- The Breeder's Standard™ 2001

- The Breeder's Standard™ 2002

- The Breeder's Standard™ 2003

- The Breeder's Standard™ 2005

- The Breeder's Standard™ 2006

If you have the latest edition of The Breeder's Standard™ 2006, you will find that the newer data included in these programs, such as DNA information and GreenShade™ will be available, if not, these fields will be blank and the tables will not show up. If you upgrade your program to TBS 2006, this data will be available.

This manual is designed to tell you how to install and operate The Scoop™, and gives you general guidelines on using The Scoop™ to create reports.

Man's Best Friend Software does not train people in understanding how to set up reports, basic or advanced reporting concepts or Structured Query Language(SQL). You are expected to learn these things yourself, or to be proficient in SQL before you try using it in The Scoop.

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Notwithstanding any other language in this agreement, any party who receives an award from the arbitrator, may, in order to secure the benefit of such an award, present the award in a court of competent jurisdiction and obtain a judgment codifying its terms, and may use the persuasive power of the court to execute thereupon.

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You agree that Company does not waive any rights it has herein by delaying enforcement of or not strictly enforcing its rights herein against you or any other party.

Getting Started

What You need to Have

You need to have The Breeder's Standard™ 2001 or later, installed prior to using The Scoop™. If the program is not present, with its data files, The Scoop™ will not run properly.

How to Install

Installing from the Internet

Once you download from the Internet, you will have a file to run. This contains the installation program. You simply double click on the file and follow the instructions from that point forward.

Installing from the CD

Our Program CDs contain all of our products, and a program runs whenever you insert the CD into your computer. Choose to install programs, and then when given the option, choose to run The Scoop's installer. Then simply follow the instructions from that point forward.

When to reinstall and when not to reinstall

The Scoop™, unlike our other programs, is a single executable file. **Do not reinstall the Scoop if you experience a problem unless told to do so by our tech support department.**

Program Registration / Activation

Why we make you use an activation code

We need to know who has which copies of the program. This helps us to know who is buying the program, and allows us to keep your costs low by preventing software piracy. The Software Publishers

Association (SPA) estimates that over 50% of business PC software is illegally-used, and over 65% of personal PC software is illegally-used. This is *stealing*. Software companies cannot operate unless they are paid for what they produce.

We could raise prices to cover our costs, but this penalizes our honest customers by making them pay for the pirates' copies of the software. Instead of that, we keep our price low and make it nearly impossible to illegally use The Scoop™. We plan to know *everyone* who buys our program, and to make it so that any illegal copy of the software is traceable, identifiable and practically unusable. This means that we'll be paid for our hard work, and in turn, you'll be paying less for the software and for technical support.

What This Means

In order to use The Scoop™, you are *required* to register the program.

How to Activate The Scoop™

The first time you run The Scoop™, it asks for your activation information. If not, from the Main window, click the Activation button. This will start up the Activation window.

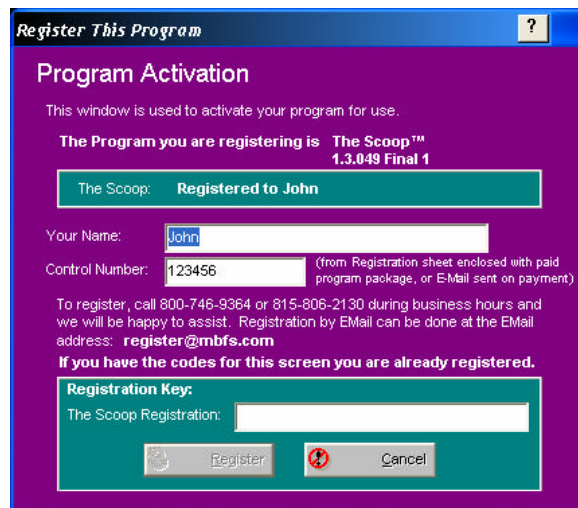The Activation window looks like this:

Figure: The Scoop(tm) Activation Window.

Fill in your name, control number and registration key as shown on your packing list or registration email. **The name is case sensitive. If there is a 0 in the registration key it is ZERO, not Capital "o."**
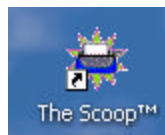
Then click "Register" and you will be fully activated.

If you lose your registration number, and have to re-install the software, call us and we will issue you a new one, provided you are legally licensed to use the software.

Using The Scoop™

Running The Scoop™ the First Time

After you activate The Scoop™, you're ready to begin work. You can click on the icon for The Scoop™:

…and begin to explore!

The Scoop™ Main Window

The Scoop™ has a main window that shows a listing of all of the reports you have created in the program, along with their file names. Reports produced by The Scoop™ have a file extension of RMX.
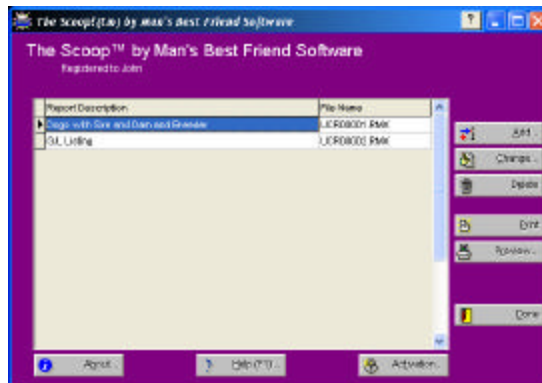
The Main Window of The Scoop looks like this:

Figure: The Scoop(tm), Main Window.

You can Click the Add button to create an all-new report. You can click on one of the reports listed and the change button to work with an existing report.

To get rid of a report you don't want anymore, click on the report and then the Delete button. The Scoop™ will make sure you really want to

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delete the report by asking you, You must click the Yes button in order to actually delete the report. Once deleted, the report is gone forever, and The Scoop™ cannot retrieve it, nor can Man's Best Friend Software Technical Support.

If you don't want to work with the report layout and you simply want to print or preview the report, click that report in the list and then the Print or Preview buttons.

Creating A New Report

When you choose to create a report, you are asked to give that report a name. The way The Scoop™ does this is to pop up a window asking you for the report name.

The Report name window looks like this:
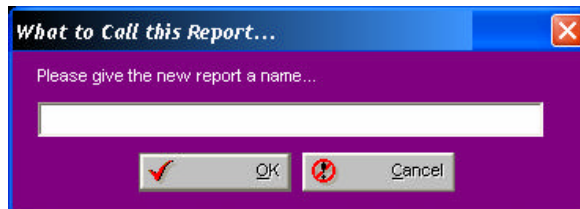

Figure: New Report Name Popup

Type in a report name and click OK. You cannot click OK unless you type in a non-blank report name. Clicking Cancel will stop The Scoop™ from creating a new report layout.

Report File Names: The Scoop™ will not allow you to change the file name of the report. It is generated by The Scoop, and future plans require the file name to be fixed.

General Report Design Guidelines

The Report Expert

When you choose to add a report from the main window of The Scoop™, the report expert will be shown, which you can use for fast and easy creation of a first report design.
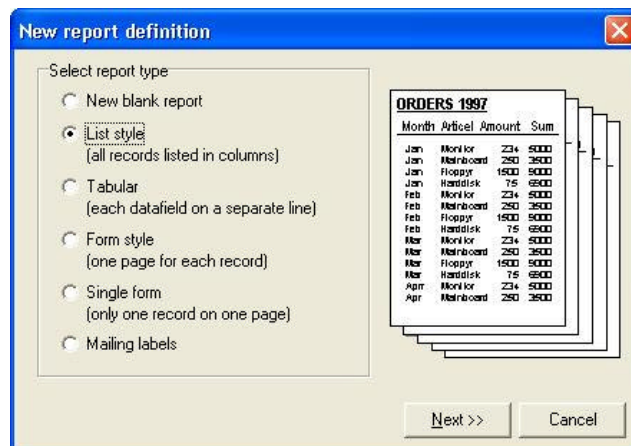
Figure: Report Expert, Page One

The report expert asks you which kind of report you want to create, which dataset to use and how to layout the report. The needed report elements will be added automatically to the report. After the expert has finished you can continue editing the report to make it fit your needs.

If you select "New empty report" as the report type, a completely empty report will be created and the report expert will exit. You must then add all report bands and datasets manually.

Parts of a Report

Bands

The image below shows the first page of a sample report, which prints country names, their capitals and their populations. This report can be divided into several sections:

These sections are used for report designing and are called "Bands"; the report is a so called "banded" report. For example there is a "Footerband" for all text in the page footer and a "Titleband" for the report title on the first page. The most important band is the "Detailband". The detailband is printed once for each data record (for each country in the above example), which results in a list of the data. The detailband's layout is the same for each record, so it must be created only once, for one record, with placeholders for each data field. For every record the detailband is printed after the placeholders have been replaced with the current record's data.

Fields and other Elements of the Report

Apart from report bands, which divide the report into logical sections, a report consists of report elements placed on the report bands. These elements define what exactly is printed on each band.

The two most important report elements are "Labels" and "Datafields". Labels are used for printing text - for example a title - that has no connection to a database. Datafields are placeholders for fields from a dataset. Whenever a data field is to be printed, the report engine gets the field content from the dataset and puts this text where you placed the datafield.

Usually labels are add-ons for datafields, to make the report look better and more understandable by not only listing data, but also showing which kind of data is printed too.

The following picture shows the report definition for the above country listing:

The following types of report elements are available when designing a report:

- Datafields to display text from a dataset

- Labels to display fixed text

- Systemfields (date, time, page number, ...)

- Shapes (circle, rectangle, line)

- Image (Windows bitmap file)

- Image from a data field

- Expression (calculated field, mathematical calculations, ...)

- Memo (text with multiple lines)

- RTF (Richtextformat = formatted text, only available with 32-bit applications)

- RTF from a data field (only available with 32-bit applications)

- Chart (charts, graphs, ...)

Each report element has specific properties (font, color, ...), which you can edit. This is further described in the chapters about the different elements.

Report Elements

Adding Report Elements

Buttons for adding report elements to the report can be found on the left side of the designer window:

Report Band

Child Band

Subdetail Band

Group Band

Label

Memo

Image/Bitmap

Shape

System Field

Data Field

Image from data field

Expression field
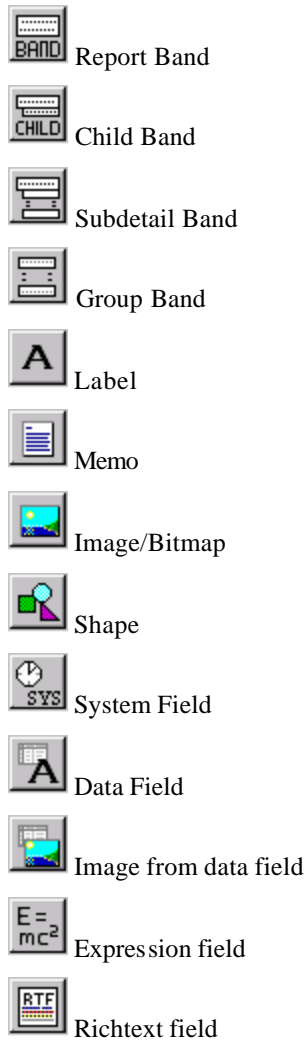
Richtext field

 Richtext from data field

To add an element to the report you must click its button and then click on the report where you want the element to be inserted. Of course you can still move a report element to another position later.

When adding new report bands it doesn't matter where you click on the report, because the position of each band is determined by its band type (page header, title band, ...) automatically.

Changing Report Elements

The individual properties of a report element can be changed anytime during report design. Select the desired element and either double-click with the left mouse button, or press the right mouse button and choose "Properties" from the popup menu. The property dialog for the selected report element will open, which is the same dialog as the one that shows up when inserting a new report element. The following picture shows the property dialog for a label:

Edit the element properties to your needs and press the "OK" button to close the dialog and accept your changes. If you press "Cancel", all your changes are dropped and if you were inserting a new element, it will not be added to the report.

Information about the different properties for each report element can be found at the individual element descriptions.

The Report Editor Window

The Report Editor Windows is where you adjust the look and elements of the report you are creating.

You have the design area, and the toolbar, to work with. You can use the mouse, the keyboard, or a cominbation to manipulate the elements.

The Left-hand buttons

Please refer to the section Adding Report Elements on page 13 for descriptions of the buttons and what they do.

The Toolbar

You can change many report element properties directly with the toolbar instead of using the element's property dialog. Additionally you can use it to modify multiple elements at once.

These buttons are for creating a new report, loading a report file and saving a report.

Use these buttons to print the report or to view a preview of the printout.
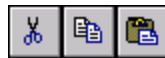
With these buttons report elements can be cut to, copied to or pasted from the report designer's clipboard.
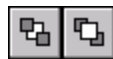
These buttons are used to set a report element to the background or bring it in front of all other report elements, in case of overlapping elements.

Report elements can be arranged with these buttons. Some of the buttons are only enabled when multiple ele ments are selected (for example to align the left edges).

This part of the toolbar shows the type of the currently selected report element and its main property (text if it is a label, data field, band type, ...). You can edit this property directly with the toolbar, without the need to open the element's property dialog.

Here you can set font and font styles of the selected report elements (font name, font size, bold, underline, italic).

These buttons are for aligning text within a report element. Text can be aligned left, right or centered. Of course this only makes sense if the report element's size is bigger than its text, and if "autosize" is deactivated.

With this button you can open a dialog to set the frame options for the selected element.

Using the Mouse in the Report Editor

Select a report element

Report elements are selected by clicking them with the left mouse button. A selection is shown with eight small black boxes around the element:
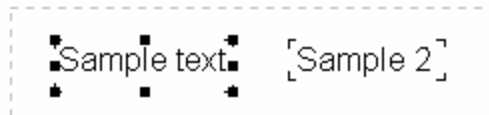
Change the size of an element

You can use the small boxes of a selected element to change its size. If the mouse cursor is positioned over such a box, the cursor will change to show in which direction the mouse can be moved while the left mouse button is pressed down. The element will be resized accordingly. Please note that for report bands only the height can be changed, but the width is set to the report width automatically.

Select multiple elements (a)

You can select multiple elements by holding down the [Shift] key while selecting them with the left mouse button. This way the previous selection will remain when a new element is selected.
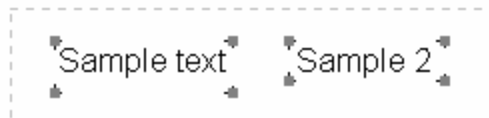
Select multiple elements (b)

You can also select multiple elements by using a so-called "rubber band". Hold down [Ctrl] together with the left mouse button and drag a frame around the elements that you want to select. After releasing the mouse button all elements within the frame are selected.

Move elements:

You can move report elements with the left mouse button. Hold down the button, drag the element to the desired location and release the mouse button. Report bands can not be moved because they are positioned automatically according to their band type.

Move and resize elements regardless of the current grid setting:

If you want to manipulate a report element regardless of the current grid (menu item "View|Options") and move or resize by one pixel, then hold down the [Shift] key while moving the mouse.

Edit element properties:

If you double-click a report element with the left mouse button, or if you select "Edit" from the element's popup menu (which can be accessed with the right button), a dialog will be shown where all element properties can be edited.

Using the Keyboard when Editing

The report designer can be used with the mouse most of the time. Some functions can also be accessed with the keyboard:

Enter:

Show the element's property form

Cursor keys:

Move a report element

Shift + Cursor keys:

Resize a report element

Del:

Delete a report element

Tab and Shift + Tab:

Select next or previous report element

Datasets – Where you get the information

Any report designed with The Scoop™ needs at least one dataset, which supplies the data records for the report. You can define all datasets and their relationships via the database setup (menu item "Report|Datasets").

Note: The "Property" button shows a dialog with the settings of the currently selected table or query. If the dialog elements in that dialog are disabled, you are not allowed to change the dataset's settings.
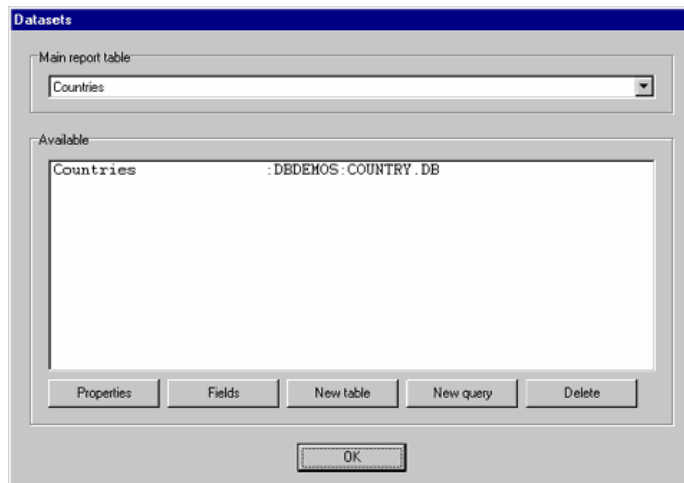
This dialog window shows the main dataset for the report, which is the dataset that the report runs through and prints all data records from.

Below the main report table this is a list of all datasets available to the report. Currently there is only the country table, which is the main dataset, but you can add more tables or queries that you can use in your report too.

To add a table or query, use the corresponding button.

New table:

 If you press this button the following dialog will be shown:
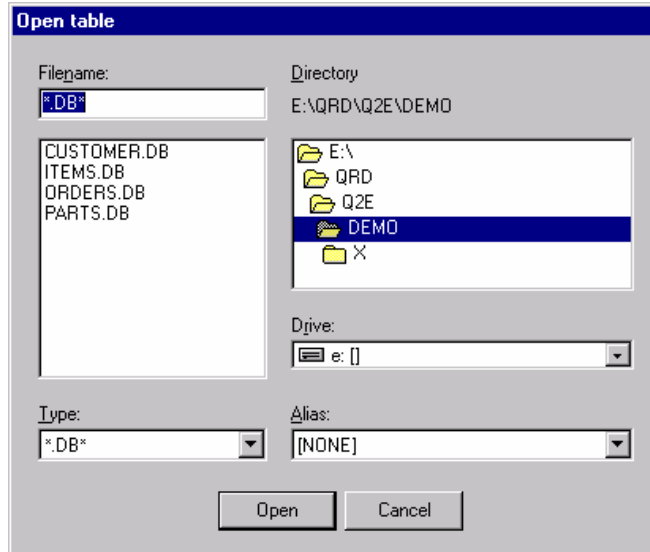
This is a common file open dialog where you can select the desired table. Additionally you can use aliases instead of directory paths if available.

New query:

The following dialog will open if you press the "New query" button:
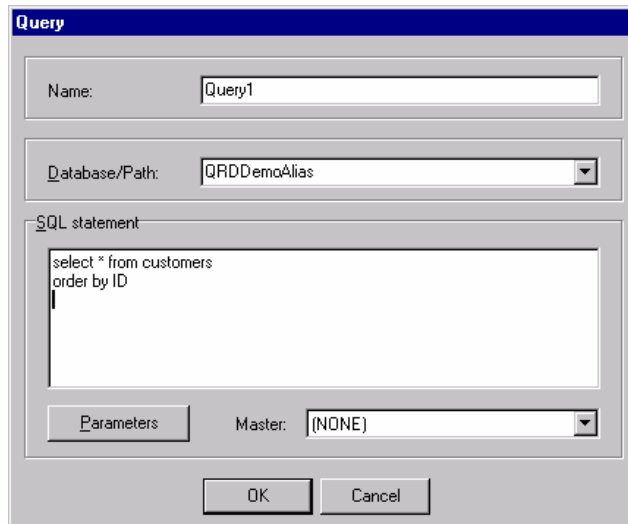
Here you can supply a query in SQL language. If your query has parameters, you can set their values with the "Parameter" button. If the parameters should be retrieved from another dataset, select this table or query in the "master" combobox.

Data fields:

If you select the "Fields" button, a list with all available fields of the currently selected dataset will be shown.
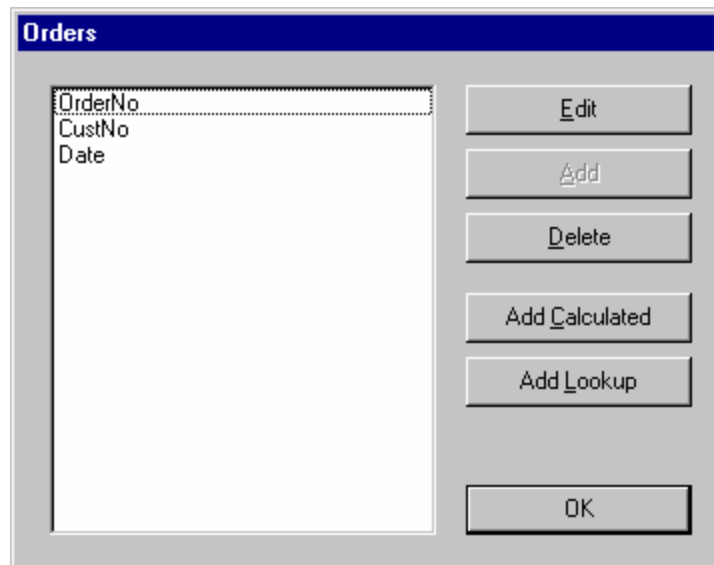
Note: The buttons in this dialog are disabled if you are not allowed the edit the dataset's fields.

You can remove (=hide) single fields from the dataset, so that they will not be available in the report editor anymore, or you can edit a field's properties:
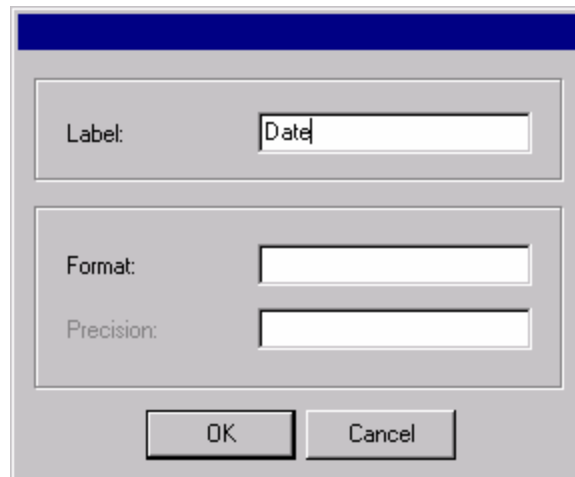
A display label can be set for each data field, which is used as an alias name in the report editor. This way you can have descriptive field names even if your physical dataset has not, for example "CustNo" can be replaced with "Customer".

Use the "format" edit line to format numerical fields (see Formatting of numerical fields). "Precision" determines how many digits after the decimal separator are displayed.

Report Elements Described

Bands

All standard report bands are added with the Bands button (see Adding Report Elements on page 13). The band type is selected with the band's property dialog.

The following band types are available:

- **Title:** The title band will be printed on the first page of the report as a report title.

- **Page header:** The page header is printed at the top of each report page

- **Column header:** The column header is used with reports that have multiple columns (can be set with "Report|Options").

- **Detail:** The detail band is the most important report band. It is printed once for each data record from the main report table.

- **Group footer:** The group footer is printed at the end of a group, before a new group starts. You can find mo re information on groups at the chapter describing the group band.

- **Summary:** The summary band is printed at the end of the report, after all data records have been printed.

- **Page footer:** The page footer is printed at the bottom of each report page.

The band properties for these bands are all set with the same property dialog. The following options are available:

Type: Band type (see above)

Color:

This defines the background color of the report band.

Print:

- not on first page: prints the band only on the second page and following

- not on last page: suppresses printing of the band on the last report page

- even page numbers only: only prints the band on even page numbers

- odd page numbers only: only prints the band on odd page numbers

- at bottom of page: moves the band to the bottom of the page before printing it

- force new page: starts a new page before printing the band

- force new column: starts a new column before printing when using reports with multiple columns

Only print band if expression is true:

An expression can be used to determine whether the band should be printed or not. The expression must have a logical result of "true" or "false". Press the button on the right side of the expression edit line to use the expression expert.

Frame:

A frame or single frame lines can be drawn around the report band. You can select which lines should be drawn, in which color, style and width.

SubDetail Band

A subdetail band is a sort of detail band, but it is subordinate to the real detail band. For example if you want to print a list of audio CDs, and for each CD a title list should be printed, you would use a detail band for printing the CD names and connect a subdetail band to the titles dataset, so separate lists of titles are printed below each CD name. Please note that in order to use such a connection you must create a corresponding table connection (called "master-detail-relationship") as well by using the database setup.

The following options are available for the subdetail band:

Table:

This is the dataset that is used by the subdetail band.

Color:

This defines the background color of the report band.

Master:

The master is the table superior to the subdetail table. For each record in the master table a subdetail list is printed.

Only print if Expression is True: An expression can be used to determine whether the band should be printed or not. The expression must have a logical result of "true" or "false". Press the button on the right side of the expression edit line to use the expression expert.

Print

- before master-detailband: prints the subdetail records before printing their master record from the detail band

- at bottom of page: moves the band to the bottom of the page before printing it

- print header/footer even if dataset is empty: header and footer bands of the subdetail band will be printed even if there are no subdetail data records to print

- force new page: starts a new page before printing the band

- force new column: starts a new column before printing the band (when using reports with multiple columns)

Headerband:

This band is printed as a header before the subdetail data records are printed.

Footerband:

This band is printed as a footer after the subdetail data records have been printed.

Frame:

A frame or single frame lines can be drawn around the report band. You can select which lines should be drawn, in which color, style and width.

Group Bands

A group band is used to structure data into groups of data records. For example if you want to print a list of addresses, you can add some space before each new first letter starts and insert some caption, or you can group addresses by city or state.

Internally groups are handled the following way: Before printing a data record, the report engine checks if the expression result of the group band is different from the last data record's expression result. If this is the case, the group band will be printed, else it won't. This way data can be grouped with great flexibility, because you can use the expression for nearly any kind of calculation.

The following options are available:

Master:

Defines which is the master band for the group. This can be either the detail band or a subdetail band. The group is checked each time the master band is printed.

Color:

This defines the background color of the report band.

Expression:

This expression determines whether a group band is printed or not. The band will be printed each time the result of the expression changes.

Print

- at bottom of page: moves the band to the bottom of the page before printing it

- force new page: starts a new page before printing the band

- force new column: starts a new column before printing when using reports with multiple columns

Footerband:

This band is printed at the end of each group, before the next group band is printed.

Frame:

A frame or single frame lines can be drawn around the report band. You can select which lines should be drawn, in which color, style and width.

Child Bands

A childband is a band which is attached to another report band and which will always be printed below its parent band. This way you can print an additional band after each detail band for example. The advantage of using child bands instead of just resizing the parent band to make room for more report elements is that there can be a page break between a band and its child if needed, and the child band can be printed independently from its parent band, even if the parent band is not printed.

You must use child bands if you have report elements with "Autostretch" set to true and you want to print element below such auto-resizing fields. In this case place all the elements which should be moved down automatically because of autostretching elements before them on a child band.

The following options are available:

Parent Band:

The band to which the child band is attached

Color:

This defines the background color of the report band.

Print

- not on first page: prints the band only on the second page and following

- even page numbers only: only prints the band on even page numbers

- odd page numbers only: only prints the band on odd page numbers

- at bottom of page: moves the band to the bottom of the page before printing it

- force new page: starts a new page before printing the band

- force new column: starts a new column before printing when using reports with multiple columns

Only print band if expression is true:

An expression can be used to determine whether the band should be printed or not. The expression must have a result of "true" or "false". Press the button on the right side of the expression edit line to use the expression expert.

Frame:

A frame or single frame lines can be drawn around the report band. You can select which lines should be drawn, in which color, style and width.

Data Fields

A datafield displays data from a table or query. This can be numerical data, characters or multiple lines of text.

The following options are available:

Data field:

Select the data field you want to print.

Alignment:

The report element's text can be aligned left, right or centered.

Format:

Numerical data fields can be formatted by setting a format definition.

Font:

Selects the font for the report element

Color:

Defines the background color for the report element (the font color can be set with the "Font" button).

Automatic word-wrap:

Set this option if you want the text to wrap to the next line if it does not fit into the given width (similar to a word processor software).

Transparent:

The report element's background will not be printed if this option is activated. This way you can place text on top of an image for example, without hiding the image under a white box with text.

Autosize width:

This option resizes the report element to make room for its complete text. If "Autosize" is not set and the text is larger than the element size then text will be clipped off.

Autostretch height:

This option is for report elements with multiple lines, e.g. memo fields. The height of the elements will be stretched to make room for all lines. If needed, the report band will be stretched too.

Suppress printing of repeated values

Activate this option if you do not want to print data fields with the same values repeatedly. The report engine will only print the data field for the first data record, and leave all following prints of this data field empty if the field's content hasn't changed.

Suppress printing if value of datafield is 0

This option suppresses printing of numerical fields if their value equals zero.

Reprint on new page

If you have activated "Suppress printing of repeated values", you can use this option to reprint a field if a new page starts, even if it would be suppressed normally because of equal values.

Reprint on new group

Same as "Reprint on new page" but for groups.

Labels

A label is for printing static text, i.e. text that is printed exactly like it is displayed during report design.

The following options are available:

Text:

This is the text that should be printed. You can only type in one line of text. Memos can be used for multi-line text.

Rotation:

Use this to rotate your text. Rotation can be set to anything between 0 and 360 degrees. 90 degree means displaying the text vertically for example.

Font:

Selects the font for the report element

Color:

Defines the background color for the report element (the font color can be set with the "Font" button).

Alignment:

The report element's text can be aligned left, right or centered.

Automatic word-wrap:

Set this option if you want the text to wrap to the next line if it does not fit into the given width (similar to a word processor software).

Transparent:

The report element's background will not be printed if this option is activated. This way you can place text on top of an image for example, without hiding the image under a white box with text.

Autosize width:

This option resizes the report element to make room for its complete text. If "Autosize" is not set and the text is larger than the element size, text will be clipped off.

Autostretch height:

This option is for report elements with multiple lines, e.g. memo fields. The height of the elements will be stretched to make room for all lines. If needed, the report band will be stretched too.

Memos

A memo is used to print text that has more than one line. Just like a label a memo displays text in one color and font. If you want to use formatted text, you can use a Richtext field.

The following options are available:

Text:

This is the text that will be printed.

Font:

Selects the font for the report element.

Color:

Defines the background color for the report element (the font color can be set with the "Font" button).

Alignment:

The report element's text can be aligned left, right or centered.

Automatic word-wrap:

Set this option if you want the text to wrap to the next line if it does not fit into the given width (similar to a word processor software).

Autosize width:

This option resizes the report element to make room for its complete text. If "Autosize" is not set and the text is larger than the element size, text will be clipped off.

Autostretch height:

This option is for report elements with multiple lines, e.g. memo fields. The height of the elements will be stretched to make room for all lines. If needed, the report band will be stretched too.

Images

An image element is a bitmap from a BMP file that is inserted into the report.

Use this to insert your kennel logo or other identifying field into the Report Title or Page Header band to make your report look cooler.

Image from Data Field

(will be supported for Dog Pictures in late 2005 to early 2006)

While a datafield is for displaying text from a database record, you can use this report element to display images that are stored in a database.

The following options are available:

Datafield:

The field that contains the image (if there is no bitmap in this field, nothing will be printed). If the datafield property is set to a database field which is not of type "bitmap", the report engine will try to find a bitmap file whose name equals that of the data field's content and load it.

Stretch picture automatically:

Activate this option to stretch the picture so it fits exactly into the report element's size, else the picture will be cut off if there is not enough room, or space will be left empty if there is too much.

Center picture:

If the report element is bigger than the picture and the "Stretch" option is not activated, the picture will be centered in the report element instead of being placed in the top left corner.

Alignment:

Aligns the image on the report band.

Expressions

 A calculated field (expression field) is used for displaying text or data that is calculated by an expression or formula. You can do numerical calculations, string manipulations, concatenate data fields and much more.

Expression:

This expression is evaluated each time the calculated field is going to be printed (See Expression Syntax on page 35).

Format:

Numerical fields can be formatted by setting a format definition.

Font:

Selects the font for the report element

Color:

Defines the background color for the report element (the font color can be set with the "Font" button).

Master:

If your expression uses any aggregated functions, you must link the "Master" property to the dataset that will be used to update the expression. Each time a new data record from this dataset is selected the expression will be recalculated.

Alignment:

The report element's text can be aligned left, right or centered.

Rotation:

Use this to rotate your text. Rotation can be set to anything between 0 and 360 degrees. 90 degree means displaying the text vertically for example.

Autosize width:

This option resizes the report element to make room for its complete text. If "Autosize" is not set and the text is larger than the element size, text will be clipped off.

Autostretch height:

This option is for report elements with multiple lines, e.g. memo fields. The height of the elements will be stretched to make room for all lines. If needed, the report band will be stretched too.

Reset after print:

If you are using calculations like sums or counting of data record etc., you can use this option to reset the value of the calculation to zero after the report element has been printed.

Automatic word-wrap:

Set this option if you want the text to wrap to the next line if it does not fit into the given width (similar to a word processor software).

Transparent:

The report element's background will not be printed if this option is activated. This way you can place text on top of an image for example, without hiding the image under a white box with text.

Shapes

 This report element can be used to draw (horizontal or vertical) lines, circles and rectangles.

The following options are available:

Type:

Selects the shape, which can be a circle, rectangle, horizontal line, vertical line or top/bottom and left/right lines.

Brush:

- Style: different styles to fill a circle or rectangle

- Color: the color that is used to fill the shape

- Pen:
    - Width: line width of the shape
    - Mode: various line drawing modes
    - Style: solid, dotted or dashed lines

System Fields

 This report element is used to display various system data like current time or date, page number etc.

Available options:

Text:

This text will be displayed before the actual system data. For example you can use the text "Report printed on: " when printing the current date.

Type:

The type of system data to print. The following types are available:

- Date: the current date when printing the report

- Time: the current time when printing the report

- Date/Time: the current date and time

- Detail count: total number of data records

- Detail number: number of the current data record

- Page number: current page number of the printout

- Report title: the report title which can be set via "Report|Options"

Autosize width:

This option resizes the report element to make room for its complete text. If "Autosize" is not set and the text is larger than the element size it will be clipped off.

Transparent:

The report element's background will not be printed if this option is activated. This way you can place text on top of an image for example, without hiding the image under a white box with text.

Font:

Selects the font for the report element

Color:

Defines the background color for the report element (the font color can be set with the "Font" button).

Rich Text Field

The richtext element is a report ele ment that can display multi-line text with different fonts, colors and formatting. In the richtext property dialog press the "Edit" button to show a text editor with richtext editing capabilities.

Alignment:

sets the text alignment if no alignment has been set with the editor

Font:

sets the font if no font has been specified with the editor

Color:

sets the text color if no color has been set with the editor

Autostretch height:

This option is for report elements with multiple lines, e.g. memo fields. The height of the elements will be stretched to make room for all lines. If needed, the report band will be stretched too.

Rich Text from data field

(will be supported in late 2005 or early 2006)

This report element displays richtext from a data field. The following options are available:

Data field:

Select the data field to use by the report element.

Alignment:

sets the text alignment if no alignment has been set with the editor

Font:

sets the font if no font has been specified with the editor

Color:

sets the text color if no color has been set with the editor

Autostretch height:

This option is for report elements with multiple lines, e.g. memo fields. The height of the elements will be stretched to make room for all lines. If needed, the report band will be stretched too.

Advanced Concepts

Introduction

In this chapter we will discuss the advanced functions available to you via The Scoop™. This includes advanced data formatting, formulas, SQL Queries and scripting.

This guide is intended to be a primer, and is not intended to be comprehensive. We do not provide free tech support to teach you to use SQL or the programming languages built into The Scoop™. If you want to learn to do advanced things, you need to consult with an expert and or take classes in programming and data management.

We do mark all data accessed by The Scoop as "read only," but you are expected to ONLY use the SQL Select statement in the Scoop. We do not warrant data integrity or the accuracy of any report, since you determine both things by the way you use the program.

Field Formatting

Numerical fields and date or time fields can be displayed in many different ways. This can be controlled with format strings, which represent the output formatting in a symbolical way.

Numerical fields:

Specifier	Represents
0	Digit place holder. If the value being formatted has a digit in the position where the '0' appears in the format string, that digit is copied to the output string. Otherwise, a '0' is stored in that position in the output string.
#	Digit placeholder. If the

	value being formatted has a digit in the position where the '#' appears in the format string, that digit is copied to the output string. Otherwise, nothing is stored in that position in the output string.
.	Decimal point. The first '.' character in the format string determines the location of the decimal separator in the formatted value; any additional '.' characters are ignored. The actual character used as the decimal separator in the output string is specified in the Number Format of the International section in the Windows Control Panel.
,	Thousand separator. If the format string contains one or more ',' characters, the output will have thousand separators inserted between each group of three digits to the left of the decimal point. The placement and number of ',' characters in the format string does not affect the output, except to indicate that thousand separators are wanted. The actual character used as the thousand separator in the output is specified in the Number Format of the International section in the Windows Control Panel.
E+	Scientific notation. If any of the strings 'E+', 'E-', 'e+', or 'e-' are contained in the format string, the number is formatted using scientific notation. A group of up to four '0' characters can immediately follow the 'E+', 'E-', 'e+', or 'e-' to determine the minimum number of digits in the exponent. The 'E+' and 'e+' formats cause a plus sign to be output for positive exponents and a minus sign to be output for

	negative exponents. The 'E-' and 'e-' formats output a sign character only for negative exponents.
'xx'/"xx'	Characters enclosed in single or double quotes are output as-is, and do not affect formatting.
;	Separates sections for positive, negative, and zero numbers in the format string.

The locations of the leftmost '0' before the decimal point in the format string and the rightmost '0' after the decimal point in the format string determine the range of digits that are always present in the output string.

The number being formatted is always rounded to as many decimal places as there are digit placeholders ('0' or '#') to the right of the decimal point. If the format string contains no decimal point, the value being formatted is rounded to the nearest whole number.

If the number being formatted has more digits to the left of the decimal separator than there are digit placeholders to the left of the '.' character in the format string, the extra digits are output before the first digit placeholder.

To allow different formats for positive, negative, and zero values, the format string can contain between one and three sections separated by semicolons.

- **One section:** The format string applies to all values.

- **Two sections:** The first section applies to positive values and zeros, and the second section applies to negative values.

- **Three sections:** The first section applies to positive values, the second applies to negative values, and the third applies to zeros.

If the section for negative values or the section for zero values is empty, that is if there is nothing between the semicolons that delimit the section, the section for positive values is used instead.

If the section for positive values is empty, or if the entire format string is empty, the value is formatted using general floating-point formatting with 15 significant digits. General floating-point formatting is also used if the value has more than 18 digits to the left of the decimal point and the format string does not specify scientific notation.

Date/Time:

The following formatting options are available for date and time:

Specifier	Displays
c	Displays the date using the format given by Windows' default short date format , followed by the time using the

	format given by the default Windows long time format. The time is not displayed if the fractional part of the DateTime value is zero.
d	Displays the day as a number without a leading zero (1-31).
dd	Displays the day as a number with a leading zero (01-31).
ddd	Displays the day as an abbreviation (Sun-Sat).
dddd	Displays the day as a full name (Sunday-Saturday).
ddddd	Displays the date in short format
dddddd	Displays the date in long format.
m	Displays the month as a number without a leading zero (1-12). If the m specifier immediately follows an h or hh specifier, the minute rather than the month is displayed.
mm	Displays the month as a number with a leading zero (01-12). If the mm specifier immediately follows an h or hh specifier, the minute rather than the month is displayed.
mmm	Displays the month as an abbreviation (Jan-Dec).
mmmm	Displays the month as a full name (January-December).
yy	Displays the year as a two-digit number (00-99).
yyy	Displays the year as a four-digit number (0000-9999).
h	Displays the hour without a leading zero (0-23).
hh	Displays the hour with a leading zero (00-23).
n	Displays the minute without a leading zero (0-59).
nn	Displays the minute with a leading zero (00-59).
s	Displays the second without a leading zero (0-59).

ss	Displays the second with a leading zero (00-59).
t	Displays the time using in short format.
tt	Displays the time in long format.
am/pm	Uses the 12-hour clock for the preceding h or hh specifier, and displays 'am' for any hour before noon, and 'pm' for any hour after noon. The am/pm specifier can use lower, upper, or mixed case, and the result is displayed accordingly.
a/p	Uses the 12-hour clock for the preceding h or hh specifier, and displays 'a' for any hour before noon, and 'p' for any hour after noon. The a/p specifier can use lower, upper, or mixed case, and the result is displayed accordingly.
ampm	Uses the 12-hour clock for the preceding h or hh specifier, and displays the contents of the TimeAMString global variable for any hour before noon, and the contents of the TimePMString global variable for any hour after noon.
/	Displays the date separator character given by the Windows country settings.
:	Displays the time separator character given by the Windows country settings.
'xx'/"xx"	Characters enclosed in single or double quotes are displayed as-is, and do not affect formatting.

Format specifiers may be written in upper case as well as in lower case letters--both produce the same result.

Expression Syntax

Expressions are used for calculating numerical values, strings or logical values ("true" or "false"). There are various operators and functions available for this, comparable to a programming language ("Pascal" in this case), which can be used to do many kinds of calculations. You can

do operations with data fields, for example calculate the tax for a given amount, or merge two data fields into one string. Please note that if the expression is a property of a report band, the result of the expression must be a logical value. Only the group band expects the result to be a string or a number, just like the expression-field report-element.

Composing expressions

The expression evaluator is working with four data types: Strings, Integer, Float and Boolean. Binary data and memo fields are not supported in expressions. Below is a list of how database fields are converted to report data types:

Data type	Field type
String	String fields, date and time fields
Integer	SmallInt fields, byte fields, integer fields
Float	Float fields, currency fields
Boolean	Boolean (logical) fields

Report expression syntax is very much like Object Pascal. Below is a list of supported operators:

Operator	Description
+	Add
-	Subtract
*	Multiply
/	Divide
()	Parentheses
And	Logical AND
Or	Logical OR
Not	Logical NOT
=	Equal
<	Less than
>	Greater than
<=	Less than or equal
>=	Greater than or equal
<>	Not equal

The standard functions included are:

Function	Description
Date	Return current date as a string
Time	Return current time as a string

Str(Number)	Converts the numeric argument to a string
Copy(Str,s,l)	Returns a substring of str (starting from the s-th character, returning a maximum of l characters)
Int(Number)	Returns the integer part of a number
Frac(Number)	Returns the fractional part of a number
If (Expr, r1, r2)	Returns r1 or r2 depending on the boolean expr
TypeOf(Expr)	Returns the data type of expr
Sqrt(Number)	Returns the square root of a number
True	Logical value True
False	Logical value False
Sum(Expr)	Returns the sum of expr
Count	Returns the number of entires
Min(Expr)	Returns the lowest value of expr
Max(Expr)	Returns the highest value of expr
Average(Expr)	Averages the expr

Using database fields in expressions

Any field in any table referenced in your report can be accessed in an expression. Field names can be referenced either just by the field name itself (e.g. Name) or by the table name followed by a dot and the field name (e.g. Customers.Name). If you do not specify a table name the report engine will search for the field in all available data sets and use the first instance found.

The current version of the expression evaluator does not support field names with embedded special characters like blank, "/", dot, dollar sign and so on.

Using Strings in Expressions

Strings in expression should be put in single quotes. The following is a valid expression:

"Computers are great!"

Maximum string length is 255 characters.

Expression Examples

Below are some examples of expressions:

Expression	Description
1	Integer constant, returns 1
1.5	Floating point constant, returns 1.5
"Delphi"	String constant, returns "Delphi" as a string
True	Logical constant, returns True
1 + 2	Numeric calculation, returns 3
2 * (3 + 2.5)	Numeric calculation, returns 11
"Delphi" + " is great"	String calculation, returns "Delphi is great"
Name	Returns the value of the field Name if it exists
Customer.Name	Returns the value of the field Name in the Customer table
Name + " " + Contact	Adds the Name field, a blank and the Contact field
AmountPaid * TaxRate / 100	Numeric field calculation
"Printed "+ Date	String calculation
"Total amount paid is " + str(AmountPaid)	String calculation
if(AmountPaid > 5000, "Large order", "Small order")	Returns "Large order" if AmountPaid is greater than 5000, else "Small order"
if(CheckField, "X", " ")	Prints an X if CheckField is True

Composing expressions visually

Expressions can be typed in directly to the corresponding edit line, or you can press the button ".." to the right of the edit line to show the expression builder dialog. You can then visually design your expression with your mouse. If a used function has parameters, like "Copy" or "Sum", another copy of the dialog will be opened to define those parameters separately.

Scripting with The Scoop™

The Scoop™ comes with an integrated script language for creating "BeforePrint" and "AfterPrint" event handlers at runtime. While you can allow the end user to do this, the script language is probably more useful for the developer itself. You can use it to design reports with

various special features without the need to write source code and to have this hardcoded into your application.

As a simple example, lets say that you have a report printing a list of numbers, some of which may be positive and some may be negative. For this you can write a script for the detail band's "BeforePrint" event at runtime from within the report editor (right-click on the band after you have selected it and choose "Scripts" from the popup menu):

```
if (Amount>=0)
 SetFontColor('AmountDBText',Black)
else
 SetFontColor('AmountDBText',Red)
endif
```

The script language is based on The Scoop's expression syntax, extended with commands IF, ELSE, ENDIF, LOOP, ENDLOOP, BREAK, EXIT and RETURN, i.e. you can use any expression function in the script (and all script functionality is based on the various functions available). Also you can use variables to store values.

Syntax of The Scripting Language

IF...ELSE...ENDIF:

IF (Condition)

:

ENDIF

Or…

IF (Condition)

:

ELSE

:

ENDIF

Note that between the "IF" and "(Condition)" there MUST be a blank. Do not place commands on the same line as the IF statement, but only on new lines.

"Condition" can be any expression returning TRUE or FALSE, e.g. "IF (Weight>10)"

The lines below the IF statement until ENDIF or ELSE are the commands to be executed if "Condition" evaluates to TRUE.

Examples:

```
IF (Amount*1.16>800)
  OKBox('Warning: Amount including VAT is
larger than 800')
ENDIF
```

```
IF (YesNoBox('Print report now?'))

  RETURN(TRUE)

ELSE

  RETURN(FALSE)

ENDIF
```

LOOP...ENDLOOP

```
LOOP

:

ENDLOOP
```

You can place expression commands between LOOP and ENDLOOP, and when reaching the ENDLOOP statement the script will start again at the line below LOOP. You can exit the loop only by using the BREAK or BREAKLOOP commands (see below).

Example:

```
SetVar('Temp',1);

LOOP

  SetVar('Temp',GetVar('Temp')+1);

  IF (GetVar('Temp')>10)

    BREAKLOOP

  ENDIF

ENDLOOP
```

BREAK

BREAK has no parameters, it just exits from the current IF or LOOP block instantly, continuing with the commands following the ENDIF or ENDLOOP statement. Note that in the above example break would only exit from the IF statement, not from the loop.

BREAKLOOP

This is the same as BREAK, only that it exits from the current loop no matter if BREAKLOOP is used from within one or more IF blocks.

EXIT

EXIT has no parameters. It just completely exits the script execution instantly.

RETURN

Or…

RETURN(Expression)

RETURN sets the current scripts result (a result is needed for the BeforePrint event: TRUE to confirm printing of the current band, FALSE to skip printing the band). "Expression" must evaluate to TRUE or FALSE.

Example:

```
RETURN(FALSE)

RETURN(Weight>10)
```

The second example would only print the band if the WEIGHT datafield value is greater than 10.

Variables in Event Scripts

Variables are declared, set and get with functions. There are no variables like in Pascal or C that can be used just by writing their name. Variables are global, i.e. you can set a variable in one event handler script and use it in another. You can even set a variable in one report and use it in a second report executed afterwards. Variables are not initialized to some value when a report is generated.

To set a variable, use the SETVAR function with variable name and variable value as parameter. SETVAR automatically creates a new variable if it doesn't exist, else it will overwrite the value of the given variable.

```
SETVAR('Temp','This is a test string')

SETVAR('Num',1000)

SETVAR('Flag1',TRUE)
```

To get a variable value, use the GETVAR function with the variable name as parameter. The result type of GETVAR depends on what kind of variable (string, number, boolean) has been created/set with SETVAR.

```
GETVAR('Temp')

IF (GETVAR('NUM')>0)

  RETURN(FALSE)

  EXIT

ENDIF

SETVAR('Num',GETVAR('Num')+1)

SetStringProp('QRLabel1',GETVAR('Temp')+' !!!')
```

To check if a variable exists (i.e. has been created with a first call of SETVAR), use the VAREXIST function with the variable name as parameter.

```
IF (VAREXISTS('Flag1'))

:

:

ENDIF
```

To delete a variable from memory, use the DELETEVAR function with the variable name as parameter. VAREXISTS will return FALSE for this variable afterwards.

```
DELETEVAR('Temp1')
```

Script Expression Functions

ElementExists(Name: String): Boolean

Checks if a report element with the given name exists.

Example:

```
ElementExists('Label1')
```

SetBoolProp(ComponentName, PropertyName, PropertyValue)

Sets a boolean property for a component.

Example:

```
SetBoolProp('Childband1','Enabled',False)
```

```
SetBoolProp('MyShape','Enabled',True)
```

SetIntProp(ComponentName, PropertyName, PropertyValue)

Sets a numeric property for a component

Example:

```
SetIntProp('Band1',Height,200)
```

SetFloatProp(ComponentName, PropertyName, PropertyValue)

Sets a floating point property for a component

SetStrProp(ComponentName, PropertyName, PropertyValue)

Sets a string property for a component

Example: `SetStrProp('Label1','Caption','This is a test')`

GetBoolProp(ComponentName, PropertyName, PropertyValue): Boolean

Reads a boolean property from a component.

Example:

```
IF (GetBoolProp('DBText1','Enabled))

  SetColor('DBText1',Black)

ENDIF
```

GetIntProp(ComponentName, PropertyName): Integer

Reads a numerical property from a component

Example:
```
SETVAR('LastBandHeight',GetIntProp('DetailBand'
,'Height'))
```

GetFloatProp(ComponentName, PropertyName): Float

Reads floating point property from a component

GetStrProp(ComponentName, PropertyName,): String

Reads a string property from a component

Example:

```
GetStrProp('Expr1','Caption')
```

OkBox(Text: String)

Shows a message dialog with the given text and an OK button

Example:

```
OkBox('Fasten your seat belts')
```

OkCancelBox(Text: String): Boolean

Shows a message dialog with the given text and both an OK button and a CANCEL button. Returns TRUE if the OK button has been pressed, FALSE otherwise.

Example:

```
IF (OkCancelBox('Print now?'))

  Return(True)

ELSE

  Return(False)

ENDIF
```

YesNoBox(Text: String): Boolean

Same as "OkCancelBox" but with "Yes" and "No" buttons.

InputBox(Title, Text, VariableName): Boolean

Shows an input dialog. The user must type in a value that is stored in the given variable.

Example:

```
InputBox('Input start date','Start
date:','VDate')
```

SetColor(Name, Color)

Sets the (background) color of the given report element. The color parameter is a numerical value (same as in Delphi), but the following constants are available: Black, Maroon, Green, Olive, Navy, Purple, Teal, Gray, Silver, Red, Lime, Blue, Fuchsia, Aqua, White. You can also use the RGBCOLOR function (see below).

Example:

```
SetColor('Childband2',Yellow)

SetColor('Childband2',87123)

SetColor('Childband2', RGBColor(255,0,128))
```

RGBColor(Red, Green, Blue): Integer

This function creates a color value for use with SETCOLOR and SETFONTCOLOR from red, green and blue parts.

Example:

```
RGBColor(64,0,0)        (is a dark red color)
```

SetFont(ComponentName, FontName)

Sets the font for a given component

Example:

```
SetFont('Label1','Arial')
```

SetFontColor(ComponentName, Color)

Sets the font color for a given component. Please see the description of
SETCOLOR above.

SetFontSize(ComponentName, Fontsize)

Sets the font size for a given component

Example:

```
SetFontSize('TitleLabel',24)
```

SetFontStyle(ComponentName, IsBold, IsItalic, IsUnderline, IsStrikeout)

Sets the font style (bold, italic, underline and strikeout) for a given
component. Each style is a boolean parameter that must be set to TRUE
for activating it.

Example:
```
SetFontStyle(DBText1,true,false,false,false)
```

Trouble-Shooting Guide

Introduction

Every program will give someone a headache from time to time. The larger the company providing the program the more quickly a response can be obtained.

This is business software for those in the business of breeding dogs. We pride ourselves on having set up one of the more innovative and responsive support mechanisms in this industry.

Figuring Things Out when There's a Problem

What to Check

Try rebooting the computer if you get a goofy error or a GPF. First, write everything down so you have it handy if you need to contact us for support.

Information to have ready for Technical Support

When you call or post a message to Man's Best Friend Software, please have the following information immediately available:

Your Control number, from the invoice and/or registration sheet;

The number (if any) **and the full text** of any message you've received **Important! Include the full text of any message you receive! These messages contain vital information we <u>need</u> to solve problems!**;

Exactly what you did to receive this message;

What happened if you followed the steps outlined in the manual (if there were steps) to correct the problem?

This will greatly help us to quickly identify and resolve your problems.

Warranty Procedure

The Breeder's Standard 2006™ program disks are warranted for thirty days from the date you receive the program to be free from material defects. **This is NOT a money-back guarantee.** If you cannot make your installation diskette work,

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follow the procedure below for telephone support and call 888-820-0691. You will not be charged for support time for the call.

If we determine that your diskette or CD has failed, we will send you a new one. If we need the old one back, we'll instruct you on how to ship it back to us, and give you an authorization number for the return. **DO NOT RETURN ANYTHING WITHOUT A VALID RMA NUMBER! ALL UNAUTHORIZED RETURNS ARE REFUSED!**

Contacting Us for Support

Internet

Man's Best Friend Software has one of the largest animal-related sites on the Internet. On this site, we have product news, demos, patches, free utilities and support information. Our World Wide Web address is:

http://www.mbfs.com

This is an ideal first-look support resource. If you need additional assistance, please send Email to:

support@mbfs.com

…which will get you technical aid, usually within one business day.

FAX

Our FAX is on line all the time at **815-806-2130**. When FAXing, please send complete details, including all message number, texts, etc., so we can assist you. **FAXes must have a return FAX number or an Internet Email address to be responded to. You will not receive a voice call-back for a FAXed-in support issue. No exceptions.**

Telephone Product Support *

Man's Best Friend offers no-charge product support via voice telephone. This is a costly service for us to offer, and we ask and expect you to utilize this manual, the Internet site and other resources prior to tying up a person with a telephone support request. This is important, since we will be unable to keep this service free if it is not responsibly used.

Please do not call until you have all of the information that we need already in hand (see "Information to have ready for Technical Support" on page 45). This will make it possible for our support representative to give you assistance.

The USA number for product support is:

888-820-0691

The support number outside the USA is:

815-806-2130

Press 2 for support.

Support hours are **Eastern** time, 9AM-5PM, Monday-Friday. If you get a voice mail, please leave a detailed message. You will receive a call back as soon as possible. Please be courteous and polite. You may be frustrated, but the support representative is not responsible for that. Our representatives are instructed to decline support in the presence of boorish conduct, threats and the like.

* NOTE: We reserve the right to assess a fee for product support or to terminate it altogether. The sale of any product does not include any product support, which is offered solely as an accommodation. No sale is contingent upon any level of product support. See the license agreement (Copyright and License on page 1).

Glossary of Terms

Band

A "Band" is a segment of a report. The Band holds the information that needs to be printed. The band is repeated as required to do the report. A detail band is full of records; a Page Header band prints at the top of each page.

Dataset

A dataset is a file of a certain kind of data. For The Scoop™, this may be the dog file, or the breed codes file or another similar file.

SQL

SQL Stands for Structured Query Language. It is a way to write a sentence to tell a computer how to give you a dataset made up of one or more fields from one or more other datasets, how to select what is in the dataset, and in what order to give it to you.

Report Expert

The Report Expert is a program that guides you through the initial tasks of creating a report with The Scoop™.

File Extension

The three characters that appear after the last period [.] in a file name. In Windows, the File extension can tell Windows what program to use to access the file.

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