

WHAT'S NEW AT ROBELLE

MARCH 2020 ISSUE

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We hope this newsletter finds everyone well during these challenging times. Years ago, Robelle took steps to be a virtual company. So regardless of whether we are self isolating or isolate due to various governments. Robelle will be able to do all our business and support operations from any location. To be clear Tammy, Bob and myself are working as normal. We wish everyone well and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions 604-501-2001 or 289-480-1060 or tammy@robelle.com or neil@robelle.com

Set Date Cutoff

It is advisable to check your suprmgr files (SUPRMGR.PUB.SYS or /opt/robelle/suprmgr) for the Set Date Cutoff Command value and increase it to be greater than 20 or even 25 potentially. If not it is likely that you will have issues with dates with two digit years in 2020, will end up with a century value of 19, instead of 20. For details on Set Date Cutoff please see: [Set Date Cutoff](#).

Rport New Feature in Suprtool

With Rport first being released only a short time ago, it was helpful to get some feedback on some features that would be helpful to have. This resulted in the Hide command and the Comma Command.

Hide is very simple, in that it simply removes the field specified from the report. This is perfect for fields that you may have in an SD file that are Integers but in a byte-field.

An example of this was for the combining of Account (I2 – 4 bytes) and Suffix (K1 – Logical) fields combined into a six byte field:

```
Def acctsfx,account,1,6,byte
```

This technique is great to match records and sort by both account and suffix for Suprlink, Links and Joins, but with Rport you will need to hide the field as it potentially will print weird characters.

The second feature added is the comma command. If you specify a fieldname or fieldnames via the comma command, Rport will edit the field and add commas and adjust the length of the field accordingly.

These two new additional features help make Rport be even more useful out of the box and we are actively looking for feedback. For additional Rport information please go to [Suprtool Pre-Release Information](#)

Are you interesting in trying Rport only or want to request a Suprtool pre-release containing Rport? Contact Neil Armstrong neil@robelle.com and he can provide you details for a web download.

Qedit Forgotten Features by Neil Armstrong

While at a customer site recently I was helping with some scripts, there was a process they had that made an XML file for sending off for processing. However, that process produced incorrect XML and was unable to be processed. Essentially some data was written into the middle of an XML file, but not in xml format. This required to text in the file, find the first bad line, then the second bad line and delete the range.

Here is what I came up with... eventually, which is pretty clean and simple:

```
qedit << eod
TQJ Rtest                {text in the file to change }
ZZ OFF                   {turn off any zz marking }
L [                      {go to the first line in the file}
find :my_flag_51:       {find the first instance of my_flag_51 }
zz *                    {mark the beginning of the range current line }
find :my_flag_250:     {find the end of the first section of xml field notation }
zz *                    {mark that end range }
dq zz                   {delete the range }
dq :my_flag_           {delete all the other my_flag records }
kq Rtest_new2          {keep new file }
exit
eod
```

When I first conceived of a solution for the problem they were trying to solve, I completely forgot about the zz feature and subsequently wrote a convoluted script to look at the output from the find command and parsed the output from it to find the range to delete. Even after using Qedit for over 30 years I still forget some options for various commands and solutions. This is especially embarrassing as ZZ is also the nickname of my youngest son. Have any questions? Contact Neil at neil@robelle.com

Move Data from HP-UX to Linux Natively

With customers migrating data from HP-UX to Linux in large amounts we have made the process as seamless as possible and without the need of any conversion for self-describing files. With HP-UX data in Big Endian format and most Linux implementations in Little Endian format (cite article), Suprtool will allow you to read the data the Little-Endian box without having convert the data. We simply tell Suprtool that the data in the file is in Big Endian format and run a conversion utility which sets some flags in the .sd file.

Extract on my HP-UX development box

```
>base store
Database password [;]?
>get d-sales
>form
```

Database: store
TPI: Eloquence B.08.20.00

```
D-SALES          Detail          Set# 5
Entry:
  CUST-ACCOUNT    Z8      1  (!M-CUSTOMER)
  DELIV-DATE      J2      9
  PRODUCT-NO      Z8     13  (M-PRODUCT)
  PRODUCT-PRICE   J2     21
  PURCH-DATE      J2     25
  SALES-QTY       J1     29
  SALES-TAX       J2     31
  SALES-TOTAL     J2     35
```

Capacity: 1149 (0), 0, 1, 2147483647 Entries: 8 Highwater: 0 Bytes: 38
>out dsales,link
>xreq
Warning: Using DBGET for the input records
IN=8, OUT=8. CPU-Sec=1. Wall-Sec=1.

```
>in dsales
>num 1
>list
>xreq
>IN dsales (0) >OUT $NULL (0)
CUST-ACCOUNT    = 10020          DELIV-DATE      = 19951004
PRODUCT-NO      = 50511501      PRODUCT-PRICE   = 9831
PURCH-DATE      = 19951000      SALES-QTY       = 2
SALES-TAX       = 2753          SALES-TOTAL     = 22415
```

Warning: NUMRECS exceeded; some records not processed.
IN=2, OUT=1. CPU-Sec=1. Wall-Sec=1.

```
Trinity%/home/neil: ll dsales*
-r-xr-xr-x  1 neil      robelle      304 Mar 14 15:52 dsales
-r-xr-xr-x  1 neil      robelle      496 Mar 14 15:52 dsales.sd
```

Switch to My Linux Dev Box

```
# ftp hpuxdev.robelle.com
ftp> binary
200 Type set to I.
ftp> get dsales
local: dsales remote: dsales
ftp> get dsales.sd
local: dsales.sd remote: dsales.sd
ftp> quit
```

```
#sdlinux/sdlinux '-fdsales'
sdlinux/Open/Copyright Robelle Solutions Technology Inc. 1995-2020
(Version 0.8)
```

CPU-Sec=1. Wall-Sec=1.

```
# suprttool/suprttool
SUPRTOOL/Open/Copyright Robelle Solutions Technology Inc. 1981-2020.
(Version 6.1.11 Internal) SAT, MAR 14, 2020, 2:56 PM Type H for help.
```

```
Build 1
>in dsales
>form
File: dsales (SD Version B.00.02) No linefeeds
Entry:
  CUST-ACCOUNT    Z8      1
  DELIV-DATE      I2      9
  PRODUCT-NO      Z8     13
  PRODUCT-PRICE   I2     21
  PURCH-DATE      I2     25
  SALES-QTY       I1     29
  SALES-TAX       I2     31
  SALES-TOTAL     I2     35
Entry Length: 38 Blocking: 1
>num 1
>list
```

```

>xeq
>IN dsales (0) >OUT $NULL (0)
CUST-ACCOUNT      = 10020          DELIV-DATE        = 19951004
PRODUCT-NO        = 50511501      PRODUCT-PRICE     = 9831
PURCH-DATE        = 19951000      SALES-QTY         = 2
SALES-TAX          = 2753          SALES-TOTAL       = 22415

```

Warning: NUMRECS exceeded; some records not processed.
IN=2, OUT=1. CPU-Sec=1. Wall-Sec=1.

You can see the BE in the far-right column for the Integer fields, which tells Suprtool/Open that the field is in Big Endian format. We simply just need to alter the .sd file, to put a flag in the Big-endian fields and later the Header Version of the file as this tells Suprtool how to read the .sd information. Have any questions? Please contact support at support@robelle.com

Calculating Age Fun by Neil Armstrong

I was asked for a method/trick for roughly calculating age. The customer was finding sometimes they were off by one. I realized that this may be due to rounding and came up with the following calculation.

```

>in dates
>list
>xeq
>IN DATES.NEIL.GREEN (0) >OUT $NULL (0)
CURR-DATE          = 20200121      BIRTH-DATE        = 19480526

```

```

>in dates
>item curr-date,date,ccyymmdd
>item birth-date,date,ccyymmdd
>def age,1,4,double
>ext age=$truncate($abs($days(birth-date) - $days(curr-date)) / 365)
>list
>xeq
>IN DATES.NEIL.GREEN (0) >OUT $NULL (0)
AGE                = 71

```

In retrospect it might be worthwhile using 365.25 as the dividing factor, but it likely won't make much of a difference.

Replacing Nulls by Neil Armstrong

Hello, I have a question for you, is there a way to replace all nulls with spaces in Qedit?

```

Tqj filename
Set decimal on
Cq '0 " " all
Kq,yes
Exit

```

So, the set decimal on is the key which tells qedit that the single quote followed by a number will be treated as the decimal equivalent, which for null, is a single quote zero, so the two key things here are:

```
Set decimal on
Cq '0 " " all
```

You can also clean up many other characters that you might not want in a file:

```
Cq '9 " " all { Tab to space }
Cq '10 " " all { Line Feed to space }
Cq '13 " " all { Carriage Return to space }
```

The above are the typical common, bad characters found in some data that I have helped port for some customers.

Robelle Book Club by Tammy Roscoe & Chuck Nickerson

We Robellians like to read. In our last newsletter, we listed a few of the books we have shared and enjoyed. One of our customers Chuck Nickerson was kind enough to share four of his favorite non-fiction books:

The Clockwork Universe: Isaac Newton, the Royal Society, and the Birth of the Modern World by Edward Dolnick In the 1600's Kepler, Galileo, and Newton rewrote our understanding of nature and science. This book sets the time, place, and explains what they did. – Chuck

The Science of Shakespeare: A New Look at the Playwright's Universe by Dan Falk. Shakespeare was writing while the above was fermenting and if one looks the footprints in his plays. When the god Jupiter show up, he has four spirits accompanying him. Why four? Scientists thought Jupiter had four moons. Geeky, yes; but fun for Shakespeare buffs (guilty as charged). – Chuck

Bound for Canaan: The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad, America's First Civil Rights Movement by Fergus M. Bordewich. A wonderfully cogent history of slavery in the USA and the Underground Railroad. – Chuck

The Book of Puka-Puka by Robert Dean Frisbie. This is regarded as the definitive book on the Pacific Islands traders' life. – Chuck

North of Normal: A Memoir of My Wilderness Childhood, My Unusual Family, and How I Survived Both by Cea Sunrise Person. Enjoyed Educated or Glass Castle? Then this is a book for you. Cea grew up in a very non-traditional family in BC (where our office is located) and Alberta Canada. 4 out of 5 – Tammy

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen. Recently re-read this modern classic and enjoyed second read as much as the first. Circus life during the depression and hard choices in life. I have personal connection to this book. My family owned a carnival with side show of animals. First 5 years of my life were spent traveling with the carnival. 4 out of 5 – Tammy

We are always looking for book recommendations. Send your book recommendation tammy@robelle.com

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