

Jewelex Creations Pvt Ltd

Importance Of Native Data Dictionary

Benefits of Native Data Access through ERPJewels

It is a well established fact that MS Excel is an excellent user-friendly **presentation** (as far as quantitative information is concerned) and **analytical tool**. With recent [enhancements in MS Excel 2007](#) and [Duet- JV between Microsoft and SAP](#), it has become more evident.

This excellent analytical tool can also be widely available easy-to-use report viewer for Baan if proper integrations with Baan are made. MS Excel is very **handy report viewer** for people outside the company (like partners, associates, Govt bodies etc), non-IT laymen in the company (even your boss also !)

ERPJewels has many unique functionality due to native data dictionary access. And in **many contexts and situations** it is the best tool to deploy. Here are some of the situations in which native data dictionary access helps.

Sr.No	Benefits	Description
1	Domain Definition Access	Data type recognition - For all table fields, report fields based and its domain and domains data type and treat the same accordingly. e.g. Selection based on combined fields is not allowed , enum/set selection for enum /set fields ,date field zoom for date fields , UDF domain checked with return value , analyses fields natural selection for Excel mapping etc .
		Domain specific zoom - In baan every dimension like ledger, item etc has specific zoom sessions in-built . ERPJewels has the capability to use this dimension specific zoom based on it's domain itself while creating analyses. Outside Baan it's just not possible to use these zoom lists (i.e. sessions) . Thus context based zoom-list are possible due to domain recognition. Outside Baan its very difficult .
		Enum descriptions - For Enum type of fields because numbers are stored in the tables. User can select from list provided for normal

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		<p>enums. He/she can enter first few chars of enum option and system understands the enum value. Functionality of negative enum, also is available only for Enum kind of fields.</p> <p>Date fields - User can select the date from calender selecting F4. Use the speedy date entry by just entering + or - number of days or entering the day, day/month. Only for date type field date hierarchies (Pivot table output and conversion (other output) can be used .</p> <p>Domain alignment - User need not remember about the domain alignment Right / Left . He/she can just key in the values without bothering for domain alignment. Outside Baan ,this is very difficult .</p> <p>Case conversion - He/she can just key in the values without bothering for case (Upper / Lower) in which data is stored in the table. Again this is very difficult outside Baan.</p> <p>Output Number / date formats linked to domains - like %A095, %D101 utilized in the output.</p> <p>Legal/illegal characters in domain are also recognized while entering a domain specific information.</p> <p>Range validation (e.g. domain tcncmp has a valid range of -999 ie \$\$ in [0-999] despite being integer (limits -32567 to 32568. It will restrict data entry within this range only.) This range validation helps user preventing wrong selection data even accidentally.</p>
2	Table definition	<p>Table field descriptions - User need not go through VRCs and labels table for table description. If user is conversant with baan technical code,he/she can enter the same . If he/she is more comfortable with description, he/she can select the same from a list which displays code with description. Thus user has the conveniences of both worlds.</p>

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		<p>Table codes and table descriptions available in zoom list for selection by user.</p>
		<p>Table indices - Again the optimum table index used for query generation, hierarchies generation, hierarchies usage and Relational lookups.</p>
		<p>Table Field Domains and related information are available online.</p>
		<p>Relations between table fields are auto generated by itself without user having to key in the relationships for lookups from other table.</p>
		<p>Based on the context, if the user enters the short field code (e.g. orno for tdsls045.orno), it will understand it correctly, in query fields, selection criteria, UDF parameters, lookups from other table.</p>
		<p>Field element or depth – a feature of Baan database design is easily identified and used in ERP Jewels due to knowledge of native data dictionary.</p>
3	Dynamic SQL	<p>Multi-company queries - It may be worth noting multiple companies can not be queried in Easy SQL. In ODBC one needs to do some more scripting to get consolidated results.</p>
		<p>IN specification - User can select up to 127 in entries in the SQL queries. With the other available options not more than 5-6 in entries can be entered or used.</p>
		<p>SQL Query optimized with best available index. Depending on the selection parameters, its values, available indices optimum query is generated to ensure faster output. This again is possible only due to native access.</p>
		<p>Lookups for description and groups, hierarchies generation and usage are possible only with the help of dynamic SQL.</p>
		<p>Regular expressions which can be used only with hard coded values in embedded SQL, are easily used in ERP Jewels with use of Like operator in dynamic queries.</p>
4	Job management	<p>Use of Automatic scheduling of Baan integrated with Baan processes generating</p>

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		reports. Further Intelligence built into scheduling (by unequal period date correction and numeric non-date period recognition)
5	Tools Zoom	There are certain zoom sessions built in Baan for dictionary records such as Tables, Table Fields, Domains, Reports and sessions. Outside Baan these may not be available. Separate infrastructure needs to be built to cater to this.
6	Baan report	<p>Ready repository of lot of customized and standard reports within baan. These can be used instantaneously in a couple of minutes without changing the original report structure. This repository is used extensively in Code generator and easy analysis generator .</p> <p>Transformation built in the report itself couple transformation built into ERPjewels provides enormous possibilities just with single report.</p> <p>Requirement to change or create the same report with different sort / view fields & different sort order gets eliminated. E.g. A report with 4 sort fields can be viewed in any order in Pivot table out of possible 15 (2**4-1) combination. This saves lot of new report development.</p> <p>Report layouts with report fields spread across many lines in a layout are presented best in spread sheet form. e.g customer addresses in tccom1401m000. Even reports with group – subgroup type semi tabular layout can also be converted easily excel tabular output like tfacp2421m000. Sort fields of higher order are automatically added to the output field even if they are not printed.</p> <p>Many a reports requires complex scripting engine like Baan 4 GL which can not be better in reporting tools. Due to this such reports are always prepared in Baan natively. ERPJewels takes the advantage of such reports easily.</p>

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		Different Selection criteria are possible for each report. ERPJewels can easily identify such selection criteria and relate the same in Excel output for later reference by user.
7	Dynamic expression handling	Baan provides wonderful data manipulation functions for manipulating data dynamically to calculate the numeric and alphanumeric calculated item , create formulae , to extract data , hierarchies generation , extracting UDF return values etc dynamically. Outside Baan it's just not possible to reuse the same making requirement to recreate the same.
8	Powerful Baan 3 GL	User Defined Functions or UDFs embedded in ERPJewels can take the complete power all Baan 3 GL manipulation techniques. UDF servers to purposes. Boolean UDF can restrict the data source further for extraction by returning true or false. Field UDF can be used as a query field in the analysis. UDF lets user get data quickly with least changes in OLTP structures .User can specify input parameters for each UDF from the data source.
9	Runtime vs Application Dictionary	When someone accesses the application dictionary present in tools tables , there are 2 problems. One has consider VRC structure for each and every aspect of it and second it's just application dictionary not runtime dictionary which can be quite different at times (for ongoing developments and when developers play with tt tables) .

Thus it is clear that **integrated strategy** of ERPJewels can bring advantages of flexible and fast multi-dimensional online reporting with least involvement of IT staff and maximum user satisfaction and all other strategies do not cater all situations and contexts.