

ProNews



programmer utilities for the

System i

IN THIS ISSUE

1 New Customer Portal

2 FREE Features with Product Maintenance

ProData People Profile

DBUniversity offers RSP training

3 Moving iSeries Shops to the Web with ProData Software

4 RSP 4.0 Available

DBU-on-Demand FAQ's

5 Sponsorship Opportunities

Hartley Racing Update

New Customer Portal

ProData & DBU Are All About Service!

Introducing our NEW Customer Portal created just for you!

Here is one more way we are taking care of you. Announcing our new Customer Portal! Entrance to the portal is available in the upper right hand corner on our homepage. You can also access the portal from the customer login link from the support dropdown menu on any page.

Sign up for access within the portal. From then on you can enter with your customer number and password.

We are planning to add additional options for new licenses, upgrades, yearly maintenance payments, AND anything else you might suggest!

What are you waiting for? Do It NOW! Check out your License Inventory or get Disaster Codes! Visit our Customer Portal today! Once you are there, bookmark us so we can always be just a click away!

We hope you can take the time to visit our Customer Portal for two very good reasons:

Powered by



Rsp software was used exclusively to build this web application from our existing database. When you see this portal you will see the power of RSP and understand why we are so excited about this new product!

24 x 7 Support

- Additional Contact Method for ProData
- Complete Listing of Licensing History
- Obtain Disaster Recovery Codes
- Get New Product Information
- Maintain Your Customer Record

PRODATA COMPUTER SERVICES, INC.
2809 S. 160TH ST., OMAHA, NE 68130
800.228.6318



Schadd Gray

Chief Technology Officer

What is your background?

My love of computers began when I was a child, writing game programs on a TRS-80. In 1988, I began my career on the IBM midrange platform. My first job was converting a System/3 to a 38. In 1989, I got my hands on my first AS/400 and I have been in love ever since.

What are your interests?

I enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, fishing and playing golf. My favorite sport is the PBR (that's Professional Bull Riders not the beer).

But my true passion, like every true "computer geek", is to write software. Some people like to sit down and watch a movie. I like to sit down at my computer and create something new.

What is the best thing about your job?

The "software challenge". When someone says to me "It would be cool if the software could do this..." and I get to make it happen.

FREE Features With Product Maintenance

Look at what is available to you as part of our Product Maintenance program!

Anyone current on maintenance can obtain DBU 7.0 FREE! Check to see if your maintenance is current! This release is packed with the same power & performance you have come to expect with the #1 database utility available for the System i!!

Did you know...you can update the DBU software using **DBUPTF**?

With DBU 7.0 you can use the DBUPTF command to download and restore program changes to the DBU software. Using the F4 prompt key on this command (DBUPTF) allows you to specify a library other than the DBU shipped default library.

Did you know...You can obtain **Disaster Recovery Codes** directly off our web site?

As part of our maintenance program, you can obtain access to our Client Portal right off our homepage. Your customer number is used to gain access and can be obtained thru a search function, off the last invoice, or by contacting our sales team. Once inside, generate the temporary disaster recovery codes as the need arises.

Did you know...a **WDESC plug-in** is available with DBU?

The ProData WDESC plug-in allows database access directly through the Remote System Explorer. The plug-in allows developers using DBU / GUI to research database content, display data in hexadecimal format or reactivate deleted records plus many more database functions.



RSP Training Available

With RSP, RPG Server Pages, you can create web apps instantly by integrating HTML directly with RPG, all in a visual environment with the back end business logic intact. It's simple, like DBU...but it's powerful with advanced features that may require additional training.

We are offering a 1 day training class and lab (\$295) on September 16th in Miami (concurrently with COMMON conference). Join us at the beautiful Doubletree Surfcomber Hotel for some heads-down training on web-enablement using our hottest product, RSP on the System i. Call 800.228.6318 to register TODAY!

Testimonial

"I just completed the download of the most current version of dbu70. That was the easiest installation I have ever been through. Great job on your part with the documentation and making it user friendly!"

SHARON TATUM, VULCAN INFORMATION PACKAGING



Moving iSeries Shops to the Web with ProData Software!

Alpha Security finds web solution with RSP!

Objective: iSeries shops all over are moving their business to the web. Or at least they want to. And quickly! So fast that there is little time to get programmers up to speed in this new and unfamiliar territory. One such company was Alpha Security in Canton Ohio. Their goal was to utilize current skills in-house to aggressively pursue a web-based ordering system for Alpha's largest customers. The web site would require tight integration into the ordering, inventory control, and financial systems.

Solution: Since 1984, Alpha Security has provided security products for open merchandising. These products include anti-sweep hooks, locking hooks and swivel tags, like those you would see on Nintendo games in big retail stores like Wal-Mart, Best Buy and Circuit City. Alpha Security products assist in the preparation of getting products like this on the shelf and into the customer's hands ... without loss.

Alpha Security's IT Department was made up of 2 full and 3 part-time employees. The staff supported 75 users in North America, marketing and distribution services in Europe, and vendor applications in Asia. The skill set was centered entirely on the AS/400 and green screen applications with no web development skills.

Jeff Smith, IT Manager was assigned the task web-enabling Alpha's back-end systems.

Smith commented, "I knew it would take us months to develop our internal staff to enable them to develop a robust web-based ordering system. I struggled with how to take a group of good AS/400 programmers and quickly turn them into web experts. I knew it would take much more time than Senior Management would allow us."

Smith reviewed many "off the shelf" systems. "I personally reviewed over 10 pre-packaged store front systems. The systems were easy to use and set up, but offered minimal functionality. It seemed integration into Alpha's back-end systems was going to be difficult at best," remarked Smith. "Additionally, I reviewed technology such as HATS and "screen-scraping" software. Again, the investigation left

me with many doubts that we could provide an aesthetically acceptable and highly functional web site."

"Finally, I had read about RSP in an AS/400 publication," Smith continued, "the advertisement promised the ability to leverage the investment that Alpha had in RPG and green screen knowledge." Smith made a call to ProData to inquire about the RSP software and followed it with downloading a 30 day trial of the software.

After 4 hours with the RSP product, Smith says he was 'blown away'. "I had taken an 'HTML for Dummies' tutorial," said Smith, "and with the small amount of HTML I had learned and the RSP product, I was able to develop some simple web pages. You CAN teach an old dog new tricks!"

Shortly thereafter, Alpha Security arranged to have Schadd Gray spend a few days with them at their Ohio facility. In 3 days, Gray had taught Alpha's internal resources how to develop a robust online ordering system. Within several weeks, the staff developed a site that they were proud to show to their management team.

"It was fantastic!" Smith remarked. "If you are like me and have years of AS/400 experience but have been reluctant to take on the web world, take a good look at RSP. With a short amount of HTML training and some RSP help, you can make the transition. The folks at ProData that support RSP have been terrific in helping Alpha make the leap in technology. Timely responses to questions, excellent telephone support, and a solid product make RSP a great choice."

ProData Computer Services, Inc.

RSP 4.0 NEW RELEASE NOW Now Available!!!

DBU on Demand

FAQ

The new version of RSP is now available. RSP is a System i utility, which allows the RPG developer to visually create web content by embedding RPG inside HTML, giving developers all the capabilities of HTML and Java script while using RPG for the logic and data retrieval. The RSP server component is integrated with the Apache web server delivering fast dynamic page creation. In this release, we've added a number of key enhancements that support the development of RPG-based web applications.

- **New Editing Environment**
- **Automatic File Upload**
- **New Commands**



New features in Version 4.0:

Persistent state environment - The RSP program can initiate a persistent state allowing a worker job to process the same user for every transaction. The worker job will only process requests for this session. When persistence is ended the session will return to a reentrant state.

Automatic file upload - If a file is being uploaded from the web it will be placed in a directory of your choice with the session id as the sub directory. The RSP process will then give the RSP program a path to the file.

Speed - We have greatly increased the speed of the server. In some cases up to 10 times.

New editing environment - Although we will still provide the current RSP editor, we have created a new editing environment built on Eclipse. It allows the developer to have all the necessary information on one screen. Some of the new features it contains that the old editor does not have:

- 1) A properties view to allow the developer to modify the properties of a tag.
- 2) A snippets function to save blocks of code for repeated use.
- 3) Better connectivity to the System i.
- 4) Full integration into WDS
- 5) More growth potential. We will be adding wizards on a regular basis.
- 6) An update function to check for the latest version of the software.

RSP 4.0 also offers new easy-to-use commands and functions within the tool. You may download the new version from our web site at www.prodatacomputer.com or via the NEW Customer Portal which is powered with RSP!

1. What is DBU-on-Demand?

DBU-on-Demand is a fast, convenient method of activating DBU on any System i server. Activate DBU for one day for only \$10, or any number of days for \$10 per day!

2. How do I activate DBU-on-Demand?

You can use our Client Portal Login to activate your DBU-on-Demand account, or call our sales team at 800.228.6318 for occasional use on any partition or System i system. Then with the DBU software library in your library list, issue the command DBUDMD, enter your USER ID and PASSWORD and your account will automatically be charged for the day. You can use the following link to download and install DBU software.

3. What if we use a firewall?

If your system/network uses a firewall configuration, you may need to remove restrictions for port number 2809 in order for this process to complete properly. If you continue to have problems, contact our Technical Support center at 800.228.6318 and press 2 or e-mail us at help@prodatacomputer.com.

4. How can I tell if DBU-on-Demand has been activated?

Information regarding your account and use of DBU-on-Demand is available from our Client Portal Login.

5. Is DBU-on-Demand just a trial version?

No, it is a complete version of our software.

800.228.6318

Sponsorship Opportunities

Wouldn't it be cool to see your company logo on a professional dragster or funny car? Wouldn't it be fun to have your next employee or customer outing at a NHRA race track near you?

We can offer you those opportunities through Hartley Racing. Just pass this information on to your marketing director & we can work out all the details.



Product or Company Branding

Logo placement on the car for advertising throughout the race season or at individual races. This is so appealing for sponsors as it puts their logo in front of thousands of people at the races, plus the added TV time and media exposure.

Hospitality Accommodations

Visitors VIP passes and networking at all or specific venues on the race circuit. This enhances employee / customer relationships and offers a great day for all involved.

For more information on how you can sponsor the Hartley Racing Dragster or Funny Car, contact Shelli at 800.228.6318.

Hartley Racing Update

EDMONTON, Alb. -- Allen Hartley is no stranger to nitro racing, as he and son Joe have competed in the NHRA for well over a decade with varied success.

With the addition of Nitro Coupe to the IHRA, he and wife Rachel thought why not add a Nitro Funny Car to the team.

They did and the results so far have been encouraging. It is quite a different set-up from Top Fuel. While the engine is the same, having only 125 inches for the wheelbase, and the motor away from

the rear tires, makes the clutch set-up completely different.

The driver for the team, Gary Cooper, handles the clutch duties, and according to the data this season, they are very close to becoming a threat at every event.

Gary got licensed at the San Antonio event, and has qualified for every event since he received his license. The team is confident they can take the next step and not only qualify, but go a couple rounds or more as well.

Jim Stallbaummer, tuner, has the engine making good power, so it is just a matter of time until the Dodge Stratus goes from point "A" to "B" with all candles lit.



Hartley Racing, like all the nitro funny car teams, would like to thank the IHRA for re-introducing the Floppers back to the series. For the independent teams, this is a great way to keep, and stay running in a class that has become one for only the very rich in the 'other' sanctioning body.

The Hartley Racing Team includes: Allen and Rachel Hartley, driver/clutch guy Gary Cooper, crew chief Jim Stallbaummer, Cylinder head specialist Gayle Chestnut, Mark "Forrest" Lorance, Roger "Orange Crate" Leichtenberg, David Gallegos, Mark Moore, Kenny Cotton and Jess Vinyard.

Allen and wife Rachel would like to thank their associate sponsors including IBM System i and Red Line Oil for their continued support.

Hartley Racing would like to invite all of you to join our iDigDrags fan club and come to a race. Check out our schedule and come on out. Visit us in the pits and cheer us on at the track!





Power on DEMAND

i want to FEEL the Power.

Make DBU available on ALL of your boxes. Try DBU-on-Demand.

Now with DBU-on-Demand, activate a fully-functional DBU for just the time you need it, for only \$10 a day!

This is great for those 'seldom touched' systems or partitions and a lifesaver in emergency database situations. A 'must-have' for consultants AND for those companies with multiple sites or rarely access systems.

i want Control.

Access and maintain your company record with us anytime, anywhere.

Through our new Customer Portal you can:

- » Obtain your licensing history
- » Obtain Disaster Recovery codes,
- » Get new product information,
- » Activate DBU-on-Demand
- » And so much more.

Visit our Customer Portal, see the power of RSP and take control!

i want an i.

Our products have IBM's stamp of approval as 'ServerProven'! Buy a new qualifying System i and DBU, DBUnifier, RSP, SQL/Pro or STE and IBM will send you a check for the same amount as the software cost! This makes these great productivity tools virtually FREE!



Come see us at the Fall COMMON

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Return Service Requested

Mail room: If undeliverable to addressee, please forward to IT Department.

