

# MetaReport

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**Part**



**General**

# 1 General

## 1.1 License Agreement

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Support group,  
Metamatica Software.  
<http://www.metareport.com/>

## 1.2 Introduction

MetaReport is a report building tool that can use multiple data sources of various formats (Access, dBase, Paradox, MS SQL, Oracle, InterBase and others) to create reports. Since most companies use different databases (Access for office, SQL for web and Oracle for inventory tracking, for example), the usefulness of this software is apparent to any person who worked in the database management field.

MetaReport offers several advantages over its competitors.

- First, the program uses ADO (ActiveX Data Objects) and BDE (Borland Database Engine) to build reports, but does not require having BDE installed.
- Second, the program can be used inside third-party applications by using a [built-in ActiveX object](#).
- Third, various data parameters can be specified without having to alter the report itself.

Program owner can choose from several popular report formats - from simple TXT or CSV to WMF, XLS, HTML, RTF, PDF. It means that reports built with MetaReport can be processed later in Excel or other applications, placed on the web, e-mailed or made a part of presentation.

The report building process itself is a very simple one and is based on using a visual report builder module. The report templates can be not only saved, but also "locked" to prevent anyone from altering them.

All in all, MetaReport is a budget solution that is a fortunate combination of straightforwardness, added value and functionality.

See MetaReport [features](#) for more detail.

How to use MetaReport in your applications you can see in examples for Visual Basic and Delphi. Also see [Type library Description](#).

In order to register COM server you can use **/regserver** parameter or run MetaReport without any parameters.

To remove registration from your system run MetaReport with **/unregserver** parameter.

## 1.3 Main features

**Data access.** To access data, MetaReport uses the ADO (ActiveX Data Objects) and BDE (Borland Database Engine) technologies, while you do not need to have BDE installed. In this case MetaReport can access the database only using ADO.

[Powerful designer](#) allows you to create quite complex reports to meet nearly all requirements.

**The report parameters dialog** box allows you to specify various parameters of information retrieval without modifying the report itself. To create a dialog box, MetaReport has a [visual constructor](#) of report parameters dialog boxes.

**Saving reports in various formats.** MetaReport supports exporting to the following file formats: TXT, WMF, HTML, RTF, XLS, PDF, CSV (comma-separated text).

**The [built-in ActiveX object](#)** allows you to easily use MetaReport in your applications created in any development environment. At the same time, MetaReport will work with your application as a whole.

**Locking the report designer** allows you to protect ready report projects from an unintentional change by an inexperienced user.

## 1.4 Main window

### File.

**Lock Report Designer** – Locks the project editing mode. This mode can be useful when inexperienced users work with MetaReport. To unlock the report designer, you should enter the password for unlocking.

**Import Report** – Imports a report project from an external file to the current folder in the tree. To quickly move a project to a different folder, just drag the report project to the necessary folder with your mouse.

**Export Report** – Exports a report to an external file. The import/export features can be useful to exchange ready report projects between users' workplaces.

**Printer Setup** – Changes printer settings for the current session.

**Exit** – Exits MetaReport.

### Tree.

**New Folder** – Adds a new folder to the tree.

**Rename Folder** – Allows you to rename the selected folder. You can also rename it by pressing F2.

**Remove folder** – Removes the selected folder. Before removing, you will have to confirm the operation. There are two removing modes: removing only a folder or removing it with its entire contents. In the first case all subfolders and projects will be moved one level up.

**Expand All** – completely expands the tree.

**Collapse All** – completely collapses the tree.

### Report.

**New Report** – creates a new report project and opens the report editing form.

**Modify Report** – modifies the selected report project. You can also edit it by pressing the Ctrl+Enter combination.

**Remove Report** – removes the selected report project. Before removing, you will have to confirm the operation.

**Start Report** – starts the selected report. When you start a report, the report parameters dialog box appears. In this dialog box you can specify the necessary parameters and launch a preview or print out the report immediately. You can also start the report by pressing Enter. If you choose "Preview" you can export received report into another popular format: TXT, WMF, HTML, RTF, XLS, PDF, CSV. Press "Save Report" button at preview form and choose file format.

**Part**



**Report Designer**

## 2 Report Designer

### 2.1 Content

#### Introduction to the report designer

##### Basics

- [Definition of terms](#)
- [Sections of a report \(report bands\)](#)
- [Report elements](#)

##### Report design

- [Create a new report with the report expert](#)
- [Add a new report element](#)
- [Edit a report element's properties](#)
- [Toolbar](#)
- [Using the mouse](#)
- [Using the keyboard](#)

##### Databases

- [Database setup](#)

##### Parameters dialog

- [Report Parameters dialog](#)
- [Menu hierarchy](#)
- [Query parameters](#)
- [Report Labels](#)
- [Creation Order](#)
- [Elements Description](#)

##### Step-by-step examples

- [Modify an existing report](#)
- [A simple address listing](#)
- [An advanced address listing](#)

#### Report elements and their properties:

##### Report bands

- [Standard bands \(Title, Detail, ...\)](#)
- [Subdetail band](#)
- [Group band](#)
- [Child band](#)

##### Report elements:

- [Data field](#)
- [Label](#)
- [Memo](#)
- [Image](#)
- [Image from data field](#)
- [Expression field](#)

- [Shape](#)
- [System field](#)
- [Richtext](#)
- [Richtext from data field](#)

## Advanced topics

- [Formatting numerical fields and date or time fields](#)
- [Expression syntax](#)
- [Using parameters in SQL statements](#)

## Other

- [Menu item "View|Options"](#)
- [Menu item "Report|Options"](#)
- [Questions and answers, tips and tricks](#)

## 2.2 Basics

### 2.2.1 Definition of terms

#### Reports and databases

##### Report

The term "Report" describes a printout of data records from a database. The report defines the look of the printout (layout, fonts, arrangement of data fields, etc.). For example if you want to print a list of addresses, you use a report to tell the computer which fields of your address database to print and in which order. A report can print data as a list, page by page or any other way you want your data to be printed.

##### Table

A file with data records of the same type is called table, e.g. a file with address information, parts or invoice items. A table can be a single file, for example a DBase or Paradox file, or it can be part of a database (see below).

##### Query

A query consists of SQL statements, which are used to access a table or database and to retrieve a group of data records. SQL means "Structured Query Language" and is a kind of programming language for databases. A complete description of SQL is beyond the scope of this manual, but there are many books available on this topic.

##### Dataset

A dataset is used as a collective name for tables and queries.

## Database

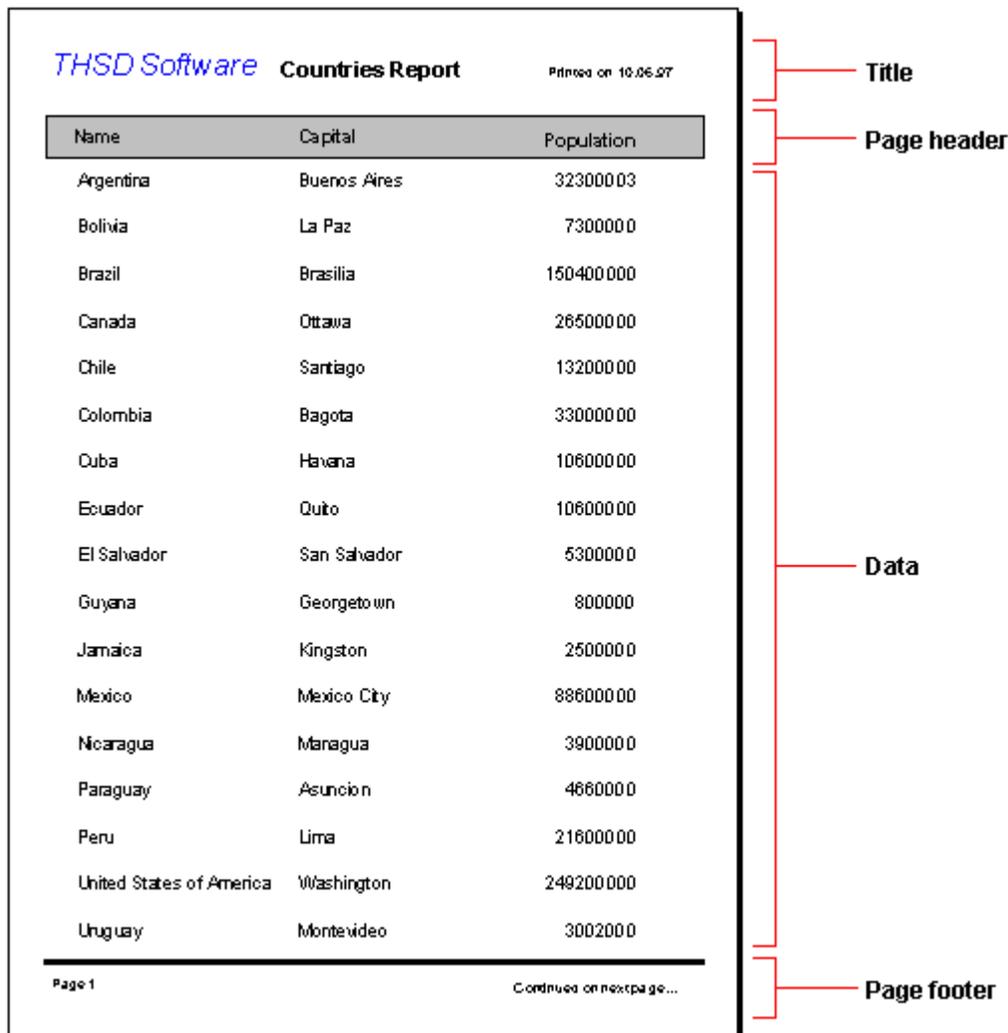
Queries and tables can be grouped together in a database, which can be a local file on your harddisk or a database server in a network. To access a table you need either its directory if it is a single file, or you need the database name if the table is part of a database.

## Alias

Aliases are descriptive names available as placeholders for pathnames or databases.

### 2.2.2 Report sections (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:



Name	Capital	Population
Argentina	Buenos Aires	32300003
Bolivia	La Paz	7300000
Brazil	Brasilia	150400000
Canada	Ottawa	26500000
Chile	Santiago	13200000
Colombia	Bagota	33000000
Cuba	Havana	10600000
Ecuador	Quito	10600000
El Salvador	San Salvador	5300000
Guyana	Georgetown	800000
Jamaica	Kingston	2500000
Mexico	Mexico City	88600000
Nicaragua	Managua	3900000
Paraguay	Asuncion	4660000
Peru	Lima	21600000
United States of America	Washington	249200000
Uruguay	Montevideo	3002000

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.

### 2.2.3 Report elements

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 screenshot shows a report header with 'THSD Software' in blue, 'Countries Report' in black, and 'Printed on 10.06.07' in grey. Below is a table with three columns: Name, Capital, and Population. The rows are: Argentina (Buenos Aires, 32300003), Bolivia (La Paz, 7300000), and Brazil (Brasilia, 150400000). Red lines connect labels at the bottom to report elements: 'Label' points to the header text, 'Rectangle' points to the table border, 'Datafields' points to the table cells, and 'Date' points to the print date.

Name	Capital	Population
Argentina	Buenos Aires	32300003
Bolivia	La Paz	7300000
Brazil	Brasilia	150400000

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 diagram shows a sequence of report elements across 20 columns. The elements are: 1. 'THSD Software' (Label), 2. 'Countries Report' (Label), 3. 'Printed on (Date/Time)' (Label), 4. Table header with 'Name', 'Capital', and 'Population' (Datafields), 5. 'Detailband' (Section), 6. 'Page(Page#)' (Page Footer), and 7. 'Continued on next page' (Page Footer).

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

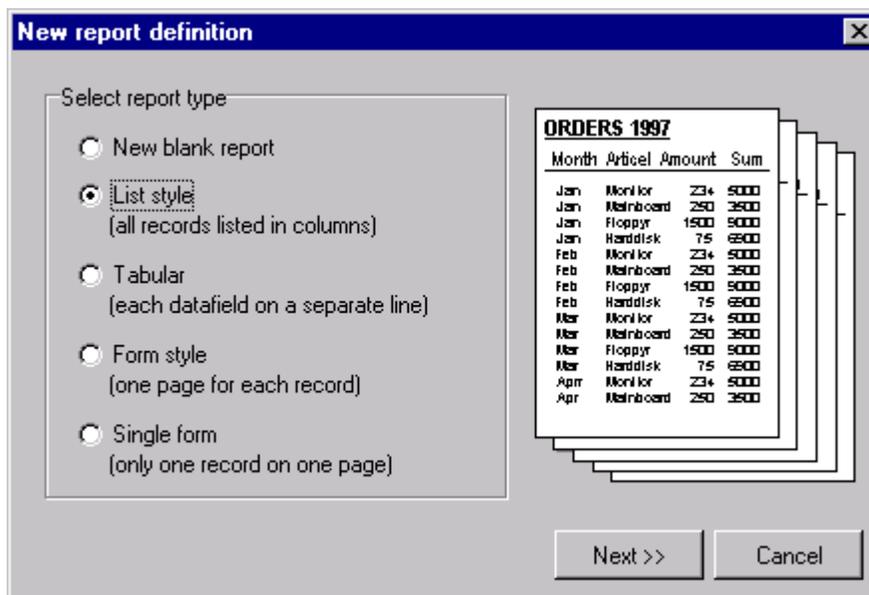
- Datafields to display text from a dataset
- Labels to display fixed text
- Systemfields (date, time, page number, ...)
- Shapes (circle, rectangle, line)
- Image (Windows bitmap file)
- Image from a data field
- Expression (calculated field, mathematical calculations, ...)
- Memo (text with multiple 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.

## 2.3 Report Design

### 2.3.1 Create a new report with the report expert

Choose the menu item "File|New" to create a new report, or press the corresponding speed button. The report expert will be shown, which you can use for fast and easy creation of a first report design.

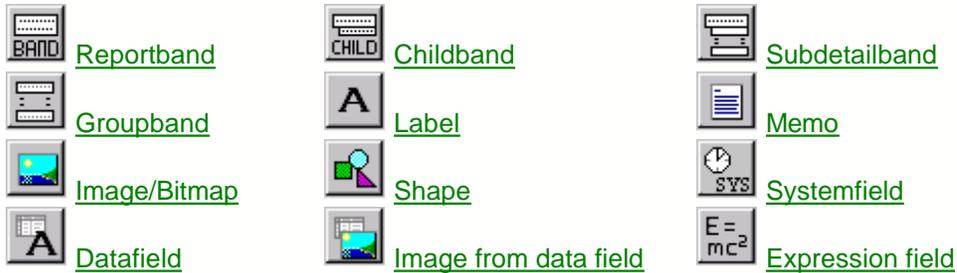


The report expert asks you which kind of report you want to create, which dataset to use and how to layout the report. The needed report elements will be added automatically to the report. After the expert has finished you can continue editing the report to make it fit your needs.

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.

### 2.3.2 Add a new report element

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



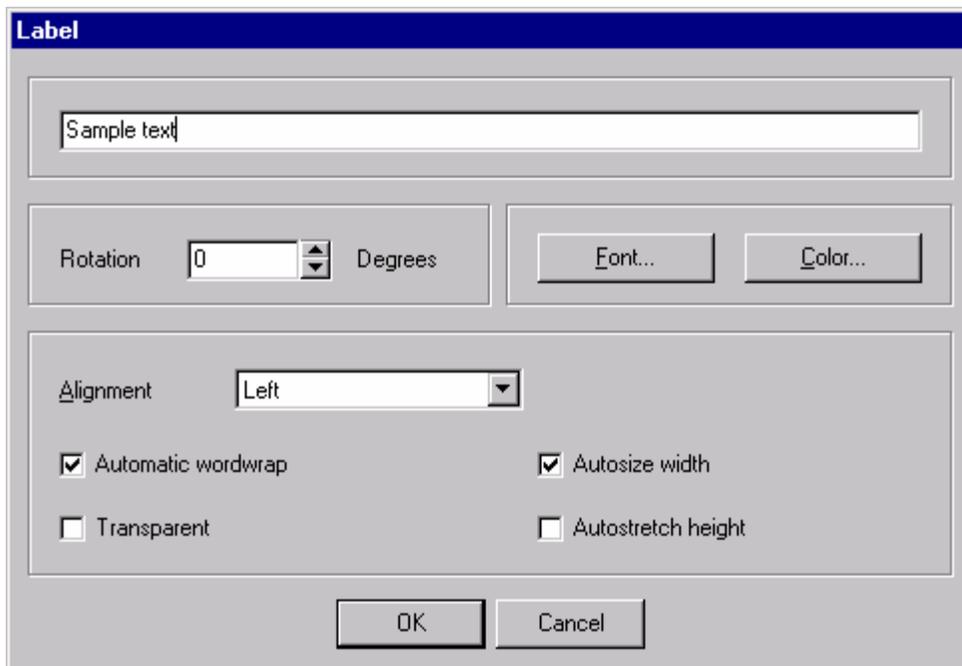
The availability of the following report elements depends on the used platform (16 or 32 bit) and on the application in which the report designer is used:



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.

### 2.3.3 Edit a report element

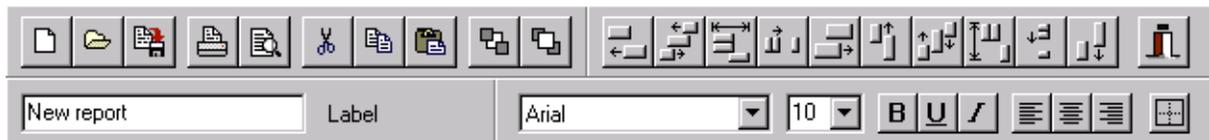
The individual properties of a report element can be changed anytime during report design. Select the desired element and either double-click with the left mouse button, or press the right mouse button and choose "Properties" from the popup menu. The property dialog for the selected report element will 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.

### 2.3.4 Toolbar



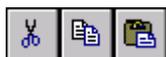
You can change many report element properties directly with the toolbar instead of using the element's property dialog. Additionally you can use it to modify multiple elements at once.



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



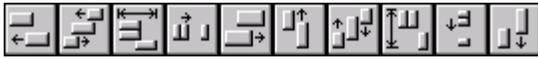
Use this buttons to print the report or to view a preview of the printout.



With this buttons report elements can be cut to, copied to or pasted from the report designer's clipboard.



This 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 this buttons. Some of the buttons are only enabled when multiple elements 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).



This 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.

## 2.3.5 Using the mouse

### 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:

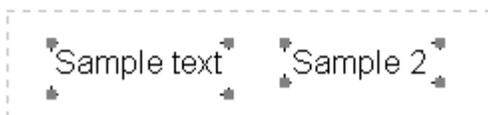


### Change the size of an element

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.

## 2.3.6 Using the keyboard

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

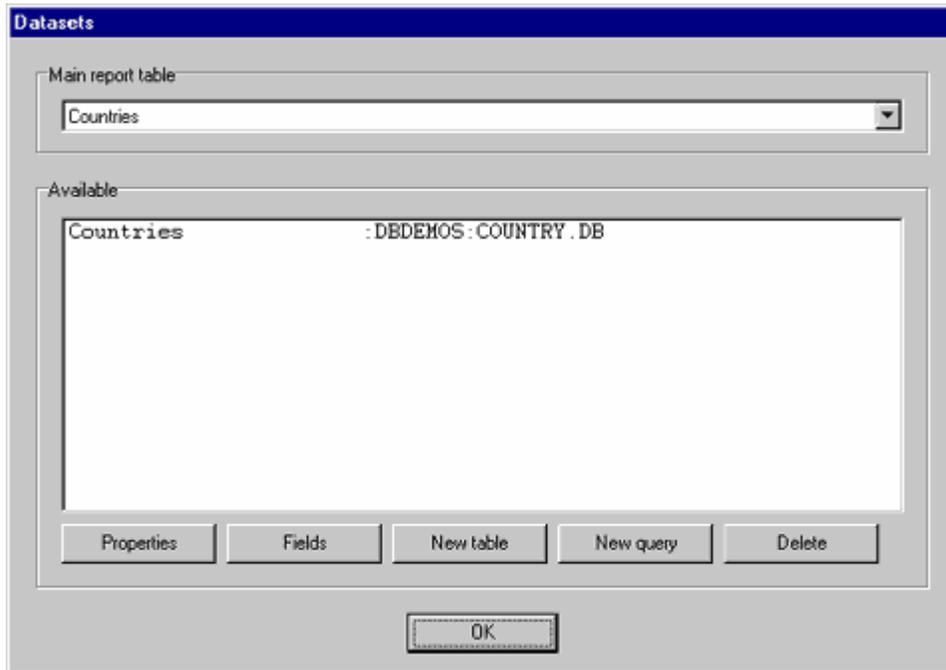
## 2.4 Databases

### 2.4.1 Datasets

In most cases each report 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

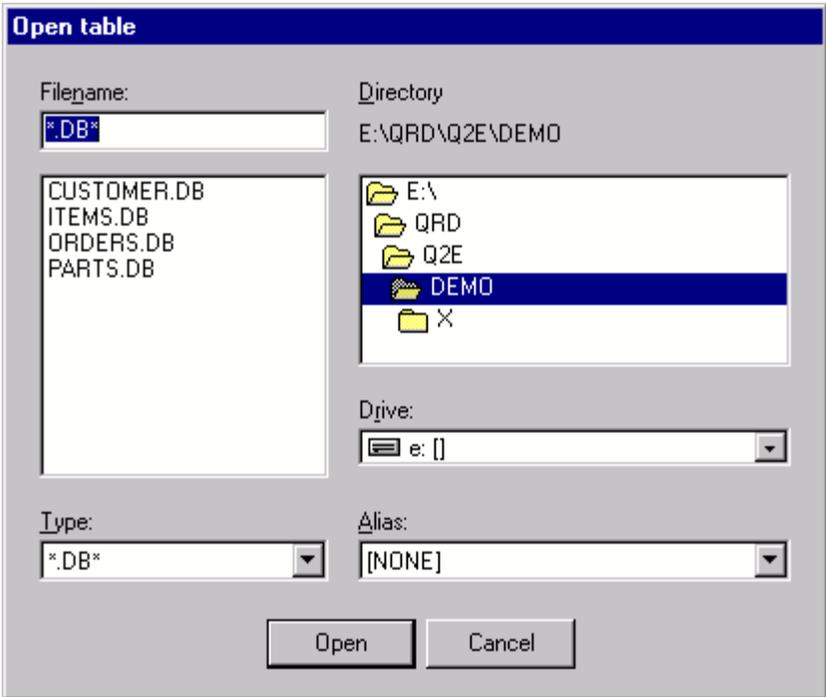
the dialog elements in that dialog are disabled, you are not allowed to change the dataset's settings.



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:**

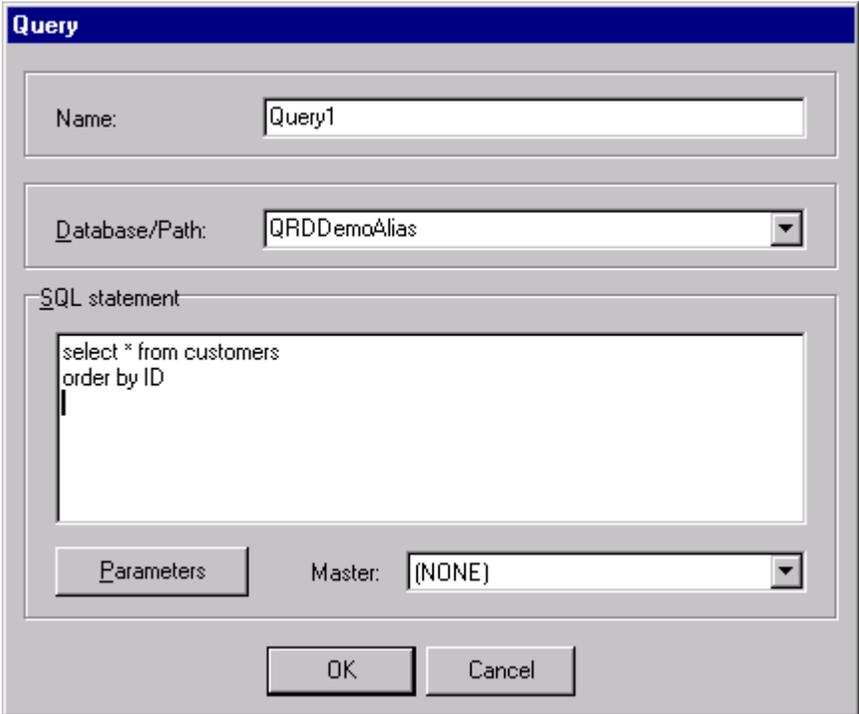
If you press this button the following dialog will be shown:



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:**

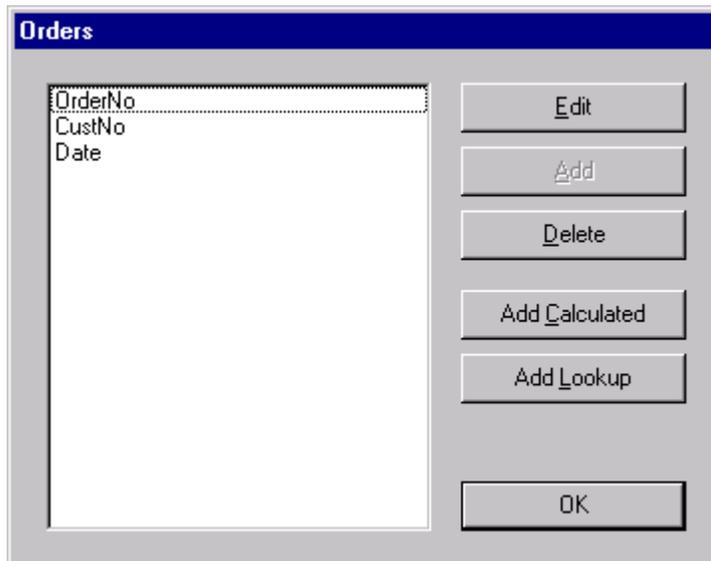
The following dialog will open if you press the "New query" button:



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.

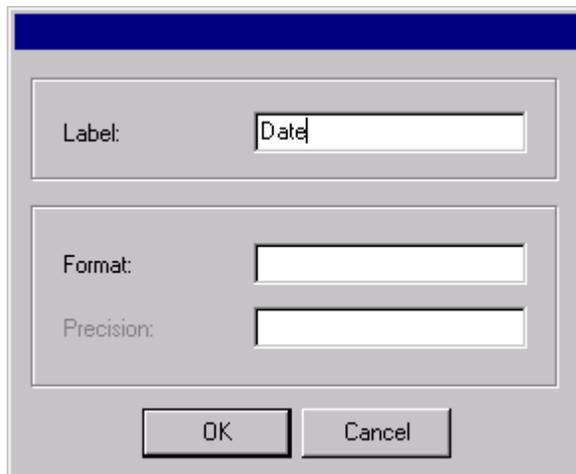
#### Data fields:

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 to 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.

## 2.5 Parameters dialog

### 2.5.1 Report parameters dialog

The report parameters dialog box will allow you to specify various parameters of information retrieval without modifying the report itself.

You can open the report parameters dialog box constructor from the report designer window by selecting the "Report | Parameters Dialog..." menu item.

The constructor is a visual dialog box editor and it consists of three parts:

[Main menu](#);

[Tool bar](#)

Editor field

#### Editing is done in the following way:

You select the necessary element on the element bar and click your mouse to specify the location in the editor field where this element should be placed (the position of the upper-right corner is specified). After that you can move the element to any position on the editor field using your mouse or the Alt+(Arrows) key combination. You can also resize the element by dragging its right edge with your mouse or using the Ctrl+(Left or Right) key combination. You can change the tooltip of the element by just clicking the necessary tooltip and entering new text for it.

You can also edit the element properties by double-clicking the necessary element with your mouse or using the context menu.

After you place all the elements you need on the editor field and make the necessary settings in their properties, you will need to arrange data transmission from the dialog box to the corresponding report. To do it, there are two important settings of the created dialog box.

- [Query parameters](#) (Menu "Tools | Query Parameters...") – configures the transmission of parameters from dialog elements to the "Main Dataset" of the report.
- [Labels](#) (Menu "Tools | Labels...") – configures the transmission of parameters from dialog elements to various report labels.

You can see all those settings in the demo example.

### 2.5.2 Menu hierarchy

#### Dialog

Open – opens the dialog box from the report project. It can be useful to return to the original state of the dialog box.

Save – saves the modified dialog box in the report project.

Close constructor – closes the dialog box constructor. If any changes have been made to the dialog box, you will be asked if they should be saved.

#### Edit

Element properties – edits the properties of the current element in a separate window. The detailed description of element properties is given below.

Delete element – deletes the current element. The same menu items are available from the context menu of an element.

#### Tools

Autoplace Elements – places elements automatically in order of creation.

[Query Parameters](#) – configures the transmission of parameters from dialog elements to the

Main Dataset of the report. The detailed description is given below.

[Labels](#) – configures the transmission of parameters from dialog elements to various report labels. The detailed description is given below.

[Creation order](#) – configures the creation order of dialog elements. The detailed description is given below.

### 2.5.3 Query parameters

To specify the parameters of a data selection query, you should link a parameter with a dialog element.

**Important note:** *query parameters make sense only when the query is used as the "Main Dataset" of the report. If you use a table as a Dataset, the transmission of parameters from the dialog box will be ignored.*

When adding or editing an element from the list, you can do it using the dialog box:

First, you should select a query parameter from the drop-down list or enter its name manually.

After that you should select the source type: "Constant" or "Dialog element"

- Constant – in this case you should select the transmitted value manually. The value will not depend on any dialog element.
- Dialog element – in this case you should select a dialog element from the drop-down list and select what field of the element will be transmitted to the query parameter. All dialog elements have only two fields: "Text" and "Value". See the description of dialog elements to get more details.

After that you should select the type of parameter values. There are four types in MetaReport: Integer, String, Date, Float. Some databases are sensitive to the type of a transmitted parameter.

### 2.5.4 Report Labels

Changing labels in the report before printing can be useful, for example, to make it clear with what filters (parameters) the report has been generated. In the demo example, labels in the report header are changed to visualize report parameters selected in the dialog box before starting it.

The window for editing labels resembles the window for editing [query parameters](#). The difference is that when values for labels are transmitted, there is no need to specify their types, for a label is always a string.

### 2.5.5 Creation Order

As a rule, the order in which elements are created does not matter. But if you use macros (to extract the value of another dialog element) in elements of the "Table" type, the order of creation does matter. The rule is simple: the element with a macro must be created after the element the macro refers to.

A similar situation can be found in the demo example (the elements "Table\_1" and "Table\_2").

You can use your mouse to change the order of creation by just dragging the element to the necessary position. You can also change the properties of any element in this window.

### 2.5.6 Elements Description

7 types of elements are used to create a dialog box. All of them can be found on the toolbar.



to the selection mode (default)

	"IntEdit" element
	"Edit" element
	"DateEdit" element
	"FloatEdit" element
	"List" element
	"Table" element
	"Check" element

The descriptions of dialog elements can be found in the following table:

Type	Purpose	Properties	Field "Text"	Field "Value"
IntEdit	Input an integer value	General	Visible integer value as a string	Visible integer value as a string
Edit	Input a string	General	Visible text	Visible text
DateEdit	Input a date value (with a built-in calendar)	General	Visible date value	Date in the "YYYYMMDD" format
FloatEdit	Input a real value	General	Visible real value as a string	Visible real value as a string
List	Choose an item from list	Advanced	Visible text	Item number from '0'. If not selected then '-1'
Table	Choose a value from the database	Advanced	Visible text	The appropriate value of a field, specified in the property "Value field" (as a string)
Check	On/off switch	General	String "On" or "Off"	String "1" or "0"

## General properties of dialog elements

<b>Name</b>	- the formal internal name (identifier) of a dialog element.
<b>Header</b>	- the header (or caption) of a dialog element.
<b>Width</b>	- the total width (length) of a dialog element.
<b>X position</b>	- the horizontal position of the upper-left corner of a dialog element.
<b>Y position</b>	- the vertical position of the upper-left corner of a dialog element.
<b>Default value</b>	- the value assigned to a dialog element after its creation. The format of the value must coincide with the format of the "value" field for this dialog element.

All types of dialog elements have general properties. Only "Table" and "List" have additional properties.

## 2.6 Step-by-step examples

### 2.6.1 Modifying an existing report

This chapter shows a simple example on how to use the report designer. An existing report with datasets and report bands already set up will be modified. Look at the following example:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Pageheader								
2	<u>Name</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Living Area</u>					
3	NAME	SIZE	WEIGHT	AREA					

This report layout will result in the following printout:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Living Area</u>
Angel Fish	2	2	Computer Aquariums
Boa	10	8	South America
Critters	30	20	Screen Savers
House Cat	10	5	New Orleans
Ocelot	40	35	Africa and Asia
Parrot	5	5	South America
Tetras	2	2	Fish Bowls

#### Change the height of the data lines:

Let's say the data lines are too close and you want them to be further apart. Each line gets its layout from the report's detail band. For each data record the detail band is printed once, so if you change the height of the detail band, the space for each data record will be increased. To do this, in the

report designer first select the detail band by clicking it with the left mouse button. Small black boxes will appear at the corners of the band, which are used to resize report elements. Left-click the middle box at the bottom of the band, hold down the mouse button and move the mouse cursor down. This way the detail band will be resized, and after releasing the mouse button the new band height is set. You may now press the "Preview" button or select "Report|Preview" to check the new report. You will see that now there is more empty space between each line of data.

### Move report elements:

Maybe you don't like the positioning of some of the report elements, and for example you want the first data field to be slightly more to the right. You can change this by just clicking the data field with the left mouse button (and holding the button down) and dragging it to its new position on the band. Please note that you can not move elements to another band, and you can not move report bands because their position is determined automatically by their band type (e.g. page header at the top of the page).

### Change fonts:

If you want to change the font of a report element, first select it (you may also select multiple elements at once) and then use the toolbar to change the font settings:



You can select a font name, font size and style (bold, underline, italic). The available fonts depend on the installed fonts on your computer.

### Add and change label:

Press the "label" button  to insert static text into your report. After pressing the button click on the report where you want to add new text. The label property dialog will be shown, where you can type in your text and set some other options. After hitting the OK button the text will be inserted into the report and will later be printed out at this position.

If you want to change the text (or any other property, e.g. text alignment) of an existing label, select the report element with your left mouse button and reopen the property dialog, either with a double click or by selecting "Edit" from the popup menu (accessible with the right mouse button).

## 2.6.2 A simple address listing

This chapter is a step-by-step instruction to create a simple report that prints an address list. A table is used which contains all address records. You can follow all steps with the table available to you because the type of data is not important for this example. If you don't want to create a complete new report for your application, but only want to modify existing reports, than you may skip the first step and load a report instead.

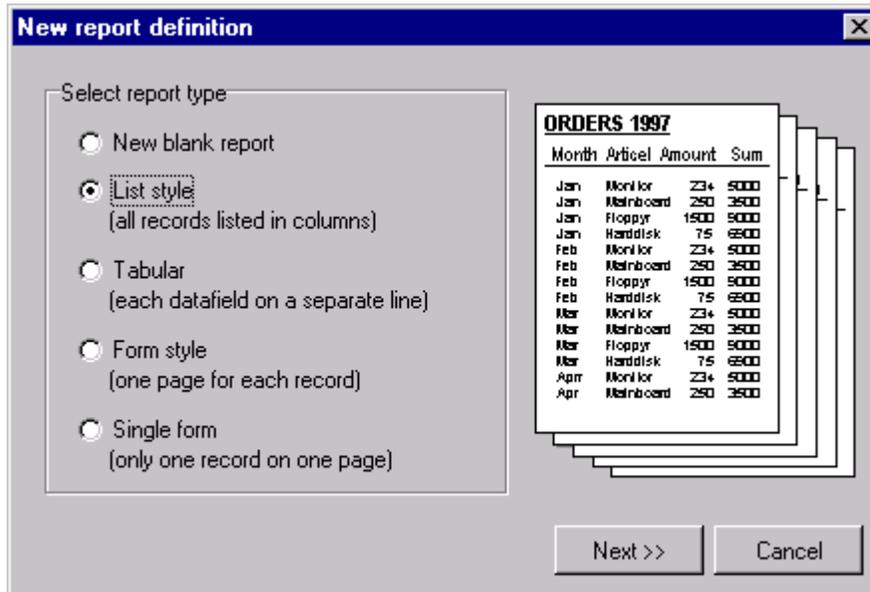
[Step 1: Creating a new report with the report expert](#)

[Step 2: Edit the report layout](#)

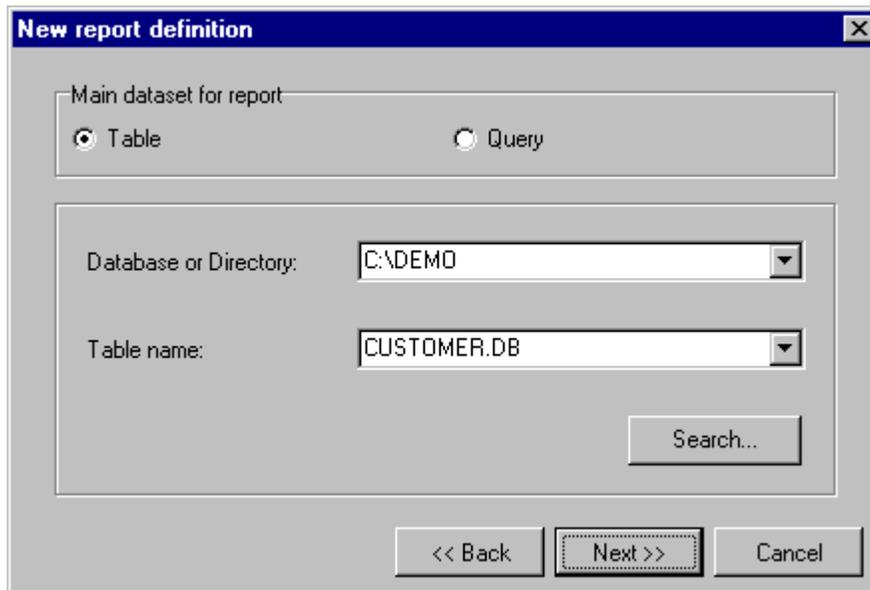
[Step 3: Preview and save the report](#)

### 2.6.3 Step 1: Creating a new report

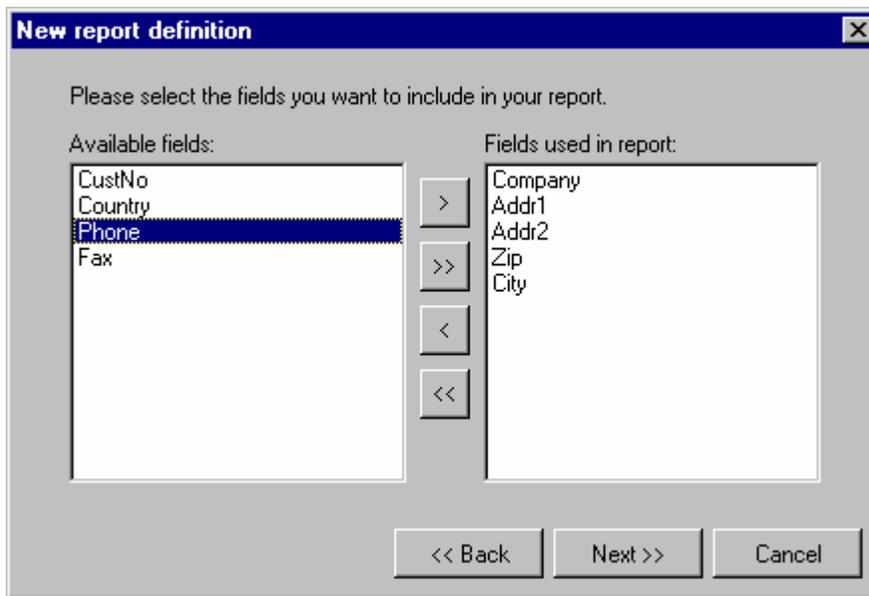
Select the menu item "File|New" or press the corresponding speed button. The report expert will show up and you can select the type of report that you want to create. For our example we want to print an address list, so we use "List style":



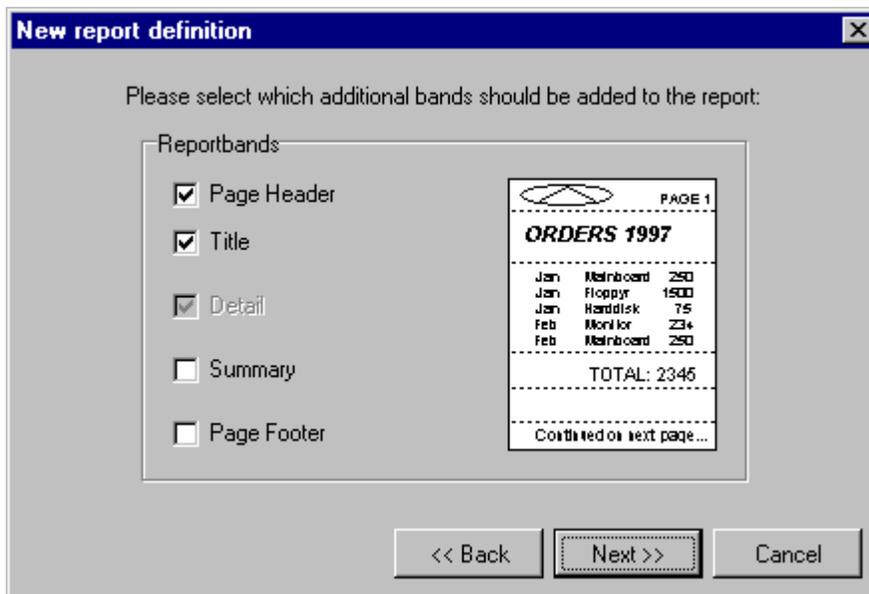
Press the "Continue" button. You can now set the report's main data source. Type in the path and filename of the table you want to use, or press the "Search" button to select the desired file:



On the next page of the report expert you must select which fields to use. You select which fields from your table are added to the report layout automatically. You can drag fields from one listbox to the other with your mouse, or you can use the buttons located between the listboxes. In the right listbox you can drag fields up and down with your mouse to change the field order.



The next page of the expert lets you select the report bands that you want to use:



Afterwards you can set some general options, for example how many columns your report should have:

**New report definition**

General report options

Report title:

Columns on each page:  Column spacing:

Orientation

Portrait  Landscape

<< Back Next >> Cancel

The following page determines the look of the report. You can set default fonts for text and data fields, and you can have the expert insert lines between the columns and rows of the report:

**New report definition**

Font for column headers and labels ... **Arial**

Font for datafields ... **Arial**

Lines

horizontal lines

vertical lines

box lines

**ORDERS 1997**

Month	Article	Amnt	Sum
Jan	Hardfor	234	5000
Jan	Netincard	250	3500
Jan	Floppyt	1500	5000
Jan	Harddisk	75	5000
Feb	Hardfor	234	5000
Feb	Netincard	250	3500
Feb	Floppyt	1500	5000

<< Back Next >> Cancel

Now the report has been setup. You can either select "Finish" to return to the report editor, where you can edit the created report and save it, or you can select "Preview" to check the report printout first. You will see a preview of the report on screen like it would be printed. If you don't like what you see, you can use the "Back" button to change the settings you have made for the report expert.

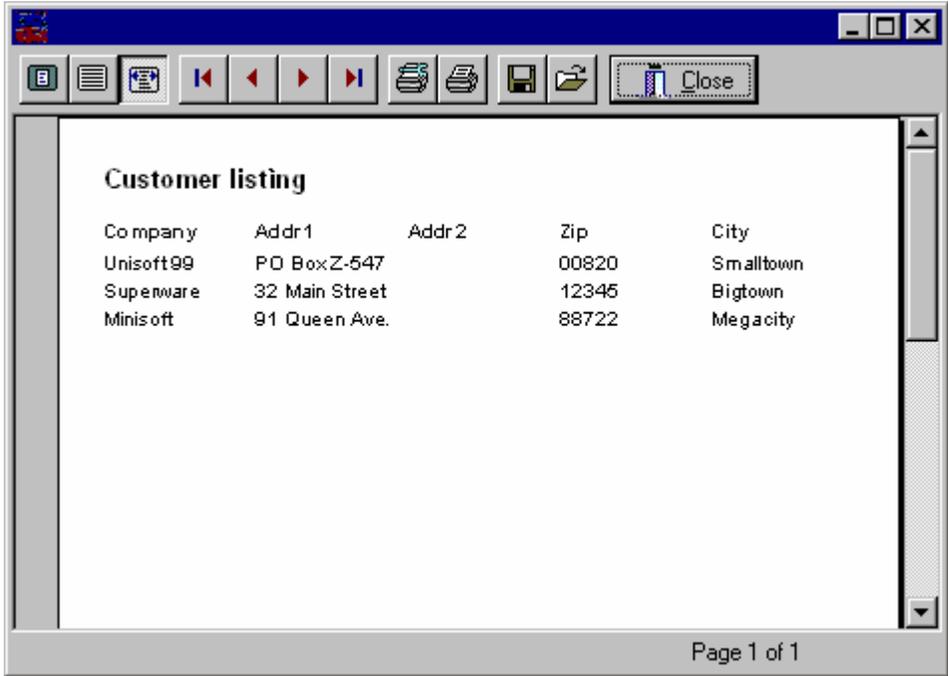


[Continue with Step 2: Edit the report layout](#)

### 2.6.4 Step 2: Editing the report

**Preview:**

You are now in the report editor and can see the report layout. Press the "Preview" button  to get a first look at the resulting report printout if have not done this at the end of the report expert.



### Change the column captions:

Obviously the column captions for the data fields don't look very good ("Addr1" and "Addr2"). The report expert has used the field names of the data fields automatically, which doesn't always lead to optimal results. To change this, leave the preview and select the desired label with the left mouse button. The toolbar will now show you the element type, e.g. "Label". Additionally you can see the element's most important property, which for a label is its text of course. You can activate this edit line with your mouse and directly edit the label text there, or you can open the property dialog for the report label by opening its popup menu with the right mouse button and selecting "Edit". The following shows the label's property form:

Edit the element properties and type in a more descriptive text for the column header, for example "Address". Leave the dialog with "OK" afterwards.

### Change size and position:

If you don't like the position of a report element, simply move it around with your left mouse button. Please note that elements can not be moved out of their report band.

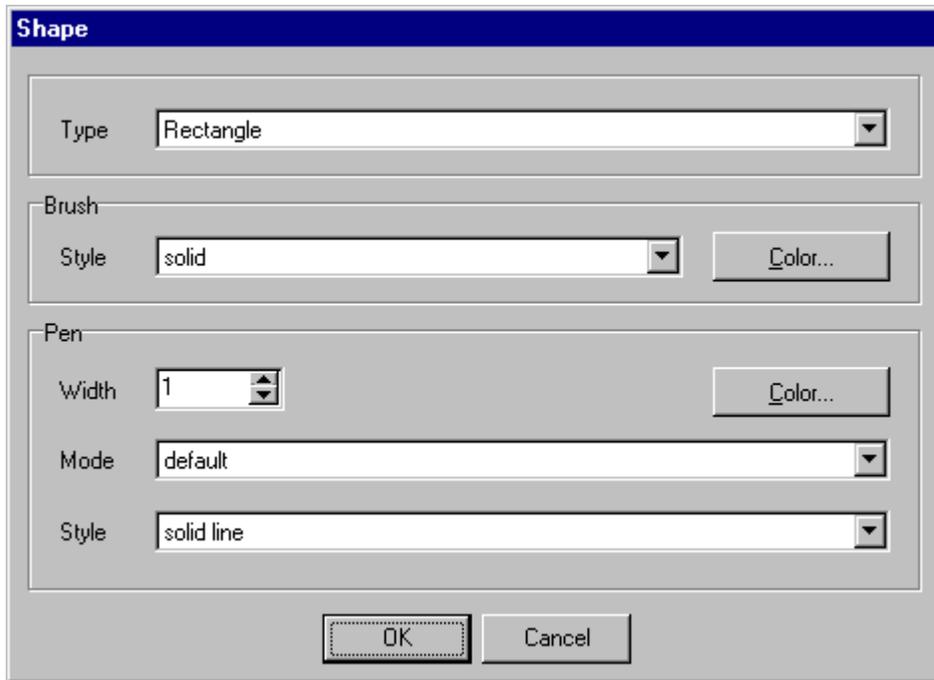
To change the size of a report element, first select it and then drag one of the eight small black boxes to resize the element.

### Add another report element:

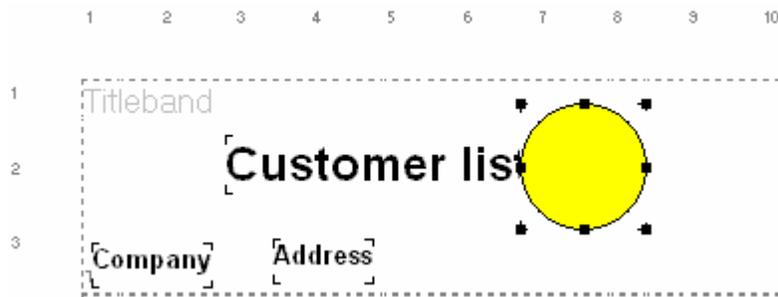
For demonstration purpose we will now add a circle around the report title. Please click the speed

button  to insert a shape.

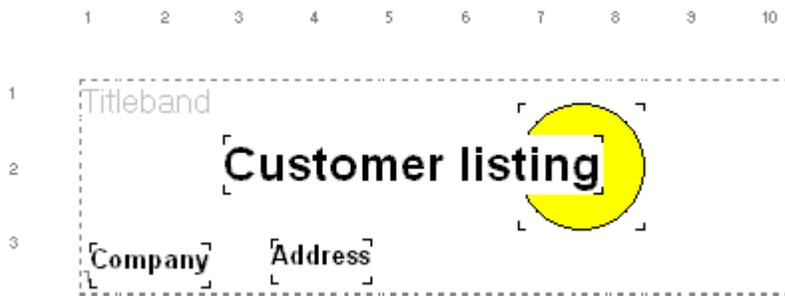
Now click on the report band that contains the report title. It is not important to click on the exact position where you want to place the circle, because you can easily move the report element later. After clicking on the report band the property dialog of the new shape will be shown. Select "circle" from the "Type" combobox:



Press the color button from within the "Brush" area and select yellow color to draw a yellow filled circle. After leaving the dialog with "OK" a yellow circle will appear on the report layout:



Unfortunately the circle is in front of the title and conceals part of it. Press the button  from the toolbar at the top of the designer window to move the circle to the background. Now move the title so it is positioned over the circle:



Of course it still does not look good because the white background of the label covers the circle.

Open the property dialog of the title label (right mouse button, "Edit") and activate the "Transparent" option. The background of the label will now be transparent (not in design mode, but you can see this when using the preview):

**Customer listing**

**Company      Address**

Lastly we will do some arranging of the title to move it exactly to the center of the circle. First select the label as usual, then hold down the [Shift] key and select the circle. By using the [Shift] key the last selection will not be lost when selecting a new element, so multiple elements can be selected at the same time, provided they are on the same report band:



Now press the  button to align the horizontal centers of the report elements.

You can also center the two elements on the band by using the  button.

[Continue with Step 3: Preview and save the report](#)

### 2.6.5 Step 3: Previewing and saving the report

While creating your report you can always look at a preview by choosing "File|Preview" or pressing the preview button . The report will be shown on screen like it would be printed and you can check the report layout.

## Customer listing

Company	Address	Zip	City
Unisoft 99	PO Box Z-547	00820	Smalltown
Superware	32 Main Street	12345	Bigtown
Minisoft	91 Queen Ave.	88722	Megacity

If you are done with your report editing, press the save button  to save your report.

### 2.6.6 An advanced address listing

The previous example showed how to create a simple report by using the report expert. In order to better understand the layout of reports and the purpose of the various band types, we will now create a report from scratch without the report expert. This example is more abstract than the last one.

[Step 1: Create a new report](#)

[Step 2: Database setup](#)

[Step 3: Insert a detail band](#)

[Step 4: Add a group band](#)

[Step 5: Page header, title band and summary band](#)

### 2.6.7 Step 1: Creating a new report

Select "File|New" or press the corresponding button to create a new report. The report expert will be shown and the option "New blank report" is selected by default. Now just press the "Continue" button, and the report expert will exit, leaving you with a completely empty report.

[Continue with Step 2: Database setup](#)

## 2.6.8 Step 2: Database setup

### Adding a dataset:

First we will now setup the report's main dataset. Select the menu item "Report|Datasets", which shows the database setup dialog. Press the "New table" button and select the desired table for your report. The table will appear in the list of available datasets.

### Properties:

You can select the new table and press the "Properties" button to show a dialog window with various settings. You can set the table's name, which is used by the report designer when a dataset needs to be selected. This name is an alias and does not affect the physical filename. By default the name is set the filename with the suffix "\_Table", for example "CUST\_Table" if your file is "CUST.DB". You may want to set the name to "Customers" to be more descriptive. The name does not affect the report printout, it is only used during design time.

Additionally you can set the table's active key (if there is more than one), so you can choose in which order the data records are printed.

Exit the properties dialog using the OK button to return to the dataset listing.

### Main report table:

Since a report can use many datasets you must tell the report which table to use as the main report table, the table that is run through from the first to the last record. Use the combobox at the top of the database setup dialog to set this table. Select the table that you have just added.

[Continue with Step 3: Add a detail band](#)

## 2.6.9 Step 3: Adding a detail band

### Add a detail band

After you have selected the dataset for your report, you must setup the report layout. The main part of a report is the detail band. This band is printed once for each data record. To add a detail band press

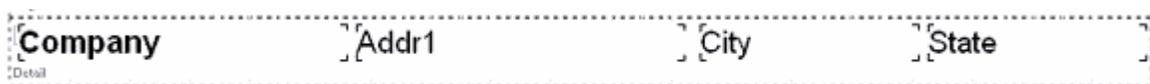
the  button and click somewhere on your report. The band's property dialog will open. Now select "Detail" as the band type.

### Add data fields:

After adding a detail band to the report you must now insert the data fields which you want to print.

Press the  button and click on the detail band afterwards to insert a data field report element. Select the data field you want to use and set its alignment, font and other options if needed. You can now move and resize the data field on the detail band with your mouse.

Repeat these steps with all data fields that you want to print. As an example, the detail band could look like this after inserting some data fields:



You can use the alignment buttons to align report elements relatively to each other. Let's say you want to make sure that all elements have the same vertical position. First select all elements you want to align ([Shift] + left mouse button or hold down [Ctrl] while drawing a selection frame with the left

button). Then press the  button, so that the top edges of all selected elements are aligned.

**Preview:**

While designing the report you should often check its resulting printout by using the preview button



**[Continue with Step 4: Add a group band](#)**

## 2.6.10 Step 4: Adding a groupband

You can make a list much more readable by dividing it into paragraphs. For example the address list can be structured by the first letter of the name. Each letter should have its own paragraph and start on a new page. To accomplish this you can use a group band:

To insert a group band, press the  button and click on your report. The group band property form will be shown, where you must set the table on which the group should work. Since we only have one table with address data, which is the main report table, the report itself must be selected as the group's "master". Now each time a record from this table is to be printed, the report engine will check the group expression and compare its result with the result of the previous record. Only if the results are not the same the group band will be printed. If you want to group our sample address table by the first letter of the company name, the expression must be "Copy(Customers.Company,1,1)" (see the chapter on [expressions](#) for more information). Leave the dialog window with OK now.

You have now added a group band to the report. Take a look at the report preview and you will see that the group band is inserted before each new first letter of the company name. The group band will only result in some empty space because there are no report elements on it, but you can add labels, expression fields or any other elements to the group band if you like. For example you could add an expression field with the group's expressions, so that the first letter is printed before each group of data records. The right image shows a list without grouping, the left one shows a list with such a group band:

<u>LastName</u>	<u>FirstName</u>
<b>B</b>	
Baldwin	Janet
Bender	Oliver H.
Bennet	Ann
Bishop	Dana
Brown	Kelly
Burbank	Jennifer M.
<b>C</b>	
Cook	Kevin
<b>D</b>	
De Souza	Roger
<b>F</b>	
Ferrari	Roberto
Fisher	Pete
Forest	Phil

<u>LastName</u>	<u>FirstName</u>
Baldwin	Janet
Bender	Oliver H.
Bennet	Ann
Bishop	Dana
Brown	Kelly
Burbank	Jennifer M.
Cook	Kevin
De Souza	Roger
Ferrari	Roberto
Fisher	Pete
Forest	Phil
Glon	Jacques
Green	T.J.
Guckenheimer	Mark
Hall	Stewart
Ichida	Yuki

[Continue with Step 5: Page header, title band and summary band](#)

### 2.6.11 Step 5: page header, title and summary band

Lets assume you we have created a report which lists addresses from a table, the report layout is already quite useable and the preview might look like this:

Kauai Dive Shoppe	4-976 Sugarloaf Hwy	Kapaa Kauai	HI
Unisco	PO Box Z-547	Freeport	
Sight Diver	1 Neptune Lane	Kato Paphos	
Cayman Divers World	PO Box 541	Grand Cayman	
Tom Sawyer Diving	632-1 Third Frydenhoj	Christiansted	St Croix
Blue Jack Aqua	23-738 Paddington	Waipahu	HI
VIP Divers Club	32 Main St.	Christiansted	St Croix
Ocean Paradise	PO Box 8745	Kailua-Kona	HI
Fantastique Aquatica	Z32 999 #12A-77 A.A.	Bogota	
Marmot Divers Club	872 Queen St.	Kitchener	Ontario
The Depth Charge	15243 Underwater Fwy.	Marathon	FL
Blue Sports	203 12th Ave. Box 746	Giribaldi	OR

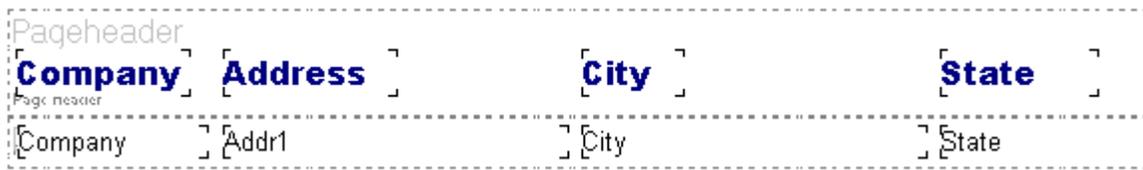
What is missing is some "decoration", like a title on the first page and a page header with column captions for each data field. Also a summary at the end of the report, presenting the total number of printed records for example, would look good.

### Page header:

Each page of the report printout should have a page header with column headings for each column of data in the address list, i.e. there should be a big "Name" label above the column of company names etc.

First we insert a new band for the page header by using the  button and selection "Page header" as the band type. Now we add labels for each column, with captions corresponding to the field names.

Example:



To set a bigger font size, bold font style or another font you must select all labels and set the desired font attributes with the toolbar.

### Title band:

A title for the first page of the report can be added by inserting a new report band and settings its band type to "Title band". Then add a label to the title band and set its font size to something big, like 24 points for example. Additionally you could add the current date and time to the report header, so

you can see when the report was printed for each printout. To do this use the button  to add a system field to the top right corner of the title band, and set its type to "Date/Time". Now the title band looks the following way:

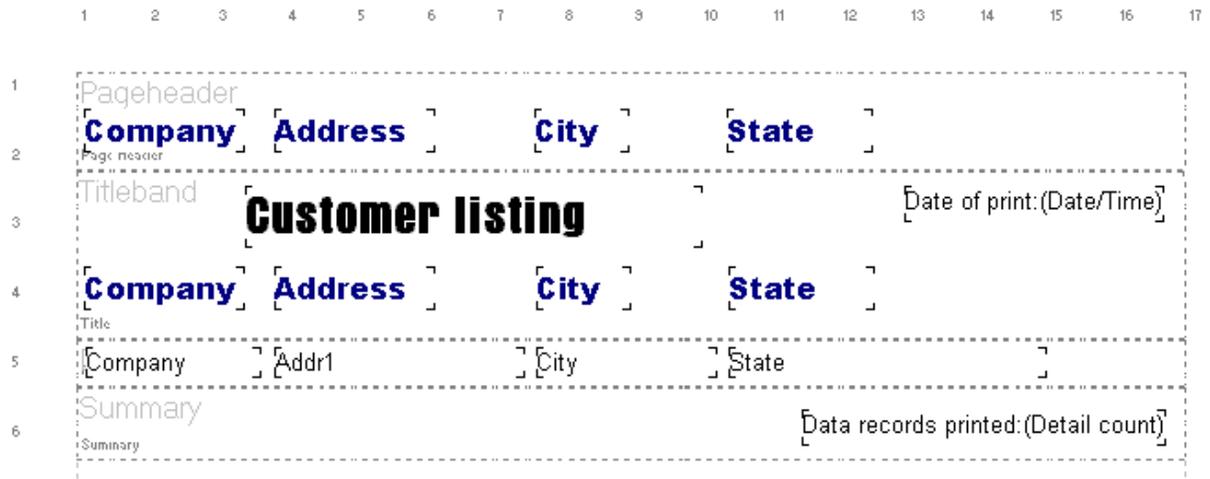


When previewing the report you will notice the following problem: The page header appears on the first page before the title band (just like the two bands are positioned in the report editor). You can correct this by printing the page header only on the second page and following, but not on the first page, and by adding the now missing column captions to the bottom of the title band. First select the page header band and open its property dialog. Select the option titled "not on first page" to prevent the band from being printed on the first report page. Then resize the title band to make room below the title label for the content of the page header. You don't need to recreate all report elements for the title band that are on the page header, but you can select them on the page header band, copy them to the clipboard, select the title band and paste the clipboard elements there. Now that all elements are copied from the page header to the title band, they are still selected and you can move them to the bottom all together.

### Summary band:

To add a summary to the end of the report, insert a new band and set its type to "Summary". You can now add report elements to this new band, for example you can use a "Detail count" system field and set the field's label to "Number of records printed:". The number of records will now be printed at the end of the report, e.g. "Number of records printed: 78" if you have 78 data records in your report table.

The complete report layout could look like this:



The following printout would be generated:

<b>Customer listing</b>				Date of print: 09.09.97 22:15:04
<b>Company</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	
Kaial Dite	4976 Sugarbark Hwy	Kapaa Kaial	HI	
Unisco	PO Box 2547	Freeport		
Sight Diver	1 Neptune Lane	Kato Papios		
Cayman Divers	PO Box 541	Grand Cayman		
Tom Sawyer	632-1 Third Fryde rd	Christianssted	St. Croix	
Bike Jack Aqua	23-738 Paddington Lane	Waipahi	HI	
VP Divers Club	32 Main St.	Christianssted	St. Croix	
Ocean Paradise	PO Box 8745	Kailua-Kona	HI	
Fantastique	232 999 #12A-77 A.A.	Bogota		
Mamot Divers	872 Queen St.	Kibler	Ontario	
The Depth	15243 Underwater Fwy.	Marathon	FL	
Bike Sports	203 12th Ave. Box 746	Giltskill	OR	
Makai SCUBA	PO Box 8534	Kailua-Kona	HI	
Action Club	PO Box 5451-F	Sarasota	FL	
Jamaica	PO Box 68	Negril	Jamaica	
Island Divers	6133 1/3 Stone Avenue	St Simons Isle	GA	
Adventure	PO Box 744	Belize City		

## 2.7 Report elements and their properties

### 2.7.1 Report bands

#### 2.7.1.1 Standard band types (Title, Detail, ...)

All standard report bands are added with the same button (see above). 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 more 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.

### 2.7.1.2 Subdetailband

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:** see [Standard bands](#)

**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:** see [Standard bands](#)

### 2.7.1.3 Groupband

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.

**Example**

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:** see [Standard bands](#)

#### 2.7.1.4 Childband

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.

## 2.7.2 Report elements

### 2.7.2.1 Datafield

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.

### 2.7.2.2 Label

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.

### 2.7.2.3 Memo

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.

### 2.7.2.4 Image

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

### 2.7.2.5 Image from data field

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.

### 2.7.2.6 Expression field

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 the chapter on [expression syntax](#)).

**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.

### 2.7.2.7 Shape

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

### 2.7.2.8 Systemfield

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).

**2.7.2.9 Richtext field**

Note: Richtext is only available with 32 bit applications, i.e. applications for Windows 95 and Windows NT.

The richtext element is a report element 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.

**2.7.2.10 Richtext from data field**

Note: Richtext is only available with 32 bit applications, i.e. applications for Windows 95 and Windows NT.

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.

## 2.8 Advanced

### 2.8.1 Formatting of fields

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	placeholder. 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.
#	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.
.	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.
,	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+	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'	enclosed in single or double quotes are output as-is, and do not affect formatting.
;	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

c	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	the day as a number without a leading zero (1-31).
dd	the day as a number with a leading zero (01-31).
ddd	the day as an abbreviation (Sun-Sat).
dddd	the day as a full name (Sunday-Saturday).
ddddd	the date in short format
dddddd	the date in long format.
m	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	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	the month as an abbreviation (Jan-Dec).
mmmm	the month as a full name (January-December).
yy	the year as a two-digit number (00-99).
yyy	the year as a four-digit number (0000-9999).
h	the hour without a leading zero (0-23).
hh	the hour with a leading zero (00-23).
n	the minute without a leading zero (0-59).
nn	the minute with a leading zero (00-59).
s	the second without a leading zero (0-59).
ss	the second with a leading zero (00-59).
t	the time using in short format.
tt	the time in long format.
am/pm	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	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	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.
/	the date separator character given by the Windows country settings.
:	the time separator character given by the Windows country settings.
'xx'/'xx'	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.

## 2.8.2 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:

<b>Function</b>	<b>Description</b>
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:

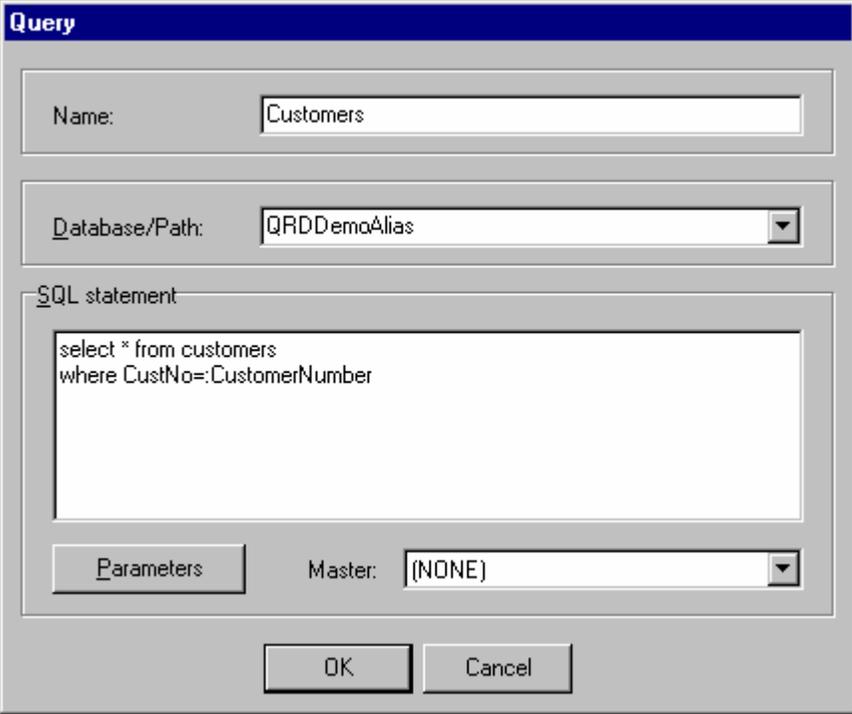
Expression	Description
1	Integer constant, returns 1
1.5	Floating point constant, returns 1.5
'Delphi'	String constant, returns "Delphi" as a string
True	Logical constant, returns True
1 + 2	Numeric calculation, returns 3
2 * (3 + 2.5)	Numeric calculation, returns 11
'Delphi' + ' is great'	String calculation, 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

#### Compose 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.

### 2.8.3 Using parameters in SQL statements

If you are accustomed to SQL, you know that a SQL statement can have parameters. The report designer allows using parameters too. The following example shows such a SQL query, which has a parameter "CustomerNo" (preceded by a ":" as usual):



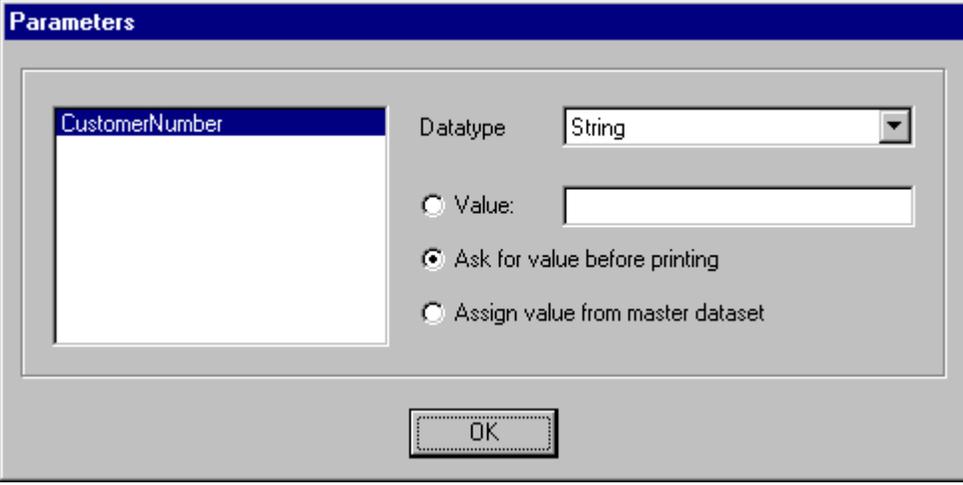
The "Query" dialog box is shown with the following fields:

- Name: Customers
- Database/Path: QRDDemoAlias
- SQL statement:

```
select * from customers
where CustNo=:CustomerNumber
```
- Parameters: (button)
- Master: (NONE)

Buttons: OK, Cancel

You can now press the "Parameter" button to open the following dialog:



The "Parameters" dialog box is shown with the following fields:

- CustomerNumber (selected in list)
- Datatype: String
- Value: (input field)
- Ask for value before printing
- Assign value from master dataset

Button: OK

Here you can define the type of the parameter:

**Value:** The supplied value is used for the parameter when generating the report.

**Ask for value before print:** Use this option to make the report engine ask for the parameter value each time before the report is printed. A dialog with an input line for the parameter value will be shown. This way the report can be filtered individually before printing for example.

**Assign value from master dataset:** This option is for retrieving the parameter value from another dataset, which means the parameter name corresponds to the field name in another table or query. In the current query's property dialog you must set the "Master" property to the master dataset.

To assign query parameters before starting report you can use [report parameters dialog box](#).

## 2.9 Other

### 2.9.1 Menu item "View|Options"

#### **Show bandruler**

Activate this option to show grid lines when editing the report. These lines make it easier to move and align report elements.

#### **Unit**

This is the unit that the report designer uses for measuring and drawing of the ruler and grid lines. Millimeter, Inch and Characters are available.

#### **Show band names**

This option is for showing the band name on the band in design mode. The band names are not printed of course.

#### **Font**

The font to display the band name.

#### **Grid size**

This sets the (invisible) grid to which report elements are aligned automatically. You can use it for easier alignment of report elements to the same horizontal or vertical position. Note: You can move a report element by one pixel even if a bigger grid size is set if you hold down the [Shift] key while moving the element.

#### **Keyboard grid size**

Same as "Grid size", but for keyboard movement with the cursor keys instead of the mouse.

#### **Show component frames at design time:**

If this option is activated frames will be drawn around each report element at design time. This way report elements can be displayed more distinctly. The frames are only drawn in design mode, not during printout.

### 2.9.2 Menu item "Report|Options"

#### **Report title**

This is the report's title, which appear in Windows' print manager and which can be used in the report via a system field.

#### **Portrait/Landscape**

This option defines the page layout. The report designer's size will change accordingly.

#### **Font**

This font is used as the default font for all new report elements and for elements for which no individual font has been set.

#### **Paper size**

Defines the report's paper size. Please note that not all printer drivers support all paper sizes.

**Height, Width**

Set these sizes if you are using the "custom" paper size.

**Margins (Top, Bottom, Left, Right)**

These are the paper margins. Note that the minimum values depend on your printer hardware.

**Column space**

This is the empty space between columns if you are using a multi-column report.

**Number of columns**

This is the number of columns used for the report.

**Frame**

This frame will be drawn around each printed page.

### 2.9.3 Questions & Answers, Tips & Tricks

**How can I print the current selection criteria (i.e. query parameters)?**

Add an expression component to your report and use its "QueryParam" function, e.g. `QueryParam('CustomerQuery','StartDate')`.

**When I preview a report I don't see all horizontal lines as they are on the report layout. Why?**

The horizontal lines are still there and will be printed, but the report preview must scale the report output down to make it fit to the screen. Because of this scaling, thin horizontal lines may disappear.

**How can I print only one data record?**

Leave the main report dataset empty in "Report|Datasets...".

**How can I use Inches instead of MM in the report editor?**

This can be set with the menu item "View|Options".

**Part**



**ActiveX object**

## 3 ActiveX object

### 3.1 Type Library description

The built-in ActiveX object allows you to use MetaReport together with applications developed by third-party developers.

The distributive package includes a simple example written in Visual Basic and demonstrating the feature of controlling MetaReport from another application.

The built-in ActiveX object will allow you to implement the following features:

- Start the specified report project using the report parameters dialog box set in the project;
- Start the specified report project without using the report parameters dialog box. In this case you can send the necessary report parameters from your application. You can send a report directly to the printer or open it in the preview mode.
- Get the list of available report projects.
- Print specified report to file directly.

The features for editing a report project are not included in the existing ActiveX object on purpose.

#### **The characteristics of the built-in ActiveX object.**

Object name: **MetaReport.MetaReportApp**

GUID: {DC5F164C-90E9-41B3-B98A-3C98A2935AE0}

#### **Properties**

[OpenReport](#)

[ParentWindow](#)

[ProjectsPath](#)

[ReportCount](#)

[ReportDescription](#)

[ReportID](#)

[PrinterCount](#)

[PrinterIndex](#)

[AutoAdjustPrinter](#)

[PrinterName](#)

#### **Methods**

[About](#)

[CloseReport](#)

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## 3.2 Properties

### **OpenReport( ByVal ReportID as String )**

Value type – Long

Parameters:

ReportID – the identifier (name) of the report project.

Description:

Opens the report for starting the report project without opening the built-in dialog box. Returns the report number that is used later on for transmitting report parameters, label values and starting the report.

### **ParentWindow**

Value type – Long

Description:

This property handle of window which calls methods of COM object. This property must be assigned before calling methods StartReport, StartReportWithParameters, About. If you not assign ParentWindow property dialog (or preview) window can be hidden under your application window.

### **ProjectsPath**

Value type – String

Description:

This property contains a folder name where stored your report projects. You can change it to another folder if necessary. In this case, projects list will be reloaded automatically.

### **ReportCount**

Value type – Long

Description:

Returns the number of available report projects. Can be used later on to enumerate report projects (see ReportDescription, ReportID). The numbers of reports begin from 0.

### **ReportDescription( ByVal ReportNum as Long )**

Value type – String

Parameters:

ReportNum – the number of the report project.

Description:

Returns the description of the report project.

### **ReportID( ByVal ReportNum as Long )**

Value type – String

Parameters:

ReportNum – the number of the report project.

Description:

Returns the identifier (name) of the report project.

### **PrinterCount**

Value - Long

Description:

Returns the amount of printers in your system. Read-only property.

#### **PrinterIndex**

Value - Long

Description:

Current printer number. In order to set to default printer you may set the value to -1. Available for read and write.

#### **AutoAdjustPrinter**

Value - Boolean

Description:

Allows to enable or disable automatic adjustment of printer by using report settings. Available for read and write.

#### **PrinterName( ByVal PrinterIndex as Long )**

Value - String

Parameters:

PrinterIndex – the number of printer. PrinterIndex must be between 0 and PrinterCount - 1

Description:

Returns the name of printer by their number. Read-only property

### **3.3 Methods**

#### **About**

Description:

Displays the About window on the screen.

#### **CloseReport(ByVal RepNo as Long)**

Parameters:

RepNo – the number of the report returned by OpenReport.

Description:

Closes the report opened by OpenReport.

#### **SetDateTimeParameter(ByVal ParameterName as String, ByVal Value as Date, ByVal RepNo as Long)**

Parameters:

ParameterName – the name of the query parameter.

Value – the value of the parameter.

RepNo – the number of the report returned by OpenReport.

Description:

Defines the value of a query parameter of the DateTime type.

**SetFloatParameter(ByVal ParameterName as String, ByVal Value as Double, ByVal RepNo as Long)**

Parameters:

ParameterName – the name of the query parameter.

Value – the value of the parameter.

RepNo – the number of the report returned by OpenReport.

Description:

Defines the value of a query parameter of the Float or Double type.

**SetIntegerParameter(ByVal ParameterName as String, ByVal Value as Long, ByVal RepNo as Long)**

Parameters:

ParameterName – the name of the query parameter.

Value – the value of the parameter.

RepNo – the number of the report returned by OpenReport.

Description:

Defines the value of a query parameter of the Integer type.

**SetReportLabel(ByVal LabelName as String, ByVal LabelValue as String, ByVal RepNo as Long)**

Parameters:

LabelName – the name of the query parameter.

LabelValue – the value of the parameter.

RepNo – the number of the report returned by OpenReport.

Description:

Defines the value of the report label.

**SetStringParameter (ByVal ParameterName as String, ByVal Value as String, ByVal RepNo as Long)**

Parameters:

ParameterName – the name of the query parameter.

Value – the value of the parameter.

RepNo – the number of the report returned by OpenReport.

Description:

Determines the value of a query parameter of the String type.

**StartReport(ByVal ReportName as String)**

Parameters:

ReportName – the identifier (name) of the report project.

Description:

Starts the report using the built-in report parameters dialog box. The dialog box must be configured at the stage of creating the report.

**StartReportWhithParameters(ByVal ReportNo as Long, ByVal Preview as Boolean)**

Parameters:

RepNo – the number of the report returned by OpenReport.

Preview – the necessity of previewing.

Description:

Starts the report without using the built-in dialog box. Query parameters and label values in the report must be transmitted from your application before calling this method.

### **PrintToFile(ByVal RepNo as Long, ByVal FileName as String, ByVal FileFormat as MRFileFormat)**

Parameters:

RepNo – the number of the report returned by OpenReport.

FileName – name of export file

FileFormat – format of export file

Available values of file format:

<b>Value</b>	<b>Long Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
ffText	0	Text file
ffCSV	1	Comma separated file
ffPDF	2	PDF file
ffHTML	3	HTML document
ffRTF	4	RTF document
ffWMF	5	Metafile.
ffXLS	6	Excel document

Description:

Starts the report without using the built-in dialog box, and saves into specified file. Query parameters and label values in the report must be transmitted from your application before calling this method.

**Part**



**Other Software**

## 4 Other Software

### 4.1 Other Software



#### Protect site resources by password.

It is not a rare and absolutely normal situation when you want to protect some resource on your web-site and grant access to it on the per-user basis. As a matter of fact, the organization of almost any pay-per-view resource requires this capability. Unfortunately, with IIS you can't create a protected resource easily. But with **IISKeeper** you can.

[Read more: http://www.metamatica.com/iiskeeper/](http://www.metamatica.com/iiskeeper/)

#### Make your site work faster and more accessible!

*(for IIS 4, 5, 6. Windows 2000/XP/2003)*

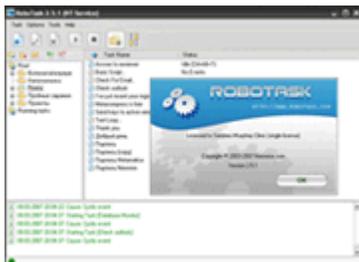


Did you ask yourself why the most of search engines (Google, Yahoo etc.) provide on fly access to their resources? Such sites compress their content as much as it possible so they provide quick reliable access to their content for millions of users in a trice.

**MetaCompress** can increase the working speed of a web server in a 3-5 times.

[Read more: http://www.metamatica.com/metacompress/](http://www.metamatica.com/metacompress/)

#### Our partner:



#### RoboTask

*(for Windows 98/Me/2000/XP/2003)*

**RoboTask** enables you to automate any combination of tasks on your computer, ranging from simply launching applications, to checking email, moving or backing up files to uploading or downloading, sending email and much more. The program allows to easily create simple task, as well as highly complex automations, involving conditional IF/ELSE statements, loops, custom variables and other advanced options.

[Read more: http://www.robotask.com/](http://www.robotask.com/)

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