

ARTICLE

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Now in ALCiE: Enhanced Reporting via Download to MS ExcelBackground

In recent years, ALCiE has provided tangible benefits in the area of reporting functionality. In earlier versions of ALCiE, any report could be viewed before printing a hard copy. In fact, printing a hard copy is actually optional. In either case, this results in a concrete cost-savings benefit (as well as an environmental benefit): reducing paper waste by printing only when necessary.

A milestone was reached in ALCiE 6i Release 2, when all reports – literally several hundreds of reports – were enhanced with a feature that allows them to be generated and saved in PDF, HTML and ASCII (plain text) formats. This resulted in a few key benefits:

- ✓ Reports can be permanently retained for historical and auditing purposes.
- ✓ The output can be electronically forwarded, such as invoices to customers or purchase orders to suppliers.
- ✓ Reports can be printed anytime.

ALCiE's Open Architecture

An often-overlooked advantage is ALCiE's open architecture. This provides the ability to extract data or develop reports using any number of reporting tools that are ODBC (**O**pen **D**ata**B**ase **C**onnectivity) compliant. The obstacle here is that not everybody has the time to create such reports, let alone the time to learn how to use the reporting tools.

In an effort to bridge the gap between the need for data extraction/reporting and the challenge of developing the tools to do this, the current production version of ALCiE 6i (Release 6) includes the capability to download data into MS Excel. This feature was added to selected/key ALCiE applications.

This concept is good and its output very useful. Still, every time the report is run, the output is pre-defined – that is, the identical list of columns and the same sequence of columns each time.

There is a better solution.

ALCiE Reports: The Next Generation

Today, we are ready to announce a breakthrough enhancement to this capability: user-defined and user-controlled output into MS Excel!

What this means:

- ✓ You can define the output by selecting the columns of data you want.
- ✓ You can control the output by placing the columns in the sequence you want.
- ✓ You create a report with mere clicks of the mouse.
- ✓ You have important information at your fingertips.
- ✓ You have key information in a useable format.

What's more...

This capability will be extended into more than just a few applications; it shall be included as a standard feature throughout all ALCiE reporting applications.

What's even more...

In future, we will find ways to bring you this dynamic capability in special inquiry screens!

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For additional information, please contact ALCiE Integrated Solutions by telephone at 1-888-252-4350 or 1-514-744-3440, or by email at alcie-rpt@alcie.com.