



Net Express Tips & Tricks

- 1) Write console output to a file with OUTDD
- 2) How to recycle the source window when stepping through code
- 3) How to switch between keyboard schemes or customize your own

1) Write console output to a file with OUTDD

Ever have the problem where your console output is way more than the buffer can handle? How can you see the output that got pushed out of the buffer?

The OUTDD compiler directive causes DISPLAY and EXHIBIT statements to be written to a specified output file. Now you can go back and view all the output statements in a text viewer. Here is the entry on OUTDD from the Net Express help:

Causes DISPLAY and EXHIBIT statements to be written to a specified output file.

Syntax:

```
>>.....-OUTDD--"fname rsize rtype"----.<<
+/-/+ +-----OUTDD--"fname rsize"-----+
+-----OUTDD--"fname"-----+
+.....-OUTDD-----+
+NO+
```

Parameters:

fname Name of file to be written for the specified DISPLAY statements and EXHIBIT statements and for the TRACE output. When this parameter is not specified the name used is SYSOUT.

rsize Size of the data records in the file. When this parameter is not specified the size used is 132.

rtype Either L for Line Sequential or R for Record Sequential. When this parameter is not specified, L is used.

Properties:

Default: NOOUTDD

Phase: Syntax check

\$SET: Initial

Comments:

When OUTDD is specified, all format 1 DISPLAY statements which either have no UPON option or specify UPON SYSOUT, and all EXHIBIT statements and the output from TRACE are transformed into WRITE statements, writing to a file with the specified external filename.

The filename can be mapped onto physical filenames in the same way as other files with external filenames; that is, by using environment variables or the External File Mapper.

If you compile with OUTDD and are producing an executable, you need to link in outddf.obj.

2) How to recycle the source window when stepping through code.

When stepping through projects that have many different COBOL source files, you can sometimes find yourself left with a separate window open for each of the source files that got stepped through. This can be a chore to manually close each of these source windows when you are finished. Luckily, there is an option in the IDE to recycle the source window.

Go to Options>Edit>Source Views tab> and check the Recycle Windows checkbox

When stepping through code with this checkbox ticked the IDE will reuse the current window to display the different source files as you step through, as opposed to opening a new window for each file.

NOTE: this is based on Knowledge Base article reference: 25742

3) How to switch between keyboard schemes, or customize your own.

For users who are used to different shortcut keys in their IDE, we provide the capability to customize the key mappings in Net Express.

To view all the current shortcut key mappings go to Help > Keyboard.

This brings up a 'Configured Keystrokes' window which lists all the keystrokes and what action those keystrokes currently invoke.

Two schemes are provided with your Net Express installation: MF.KEY and MS.KEY. You can switch between the two by going to Options > Customize IDE > Keyboard Configuration tab and selecting load scheme. These .KEY files are located in Net Express' bin directory. The differences between the two vary. For instance, with the MF scheme you would hit Ctrl+S to step through your code whereas in the MS scheme you would hit F11.

You can modify either scheme to better suit your coding/debugging style by changing or adding shortcuts for the commands. From the Keyboard Configuration tab, simply select a command from the list and assign it a new shortcut key. You can assign multiple shortcuts for the same command. When you are finished, you can save the scheme to a .KEY file as a backup or to transfer it to other machines.