

Advanced Editing Script

Clip Link: http://www.eshbel.com/Movie_Search/Advanced_Editing_clip.htm

Note: Yellow highlights indicate action instructions.

The Data Generator (00:00-01:27)

In this video we will demonstrate several advanced editing tools that are available in **Priority** forms.

Let's begin with a look at the Data Generator. The Data Generator is used to automatically record a designated value in a particular form column when certain conditions are met. Let's look at an example using the **Sales Orders form, located in the Sales, Orders menu item**. In this example, we'll practice updating a form column using a function expression, but you can easily duplicate the example using a fixed value instead.


Say you want all order items in any sales order to be assigned a default due date as soon as they are recorded. Specifically, you want the due date for each item to fall five days after the item is recorded. You can then revise this data later, if necessary.

To set up this rule, you first need to be in the relevant form, namely, the **Order Items** sub-level form. Before you can enter this form, however, the line in the upper-level form must have some data in it, so let's just **select a random order number and retrieve that order**. Once you have entered the relevant form, open the Data Generator from the **Design** menu on the form's Top Bar.

Defining a Rule (01:28-03:45)

Let's stipulate that data should be updated any time a new part is added to the order, that is, whenever the **Part Number** is updated. Note that this condition allows for data to be updated in existing order items as well, if someone revises the part number for these items.

Next we'll designate the column to be updated by this rule, in the **Set** text box.

And now let's **move to the as text box** in order to designate the value to be assigned in this column. To this end, we're going to define something called a function expression to indicate the date that falls five days from now. **Click the function  button** and, in the dialog box that opens, **click Add Predefined Expression**. Let's **select the today expression** to add the current date (that is, whatever the current date happens to be when this rule is applied), and then **continue the expression " + 5 * 24:00"**, indicating five days after that date. Finally, **click OK** to exit the dialog box and insert the entire function expression into the **as** text box.

Let's add one more condition to ensure that data is only updated for a new order item, and not an existing item: we'll stipulate that the rule applies only **if the previous value of the Part Number is blank**.

Note that the Data Generator allows you to combine up to **three conditions** that must all occur at the same time in order for data to be updated. If you want to define two

independent conditions, so that data is updated whenever either one of them occurs, you'll need to define two separate rules.

The **Valid For** section determines whose actions will trigger the message. Only authorized users, such as privilege group leaders and users with Manager Privileges, can define rules that apply to orders recorded by another user. If you are a normal user with standard privileges, leave the current selection to create rules that work for you alone.

Let's click **OK** to leave the Data Generator.

Testing out the Rule (03:46-04:10)

To test the new data, we'll quickly open a dummy sales order and add a new item to the order. When you leave the **Part Number** column, the **Due Date** column is filled in automatically with the date that falls in five days from now.

Creating New Rules from Existing Ones (04:11-04:46)

Once you have defined at least one rule for a given form, you can create additional rules by copying an existing one and revising it. As you can see, opening the Data Generator again from the **Order Items** form now opens a **List of Rules** dialogue box, in which you can simply select the desired rule and click **Copy**. A duplicate of the selected rule will appear, which can be revised by clicking the **Edit** button. If you prefer to create a new rule from scratch, you can still do so by clicking **New**.

To view all rules defined for the current form, click the **Report** button.

Copying and Pasting Data from Excel (04:47-06:10)

Say that you have recorded a sales order for the supply of goods to a chain of stores, in which each outlet is defined as a separate customer. The sales order itself has been recorded for a dummy customer that represents the chain. Now you want to list the individual outlets, and the distribution type used to supply goods to each outlet in the current order. You can activate a program that will **Prepare the Customer Distribution List** automatically, and then revise these data as needed. But maybe you've already received an Excel spreadsheet from a business partner, in which this information has already been recorded. You can copy this list from Excel and paste it directly into the **Customer Distribution List** sub-level form.

When pasting your data into **Priority**, you can also choose the **Paste Special - Ignore Warnings** command (from either the **Edit** or menu or the right mouse button menus) to paste text from the clipboard without displaying system warnings. This option is especially useful when pasting large amounts of data into **Priority**. However, this operation can result in the corruption of one or more records in the database if the data being pasted contains errors, and should therefore be used with caution. If you want to stop this action at any point, you can do so by pressing **Ctrl+Break**.

Copying and Pasting Records from a Buffer (06:11-06:46)

Say you now want to record a second order for the same chain, dated a month later, and copy the distribution list from one order to the next. You can store all the records in the distribution list of the first order into a buffer, and immediately paste them into

the second order. In the same fashion, you can also copy the order items from one order to the next.

Copying an Entire Column (06:47-07:12)


Perhaps you'd also like to send your business partner a list of all the part numbers in the itemized order. You can use the **Copy Column** function to copy all values in the **Part Number** column and then paste them into a second Excel spreadsheet.

Macros (07:13-07:51)

Macros are another powerful editing tool available in **Priority** forms. Macros are used to automatically perform a sequence of several actions such as mouse clicking and keystrokes, in order to carry out a particular operation. Note that there is no way to undo actions that are performed using a macro, so exercise caution when doing so.

Let's use this sample order to demonstrate creating a macro that deletes records. One way to delete a record is to press **Ctrl+Delete**, then press the left arrow to highlight the **OK** button in the pop-up window, and finally press **Enter**.

Defining a Macro (07:52-08:45)

To define a macro that performs these three actions, we'll begin by selecting the **Start Definition** command from the **Run** menu, and we'll name this macro: **Delete**. Notice the row of icons that has appeared in the [lower right hand] corner of the screen. The leftmost icon indicates that the macro is now being recorded, so now we need to perform the actions to be included in the macro in their normal sequence: press **Ctrl+Delete**, then the left arrow key, then **Enter**. And finally, we'll click the **End**  icon to stop recording. You can now perform the same actions by executing this macro.



Defining a Hot Key (08:46-09:27)

To make macro usage even easier, you can assign hot keys to activate each one. This eliminates the need to open the **Run** menu in order to execute a macro. To assign a hot key, we'll activate the **Select a Macro** command, move to the desired macro and specify a number between 0 and 9. And finally we'll click **Set Key**. So now we can simply press **Alt+1** at any time to execute this macro. Macros that are assigned a key between **Alt+1** and **Alt+3** can also be executed from the Tool Tray.


Defining a Recursive Macro (09:28-10:56)

In order to delete a large number of records, it is possible to define a **recursive macro**, which repeats the recorded actions up to 50 times in a row. The process for defining this type of macro is very similar to the one for a regular macro, except that in a recursive macro, the **Select a Macro** command itself is included within the definition.

To define a recursive macro, select the **Start Definition** command again and assign the macro a name in the pop-up dialogue box. We're going to use the name "Delete" again and overwrite the existing macro.

Once again, we'll perform the same sequence of actions: press **Ctrl+Delete**, then the left arrow key, and then **Enter**. Next, we're going to click the **Select a Macro**  icon, choose the macro we just defined, and confirm. And finally, we'll click the **End**  icon to stop recording.

Note that we have deleted yet another record just by defining the macro. If we now run the macro, it will attempt to delete all remaining records in the form. This is a very powerful macro, which can delete up to 50 records in a given form, and it should be used with caution. To stop the macro while it is running, you can press

Ctrl+Break or click the **End**  icon located in the lower right hand corner of the screen.

This concludes our explanation of advanced editing tools in **Priority**.