DAL Developer's Toolkit for the Macintosh Descpt (Discontinued)

Article Created: 11 November 1991
Article Reviewed/Updated: 17 October 1996

TOPIC ---

This article describes the Data Access Language (DAL) Developer's Toolkit for the Macintosh.

DISCUSSION ---

The DAL Developer's Toolkit for the Macintosh is a set of software components that helps programmers build Macintosh personal computer application programs with embedded access to host data. The resulting Macintosh applications give consistent, transparent access to shared corporate data when linked to a host system running the DAL Server.

These Macintosh applications use DAL, a high-level, SQL-based connectivity language. DAL allows Macintosh applications to access and interact with host data on a variety of minicomputer and mainframe systems in a uniform way, regardless of the particular host, operating system, database management system, or network connection. You develop all application programs on the Macintosh without expertise in host programming or particular host system.

The DAL Developer's Toolkit for the Macintosh is designed for Macintosh programmers, independent software vendors, and MIS departments designing Macintosh software. In a single development effort, Macintosh software developers can build products that address the need for host data access in a wide range of environments.

Features

- Documentation and sample application with C and Pascal call libraries

- Interactive utility for testing DAL program statements

- HyperTalk XCMD and XFCN commands for DAL access

- Host data retrieval into HyperCard fields, cards, and global variables

- DAL documentation in the form of a HyperCard Help stack

- DAL sample HyperCard stack with easily incorporated cut-and-paste buttons

and cards

- Licensing provisions for distribution of DAL client software with Macintosh applications

- Seamless interaction between Macintosh applications, DAL client software, and DAL Server

- Resulting applications work with any DAL Server-equipped host

- DAL connectivity language

- ANSI standard level 1, SQL-based data manipulation language

- Integrated language that includes host connection, data manipulation, program control, and output management statements

- Application insulated from differences between Macintosh and host representation of byte order, character set, and floating-point data

- Application programming interface that resides in the Macintosh computer

- Uniform error codes, status messages, and catalog access across supported databases and system types

Benefits

- Reduces startup time and ensures maximum productivity.

- Makes testing and debugging easier.

- Allows a debugged DAL program to be run without modification from within a Macintosh application.

- Provides complete DAL session control, program execution, and result retrieval from within a HyperCard stack.

- Allows the developer to access host data with the easy-to-use HyperCard interface.

- Allows the developer to become proficient quickly.

- Reduces stack-development time.

- Permits commercial and in-house developers to make host connectivity an integral part of their Macintosh applications.

- Allows users to enjoy easy access to host connectivity without needing to understand the underlying technology.

- Allows developers to serve various markets with a single programming effort.

- Facilitates the host connection process.

- Insulates Macintosh applications from the complexities of the particular host system, network, and data source to be accessed.

- Allows an application to work with any host system that supports DAL.

- Facilitates development of Macintosh applications by allowing programmers to provide access to a wide range of host environments in a single programming effort.

- Provides support of SQL query and update features.

- Provides uniform access to a wide range of data sources.

- Uses syntax that is familiar to many developers and users.

- Allows the Macintosh user to proceed with other work while the host request is carried out (once the server connection is complete).

- Is easily integrated into the scripting languages of many applications.

- Provides superior performance for repetitive requests.

- Allows for greater utilization of host processing power.

- Simplifies programming for the Macintosh developer.

- Allows all development to be accomplished on the Macintosh computer. Developers can provide host connectivity without investing in host hardware or acquiring host programming expertise.

- Allows applications accessing a wide variety of host system configurations to be created with a single programming effort.

Article Change History:
17 Oct 1996 - Changed title by adding Discontinued.

Keywords: specsht

==========

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19961018 15:46:15.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 9132