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DAL For AS/400: View Smaller Table List (6/93)

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TOPIC -----

I connected via DAL to SQL/400 on an AS/400. From the client side I used the DAL Tester to send the following command to the DAL server:

```
open sql400 dbms;  
open database "daldemo";
```

This statement ran fine.

But when I sent the following command:

```
describe tables; printall;
```

The result was a listing of all the tables of all the libraries.

How do I get only the tables of the current database as described in the DAL reference manual?

DISCUSSION -----

We can clarify this issue for you.

- 1) It is not possible to limit the table list to "only" the tables in the database that is open. The AS/400 environment is one whole database to SQL/400 so there is no way to keep it from scanning all the Libraries for File/Table names.

The only thing that can be done to limit the list of tables is to create a "view". This view will be the same one used by ANY database name you open.

While the database name is not restrictive in the AS/400 environment, it is useful. When you do the "Open Database" command in DAL you set up that database name as the default library. Then you do not have to prepend the database name in your SQL statements unless the table (file) chosen is in another library than the default (opened) database.

That is:

```
open database "DALDEMO";
```

gives you access to all the tables within that library without having to

say "DALDEMO." before the tablename. That is you can now say:
select * from offices; printall;

instead of
select * from daldemo.offices; printall;

If you had opened a database named "MYDATA":
open database "MYDATA";

to access the data in 'offices' you would now HAVE to say:
select * from daldemo.offices; printall;

- 2) The DAL for AS/400 Install Guide was not correct in defining how to create the SQL View (Appendix B). An article was written to explain how to create the view properly as well as how to set up a "limited" list in the view.

Please check the Tech Info Lib on AppleLink. Search for "DAL and AS/400" and you should see an article named: ESD Technical Note: DAL21 AS/400 Install Doc Update (2/93).

That should help you set up a smaller table list. Be aware however, that you can only have one view per user profile (whether their own separate one, or a site-wide one). So you want their "describe tables" list to contain ALL of the tables you would want to have access to through DAL, regardless of whether those tables were in multiple libraries.

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