System 7: The Data Access Manager

Article Created: 8 March 1991

Article Change History

06/30/92 - REVIEWED
            • For technical accuracy.

TOPIC --

What is the Data Access Manager?

DISCUSSION ---

The Data Access Manager is a Macintosh system interface. It gives
Macintosh application developers the flexibility of using a single, unified
API for accessing data from different data sources. These sources include
local Macintosh databases, remote Macintosh database servers, and even
other remote host database servers, like DEC VAXes and IBM mainframes.

The Data Access Language (DAL) client/server API is a database extension in
System 7 which provides access to remote host database servers. Applications
written to the Data Access Manager can transparently use DAL to access data
from DAL servers on host computers across different networks. The Data Access
Manager is included along with the DAL client software in System 7.0.

The Data Access Manager offers three benefits:

• Macintosh applications now have a standard way to access data, regardless
  of the location of the data or the storage mechanism.

• Transparent access to the DAL client/server protocol is a part of the
  Data Access Manager.

• The architecture of the Data Access Manager is tailored for future
  extensibility.

The Data Access Manager provides two levels of interface for applications,
a high-level interface and a low-level interface. The high-level interface
is a standard way for all desktop applications, like a graphical charting
package, to access data.

A new command has been added to the File menu: "Open Query". The end-user can pull down the File menu, select "Open Query", and choose a query like "Monthly Sales" to launch a request for data. This request returns the sales information for the month into an application, like a charting package.

The Data Access Manager's query builder makes it easier for in-house developers to create data-access pathways to different data sources. Thus, it delivers the flexibility to use such queries to create custom reports and presentations. The low-level interface is intended for in-house or custom developers who use tools like HyperCard and 4th Dimension to build highly-customized data-access interfaces. This low-level interface permits developers of data-intensive commercial applications, like statistical packages, to build sophisticated query interfaces for their desktop applications.
Copyright 1991, 1992 Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: Sys7

==

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00
Tech Info Library Article Number: 6928