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Invasion of APIs and the BLOB, or how I learned to stop worrying and love the acronym.

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Who I Am

- 15+ Years in Synon/2e
- DBA, Architect, Developer, Instructor, Consultant, Cantankerous old coot.
- Currently Sr. Programmer Analyst/General Know It All at the warranty group[®]



Target Audience

- 2e developers with the following skills
 - Basic 2e skills (you can create a function)
 - Very basic RPG skills (You can spell RPG if spotted 2 letters and given 26 guesses)
 - Basic SQL skills (Create Table, Select, Insert and Update)



Agenda

- Using APIs in a 2e Model
- Using the SQL BLOB data type.
- Q & A



So why are we here

- Issues arose with traditional method for listing spool files
 - Concerns over system upgrades
 - Speed
 - Left over spool files
- Solution was to use API
 - Faster
 - Upgrade resistant
 - Sounds good, but what is it, and how do we use it



- What is an API
 - An Application Programming Interface (API) is an interface between different software programs.
 - An API can be generic (like a JAVA API) or specific to an application (like Google Maps API).
 - OS/400 provides APIs that replicate commands (but with greater control/results).



- So, what can it do.
 - Information found on IBM Infocenter
 - “List” programs
 - Spool Files (hey that could work), Jobs, Objects, Object locks.
 - “Detail” programs
 - Object information, Job Information
 - Cool Other Stuff
 - User Spaces (sort of like large flat files) Used to store the “list” results
 - Validate User Password
 - Encryption



- Multiple methods to access APIs
 - Traditional RPG Programs (OPM and ILE)
 - Requires source code skills, limits enhancement/maintenance
 - CL Programs
 - Greater access to skills required, but still not a home run
 - 2e Functions
 - Pretty sure all 2e developers have the skills to enhance/maintain



API and how to use it

- So how do we get started
 - What API do I need?
 - List Spool Files
 - Create/Delete User Space
 - Retrieve User Space
 - Um, these don't look like 2e functions.
 - How do I deal with Binary fields?
 - Have no fear, lets break it down.



API How to Use It cont.

- 2e function required
 - Execute User Source
 - Used to convert decimal to binary back
 - Execute User Program
 - Used to define the API call
 - Execute Internal Functions
 - Wrapper
 - 2e Arrays
 - Used as parameter lists
 - Extensive use element feature



API Getting Started

- User Source
 - Not as scary as it seems
 - 2e stores binary values as 4 character text

```
Session A - WARIDV - mrexfrA1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
Columns . . . : 1 00 Browse WSTSTGEN/QRP6SRC
SEU=> TSAPI900
FMT * ..... *. 1 ...+... 2 ...+... 3 ...+... 4 ...+... 5 ...+... 6 ...+... 7 ...+... 8
***** Beginning of data *****
0001.00 I* BEGIN USERSOURCE CONVERT BIN TO DEC 000313
0002.00 IX#B2D DS 4 000313
0003.00 I* I : 1 FIELD, 4 BYTES IN BINARY FORMAT 000313
0004.00 I B 1 40X#B2D# 000313
0005.00 I* END USERSOURCE CONVERT BIN TO DEC 000313
0006.00 C* BEGIN USERSOURCE CONVERT BIN TO DEC 000313
0007.00 C* MOVE INPUT FIELD TO STRUCTURE 000313
0008.00 C MOVE#ICWTX X#B2D 000313
0009.00 C* MOVE BINARY FIELD IN STRUCTURE TO OUTPUT FIELD 000313
0010.00 C Z-ADDX#B2D# #0D9NB 000313
0011.00 I* END USERSOURCE CONVERT BIN TO DEC 000313
***** End of data *****

F3=Exit F5=Refresh F9=Retrieve F10=Cursor F11=Toggle F12=Cancel
F16=Repeat find F24=More keys
(C) COPYRIGHT IBM CORP. 1981, 2007.
MA A 02/009
1902 - Session successfully started
```



API Getting Start Cont.

- Execute User Program
 - Placeholder for calls
 - Use arrays to handle parameter lists
 - Nearly all API calls return error messages

```
Session A - WARIDV - mrexfrA1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr* Disconnect
Op: MREXFR MREXFRA1 5/19/11 20:32:12
EDIT FUNCTION PARAMETERS Warranty Systems Test Model
Function name. . : API>List Spool Files Type : Execute user program
Received by file : API App Pgm Interface Acpth: *NONE
Passed Pgm Par
? File/*FIELD Access path/Field/Array Seq Ctx Ctx
*FIELD Qualified UserSpace Name FLD 1
*FIELD API User Space Format FLD 2
*FIELD Job User FLD 3
*FIELD Qualified OutputQueue Nme FLD 4
*FIELD Form Type FLD 5
*FIELD User Data FLD 6
*Arrays P:API Error Structure RCD 7
Values
FLD: One parameter per field
RCD: One parameter for all fields
KEY: One parameter for key fields only
SEL: Z-Parameter details X-Object Details N-Narrative
F3=Exit F5=Reload F22=File locks F23=More options
07/003
```



API How to Use It cont.

- Execute Internal Function
 - Basis for Modular Design
 - Functions limited to a single purpose
 - Build once use many times.

```
Session A - WARIDV - mrexfrA1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
Op: MREXFR MREXFRA1 5/19/11 20:44:18
Warranty Systems Test Model
EDIT FUNCTIONS
File name. . . : API App Pgm Interface ** 1ST LEVEL **
Int
? Function Function type Access path
- INT Convert Case Execute internal function *NONE
- INT Create Key Store Execute internal function *NONE
- INT Create User Space Execute internal function *NONE
- INT Decrypt Data Execute internal function *NONE
- INT Delete User Space Execute internal function *NONE
- INT Encrypt Data Execute internal function *NONE
- INT Generate Random Nbr Execute internal function *NONE
- INT Generate Sym Key Execute internal function *NONE
- INT List Job Schedule Ent Execute internal function *NONE
- INT List Objects Execute internal function *NONE
- INT List Spooled File Execute internal function *NONE
- INT RTV JobSchedule Entry Execute internal function *NONE
- INT RTV PGM Information Execute internal function *NONE
More...
SEL: Z=Details P=Parms F=Action diagram S=Device D=Delete O=Open
T=Structure A=Access path G/J=Generate function H=Generate HTML ...
F3=Exit F5=Reload F7=File details F9=Add functions F23=More options
F11=Next View F17=Services F21=Copy *Template function
MA A 04/004
```



- Defining the functions
 - Fields required, Binary data is defined as 4 character text field in the model.
 - One time setup – Binary to Decimal, Decimal to Binary User Source
 - Define API as an Execute User Programs.
 - All API functions define an Error Structure as part of each call. This returns blank or the message ID if there is a problem.



API Sample – Defining Fields

```
Session A - WARIDV - mrexfrA1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
**All fields **
Op: MREXFR MREXFRA1 6/02/11 13:41:34
DISPLAY FIELDS
Field reference file . : *NONE
? Field name Type REF Length Field name Field usage
API
API Binary Field TXT 4 AFTX ATR
API Decimal Field NBR 9.0 ABNB ATR
SEL: P-Parameters, F-Function, N-Narrative.
Z-Details, R-REF field, U-Usage, L-Locks.
F3=Exit F5=Reload F10=Define field F11=Unreferenced fields
MA A 06/005
I902 - Session successfully started
```



API Sample – Create Conversion Source

```
Session A - WARIDV - mrexfrA1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
Columns . . . : 6 100 Edit EFSQLGEN/QRPGLESRC
SEU==> EFAP1900
FMT * *. 1 ...+... 2 ...+... 3 ...+... 4 ...+... 5 ...+... 6 ...+... 7 ...+... 8 ...+... 9 ...+... 0
***** Beginning of data *****
0001.00 D* BEGIN USERSOURCE CONVERT BIN TO DEC 110602
0002.00 D X#B2D DS 4 110602
0003.00 D* I : 1 FIELD, 4 BYTES IN BINARY FORMAT 110602
0004.00 D X#B2D# 1 4B 0 110602
0005.00 I* END USERSOURCE CONVERT BIN TO DEC 110602
0006.00 C* BEGIN USERSOURCE CONVERT BIN TO DEC 110602
0007.00 C* MOVE INPUT FIELD TO STRUCTURE 110602
0008.00 C MOVE1 #IAFTX X#B2D 110602
0009.00 C* MOVE BINARY FIELD IN STRUCTURE TO OUTPUT FIELD 110602
0010.00 C Z-ADD X#B2D# #DABNB 110602
0011.00 I* END USERSOURCE CONVERT BIN TO DEC 110602
***** End of data *****

F3=Exit F4=Prompt F5=Refresh F9=Retrieve F10=Cursor F11=Toggle
F16=Repeat find F17=Repeat change F24=More keys

MA A 02/009
[902 - Session successfully started
```



API Sample – User Program Stubs

Session A - WARIDV - mrexfrA1

File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help

Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect

Op: MREXFR MREXFRA1 6/02/11 13:56:47
EF SQL Test Model

EDIT FUNCTIONS
File name . . . : APIApplicationPgmIntrfce ** 1ST LEVEL **

Function	Function type	Access path
API:Create UserSpace	Execute user program	*NONE
API>Delete UserSpace	Execute user program	*NONE
API>List Spooled Files	Execute user program	*NONE
API:Retrieve UserSpace	Execute user program	*NONE
900 Convert Bin to Dec	Execute user source	*NONE
901 Convert Dec to Bin	Execute user source	*NONE

More...

SEL: Z=Details P=Parms F=Action diagram S=Device D=Delete O=Open
T=Structure A=Access path G/J=Generate function H=Generate HTML ...
F3=Exit F5=Reload F7=File details F9=Add functions F23=More options
F11=Next View F17=Services F21=Copy *Template function

MA A 06/002

1902 - Session successfully started



- Define Execute Internal Function to wrap around the call to the API (Create User Space).
 - Users provide the name/library for object and get the return code to test for success/fail.
 - This creates a “black box” approach.
 - Hides the formatting and other logic from the developer.
 - Rinse and repeat for the Delete User Space API



- Define a EXCINTFUN around the call to the list spool files API.
 - API Format (common to lists and some other types) is used to define the information returned.
- Reading from the User Space
 - A user space is nothing more then a flat file.
 - When you read, you define the starting point and how far to read



- Reading from the User Space cont.
 - List functions all define their information in a header the same way
 - Information header tells you how many records, where to start and how big a record is
 - Break down the process into 2 functions
 - Get User Space Record and Get Header Information
 - First create a EXCINTFUN that passes in user space name, starting point and length to read and returns what was read and a return code
 - Get Header Information calls the prior function.



API Sample cont

Session B - WARIDV - mrexfrB1

File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help

Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect

Op: MREXFR MREXFRB1 6/03/11 13:43:55
EF SQL Test Model

EDIT FUNCTIONS
File name. . . : APIApplicationPgmIntrfce ** 1ST LEVEL **

? Function	Function type	Access path
_ API:Create UserSpace	Execute user program	*NONE
_ API>Delete UserSpace	Execute user program	*NONE
_ API>List Spooled Files	Execute user program	*NONE
_ API:Retrieve UserSpace	Execute user program	*NONE
_ 900 Convert Bin to Dec	Execute user source	*NONE
_ 901 Convert Dec to Bin	Execute user source	*NONE
_ Create/Delete UserSpace	Execute internal function	*NONE
_ INT RTV UserSpace Entry	Execute internal function	*NONE
<input type="checkbox"/> INT RTV UserSpace Header	Execute internal function	*NONE

More...

SEL: Z=Details P=Parms F=Action diagram S=Device D=Delete O=Open
T=Structure A=Access path G/J=Generate function H=Generate HTML ...
F3=Exit F5=Reload F7=File details F9=Add functions F23=More options
F11=Next View F17=Services F21=Copy *Template function

MA B 14/002

1902 - Session successfully started



API Sample cont

```
Session A - WARIDV - mrexfrA1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
EDIT ACTION DIAGRAM View WSDEVMDL API Application Pgm Intra
FIND=> INT RTV UserSpace Header
> INT RTV UserSpace Header
--
...* Program Comments.
CLR*STR:Qualified Obj/Lib - *Arrays *
CRT*STR:Qualified Obj/Lib - *Arrays *
LCL.Qualified UserSpace Name = CTVAR(ELM.STR:Qualified Obj/Lib)
901 CVT Decimal to Binary - API Application Pgm Intra *
901 CVT Decimal to Binary - API Application Pgm Intra *
API:Retrieve UserSpace - API Application Pgm Intra *
LCL.API:Length of Data = SUBSTRING(LCL.Userspace Entry 1-250,CON.12
900 CVT Binary to Decimal - API Application Pgm Intra *
LCL.API:Length of Data = SUBSTRING(LCL.Userspace Entry 1-250,CON.13
900 CVT Binary to Decimal - API Application Pgm Intra *
LCL.API:Length of Data = SUBSTRING(LCL.Userspace Entry 1-250,CON.13
900 CVT Binary to Decimal - API Application Pgm Intra *
--
```



- Now we need to setup our call to list the spool files.

```
Session B - WARIDV - mrexfrB1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
Op: MREXFR MREXFRB1 6/03/11 14:26:49
EF SQL Test Model
EDIT FUNCTIONS
File name. . . : APIApplicationPgmIntrfce ** 1ST LEVEL **

? Function Function type Access path
_ API:Create UserSpace Execute user program *NONE
_ API>Delete UserSpace Execute user program *NONE
_ API>List Spooled Files Execute user program *NONE
_ API:Retrieve UserSpace Execute user program *NONE
_ Create/Delete UserSpace Execute internal function *NONE
_ INT RTV UserSpace Entry Execute internal function *NONE
_ INT RTV UserSpace Header Execute internal function *NONE
_ 900 Convert Bin to Dec Execute user source *NONE
_ 901 Convert Dec to Bin Execute user source *NONE
_ INT List Spooled File Execute internal function *NONE

More...
SEL: Z=Details P=Parms F=Action diagram S=Device D=Delete O=Open
T=Structure A=Access path G/J=Generate function H=Generate HTML ...
F3=Exit F5=Reload F7=File details F9=Add functions F23=More options
F11=Next View F17=Services F21=Copy *Template function

MA B 15/004
I902 - Session successfully started
```



- Lastly we setup our retrieve of the spool file list entry.

```
Session B - WARIDV - mrexfrB1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
Op: MREXFR MREXFRB1 6/03/11 14:35:18
EF SQL Test Model
EDIT FUNCTIONS
File name. . . : APIApplicationPgmIntrfce ** 1ST LEVEL **

? Function Function type Access path
- API:Create UserSpace Execute user program *NONE
- API>Delete UserSpace Execute user program *NONE
- API>List Spooled Files Execute user program *NONE
- API:Retrieve UserSpace Execute user program *NONE
- Create/Delete UserSpace Execute internal function *NONE
- INT RTV UserSpace Entry Execute internal function *NONE
- INT RTV UserSpace Header Execute internal function *NONE
- 900 Convert Bin to Dec Execute user source *NONE
- 901 Convert Dec to Bin Execute user source *NONE
- INT List Spooled File Execute internal function *NONE
- INT RTV QUSLSPL Entry Execute internal function *NONE

More...
SEL: Z=Details P=Parms F=Action diagram S=Device D=Delete O=Open
T=Structure A=Access path G/J=Generate function H=Generate HTML ...
F3=Exit F5=Reload F7=File details F9=Add functions F23=More options
F11=Next View F17=Services F21=Copy *Template function

MA B 16/002
I902 - Session successfully started
```



API Sample cont.

- Now take the returned data and parse it out. (An array element is nice here).

```
Session A - WARIDV - mrexfrA1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
EDIT ACTION DIAGRAM View MRHLPMDL API App Program Interface
FIND=> INT RTV QUSLSPL Entry
> INT RTV QUSLSPL Entry
. . .
. . . ** Program Notes.
. INT RTV UserSpace Entry - API App Program Interface *
. CLR*ELM:API SPLF0300 - *Arrays *
. CRT*ELM:API SPLF0300 - *Arrays *
. ELM.ELM:API SPLF0300 = CTVAR(LCL.Userspace Entry 1-250)
. RTV*ELM:API SPLF0300 - *Arrays *
. 909 CVT Binary to Decimal - API App Program Interface *
. 909 CVT Binary to Decimal - API App Program Interface *
. . .
```



API Sample cont.

- Seems like a lot of work.
 - Nearly all of the functions are built to be reusable.
 - Modular, Modular, Modular.



Sample in the wild

Session A - WARIDV - mrexfrA1

File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help

Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect

HSSPL100 DISPLAY 6/03/11 14:37:46

Work with Spool Files

Filters
User Data Form

Type options, press Enter.
1=Send 2=Change 3=Hold 4=Delete 5=View 6=Release 8=Email as PDF
9=Copy to file

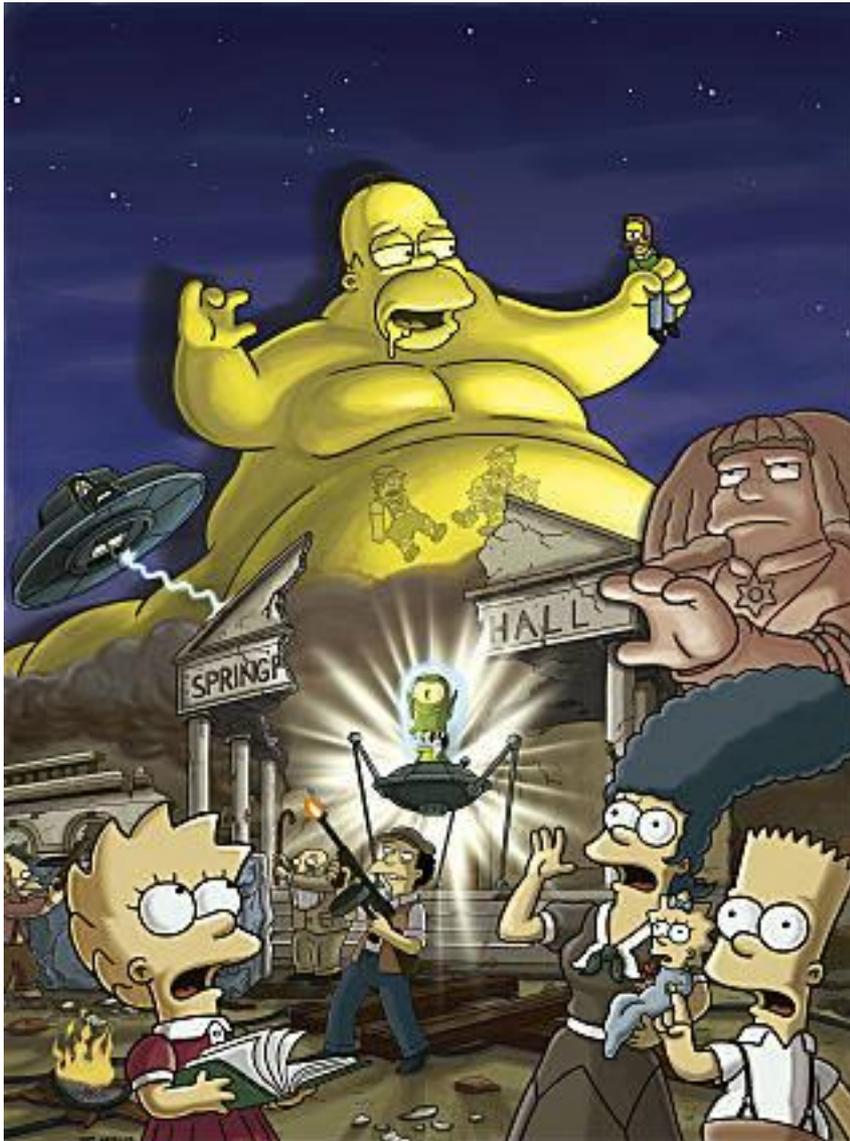
? Create Date	Job Name	Job User	Spool Number	Spool File	Output Queue
6/03/11 13:47:23	QPADEV0046	MREXFR	1	QPJOBLOG	QEZJOBLOG
6/03/11 13:26:19	SHWLS900	MREXFR	1	SHWLS900	QPRINT
6/03/11 13:26:19	SHWLS900	MREXFR	2	SHWLS900	QPRINT
6/03/11 13:26:17	YGENSRC	MREXFR	1	QPJOBLOG	QEZJOBLOG
6/03/11 12:47:22	QPADEV0045	MREXFR	1	QPJOBLOG	QEZJOBLOG
6/03/11 12:43:09	QPADEV003C	MREXFR	1	QPJOBLOG	QEZJOBLOG
6/03/11 12:43:09	QPADEV0044	MREXFR	1	QPJOBLOG	QEZJOBLOG
6/03/11 12:43:08	QPADEV003K	MREXFR	1	QPJOBLOG	QEZJOBLOG
6/03/11 10:53:46	QPADEV002J	MREXFR	1	QPJOBLOG	QEZJOBLOG
6/03/11 6:18:39	MREXFRA1	MREXFR	1	QPJOBLOG	QEZJOBLOG

F3=Exit F7=Reload list F20=Delete All

More...

MA A 05/056

I902 - Session successfully started



SQL And the Blob



- What is a BLOB
 - Not the latest blockbuster summer movie monster
 - Binary Large Object
 - Useful for storing items such as PDF / images / documents / Jimmy Hoffa
 - Not native to the 2e world (yet?)



- Getting Started
 - All code on an article from Scott Klement
 - <http://systeminetwork.com/article/rpg-vs-blob>
- Will require User Source
 - Not beyond the skill of a bad RPG developer (like me)



- 3 Main Items of source code
 - SQL Source for your table
 - EXCURSRC – Define BLOB data type
 - EXCURSRC – The Read and Write of object



- SQL Source for your table
 - Plenty of ways to define this
 - STRSQL
 - SQL editor in Ops Navigator
 - <Insert name of favorite SQL editor here>
 - Just so long as you have defined the BLOB SQL data type for one of your fields.



SQL & the BLOB cont.

- EXCURSRC – Define BLOB data type
 - Only lines needed are to define the data type for RPG
 - D BlobObj S SQLTYPE(BLOB_FILE)
 - Compiler will convert this to a data structure that consists of the IFS path (BlobObj_NAME), length of the IFS path (BlobObj_NL) , and the file operation (BlobObj_FO).



SQL & the BLOB cont.

```
Session B - WARIDV - mrexfrB1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
Display Spooled File
File . . . . . : SHWLS900 Page/Line 4/11
Control . . . . : 5 Columns 1 - 130
Find . . . . . :
*...+...1...+...2...+...3...+...4...+...5...+...6...+...7...+...8...+...9...+...0...+...1...+...2...+...3
 77 D W0ICL S 1 000490
 78 D W0RTN S 7 000500
 79 D W0RSL S 1 000510
 80 D W0RSF S 1 000520
 81 D W0RTW S 9 0 000530
 82 D W0ENV S 3 000540
 83 D ZZTME S 6 0 000550
 84 D YILE S 1 000560
 85 D W0PMT S 1 000570
 86 D*BLOBOBJ S SQLTYPE(BLOB_FILE) 000580
 87 DBLOBOBJ DS 000580
 88 DBLOBOBJ_NL 10U 0 000580
 89 DBLOBOBJ_DL 10U 0 000580
 90 DBLOBOBJ_FO 10U 0 000580
 91 DBLOBOBJ_NAME 255A 000580
 92 000590
900 Process SQL Tasks Execute external functio
5761WDS V6R1M0 080215 RN IBM ILE RPG SHRAPPGEN/SHWLS900 WARIDV 06/03/11 13:26:19 Page 5
Line <----- Source Specifications -----><---- Comments ----> Do Page Change Src Seq
More...
F3=Exit F12=Cancel F19=Left F20=Right F24=More keys
MA B MW 03/022
I902 - Session successfully started
```



- EXCURSRC – The Read and Write of object
 - First we setup the file operation
 - Defined constants by compiler SQFRD for reading in and SQFOVR to write out, overwrite if it exists
 - Select or Insert depending on which way you are going with the object.
 - Lastly we test if the SQL operation was successful
 - Test SQLCOD



SQL and the BLOB cont.

```
Session B - WARIDV - mrexfrB1
File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help
Host: WARIDV Port: 23 Workstation ID: mrexfr*= Disconnect
Columns . . . : 6 100 Edit SHRAPPGEN/QRPGLESRC
SEU==> SHWLS901
FMT CX CL0N01Factor1+++++Opcode&ExtExtended-factor2+++++Comments+++++
0001.03 C EVAL BlobObj_NAME = #Ieftx 110303
0001.04 C eval BlobObj_NL = %len(%trimr(#Ieftx)) 110303
0001.05 C if #Iapcd = 'SQFRD' 110303
0001.06 C eval BlobObj_FO = SQFRD 110303
0001.07 C EVAL Blobdat_NAME = #Ieptx 110309
0001.08 C eval Blobdat_NL = %len(%trimr(#Ieptx)) 110309
0001.09 C eval Blobdat_FO = SQFRD 110309
0001.12 C/exec sql 110303
0001.13 C+ INSERT INTO DOCPATH_DOCUMENT_STORAGE (DIVISIONID,
0001.14 C+ LINEOFBUSINESS, APPLICATIONID, DOCUMENTID, DOCUMENTFILE,
0001.15 c+ documentsource, ifsformpath, docpathformname) 110309
0001.16 C+ VALUES(:#Iaicd, :#Ibgtx, :#Iadcd, :#Idvnb, :BlobObj, :BlobDat,
0001.17 c+ :#Iegt , :#Ientx ) 110309
0001.19 C/end-exec 110303
0001.28 C else 110303
0001.29 C eval BlobObj_FO = SQFOVR 110303
0001.34 C/exec sql 110303
0001.35 C+ SELECT DOCPATHDATFILE INTO :BlobObj FROM 110307
0001.36 C+ Docpath_External_Data_file WHERE DivisionId = :#Iaicd and 110307
0001.37 C+ LineOfBusiness = :#Ibgtx and ApplicationId = :#Iadcd and 110307
F3=Exit F4=Prompt F5=Refresh F9=Retrieve F10=Cursor F11=Toggle
F16=Repeat find F17=Repeat change F24=More keys
B 04/001
I902 - Session successfully started
```



Questions?