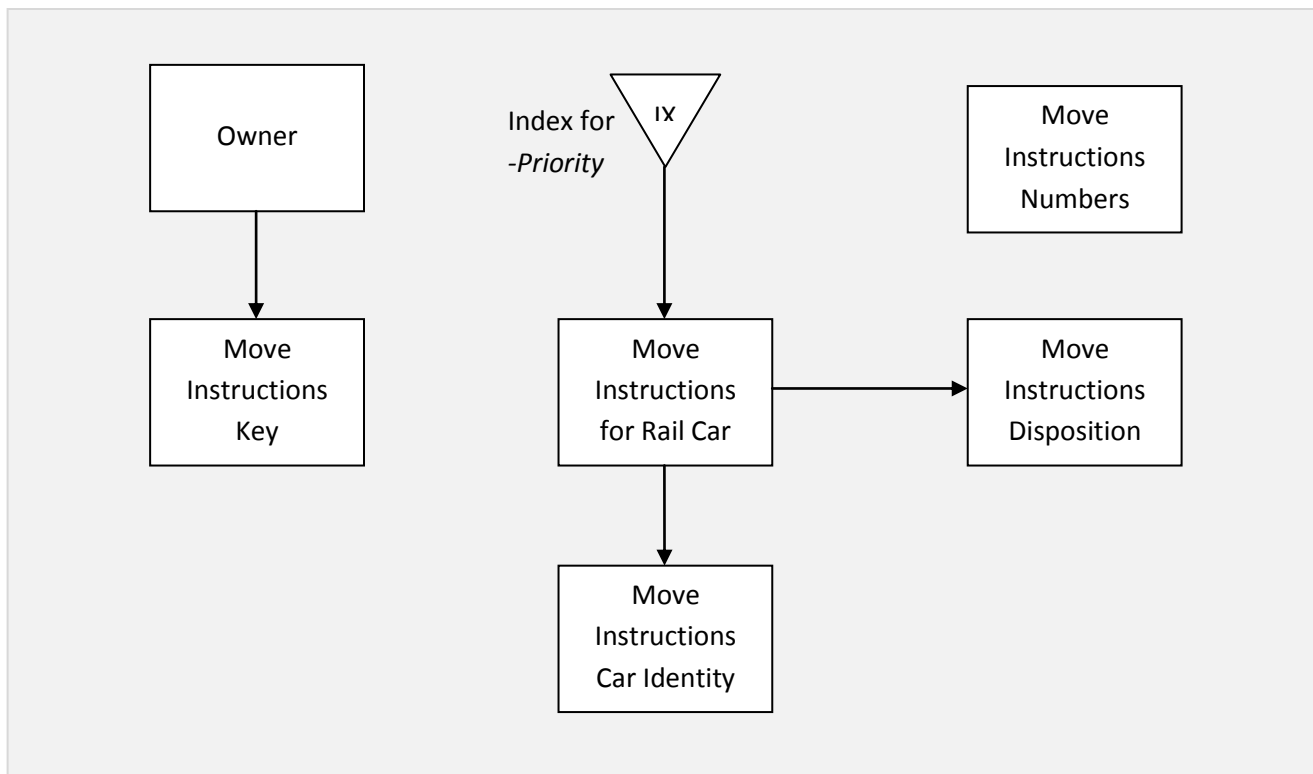## The Birth of CA IDMS SQL at Norfolk Southern

Norfolk Southern Corporation is a leading North American transportation provider whose railway subsidiary operates approximately 20,000 route miles in 22 states and the District of Columbia, serves every major container port in the eastern United States, and provides efficient connections to other rail carriers. Norfolk Southern operates the most extensive intermodal network in the East.

by **Charlie Mathers,** *Senior Technology Engineer, IDMS/Teradata DBA, Norfolk Southern Corporation*

In the spring of 2009, we installed the IDMS SQL Feature and IDMS Server at Norfolk Southern Corporation for the first time. Up until then we had been a strictly conventional IDMS shop with four CVs of legacy chain-set data. I installed the product, and then tried to learn how to use it with the sample installation legacy data.

In the fall of 2009, I received a call from the Teradata/Data Warehouse development group. They had an urgent need for a method to extract legacy parent-child set data from one of our train operations IDMS applications for loading to the Teradata Data Warehouse for the "Chairman's Dashboard" BI application. Because development time was of the essence, they wondered if I had a ready-made way to deliver the extracts without the normal COBOL development cycle. I thought of the SQL Feature, and in the course of one afternoon, the primary developer on the project and I produced fourteen SQL views of the legacy data. We put together all fourteen views in one IDMSBCF job step, and used the SET OPTIONS OUTPUT TO DDNAME capability to produce fourteen SQL extracts from pure legacy IDMS chain-set data.
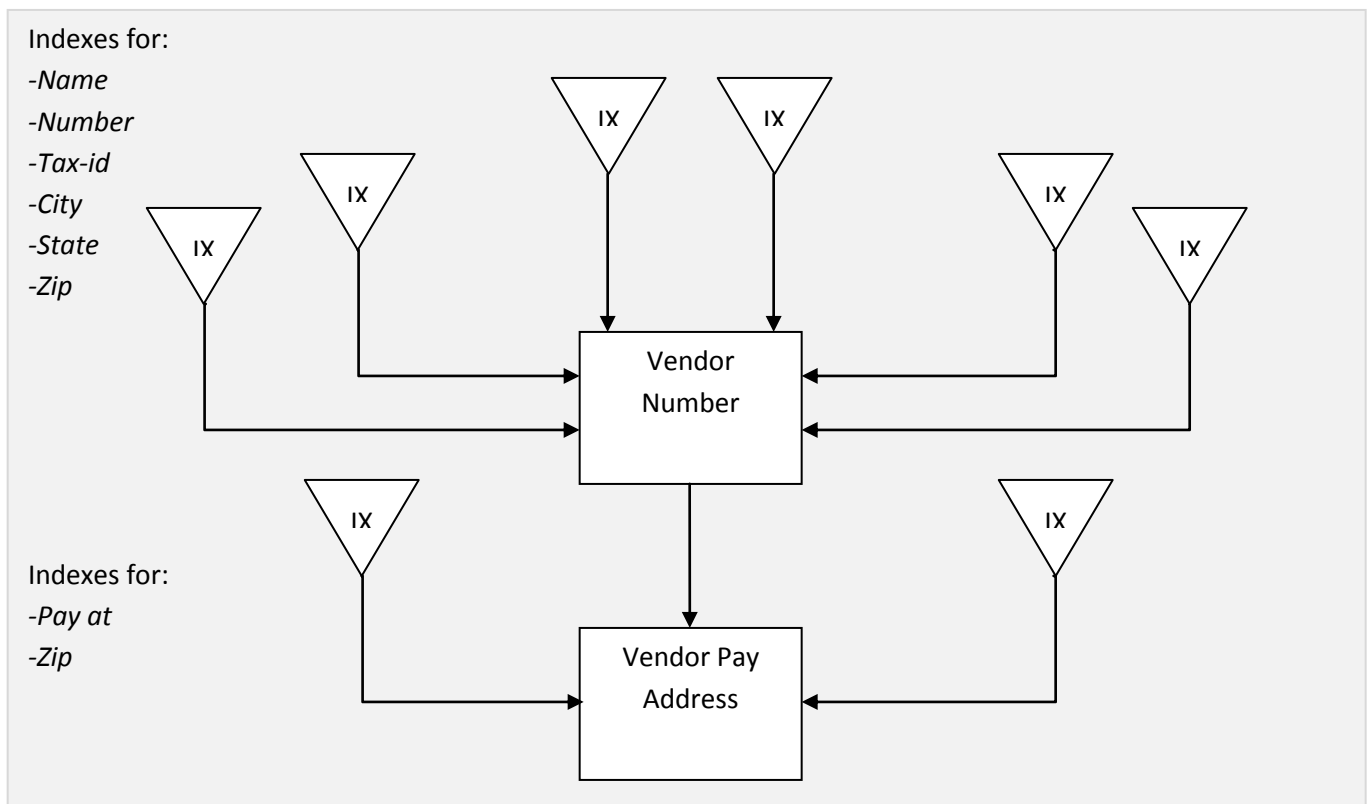
That job runs today, four times a day, to provide data for the "Chairman's Dashboard." It took exactly three

people a half of a day to create the process, 1½ person days of development.   Typical COBOL production job creation would have been on the order of at least 10 person days.

Last year, Norfolk Southern implemented SAP for two IDMS legacy applications, Material Management and Accounts Receivable. That implementation required the "scrubbing" of legacy IDMS data. The "scrubbing" tool that Norfolk Southern chose to use received all of its input of legacy data via ODBC. Because we had implemented the IDMS SQL Feature and IDMS Server with its ODBC capability, we were able to successfully process all the IDMS legacy data into SAP in a timely manner using the available tools in the market place. That process worked so well, there were no data related problems with the SAP cutover.

Here is a sample of one of the legacy areas converted to SAP using the SQL Feature and IDMS Server:

Indexes for:
-*Name*
-*Number*
-*Tax-id*
-*City*
-*State*
-*Zip*

IX IX IX IX IX IX

Vendor Number

Indexes for:
-*Pay at*
-*Zip*

IX IX

Vendor Pay Address

While two back-office IDMS applications were replaced by functionality in SAP, the critical core rail operations applications continue to use IDMS and will for years to come.