Practical and Cost Effective Techniques for Modernising your Gen GUI applications





Agenda

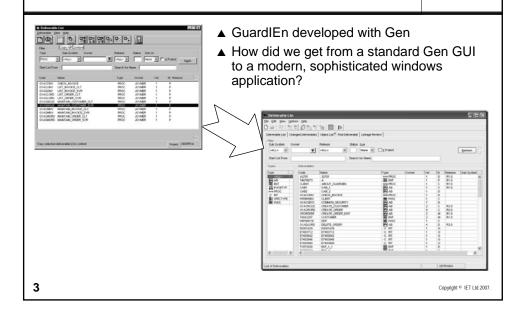


- ▲ Introduction
- ▲ GuardIEn Case Study
- ▲ IETeGUI
- ▲ Conclusions

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GuardIEn Case Study



GuardIEn Case Study



- ▲ Initial GuardIEn Release TSO/3270
- ▲ First GUI Design created as essentially a block-mode design with GUI controls (using Composer 3)
- ▲ Recognised need to improve user interface, but with:
 - ▲ All business logic in Gen
 - ▲ All client windows to be Gen
 - ▲ Minimise use of OCXs or extensive additional code
- ▲ Design Approach
 - ▲ Use standard infrastructure EABs to interact with Windows

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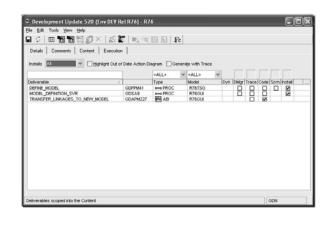
GuardIEn Case Study – Phase 1

- ▲ Clickable Cells
- ▲ Tabs
- ▲ Right-Click Menus
- ▲ Timer Events (auto-refresh)

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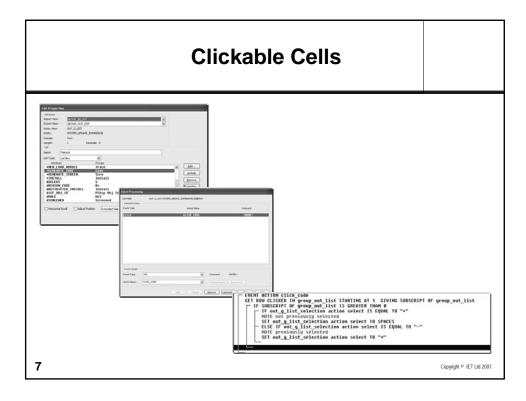
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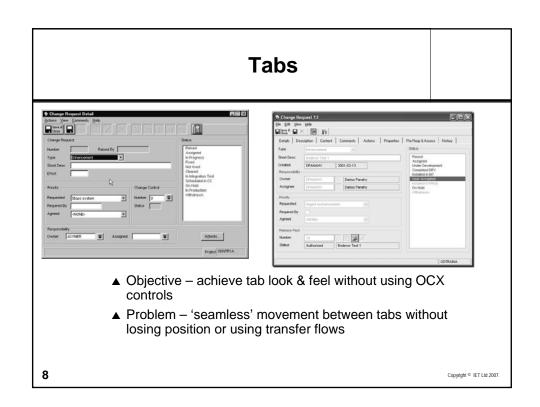
Clickable Cells



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- ▲ Solution:
 - ▲ Non-display 'launcher' p-step
 - ▲ Flow to the launcher from calling p-step
 - ▲ Launcher controls which 'tab' is displaye
 - ▲ Each 'tab' is a separate window
 - ▲ Tabs are bitmaps
 - ▲ Code logic to reset size / position
 - ▲ Or use IETeGUI
 - ▲ EAB to draw tab border



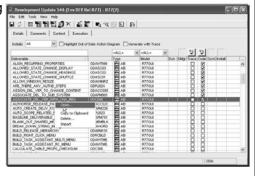
SET temp_window ole guiobject TO CurrentWindow()
SET temp_window ole window_handle TO temp_window ole guiobject.Handle
USE eab_start_tab_border_manager
WHICH IMPORTS: Work View temp_window ole TO Work View in_window ole

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Right Click Menus

- ▲ Problem 1: Gen event co-ordinates provide the offset from the top of the displayed row and does not account for scrolling
- ▲ Problem 2: Gen co-ordinates affected by windows DPI setting



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Right Click Menus

- ▲ Solution 1: EAB to return the topmost displayed row
- ▲ Solution 2: Custom Function to provide DPI setting and adjust co-ordinates

EVENT ACTION right_nouse_down
SET temp_olset_TO EurrentVindow().ListBox("HainList")
SET temp_listbox_handle ief_supplied count TO temp ole guiobject.Handle

USS get_listbox_top_row
UNICH IMPORTS: Work View temp_listbox_handle ief_supplied TO Work View in_handle ief_supplied
UNICH EXPORTS: Work View temp_listbox_bandle ief_supplied FROM Work View out_top_lef_supplied

SET temp_clicked_row ief_supplied count TO (out rightnousebindown1 ycoord / letgetstandardgdnfontheight(Th)) + temp_top_row ief_supplied count + 1

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Timer Events

- ▲ Timer events allow the client p-step to automatically invoke a client event after a preset interval
 - ▲ E.g. to refresh data from the server
- ▲ Approach:
 - ▲ EAB to setup a Windows Timer, which then posts a message to the client to execute a command or TIREVENT



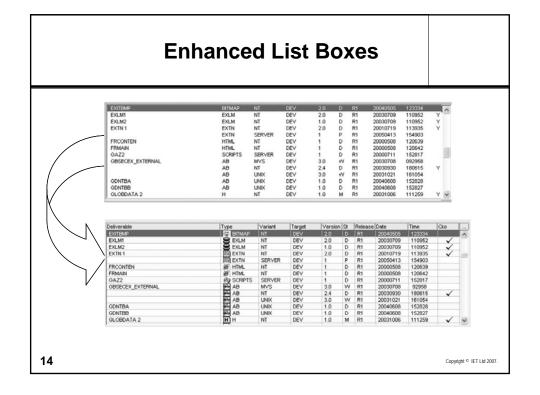
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GuardIEn Case Study – Phase 2

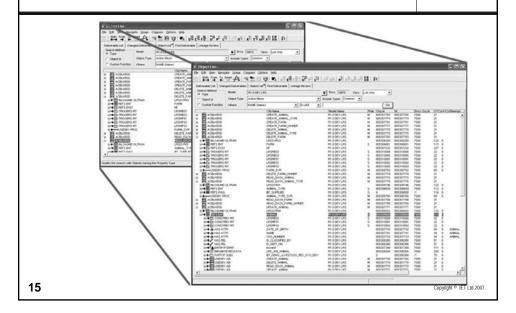
- ▲ Further Enhancements
 - ▲ List Box Enhancements
 - ▲ Window Resizing

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Why is this hard in Gen?

- ▲ Could be achieved with extensive coding & OCX controls, but:
 - ▲ A lot of effort per p-step
 - ▲ Need to enhance entire application to achieve consistent user interface and standards

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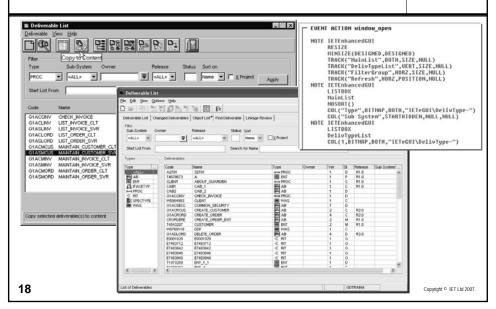
Our Solution

- ▲ Gen List Boxes are Windows User Drawn List Boxes
 - ▲ Can be modified using Windows API, whilst retaining all of the Gen functionality
 - ▲ Developed generic routines (enhanced runtime) to enhance the Gen GUI via Windows functions that is totally transparent to the Gen runtime and model
- ▲ Process
 - ▲ Add NOTE statement to action diagram containing simple directives for the runtime
 - ▲ Generate code
 - ▲ Code post-processor converts NOTE statements into calls to enhanced runtime
- ▲ No coding or OCXs!

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Deliverable List





Benefits

- ▲ Better user experience
- ▲ Standard behaviour across all applications
 - ▲ List boxes consistent with Windows standards
 - ▲ Use of bitmaps improve data readability
 - ▲ Window and Dialog Box resizing with automatic resizing of list boxes and moving of selected controls
 - ▲ Remembers windows sizes, positions, column settings
- ▲ Minimal development effort

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IETeGUI



- ▲ IETeGUI IET Enhanced GUI
- ▲ Commercially available product for enhancing Gen GUI applications
- ▲ Based on GuardIEn enhancement project
- ▲ Works with Gen 6.5 and above





IET Product Update - Edge EMEA 2006