

# WHAT'S NEW AT ROBELLE

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## Suprtool 6.6 (New Features)

Stexport Support for Extended Names

Suprtool 6.6 was released in the spring of 2024 and the primary focus was with improving features in STExport. The first enhancement was to improve STExport to use the Extended names for any given fields if the information was available.

Suprtool can write out longer field names if the setting, `sdextname` is on inside Suprtool. This was mainly to provide better support for larger Oracle fieldnames. The longer field names are added to the end of the self-describing information in the `.sd` file.

The fieldnames are helpful, when importing to Excel, with `head fieldnames on`, and in Json and XML output.

First is the JSON command updates.

STExport, has three new features in the JSON command. Specifically, `INDENT`, `HEADER` and `TRAILER`.

### INDENT

The Indent command allows you to specify an integer, in which STExport will indent the data portion of the JSON output the number of spaces specified.

The Indent option does not impact the Header or Tail lines or the Object Lines.

The commands:

```
$in jsonin.stexptst
$json onepeline indent 12
$json Object "This is a test"
$out *
$xeq
```

Will produce data that looks as such:

```

{"This is a test":
  [{"CHAR-FIELD": "11111",
    "INT-FIELD": 1111,
    "DBL-FIELD": 11111,
    "PACKED-FIELD": 11111,
    "PACKED*-FIELD": 11111,
    "QUAD-FIELD": 11111,
    "ID-FIELD": 1,
    "LOGICAL-FIELD": 1111,
    "DBLLOG-FIELD": 11111,
    "ZONED-FIELD": 11111
  ]
}

```

## Header and Tail

The Header and Tail options of the JSON command, allow you to maintain two files, whereby the contents of the files are added to the Json stream, at the beginning and end of the output file.

The header and tail files are created to be fixed length files with a record size of 256 bytes.

The options of the Header and Tail command are as follows:

```

JSON HEADER CREATE <filename>
JSON HEADER ADD "This is a string"
JSON HEADER DELETE <filename>
JSON HEADER SETFNAME <filename>

```

There four options for the Header and Tail commands tell STExport to do the following:

Create <filename>

The create action opens the specified file name. If the file exists, it will erase the contents of the file.

ADD "string"

Allows you to add lines to the specified Header or Tail file, by specifying a string to add the the Head or Tail file.

Delete <filename>

Deletes the specified filename, for either the Header or Tail File specified.

SetFname

Sets the name of the header or Tail file and confirms that it exists.

Examples

The following STExport code shows using the new features and the impact on the Output.

```

input jsonin
JSON onepeline indent 12 header create file24h tail create file24t
JSON TAIL ADD "      }"
JSON TAIL ADD "}"
JSON HEADER ADD '{'
JSON HEADER ADD '  "Recreation_Membership_File": {'
JSON HEADER ADD '    "description": "Recusers_File_Ver_1",'
JSON HEADER ADD '    "fileType": "ACTIVITIES",'
JSON HEADER ADD '    "DataType": "Membership",'
JSON HEADER ADD '    "fullFileMember": "Y",'
JSON HEADER ADD '    "MemberActivity":'
output file24a
exit

```

would produce the following:

```

{
  "Recreation_Membership_File": {
    "description": "Recusers_File_Ver_1",
    "fileType": "ACTIVITIES",
    "DataType": "Membership",
    "fullFileMember": "Y",
    "MemberActivity":
      [{"CHAR-FIELD": "11111",
        "INT-FIELD": 1111,
        "DBL-FIELD": 11111,
        "PACKED-FIELD": 11111,
        "PACKED*-FIELD": 11111,
        "QUAD-FIELD": 11111,
        "ID-FIELD": 1,
        "LOGICAL-FIELD": 1111,
        "DBLLOG-FIELD": 11111,
        "ZONED-FIELD": 11111
      }]
  }
}

```

## Suprtool 6.7

Suprtool 6.7 is not released but we will show some of the new features that are coming.

The \$SPLIT function has been improved with two settings, Set QuoteChar and Set SmartSplit. With these two settings you can tell Suprtool to ignore commas within a byte field:

### \$SPLIT Function

The \$Split function has two new options in how data is processed, specifically Set QuoteChar and Set SmartSplit, which work together to process “byte-type” fields in a csv file. Set quotechar, defines what quote character was used to in creating the CSV file so that Suprtools split function will know when it is in quotes. When the Split function knows this, it will automatically remove the quotes.

### Set QuoteChar

The Set QuoteChar, tells the Suprtool Split function what Quote character surrounds byte type fields in a CSV file. If you need to define the double quote as the Quote character you define by surrounding the double quote with single quotes and vice versa.

The commands:

```

$set QuoteChar `"' {define double quote as quote character}
$Set QuoteChar "" {define single quote as quote character}

```

### Set SmartSplit

Set SmartSplit On, in conjunction with Set QuoteChar, will allow the Split Function to ignore any occurrence of a Split Character inside the defined Quote Character.

Impact of Set QuoteChar “” and Set SmartSplit On.

```

>Set QuoteChar `"'
>Set SmartSplit On

```

The if command and the extract command can now ignore commas in traditional byte type fields that may have a comma in the data.

### Examples

```

>in alana
>set quotechar '''
>set smartsplit on
>def record,1,80
>def name,1,30
>def bytenum,1,6
>if $split(record,first,",") = "Peanut,dadog"
>ext name=$split(record,first,",")
>ext bytenum=$trim($split(record,",",1,","))
>out file104n,link
>xeq
IN=2, OUT=1. CPU-Sec=1. Wall-Sec=1.

>in file104n
>list
>xeq

>IN FILE104N.SUPRTEST.GREEN (0) >OUT $NULL (0)
NAME                = Peanut,dadog                BYTENUM                = 4567

```

## Fun Features

Suprtool doesn't have a day of week function, but really it doesn't need one. Juliansdays, the date type, starts on a Monday. If you combine \$days and mod, you can determine the day of the week.

```

Define day,1,4,double
Item order-date,date,ccyymmdd
Ext day=($days(order-date) mod 7)

```

The result is that 0 will be equal to Monday, 1 = Tuesday, 2=Wednesday....6=Sunday.

You can also do the same with the if command. If you wanted to find all orders from any Monday, then you can just do:

```

If $days(order-date) mod 7 = 0

```

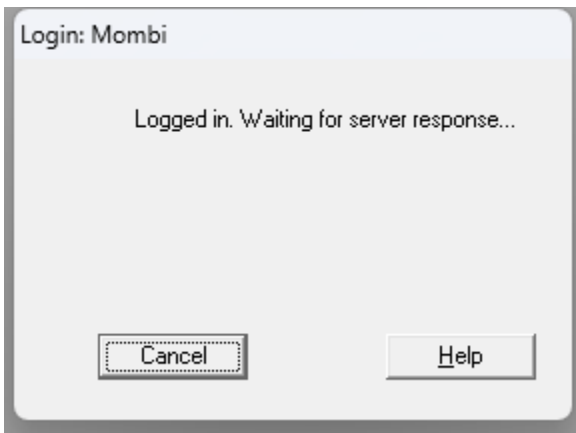
This allows you to find anything for a given day of the week.

## Support Questions

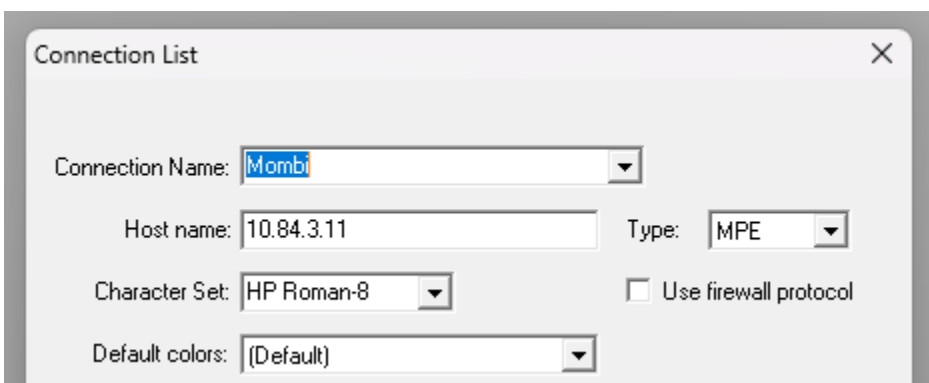
This section discusses some of the recent support call issues.

### Qedit for Windows ~ Connections to HP3000 Servers

We have had a spate of questions about why suddenly, a user was unable to connect to their MPE server. The error message that the user encountered was:



Understanding how and what Qedit for Windows is doing to connect to the HP3000, lies in the Connection configuration:



This Connection Definition shows that the Use Firewall protocol box is \*not\* checked, which means that Qedit uses the Remote Process Management feature of MPE/iX. This is the same connection method that FTP uses.

What happens to get the error message above of "Logged in. Waiting for server response...", is that we can send the information to the HP3000, however, if you have a firewall (software, or hardware), between the client and the server, we can't get the packets back from the HP3000 to the client.

This typically can happen, even with the standard Windows software firewall on most current versions of Windows, or the network people have put the HP3000 behind a firewall.

Regardless of the reason or network change the solution for connecting to MPE boxes, is to use a method similar to the Unix implementation and that is to connect directly to the Qedit Server.

To use this method of connection two things need to happen:

1. On the client you need to change the connection to the MPE box and insure that the Use Firewall Protocol is checked.
2. On the server the Qserver.qeditjob.robelle job must be running.

Once these changes are made the user(s) can connect to the HP 3000 server.

## **Extract Command**

Sometimes the Extract command is confusing in some cases, specifically the instance of extracting variables with the same name, may not have the same data. It all depends on how the data is defined and if there is an expression involved.

Consider the following data in ascii:

```
>IN SAMPLE.NEIL.GREEN (0) >OUT $NULL (0)
CHAR-FIELD      = 98798          DBL-FIELD      = 11111
INT-FIELD       = 1111

>IN SAMPLE.NEIL.GREEN (1) >OUT $NULL (1)
CHAR-FIELD      = 98798          DBL-FIELD      = 22222
INT-FIELD       = 2222
```

The structure of the file in question looks like this:

```
>form sample
File: SAMPLE.NEIL.GREEN      (SD Version B.00.00)
Entry:                        Offset
CHAR-FIELD                   X5      1
DBL-FIELD                     I2      6
INT-FIELD                      I1     10
Limit: 10000 EOF: 2 Entry Length: 11 Blocking: 69
```

Then looking at the following task and output:

```
>in sample
>define target,1,10,byte
>extract target=$edit(dbl-field,"99/99/99")
>extract target
>list
>xeg
>IN SAMPLE.NEIL.GREEN (0) >OUT $NULL (0)
TARGET      = 01/11/11      TARGET      = 98798..+g.

>IN SAMPLE.NEIL.GREEN (1) >OUT $NULL (1)
TARGET      = 02/22/22      TARGET      = 98798..Vö.
```

So, why does the first target contain information from dbf-field and what is the data in the second field and why doesn't the second target field does not contain target that is in the second field called target.

First off, the two extracts, ext target=\$edit(...), and extract target, are different.

```
Extract target=$edit(dbl-field,"99/99/99")
```

is really doing the following.

The expression takes the field, dbf-field and invokes the \$edit function which converts the binary data of dbf-field to ascii and applies the edit-mask of "99/99/99" and then puts the data into the field called target.

Extract target, with no expression, simply extracts target as it is defined. Which in this case is:

Define target,1,10,byte

Which, if you look at the structure of the file, is the first five bytes with char-field, and the rest of the data is binary data. This simply grabs the first 10 bytes and moves it into the field called target.

There is no relationship between this (second) field target, and the first one. They have the same definition, however, extract acts in a different manner when there is an equal sign and an expression or function to the right of the equal sign.

## Robelle Book Club

As you are aware we Robellians like to read, especially during these challenging times. We also enjoy a good TV show and movies.

**All About ME! My Remarkable Life in Show Business by Mel Brooks** reviewed by Tammy Roscoe

As you know I do not read many non-fiction books. I enjoyed Mel's witty humor through out the book. It's a fun light read, and each chapter is its own short story. I have forgotten how many successful projects Mel has created from comedy shows, writing, songwriter, producing and acting. I did not realize this EGOT winner produce The Elephant Man!

**Hang the Moon by Jeanette Walls** reviewed by Tammy Roscoe

Jeanette Walls is one of my favorite authors for light interesting reads. Hang the Moon is a historical fiction set in the Southern United States centering on a young woman, Sallie Kincaid, the daughter of the richest man in town. Set during the early years of Prohibition. It tells a drama about rural moonshine makers and heavy-handed Prohibitionists, about inheritance and class. The pace is fast and there is never a dull moment for Salli as she fights for her place in her family and world with strength, grace, and love.

**The Desert War** reviewed by Bob Green

"The Desert War" was written by Alan Morehead during WWII. He was a front-line reporter from "The London Observer" and the books were written at the time and on the spot. The tone of the writing is great - personal, charming, and lots of details that you never heard before.

For example, an excerpt:

"But they were living on a preposterous scale. The British coming into the [Italian] camp could scarcely believe their eyes when they saw that each man had his own little espresso coffee percolator with which he brewed his special cup after meals. The British brigadiers in this action had not for many weeks or even months lived as the Italian non-commissioned officer was living. In the British lines there were no sheets, no parade-ground uniforms, and certainly no scent. ..."

We are always looking for book or TV shows or movie recommendations. Send your recommendations to [tammy@robelle.com](mailto:tammy@robelle.com)

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