

Taurus Software News  
June 2004

Welcome to this edition of Taurus Software News, your insider's guide to the Taurus family of products. Taurus Software News is distributed worldwide to people using technologies within the Taurus product line.

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1. Warehouse, BridgeWare's and DataBridger's Data Movement Engine, News  
Current release: 3.00.2580  
Available platforms: Windows, HP3000, HP-UX, RS6000, Linux, Sun, SGI  
Release notes: <http://www.taurus.com/support/releasenotes.htm>

This month we would like to step back a little and hit on the basics of Warehouse. Whether you generate a Warehouse script in Studio or want to create one by hand, it would be nice to know what are those OPEN, READ, SETVAR, and COPY statements that you find in the middle of a script.

When you "open" a database, Warehouse looks at the database structure and the tables inside it. You need to tell Warehouse the name of the database, the type of database that is being opened, and the location of the database along with the user logon and password. You also need to provide a tag for the database that Warehouse uses as a reference. You can open the same database twice as long as you give a different tag for each open. An OPEN statement will look like:

```
Open dbtag odbc basename
```

The dbtag is then used as a reference every time you read from or write to the database. It is also used to define the buffers that are used to produce the record that will be written to a target database. Let's look at an example where a script reads from an ODBC source database (this could be SQLServer on Windows or DB2 on Windows) and writes to an Oracle target database.

```
Open source odbc srcbase
```

```
Open target oracle user/pass home=c:\oracle sid=SID001
```

```
Define sales_rec : using target.sales_table
```

```
Read srcbase = source.sales
```

```
Setvar sales_rec.sales_no = srcbase.sales_nr
```

```
Setvar sales_rec.sales_amt = srcbase.sales_amount
```

```
Setvar sales_rec.sales_date = srcbase.sales_dt
```

```
Copy sales_rec to target.sales_table
```

```
Endread
```

The source database (tagged as source) is an ODBCdatabase (e.g., SQL Server) that resides on the same server as the script. We know this because no REMOTE statement is present which means that we will find this database locally on this machine. The data source reference would have a matching entry in your ODBC Data Sources providing details on where to find the database. In our example, the ODBC data source is called srcbase.

The target database (tagged as target) is an Oracle database, also residing on the same server as the script. Oracle database software resides in a specific directory on the server defined by the home keyword. The user and password are supplied to allow the login to the Oracle database. There is also a SID (system id) that defines which instance is to be used. We have defined the Oracle user as user and the password as pass. The home directory is c:\oracle and the sid is SID0001.

The DEFINE statement sets up a buffer or local variable called sales\_rec that will be used to store the data in the output record in memory as we build it. sales\_rec will match the record in the sales\_table of the target database because the USING keyword tells Warehouse to generate a format that is identical to sales\_table.

The READ statement tells Warehouse to read every record based on the specified selection criteria. We have indicated none, so Warehouse will read every record in the table. The READ statement also has a tag called srcbase that is used in the SETVAR statements below the read. For each source record read by READ statement, all statements below it until the ENDREAD statement are executed. A READ statement can be created to read records for a fixed number of reads or by a key or range of keys. Selecting certain records through a READ loop will be discussed in a later newsletter.

The data from the source record is next moved to the target buffer so that the target record can be written. The SETVAR statements are used for each field in the target database. Each SETVAR statement tells Warehouse what source field will be used to load the target field. Since Warehouse knows about the table structure of both the source and target tables, it can, to some extent, convert the data from one type to another. For example, if the source field is a char(8) field that holds a date and the target field is an Oracle date field, Warehouse will attempt to convert the char(8) field to the Oracle field (e.g., srcbase.sales\_dt is converted to sales\_rec.sales\_date). If there is any chance that a source table contains records with non-date data in the char(8) field then the conversion from source data to target data will fail. Warehouse many functions that allow you to massage or edit the source data before it is loaded into the target column. See Chapter 5 of the Warehouse Reference Manual for more information.

The last thing that is performed in the READ loop is to write the data to the target table. This is accomplished via a COPY statement. Sales\_rec has been defined as a copy of the target sales\_table table so Warehouse can insert the data directly to the target table. This process continues until all the source records are read from the source table and written to the target. When the script is completed, the target table should have a number of records equal to the number in the source table.

Have a topic about Warehouse you want featured in our newsletter? Send your idea to support@taurus.com

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2. Studio, GUI Development Workbench, News  
Current release: 3.1.089200  
Supported OS: Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows NT 4.0, Windows XP, Windows 2000+

Studio can be customized to suit your own personal preferences and development needs. Depending on the type of scripts that you are developing, you can customize your tree. To customize the tree, selection tree options under the VIEW menu. In this example, I am working on BridgeWare scripts. I don't want to see the propagation development tree. To change what is seen in the tree, I just check those tree items I want to see and leave the others blank. In the picture on the link below, you can see I have excluded Load Dependencies, Propagations Queues (used to capture and replicate data within relational environments) and Formats(used to access flat files).

[http://diamond/newsarchive/img/june/tree\\_options.jpg](http://diamond/newsarchive/img/june/tree_options.jpg)

Another configurable setting is found on VIEW menu and is called Preferences. By selecting this item, a dialog box is shown like the one in the link below:

<http://diamond/newsarchive/img/june/preferences.jpg>

In this dialog box, you can select the number of rows to be displayed any time data is displayed. Remember that the larger the value here will mean that Warehouse will read at least that many rows to that meet your selection criteria. I have set my preference to 30 rows which works well for me most of the time. If I have a temporary need, I can change the row count and then reset it back to what it had been. My target database is Oracle, so setting the default database type save me from having to change from another type to Oracle. When converting X types, Studio by default converts these to a CHAR type. If I needed to use a different character set because the text in my fields was Hindi, I could choose a default CHARSET.

Have a topic about Studio you want featured in our newsletter? Send your idea to [support@taurus.com](mailto:support@taurus.com)

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### 3. Ecomedate, Ecometry ODS

Current release: 4/20/04

Supported Ecometry releases: 5, 6, 7 MPE

Available mappings include : comp-div-master, style-header, whse-locs, vend-ord-from, item-mast, edp-item-xref, kit-index, vendor-items, style-item-data, item-desc, offers, sources, source-xref, offer-pages, offer-items, multi-pricing, upsell, customers, customer-comp, customer-addl, customer-phone, customer-demo, customer-promo, cust-xref, order-header, order-sub-head, customization, order-xref, oh-additions, order-comments, service-track, order-actions, bo-file, pick-lot-header, pick-lot-detail, returns, manifest-entries, fedex-entries, po-header, po-details, po-actions, po-comments, inventory-trans and inv-details.

Financial-order mapping is currently in beta. Testing is going well. If you need this set in your Ecometry ODS environment, please contact Vicky in support at extension 222.

Taurus will be at the Ecometry conference this June 6 - 9. One of our customers, Benchmark Brands, will be making a presentation on their experience with the

Ecomedate product. Please join us June 9th at 10:15 a.m for Jeff Cox's presentation. For copies of the slides, please email vas@taurus.com

If you are interested in being a beta site for Ecomedate Open, please contact support@taurus.com.

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#### 4. Product uses: Migrating?

As the HP3000 winds down, you may have a migration in your future. Taurus Software has LOTS of experience in this area. There are so many paths for migration. We have seen customers migrating to their vendor's new open systems application. Did you know that two of the largest HP3000 application vendors, Ecometry and Amisys, chose our products to enable migration of their clients' data.

Each of these vendors had different motivations for selecting our product. Amisys needed the faster tool available. In their tests, our tools were twice as fast as any other method! Ecometry required binary data in the X type fields to arrive in SQLServer or Oracle as HP3000 binary data unchanged in order to minimize modifications to the application code.

Want to learn more? Contact sales@taurus.com

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#### 5. Product uses: Application Synchronization?

Real-Time Reporting Is Not a Luxury at Diamond.com

Orders can run in the thousands of dollars,  
so when anything goes wrong, someone gets really, really angry.

When Joe Partlow joined Diamond.com as Development Manager, he faced tremendous information pressures. With too few tools to meet them.

One issue was the scope of the operation. Diamond.com offers 80,000 items. It owns and operates websites and call centers for ashford.com, Diamond.com and WorldofWatches.com, three of the Internet's premier sites for luxury items. Annual catalogs were also part of the mix.

Another issue was success. During the 2003 high season, Thanksgiving to Christmas, Diamond.com hosted a quarter-million visitors a day, processed 40,000 orders and broke the \$1 million a day sales barrier. Volume was up 100% from the previous year.

But from the IS vantage point, the biggest issue of all was the demand for flexible reports available on an almost hourly basis.

Ecometry handles the back office.  
But how to get critical information front and center.

Diamond.com is 4 years old. The founders had previous experience with Ecometry, so they chose Ecometry Version 6.11 and modules to handle Web and call center

orders, assembly and credit card authorizations. The whole back office runs on the HP e3000, while the Diamond.com Web sites run on a separate system.

Mr. Partlow's users started clamoring for reports or variations on reports that Ecometry didn't provide. Diamond.com is highly promotions oriented, and it was difficult to quickly get the information required to manage:

- \* Multiple promotions running on a single site.
- \* Promotions running on multiple sites.
- \* Promotion durations modified depending upon response.
- \* Promotions that must end quickly due to depleted inventory.
- \* Promotions designed to maximize high-season sales.
- \* Bad guys attracted by luxury items. Not only is it critical to avoid costly charge-backs caused by fraud, but also to distinguish fraud from simple customer errors.

To get the information needed, Diamond.com had to pull multiple MACS reports from Ecometry and combine relevant data into Excel. No one appreciated the extra time and effort.

According to Mr. Partlow, "The sales people wanted additional fields not included in the Ecometry reports. Or they would need several different reports to get a total view. We would have to combine two or three of those reports into one piece for them. We also had to process and lookup on the Web sites. It was very hard on Ecometry to break out different zones and categories per Web site."

The nuts and bolts of selling rocks and Rolexes.

Building a data warehouse seemed the logical solution. That was the only way to dig into and report from current information on a moment's notice. It also promised better performance from the e3000s which were already under heavy pressure during the high sales seasons.

Diamond.com first replicated data from the Ecometry modules and the web sites to the SQL Server data warehouse through ODBC software in batch mode. However, this proved too slow. Information was needed down to the item and customer level, and a complete reload of Ecometry data was required for each request.

To make things worse, Mr. Partlow had to divide his attention between building the data warehouse, providing data needs for web processing, and his day-to-day responsibilities. "Things change so fast around here, I not only had to make reports available now, but also account for people out of the office - at conferences, or weekends, that type of thing. They like to monitor sales all the time. Basically, I have to automate our sales flash report and send it to their cell phones and email boxes every couple of hours", says Partlow. He needed a way to get the job done fast and use his limited available time most efficiently.

The answer was Ecomedate and BridgeWare

Mr. Partlow then turned to Ecomedate and BridgeWare, a bundled product combining field-proven data replication technology and predefined routines to normalize and decode Ecometry data. Having access to accurate, cleansed Ecometry data in a relational environment was the key. It makes reporting a snap.

Ecomedate provides clean, well-organized data with each hidden Ecometry field now represented by its own column. Ecomedate provides predefined mappings for forty-three key datasets ranging from order information to inventory. The

routines are grouped into 12 different groups. The product provides varying degrees of normalization and can be customized to meet each organization's individual needs or uses of the data.

Because most of the scripting work was done, Mr. Partlow could finish a data group in about 2-1/2 days. Diamond.com required 8 data groups, so the whole job about 20 non-consecutive days. He's quick to point out, "It would have been a lot smoother if I was able to dedicate myself to the job. You know, stay on it and get it done. It's difficult to come back and pick up exactly where you left off. Dedicated resources would probably have shortened the job by a third."

Adds Cailean Sherman, Taurus President, "We're pleased we can help Diamond.com and others increase the flexibility, speed and accuracy of reporting from Ecometry data, so they can keep pace with the needs of today's Internet marketplace."

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#### 6. Product uses: Oracle to SQLServer? SQLServer to DB2?

Have you seen the creation of a propagation queue? Propagation queues capture changes that are made to a relational database and then process those changes based on the rules that you develop in Studio. Replicating data from relational database to another relational database is a snap. Transformations can be simple or complex. To see a demo, contact sales@taurus.com

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#### 7. Events and Seminars

Need a refresher on Studio or Warehouse? Join us for our monthly refresher web training sessions. Contact support@taurus.com to reserve a seat in the next session.

Want to know how Ecometry is using our products for their client's migrations to Open Ecometry? Join us at an Ecometry migration seminar. To sign up, <http://www.taurus.com/webinars/ecometry.htm>

Want to know how Amisys is using our products to migrate their customer's data to Advance? Join us at an Amisys migration seminar. To sign up, <http://www.taurus.com/webinars/amisys.htm>

Taurus will be attending the Ecometry conference June 6 - June 9th in Del Ray Beach, FL.

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#### 8. Web Site Picks for This Issue

Want to know how much your house is worth?: <http://www.housevalues.com/Survey0.aspx?>

?Girlfriends??: [http://www.sandiegozoo.org/kids/animal\\_pigs.html](http://www.sandiegozoo.org/kids/animal_pigs.html)

Looking for an unbiased review of some new electronic equipment? Try, <http://www.cnet.com/>

Know how to do it MPE but can't remember the command in Unix?  
<http://invent9k.external.hp.com/~csy/cmds.cgi>

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