



A REVELATION WHITE PAPER

**Dynamically Populating an
OpenInsight 8.0.3 or later
Combo Box at Runtime**



Dynamically Populating an OpenInsight Combo Box at Runtime

Many people new to OpenInsight ask “What is the best way to easily populate a combo box control at runtime using data from a data table or through a stored procedure.”

Like most things in OpenInsight this is easily achieved and it is much easier than most people realise. Basically, it is achieved by using just one simple line of code placed in the Combo Box's Item field at design time.

To populate the item list from a function or a data file at runtime, you simply place an angle bracketed command line into the Items list in the Combo Box's Properties dialog. The various syntaxes for populating a Combo Box are as follows:

<FILENAME: filename FIELD: field name or field position>

Loops through the FILENAME returning the unique contents of the specified FIELD into the list.

<FILENAME: CUSTOMERS FIELD: LNAME> will populate the Combo Box with the LNAME values from each record in the CUSTOMERS file.

<FILENAME: CUSTOMERS FIELD: 1> will populate the Combo Box with the values from the first field of each record in the CUSTOMERS file.

<FILENAME: filename ID: record key>

Reads the record specified in the ID from the FILENAME specified and returns the entire record into the list.

<FILENAME: CUSTOMERS ID: 1> will populate the Combo Box with all the data within the record with a key of 1 in the CUSTOMERS file.

<FILENAME: filename ID: record key FIELD: field name or field position>

Reads the record specified in the ID from the FILENAME specified and returns the contents of the FIELD into the list.

<FILENAME: CUSTOMERS ID: 1 FIELD: LNAME> will populate the Combo Box with the LNAME value from the record with a key of 1 in the CUSTOMERS file.

<FILENAME: CUSTOMERS ID: 1 FIELD: 1> will populate the Combo Box with the value from the first field of the record with a key of 1 in the CUSTOMERS file.

<PROGRAMME: program>

Executes the program specified in the PROGRAMME parameter and places the return value of the function into the list.

<PROGRAMME: RETRIEVE_INVOICE_KEYS>

The code for the Retrieve_Invoice_Keys function is:

```
function Retrieve_Invoice_Keys(dummy)
ans = '' ; keys = ''
* Retrieve the Invoice Keys for Customer Number 4
open 'DICT.INVOICES' to d_invoices then
srch_string = 'CUST_NO':@vm:4:@fm
table = 'INVOICES'
dictvar = d_invoices
call Btree.Extract(srch_string, table, dictvar, keys)
end
If keys Then ans = keys Else ans = "<None>"
return ans
```

The examples assume that you are running the EXAMPLES application that ships with OpenInsight and that you are using OpenInsight version 8.0.3 or later with the RTI Populate Combo Patch installed.

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