Openlook for RPG OA

Introducing Openlook

IBM’s Open Access for RPG is a strategic investment in RPG that provides a long-term path forward for new and existing RPG applications. RPG OA enables native RPG code (minus the 5250) to connect with modern devices, platforms and applications — including the cloud.

Creating Multiple UIs with Openlook

The Openlook handler uses RPG Open Access to provide developers with direct interface control, enabling mobile and desktop users with enhanced application access. It enables the RPG developer to create multiple UIs through the use of a single handler. Moreover, it enables RPG OA code to be blended with existing 5250 applications to ensure a strategic path forward through evolutionary application modernization and extension.

For example, RPG OA can deliver modern user experiences (UX) across multiple platforms, UIs and devices such as the Web, RIA, iPhone, iPad and Android smartphones.

RPG OA eliminates the requirement to work with the 5250 data stream, enabling multi-channel UXs to be created directly from the RPG code, via a handler.

RPG OA’s new open architecture handler separates the user interface layer from the business logic layer and user interface layer from the business logic layer and can easily support existing RPG programs. IBM has architected RPG OA to enable a single piece of RPG business logic to connect to multiple types of devices, platforms and applications concurrently.

Highlights of Openlook include:

- Multi-channel GUIs delivered from a single RPG program.
- Ability to blend RPG OA code with existing traditional 5250 code to produce a seamless, consistent UX.
- A single generic RPG OA handler that supports looksoftware’s complete range of multi-channel modernization and development products, including:
  - Newlook Smartclient
  - Newlook Server
  - Web Services support
- A drag and drop designer to easily create UX for new RPG OA functionality
- Updates to looksoftware’s IDE to support RPG OA functionality
- Automated enablement of existing RPG code for Open Access and developer tools
- Multi-channel support that delivers the optimum user experience for multiple audiences, GUIs and devices including:
  - Windows, Mac and Linux
  - Chrome, Firefox, IE and Safari
  - IOS, Android, Blackberry and Windows Phone
The Future of RPG

Openlook Feature Summary

- Separates business logic from user interface
- Automates RPG OA enablement of existing RPG code
- Create native modern front and back-end environments
- Single handler provides multi-channel access
- OA and non-OA code in same UI and session
- System displays + RPG displays in same session

Why the future of RPG OA is a top issue in the IBM i community

“RPG Open Access architecture allows IBM i sites to reuse their RPG investments, to support today and tomorrow’s new devices and technologies including web services and the Cloud, rather than starting again.”

- Rod Riley, Stafford Group

“The combination of RPG Open Access and looksoftware finally gives us the application development future we have been waiting for. Now we can modernize our existing programs efficiently and at the same time take full benefit of the new RPG Open Access options. It also covers the need of our users for flexible graphical clients - including Rich Internet Clients and mobile devices.”

- Norbert Bruckschläg, Manager IT DEHN + SÖHNE

“We are also excited about the release of Rational Open Access: RPG Edition, a new product that has the potential to transform the landscape of RPG development.”

- Hayden Lindsay, VP Rational, IBM

“For me, RPG OA is simply the proof that IBM is staying in the RPG game. I have applications written in a variety of languages but my fastest method of getting information from the DB to the UI is still RPG.”

- Brian Bradley, Vilden, IBM i Application Vendor