Open QM

Ladybridge Systems

What is OpenQM?

OpenQM is the only multivalue database available in both fully supported commercial form and as an unsupported open source product released under the General Public Licence.

Originally developed in 1993 for use as an internal tool and as an embedded database, QM was released in its own right in mid-2001 and in open source form in 2004.

If you have an existing multivalue application or are about to start development of new software, QM may offer the most cost-effective environment in which to run your system. QM is in use by a growing community of users across the world spanning a wide range of industries.

Database Files

QM uses a high performance, zero maintenance, self-tuning hashed file system backed up by a B-tree based index system for secondary key access. Individual files can be up to 16384Gb — more than enough for even the biggest users.

Seven styles file system trigger provide a simple way to implement data validation, integrity checks and event triggering that simplifies the main application programs. Field and record level encryption using the AES 128, 192 or 256 bit algorithms provide effective security for sensitive data. A highly flexible data replication option allows easy maintenance of reporting servers, standby systems and merging of data from remote sites at a central location.

Database dictionaries can be built using D/I or A/S type entries (or a mix). QM uses fast, compiled correlatives for improved performance in applications ported from other environments.

Dictionary structure can be simplified by use of link records to define the relationship between files, the ability for TRANS() to reference a calculated value in the remote file, and nesting of compound I-types.

The integrated QMNet package allows access to QM files on other servers with full concurrency control.

Command Language

QM extends the command language to add features that reduce the need to write programs for job control tasks.

These include user defined variables in paragraphs and the ability to insert variable data into commands using an extended inline prompt syntax. This can take data from select lists, user defined and system variables, QMBasic functions, etc.

Application Development

The QMBasic programming language extends the core language common to all multivalue database products by adding new statements and functions. These include addition of arguments and local variables to internal subroutines, definition of internal functions, statements to simplify access to comma separated variable (CSV) data, and a powerful object oriented programming package.

QM's full screen editor is tightly integrated with the underlying database to improve developer productivity. Users can add extensions to the editor for personalised features.

Advanced diagnostic tools include a Hot Spot Monitor for performance analysis, optional process dump file creation at a run time error and the ability to debug phantom processes.

Query Processing

QM's query processor supports automated panning across reports that are wider than the screen, the ability to page back through a report, and report styles to emphasise headings, totals, etc using colour on displays or font weights on PCL printers.

QMClient

The QMClient API enables developers to access QM from other languages such as Visual Basic and C. Options are provided to maintain strict security by limiting what features are available to QMClient users.

Documentation

QM comes with an extensive pdf documentation package backed up by equivalent Windows and browser based help.

Compatibility

Although QM is not a clone of any other multivalue product, it closely follows the language style of other "Information" type products. Options are provided to select features that give closer compatibility to Pick style environments to ease migration. Tape utilities with

compatible media formats are provided to ease transfer of applications and data.

QM Licensing

QM licences are available from a growing number of dealers and distributors around the world or directly from Ladybridge Systems.

Device licensing allows multiple connections from a single client to share a QM licence. This feature is available for use with QMConsole, AccuTerm, Winnix, QMTerm and QMClient. Three options are available: two sessions per licence, four sessions per licence and eight sessions per licence.

Commercial Licences

A fully supported commercial licence for QM costs a fraction of that of most other multivalue products. All licences include free upgrades to new releases for one year from purchase. This can be extended to ten years for a small surcharge and renewed on expiry.

There are no hidden charges. There is nothing more to pay ever unless you make use of the chargeable support services, need to increase the number of licensed users or wish to upgrade to a new release after the free upgrade period has expired.

Developer Licences

Genuine application developers building a product for sale on the commercial QM product are entitled to an annually renewable, four user QM licence without charge.

Evaluation and Personal Licences

If you want to try QM, there are two ways in which you can get the commercial QM product for free.

A thirty day, four user evaluation licence is available from www.openqm.com. This is a fully functional version of QM and includes limited support during the evaluation period.

A Personal Version is also available. This is a single user licence intended for educational purposes and for development of software that may become a commercial product for use by others. There are some restrictions on its use, the bundled AccuTerm license is not included, and it comes with no free support after installation.

Support

Our support policies are refreshingly different from those of most software companies

Reasonable levels of support are provided without charge for the first sixty days from issue of a licence. Beyond that time, support may be obtained from our dealers or directly from Ladybridge Systems on a simple hourly charge basis to reflect your true use of the service. Pre-paid support packages are available for users who prefer them.

Platforms

The commercial QM product is available for Windows, Linux, FreeBSD, Mac OS X and AIX on RS6000. QM is also available for PDA devices running Windows Mobile or the older Windows CE. Please ask if you may need QM on an alternative platform.

Bundled Software

Every commercial QM licence includes an automatic activation of the AccuTerm terminal emulator at no extra cost. This is the standard AccuTerm product, not a cut down version, including the powerful "visual styles" that allow creation of Windows style screens from character mode applications.

Third Party Software

Ladybridge Systems has forged strong relationships with other companies to bring their packages to QM users.

- Nucleus fast-track development for enterprise level applications using Web, GUI or green screen. (binarystar.com)
- PerSay software development system for building visual models of text based entry screens and reports utilising the advanced multivalue query language. (performantsystems.com)
- DesignBais toolset for creation of enterprise wide web based applications. (designbase.com)
- mv.NET 100% native .NET interface for access to QM data in a .NET application. (bluefinity.com)
- TPH programming productivity tools to simplify application development. (OpenTPH.com)
- Pavuk internet development framework. (pavuk.com)
- BRIZ freeware 3 in 1 (GUI, OLE/COM, green screen) terminal emulator on Windows. (infotools.ru)
- MITS web business analysis and reporting solutions (www.mits.com)

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