Performing a Query Session

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Starting Query

- Commands and Function Keys

- The HELP Function

Starting Query

A Query session is started with one of the calls

1. XQUERY

2. XQUERY LIST

In detail, the call can depend on the operating system (see the "User Manual Unix" or "User Manual Windows").

With the call (1), Query returns the INPUT form and waits for the input of an SQL statement.

With the call (2), Query returns the MENU of stored commands. There is no way for the user to access the INPUT form to enter individual SQL statements. This call is intended for end users who only work with previously determined commands.

When starting an SQL statement or one of the stored commands (with RUN), Query implicitly passes over to the EXECUTE mode and performs the command.

For a query to the database (SELECT), Query displays the result table in REPORT mode. The table can be scrolled through on the screen and may be edited in report format with the Report commands.
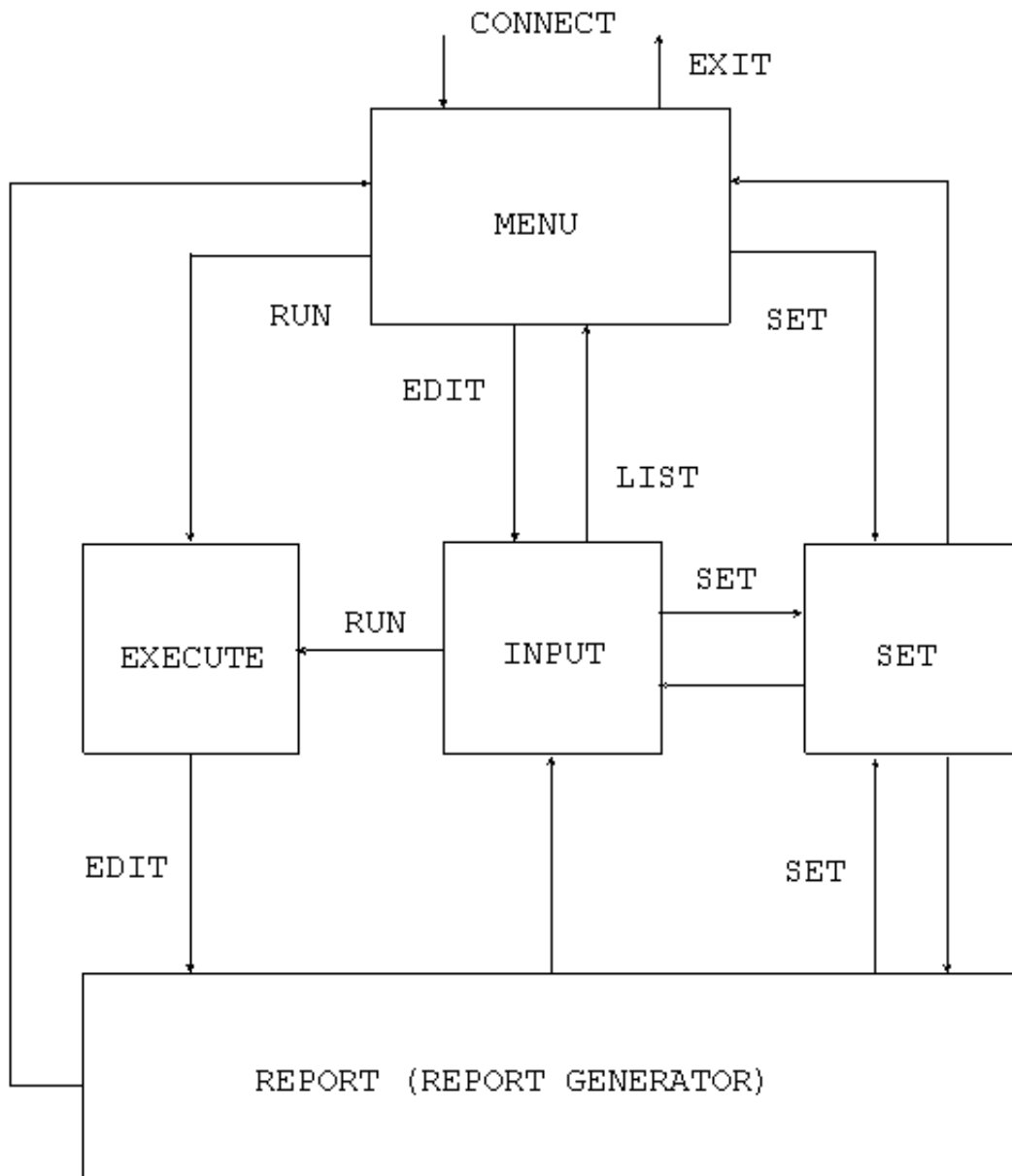
The values of certain control parameters can be set individually using the SET function; for example, the language of the guidance messages and the standard layout of reports.

The HELP function is available for single Query functions. It can be called in the INPUT, REPORT, and MENU modes by pressing the key Help or F1 or by using the HELP command.

Every SQL statement is issued with an implicit COMMIT. This means that a subsequent ROLLBACK has no effect. After a timeout has taken place, Query implicitly opens a new session for the next user activity. This is indicated by the message: 'Reconnected after timeout'. Afterwards, the previously produced result tables are no longer available.

The command EXIT terminates a Query session at any time.

Overview of the Query Command Modes:

```
                            CONNECT
                                        EXIT
                          │         ↑
          ┌───────────────┼─────────┼─────────────────────┐
          │      ┌────────▼─────────┴──────┐              │
          │      │                          │             │
          │      │          MENU            │             │
          │      │                          │             │
       RUN│   ┌──┤                          ├──┐   SET    │
          │   │  └────────┬──────────┬──────┘  │          │
          │   │       EDIT│          │         │          │
          │   │           │          │         │          │
          │   │           │       LIST         │          │
          │   │           │          ↑         │          │
     ┌────▼───▼──┐   ┌─────▼────┐  ┌──┴──────┐  │          │
     │           │RUN│          │SET│        │  │          │
     │  EXECUTE  │◄──┤  INPUT   ├──►│   SET   │◄─┘          │
     │           │   │          │◄──┤         │             │
     └─────┬─────┘   └────┬─────┘   └────┬────┘             │
           │              ↑              │                  │
       EDIT│              │          SET │                  │
           │              │              │                  │
     ┌─────▼──────────────┴──────────────▼──────────────────┐
     │                                                       │
◄────┤          REPORT  (REPORT GENERATOR)                   │
     │                                                       │
     └───────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

Commands and Function Keys

In this document, the statements used within the Query component are called commands in contrast to the SQL statements used for accessing the database. Examples of Query commands are:

store report1

subtotal sum 'sum of &COUNT' amount

For command input, use the line beginning with an ==> at the bottom of the screen.

Query commands consist of a command word and various, partly optional, parameters. Lowercase characters in the command are converted into uppercase ones, except for parameters that are enclosed in single quotes.

==> name cno 'C.-no' becomes NAME CNO 'C.-no'

Various Query commands can also be called using function keys. The current key settings are displayed above the system line.

The following standard keys may be of particular importance to the Query user: the Help key for calling the HELP function, and the scroll keys for scrolling on the screen. The keys for the editing functions (insert, delete, copy etc.) are described in the "User Manual Unix" or "User Manual Windows".

A keystroke is equivalent to entering the corresponding command word in the command line. Parameters for such commands can be entered without explicitly placing the command word in front of them. Example: ==> HELP STORE Enter has the same effect as ==> STORE Help.

The HELP Function

The HELP command can be called from the command line or by pressing the Help or F1 key in INPUT, MENU, and REPORT mode. The HELP command branches to the HELP mode and provides a list of commands that are currently available.

Positioning the cursor on the corresponding command and pressing the Help key branches from this list level to another one.

HELP information can be invoked directly by entering HELP together with a command in the command line:

==> help store