PTReportGen User Manual

Version 5.1

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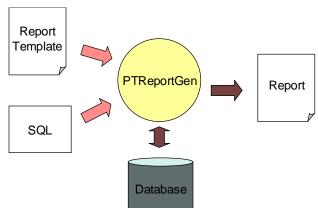
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Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

PTReportGen is a report generator for Microsoft PowerPoint that outputs reports in Microsoft PowerPoint format. If you know how to use Microsoft PowerPoint and write SQL statements, you can use PTReportGen to create all kinds of reports as you need.

To create a report, PTReportGen need to read a report template file and a PTR file. The report template file is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation that defines the layouts and formats of a report. The PTR file contains SQL statements and some



information, and tells PTReportGen how to get data from database and how to put data into a report. First PTReportGen creates a blank report using the report template file, executes SQL statements in the PTR file, and puts the data from database into the report.

1.2 Features

PTReportGen includes the following features:

- Using Microsoft PowerPoint as your reporting tool

 Just use Microsoft PowerPoint as your reporting tool. You design reports like layouts, formats and styles directly using Microsoft PowerPoint. And you will get reports in Microsoft PowerPoint presentation format as a result.
- Making report template directly using Microsoft PowerPoint

The main advantage of using PTReportGen is based on the fact that all formatting is done directly in Microsoft PowerPoint. You can take full advantage of Microsoft PowerPoint including text formatting, tables, shapes, charts, pictures and graphics, drawing, headers and footers, and more.

- Manipulating Word reports with OpenXML SDK

 Open XML is an open file format for the core document-oriented Office applications. It facilitates document creation and manipulation in server environments where you do not need to install the Office client applications.
- Accessing to data using SQL

 PTReportGen executes SQL statements to extract data from database.

 Supports all type SQL: DML, DDL and DCL. Multiple SQL statements can be executed in one report building process. You can perform queries on databases, insert data into databases, and create database objects like tables. The power of SQL can be harnessed for maximum efficiency in reporting.
- Creating reports without programming experience

 You know how to use Microsoft PowerPoint and how to write SQL, it is enough.

 It does not require programming to create reports.
- Connection to databases using ADO.Net
 Using ADO.NET to connect to databases, PTReportGen is independent of
 database systems. It can access to almost all of databases such as Oracle,
 DB2, Sybase, Informix, Microsoft SQL Server, Teradata, MySQL, Microsoft
 Access and dBase through OLE DB and ODBC.
- Supporting multi-databases in one report

 PTReportGen supports multi-databases in one report. You can get data from some different databases such as Oracle, DB2 and Microsoft SQL Server, and put these data into one report.
- Generating reports with parametersPTReportGen enables you to create reports with parameters. You may use

parameters in SQL statements. You will be asked to input the values of parameters while creating reports.

■ Supporting Windows mode and command line mode

PTReportGen supports command line mode. So it is possible to call

PTReportGen from other program. For developers, you can integrate

PTReportGen into your application.

Creating complex reports

You can create complex reports. The complexity might come from report formatting as well as report content.

Creating reports with charts

PTReportGen enables you to include sophisticated, colorful charts in your reports. You can use charts any time you want to improve the usefulness of a report.

Creating reports with pictures

PTReportGen can insert pictures from the graphics files, and change the size of pictures.

■ Many reports in one Microsoft PowerPoint presentation

One Microsoft PowerPoint presentation may contain many reports. One report may be one or more slides. You can generate a presentation in one generating process.

Generating reports automatically

The process of report generation can be fully automated, periodically or on events. PTReportGen can be scheduled with Windows Scheduled Tasks or other tools.

One time configuration

With on time configuration, you can repeatedly generate reports especially periodic reports such as daily, weekly, monthly and annual reports.

■ Flexible deployment

PTReportGen can be run on your desktop or server.

Chapter 2 Installation and Startup

2.1 Software Requirements

Supported Operating System:

Microsoft Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, Windows 7 or later.

This software requires the following:

- Microsoft .NET Framework 4.
- Open XML SDK 2.5 for Microsoft Office.

2.2 Installing PTReportGen

Run the installation program, and follow the instructions to complete PTReportGen installation.

If you don't have Microsoft .NET Framework 4 installed, please install it first.

If you don't have Open XML SDK 2.5 installed, please install it first.

2.3 Uninstalling PTReportGen

- 1. Quit PTReportGen.
- 2. Double-click the **Add/Remove Programs** icon in the Windows Control Panel.
- 3. Click **PTReportGen** in the **Currently installed programs** box, and then click the **Change/Remove** button.
- 4. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete uninstalling the program.

2.4 Command Line

PTReportGen can be run in Windows mode or command line mode. The

Syntax of command is:

pptreport <ptr file name> [-C] [-D] [-I interval] [-U1 user1] [-P1 pwd1] ... [-U10 user10] [-P10 pwd10] [pa1 pa2 ... pa10]

ptr file name Specifying a PTR (.ptr) file that tells PTReportGen how to get data from data sources and how to put data into a report.

-C Run PTReportGen in command line mode.

-D Display the generated report with Microsoft PowerPoint.

-I interval Log the processing records message. If interval is greater than 1, it is the interval of records. If interval is less than 1, it is the percent of interval.

-U1 user1 ... Specify the user names. user1 is the user name of the first
-U10 user10 data source. user2 is the user name of the second data
source......

-P1 pwd1 ... Specify the passwords. pwd1 is the password of the first data -P10 pwd10 source. pwd2 is the password of the second data source......
pa1 ... pa10 The values of the parameters defined in the PTR file. You can

use parameters in SQL statements. PTReportGen will replace the names of parameters in a SQL statement with the actual values before it executes a SQL statement. You can use no more than 10 parameters in one report.

For example, you have defined two parameters in your PTR file. The first parameter is sales date, and the second is the category of the products. You can run PTReportGen in command line mode as follows:

pptreport c:\PPTReport\myreport.ptr -c 1996-05-01 "Dairy Products"

Chapter 3 Quick Start

3.1 Learning how to use PTReportGen

You can teach yourself how to use PTReportGen by choosing from the methods available in this section:

- You can study the sample reports and sample database included with PTReportGen.
- You can use the detailed descriptions and instructions in the "My First Report".

3.2 Sample Database

PTReportGen comes with Sample.mdb, a sample database you can use when learning the program. Sample.mdb is a Microsoft Access database. Virtually all of the examples in this manual are based on Sample.mdb data.

The sample reports access the sample database through the ODBC data source name "Report Sample". When you install PTReportGen, you can choose to add the ODBC data source name. And you also can add the ODBC data source name manually.

To create the System DSN "Report Sample", do as follows:

- 1. Click the Windows **Start** button, choose **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
- 2. Double-click **Administrative Tools**, and then double-click **Data Sources** (ODBC). The ODBC Data Source Administrator dialog box appears.
- 3. Select the **System DSN** tab, and then press **Add** button.
- 4. Choose Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb), then press Finish button.
- 5. In the **ODBC Microsoft Access Setup** dialog box, type **Report Sample** in the **Data Source Name** box.

- 6. Press the **Select** button, and browse to select **Sample.mdb**.
- 7. Press **OK** button to close the **ODBC Microsoft Access Setup** dialog box.
- 8. Press **OK** button to close the **ODBC Data Source Administrator** dialog box.

3.3 Steps of Reporting

To create a report with PTReportGen, you should do as follows:

1. Prepare works

Before you create a report, you should determine the layout of the report, and know where and how to get the data.

You must know how to access the databases you are reporting from. So you need the data source name, user name and password. If you don't have added data sources, please add data sources first. Run ODBC Administrator, you can add a new data source. For detailed information about configuring ODBC, refer to ODBC Administrator Help.

2. Make a report template file

Create a report template file using Microsoft PowerPoint. The report template file is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. For detailed information about report template, refer to "Report Templates" in this document.

3. Create a PTR file

Create a PTR file with a .ptr extension using PTReportGen. There are two steps to create a PTR file.

(1) Configure the report

Define the names of data sources, the name of report template file, the name of report file and the name of log file. If you want to use parameters in SQL statements, define these parameters.

(2) Write functions

Write functions and SQL statements that specify how to get data from data

sources and how to put data into the report.

For detailed information, refer to "Reporting with PTReportGen" in this document.

4. Run the PTR file

Run the PTR file to generate a report in Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. For detailed information about running report, refer to "Running PTR Files" in this document.

3.4 My First Report

The following tutorial has been designed to guide you to create your first report. In this tutorial, you will get an introduction to the program as you create a Customer List report. The Customer List is one of the most basic business reports and typically has information such as Customer Name, City, Country, and Contact Name.

3.4.1 Creating a report template

- 1. Run Microsoft PowerPoint, create a new presentation with a blank slide.
- 2. On the **Insert** menu, click **Table**. Select the number of columns and rows. Press **OK** button.
- 3. Click the cell A1, type "Customer Name". In the same way, you input "City", "Country" and "Contact Name" into the cells B1, C1 and D1.
- 4. Format the text of A1, B1, C1 and D1 as you like, including font, font size, font colour, bold, background, alignment and border.
- 5. You can change the width of these columns. The report template you have made is as follows:

Customer List

Customer Name	City	Country	Contact Name

- 6. Click **Save** on the **File** menu, chose a directory such as "C:\Report", type custlist.pptx in the **File name** box and press **Save** button.
- 7. Click Close on the File menu.

3.4.2 Creating a PTR file

- 1. Run PTReportGen.
- 2. Click **New** on the **File** menu.
- 3. Click **Save** on the **File** menu, chose the directory to which you have saved the report template, type custlist.ptr in the **File name** box and press **Save** button.

3.4.3 Configuring the report

- 1. On the **Report** menu, click **Configuration**. The **Configuration** dialog box appears.
- 2. Click the **File** tab.

In the **Template File** box, type custlist.pptx; In the **Report File** box, type Report\custlist.pptx; In the **Log File** box, type Log\custlist.log.

3. Click the **Data Source** tab.

Press **New** button, the **New Data Source** dialog box appears. In the **Name** box, type Report Sample, press **OK** button.

4. On the **Configuration** dialog box, press **OK** button.

3.4.4 Inputting a function

```
In the editor windows, input a function as follows:
```

```
@F1=Report(slide=1 cell=A2)
```

SELECT CompanyName

,CityName

,CountryName

,ContactName

FROM Customers, Cities, Countries

WHERE Customers.CityCode = Cities.CityCode

AND Customers.CountryCode = Cities.CountryCode

AND Customers.CountryCode = Countries.CountryCode

AND CountryName = 'USA'

ORDER BY CompanyName,CityName,CountryName

,

Please note the WHERE clause. It passes only records of customers in USA. You can test the SQL statement in a query tool such as Microsoft Access or Microsoft Query.

3.4.5 Understanding the function

Before going any further, let us understand this function.

- 1. The **Report** function will execute the SQL statement, get data from data source, and put data into the report.
- 2. The **slide** argument identifies a slide, and the value 1 is the index number of the slide. So it is the first slide.
- 3. You do not identify a table. So PTReportGen will put data into the first table in the slide.
- 4. The **cell** argument specifies the cells that the first record will be filled into.

The value is A2. So PTReportGen will fetch the first record, put the value of CompanyName field into A2, the value of CityName field into B2, the value of CountryName field into C2, and the value of ContactName field into D2. And then it will fetch the next record, put them into A3,B3,C3 and D3......

3.4.6 Running a PTR file

- 1. On the **Report** menu, click **Run**, the **Run Report** dialog box appears.
- 2. Press Start button to run the PTR file.
- 3. PTReportGen will generate a report.
- 4. After the status is **Done**, click **Close** button.

3.4.7 Opening a report

1. On the **File** menu, click **Open Report File** to open the report you have generated.

You can view and check the report.

- 2. On the **File** menu, click **Open Log File** to open the log file that recorded the log information in the report generating. You can check the log.
- 3. Close the report file and the log file.

3.4.8 Modifying the report template

- 1. On the **File** menu, click **Open Template File** to open the report template.
- 2. Change the width of columns. It is very useful to copy some sample data from the report file into the report template for formatting.
- 3. Select the second row, and insert a row to the table.
- 4. Change the border width of the first row. Select the first row, click **Table** on the **Format** menu, and then click the **Borders** tab. Change the border width, and press **OK** button. The border of the first row is different from the border of the other rows. The report template you have made is as follows:

Customer List

Customer Name	City	Country	Contact Name

5. Save and close the template file.

3.4.9 Modifying the function

Now you want a full customer list. In the editor windows, modify the function as follows:

@F1=Report(slide=1 cell=A2 pagebreak=12 rangecount=2)

SELECT CompanyName

,CityName

,CountryName

,ContactName

FROM Customers, Cities, Countries

WHERE Customers.CityCode = Cities.CityCode

AND Customers.CountryCode = Cities.CountryCode

AND Customers.CountryCode = Countries.CountryCode

ORDER BY CompanyName,CityName,CountryName

;

- 1. The **rangecount** argument specifies the number of ranges in the report template. You have defined two blank ranges in the report template. One row is one range. If you hope that the format of the last row/column border is different from the others, you can define two ranges in the report template.
- 2. The **pagebreak** argument specifies the number of records in one slide. You want a full customer list, and remove the specified condition in the WHERE

clause. But a full customer list is too long in one slide. So you can put records into more slides using pagebreak argument. In this case, one slide contains 12 records.

3.4.10 Generating the report again

- 1. Save the PTR file.
- 2. Run the PTR file to generate the report.
- 3. Open the report, view and check the report.

The report should now look similar to the following:

Customer List

Customer Name	City	Country	Contact Name
Alfreds Futterkiste	Berlin	Germany	Maria Anders
Ana Trujillo Emparedados y helados	México D.F.	Mexico	Ana Trujillo
Antonio Moreno Taquería	México D.F.	Mexico	Antonio Moreno
Around the Horn	London	UK	Thomas Hardy
Berglunds snabbköp	Luleå	Sweden	Christina Berglund
Blauer See Delikatessen	Mannheim	Germany	Hanna Moos
Blondel père et fils	Strasbourg	France	Frédérique Citeaux
Bólido Comidas preparadas	Madrid	Spain	Martín Sommer
Bon app'	Marseille	France	Laurence Lebihan
Bottom-Dollar Markets	Tsawassen	Canada	Elizabeth Lincoln
B's Beverages	London	UK	Victoria Ashworth
Cactus Comidas parallevar	Buenos Aires	Argentina	Patricio Simpson

Now you have created a report.

3.5 Samples

After PTReportGen is installed, some sample reports are installed too. Use

these reports to learn PTReportGen. The sample reports can be changed to adapt to your own needs.

The sample reports include a sample database, some report template files (.pptx) and PTR files (.ptr). They are located in the Application Data\LJZsoft under All Users or your profile folder.

Directory	Description
{commonappdata}\LJZsoft\Common\Sa	Contains the sample database
mpleDatabase	"Sample.mdb".
{commonappdata}\LJZsoft\PTReportGe	Contains the report template files
n\Samples	(.pptx) and the PTR files (.ptr).
{commonappdata}\LJZsoft\PTReportGe	Contains the report files (.pptx)
n\Samples\Report	generated by PTReportGen.
{commonappdata}\LJZsoft\PTReportGe	Contains the log files created by
n\Samples\Log	PTReportGen during generating
	report files.

{commonappdata} is the path to the Application Data folder under All Users.

The Application Data folder is usually at:

Windows XP: C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\

Windows Vista or later: C:\ProgramData\

Chapter 4 Report Templates

4.1 About Reports

The report generated by PTReportGen is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. The layouts, formats and styles of report are defined by a report template, and the data of report are got from databases such as Oracle, DB2.

4.2 About Report Templates

To make a report using PTReportGen, you should create a report template first. The report template is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation that defines the layouts, formats and styles of report. In the Microsoft PowerPoint report template, you can input static content such as titles, descriptions, comments, a cover, a company logo, format the static content, and define the format of tables you will fill data into.

PTReportGen will generate the report based on the report template file. All static contents, layouts, formats and styles defined in the report template file will be brought to the final report file.

4.3 PowerPoint Basic Concepts

If you have known these concepts of Microsoft PowerPoint, please skip this section. For more detail information about Microsoft PowerPoint, refer to *Microsoft PowerPoint Help*.

4.3.1 Presentations

A presentation is a Microsoft PowerPoint file with extension .pptx. You can

open and save it using Microsoft PowerPoint. The presentation is made up of a series of slides.

4.3.2 Slides

A slide is a frame in a presentation. A presentation contains one or more slides. Slide is the primary component that contains content.

4.3.3 Layout

Layout refers to the way things are arranged on a slide. A layout contains placeholders, which in turn hold text such as titles and bulleted lists and slide content such as tables, charts, pictures, shapes, and clip art. Each time you add a new slide, you can choose a layout for it. You can also choose a blank layout.

4.3.4 Headers and Footers

Headers and footers consist of the header and footer text, slide or page number, and date you want at the top or bottom of your slides or notes and handouts.

You can use headers and footers on single slides or all slides. For notes and handouts, when you apply a header or footer, it applies to all notes and handouts. Headers and footers that you create for handouts also apply to printed outlines.

4.3.5 Formatting

You can use these formatting features of Microsoft PowerPoint to effectively display your data.

Characters formatting

To make text stand out, you can format the text in selected characters. You

can change the font, color, size of text, bold and italic formats.

Paragraphs formatting

You can align, center or justify a paragraph, change indent and tab settings, and change the line spacing of a paragraph.

Bulleted and numbered lists

Bulleted and numbered lists in Microsoft PowerPoint are easy to create. You can quickly add bullets or numbers to existing lines of text, or Microsoft PowerPoint can automatically create lists as you type.

Automatic formatting

Microsoft PowerPoint, by default, automatically formats certain types of text as you type. Automatic paragraph formatting includes automatic bulleted and numbered lists and resizing of text in text placeholders if the text doesn't fit at its current font size.

4.3.6 Shapes

Shapes can be resized, rotated, flipped, colored, and combined to make more complex shapes. Many have an adjustment handle that you can use to change the most prominent feature of a shape — for example, you can change the size of the point on an arrow. The AutoShapes include several categories of shapes: lines, connectors, basic shapes, flowchart elements, stars and banners, and callouts. You can add text to shapes (except lines, connectors, and freeforms). The text you add becomes part of the shape.

Text boxes can be treated as shapes. They are formatted in many of the same ways shapes are formatted, including adding colors, fills, and borders.

4.3.7 Pictures

There are two types of pictures: bitmaps or drawn pictures.

Bitmap pictures are made from a series of small dots, much like a piece of

graph paper with specific squares filled in to form an image. Bitmaps are created with and edited in paint programs, such as Microsoft Paint. All scanned graphics and photographs are bitmaps. Bitmap pictures are often saved with a .bmp, .png, .jpg, or .gif extension.

Drawn pictures are created from lines, curves, rectangles, and other objects. The individual lines can be edited, moved, and rearranged. When a drawn picture is resized, the computer redraws the lines and shapes so that they retain their original definition and perspective. AutoShapes are drawn pictures. Drawn pictures are saved in the format of the application that created them. For example, Microsoft Windows Metafiles are saved with a .wmf extension.

4.3.8 Tables

A table is made up of rows and columns of cells that you can fill with text and graphics. Tables are often used to organize and present information. You can create tables in PowerPoint. When you use PowerPoint, you can create a simple table with little formatting, or one with more complex formatting. You can include fills and border colors from the presentation's color scheme.

4.3.9 Charts

Charts are used to display series of numeric data in a graphical format to make it easier to understand large quantities of data and the relationship between different series of data.

A chart has many elements: chart area, plot area, data points, data series, axis, legend, title, and data label. Some of these elements are displayed by default, others can be added as needed. You can change the display of the chart elements by moving them to other locations in the chart, resizing them, or by changing the format. You can also remove chart elements that you do not want to display.

4.3.10 Sound, Music, Video, and Voice

You can add music and sounds from files on your computer, a network, the Internet, or Microsoft Clip Organizer. You can also record your own sounds to add to a presentation, or use music from a CD.

You can add movies and animated GIFs to slides from files on your computer, the Microsoft Clip Organizer, a network or intranet, or the Internet. "Movies" are desktop video files with formats such as AVI, QuickTime, and MPEG, and file extensions such as .avi, .mov, .qt, .mpg, and .mpeg. An animated GIF file includes motion and has a .gif file extension. Though not technically movies, animated GIFs contain multiple images which stream to create an animation effect.

4.4 Table Reports

4.4.1 About Table Reports

A table is made up of rows and columns of cells that you can fill with text and graphics. Tables are often used to make reports, and organize and present information.

PTReportGen supports two types of table reports: fixed table report, variable table report.

Fixed table report: The number of rows and columns in the table is fixed. When PTReportGen executes a SQL statement, directly puts the result data into cells in the table.

Variable table report: The number of rows or columns in the table is unfixed, and it is variable as the number of result records. When PTReportGen executes a SQL statement, it repeats the table rows or columns for each record or group, and then puts data into cells of the table.

4.4.2 Creating a Table for a Fixed Table Report

For a fixed table report, you need to create a table in the report template file according to the report. The format of the table is the same as the format in the report, but cells that should be filled data into are blank. When PTReportGen executes a SQL statement, the data values from data source will be filled into these cells.

	Α	В
1		
2		
3		



	Α	В
1	14	3.4
2	20	5.2
3	8	2.7

The fixed table defined in the report template file

The fixed table filled data by rows in the report file

4.4.3 Creating a Table for a Variable Table Report

For a variable table report, you do not know how many records will return from database. You need to create a table in the report template file. PTReportGen will add or delete ranges according to the number of records returned from data source. If there are too many records, you can put them into more slides.

Date	Item Id	Sales



Date	Item Id	Sales
1998-01-01	3	150
1998-01-02	3	200
1998-01-03	3	250
1998-01-05	3	350
1998-01-10	3	550
1998-01-21	3	150
1998-01-25	3	200
1998-01-31	3	100

The variable-rows table defined in the report template file

The variable-rows table filled data by rows in the report file

The format of the last row/column border can be different from the others. For example, the outside borders used double lines, and the inside borders used single lines. To do this, you should define two blank ranges.

The ranges can be nested. The inside range is used for the detail data, and the external range is used for the group. PTReportGen will repeat the inside range for each record, and repeat the group range for each group.

4.4.4 Formatting Cells

To format cells that contain static contents, use "Format" menu in Microsoft PowerPoint. For more detail information, refer to *Microsoft PowerPoint Help*. For cells in which data are got from database, you can set font, color, alignment using Microsoft PowerPoint. But to display values in formatting string, you should use other way.

You should write formatting expressions into data cells in the report template file. PTReportGen will get the text of the cell as a format expression before it puts a value into a cell, and output the value using the format expression. In fact, PTReportGen calls the format function in Visual Basic. The text got from a

cell is used as the format expression in format function. For more information about format expression, refer to "Format Expressions".

Date	Quantity	Amount	Date	Quantity	Amount
yyyy-MM-dd	#,##0	#,##0.00	1999-02-18	560	827.79
yyyy-MM-dd	#,##0	#,##0.00	1999-06-14	890	1,113.05
yyyy-MM-dd	#,##0	#,##0.00	2000-01-21	1,240	1,552.25

The table defined in the report template file

The table generated in the report file

A format expression for numbers can have from one to four sections separated by semicolons. You can define the different formats and colors for positive values, negative values and zeros.

For example, the format "\$#,##0;(\$#,##0)" has two sections: the first defines the format and color (black) for positive values and zeros; the second section defines the format and color (red) for negative values. It displays "2345.12" as "\$2,345", displays "-5432" as "(\$5,432)".

The format "#,##0.00;;" has three sections: the first defines the format and color (black) for positive values, the second defines the format and color (red) for negative values, the third section defines the format and color (blue) for zeros. Note, the first semicolon ";" is red, the second semicolon ";" is blue. The negative values and zeros are printed using the format of the positive value. But the color for negative values is red, the color for zeros is blue. It displays "8.9" as "8.90", displays "-123" as "-123.00", and displays "0" as "0.00".

4.4.5 Irregular Tables

Tables don't have to consist of simple grids. Not every row has to have the same number of columns. You can merge and split cells to create irregular tables. An irregular table is the table that contains split cells or merge cells, and it does not have the same number of cells for each row or column. While an

irregular table provides for an attractive way to display data, but it is harder to be processed. You have some difficulty to reference a cell in an irregular table. For example in the following table, for most Office version, cell1 is in column 3 and row 2, cell2 is in column 3 and row 3. But for some lower Office version, cell2 is not in column 3 and row 3. Moreover, an error may occur when you try to work with some rows or columns in an irregular table.

A	В	С
	Cell1	
	Cell2	

Irregular table

To simplify your work and ensure that report function can be executed correctly, you should regularize the irregular tables. Split the merge cells, and remove the border in these cells. For example, the following table is a regularized table, cell is in column 3 and row 2, and cell is in column 3 and row 3.

Α	В	С
	Cell1	
	Cell2	

Regularized table

4.4.6 Referencing Cells

You can reference table cells as A1, A2, B1, B2, and so on, with the letter representing a column and the number representing a row. Cell references in Microsoft PowerPoint are always absolute references and are not shown with dollar signs. You can reference an entire row or column in a calculation in the following ways:

■ Use a range that includes only the letter or number that represents it - for example, 1:1 to reference the first row in the table. This designation allows the calculation to automatically include all the cells in the row if you decide

to add other cells later.

■ Use a range that includes the specific cells - for example, a1:a3 to reference a column with three rows. This designation allows the calculation to include only those particular cells. If you add other cells later and you want the calculation to include them, you need to edit the calculation.

4.4.7 Referencing Tables

If you want to reference a table, you should reference a slide first. You can reference a slide by an index number. The index number represents the position of the slide in a presentation. The index number starts at 1. If the index number is less than 0, it represents the position from the end of presentation. So slide 1 is the first slide in a presentation, slide 2 is the second slide in a presentation, slide -1 is the last slide in a presentation. You can reference a slide dynamically. "N" means the next slide.

You can reference a table in the slide by an index number. The index number represents the position of the table in the slide. The index number starts at 1. So table 1 is the first table in a slide, table 2 is the second table, and so on.

4.4.8 Formatting Cells for Pictures

To enhance the visual impact of your report, you can insert pictures into your report. PTReportGen supports many popular graphics file formats: bitmap, JPG, GIF, PNG, TIFF and so on. For the graphics file formats PTReportGen supports, refer to *Microsoft PowerPoint Help*.

You should store the path and name of graphics files in the database, and identify the image fields in the report function. PTReportGen will read the graphics files, and insert them into the cells in the report file.

To specify the size, you should write a formatting expression into the cell in the report template file. PTReportGen will get the text of cell, and insert a picture

into the cell according to the instruction in the format expression. The format expression for pictures as follows:

[size]

The **size** specifies the size of a picture. Possible values are STRETCH, Wnnn or / and Hnnn. "STRETCH" means that the picture is resized to fit within the cell. "W100" means that the width of picture is set to 100 points. "H50" means that the height of picture is set to 50 points. The default means the original size. If you just specify the width or height of picture, not both, PTReportGen will retain the original proportions of picture when PTReportGen resize it.

Example

w120 h90

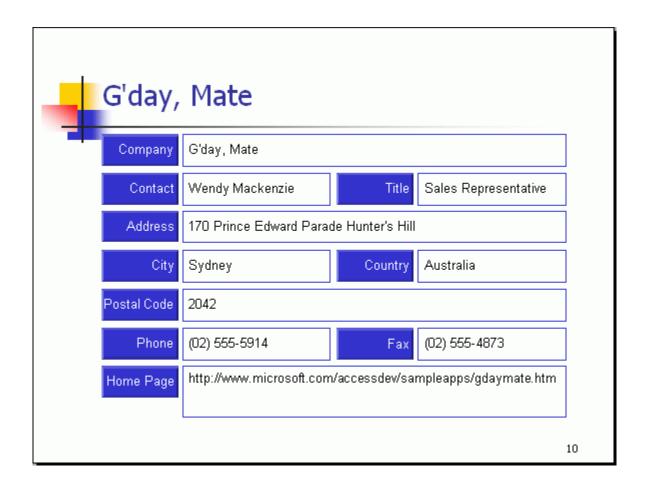
Remarks

PTReportGen will insert a picture, and set the width of picture to 120 points, the height to 90 points.

4.5 Form Reports

4.5.1 About Form Reports

Beside table reports, PTReportGen supports form reports too. For a form report, you can get data from data sources, and put data into shapes or text boxes. So you can make a form report as follows:

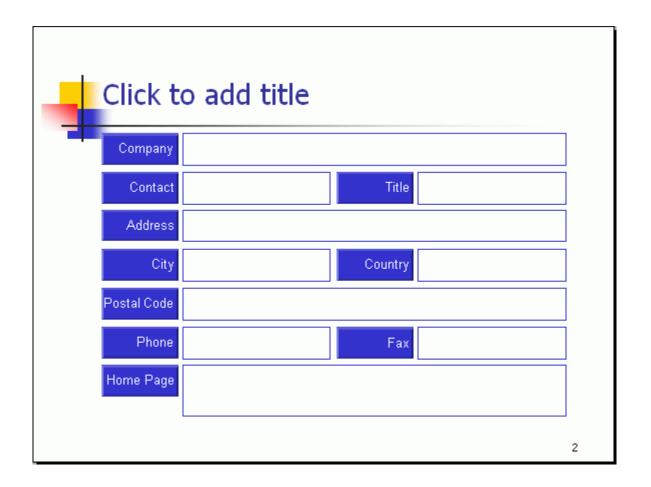


4.5.2 Creating a Slide

For a form report, you must create a slide including some shapes or text boxes in the report template file according to the report. When PTReportGen executes a SQL statement, the data values from data source will be put into these shapes or text boxes. PTReportGen will add slides according to the number of records returned. One record makes one slide.

You can add shapes as your needs, such as reshaping shapes, resizing shapes, changing colors, changing the font. For more detail information about shapes, refer to *Microsoft PowerPoint Help*.

To generate the previous PowerPoint report, you should make the following slide in the report template file.



4.5.3 Naming Objects

How to reference an object in a slide? PTReportGen can reference an object using its name. The name is not case-sensitive, and uniquely identifies an object in a slide. But Microsoft PowerPoint can not give a way to know the name of an object.

We developed a PowerPoint add-in "name.ppa" that can name an object in a slide. The add-in file is located in the PTReportGen's working directory. To load the add-in:

- 1. Launch Microsoft PowerPoint.
- 2. Click **Add-Ins** under **Tools** menu. The **Add-Ins** dialog box appears.
- 3. Press **Add New** button, and browse to "name.ppa" file, and Press **OK** button.

- 4. If prompted to enable macros, press **Enable Macros** button. The add-in will be listed in the **Add-Ins** dialog box. Press **Close** button to close the dialog box. If however you do not find the add-in listed in the **Add-Ins** dialog box, then check the macro settings. If this is not set to at least **Medium**, the add-in won't load. To resolve this:
- 1. Click **Macros** under **Tools** menu, and click **Security**. The **Security** dialog box appears.
- 2. Click the **Security Level** tab, and click **Medium**.
- 3. Press **OK** button.
- 4. Now load the add-in.
- 5. Once the add-in has been loaded you can set the security level back to High.

When you open Microsoft PowerPoint after "name.ppa" has been loaded, a **Name** menu item will appear under **Tools** menu. You can show the name of an object, and rename the object. To name an object:

- 1. Select an object in a slide.
- 2. On the **Tools** menu, click **Name**. The **Object Name** dialog box appears.
- 3. You will see the name of the object you have selected.
- 4. If you want to rename the object, input a new name in the **New Name** box, and press **Rename** button. If you get an error message "Permission denied", it probably means that the name already exists.
- 5. Press **Close** button to close the **Object Name** dialog box.

 Remember to save all your works. To ensure to save your change to object names, you should save a complete file.
- 1. On the **Tools** menu, click **Options**, and then click the **Save** tab.
- 2. Clear the **Allow fast saves** check box when you finish working on the file, and then save it one last time. A full save occurs when this check box is clear.

4.5.4 Formatting Text in an Object

You can use Microsoft PowerPoint to change an object and the attached text. You can change the font, color, fill, shadow and so on. For more detail information, refer to *Microsoft PowerPoint Help*. But to display values in formatting string, you should use the way similar to cell formatting. You should write formatting expressions into a shape or text box in the report template file. PTReportGen will get the text as a format expression before it puts a value into the object, and output the value using the format expression. In fact, PTReportGen calls the format function in Visual Basic. The text got from an object is used as the format expression in format function. For more information about format expression, refer to "Format Expressions". For example, you add a text box with a text "yyyy-MM-dd" in the report template file. In the report file, you will get a formatted date string. For example, "1996-04-01".

A format expression for numbers can have from one to four sections separated by semicolons. You can define the different formats and colors for positive values, negative values and zeros.

For example, the format "\$#,##0;(\$#,##0)" has two sections: the first defines the format and color (black) for positive values and zeros; the second section defines the format and color (red) for negative values. It displays "2345.12" as "\$2,345", displays "-5432" as "(\$5,432)".

The format "#,##0.00;;" has three sections: the first defines the format and color (black) for positive values, the second defines the format and color (red) for negative values, the third section defines the format and color (blue) for zeros. Note, the first semicolon ";" is red, the second semicolon ";" is blue. The negative values and zeros are printed using the format of the positive value. But the color for negative values is red, the color for zeros is blue. It displays

"8.9" as "8.90", displays "-123" as "-123.00", and displays "0" as "0.00".

4.5.5 Formatting Pictures

As same as the table report, you can insert pictures into your form report too. You should store the path and name of graphics files in the database, and identify the image fields in the report function. PTReportGen will read the graphics files, and put them at the position of objects in the report file. To specify the size, you should write a formatting expression into the shape or text box in the report template file. The format expression for pictures in form report is the same as the format expression in table report.

[size]

The **size** specifies the size of a picture. Possible values are STRETCH, Wnnn or / and Hnnn. "STRETCH" means that the picture is resized to fit within the object. "W100" means that the width of picture is set to 100 points. "H50" means that the height of picture is set to 50 points. The default means the original size. If you just specify the width or height of picture, not both, PTReportGen will retain the original proportions of picture when PTReportGen resize it.

4.6 Charts

4.6.1 About Charts

Charts are visually appealing and make it easy for users to see comparisons, patterns, and trends in data. Chart tools are fully integrated with Microsoft Office 2007. For Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 or later, the default chart software is Microsoft Excel.

Charts that you create will be embedded in Microsoft PowerPoint, and the chart data is stored in an Excel worksheet that is incorporated in the

PowerPoint file.

4.6.2 Creating a Blank Chart using Microsoft Excel

To create an Excel chart in the report using PTReportGen, you need to add an Excel chart in the report template file first. The chart will be brought into the report file with the same chart type, display option, data format, label format and other chart item.

To add an Excel chart in the template file in Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 or later:

- 1. Open the report template file using Microsoft PowerPoint.
- 2. Place the insertion point where you want to create the chart. On the **Insert** tab, in the **Illustrations** group, click **Chart**.
- 3. In the **Insert Chart** dialog box, click a chart, and then click **OK** button. Microsoft Excel will open and display sample data on a worksheet. Change the sample data on the worksheet as you need.
- 4. Modify the chart. For example, you want to change the chart type, make the text larger, or change colors, patterns, lines, fills, and borders in charts.
- If the report type is fix, you should define the blank ranges according to number of records.
- If the report type is var, you should define one or two blank ranges.
- 5. After you have finished the modification, delete data from the worksheet of chart. You should keep a blank chart in the report template file. PTReportGen will put data into the worksheet of chart.
- 6. When you've finished, click the **Microsoft Office Button** in Excel, and then click **Close**.

For more detail information, refer to *Microsoft PowerPoint Help and Microsoft Excel Help*.

4.6.3 Referencing Charts

If you want to reference a chart, you should reference a slide first. You can reference a slide by an index number. The index number represents the position of the slide in a presentation. The index number starts at 1. If the index number is less than 0, it represents the position from the end of presentation. So slide 1 is the first slide in a presentation, slide 2 is the second slide in a presentation, slide -1 is the last slide in a presentation. You can reference a slide dynamically. "N" means the next slide.

You can reference a chart in the slide by an index number. The index number represents the position of the chart in the slide. The index number starts at 1. So chart 1 is the first chart in a slide, chart 2 is the second chart, and so on.

Chapter 5 Reporting with PTReportGen

5.1 Creating and Opening PTR Files

5.1.1 About PTR files

To generate a report with PTReportGen, you must create a PTR file with a .ptr extension. The PTR file contains information such as the name of report template file, the name of report file, the log file name, data sources, parameters and functions. The PTR file tells PTReportGen how to get data from data sources and how to put data into a report.

5.1.2 Create a new PTR file

On the File menu, click New.

5.1.3 Open a PTR file

- 1. On the File menu, click Open.
- 2. In the **Look in** list, click the drive, folder, or Internet location that contains the file you want to open.
- 3. In the folder list, locate and open the folder that contains the file.
- 4. Click the file, and then press **Open** button.

5.1.4 Save a PTR file

On the **File** menu, click **Save**. If you're saving the file for the first time, you'll be asked to give it a name.

If you want save a file to another name, do as follows:

- 1. On the File menu, click Save As.
- 2. In the **File name** box, enter a new name for the file.

3. Press **Save** button.

5.2 Configuring Files

5.2.1 About files

You should specify the report template file, report file, report file type and log file. The report template file defines layouts, formats and styles of the report. The report file is the report you want to generate. The type of report file can be different from the template file. The log file records the log information in the report generating.

The file path can be a relative path or an absolute path. If it is a relative path, the base path is the path of PTR file. In the paths and names of report file, template file and log file, you can use parameters. For detailed information about parameters, refer to "Configuring Parameters" in this document.

5.2.2 Configuring file information

- 1. On the **Report** menu, click **Configuration**. The **Configuration** dialog box appears.
- 2. Click the **File** tab.
- 3. Input the path and name of the template file, the report file and the log file into their text box.
- 4. In the **File Type** box, click the file type you want. If the file type of the report is same as the template file, click the **(Default)** in the **File Type** box.
- 5. Press **OK** button to confirm the changes, press **Cancel** button to discard the changes.

5.2.3 Converting files

PTReportGen 5 can not convert a file to other file format.

5.3 Configuring Data Sources

5.3.1 About data sources

A data source identifies a database you want to access. PTReportGen can access to almost all of the databases such as Oracle, DB2, Sybase, Informix, Microsoft SQL Server, Teradata, MySQL, Microsoft Access and dBase through OLE DB and ODBC. It supports more than one data sources in one report. You can get data from the different databases such as Oracle, DB2 and Microsoft SQL Server, and put them into one report.

You can define a connection to a data source using an ODBC data source name or a connection string. If you use an ODBC data source name to make a connection, you should specify a user name and a password. If you use a connection string to make a connection, you also should specify a data source name that you can reference in functions.

5.3.2 Adding, modifying and deleting a data source

- 1. On the **Report** menu, click **Configuration**. The **Configuration** dialog box appears.
- 2. Click the **Data Source** tab.
- 3. If you want to add a data source, press **New** button, the **New Data Source** dialog box appears.
- To define a connection using an ODBC data source name, click **Using**ODBC data source name option, input data source name, user name and password, press OK button.

- To define a connection using a connection string, click **Using connection**string option, input data source name and connection string, select a data provider, press **OK** button.
- 4. If you want to modify a data source, click the data source name in the **Data Source** list box, and press **Edit** button, the **Edit Data Source** dialog box appears.
- To define a connection using an ODBC data source name, click **Using**ODBC data source name option, change data source name, user name and password, press OK button.
- To define a connection using a connection string, click **Using connection**string option, change data source name, connection string, and data provider, press **OK** button.
- 5. If you want to delete a data source, click the data source name in the **Data Source** list box, and press **Delete** button, the confirmation dialog box appears.

 Press **Yes** button to delete the data source.
- 6. You can test a data source. Click the data source name in the **Data Source** list box, and Press **Test** button to display the information of connection to the data source.
- 7. Select or clear the **Encrypt Password** check box. If the check box is selected, passwords will be saved in an encrypted format. Or passwords will be saved in plain text.
- 8. Press **OK** button to confirm the changes, press **Cancel** button to discard the changes.

5.4 Configuring Parameters

5.4.1 About parameters

You can use parameters in SQL statements. These values need to be

provided to PTReportGen before it executes these SQL statements. To use a parameter, you must declare it first. When PTReportGen generate a report, it will prompt you to input the value of the parameter. PTReportGen will replace the parameter name in the SQL statements with the actual value before it submits the SQL statements to data sources.

A parameter has a name, a title and a default value. The name of parameter identifies the parameter. You can use the names in SQL statements. The titles will be displayed in the prompt dialog box when PTReportGen is run.

Note: PTReportGen will replace all strings that are the same as the names of the parameters. You should be careful to define a unique name for each parameter. It is a good choice a name begins with the "\$" character. For example, you give the name "\$ReportDate" for a parameter. Parameters are case-sensitive.

5.4.2 Adding, modifying and deleting a parameter

- 1. On the **Report** menu, click **Configuration**. The **Configuration** dialog box appears.
- 2. Click the **Parameter** tab.
- 3. If you want to add a parameter, press **New** button, the **New Parameter** dialog box appears. Input parameter name, parameter title and default value, press **OK** button.
- 4. If you want to modify a parameter, click the parameter name in the **Parameter** list box, and press **Edit** button, the **Edit Parameter** dialog box appears. Change the name, title and default value of the parameter, press **OK** button.
- 5. If you want to delete a parameter, click the parameter name in the **Parameter** list box, and press **Delete** button, the confirmation dialog box appears. Press **Yes** button to delete the parameter.

6. Press **OK** button to confirm the changes, press **Cancel** button to discard the changes.

5.5 Inputting Functions

You should input functions in the editor window. A function includes a SQL statement and some arguments. PTReportGen executes the SQL statement, and determines whether or how to add data into the report. PTReportGen sequentially executes functions.

Each function is begin with the "@" character. Syntax:

@functionno=functionname(arguments)

sqlstatement

The *functionno* is the label of report function.

The *functionname* represents a report function.

The *arguments* for a function define various properties for the function. For example, the "slide" argument identifies a slide in the Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. An argument takes the form *Name="Value"*. The argument value can be delimited by single or double quotes.

The *sqlstatement* is a SQL statement.

For more detailed information about functions, see "Function Reference" in this document.

You can use comments in text. A comment is the "/*" characters, followed by any sequence of characters (including new lines), followed by the "*/" characters. You cannot nest comments.

5.6 Running PTR Files

You can run a PTR file to generate a report in Microsoft PowerPoint format.

PTReportGen supports Windows mode and command line mode.

5.6.1 Windows mode

- 1. On the **Report** menu, click **Run**, the **Run Report** dialog box appears.
- 2. If you want to display the generated report, select the **Display Report with**Microsoft PowerPoint check box.
- 3. Press **Start** button to run the PTR file.
- 4. If parameters are defined in the PTR file, PTReportGen will pop up a prompt dialog box. Input the values of the parameters, and press **OK** button.
- 5. While PTReportGen is being run, it will display some information such as status, SQL count, error count, function No., records count and log information.
- 6. You can interrupt the running. Click **End** button to interrupt it. PTReportGen will immediately save and close the report.
- 7. Click **Close** button after completion.
- 8. If you want to open the report, click **Open Report File** on the **File** menu.
- 9. If you want to check the log, click **Open Log File** on the **File** menu.

5.6.2 Command line mode

You can run a PTR file in command line. You have defined two parameters in the PTR file "myreport.ptr". The first parameter is sales date "\$SalesDate", and the second is the category of the products "\$Category". You can run PTReportGen in command line mode as follows:

pptreport c:\PPTReport\myreport.ptr -c 1996-05-01 "Dairy Products" PTReportGen will replace "\$SalesDate" in SQL statements with "1996-05-01", replace "\$Category" with "Dairy Products", and then submit SQL statements to data sources.

5.7 Sorting, Grouping and Totaling

5.7.1 Sorting data

Sorting means placing data in some kind of order to help you find and evaluate it. For example, you may want to have a customer list sorted alphabetically by name or by country.

To sort your data, you can use SQL. Use the **ORDER BY** clause to have your results displayed in a sorted order.

SELECT EmployeeID

,LastName

,FirstName

,HireDate

FROM Employees

ORDER BY HireDate; /* ascending sort */

In the example above, results will come back in ascending order by hire date. To explicitly specify ascending or descending order, add ASC or DESC, to the end of your ORDER BY clause. The following is an example of a descending order sort.

ORDER BY HireDate DESC; /* descending sort */

5.7.2 Totaling

You can sum the values, count all the values or only those values that are distinct from one another, and determine the maximum, minimum, average. To add totals, you can use aggregate functions in SQL statement, such as COUNT, SUM, AVG, MAX, MIN.

- 1. In the fixed table report, you can add total directly using a separate SQL.
- 2. In the variable table report, you must add the total first using a fixed table

report function before you use the variable table report function. Because the cell address of the total field will change after you use the variable table report function.

5.7.3 Grouping data and subreports

Grouped data is data that is sorted and broken up into meaningful groups. In a customer list, for example, a group might consist of all those customers living in the same region.

To group data in a report, you should use GROUP argument in the REPORT function. For more detail information, refer to "Table Report Function" and "Form Report Function" in this document.

Using the feature of grouping data, you can make sub reports within a report. A sub report would typically be used to perform one-to-many lookups such as Customer / Order / OrderDetails.

To make sub reports within the main report,

- 1. Write a JOIN SQL statement to get data from two or more tables. For example, you can join Customers, Orders and OrderDetails tables.
- 2. Use GROUP argument in the REPORT function.

For more detail information, refer to the samples customer_profile.ptr, product_catalog.ptr and sales_detail.ptr within PTReportGen.

5.7.4 Subtotaling

A subtotal is a summary that totals or sums numeric values in a group. You can sum the values in each group, count all the values in each group, and determine the maximum, minimum, average in each group. For example, determine the total sales per sales representative in a sales report.

To add subtotals, you can use aggregate function in SQL statement.

1. Use aggregate function and GROUP BY clause, get summary data for each

group, and insert results into a temporary table.

- 2. If you have the different kinds of summaries, repeat the step 1, and insert results into another temporary table.
- 3. Use the variable table report function, and join the detail data and the summary data using JOIN. The summary fields must be included in the group list.

For more information, refer to the samples sales_detail.ptr within PTReportGen.

5.8 Pictures

5.8.1 Inserting pictures into a report template

To make eye-catching reports, you can add pictures to your reports. You can insert pictures into the report template directly in Microsoft PowerPoint. For example, you want to display a logo in your report. You can insert the logo graphics file into the report template. For more information about adding pictures to a presentation, refer to *Microsoft PowerPoint Help*.

5.8.2 Inserting pictures into a report

Except for inserting the static pictures during report design, you want to insert pictures during report building process. PTReportGen can insert pictures from the graphics files, and support all graphics file format that Microsoft PowerPoint support.

To insert pictures into a report using PTReportGen, you should do as follows:

1. Store the path and name of graphics files in the database
You stored the path and file name of pictures in database, did not store the
pictures. The file path can be a relative path, an absolute path or a URL. For
example, you store "images\emp1.ipq" in Photo field.

2. Identify the image fields in the report function

Write a report function in the PTR file, and identify the image fields using IMAGE argument. For example,

- @F1=Report(slide=1 ... image=photo)
- 3. Specify the size in the report template

To specify the size, you should write a formatting expression in the report template file. For a table report, you write a formatting expression in the cell. For a form report, write a formatting expression in the shape or text box. PTReportGen will get the formatting expression, and insert a picture into the report according to the instruction in the format expression.

4. Run PTReportGen to generate report with pictures

During report generating process, PTReportGen will read the graphics files, and insert them into the report according to your instruction. If the path and file name of picture is "", PTReportGen will return "". PTReportGen will return "#Error" if it does not find the file of picture.

For more detail information about pictures, refer to the samples employee_profile.ptr, product_catalog.ptr within PTReportGen.

5.9 Using Parameters

To use a parameter, you must define it first. If you have defined a parameter name, you can use it in SQL statements. When PTReportGen is run, it will replace the parameter name in the SQL statements with the actual value before it submits the SQL statements to data sources. Besides in SQL statements, you can use parameters in the paths and names of report file and log file.

In fact, PTReportGen will replace all strings that are the same as the names of parameters. You should be careful to define a unique name for each

parameter. It is a good choice a name begins with the "\$" character.

Example

Input an order id to get the order information. The field OrderID is numeric type.

1. Defining a parameter

Define a parameter as follows:

Name: \$OrderID

Title: Order ID (>=10248)

Default: 10360

2. Using a parameter

You can use the parameter "\$OrderID" in SQL statements. For example:

SELECT o.OrderID

,o.OrderDate

,SUM(d.UnitPrice * d.Quantity * (1-d.Discount)) AS Amount

FROM Orders o, OrderDetails d

WHERE o.OrderID = d.OrderID

AND o.OrderID = \$OrderID

GROUP BY o.OrderID, o.OrderDate

,

Example

Define two parameters. The first parameter is the sales date, and the second is the category of products. The field OrderDate is the date type, and CategoryName is the char type.

1. Defining parameters

Define parameters as follows:

Name1: \$SalesDate

Title1: Sales Date

Default1: 1996-05-01

Name2: \$Category

Title2: Category of Products

Default2:

2. Using parameters

You can use the parameters "\$SalesDate", "\$Category" in SQL statements.

For example:

SELECT

FROM Orders, OrderDetails, Products, Categories

WHERE

AND OrderDate = '\$SalesDate'

AND CategoryName LIKE '\$Category%'

•

/* For Microsoft Jet SQL, LIKE '\$Category*' */

Example

Get the information from the database, table and column that you identify when the report is generated.

1. Defining parameters

Define parameters as follows:

Name1: \$Database

Title1: Database Name

Default1:

Name2: \$Table

Title2: Table Name

Default2:

Name3: \$Column

Title3: Column Name

Default3:

2. Using parameters

You can use the parameters "\$Database", "\$Table" and "\$Column" in SQL statements. For example:

USE \$Database;

or

DATABASE \$Database;

SELECT \$Column

FROM \$Table

;

Example

Use parameters in the path and name of report file and log file.

1. Defining a parameter

Define a parameter as follows:

Name: \$CustomerID

Title: Customer ID

Default: C000001

2. Using a parameter

ReportFileName=report\report_\$CustomerID.pptx

LogFileName=log\report_\$CustomerID.log

or

ReportFileName=report\\$CustomerID\report.pptx

LogFileName=log\\$CustomerID\report.log

5.10 Programming

5.10.1 Making PTR files programmatically

Sometimes you want to make a PTR file programmatically. You can do this because the PTR file is a text file. You can write a program to make a PTR file using C, Perl or DOS shell, and then run PTReportGen to generate report. The

two steps can be written into a batch file.

- 1. Write a program to make the PTR file as you need.
- 2. Write a batch file to call the program and PTReportGen in command line mode.

For example, you write a batch file runrpt.bat as follows. changeptr is an executable file that reads template.txt and output template.ptr. First runrpt.bat call changeptr to make the PTR file, and then call PTReportGen to generate the report.

Chapter 6 Function Reference

6.1 Table Report Function

The TABLE REPORT function executes a SQL statement to get data from data source, and puts data into a table in the report file.

Syntax

```
Report(...)
sqlstatement
```

Arguments

```
TYPE = reporttype
```

SLIDE = slide

TABLE = table

FILLORDER = fillorder

CELL= celllist

RANGE = range

GROUP= *grouplist*

GROUPRANGE = grouprange

IMAGE = fieldlist

RANGECOUNT = rangecount

PAGEBREAK = pagelength

NODATA = nodataoption

CONNECT = datasource

- The **TYPE** argument specifies the report type. Possible values are fix or var. "fix" means a fixed table report, and "var" means a variable table report. Default is var.
- The **SLIDE** argument identifies a slide in the report template. The *slide* is the index number of slide. The index number starts at 1. If the index

number is less than 0, it represents the position from the end of presentation. For examples, slide 2 is the second slide in a presentation, slide -1 is the last slide in a presentation. You can also reference a slide dynamically. "N" means the next slide. "N-1" means the last slide that the previous function processed.

- The **TABLE** argument identifies a table in a slide. The *table* is the index number of table in a slide. The index number starts at 1. For examples, table 1 is the first table in a slide, table 2 is the second table. Default is 1.
- The **FILLORDER** argument specifies the order in which PTReportGen fills data. Possible values are row or col. "row" means to fill data by rows. "col" means to fill data by columns. Default is row.
- The **CELL** argument specifies the positions where data values will be inserted. The *celllist* is the list of cells separated by the "," character. It identifies the cells in a worksheet. For example, "A2,B2,B3,D2,D3". The cells in the *celllist* should correspond to the data source fields in the SQL statement. The value of the first field is put into the first cell, and the value of the second field is put into the second cell PTReportGen will use the next cell if you omit a cell except the first cell. If FILLORDER="row", the next cell is the right cell. If FILLORDER="col", the next cell is the below cell.
- The RANGE or COPYRANGE argument specifies the range in the table to be used for the records. PTReportGen will skip or repeat the range for each record. You can reference a range of cells like "2:4" or "B2:D5". The range "2:4" means 3 entire rows. The range "A:B" means 2 entire columns. The default range is the area that includes all cells for the records. For the fixed table report, PTReportGen will skip the range for each record. For the variable table report, it will insert the blank rows/columns for each record, or copy slides for records. The COPYRANGE argument is similar to the

Range. It will copy the original range to the range where data will be filled for each record. If there is no range or copyrange argument, the default for the fixed table report is range, and the default for the variable table report is copyrange.

- The **GROUP** argument specifies the group of report. The *grouplist* is the list of data source fields separated by the "," character. You can identify a field using the name or index number of field, but not simultaneously. In one report, there may be up to 10 groups. The first GROUP is group one, the second is group two...... Notes: the order of groups should be in accordance with the order of ORDER BY clause in the SQL statement.
- The **GROUPRANGE** argument follows the GROUP argument, and specifies the range of group in the table. For example, the grouprange of level 1 must follow the group of level 1, and the grouprange of level 2 must follow the group of level 2. PTReportGen will repeat the group range for each group. The range of group should contain the range of details and the area that includes all cells for this group. You reference a group range like "2:4" or "B2:D5". For example, there are two groups, the range of group one contains all cells for the group one and the range of group two, and the range of group two contains all cells for the group two and the range of details. The default range is the area that includes all cells for this group and the range or group range for the lower level group. If the grouprange is not same as the range of detail, you must add a pagebreak by group, and the length of range can not be more than 1 row/column.
- The **IMAGE** argument specifies the fields are picture files. The *fieldlist* is the list of data source fields separated by the "," character. You can identify a field using the name or index number of field, but not simultaneously. In data source, you stored the path and file name of picture, not the picture. The file path can be a relative path, an absolute path or a URL. If it is a

- relative path, the base path is the path of report template file.
- The **RANGECOUNT** argument specifies the number of blank range which you defined in the report template. It is valid when the type is "var". One means one blank range you defined, and two means two ranges. Default is 1.
- The **PAGEBREAK** argument specifies the page breaks. The unit of page length is r or g. "r" means record, "g1" means group one, "g2" means group two...... For example, "6r" or "6" means that PTReportGen will put 6 records per slide, "1g" means one group per slide, and "1g,6r" means one group or 6 records per slide. Default PTReportGen will not show the group name in the new page. You can add "s" to show them. For example, "1gs,6rs". If the grouprange is not same as the range of detail, you must add a pagebreak by group, and the length of range can not be more than 1 row/column.
- The **NODATA** argument specifies an option when no data are returned from data source. It is valid when the type is "var". Possible values are delrange, deltable or delslide. "delrange" means to delete the range when no data are returned. "deltable" means to delete the table. "delslide" means to delete the slide. Default is to do nothing.
- The **CONNECT** argument specifies the connection to a data source. The CONNECT can takes a string that expresses a data source name or a number that expresses a data source index. The index number of data source is the sequential number defined in the PTR file, and starts at 1. The default implies the first data source.
- The *sqlstatement* is a SQL statement such as a SELECT statement.

Example 1, Fixed Table Report

The following function makes the report: Top 5 Employees for Sales.

@F1=REPORT(slide=5 type=fix cell=B2)

SELECT TOP 5 e.FirstName + ' ' + e.LastName

- , SUM(d.Quantity)
- , Sum(d.UnitPrice * d.Quantity * (1-d.Discount)) AS SalesAmount
- , SalesAmount / (SELECT amount FROM tmp_amount)

FROM Orders o

- ,OrderDetails d
- ,Products p
- ,Employees e

WHERE o.OrderID = d.OrderID

AND d.ProductID = p.ProductID

AND o.EmployeeID = e.EmployeeID

AND YEAR(o.OrderDate) = 1996

AND MONTH(o.OrderDate) = 04

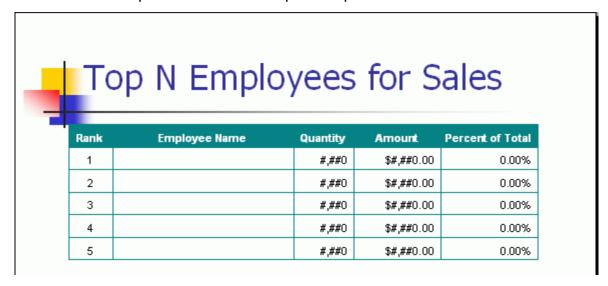
GROUP BY e.FirstName, e.LastName

ORDER BY 3 DESC

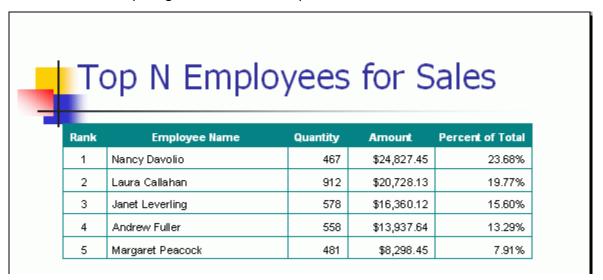
.

Result

The fixed table report defined in the report template:



The fixed table report generated in the report:



Remarks

- 1. The SQL statement will get the information of top 5 employees for sales, including employee name, quantity of products, sales amount, and percent of Total.
- 2. type="fix". It is a fixed table report.
- 3. slide = 5. It means the fifth slide.
- 4. The default table is 1. PTReportGen will put data into the first table in the fifth slide in the report file.
- 5. cell=B2. The cells corresponding to the first record are "B2,C2,D2,E2".
- 6. The default range is "B2:E2".
- 7. PTReportGen executes the SQL statement, and gets data from data source. It puts the data into the report by records.

Example 2, Variable Table Report

The following function will makes the report: Customer List.

@F1=Report(slide=2 type=var cell=A2 pagebreak=19 rangecount=2)

SELECT CompanyName

,CityName

,CountryName

,ContactName

FROM Customers, Cities, Countries

WHERE Customers.CityCode = Cities.CityCode

AND Customers.CountryCode = Cities.CountryCode

AND Customers.CountryCode = Countries.CountryCode

ORDER BY CompanyName,CityName,CountryName

Result

The variable table report defined in the report template:



The variable table report generated in the report:

Cuctomor	Lick		
Customer	LISU		
Customer Name	Cit.	Country	Contact Name
	City	Country	
Ammeds Futberkiste	Berlin	Germany	Maria Anders
Ana Trujillo Empare dados y helados	México D.F.	Mexico	Ara Trojillo
Autorio Morero Taqueria	México D.F.	Mexico	Antonio Moreno
Around the Horn	Lordon	UK	Thomas Hardy
Berglinds snabbköp	Lule å	Swede i	Christina Bergland
Blatter Sele Dellikatesse i	Marrhelm	Germany	Harra Moos
Blondel pére etfils	Strasbourg	France	Frédérique Cite aux
Bólido Comidas preparadas	Madrid	Spalı	Marth Sommer
Bon app'	Marsellle	France	Laurence Lebihan
Bottom-Dollar Markets	Tsawasse i	Carada	Elizabeth Lincoln
B's Beverages	Lordon	UK	Victoria As i worti
Cactus Comidas para llevar	Bue nos Aires	Argentha	Patricio Simps on
Centro comercial Moctezama	México D.F.	Mexico	Franckoo Chang
Chop-stey Chinese	Bern	Switzerland	Yarg Warg
Comércio Mineiro	São Paulo	Brazili	Pedro Aforso
Consolidate d Holdings	Lordon	UK	Elizabeth Brown
Die Wandernde Kuh	Stuttgart	Germany	Rita Miller
Dirachen blot Die likatessen	Aacher	Germany	Sve i Ottleb
Dumonde entter	Nartes	France	Janh e Labrune

Remarks

- 1. The SQL statement will get the information of customers including customer name, city name, country name, and contact name.
- 2. type="var". It is a variable table report.
- 3. slide=2. It is the second slide.
- 4. The default table is 1. PTReportGen will put data into the first table in the second slide in the report file.
- 5. cell=A2. The cells corresponding to the first record are "A2,B2,C2,D2".
- 6. The default range is "A2:D2".
- 7. pagebreak = 19. PTReportGen will add a new slide per 19 records. One slide contains 19 records.
- 8. rangecount = 2. You have make 2 ranges in the table in the report template file.

9. PTReportGen executes the SQL statement, and gets data from data source. First, it inserts some rows (19 rows per slide). Second, it duplicates slides according to the number of records. And then it deletes the extra rows in the last slide. Finally, it puts the data into the report by records.

Example 3, Variable Table Report with Group

```
The following function will makes the report: Customer Profile.

@F1=Report(slide=2 cell=A2,B3,C3,D3,D4,E3,E4,E5
range=2:5 group=1 pagebreak=5 rangecount=5)

SELECT LEFT(CompanyName,1)

,CompanyName
,ContactName
,'Phone: ' & Phone
,'Fax: ' & Fax
,Address
,CityName & ', ' & CountryName
,PostalCode

FROM Customers, Cities, Countries

WHERE Customers.CityCode = Cities.CityCode

AND Customers.CountryCode = Countries.CountryCode
```

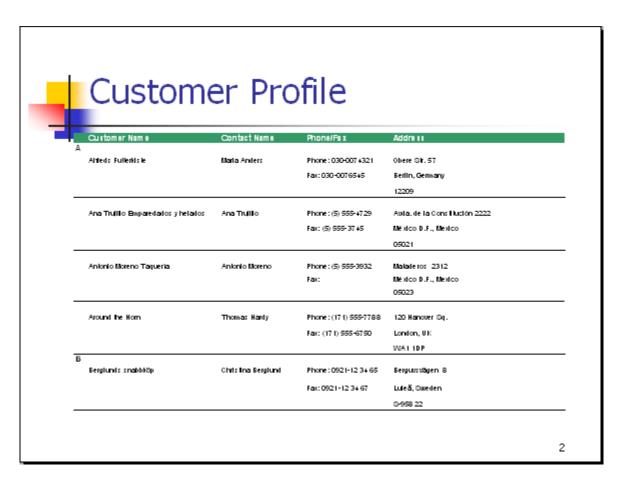
Result

ORDER BY CompanyName

The variable table report defined in the report template:

	Customer Profile	
_	Customer Name Phone/Fax Address	
		_
		_
		2

The variable table report generated in the report:



Remarks

- 1. The SQL statement will get the information of customers including company name, contact name, phone, fax, address, city name, country name, and postal code.
- 2. The default type is "var". It is a variable table report.
- 3. slide=2. It is the second slide.
- 4. The default table is 1. PTReportGen will put data into the first table in the second slide in the report file.
- 5. group=1. PTReportGen will group data by the first letter of the company name.
- 6. cell= A2,B3,C3,D3,D4,E3,E4,E5. These cells correspond to the first record.
- 7. range=2:5. Because the default range is "B3:E5", you must specify a range explicitly.

- 8. There is no grouprange. PTReportGen will give a default. The default grouprange is "2:5".
- 9. pagebreak = 5. PTReportGen will add a new slide per 5 records.
- 10. rangecount = 5. You made 5 blank ranges in the slide.
- 11. PTReportGen executes the SQL statement, and gets data from data source. First, it groups the data. Second, it duplicates slides according to the number of records. Next, it deletes the extra rows in the last slide. Finally, it puts the data into the report by records.

6.2 Form Report Function

The FORM REPORT function executes a SQL statement to get data from data source, and puts data into shapes or text boxes in the report file.

Syntax

```
Report (...) sqlstatement
```

Arguments

TYPE = reporttype

SLIDE = slide

CELL= celllist

GROUP= grouplist

IMAGE = fieldlist

NODATA = nodataoption

CONNECT = datasource

- The **TYPE** argument specifies the report type. "form" means a form report.
- The **SLIDE** argument identifies a slide in the report template. The *slide* is the index number of slide. The index number starts at 1. If the index number is less than 0, it represents the position from the end of

- presentation. For examples, slide 2 is the second slide in a presentation, slide -1 is the last slide in a presentation. You can also reference a slide dynamically. "N" means the next slide. "N-1" means the last slide that the previous function processed.
- The **CELL** argument specifies the positions where data values will be inserted. The *celllist* is the list of shapes or text boxes separated by the "," character. For example, "ProductName, ProductID, QuantityPerUnit, UnitPrice". The shapes or text boxes in the *celllist* should correspond to the data source fields in the SQL statement. The value of the first data source field is put into the first object as a text, and the value of the second data source field is put into the second object......You can get the name of shape or text box using the add-in "name.ppa".
- The **GROUP** argument specifies the group of report. The *grouplist* is the list of data source fields separated by the "," character. You can identify a field using the name or index number of field, but not simultaneously. In one report, there may be up to 10 groups. The first GROUP is group one, the second is group two...... Notes: the order of groups should be in accordance with the order of ORDER BY clause in the SQL statement.
- The **IMAGE** argument specifies the fields are picture files. The *fieldlist* is the list of data source fields separated by the "," character. You can identify a field using the name or index number of field, but not simultaneously. In data source, you stored the path and file name of picture, not the picture. The file path can be a relative path, an absolute path or a URL. If it is a relative path, the base path is the path of report template file.
- The **NODATA** argument specifies an option when no data are returned from data source. If the value is "delrange" or "delslide", PTReportGen will delete the slide when no data are returned. Default is to do nothing.
- The **CONNECT** argument specifies the connection to a data source. The

CONNECT can takes a string that expresses a data source name or a number that expresses a data source index. The index number of data source is the sequential number defined in the PTR file, and starts at 1. The default implies the first data source.

■ The *sqlstatement* is a SQL statement such as a SELECT statement.

There are not RANGE and PAGEBREAK arguments. PTReportGen will put only one record per slide.

Example

The following function will makes the report: Supplier Profile.

@F1=Report(slide=2 type=form cell=SlideTitle,Company,ContactName

,ContactTitle,Address,City,Country,PostCode,Phone,Fax,HomePage)

SELECT CompanyName

,CompanyName

,ContactName

,ContactTitle

,Address

,CityName

,CountryName

,PostalCode

.Phone

,Fax

,HomePage

FROM Suppliers, Countries, Cities

WHERE Suppliers.CityCode = Cities.CityCode

AND Suppliers.CountryCode = Cities.CountryCode

AND Suppliers.CountryCode = Countries.CountryCode

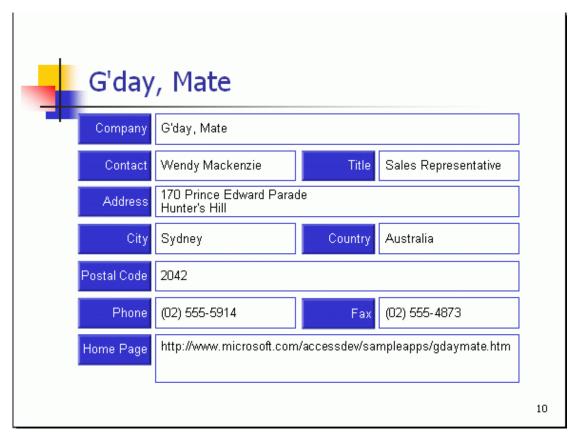
ORDER BY CompanyName

Result

The form report defined in the report template:



The form report generated in the report:



Remarks

- 1. The SQL statement will get the information of suppliers including company name, contact name, contact title, address, city, country, postal code, phone, fax, home page.
- 2. type="form". It is a form report.
- 3. slide=2. It is the second slide.
- 4. cell=SlideTitle, Company, ContactName, ContactTitle, Address, City, Country, PostCode, Phone, Fax, HomePage. These shapes or text boxes are in the second slide, and correspond to data source fields in the SQL statement.
- 5. PTReportGen executes the SQL statement, and gets data from data source. First, it duplicates slides according to the number of records. And then it processes records one by one, and puts only one record per slide. It fetches a record, and puts the data into the shapes or text boxes in one slide. And then go to the next slide.

6.3 Chart Function

The CHART function is used to make the charts.

Syntax

```
Chart(...)
sqlstatement
```

Arguments

```
TYPE = reporttype
```

SLIDE = slide

CHART = chart

FILLORDER = fillorder

CELL= celllist

RANGE = range

GROUP= *grouplist*

GROUPRANGE = grouprange

RANGECOUNT = rangecount

NODATA = nodataoption

CONNECT = datasource

- The **TYPE** argument specifies the report type. Possible values are fix or var. "fix" means a fixed table report, and "var" means a variable table report. Default is var.
- The **SLIDE** argument identifies a slide in the report template. The *slide* is the index number of slide. The index number starts at 1. If the index number is less than 0, it represents the position from the end of presentation. For examples, slide 2 is the second slide in a presentation, slide -1 is the last slide in a presentation. You can also reference a slide dynamically. "N" means the next slide. "N-1" means the last slide that the previous function processed.

- The **CHART** argument identifies a chart in the report template. The *chart* is the index number or chart in a slide. The index number starts at 1. For examples, chart 2 is the second chart in the slide. Default is 1.
- The FILLORDER argument specifies the order in which PTReportGen fills data. Possible values are row or col. "row" means to fill data by rows. "col" means to fill data by columns. Default is row.
- The **CELL** argument specifies the positions where data values will be inserted. The *celllist* is the list of cells separated by the "," character. It identifies the cells in a datasheet or worksheet. For example, "A2,B2,B3,D2,D3". The cells in the *celllist* should correspond to the data source fields in the SQL statement. The value of the first field is put into the first cell, and the value of the second field is put into the second cell PTReportGen will use the next cell if you omit a cell except the first cell. If FILLORDER="row", the next cell is the right cell. If FILLORDER="col", the next cell is the below cell.
- The RANGE or COPYRANGE argument specifies the range in the worksheet or datasheet to be used for the records. PTReportGen will skip or repeat the range for each record. You can reference a range of cells like "2:4" or "B2:D5". The range "2:4" means 3 entire rows. The range "A:B" means 2 entire columns. The default range is the area that includes all cells for the records. For the fixed table report, PTReportGen will skip the range for each record. For the variable table report, it will insert the blank range for each record. The COPYRANGE argument is similar to the Range. It will copy the original range to the range where data will be filled for each record. If there is no range or copyrange argument, the default for the fixed table report is range, and the default for the variable table report is copyrange.
- The **GROUP** argument specifies the group of report. The *grouplist* is the

list of data source fields separated by the "," character. You can identify a field using the name or index number of field, but not simultaneously. In one report, there may be up to 10 groups. The first GROUP is group one, the second is group two...... Notes: the order of groups should be in accordance with the order of ORDER BY clause in the SQL statement.

- The **GROUPRANGE** argument follows the GROUP argument, and specifies the range of group in the worksheet. For example, the grouprange of level 1 must follow the group of level 1, and the grouprange of level 2 must follow the group of level 2. PTReportGen will repeat the group range for each group. The range of group should contain the range of details and the area that includes all cells for this group. You reference a group range like "2:4" or "B2:D5". The ranges of groups must be same as the range of details.
- The **RANGECOUNT** argument specifies the number of blank range which you defined in the report template. It is valid when the type is "var".

 Possible values are 1 or 2. One means one blank range you defined, and two means two ranges. If you hope that the format of the last row/column border can be different from the others, you can define two blank ranges.

 Default is 1.
- The NODATA argument specifies an option when no data are returned from data source. It is valid when the type is "var". If the value is "delrange", PTReportGen will delete the range when no data are returned. Default is to do nothing.
- The **CONNECT** argument specifies the connection to a data source. The CONNECT can takes a string that expresses a data source name or a number that expresses a data source index. The index number of data source is the sequential number defined in the PTR file, and starts at 1. The default implies the first data source.

■ The *sqlstatement* is a SQL statement such as a SELECT statement.

Example, Microsoft Excel Chart

The following function makes the chart: Sales by Categories.

@F3_3=CHART(slide=3 cell=A2 rangecount=2)

SELECT c.CategoryName

, Sum(d.UnitPrice * d.Quantity * (1-d.Discount))

FROM Orders o

,OrderDetails d

,Products p

,Categories c

WHERE o.OrderID = d.OrderID

AND d.ProductID = p.ProductID

AND p.CategoryID = c.CategoryID

AND YEAR(o.OrderDate) = 1996

AND MONTH(o.OrderDate) = 04

GROUP BY c.CategoryName

ORDER BY c.CategoryName

Result

The worksheet of the chart defined in the report template:

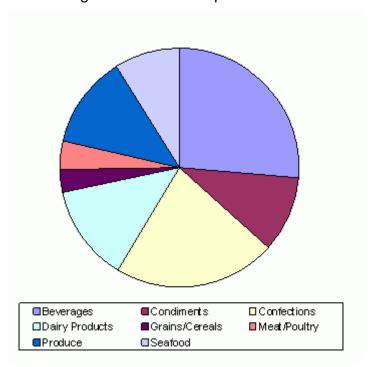
	А	В	С
1	Category Name	Amount	
2			
3			
4			

The chart defined in the report template is a blank chart.

The worksheet of the chart generated in the report:

	А	В	С
1	Category Name	Amount	
2	Beverages	27761.57499	
3	Condiments	10773, 26999	
4	Confections	22877. 17998	
5	Dairy Products	13685, 32499	
6	Grains/Cereals	3325. 399995	
7	Meat/Poultry	4083.659998	
8	Produce	13031.2	
9	Seafood	9316.544988	

The chart generated in the report:



Remarks

- 1. The SQL statement will get the information of sales by categories, including category name, and sales amount.
- 2. slide = 3. It means the third slide.
- 3. The default chart is 1. PTReportGen will put data into the first chart in the third slide in the report file.
- 4. The default type is var. It is a variable table report.
- 5. The default fillorder is row. PTReportGen will fill data by rows.
- 6. cell=A2. The cells corresponding to the first record are "A2,B2".
- 7. The default range is "2:2".

- 8. rangecount=2. There are two blank ranges in the report template.
- 9. PTReportGen executes the SQL statement, and gets data from data source. First, it will add some blank rows in the worksheet according to the number of the records. And then it will put data into the worksheet.

6.4 ExecSQL Function

The EXECSQL function executes a SQL statement, but does not return result to report.

Syntax

```
ExecSQL(...) sqlstatement
```

Arguments

CONNECT= datasource

- The **CONNECT** argument specifies the connection to a data source. The CONNECT can takes a string that expresses a data source name or a number that expresses a data source index. The index number of data source is the sequential number defined in the PTR file, and starts at 1. The default implies the first data source.
- The *sqlstatement* is a SQL statement that can be DDL (Data Definition Language), DML (Data Manipulation Language) and even DCL (Data Control Language).

Using EXECSQL function, you can open a database, create a temporary table, insert data into a temporary table, update data, execute a stored procedure, and drop a table. It is very useful to create a temporary table, and prepare data for REPORT function.

Example

The following functions will create a table tmp0, and add some records into table. No result is returned to the report file.

```
@F1=EXECSQL()
CREATE TABLE tmp0 (
min_date DATE,
max_date DATE)
;
@F2=EXECSQL()
INSERT INTO tmp0
SELECT ...
.
```

Chapter 7 Menus, Toolbar and Shortcut Keys

7.1 File Menu

The File menu offers the following commands:

New	Creates a new PTR file.
Open	Opens an existing PTR file.
Close	Closes an opened PTR file.
Save	Saves an opened PTR file using the same filename.
Save As	Saves an opened PTR file to a specified file name.
Open Report	One on eviating report template file
Template	Opens an existing report template file.
Open Report File	Opens an existing report file.
Open Log File	Opens an existing log file.
Recent Files	Opens last PTR files you closed.
Exit	Exits PTReportGen.

7.2 Edit Menu

The Edit menu offers the following commands:

Undo	Undo previous editing operation.
Redo	Redo an editing operation that you undid.
Cut	Deletes text from the document and moves it to the
	clipboard.
Сору	Copies text from the document to the clipboard.
Paste	Pastes text from the clipboard into the document.
Delete	Deletes the selection.
Select All	Selects the entire text.
Find	Finds the specified text.
Find Next	Finds the next matching text.
Replace	Replaces specific text with different text.
Go to	Goes to specified line or function in the document.

7.3 View Menu

The View menu offers the following commands:

Toolbar Show or hide the toolbar.	
-----------------------------------	--

Status Bar	Show or hide the status bar.
------------	------------------------------

7.4 Report Menu

The Report menu offers the following commands:

Configuration	Configures the file names, data sources and parameters.	
	parameters.	
Run	Runs the PTR file to generate a report.	

7.5 Tools Menu

The Tools menu offers the following commands:

Option	Sets options.
- J	

7.6 Help Menu

The Help menu offers the following commands:

Help Context	Starts the online help system.
Tutorial	Starts a brief step-by-step tutorial.
Tip of the Day	Displays a dialog containing a useful tip about PTReportGen.
Hints and Tips	Displays miscellaneous hints and tips on how to use
Tillits and Tips	PTReportGen productively.
Shortcut Keys	Shows the keyboard map.
Home Page	Takes you to the home page of PTReportGen web
Tiome Fage	site.
Support	Takes you to the support page of PTReportGen web
Support	site.
Buy Now	Buy PTReportGen immediately.
About	Displays the version number of PTReportGen.

7.7 Toolbar

The toolbar provides quick access to many features. The buttons on the toolbar perform the following commands:

Buttons	Commands				
---------	----------	--	--	--	--

*	Creates a new PTR file.
	Opens an existing PTR file.
	Saves an opened PTR file using the same filename.
V	Open the report template file.
ij	Open the report file.
×	Deletes text from the document and moves it to the clipboard.
	Copies text from the document to the clipboard.
	Pastes text from the clipboard into the document.
49	Undo previous editing operation.
C	Redo an editing operation that you undid.
A	Finds the specified text.
=	Goes to specified line or function in the document.
	Configures the file names, data sources and parameters.
•	Runs the PTR file to generate a report.
3	Starts the online help system.
\$	Buy PTReportGen immediately.

7.8 Shortcut Keys

Shortcut Keys	Commands
Ctrl+N	Creates a new PTR file.
Ctrl+O	Opens an existing PTR file.
Ctrl+S	Saves an opened PTR file using the same filename.
Ctrl+Z	Undo previous editing operation.
Ctrl+Y	Redo an editing operation that you undid.
Ctrl+X	Deletes text from the document and moves it to the clipboard.
Ctrl+C	Copies text from the document to the clipboard.

Ctrl+V	Pastes text from the clipboard into the document.
Delete	Deletes the selection.
Ctrl+A	Selects the entire text.
Ctrl+F	Finds the specified text.
F3	Finds the next matching text.
Ctrl+H	Replaces specific text with different text.
Ctrl+G	Goes to specified line or function in the document.
F2	Configures the file names, data sources and parameters.
F5	Runs the PTR file to generate a report.
F1	Starts the online help system.

Chapter 8 Hints and Tips

You can run PTReportGen from the command line. The format is:

pptreport <ptr file name> [-c] [-d] [-u1 user1] [-p1 pwd1] ... [pa1 pa2 ...]

For example:

pptreport c:\pptreport\monthlysales.ptr -c 199605

PTReportGen can be scheduled with Windows Scheduled Tasks or other tools. The process of generating reports can be fully automated, periodically or on events.

PTReportGen comes with a sample database Sample.mdb and some sample reports. You can use them when learning the program. To use the sample reports, you must add a data source named "Report Sample" to specify the sample database.

To make a report template, you can use some sample data. It is very useful especially for formatting. After you have made the report template, you delete the sample data.

For a table report, you can format the value from data sources with a format expression. You should write a format expression into a data cell in the report template file first. PTReportGen will get the text of the cell as a format expression before it puts a value into a cell, and output the value using the format expression.

For a form report, you can reference a shape or text box by its name. You can find a PowerPoint add-in "name.ppa" under the PTReportGen's working

directory that can name an object in a slide.

For a form report, you can format the value from data sources with a format

expression too. PTReportGen will get the text of the object as a format

expression, and output the value using the format expression.

You can define the different formats and colors for positive values, negative

values and zeros.

An irregular table does not have the same number of cells for each row or

column. It does make it harder to process the document. In an irregular table,

you have some difficulty to reference a cell, and an error may occur when you

try to work with some rows or columns.

You can create a chart using Microsoft Excel. To work with charts created in

Excel, you must have Excel installed.

To create a chart in the report template file, you can use some sample data.

Using sample data, you can set the various chart options. After you have made

the report template, you delete the sample data.

You can edit a PTR file (.ptr) with a text editor such as Notepad.

If you associate PTReportGen with the file extension ".ptr", a PTR file with the

extension ".ptr" will open in PTReportGen when you double-click the file. The

information:

File Extension: .ptr

Action: open

- 77 -

Application: "C:\Program Files\LJZsoft\pptreport.exe" "%1"

For the report template file, report file and log file, it is possible to give a relative path. If it is a relative path, the base path is the path of the PTR file.

In the SQL statements, you can use parameters. To use parameters, you must define them first.

In the paths and names of the report file, template file and log file, you can use parameters. To use parameters, you must define them first.

You should be careful to define a unique name for each parameter, because PTReportGen will replace all strings that are the same as the names of the parameters. It is a good choice a name begins with the "\$" character such as "\$ReportDate".

In the text editor window, you can use comments. A comment is the "/*" characters, followed by any sequence of characters (including new lines), followed by the "*/" characters. You cannot nest comments.

You can use hints in the SQL statement for Oracle database.

You can reference a slide dynamically. "N" means the next slide. "N-1" means the last slide that the previous function processed.

To add totals or subtotals, you can use the aggregate functions in SQL statement.

To group data in a report, you should use GROUP argument in the report function.

In REPORT function, the order of groups should be in accordance with the order of ORDER BY clause in the SQL statement.

For a variable table report, if the grouprange is not same as the range of detail, you must add a pagebreak by group, and the length of range can not be more than 1 row/column.

Default PTReportGen will not show the group name in the new page. You can add "s" to show them. For example, "1gs,6rs".

You can create reports with pictures unsing PTReportGen. You should store the path and name of the graphics file in the database, identify the image fields in the report function, and specify the size in the report template file.

To convert from pixels to points, it is depend on the screen resolution (DPI). If you have a 96 dpi screen (Windows PC), 4 pixels are equal to 3 points.

It is very useful to create a temporary table. You can prepare data using INSERT/UPDATE/DELETE/INSERT SELECT, and then make a report using REPORT function.

You can write a program to make a PTR file using C, perl or DOS shell, and then run PTReportGen to generate report. The two steps can be written into a batch file.

Chapter 9 PTR File Reference

9.1 PTR File Format

The layout of a PTR file is as the following:

PPTReport Version 2.0

[Data Source]

.....

[File]

.....

[Parameter]

.....

[SQL]

.....

"PPTReport" is the flag of PTR file. "Version 2.0" is the version of PTR file.

A PTR file contains several sections. The sections of [Data Source], [File], and [Parameter] consist of a group of related settings. The sections and settings are listed in the PTR file in the following format:

[section name]

keyname=value

In this example, [section name] is the name of a section. The enclosing brackets ([]) are required, and the left bracket must be in the leftmost column on the screen.

The keyname=value statement defines the value of each setting. A keyname is the name of a setting. It can consist of any combination of letters and digits, and must be followed immediately by an equal sign (=). The value can be an integer, a string, or a quoted string, depending on the setting.

You can include comments in these sections. You must begin each line of a

comment with a semicolon (;).

The [SQL] section consists of functions. Each function is begin with the "@" character. Syntax:

@functionno=functionname(arguments)
sqlstatement

The functionno is the label of function.

The *functionname* represents a function.

The *arguments* define various properties for the function. An argument takes the form *Name="Value"*. The argument value can be delimited by single or double quotes.

The *sqlstatement* is a SQL statement.

You can use comments in [SQL] section. A comment is the "/*" characters, followed by any sequence of characters (including new lines), followed by the "*/" characters. You cannot nest comments.

9.2 [Data Source] Section

The [Data Source] section contains information how to connect to data sources.

Name1=<name1>
Name2=<name2>
.....
Name10=<name10>

These settings specify the names of data sources you want to connect to.

Name1 specifies the name of the first data source. Name2 specifies the name of the second data source...... You can define up to 10 data sources in one PTR file. You can make a connection to a data source using an ODBC data source name or a connection string. Even if you use a connection string to

make a connection, you should define a name that you can reference in functions.

User1=<username1>

User2=<username2>

.

User10=<username10>

These settings specify the user names. If you use an ODBC data source name to make a connection, you should define user name and password. If you use a connection string to make a connection, PTReportGen will ignore the setting. User1 specifies the user name of the first data source. User2 specifies the user name of the second data source...... They are optional settings. If defined default user and password in ODBC data source, you may not define them.

Password1=<password1>

Password2=<password2>

.

Password10=<password10>

These settings specify the user passwords. If you use an ODBC data source name to make a connection, you should define user name and password. If you use a connection string to make a connection, PTReportGen will ignore the setting. Password1 specifies the password of the first data source.

Password2 specifies the password of the second data source...... They are optional settings. If defined default user and password in ODBC data source, you may not define them.

ConnectionString1=<connectionstring1>

ConnectionString2=<connectionstring2>

.

ConnectionString10=<connectionstring10>

These settings specify the connection strings. If you defined a connection string, PTReportGen will make a connection to the data source using the connection string, and ignore the settings of the name, user and password. But you must define a name that you can reference in functions.

ConnectionString1 specifies the connection string of the first data source.

ConnectionString2 specifies the connection string of the second data source...... They are optional settings. If no connection string, PTReportGen will make a connection to data source using the ODBC data source name.

EncryptPassword = Y/N

This setting specifies how to save the passwords of data sources. If the value is Y, the passwords will be saved in an encrypted format. If the value is N, the passwords will be saved in plain text.

9.3 [FILE] Section

[FILE] section contains information about files.

ReportTemplateFileName=<templatefilename>

This setting specifies the name of report template file. <templatefilename> value is the name and path of report template file. The file path can be a relative path or an absolute path. If it is a relative path, the base path is the path of PTR file.

ReportFileName=<reportfilename>

This setting specifies the name of report file. <reportfilename> value is the name and path of report file. The file path can be a relative path or an absolute

path. If it is a relative path, the base path is the path of PTR file. In <reportfilename>, you can use parameters.

LogFileName=<logfilename>

This setting specifies the name of log file. < logfilename > value is the name and path of log file. The file path can be a relative path or an absolute path. If it is a relative path, the base path is the path of PTR file. In < logfilename >, you can use parameters.

9.4 [PARAMETER] Section

[PARAMETER] section contains information about parameters.

Name1=<name1>

Name2=<name2>

.

Name10=<name10>

These settings specify the names of parameters. Name1 specify the name of the first parameter, Name2 specifies the name of the second parameter......

You can define up to 10 parameters in one PTR file.

Title1=<title1>

Title2=<title2>

.

Title10=<title10>

These settings specify the titles of parameters. Title1 specifies the title of the first parameter. Title2 specifies the title of the second parameter......

Default1=<default1>

Default2=<default2>

.

Default10=<default10>

These settings specify the default values of parameters. Default1 specifies the default value of the first parameter. Default2 specifies the default value of the second parameter......

Chapter 10 Format Expressions

To display values in formatting string, you should write formatting expressions into a cell, shape or text box in the report template file. PTReportGen gets the text, and outputs the value using it as the format expression. In fact, PTReportGen calls the format function in Visual Basic. For more information about format, refer to Format Function in *Visual Basic for Applications Reference*.

10.1 Formats for Numeric Values

10.1.1 Different Formats for Different Numeric Values

A user-defined format expression for numbers can have from one to three sections separated by semicolons. If the Style argument of the Format function contains one of the predefined numeric formats, only one section is allowed.

If you use	The result is
One section only	The format expression applies to all values.
Two sections	The first section applies to positive values and zeros; the
	second applies to negative values.
Three sections	The first section applies to positive values, the second
	applies to negative values, and the third applies to zeros.

The following example has two sections: the first defines the format for positive values and zeros; the second section defines the format for negative values. "\$#,##0;(\$#,##0)"

If you include semicolons with nothing between them, the missing section is printed using the format of the positive value. For example, the following format displays positive and negative values using the format in the first section and

displays "Zero" if the value is zero. "\$#,##0;;\Z\e\r\o"

10.1.2 Predefined Numeric Formats

The following table identifies the predefined numeric format names. These may be used by name as the style argument:

Format name	Description
General Number, G, or g	Displays number with no thousand separator.
	Displays number with thousand separator, if appropriate;
Currency, C, or c	displays two digits to the right of the decimal separator.
	Output is based on system locale settings.
Fixed, F, or f	Displays at least one digit to the left and two digits to the
11xea, 1 , 011	right of the decimal separator.
Standard, N, or n	Displays number with thousand separator, at least one
	digit to the left and two digits to the right of the decimal
	separator.
	Displays number multiplied by 100 with a percent sign
Percent	(%) appended immediately to the right; always displays
	two digits to the right of the decimal separator.
	Displays number with thousandths separator multiplied
P, or p	by 100 with a percent sign (%) appended to the right and
γ, οι ρ	separated by a single space; always displays two digits
	to the right of the decimal separator.
Scientific	Uses standard scientific notation, providing two
	significant digits.
E, or e	Uses standard scientific notation, providing six significant

	digits.
	Displays number as a string that contains the value of
Dord	the number in Decimal (base 10) format. This option is
D, or d	supported for integral types (Byte, Short, Integer, Long)
	only.
	Displays number as a string that contains the value of
V 27 V	the number in Hexadecimal (base 16) format. This option
X, or x	is supported for integral types (Byte, Short, Integer,
	Long) only.
Yes/No	Displays No if number is 0; otherwise, displays Yes.
True/False	Displays False if number is 0; otherwise, displays True.
On/Off	Displays Off if number is 0; otherwise, displays On.

10.1.3 User-Defined Numeric Formats

The following table identifies characters you can use to create user-defined number formats:

Character	Description
None	Display the number with no formatting.
(0)	Digit placeholder. Displays a digit or a zero. If the expression
	has a digit in the position where the zero appears in the
	format string, display it; otherwise, displays a zero in that
	position.
	If the number has fewer digits than there are zeros (on either
	side of the decimal) in the format expression, displays leading
	or trailing zeros. If the number has more digits to the right of
	the decimal separator than there are zeros to the right of the
	decimal separator in the format expression, rounds the

	number to as many decimal places as there are zeros. If the
	number has more digits to the left of the decimal separator
	than there are zeros to the left of the decimal separator in the
	format expression, displays the extra digits without
	modification.
(#)	Digit placeholder. Displays a digit or nothing. If the expression
	has a digit in the position where the # character appears in
	the format string, displays it; otherwise, displays nothing in
	that position.
	This symbol works like the 0 digit placeholder, except that
	leading and trailing zeros aren't displayed if the number has
	fewer digits than there are # characters on either side of the
	decimal separator in the format expression.
(.)	Decimal placeholder. The decimal placeholder determines
	how many digits are displayed to the left and right of the
	decimal separator. If the format expression contains only #
	characters to the left of this symbol; numbers smaller than 1
	begin with a decimal separator. To display a leading zero
	displayed with fractional numbers, use zero as the first digit
	placeholder to the left of the decimal separator. In some
	locales, a comma is used as the decimal separator. The
	actual character used as a decimal placeholder in the
	formatted output depends on the number format recognized
	by your system. Thus, you should use the period as the
	decimal placeholder in your formats even if you are in a locale
	that uses a comma as a decimal placeholder. The formatted
	string will appear in the format correct for the locale.
(%)	Percent placeholder. Multiplies the expression by 100. The

	percent character (%) is inserted in the position where it
	appears in the format string.
(,)	Thousand separator. The thousand separator separates
	thousands from hundreds within a number that has four or
	more places to the left of the decimal separator. Standard use
	of the thousand separator is specified if the format contains a
	thousand separator surrounded by digit placeholders (0 or #).
	A thousand separator immediately to the left of the decimal
	separator (whether or not a decimal is specified) or as the
	rightmost character in the string means "scale the number by
	dividing it by 1,000, rounding as needed." Numbers smaller
	than 1,000 but greater or equal to 500 are displayed as 1, and
	numbers smaller than 500 are displayed as 0. Two adjacent
	thousand separators in this position scale by a factor of 1
	million, and an additional factor of 1,000 for each additional
	separator.
	Multiple separators in any position other than immediately to
	the left of the decimal separator or the rightmost position in
	the string are treated simply as specifying the use of a
	thousand separator. In some locales, a period is used as a
	thousand separator. The actual character used as the
	thousand separator in the formatted output depends on the
	Number Format recognized by your system. Thus, you should
	use the comma as the thousand separator in your formats
	even if you are in a locale that uses a period as a thousand
	separator. The formatted string will appear in the format
	correct for the locale.
	For example, consider the three following format strings:

	"#,0.", which uses the thousands separator to format the
	number 100 million as the string "100,000,000". "#0,.", which
	uses scaling by a factor of one thousand to format the number
	100 million as the string "100000". "#,0,.", which uses the
	thousands separator and scaling by one thousand to format
	the number 100 million as the string "100,000".
(:)	Time separator. In some locales, other characters may be
	used to represent the time separator. The time separator
	separates hours, minutes, and seconds when time values are
	formatted. The actual character used as the time separator in
	formatted output is determined by your system settings.
(/)	Date separator. In some locales, other characters may be
	used to represent the date separator. The date separator
	separates the day, month, and year when date values are
	formatted. The actual character used as the date separator in
	formatted output is determined by your system settings.
(E- E+ e- e+)	Scientific format. If the format expression contains at least
	one digit placeholder (0 or #) to the left of E-, E+, e-, or e+, the
	number is displayed in scientific format and E or e is inserted
	between the number and its exponent. The number of digit
	placeholders to the left determines the number of digits in the
	exponent. Use E- or e- to place a minus sign next to negative
	exponents. Use E+ or e+ to place a minus sign next to
	negative exponents and a plus sign next to positive
	exponents. You must also include digit placeholders to the
	right of this symbol to get correct formatting.
-+\$()	Literal characters. These characters are displayed exactly as
	typed in the format string. To display a character other than

	one of those listed, precede it with a backslash (\) or enclose
	it in double quotation marks (" ").
(\)	Displays the next character in the format string. To display a
	character that has special meaning as a literal character,
	precede it with a backslash (\). The backslash itself isn't
	displayed. Using a backslash is the same as enclosing the
	next character in double quotation marks. To display a
	backslash, use two backslashes (\\).
	Examples of characters that can't be displayed as literal
	characters are the date-formatting and time-formatting
	characters (a, c, d, h, m, n, p, q, s, t, w, y, /, and :), the
	numeric-formatting characters (#, 0, %, E, e, comma, and
	period), and the string-formatting characters (@, &, <, >,
	and !).
("ABC")	Displays the string inside the double quotation marks (" "). To
	include a string in the style argument from within code, you
	must use Chr(34) to enclose the text (34 is the character code
	for a quotation mark (")).

10.2 Formats for Date/Time Values

10.2.1 Predefined Date/Time Formats

The following table identifies the predefined date and time format names.

These may be used by name as the style argument:

Format Name	Description
General Date, or G	Displays a date and/or time. For example, 3/12/2008

	11:07:31 AM. Date display is determined by your
	application's current culture value.
Long Date, Medium Date, or D	Displays a date according to your current culture's long
	date format. For example, Wednesday, March 12,
	2008.
Chart Data and	Displays a date using your current culture's short date
Short Date, or d	format. For example, 3/12/2008.
Long Time	Displays a time using your current culture's long time
Long Time,	format; typically includes hours, minutes, seconds. For
Medium Time, or T	example, 11:07:31 AM.
Short Time or t	Displays a time using your current culture's short time
Short Time of t	format. For example, 11:07 AM.
	Displays the long date and short time according to your
F	current culture's format. For example, Wednesday,
	March 12, 2008 11:07 AM.
	Displays the long date and long time according to your
F	current culture's format. For example, Wednesday,
	March 12, 2008 11:07:31 AM.
	Displays the short date and short time according to your
G	current culture's format. For example, 3/12/2008 11:07
	AM.
M m	Displays the month and the day of a date. For example,
M, m	March 12.
	Formats the date according to the RFC1123Pattern
	property. For example, Wed, 12 Mar 2008 11:07:31
R, r	GMT. The formatted date does not adjust the value of
	the date and time. You must adjust the Date/Time value
	to GMT before calling the Format function.

S	Formats the date and time as a sortable index. For
3	example, 2008-03-12T11:07:31.
11	Formats the date and time as a GMT sortable index.
U	For example, 2008-03-12 11:07:31Z.
	Formats the date and time with the long date and long
U	time as GMT. For example, Wednesday, March 12,
	2008 6:07:31 PM.
VV	Formats the date as the year and month. For example,
Y, y	March, 2008.

10.2.2 User-Defined Date/Time Formats

The following table shows characters you can use to create user-defined date/time formats. Unlike in earlier versions of Visual Basic, these format characters are case-sensitive.

Character	Description
(:)	Time separator. In some locales, other characters may be used
	to represent the time separator. The time separator separates
	hours, minutes, and seconds when time values are formatted.
	The actual character that is used as the time separator in
	formatted output is determined by your application's current
	culture value.
(/)	Date separator. In some locales, other characters may be used
	to represent the date separator. The date separator separates
	the day, month, and year when date values are formatted. The
	actual character that is used as the date separator in formatted
	output is determined by your application's current culture.
(%)	Used to indicate that the following character should be read as a

	single-letter format without regard to any trailing letters. Also
	used to indicate that a single-letter format is read as a
	user-defined format. See what follows for additional details.
D	Displays the day as a number without a leading zero (for
	example, 1).
Dd	Displays the day as a number with a leading zero (for example,
	01).
Ddd	Displays the day as an abbreviation (for example, Sun).
Dddd	Displays the day as a full name (for example, Sunday).
М	Displays the month as a number without a leading zero (for
	example, January is represented as 1). Use %M if this is the only
	character in your user-defined numeric format.
MM	Displays the month as a number with a leading zero (for
	example, 01/12/01).
MMM	Displays the month as an abbreviation (for example, Jan).
MMMM	Displays the month as a full month name (for example, January).
Gg	Displays the period/era string (for example, A.D.).
Н	Displays the hour as a number without leading zeros using the
	12-hour clock (for example, 1:15:15 PM).
Hh	Displays the hour as a number with leading zeros using the
	12-hour clock (for example, 01:15:15 PM).
Н	Displays the hour as a number without leading zeros using the
	24-hour clock (for example, 1:15:15).
НН	Displays the hour as a number with leading zeros using the
	24-hour clock (for example, 01:15:15).
М	Displays the minute as a number without leading zeros (for
	example, 12:1:15).

	T
Mm	Displays the minute as a number with leading zeros (for
	example, 12:01:15).
S	Displays the second as a number without leading zeros (for
	example, 12:15:5).
Ss	Displays the second as a number with leading zeros (for
	example, 12:15:05).
F	Displays fractions of seconds. For example ff displays
	hundredths of seconds, whereas ffff displays ten-thousandths of
	seconds. You may use up to seven f symbols in your
	user-defined format.
Т	Uses the 12-hour clock and displays an uppercase A for any
	hour before noon; displays an uppercase P for any hour between
	noon and 11:59 P.M.
Tt	For locales that use a 12-hour clock, displays an uppercase AM
	with any hour before noon; displays an uppercase PM with any
	hour between noon and 11:59 P.M.
	For locales that use a 24-hour clock, displays nothing.
Υ	Displays the year number (0-9) without leading zeros.
Yy	Displays the year in two-digit numeric format with a leading zero,
	if applicable.
Yyy	Displays the year in four-digit numeric format.
Yyyy	Displays the year in four-digit numeric format.
Z	Displays the timezone offset without a leading zero (for example,
	-8).
Zz	Displays the timezone offset with a leading zero (for example,
	-08).
Zzz	Displays the full timezone offset (for example, -08:00).
l	

Chapter 11 License and Support

11.1 License

Your Agreement to This License

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Edition

There are 2 types of editions issued for PTReportGen.

1) PTReportGen Standard Edition

User can execute no more than 50 SQL statements in one report processing.

2) PTReportGen Professional Edition

User can execute SQL statements unlimitedly in one report processing.

11.2 Technical Support

If you encounter any problems in usage of PTReportGen, and need the technical support:

■ Go to our support web site at:

http://www.ljzsoft.com/support.htm

Send email to support@ljzsoft.com