Announcing: The Wizard from Oz

Software Development Made Simple (Again)

Since the release of what we affectionately call WAMs (Web Application Modules) for developing sophisticated browser-based applications, we have been only too well aware that, although WAMs might make the process easier, Web application development of real business applications is still no simple task.

Whilst those customers who have embraced the Visual LANSA Framework (VLF) for this task have been helped by VLF itself and its Code Assistants, those customers who have decided not to use VLF, have long been in need of more tools to assist them, if we were to continue to preach "LANSA, Advanced Software Made Simple".

CRUD for Web Application Wizard

In June 2009, we released a new Wizard, called CRUD for Web, that will generate a secure transactional Web application over your DB2 database in minutes, rather than days.

The **C**reate **R**ead **U**pdate **D**elete (CRUD) data life cycle is at the heart of most dynamic Web applications.

CRUD for Web is a Visual LANSA template that uses a Wizard-style interface to lead the developer through a Q&A session. It then applies the input answers (or shipped defaults) to automatically generate a WAM for Searching, Creating, Reading, Updating and Deleting records from the chosen database.

The generated WAM is easily modified and enhanced using the Visual LANSA IDE (Integrated Development Environment). The Wizard also generates a rich browser user interface that can be customized with a WYSIWYG editor.

How Does CRUD for Web Work?

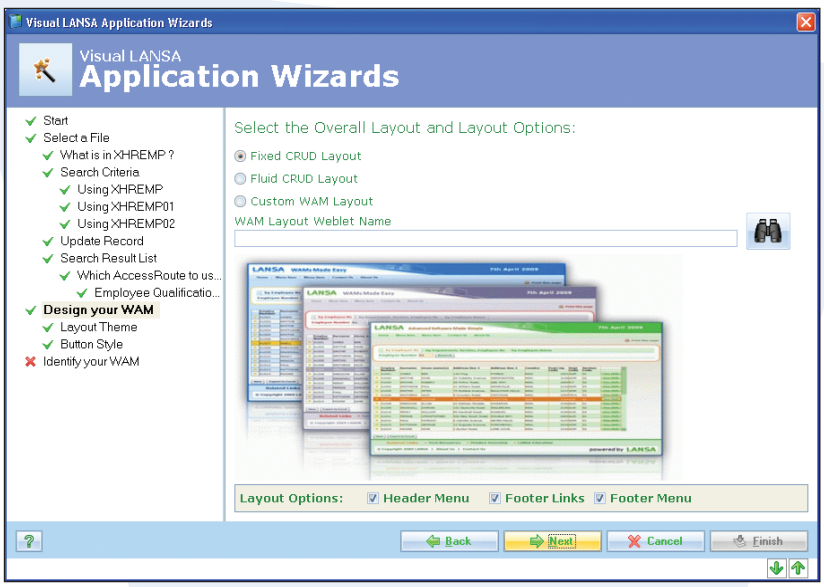
CRUD for Web consists of two parts:

- **CRUD Wizard** – Q&A session that guides the developer in determining what files to use, the navigation through multiple files and the user interface look-and-feel requirements.
- **Program Generator** – Automatically produces all of the RDML required for the WAM application logic and all of the XML, XSL and HTML required for the user interface.

Steps to Create a Web Application

It couldn't be simpler:

- Define the file in LANSA or make an existing file known to LANSA, if not already done.
- Add Virtual (formula) fields, Repository Rules and Relationships, if not already done.
- Run the Wizard – selecting the file(s) to use.
- Generate the Application.



The CRUD Wizard Q&A session guides the developer in determining what files to use, the navigation through multiple files and the interface look-and-feel requirements.

CRUD for Web Wizard Features

The Wizard allows you to specify various ways that the selected file can be searched and will create one Search Tabsheet for each search method. The default is to search by key(s) on the physical file and on each of the logical files.

The Wizard also allows you to generate a Drill Down from any Search Result list, provided you defined Access Routes for the primary file you select. (An Access Route describes the link between two files).

If you select the Drill Down option, the generated application will include a button for each row (record) displayed in the Search Result. Clicking the button will kick-off another WAM application linking to the file nominated by the Access Route and display the records with matching keys. The Drill Down function takes the place of the Search capability in the application to which you drill down.

In designing your WAM, the Wizard lets you choose an Overall Layout format and within that format it gives you a choice of color schemes, button styles and other layout options.

Benefits of Using CRUD for Web

As well as significantly decreasing the time it takes to develop CRUD–style WAMs, CRUD for Web will promote consistency of coding, as developers use the generated best-practice WAM source code as the base for their Web application.

Quick win after purchase of LANSA

- First genuine LANSA Web-based application can be delivered to end users within a few days.

Best Practice Guide

- Developers can cut-and-paste from generated source code for use in future programs.

A new Training Channel for WAMs

- The WAM source code is well documented and demonstrates best practice for new LANSA developers.