Progress® OpenEdge®

Advanced Business Language (ABL)

WHITEPAPER

Highlights

- **Includes a full-featured tool set, with an editor, compiler, debugger, data dictionary and data administration utilities**

- **Provides an ideal solution for software vendors who want to allow their end users to customize or maintain an application on-site**

- **Supports Windows, UNIX and Linux platforms**

At the core of Progress® OpenEdge® application development is the Advanced Business Language (ABL), a language specifically purposed to express business processes as efficiently as possible. Understanding that today's application developers work with complex sets of technologies, Progress has evolved the ABL to include interfaces to key industry standards, such as XML, REST and web services. For jobs that require manipulating specialized code, the ABL includes powerful and adaptive syntax. Developers have the option of creating one code set and deploying it on Microsoft Windows, UNIX and Linux platforms.

An OpenEdge developer can create APIs for .NET, JavaScript, Java clients, Java messaging and even map database schema to XML formats without leaving Progress's efficiency behind. Our ABL and OpenEdge tools:

- Simplify development and make changes easier with a procedure editor for easy cut, paste, search and replace operations.

- Reduce development time and increase consistency with a central data dictionary.

- Include a debugger to locate and fix errors in logic and data in order to deliver quality applications.

- Allow maintenance of critical business data and permit data interchange with non-OpenEdge data sources using the database administration tools.

Essential Tools for Developing Applications

The ABL derives its power from the ability to concisely express business processes. These business operations or entities typically have a significant data processing component. The ABL and the OpenEdge development tools reflect this interdependency. OpenEdge includes programming tools, database tools and server resources in one environment allowing you to have easy access to all the resources that make up your application.

Procedure Editor

- Build, modify and test all OpenEdge application components.
- Use a full range of editing features, including file drag-and-drop, cut-and-paste and search-and-replace features, allowing you to make swift, large-scale changes to several different programs.
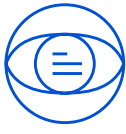- Create hooks to interface with third-party tools.

Application Compiler

- Compile source procedures individually or in groups.
- Specify file overwriting rules.
- View and modify the list of directories on your PROPATH.
- Create one set of executable code that runs on all supported platforms.

Debugger

- Validate applications quickly and thoroughly.
- Locate and correct errors in application logic or data handling in any OpenEdge application component.
- Track the flow of control in an application, even a highly distributed one.
- Examine the contents of buffers and variables.
- Access state information.
- Trace processing events.

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Open Client Toolkit

- Generate Java, .NET and web services proxies for accessing ABL business logic on the Progress OpenEdge AppServer from J2EE, .NET and other platforms.
- Create components for deployment in a client/server, n-tier or web environment.

Data Dictionary

- Create and maintain database definitions, application defaults and business rules.

- Employs a central storage mechanism for all database information to insulate you from the specific details of each database type and location.

- Automatically uses data dictionary defaults with the ABL when you build new application components.

- Make a single change to a definition stored in the data dictionary and have that change automatically inherited by every application component that refers to the original definition.

Data Administration

- Build an application database.
- Dump and load data and definitions, in binary or text format.
- Exchange definition information from non-OpenEdge data sources for use with OpenEdge DataServers for Microsoft SQL Server, ODBC and Oracle.
- Define application security and permissions.
- Import and export data to and from a variety of sources.
- Maintain and tailor deployed databases.

OpenEdge Development Server

Run and validate code for distributed applications on development-scaled AppServer, Progress® OpenEdge® WebSpeed® Transaction Server, OpenEdge RDBMS and Client-Networking.

About Progress OpenEdge

Progress® OpenEdge® is the leading platform for simplifying and streamlining the development, integration and management of global business applications for fast time-to-market. With OpenEdge, you can develop dynamic solutions that incorporate business process and integration capabilities securely across multiple platforms and devices. Whether you deploy on-premises, on a mobile device, or in the cloud, OpenEdge applications offer a single integrated platform that is 40% more productive and provides 30% cost savings compared to the competition. Over 47,000 businesses in more than 175 countries run on the OpenEdge platform.

→ **For more information, please visit**
www.progress.com/openedge/features/abl

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