

Closing the Gap with a Bank Reconciliation Interface

By Paul Hanson

EI *Editor's Note: In prior issues of JDEtips, Paul Hanson has written about the Positive Pay Interface and A/P Wire Transfer Interface. This gets the bills paid in the first place. Now, he wraps up this thread by showing us how to bring the data back in from the bank for an automated check reconciliation. It doesn't take that much tweaking once you get straight with the bank and get the ball rolling. You can use the JDEtips Document Library Search Engine to locate "Developing a Positive Pay Interface" and "A Technical Approach to Implementing A/P Wire Transfers".*

Introduction

Many of us today use financial software to help us track our spending habits, to make paying our bills less time consuming, and to make reconciling with the bank easier. Kudos if you are already using the bank reconciliation functionality offered by EnterpriseOne. As long as you are using bank reconciliation, why not take the next step of developing an interface that will insert the cleared checks into the system rather than keying them manually? It won't take much time to develop, but will save big time when you use it.

Business Case

EnterpriseOne already provides the ability to enter cleared checks manually. It also provides the ability to match a bank file to the checks you have written. However, the piece that is missing is the ability to automatically populate the bank file. Again, with a little development work, you can receive the cleared check data from your bank and automatically load it into EnterpriseOne to make your check reconciliation process easier than ever.

The Solution

The following solution will demonstrate how easy it is to develop a bank reconciliation interface to aid you in your monthly reconciliation activities. While there is no standard layout for the cleared checks file, a lot of banks use a layout similar to the one outlined in this solution.

Start by contacting your bank and asking them for a monthly text file that contains all of your cleared checks for the previous month. Ask them to provide you with a file layout. If the file layout they provide you with differs from that shown in

this solution, you will need to make some minor adjustments to the input file definition and to the field mapping.

Become familiar with the F09505 – WF – Bank File of Cleared Checks. This table is commonly referred to as the bank file. During the Match Tape File to Recon File process, the contents of this table are compared to the checks you have written during the month. It includes the account ID, check number, an explanation of the transaction, the check amount, and the check clear date. (See figures 1 and 2).

PeopleSoft Table Design Aid				
WF - Bank File of Cleared Checks. - F09505				
Description	Type	Len	Alias	Data Item
* 1. Account ID	String	8	AID	AccountID
* 2. Payment Number	String	8	CN	CheckNumber
3. Name - Alpha Explanation	String	30	EXA	NameAlphaExplanation
4. Amount	Number	15,15[2]	AA	AmountField
5. Date - Check Cleared	Date	6	DKC	DateCheckCleared

Table Column Prefix: GN

WF - Bank File of Cleared Checks. Indices	
Account ID, Check Number (Primary, Unique)	
Account ID	AccountID
Payment Number	CheckNumber

Figure 1 – F09505 Table Layout

GNAID	GNCN	GNEXA	GNAA	GNDKC
03019170	00131646		89.64	11/16/2004
03019170	00131760		467.99	11/16/2004
03019170	00131751		215.00	11/16/2004
03019170	00131743		215.00	11/16/2004
03019170	00131742		225.45	11/16/2004
03019170	00131739		253.76	11/16/2004
03019170	00131732		278.62	11/16/2004
03019170	00131727		117.37	11/16/2004
03019170	00131726		212.00	11/16/2004
03019170	00131723		20.09	11/16/2004
03019170	00131719		222.07	11/16/2004
03019170	00131630		4000.00	11/17/2004
03019170	00131648		60.12	11/16/2004
03019170	00131767		215.00	11/16/2004
03019170	00131644		6.50	11/16/2004

Figure 2 – F09505 Sample Data

The text file you receive from your bank should look similar to the layout and sample shown in Figures 3 and 4. If it does not, you will have to make the necessary adjustments to this solution in order to accommodate your bank's file.

The following steps will show you the tasks required to develop a table conversion UBE that will read the text file and insert the records into the F09505 table. This solution uses a naming convention of *5509505 in most of the objects. If your standards differ from this naming convention, you will need to make minor adjustments to accommodate your standard.

The first thing you should do in your development cycle is to add a table conversion UBE object using standard OMW functionality. Specify the input file as "c:\JDEbankrecon.txt" or some other generic file name. This file will be used as a temporary staging area for the real data. See Figure 5.

Select the User Defined Format check box and click the Define Format(s) button. This will direct you through the rest of the input format definition process.

This example shows a fixed field length file. Some banks will supply a comma separated variable or CSV file. If this is the case, you will select delimited rather than fixed width. The prompts that follow will differ from those shown here.

Select the Delimited and Single Format radio buttons. Then, click the Next button. See Figure 6.

Data Item	Length	Beginning Position	Ending Position
Bank Account ID	8	1	8
Check Number	8	9	16
Explanation	30	17	47
Check Amount	13	48	61
Date Cleared	6	62	67

Figure 3 – Bank Text File Layout

10	20	30	40	50	60	70
.2.4.6.8.	.2.4.6.8.	.2.4.6.8.	.2.4.6.8.	.2.4.6.8.	.2.4.6.8.	.2.4.6.8.
0301917000131646					-89.64111604	
0301917000131760					-467.99111604	
0301917000131751					-215.00111604	
0301917000131743					-215.00111604	
0301917000131742					-225.45111604	
0301917000131739					-253.76111604	
0301917000131732					-278.62111604	
0301917000131727					-117.37111604	
0301917000131726					-212.00111604	
0301917000131723					-20.09111604	

Figure 4 – Bank Text File Sample Data

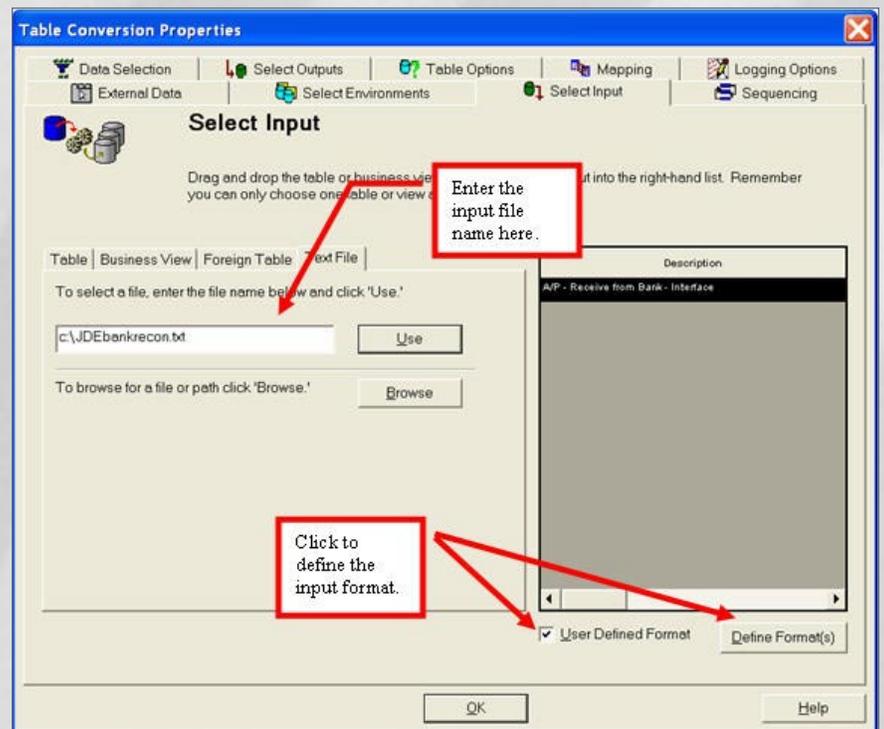


Figure 5 – Selecting the input file

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