

RECFIND 6



How is RecFind 6 different from previous versions of RecFind?

A whole new way to manage documents and records

RecFind, the product, has been around since June 1986. The first version ran on the CTOS/BTOS operating systems (Convergent Technologies) and was written in COBOL using ISAM as its database engine.

Multiple redesigns and rewrites followed (e.g. Unix, DOS networks, AS/400, Windows, etc.), up until version 5.0, which was designed and built using Microsoft Visual Development Studio 6. RecFind 6 is the next and latest (#7) redesign and rewrite of this august and iconic product.

The technology is brand new and the look and feel is familiar (but not the same) and is also a significant advance over the look and feel of RecFind 5.

Technology

RecFind 6 is based on the very latest Microsoft .NET 3.5 "smart client" paradigm. We think we are the first in the world to release a product based on this advanced technology.

Without going into boring detail, the real advantage of this smart client technology is that it bridges the gap between what we used to call "fat client" and "thin client" architectures.

In a nutshell, smart client technology has allowed us to build a single, rich Windows client that can be deployed either as a thick client communicating via ADO (Active Data Objects) over your LAN and WAN, or as a thin client communicating via web services over your Internet/Intranet/Extranet. That is, the one product is used for both fat and thin client deployments.

User Interface

The most obvious difference between RecFind 5 and RecFind 6 is that RecFind 5 has four toolbars and RecFind 6 has one. This is a representative ratio, as RecFind 6 has approximately one quarter of the screens of RecFind 5, making it a significantly easier product to navigate and use. This ease-of-use advantage continues throughout all functions of RecFind 6; every feature is easier to use, including searching and retention.

Functionality

It goes without saying that RecFind 6 has a super-set of the functionality of RecFind 5.

This is true of every module and every feature. This superiority extends to things like a "Google-like" search, the ability to sort and filter search results, the ability to save searches and reports, and the world's most powerful Boolean search.

RecFind 6 also borrows from its big brother, Knowledgeone (K1), and adds the ability to modify the data model, and to add or modify any business processes (through the Data Registration Module). It also inherits the Xchange engine from K1, allowing you to import and export any data, either manually or automatically.

RecFind 6 also has a new and powerful reporting engine based on Active Reports, as well as a set of standard reports that you are able to extend and modify.

Significant Differences

- RecFind 5 managed different "types" of objects in different databases. RecFind 6 manages different types of objects in a single database.
- RecFind 5 required manual intervention in the full text indexing process. RecFind 6 fully automates the full text indexing process as a system service.
- RecFind 5 had a limited set of fields you could search on. With RecFind 6, you can search on any field in any table.
- With RecFind 5, the thin client (RecQuery-TC) had a subset of the functionality of the fat client and a totally different user interface. With RecFind 6, the fat and thin clients are identical.
- With RecFind 5, you only had limited ways (Extended Metadata) to extend and change the data model. With RecFind 6 you have complete control over the data model.
- With RecFind 5, the in-built report writer was easy to use but limited in scope. With RecFind 6, the in-built report writer is still easy to use, but it is infinitely more powerful.
- With RecFind 5, all business processes were fixed and you were not able to change them or add new business processes. With RecFind 6, you can modify any "standard" business process and add new business processes as required.
- The RecFind 6 data model is completely new and has been designed to be both objectoriented and one-hundred-percent relational, for optimal performance and data integrity.
- RecFind 5 was not multilingual. RecFind 6 is multilingual and is able to support multiple languages concurrently.
- The portable barcode reader programs in RecFind 6 are a super-set of those in RecFind 5 and will allow you to automate many more processes using the new Datalogic Memor portable barcode reader.

Conversion/Upgrade

RecFind 6 comes with a conversion program that will convert all your RecFind 5 processes and data model to RecFind 6 formats. Note that this conversion will not overwrite your "old" RecFind 5 database; instead, it creates a brand new RecFind 6 database. This means that after the conversion you can run both products side by side and compare both data and processes until you are entirely satisfied that the conversion has completed successfully.

RecFind 6 isn't just an upgrade of RecFind 5, it is a major advance. It is a whole new genre of product using the very latest Microsoft .NET technology to provide a product that is both more powerful and easier to use.