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DYNAMIC DATABASE TABS

A new function accessed via the "Tab Editor" creation wizard is used create and manage dynamic tabs which can be seen in the Browser and the Radio-Assist index cards.

Tab Editor and Radio-Assist 7 use new tables to manage dynamic tabs: T_TAB, T_COMPONENT and the tables called T_C00001, T_C00002, (the latter are created automatically).

- Features:

The Tab Editor wizard helps to create, modify or delete a tab.
Creation of tabs and sub-tabs can now be entirely managed by the administrator and there is no limit to their number.
Each user category now has tabs designed for its specific needs.
For instance, for a sports department, tabs can be created for each separate sport along with as many sub-tabs as necessary: interviews, reports, programme dressing, etc.

When a new tab is created, it must be allocated a type of matter (sound, text, image, video, etc.) and a sub-type.
The sub-type can refer to an existing standard tab or be an entirely new one.
For instance, for a "Sound" file, the sub-type will be "News, Music, Jingles, etc" or else "Sport, Films, Politics, Consumer affairs, etc".

Tab "components" can be defined, modified or deleted.
A tab "component" can be:

- a column in the Browser
- a search criterion
- an index entry

The last two cases require graphic "objects" to be linked to each tab for selecting criteria and index entries when running an item search.

E.g.:

A keyboard entry field ⇒ *EDIT BOX, EDIT MULTINE*
A selection field ("dropdown menu" type) ⇒ *COMBO BOX*

A "Calendar" type object (for a "date" criterion) ⇒ Actually
A "Time" type object (for selecting the time) ⇒ specific types of
A "Number" type object (for selecting an item number) ⇒ *EDIT BOX*

These components are linked to a column in the T-ITEM table in the database.

The components can be arranged by drag & drop.
When the tab is displayed they will be in this order.

- Example of new tab creation:

A new tab called "Sport News" is created:

First of all, we define the type of file linked to the tab:

- "Sound" file type

Identified in the TYPE_ITEM column of the T_ITEM table.

- The sub-type in this case is a new one: "Sport News".

Identified in the TYPE1_ITEM column of the T_ITEM table.

Next we define the "components" of "Sport News", e.g.:

- A Browser column called "Last modification".

Linked to the DATE_END_ITEM column of the T_ITEM table.

- Another Browser column called "Length".

Linked to the ITEM_DURATION column of the T_ITEM table.

- A third column called "Title".

This is linked to STRING_1 in the T_ITEM table and displays the item title.

This column is also declared as an "index entry" in the form of an *EDIT BOX*.

- A fourth column called "Author".

This is linked to STRING_2 in the T_ITEM table and displays the name of the reporter.

This column is also declared as a "search criterion" in the form of an *EDIT BOX*.

- Finally, an "index entry" called "Discipline".

This is linked to STRING_3 in the T_ITEM table and is used to specify the sports discipline in the index cards when an item is, modified or copied.

In the Radio-Assist Browser there will then be a new "Sport News" tab with four columns:

- "Last modification", "Length", "Title" and "Author".

It also has a "search criterion":

- "Author".

This criterion is displayed in the form of an *edit box*.

The "Sport News" tab appears in the index cards with the "discipline" and "title" fields.

The indexing function can of course be applied to the other components in the tab.

- Specific features:

New tab icons:

Each new tab created needs its own icon. Tab Editor takes *.ICO* and *.BMP* files.

Definition of filters for search criteria:

Each search criterion requires a filter.

For graphic objects of “date”, “time or length” and “number” type:

' <= '	greater than or equal to
' >= '	less than or equal to
' = '	exactly equal to

For objects of “edit box” or “combo box” type:

' = '	Exactly equal to
' LIKE '	Similar to

These filters determine the way search criteria will work.
For instance, if the ' = ' filter is applied for a search, the user must enter a character string exactly identical to the one in the database to access a file.
If the ' LIKE ' filter is applied, the system will search for words without regard for upper or lower case, spelling or even whether they are entered in full.

“Virtual” tabs:

A dynamic tab can be declared as virtual. The items shown in it are actually ‘aliases’ of existing items in a ‘standard’ tab.
A virtual tab does not appear in the index cards.
Virtual tabs differ from other tabs by the sole fact that they are read-only. Items in a virtual tab cannot be saved, copied or modified.

Example 1: A virtual tab can be created on the basis of a standard ‘Music’ tab but only contain items of ‘Jazz’ type. The ‘Jazz’ type items appear both in the standard ‘Music’ tab and the virtual ‘Jazz’ tab.

Example 2: A virtual tab can be created on the basis of a standard ‘News’ tab and contain all items EXCEPT ‘Economy’ type ones. ‘Economy’ type items always appear, as do all other types, in the standard ‘News’ tab.

User rights management:

There are two types of right for dynamic tabs:

A right applied to tabs:

Visible - Display

Only groups with this right may access the tab.

Rights applied to tab “index entry” components:

Mandatory field – Must Use

The user must make the index entry in order to save an item.

Insertion in a list – Can Modify

The user can insert a new value in a “Dropdown menu” component in the index card.

SCHEDULING AND BROADCAST TOOLS

Scheduling and broadcast are the closely linked mainstays of radio work and require a number of players. For this new version the NETIA team of engineers has designed some really smart tools to allow everyone access to scheduling in complete safety.

The scheduling program Feder-All is now integrated into Radio-Assist production stations in the form of tabs:

- Template edition
- Template generation
- Template loading

These tabs are designed to make it easier to prepare the perfect broadcast. Playlists are updated simultaneously on all broadcast monitoring workstations.

- Template edition tab

This tab is used to define the structure of programme schedules.

The programme schedule is modelled at different levels and in several steps:

- Creation of programme step models
- Creation of timeslots
- Allocation of models to timeslots

Once created, models are saved in the database and can be viewed in the “Models” tab of the Radio-Assist Browser.

Programme steps are allocated to timeslots by dragging & dropping them from the Browser to the required location.

This tab can also be used to edit all the templates required for several broadcasting studios (multi-radio).

- Template generation tab

This tab is used to generate a playlist automatically day by day, either from a timeslot predefined by the template editor, or else “freely” by defining the dates and times when the playlist is to start and end (for a particular event).

A “freely” generated playlist will be empty. It is filled by dragging and dropping models or sounds from the Radio-Assist Browser.

Once created, the playlists are saved in the database. They can be viewed in the “Playlist” tab of the Radio-Assist Browser and edited in the template loading tab.

When the playlist structure is ready, its empty spaces can be filled.

Stacks of sound items can also be generated to, for instance, dress a particular programme.

- Template loading tab

The functions in this tab are the last stage before broadcast.

It is a direct link between the production and scheduling stations.
This is where “ready-to-broadcast” sounds are inserted into the playlist.

Sounds or models predefined in the template editor are inserted by dragging and dropping them from the Radio-Assist Browser.

This tool is especially popular with journalists who can drop their sounds directly into the space provided in the playlist (e.g. a report in a news bulletin).

Information on programme steps and screens (groups of programme steps making up an entire programme) are displayed in a specific on-screen zone.

The inserted sounds can be played using a sound reader without having to go back to the Browser.

This stage is also when the item broadcast sequence is defined using a pre-play and positioning module. This new function is used to set the lead-in from one playlist item to the next.

A playlist can always be modified by deleting, inserting or replacing programme steps.

- Other functions are also available with this new tab:

- *Scheduling for one or more simultaneous broadcasts.*
- *Automatic or manual broadcast scheduling.*

- Current developments:

- *Several tiers of metadata: Audio, Text, RDS, SMS, HTML, DAB*
- *GPI trigger point scheduling*

The flexibility of these tools is particularly useful for preparing automatic overnight broadcasts.

Real-time notification informs all those working on the same playlist of any new changes. For the user, the changes are transparent.

This system of shared scheduling saves a considerable amount of time for journalists and schedulers who just have to drop their production into the day's playlist.

Once the playlist has been filled, all that remains is to validate it for broadcast.

- User rights definition

Rights of access and modification are defined per group of user (administrators, technicians, journalists):

- Playlist item play
- Playlist modification
- Insertion and/or modification of programmes steps per type of item

- Air-DDO broadcasting program

Air-DDO, the Radio-Assist broadcasting program, has a number of interrelated modules to meet radio broadcasting requirements.

Air-DDO in manual mode
The new "Positioning" function is used to modify an item's characteristics for a while for broadcasting it in cartstack mode.

This broadcaster makes it very easy to manipulate and monitor the items to be broadcast.
Technicians have simultaneous access to all the resources prepared for broadcast.

The Radio-Assist Browser integrated into Air-DDO gives access to all items in the database, with the option of viewing only items which are ready to broadcast.

Cartstacks can be filled on the spot or saved and stored on the server.

Items for urgent broadcast can be viewed immediately in a dedicated window.

For each type of programme, its on-air dressing can be arranged in “stacks”.

Air-DDO is easy to set and provides four on-air outputs and one PFL playback simultaneously.

In assisted manual mode, the playlist is developed in real time. The user selects the broadcast steps required on one or more channels. Studio interfaces and dedicated consoles ensure for Air-DDO unmatched operating qualities.

Air-DDO in automatic mode
Air-DDO in automatic mode is used particularly for overnight music programmes.
The broadcast follows all the “fade” and “mix” points set in production.
The technician has access to the background functions of monitoring and recording (Recorder and Snoop). Broadcast quality is decidedly improved by the integrated Voice-over function. A wide range of on-air strategies ensure non-stop quality broadcasting, even when there is a scheduling error.

Air-DDO in cartstack mode
For simple scheduling, Air-DDO has a “cartstack” version which is highly flexible and easy to prepare and use.

Air-DDO is complete with many guarantees of reliability: automatic fillers, blank detection, access to a default playlist, alarms, station duplication. These processes come in addition to the Radio-Assist 7 security function (server and database duplication).
