



## ShowMe Version 5 - Product Overview

### Overview

ShowMe is an iSeries data interrogation, business intelligence and application development product enabling real time data to be displayed on the desktop or viewed and updated via a web browser program. Sophisticated enquiry and report information may be viewed either on the Intranet or Internet or by using 5250 Display Emulation (green on black).

The Business Intelligence module allows multi dimensional data cubes to be built on the iSeries with 'slice and dice' capabilities. All the necessary enquiries are automatically generated to facilitate the interrogation of the data.

File updates (Inserts, updates and deletions) can be specified from either flat panels or data grids.

Enquiries and update definitions, whether individually created or generated from a BI cube, may be linked together to form a sophisticated application.

Enquiries may be linked into existing green screen applications without any modifications.

Any definition is available in report form with additional features provided for report output.

Additional options such as download to Excel and automatic links with email are also available.

### Benefits

- **Real-time** - Accesses up to the minute information as it is processed on the iSeries.
- **Accessibility** - Data may be viewed by, delivered to, or updated by any authorized internal and external user anywhere in the world.
- **Advanced data filtering** – Data may be filtered by user profile. This allows one definition to be set up for many users with each user only being able to access their data.
- **Speed** - Sophisticated applications may be developed in a matter of hours.



- **Ease of Use** - Enables the processing of existing or new data to be an easily configurable and manageable task. Users are able to run and view definitions in a simple straightforward manner.
- **Improved Visibility** - Reduce the number of screens processed by displaying only the relevant data in the required sequence.
- **Complex Data Retrieval** - Extract and display information that is not readily available for enquiry. For instance, data stored within a database that is not easily retrieved or requires manipulation prior to display.
- **Reduced Costs** - Licensing costs for existing legacy or PC applications are often priced per seat or per user irrespective of the functionality the user utilises. ShowMe enquiries are available to an unlimited number of users at no extra cost. Training costs are reduced as the user familiarization process is achieved more quickly.
- **Increased Productivity** - Programming skills are often limited and in high demand. Because ShowMe requires no such skills this resource can be made available to work on more complex applications.
- **Improved Performance** - Reduce the number of queries running on your iSeries as these can be easily developed as ShowMe enquiries.

## Main Features

### **Designing Applications**

Individual definitions are created and may be linked together to provide a suite of drill down or sideways options.

Alternatively a set of enquiries may be automatically generated utilizing the Business Intelligence (BI) module's functionality.

### **Definition Layout**

The definition format is configurable giving complete flexibility as to how an application panel is displayed whether web based or green on black.

A number of templates are available that may be customised to match existing ERP formats or web pages.

### **Web Layout Design**

This is completely flexible. ShowMe includes a sophisticated, drag and drop, web page designer. Hyperlinks to existing web pages can be included and the user can stipulate whether drill-down options are text, image, buttons or data field selection.

## **Additional Web Features**

The data displayed may be downloaded to an excel spreadsheet and emailed if required.

## **Data Manipulation**

Fast access to, and updating of, the iSeries data is one of the main strengths of the product.

The definitions are populated with data directly from the iSeries database or from the ShowMe BI cube. The data in the BI cube can be set up to be real time; as data is updated in the transactional files in the ERP system the changes are immediately filtered into the cube.

## **Data Manipulation**

Data manipulation functions available include:

Calculated values

Conditionally calculated values

Sorting - This is either predefined or selected at runtime

Data display attributes both fixed and conditional

Date formatting

## **Data Selection**

Data Selection is one of the most powerful features of ShowMe

### **Runtime parameters**

These are either prompted for or passed as parameters to a linked drill down enquiry.

### **Data Filters**

These are an additional method of selecting the data to be viewed. They are designed to minimise the number of enquiries required and give considerable control over the data displayed.

Data filters are created independently of an enquiry and have three different levels: administrator, permanent and session. For example, customers may wish to view their order status. This can be achieved with just one ShowMe enquiry and appropriate customer data filters. The information displayed will only be applicable to that particular customer.

### **Fixed Record Selection**

These may be defined within an enquiry and are always applied when the data is viewed. For example selecting a specific company's records.

## **Security**

Data may only be accessed after a valid user name and password has been entered.

The authority to run definitions may be controlled by creating and modifying user and user group permissions.

Field level authorization is also available by user or user groups. If a user is not allowed to view a particular field then that information will not be visible. Administrative filters allow the data displayed to be restricted as appropriate, based on the user or user group.

## **Business Intelligence**

By utilizing the BI module a 'data cube' may be created containing any number of levels both horizontally and vertically. When creating the cube all relevant enquires are automatically created. The cube can, if required, be populated with real time data providing up-to-the minute information. The cube can be amended as and when required and can also be linked to other, individually created enquires.

## **Designing Reports**

A definition may be printed as a report - summary breaks may be included and data summarised to give total, average, minimum or maximum values. Header and footer information are also available.

## **Linking to Existing Applications**

When viewing on 5250 Display Emulation, ShowMe enquiries may be linked to existing applications without the need for any modifications.

## **How It Works**

When a definition is created, it generates a data-handling program. This program then processes the iSeries data whether the definition is run on the web or via emulation.

To run the application on the web the user points the browser to the URL of the web server running ShowMe. This then interacts with the UTI web server program on the iSeries via TCP/IP. This, in turn, calls the data-handling program on the iSeries. The UTI web server runs in batch on the iSeries.

This technical architecture has resulted in performance that is at least equivalent to, and in most cases exceeds, 5250 Display Emulation.