

Forms

1. Description

A form is an easy and direct way of accessing a table in the database. Rows in tables may be selected based on user entered search criteria or if no criteria is specified, all rows in the table are returned. These rows may be modified via an update action or entirely new rows may be inserted.

Forms may be accessed through the menu system (*arcmenu; v; I*). Also, they may be accessed directly by typing *forms*. After entering the informix-isql environment, selections on the ring menu may be made by using the right and left arrow keys on the keyboard and then once they desired action is highlighted, press the ENTER key. Simply keying ENTER two times will get into the form selection area. Select a form by using the arrow keys and again pressing the ENTER key once the desired form is highlighted. There is a form for every table in the database. After entering a form, use the arrow keys to move to the desired column in the table or form. Enter the desired text or numbers into the form, press the ESC key once, select Query on the ring menu, press ENTER and the form will be populated with rows that matched the entered criteria. The user may review these rows by selecting the Next and Previous actions on the ring menu. Some forms may have more columns than can be display on one screen, in this case selecting the Screen action on the ring menu will show these columns. Data in columns may be altered via the Update action on the ring menu. New rows may be inserted via the Insert action on the ring menu.

Forms are compiled with the current database name and when new builds occur, the database name changes which prevents the form from working. The menu system option *arcmenu; v; u* will recompile the existing forms with the new database name (as defined with the dbname apps_defaults token). Entirely new forms may be generated and compiled with the *arcmenu; v; b* option.

2. For More Information

various Informix Manuals

Flannery, Ron "INFORMIX Handbook", Prentice-Hall PTR, 2000

Leffler, Jonathan, "Using INFORMIX-SQL, Addison-Wesley, 1991