

Overview

Lotus Approach is the award-winning relational database that provides an easy way to query, report on and analyze data. Renowned for its unique combination of power and ease of use, Approach lets everyone on the business team track, manage and analyze business information, regardless of where the information is stored. Approach provides seamless connectivity to all popular database formats, including dBASE, Paradox, DB2, Lotus Notes, Oracle, and other SQL sources. Sophisticated team computing features maximize the sharing of information within the organization.

Approach 97 Edition for Windows 95 and Windows NT builds on the tradition of superior usability, yet reflects the new ways that people work today. It provides greater functionality for users of shared corporate data, and unparalleled support for IBM DB2. It also features built-in Internet/intranet capabilities that let users easily leverage their Approach applications on the Web, without needing to learn HTML. It even contains tools to help users take advantage of LotusScript and macro programming, without writing a single line of code.

By applying its trademark ease of use to the challenges that people face today, Approach 97 is truly the best database for today's connected world.

Key Features and Benefits

Database Connectivity and Support

Approach 97 provides enhanced connectivity to *all* of the information within the organization, regardless of its file format or where it is stored.

- ◆ **High performance heterogeneous data connectivity.** Leverage all your information resources by directly querying, updating and manipulating virtually any type of data, including dBASE, DB2, Lotus Notes, Oracle, SQL Server, Paradox, 1-2-3 and more.
- ◆ **DB2 Query Management Facility (QMF) support.** Preserve your investment in QMF (Query Management Facility) by automatically converting QMF queries and procedures to Approach forms and reports.
- ◆ **DB2 Binary Large Object (BLOB) support.** Build sophisticated, multimedia applications that can manipulate binary large objects such as pictures, sounds, and OLE objects stored in DB2 databases.
- ◆ **Full transactional database support.** Create DB2 transactions that can be controlled from within an Approach application.
- ◆ **SQL Assistant.** Maximize performance when working with large SQL tables by selecting only the rows and columns needed. The Assistant guides you step-by-step, and lets you modify the automatically-generated SQL results if desired.

- ◆ **Pass-through SQL.** Unlock the full power of SQL by passing any SQL statement directly to the back end database. Leverage existing routines by calling stored procedures from within Approach.
- ◆ **Dramatic SQL speed enhancements.** Approach 97 takes greater advantage of the processing power of your server to conduct queries, find duplicates, open SQL tables, optimize joins and more.
- ◆ **SQL back-end error message support.** Save time troubleshooting SQL data problems by viewing actual SQL back-end error messages.
- ◆ **Notes R4 PowerKey.** Experience fast, direct access to Notes data, without any assistance from computer support staff. Create reports, forms, worksheets, mailings and analyses that help you get much more value out of your Notes data. Combine information stored in Notes with data stored in virtually any database format. View and update data based on access privileges.

Productivity

Approach's highly-acclaimed user interface and rich feature set maximize productivity and enable users of all levels to be proficient quickly.

- ◆ **Default application creation.** Be productive with your data immediately, and without assistance from IS/IT. When you open a data file, Approach automatically creates a default, customizable form and worksheet to get you off to a quick start.
- ◆ **SmartMaster Applications.** Reduce time needed to generate complete, custom solutions by using or customizing SmartMaster Applications that include multiple database files, relational joins, and professional layouts. Apply relational power to real business problems such as contact management, order entry, employee tracking and more.
- ◆ **Action Bar.** Find the commands most frequently used right at your fingertips. Reduce time spent learning menu options and icons as Action Bar text prompts clearly present the most commonly used database controls.
- ◆ **InfoBox.** Easily modify objects with this compact palette that floats above your work, and lets you view changes as they are made. Quickly apply fonts, lines, colors, macros, label names, field order, input formatting, radio button controls, and much more. InfoBox is context-sensitive and changes according to the object selected.
- ◆ **Find Assistant.** Create and store complex queries easily with step-by-step assistance. Search using wildcards, ranges, functions, case sensitivity, and global "sounds like" criteria. Conduct specialized, pre-programmed queries such as find top/lowest value, find duplicates, and find unique values. Even locate data based on filtered lists. Name queries and save for future use.
- ◆ **PowerClick Reportwriter.** Generate professional reports with unprecedented ease and accuracy. Only Approach offers true WYSIWYG report design, that lets you see exactly how the data will appear in print as you work. Group records by partial field values, such as the first 3 characters of a text field, or the month from a date field. Generate totals, averages, counts, minimums, maximums, variance and more with simple mouse clicks. Even create cumulative summaries with ease.
- ◆ **Dynamic Crosstabs.** Enhance decision making by performing sophisticated data analyses quickly and easily. Simply drag and drop fields to define the desired crosstab. Choose to display the sum, count, average, standard deviation, minimum, maximum or variance of any cell, row or column.
- ◆ **Charting facilities.** Present data in compelling formats with a single mouse click. Choose from more than 120 different styles to produce dramatic looking charts with multiple data sets and multiple series on an axis.
- ◆ **Drill-Down to data.** Drill-down on a section of a chart, such as a pie slice, to instantly see the detailed data behind the summary. Specify how you want to display the data — whether in a form, report or worksheet.

Internet Capabilities

Approach 97 lets users take full advantage of both the Web and their Approach applications by providing new integration features that leverage the strengths of both environments.

- ◆ **Build an interactive Web site.** In conjunction with IBM's DB2WWW or Net.Data, Approach helps DB2 users literally put their business on the Web. Approach automatically generates the interactive HTML pages that let users query and report on live DB2 data using their favorite Web browser.
- ◆ **Save As . . . to the Internet/intranet.** Open and save entire Approach applications as a compact file on the Internet or intranet, providing a fast, efficient way to distribute applications to remote users.
- ◆ **Publish to the Internet/intranet.** Put your Approach forms and reports to work for you on the Web — all with a single click, and without having to learn HTML.
- ◆ **Web site database.** Quickly and easily catalog your favorite Web sites using descriptive keywords that are meaningful to you; then locate sites quickly, and visit them with a single click.
- ◆ **Internet SmartIcon palette.** Take advantage of a variety of single-click access paths to the Internet from within Approach. Instantly visit a Web site based on words or phrases highlighted in an Approach application, go straight to the Lotus Customer Support Web site, or quickly search the SmartSuite Knowledge database for answers.

Customization

Approach 97 is as powerful as it is friendly, offering a variety of options for customizing and building sophisticated business solutions.

- ◆ **Automated LotusScript and Approach macro generation.** Save time generating scripts and macros with the new script and macro recorder. Build scripts and macros visually by simply turning on the recorder and then performing the actions to be automated. Approach will automatically generate the LotusScript or macro code by recording your keystrokes and mouse clicks.
- ◆ **LotusScript programmability.** Create sophisticated, custom applications using an object-oriented BASIC-compatible scripting language. Scripts are created from within an Interactive Development Environment (IDE) that features an Object Browser, Debugger, and Program Editor for fast, accurate application development.
- ◆ **Object Linking and Embedding (OLE).** Seamlessly share data with other OLE 2.0 applications. Approach serves as either an OLE 2.0 server or container and includes full support for OLE 2.0 visual editing, as well as bubble help for OLE custom controls (OCX).

Collaboration

Approach 97 provides sophisticated, team computing features that let everyone on the team share and communicate results quickly and effectively. Users benefit not only from their own efforts, but from the efforts of others as well.

- ◆ **TeamMail.** Share the results of your work by sending or routing Approach information using any VIM-or MAPI-compliant e-mail system.
- ◆ **NotesFlow.** Develop robust workflow applications that leverage Notes development efforts from within Approach.
- ◆ **Team Security.** Protect your data by assigning passwords and controlling data access rights. Ensures integrity and confidentiality of shared data.

Estimated System Requirements

Lotus Approach 97 Edition for Windows 95 or Windows NT requires a properly configured Windows 95 machine with at least 8MB of RAM and a hard disk with at least 20MB for a minimal installation.

Pricing

Lotus Approach 97 for Windows 95 or Windows NT will be available in the United States for an estimated retail price (ERP) of \$109. Upgrades will be available for all current users of Approach or qualifying competing databases.



explore lotus on the web
www.lotus.com/smartsuite

For more information, call
1-800-343-5414
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