

Two Great Ideas for Limiting your Custom Reports

Lets assume you want to limit a report to list just those cases of reported, clinical mastitis in the past seven days. Every time you run it you have to change the date range you are looking at, but you can save that step and make it automatic.

Use a Where Clause of: MastDate >= today -7 which translates into, "The date of the Mastitis event is greater than or equal to the date seven days ago".

This must be used in conjunction with a nifty little tip for the F3 Filter Ending Date of the Report. One of the problems with the Ending Date of the Report in the F3 is that it stays fixed at whatever you set it at when you last ran the report. Let's come back to that Mastitis question. Say today's date is January 5th (my birthday), so you could set the Beginning Date to December 30th and the Ending Date to January 5th, but come back a week later and you would have to remember to re-set the dates.

Here is the solution: Blow it wide open and use the limitation in the Where Clause, which is tied to the computer's system date. For this report, you would never have to touch a date field again. Beginning Date of years ago, Ending Date of years into the future (but not further than 2034!) combined with the modified Where Clause and you will always get just the last week of information.

In this kind of example, the only time you would use the Beginning and Ending dates would be if you want a report for all the Mastitis cases for January 2000, and the report was saved as Mast0100.crp (for example).