

Basics

This chapter covers the following topics:

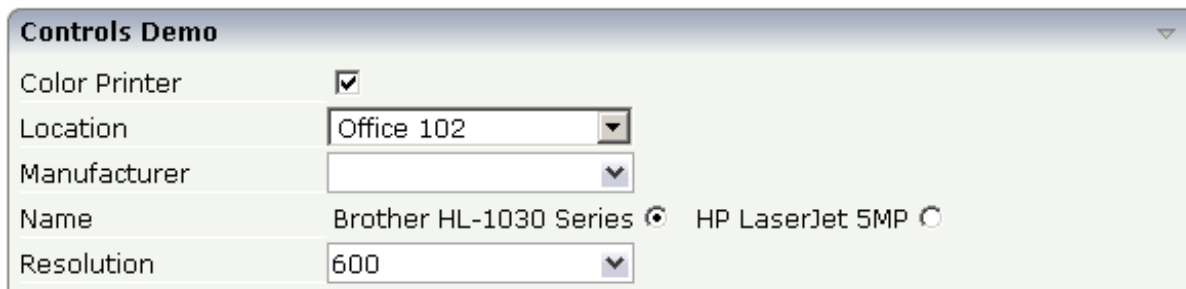
- Two Types of DB Controls
 - When to Use Which Type
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Two Types of DB Controls

Application Designer provides a simple but flexible way to develop typical reporting pages for querying the contents of a relational database. There is a set of database (DB) controls for creating queries. DB controls can be divided into two types:

- **Filter Criteria Controls (DBSELECTOPTION, DBFIELD, DBCOMBO, DBRADIOBUTTON and DBCHECKBOX)**

These are controls representing/covering a single filter criterion of a query. The controls provide for value help (except DBCHECKBOX and DBRADIOBUTTON), a check whether the user input is valid (again except DBCHECKBOX and DBRADIOBUTTON) and a conversion of the user input to a string to be added to the SQL string. The following screen shot shows (from top to bottom) a DBCHECKBOX, DBCOMBO, DBFIELD, DBRADIOBUTTON and DBSELECTOPTION control.



The screenshot shows a window titled "Controls Demo" with a light blue header and a white body. It contains five rows of controls:

Color Printer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Location	Office 102
Manufacturer	
Name	Brother HL-1030 Series <input checked="" type="radio"/> HP LaserJet 5MP <input type="radio"/>
Resolution	600

As with the "corresponding" controls (CHECKBOX, COMBODYN, FIELD, RADIOBUTTON) you have a high degree of freedom when placing the DB controls into the layout of the report.

- **DBQUERY Control**

This control represents an entire database query. It covers filter criteria, the query execution, the result area, output formats such as PDF and query variants - with a minimum of programming effort on server side. The following screenshot shows one DBQUERY control.

Report Demo

Address Report

Title

First Name

Last Name

Line 0 - 7 / 11

* Title	Last Name	First Name	Street	Cou	St
Dr	Ahlenfeld	Susanne	Westring 3	DE	No
		Susanne	Grossfelderstr. 3	DE	No
Mr	Duck	Dagobert	Grossfelderstr. 3	DE	No
		Donald	Grossfelderstr. 3	DE	No
MSS	Hahn	Ulla	Poststrasse	DE	
Mr	Max	Martin	Bahnhofstr 7	DE	
	Schumacher	Michael	Weingartenstr 42	DE	

The DBQUERY control has various properties in order to adapt the layout to your needs - but you are not as free as with the above mentioned DB controls.

When to Use Which Type

Use the filter criteria controls in the following case:

- The page layout of the report is of high importance and the DBQUERY control cannot be adapted to match your needs.

Use the DBQUERY control in the following cases:

- If you want to create a report in a very efficient way (in respect to creating the page layout as well as to the programming effort on the server side).
- If you do not want to care about report variants and PDF conversion