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Announcing the “AxErd” Website for AX 2012

We have created 29 database ERDs (entity relationship diagrams) for tables of Dynamics AX 2012 R2. The ERDs are hosted on live “MsCom”, specifically at the following Http URL:

<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/p/?linkid=296623>

…which presently redirects to…

<http://www.microsoft.com/dynamics/ax/erd/ax2012r2/>

Design Principle for ERDs

Dynamics AX has several thousand tables. It is impossible to construct one ERD that contains every table. And it is impossible to construct enough specialized ERDs that foresee every precise need of every partner developer. So the 29 ERDs were designed to capture the core tables of each appmod, and to include some major tables from other related appmods.

Minor compromises were made so that each ERD can print and fit onto one side of a standard sheet of paper.

Support Files for ERD Extension

The AxErd website also contains hundreds of inter-linked support .htm files designed to assist the partner developer who needs to extend one of our 29 provided ERDs. The partner developer can easily look up all the parent tables of a given table, by navigating:

AOT > Data Dictionary > Tables > MyTable > Relations

But it is much harder for the developer to look up all the child tables of that same given table. Cross-reference does technically provide this information, but slow laborious clicks and scrolls are required to perform the look ups. In contrast, the AxErd website performs this look up with one click.

Tables and ERDs are Categorized by Appmod

Further, the AxErd website provides an approximate / general categorization between appmods and tables. It tells the developer which tables are in a given appmod, and in the reverse direction which appmod a given table is in.

You Can Provide or Recommend More ERDs

Consultations with some internal PMs and Devs helped to settle which tables would be included together in ERDs. These collaborations were time-consuming. It became necessary to publish the AxErd website with many core ERDs unembellished with the expertise of the PMs and Devs in those appmod areas.

But more ERDs can be added easily and at any time. If you have expertise in an appmod and would like a particular set of tables to be combined into a new ERD, please send us email at alias **daxddtft**.

Traditional Documentation for Developers

For Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 and earlier versions, the Dynamics AX iX team1 has produced documentation that targets three audience groups:

* Application users
* Developers
* System administrators

The documentation content for the developer audience has emphasized the tools that developers use to customize the appmods (application modules). Such tools include the X++ language, the many AOT elements, how the AOS works, AIF services, how to set up Enterprise Portal, how to use Visual Studio for interoperation with Dynamics AX, and more.

Appmod Documentation for Developers

Partner developers must study many particulars of whichever appmod they are presently attempting to customize. For example, the developer might study the tables by studying for forms in the appmod. In the AOT, the developer might expand the Relations nodes on several tables to see what the parent tables are for each.

We have been looking for plausible opportunities to write more developer oriented documentation that is specific to a given appmod, and which would assist the developer who is customizing the appmod. The AxErd website is a significant instance of developer documentation that is appmod specific.

1 ‘iX’ stands for he “Information Experience” team. Until 2013/January our group’s name was ‘CP’ for the “Content Publishing” team.

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