BR_ENCODED STRING – Encoded String Services

Revision history

2017-02-21	Robin Lamacraft	Original draft
2018-04-13	John Lucas	Added query on string operation

SCOPE

This module must be used to operate on encoded strings. An Encoded String may conform to one of many formats. In TMG, Tag Sentences, Memos, Source Types and Name Styles all use encoded strings. HRE will in additions use other encodings like HTML, XML, CSV, Jython scripts, LaTeX, regular expressions formula, etc

Each encoding has a well defined syntax. In general, there are 3 data uses of these encoded strings:

1. To interpret the syntax and substitute values from external locations to create a string with no encoding of the original type, such as a TMG sentence template, a Location Name. In this process the external references to external values are conditionally substituted. The substituted values may be the product of another system like User Translation
2. To interpret the syntax and extract data from that string. This is more likely to be from HTML, XML and CSV strings
3. Some encoded strings are Jython scripts used to define complex filters or to control the output text-based reports.

In all cases, there needs to be a viewing/editing capability that is tuned to the syntax and operation of that encoding type.
For the user creation of encoded strings, there needs to be a method to validate the syntax of the string before it is stored.

METHODS

The unique HRE object ID incorporates the HRE type of the encoded string and hence what operations can be performed on each encoding, the syntax and substitution rules, etc. The return result of these methods will be quite varied. The broad classification of the methods is:

1. View or Edit the string
2. Syntax check the string
3. Extract specific data from the string
4. Replace variable references in the string by values to return a composite string.

Query: The text covers the situations where the encoded string already exists. Is this routine also responsible for initially creating all encoded strings, or if not, where is this done? I understand the CSVs are likely to come from external spreadsheets. I think we need more detail in this document.