# ERwin Times

SANDHILL

July 2009 | ERwin Newsletter | Focused on ERwin

**Hello Readers**

**During the past months Sandhill have been active in presenting the new functions of ERwin r7.3 to users in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, as well as the Benelux Modeling Group in Utrecht, Holland. We have also been presenting to ERwin user groups in North America in Albany, Ohio and Philadelphia.**

**We have a lot in this newsletter for you, including the latest ERwin Roadmap as well as questions our clients have asked us to address.**

**If you would like to have a question addressed in our newsletter please let us know as we always appreciate hearing from you with any feedback.**

**Stay tuned for some exciting news in the autumn for any of our clients who are looking for education and support around Dimensional Modelling.**

**I hope you have all received notification from us about the latest release of ERwin r7.3.4 Service Pack 1. If you need help obtaining this, or have any questions about the release, please let us know by contacting andrew.carter@sandhill.co.uk**

**Simon Carter**
**Sandhill Consultants**

ca Authorised Partner | Platinum Level

## ERwin Roadmap published April 2009

CA has released their latest version of the ERwin Roadmap dated for April, 2009. Clients who do not have access to support or who would like us to e-mail them a copy, should let us know.

One of the highlights in the document provides an update on supported DMBS, specifically DB2/UBD, Teradata 13, and SQL Server 2008.

There are also details of plans for a New Diagram tool for ERwin that will include style sheet, multiple model layout options, flexible zoom control, relationship management, line decoration, enhanced model navigation and display controls.

Of note is the proposed addition of the spell checker for many text fields, something that ERwin users have asked for. In addition there is a real focus on integrating further with the Crystal reporting solution in ERwin V8.0

There is also a section on product enhancements that CA are considering for future releases.

Happy reading.

## Sandhill Appoint New Regional Sales Manager for UK and Europe

Sandhill are delighted to announce that as from 1st July 2009 we have a new senior member of our ERwin sales and business development team in the UK & Europe.

David Curle has joined as our Regional Sales Manager and is bringing his considerable experience in sales, business development and account management to Sandhill to help us build on and grow our ERwin business further in the UK and the rest of Europe.

David has an excellent understanding of the European market having spent a number of years within CA where amongst many achievements he led the team which built the ERwin business across the region.

We are excited to have David join Sandhill and he will be working on all aspects of account management, sales and business development with our clients. This is a great opportunity to enable Sandhill to extend the delivery of our value focussed services and support for ERwin to our existing clients and also into many new accounts.

Sandhill recognise our clients in the UK and Europe as being the key to our ongoing success and we believe that having David as part of our team is going to help us provide an even better service to our customers. David's arrival is a clear demonstration of Sandhill's ongoing commitment to our ERwin customers in the UK & Europe.

## Sandhill Website Revamp

If you haven't already noticed, the Sandhill website (www.Sandhill.co.uk) has been revamped.

For ERwin users, a useful page to bookmark is www.Sandhill.co.uk/default.asp#erwin.

We welcome your feedback, and any comments or suggestions you have for improvements should be sent to Info@Sandhill.co.uk

## ERwin Tips and Techniques – Loading Table Definitions from Excel

Simple often is best…

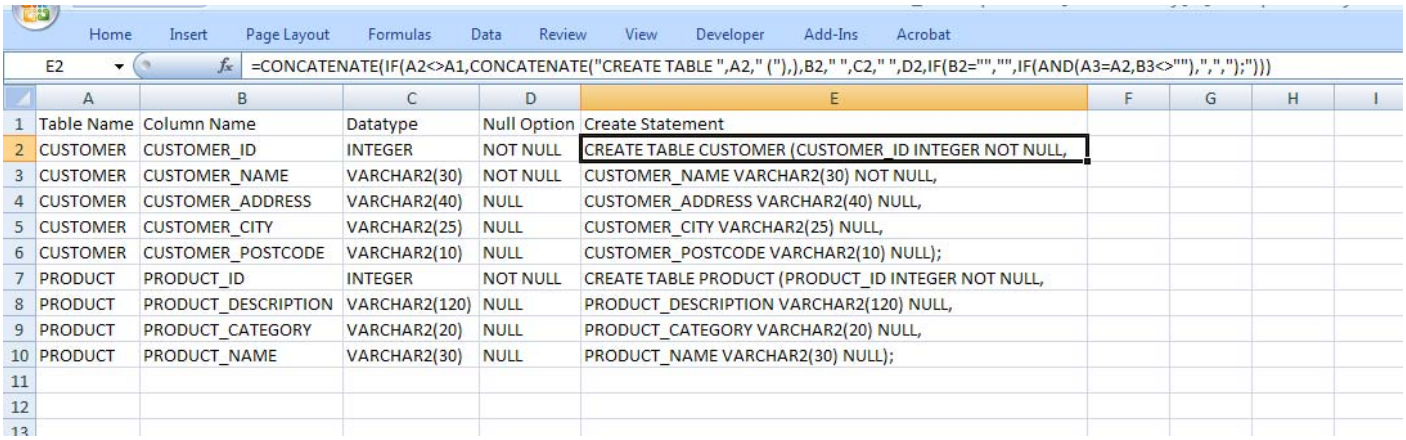
Picture this situation. I just arrived on a client site, having been given the task of loading table definitions from Excel into the client's newly-acquired and eagerly awaited release 7.1 of ERwin Data Modeler. What could be simpler? The marketing blurb told us there was built-in functionality to read and write from and to Excel spreadsheets, so how hard could it be.

Several frustrating days later I came to the conclusion that the MITI bridge that performs this function was not as easy to use as I thought it might be.

The other route suggested to me was to use the com-based API to load my data. Not being a programmer, and having taken a quick glance at the scant documentation, I decided there was little chance of me meeting the rapidly-approaching deadline using this method. It did occur to me, however, that I may already have the solution at hand.

The spreadsheets were currently being used to generate the schema using rudimentary Excel functions to concatenate the relevant columns into simple SQL CREATE TABLE statements. So, I copied the results of these functions into a text file and tried to reverse-engineer them into ERwin. How easy was that?

Why didn't I think of it sooner?




| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Table Name | Column Name | Datatype | Null Option | Create Statement | | | | |
| 2 | CUSTOMER | CUSTOMER_ID | INTEGER | NOT NULL | CREATE TABLE CUSTOMER (CUSTOMER_ID INTEGER NOT NULL, | | | | |
| 3 | CUSTOMER | CUSTOMER_NAME | VARCHAR2(30) | NOT NULL | CUSTOMER_NAME VARCHAR2(30) NOT NULL, | | | | |
| 4 | CUSTOMER | CUSTOMER_ADDRESS | VARCHAR2(40) | NULL | CUSTOMER_ADDRESS VARCHAR2(40) NULL, | | | | |
| 5 | CUSTOMER | CUSTOMER_CITY | VARCHAR2(25) | NULL | CUSTOMER_CITY VARCHAR2(25) NULL, | | | | |
| 6 | CUSTOMER | CUSTOMER_POSTCODE | VARCHAR2(10) | NULL | CUSTOMER_POSTCODE VARCHAR2(10) NULL); | | | | |
| 7 | PRODUCT | PRODUCT_ID | INTEGER | NOT NULL | CREATE TABLE PRODUCT (PRODUCT_ID INTEGER NOT NULL, | | | | |
| 8 | PRODUCT | PRODUCT_DESCRIPTION | VARCHAR2(120) | NULL | PRODUCT_DESCRIPTION VARCHAR2(120) NULL, | | | | |
| 9 | PRODUCT | PRODUCT_CATEGORY | VARCHAR2(20) | NULL | PRODUCT_CATEGORY VARCHAR2(20) NULL, | | | | |
| 10 | PRODUCT | PRODUCT_NAME | VARCHAR2(30) | NULL | PRODUCT_NAME VARCHAR2(30) NULL); | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | | | | |

Fast forward a couple of years and we now have v7.3, and even though the MITI bridge has improved, and I now have access to some wonderful API code written by my colleague Terry, my first resort when faced with getting data into ERwin from Excel is still to use those functions.

It's low-tech, and some would say inelegant, but it's simple, it's obvious, and it works!

For all of you out there that prefer the piece of string and bent pin approach to fishing rather than the carbon-fibre rod and multiplier reel, you can download a sample spreadsheet from our website.

Happy fishing!

Steve
steve.dillion@sandhill.co.uk

## Maximise your ROI with Complete Compare V7.x.

Clients have informed us that they are finding it difficult to produce consistent results with Complete Compare.

To that end, Sandhill have developed this one day Complete Compare Course which focuses on this function and can be provided in a generic or DBMS specific form. The generic form concentrates on the comparison and synchronisation of two models touching only briefly on the comparison between a model and a database. The DBMS versions concentrate on the comparison of an updated model with a database with the aim of synchronising the database with the model.

Clients that have taken our Complete Compare course have indicated that this course and our documentation is second to none.

If you would like additional information on this course, please e-mail simon.carter@sandhill.co.uk

## ERwin Tips and Techniques – How are you naming foreign key constraints in ERwin models – Part I

By Ed.Bantegui@sandhillconsulants.com

A question that was entered into the Linked-in user form proved to be quite beneficial for our client, so we are including it in our newsletter.

Several folks have provided a solution on the best possible naming convention. We start by reviewing the request from the client.

Here is where we are in our quest. We currently have no standard for naming foreign key constraints in ERwin. Our desire is to come up with meaningful names in an automated fashion (we don't want to burden either the modeler's or the DBA's with a lot of manually entry or correction of things like duplicate names).

Our first choice was to name them the same as the index names on the foreign key columns (whether or not the index is actually created). This would be something like FK1_ParentTableName, FK2_ParentTableName, etc. However, the %KeyType value is not available when naming foreign keys and CA has informed us that you cannot append any sort of sequence number. So all we have found that is highly automated is something like FK_%Child_%Parent which forms the name using both the child and parent table names.

Obviously this has problems with duplicate names when there are multiple relationships between the same two tables, and it could easily end up truncated in Oracle because of the 30 character name restriction.

We discovered that if you set model naming to abbreviate table names, you get the abbreviations here also, but some of the modeler's object to abbreviating all the table names. We discussed various options, which led to the question regarding know what other companies are doing, and hence my query to this group."

There are 2 parts to this question. First, there is a need to create a meaningful FK Constraints naming convention and the need to create without duplicates FK names when relationship exist from the same parent to a common child table. The user can use ERwin naming std in order to define what is the logical name to physical names and

The second part is to make sure the FK Constraint names are unique. The physical name cannot be more than 30 characters which is the physical limit of the Oracle DBMS for which it will be used for.

ERwin naming standards editor can be accessed by going in to the logical side of a logical/physical model as shown in the Figure 1 and Figure 2. The Naming Standards allows users to attach a glossary of logical name with their abbreviated physical name this in itself could reduce the number of characters in a table, column or relationship. It also allows the translations of logical relationship to physical FK constraints

## ERwin Tips and Techniques – How are you naming foreign key constraints in ERwin models – Part II

Figure 1 - ERwin Naming Standards editor

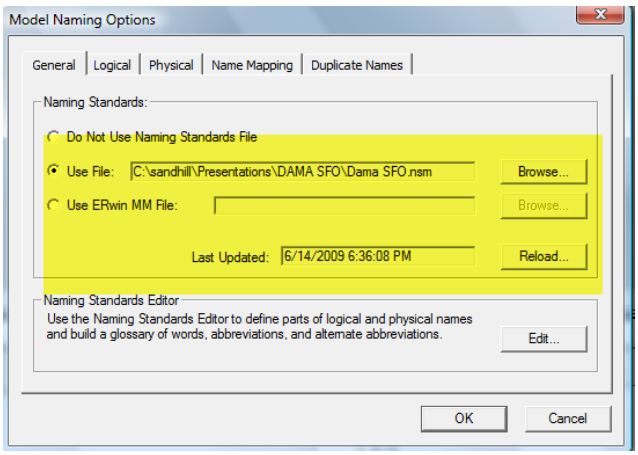
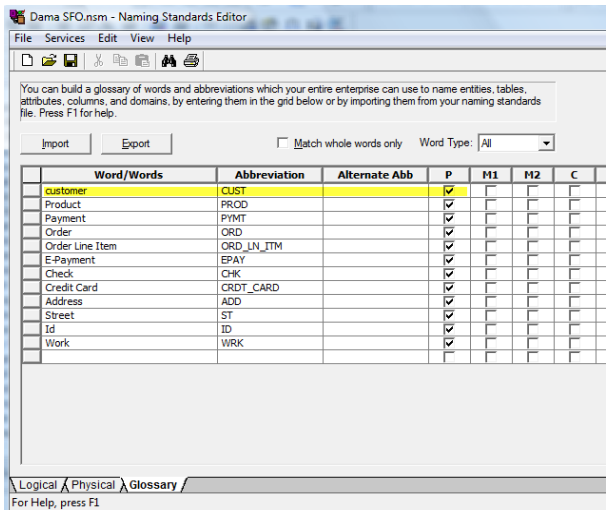
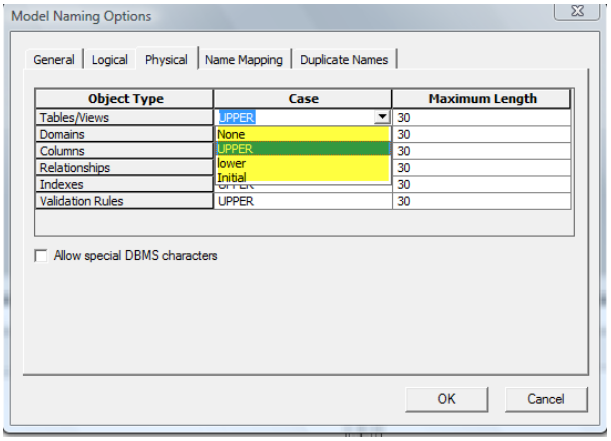



Figure 2 – Detailed Screen of Editor



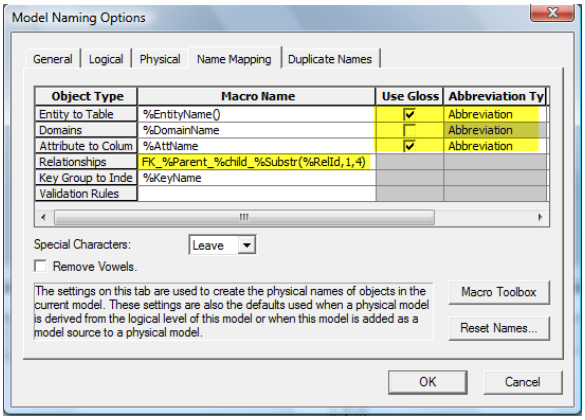

The Physical tab controls the "Casing of the words and their limit. The limit is DBMS dependent. Figure 3



## ERwin Tips and Techniques – How are you naming foreign key constraints in ERwin models – Part III

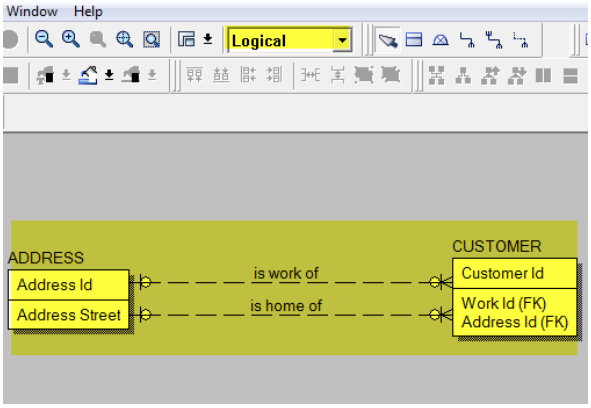
Finally, the Name mapping allows the user to define which object will have a logical to physical translation of Entity to Tables, Domains, Attributes to Columns and the Relationship. Note the FK naming convention used here. The macro tool bar defines all the re-useable macros available in ERwin.

Figure 4 – Naming options

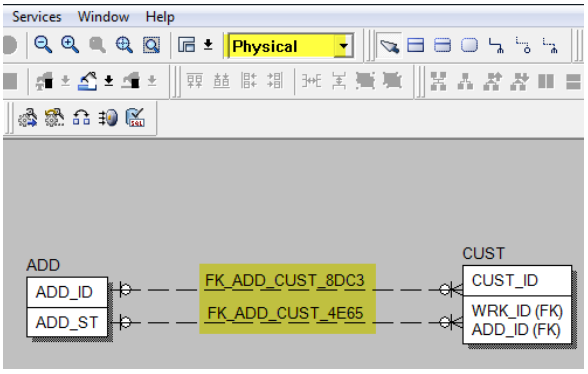



In this solution, the FK naming convention will use the %parent (Parent tablename), %child (Child tablename), %substr(<name>or <macro>, 1,4) this will allow the use of any literal name or a macro (the macro in this case is the %Relid (unique relationship id automatically created by ERwin when relationships are created) and the 1,4 designates the starting position and end position of the name to be used.

Below is the representation in the logical and physical model




Below is the physical side of the model.




## ERwin Tips and Techniques – How are you naming foreign key constraints in ERwin models – Part IV

The concept presented in this FK Naming Standard has gone through some testing and review. There are a number of concerns that need to be addressed as we take this "Standard" and evaluate its value versus the effort to implement, maintain and extended it.

Some concerns have already been recognized relating to how relationships are actually created and named when users/modelers…

1. Copy and paste the relationships.
2. Complete compare to a "blank" model.
3. Deletion of a relationship and re-creation of a relationship object in the same session. (Be wise to check how best to do this. Reverse vs Undo).
4. Reset Name Option will change Relationship Names. (Just use the Macro <%RelId> and drop the reference of the parent or the child therefore users will lose the traceability to its parent/child table).
5. Deriving "new" models from model templates.

Standards are only good if you get users which include the DA/Modelers/DBA/BA acceptance and their buy in. The question in this case is who manages the standard and since this is a physical object which needs to be sync with the production DBMS (Model in memory from a Reverse Engineering DBMS), how do you handle differences. There has been reported work around by generating the DDL and synching the change.

Standards are of no use unless it can be put in as part of a process. It must be re-useable, repeatable and enforceable. Does it mitigate risk or create it? The good news is that somewhere out there are users trying to achieve better ways to do things and to try to innovate in order to get better.

This article was written as a follow up on a DISCUSSION from the ERWIN DATA MODELERS GROUP.

http://www.linkedin.com/groupAnswers?viewQuestionAndAnswers=&gid=1779772&discussionID=1970494&commentID=4283562&goback=%2Eanh_1779772

For any additional comments please feel free to e-mail me at ed.bantegui@sandhillconsultants.com