

## RDX Announcement

Relational Architects Intl is pleased to introduce [RDX \(REXX DB2 eXtensions for z/OS\)](#) as the newest member of its RLX family of REXX Language eXtensions. RAI developed RDX to facilitate the adoption and use of pureXML on z/OS by enabling developers to code SQL and SQL/XML statements natively within REXX. RDX is compatible with the dynamic SQL syntax employed by DSNREXX (supplied with DB2 for z/OS) and extends it with full support for SQL/XML, Large Objects, multirow FETCH and static SQL syntax.

[REXX DB2 eXtensions for z/OS \(RDX\)](#) lets customers leverage the speed, ease and expressive power of REXX to learn and use pureXML as implemented by DB2 9 for z/OS. The immediate execution and powerful debugging facilities provided by REXX and RDX get customers started right away with pureXML and DB2 9 for z/OS.

In addition to being a superb training tool, RDX is well suited to prototyping high volume systems and developing tools and small applications quickly -- all with immediate feedback, extensive diagnostics and context sensitive help. REXX routines with embedded SQL/XML can be developed rapidly and tested immediately - without compile and link edit steps and without preprocess and bind delays. Customers can edit and test these REXX routines directly within ISPF Edit, and get instant feedback. There's no learning curve - so z/OS developers can leverage their skills with REXX, SQL and ISPF to become productive with pureXML almost immediately.

## RLX family structure

RDX is the newest member of the RLX family of REXX Language eXtensions. As a fully compliant member of the RLX for DB2 product family, RDX is compatible with the following RLX Version 8 products and furthers the RAI commitment to evolving REXX functionality.

### RLX - REXX language extensions

#### RLX for DB2

RLX/TSO

RLX/CLIST

RLX/SQL

RLX/Compile

RLX/ISPF

RDX - REXX DB2 extensions (new)

#### RLX for z/OS

RLX/VSAM

RLX/SDK

AcceleREXX

RLX/Translate

## Support for both dynamic and static SQL syntax

RDX supports both the static SQL syntax embedded within host language programs as well as the dynamic SQL syntax employed by DSNREXX. Developers can choose, even mix styles based on preference and suitability for the task at hand.

Static SQL syntax is typically used when the text of the SQL statements to be executed by the application are known at coding time. RDX also supports the DSNREXX style of dynamic SQL PREPARE and DESCRIBE statements used in conjunction with explicit SQL Descriptor Areas (SQLDAs).

In addition, RDX:

- provides REXX functions for UNICODE conversion as well as between ASCII and EBCDIC
- enables REXX DB2 applications to issue RLX/VSAM requests and invoke RLX/SDK services,
- provides extensive debugging and diagnostic facilities that are virtually absent from DSNREXX

In sum, RDX provides a more flexible and functional alternative to DSNREXX that is much more usable.

## RDX benefits

- RDX provides an immediate experience with pureXML to those individuals familiar with z/OS and comfortable in the TSO/ISPF environment
- RDX provides valuable 'getting started' help with pureXML and DB2 9 for z/OS in terms of training, usage and debugging
- RDX is an effective means to demonstrate the value of pureXML with DB2 9 for z/OS. RDX is an easy to use tool that provides immediate results and extensive diagnostic feedback – all within an ISPF edit session.
- REXX with RDX provides a natural programming interface for pureXML and makes the power of pureXML available to a wider audience
- RDX fully supports the SQL statements, constructs and datatypes introduced with Versions 7, 8 and 9 of DB2 for z/OS
- RDX with XML can help customers *modernize* their legacy mainframe applications to operate within an SOA infrastructure
- Since XML is a technology intrinsic to SOA, RDX can further initiatives that seek to utilize existing IT assets as reusable business services
- Facilitates programming and re-engineering efforts to extract and migrate data out of legacy systems
- SQL/XML publishing functions can deliver legacy data in XML format to meet requirements imposed by regulatory reporting, compliance, and industry standards bodies
- RDX (and RAI) can help customers develop totally new XML applications on z/OS

## RAI policy and recommendations concerning RLX and RDX

- RDX is the recommended tool to utilize the pureXML capabilities introduced with DB2 9 for z/OS
- RAI recommends RDX for new development and enhancements to existing REXX DB2 applications
- Licensees of any RLX product with a current maintenance agreement are entitled to license RDX without additional charge
- RDX is interoperable with the entire RLX family of REXX Language eXtensions, subject to standard restrictions on interoperability between RLX versions

RAI is eager to share its knowledge, expertise and (painfully acquired) experience as a pureXML pioneer and early adopter of DB2 9 for z/OS with the DB2 community.

## Statement of Direction

RAI intends to deliver the following enhancements to RDX in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2007:

- An RDX DECLARE ISPFTABLE service which is compatible and interoperable with the RLX/ISPF implementation of DECLARE ISPFTABLE
- An RDX TBDISPL service which is a compatible superset of RLX TBDISPL functionality
- RDX will provide plug compatibility with REXX applications originally developed with DSNREXX
- RDX will support ADDRESS DSNREXX natively so no changes to applications originally written for DSNREXX will be required. Alternatively, users can toggle between DSNREXX and RDX by executing ADDRESS DSNREXX and ADDRESS RDX statements
- RDX currently supports the dynamic SQL syntax employed by DSNREXX but supports different DB2 connection protocols. RDX will be enhanced to transparently support DSNREXX connection protocols as follows:
  - ADDRESS DSNREXX 'CONNECT' ssid or REXX variable
  - CALL SQLDBS 'ATTACH TO' *ssid*
  - ADDRESS DSNREXX DISCONNECT
  - CALL SQLDBS 'DETACH'
  - The REXX SQLCA will be returned in a manner consistent with the DSNREXX implementations of these DB2 connection protocols

Note: all statements regarding RAI's plans, directions and intent are subject to change or withdrawal without notice.