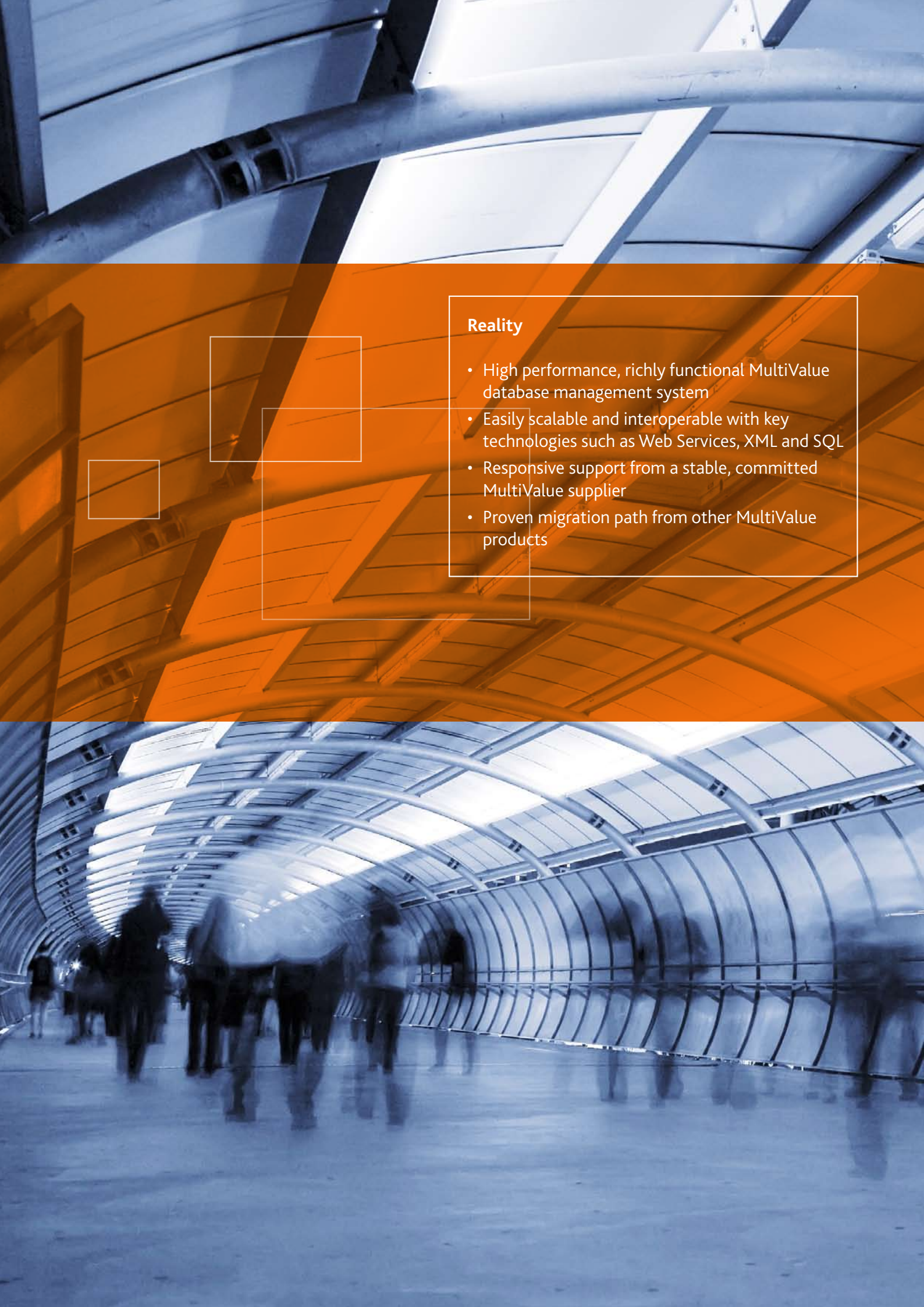
northgate
PUBLIC SERVICES

Welcome to your **Reality**

The original MultiValue SQL-enabled database



Reality

- High performance, richly functional MultiValue database management system
- Easily scalable and interoperable with key technologies such as Web Services, XML and SQL
- Responsive support from a stable, committed MultiValue supplier
- Proven migration path from other MultiValue products

NPS is committed to Reality and to the MultiValue market. We continue to attract new customers to add to our long list of satisfied ones.

Getting return on investment

Technology managers want to lower the cost of ownership of their systems, while continuing to support business change with new functionality and applications. To do this they must have tools that allow them to quickly develop applications, while guaranteeing business continuity and ensuring efficient use of infrastructure.

When considering development platforms and databases you want to be with a product that is moving forward, one that embraces web services, that is open enough to connect with other applications and scalable enough to handle enterprise applications.

Reality is our post relational MultiValue database. Reality clients enjoy high performance, rich functionality and remarkable levels of resilience while lowering their costs of ownership.

Our clients range from small software houses to large enterprises, from commercial organisations to public services, from one user to 10,000 concurrent on one system. With Reality you get the confidence and high levels of service that comes from working with a global company as committed to MultiValue as you are.

Did you know?

Nebraska Furniture Mart, the largest furniture retail outlet in the U.S., migrated nearly a billion data records and a suite of sophisticated in-house retail applications from Raining Data mvEnterprise to Reality.

BENEFITS

With Reality you get a stable platform, from a stable company, which can help you cost effectively develop unique applications.

High Performance

Reality continues to deliver unmatched levels of performance. Reality makes much more efficient use of infrastructure than competitive technologies - often 10 times better compared to relational databases - to dramatically reduce your total cost of ownership.

Reality also reduces business disruption by performing basic administration more quickly, using features like fast (point in time) file or snapshot image save to tape or disk, configurable frame size and multi-stream account restore.

Safe and Secure

Reality continues to decrease the risks to your business by increasing the security of your data and the continuity of your systems.

The prevention of data loss is now a high priority for businesses and public services. As well as protecting the infrastructure, through firewalls and security software, you need to directly protect your data. Reality increases the security of your data with its 'data encryption at rest' capability, which allows you to fully encrypt files, encrypt database indexes, save and restore encrypted files, encrypt data on portable media and secure management of encryption keys.

Reality also supports your business continuity planning. We provide various methods to ensure availability, from transaction handling and logging, rapid file recovery, through multiple systems with Heartbeat auto-switchover, to full disaster recovery options (RealityDR) that deliver high levels of resilience, even over slow or intermittent communications links.

Scalable and Stable

Reality grows easily as your needs develop. Compared to other technologies, Reality reduces the time and cost of expanding your applications and reduces the associated risks. By using a common code set across all platforms, including Unix, Windows and Linux, we ensure you don't waste time and money porting applications between operating systems.

Importantly, Reality has developed organically over the years. Where many others have grown by bolting together rival MultiValue systems, creating fragmented platforms, Reality retains its clean and clear architecture. The result: stable systems and no compromises.

Interoperable with your other systems

Developing rapid solutions to complex business problems requires new and existing applications and technologies to work together. Reality's wide range of interfaces and options lets you quickly

and easily link to other technologies, to save time and money, while making your data available across your systems.

Using integrated SQL (ODBC/JDBC) access you can use Reality data with any application and interchange data with relational databases. You can even use Reality as a generic SQL database that's scalable, resilient, safe and secure.

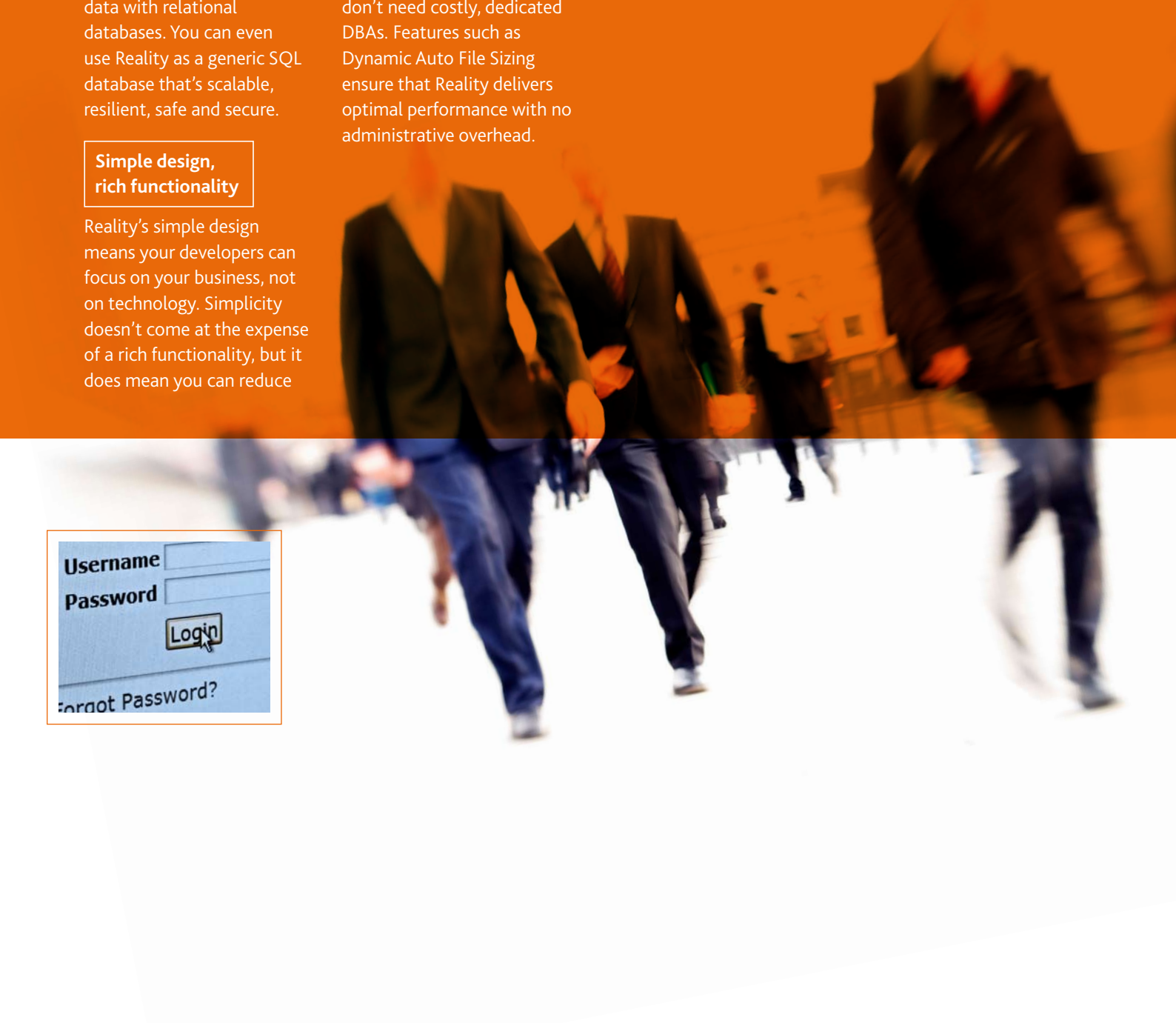
Simple design, rich functionality

Reality's simple design means your developers can focus on your business, not on technology. Simplicity doesn't come at the expense of a rich functionality, but it does mean you can reduce training costs, speed up time to market and free your developers to become business, not technology, gurus.

Simple design also reduces your administration burden. Even our largest clients, running thousands of users, don't need costly, dedicated DBAs. Features such as Dynamic Auto File Sizing ensure that Reality delivers optimal performance with no administrative overhead.

"With their commitment and long-established development of Reality, NPS provided the comfort level that Patient First was seeking."

Dennis Hitchcock,
Vice President Patient First (USA primary care provider)



FEATURES

NPS are continuing to move Reality forward, making new feature rich releases. We have a proven record of migrating customers from other MultiValue platforms to Reality.

Why MultiValue?

Compared to relational database systems, that are only just expanding beyond the limitations of two-dimensional table access, the MultiValue model has always been multidimensional. File item/records can be formed from multiple attributes/fields, each of them having multiple values and multiple sub-values. Each file also has it's own data dictionary in order to create different views of the same data, or combine computed data with data translated from other files.

The MultiValue model has proven to be more efficient, flexible and scalable than other schemas when creating real-world business information systems. The management of MultiValue systems is significantly easier than with other database types, with few day to day operational tasks.

Web Services and XML

Reality exposes and publishes existing DataBasic subroutines as Web Services, giving you the ability to provide application access across intranets and the internet. You can integrate disparate applications with ease and allow seamless integration for GUI applications. Web Services enables you to communicate with any language, whilst remaining platform independent.

RealWeb

The RealWeb feature lets your existing DataBasic programmers produce and deploy web-based applications with little knowledge of HTML. RealWeb extends DataBasic to provide a comprehensive set of functions to build static and dynamic Web pages. It exposes the resulting DataBasic subroutine to the Web by a unique URL. The DataBasic subroutine is invoked when the URL is accessed and the RealWeb functionality is used to return the constructed web page.

Compatibility

Reality simplifies and eases the migration from other MultiValue platforms. Options and definable MultiValue environment configurations can change the behaviour of English, DataBasic, TCL, Proc and other runtime areas, while the TCL stacker is capable of emulating other MultiValue environments.

DataBasic

DataBasic is at the heart of Reality. It increases the efficiency of application development and on-going support when deploying applications. Accessing data, implementing the required business model and providing the user interface can be carried out without a steep learning curve. DataBasic is a significant extension of the original Dartmouth BASIC and adds to the traditional, easy to learn, syntax with the addition of many modern day extensions. Concurrently, this approach can be integrated with other "open" data access methods required by standard toolsets such as ODBC, JDBC, MS Visual Basic, HTML, XML and Web Services.

SQL

SQL has become the established standard for accessing information on a database management system. Reality supports two interfaces, ODBC and JDBC, that allow applications to access Reality as an SQL data source.

Using ODBC and JDBC, applications such as MS Office, Cognos Impromptu and Powerplay and any Java-based applications, can access Reality data using SQL.

Reality supports ODBC and JDBC via a client/server model using TCP/IP. With ODBC, the client is an ODBC-compliant application running on a system using an ODBC driver provided to communicate with a Reality DBMS. With JDBC, the client is an application, applet or servlet written in Java, which can run on any platform that supports a Java Virtual Machine (JVM).

Reality includes a server that accepts SQL queries from the supplied driver on the client and returns data, or updates the database or its definitions, as required. The Reality database can belong to an existing application or can be created specifically for SQL access.

Reporting using English

English is an extremely powerful enquiry and reporting language with an English-like syntax that provides easy-to-use data retrieval with Reality.

New users can make simple enquiries almost immediately and then quickly gain competence. Output can be either simple text reporting or automatically formatted HTML.

Conversion codes can also be used to manipulate data by, for example, performing mathematical functions, concatenating fields, or extracting specific data from a field or from another file.

Interoperability

Reality delivers comprehensive interoperability options to enable the integration with other environments. Whether accessing data held in Reality from external applications or accessing data from other data sources, Reality has a solution.

Relational Access to Reality Data

Accessing Reality data from external sources is simple and straightforward using its powerful SQL (Structured Query Language) interface via ODBC*1 or JDBC*2. The capabilities of Reality are such that it is used as a full relational database in its own right, often outperforming current relational market leaders.

Transparent Access to External Data Sources

Reality integrates with data from other external data sources and provides a transparent bridge between applications using the following technologies.
SQL-VIEW: tables on remote relational databases are presented as MultiValue files within Reality, allowing direct read and write access.
DIR-VIEW: allows platform host files external to Reality to be mapped as Reality files, giving transparent access from applications.
XML Parser: can easily extract information from XML documents with simple to define queries using native extraction routines. With the generated routines you can incorporate MultiValue data into XML documents using simple templates.

Share DataBasic with other Environments

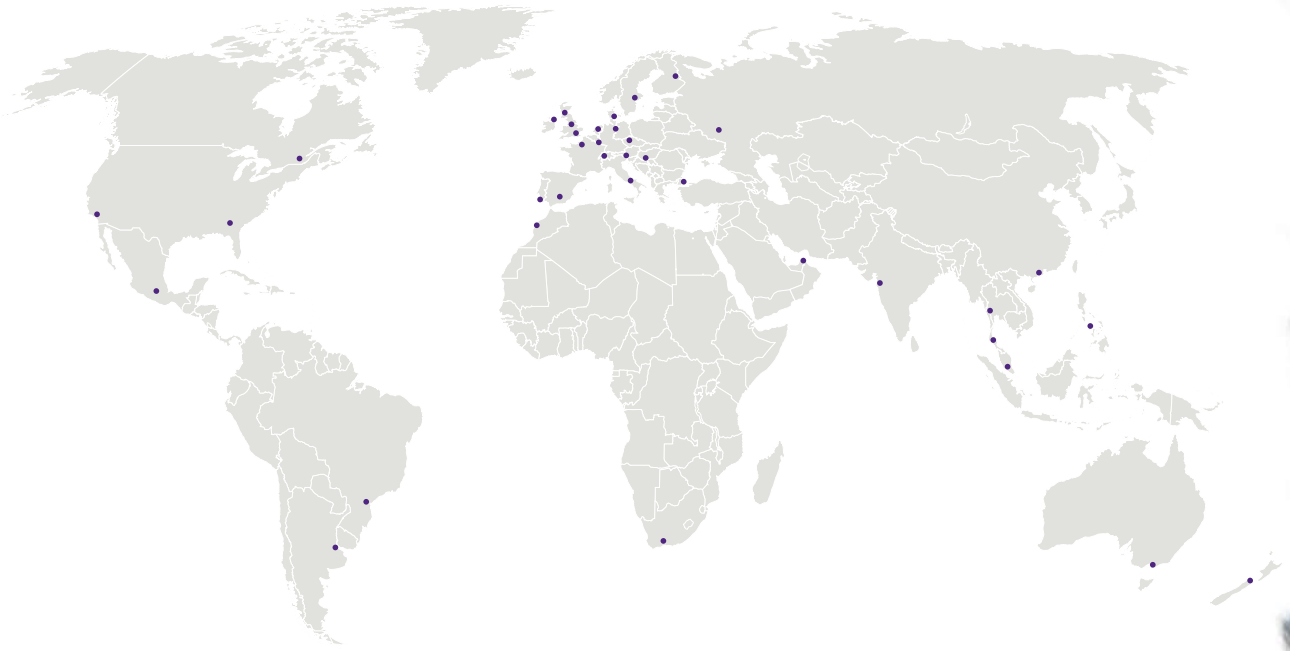
ActiveX: Applications can efficiently call DataBasic subroutines from any supporting environment . e.g. .NET, C++, C#, Visual Basic, Office VBA, Delphi.

Program to Program Connections

Reality offers high performance program-to-program connectivity via TCP/IP sockets. This allows DataBasic programs to communicate with virtually all programming languages, including other DataBasic programs, either locally or across intranets and the Internet.

Responsive Support

When issues arise you want responsive support. High quality support reduces the impact of issues on your business, which in turn saves time and money. Although issues are less common with Reality, due to the simple and stable architecture of the platform, Reality users can be assured of the best MultiValue support available today.



About us

Reality is owned by European private equity firm Cinven, who acquired Northgate Public Services (NPS) in December 2014.

Cinven is a leading European private equity firm, founded in 1977, with offices in Guernsey, London, Frankfurt, Paris, Madrid, Milan, Luxembourg, Hong Kong and New York. They focus on six sectors: Business Services, Consumer, Financial Services, Healthcare, Industrials, and Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT).

northgate
PUBLIC SERVICES

Northgate Public Services
Peoplebuilding 2
Peoplebuilding Estate
Maylands Avenue
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire, UK
HP2 4NW

Tel: +44 (0)1442 232424

NGA/HR, Reality/USA
1 Technology Drive
Suite J728
Irvine
CA 92618
USA

Tel Toll Free: 866 473 2588
Office: 949 748 7300

For email enquiries please complete the form on our website.

www.nps-reality.com