Crystal Reports Technical Document

Subject: Dbase text fields conversion from OEM to ANSI
Date: August 24, 1993
Versions: 2.0(Std), 2.0(Pro), VB

Situation:
We have noticed that CR VB or 2.0 or Pro do convert dBase text fields(either MEMO or CHAR) always from OEM to ANSI regardless of chosen options. This is very important as scandinavian languages uses extended character sets. If we store something in OEM then CR prints it ok, but if data is stored in ANSI,it converts them regardless of any setting.

Solution:
By default, we expect all xBase databases strings (0-255 char) and memos
(variable length) to be stored in OEM - i.e. IBM PC - character sets.
Then in PDBXBSE.DLL we convert these to Ansi (which Windows uses).

This works for 99.x % of our users because dBase producs were all DOS
based for the last 10 years, and even those that have been converted to
Windows ususally write their data out in OEM character set, and convert
it when it is read in (otherwise no DOS programs could be used on this
data anymore).

The one exception we found to be common (until the last couple months) was
strings being stored in OEM but memos being stored in ANSI - so we have a
special switch in the dialog under File/Options "DOS memo fields" which
the user can toggle to tell us whether to do the conversion on memo fields
or not.

Recently, in Europe, we are finding more users with stirng fields also
stored in ANSI character sets - pobably due to some custom Windows programs.
We will address this in CRW 3.0, but until then are not planning a special
build, since we wpuld need to make UI/doc changes to do it properly. (Greg ?)

What the users will need to do is convert their databases, with a small
Windows program, to make sure the strings are stored in OEM before they
call CRW.

Remarks:

DBASEFLD.DOC