

The Main  
Data Window

The *main data window* is the one you see in the workspace right now. In the top half of the window, there are a series of fixed text and edit controls. A pair of these two types of controls is automatically created by Auto Layout for each field in the master data server. This part of the data window is used primarily to display information from the master data server, which in this case is Customer.

The Sub-Data Window

Next, at the bottom of the window, there is a single rectangular box. This box represents the other data window—the *sub-data window*—which as you will soon see, holds information about the detail server.

The sub-data window is, in essence, a “nested” data window (one data window placed on another). A sub-data window differs from a main data window because it is placed on the main data window as a singular control (much like a fixed text control or a check box). Sub-data windows, then, can be manipulated in much the same way as other types of window controls (for example, moved and sized).

Let’s take a closer look at each of these data windows.

### A Closer Look at the Main Data Window

One of the most obvious things you might notice when you create a data window from a customized data server is that many of the properties defined in the associated data servers are used by the Window Editor to create the controls in the data window.

Captions Reused

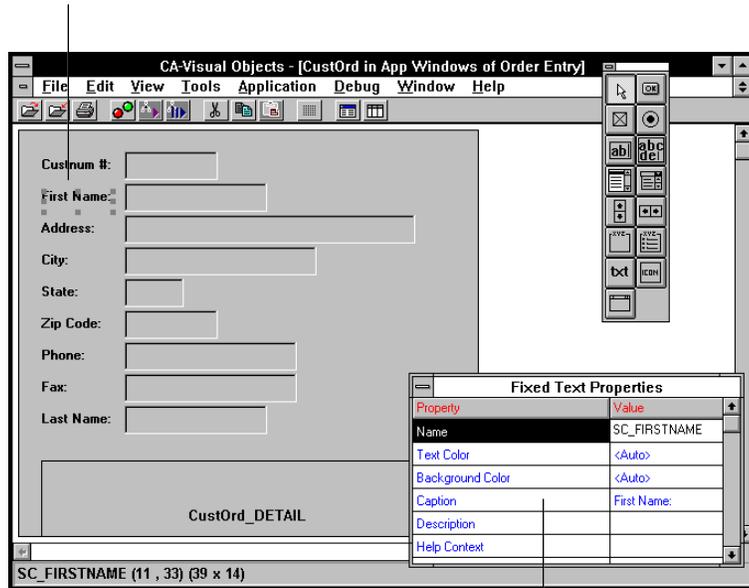
For example, the Window Editor uses the caption defined for each field in the master data server to create each field’s fixed text control (either the Caption or FS Caption property, as defined in the data server).

### Lesson 3: Creating a Data Window

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To see what we mean, click on the First Name label and watch what happens to the Properties window:

Click on First Name fixed text control...

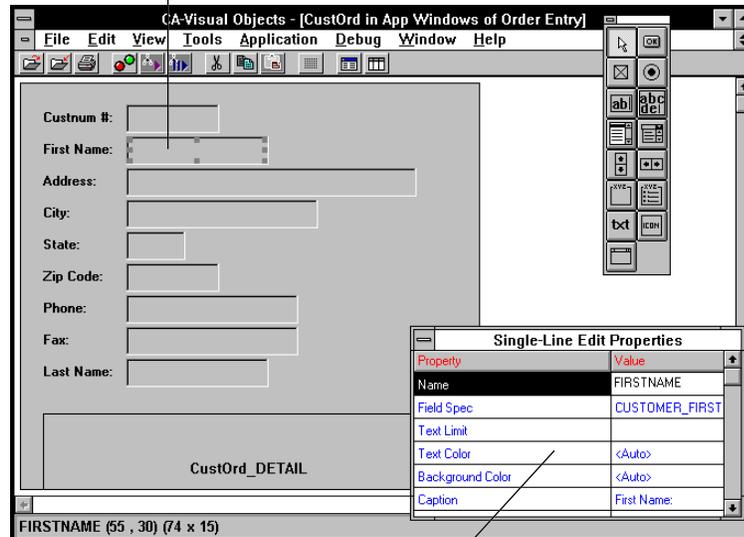


Properties window for fixed text control appears

This control functions as a decorative label for the edit control to its right.

Now, click on the single-line edit control to the right of the First Name label:

Click on First Name edit control...



Properties window for single-line edit control appears

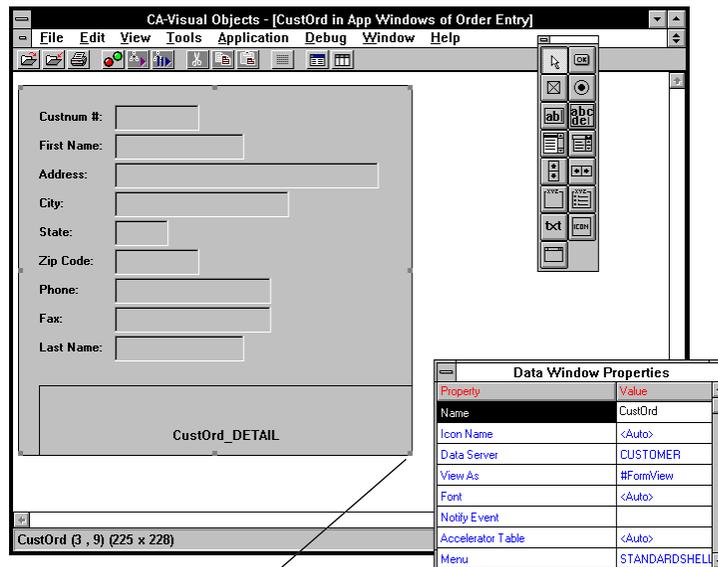
This edit control represents the field itself—you can see that the properties defined for its associated data server field while in the DB Server Editor are reused here.

In particular, mark the Caption property. This caption is not used by the single-line edit control because the main data window is currently in form view (if you recall from Lesson 1, a data window can be displayed in either form view or browse view). If you were to switch to browse view (by clicking the Browse/Form View toolbar button), you would see that the caption is used for the heading in the corresponding column control. (You'll witness this later on in this lesson.)

- Descriptions Reused** Another example of how the Window Editor reuses data server properties is the descriptions it picks up from the underlying data servers. Since a single-line edit control is currently selected, you can see in the Properties window that the Description property of that control contains the description of its corresponding data server field. Later on, when one of these controls has focus in the resulting application, this information will be displayed on the status bar of the shell window.
- Field Specifications Reused** Finally, you might also have noticed that each single-line edit control picked up the field specification from its corresponding data server field. Although *how* the field specification information is reused is not apparent now, you will see later, when you run the new application, that the picture clauses, validation rules, etc. that you defined for the field specifications will be enforced by the program when the data window is displayed (for example, the numbers in the Order Price field will be formatted accordingly, and the user will be warned “The order number must be positive” if they attempt to enter an order number less than zero).

## A Closer Look at the Sub-Data Window

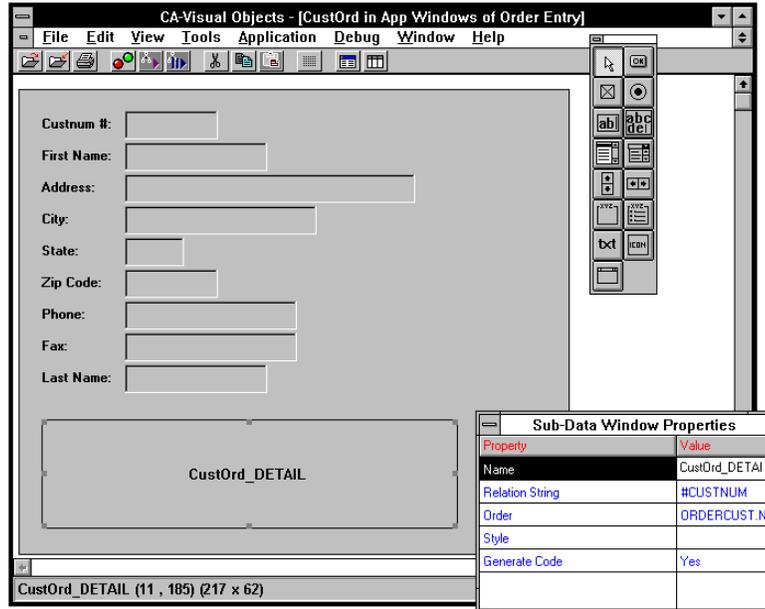
Before we explore the sub-data window in more detail, let's first resize the master-detail window, so that the sub-data window is completely visible (unless it is already in full view). To do this, click the sizing handle in the lower right-hand corner of the window template, and drag it down until the rectangle is fully displayed:



Click on this handle and drag to a new position

**Tip:** If necessary, move the Properties window out of the way by clicking on its title bar and dragging it to a new position.

The main CustOrd data window now displays the entire CustOrd\_DETAIL sub-data window:



If you now click on the CustOrd\_Detail sub-data window, its properties are displayed in the Properties window. There are only five listed: Name, RelationString, Order, Style, and Generate Code.

The *name* is inserted by the Auto Layout feature and indicates that the sub-data window represents the detail data server in the CustOrd data window. The *relation string*, also inserted by the Auto Layout feature, represents the common field used to relate the sub-data window's underlying data server (Orders) with the main data window's associated data server (Customer). The Order property reflects the specified *controlling order*.