

STRATEGIC BUSINESS SYSTEMS: 2009 WINNER

Power Systems Innovation Award: Best Web Solution from IBM and COMMON



PHP Case Study on IBM i

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New York PHP Community and User Group (NY-PHP) February 23, 2010

Strategic Business Systems, Inc.





IBM Business Partner

- Provides hardware, software development, consulting for IBM i
- Developer of web apps on i since 1996
- Based in Ramsey, New Jersey

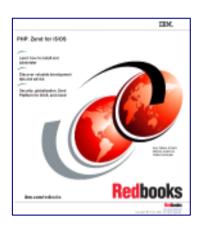
Zend ("the PHP company") partner

- Zend brought PHP to IBM i in 2006
- We offer Zend's training and software to complement our own consulting/development services

Alan Seiden

PHP on IBM i Developer / Consultant / Mentor

- Contributor to IBM's Redbook PHP: Zend Core for i5/OS
- First IBM i developer certified in Zend Framework
- Developer of IBM/COMMON's "Best Web Solution" of 2009







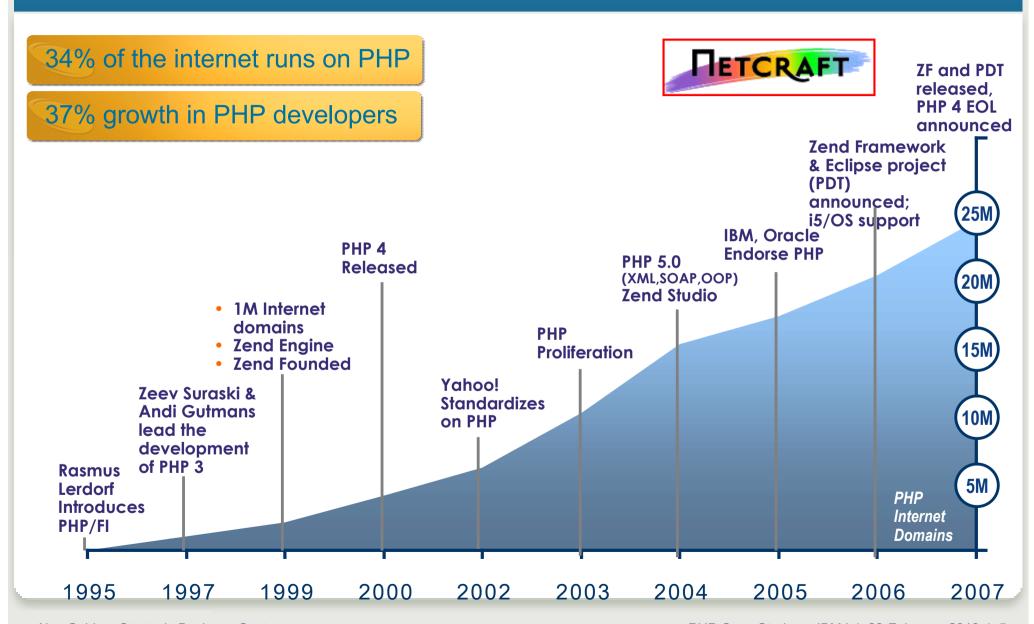
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Blog/articles: alanseiden.com

What we'll discuss today

- PHP review
- **Update on Zend Server (new PHP install for i)**
- Case study: re-imagine green screens as web
- Tips and techniques
- **Answer any PHP questions**

PHP's growth as web dev language (as of 2007)



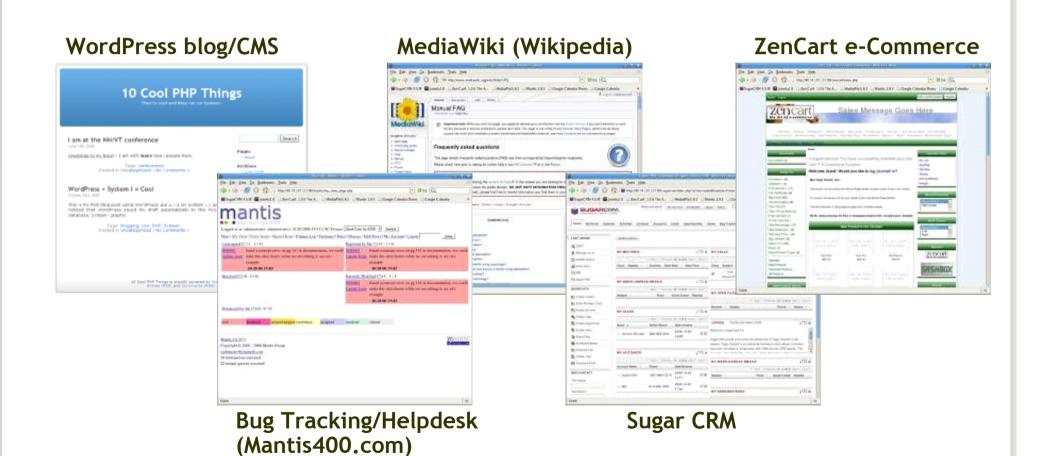
Who uses PHP?

- Yahoo, eBay, Wikipedia, Facebook
- Open source developers 10,000+ projects
- **Strong community worldwide**
- 7 million+ developers
- **Growing community of IBM i shops**

Reasons for PHP's success

- Easy way to get data to Web
 - Generates ordinary HTML, viewable in any browser
- **Cross-platform: also runs on Windows, Linux, any** mainstream OS
- **Open source**
 - Managed by Zend, "the PHP company"
 - Contributors from community and corporations

Free, open source apps (fine on IBM i)



PHP on i—a short history

- 2004: i5php.net
 - Unofficial PHP binary for "i" available online
- 2005: IBM and Zend got together
- 2006: Zend Core for i5/OS
 - Official release with help from IBM
 - Professional technical support from Zend
- 2007: Zend Studio: IDE/code editor
- 2007: Zend Platform: performance booster and code tracer/monitor
- 2008: Zend Framework supports "i" variant of db2
- 2009: Zend Server Beta for "i"
 - Combines the best of Core and Platform...watch for GA

PHP on i

- Runs completely on your good old "i"
 - Uses IBM's native Apache web server
 - Backed by IBM, shipped with v5r4 and beyond
 - Connects directly to db2 database
- **Light on its feet**
 - Efficient—runs well out of the box
 - Create useful functionality quickly; start small and grow
 - Plenty of room for sophistication in larger apps

i5 Toolkit is included

i5 Toolkit lets you:

- re-use your RPG logic
- call commands
- access data areas and other resources

Documentation

http://files.zend.com/help/Zend-Core-i5/i5 php connector api.htm

Samples

http://files.zend.com/help/Zend-Core-i5/program samples.htm

i5 Toolkit functions to call CL/RPG

- i5 connect(server, user, password, options)
 - \$conn = i5_connect("1.2.3.4", "MYUSER", "MYPWD");
- i5 command(command, inputs, outputs)
 - Good for commands/programs with no parameters
 - E.g. i5 command("call LIB NAME/PROGRAM NAME")
- i5 program prepare(name, description)
 - Sets up parameter names and data types
- i5_program_call(program, params, retvals)
 - Calls program with parameter values

i5 program call in detail

```
bool i5 program call (resource program,
                      array params[,
                      array retvals])
```

- Program: resource opened by i5 program prepare
- **Params: array of key => value pairs**
 - Key: name of parameter
 - Named according to description given in "prepare"
 - Value: value of input parameter
- **Retvals:** array of key => value pairs
 - Key: name of output parameter
 - Again, named according to description given in "prepare"
 - Value: name of PHP variable to receive the output parameter

Reminder: how to install PHP

Install Zend Core (free)

Check the requirements/release notes

- http://zend.com/en/products/platform/resources
 - Scroll down to Zend Core for i5/OS v2.6
- i5/OS V5R4, v6.1
- PASE, Qshell, recent cumulative PTF package, more

Get FREE Zend Core for i5/OS

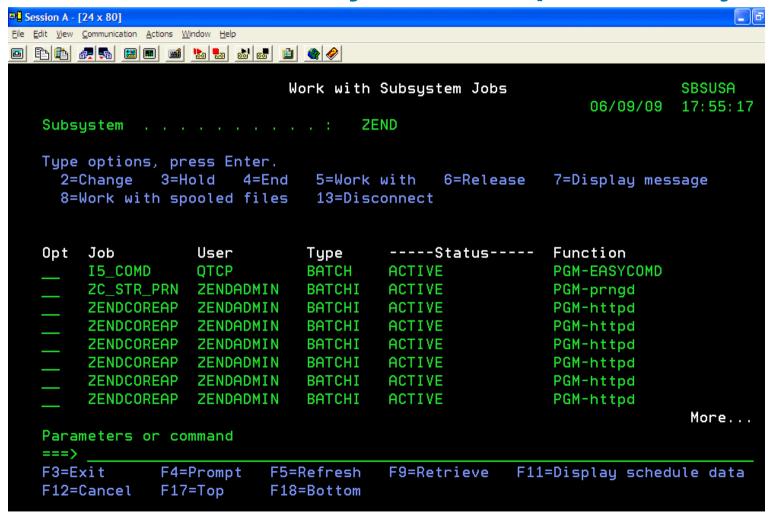
- Preloaded as licensed program or
- Download from http://zend.com/en/products/core/downloads
 - Free account required
 - Look for "Zend Core for i5/OS V2.6"
- Choose Windows-based installer or *SAVF

Install on your i5

- If you need MySQL, can select it, too
- Start Zend Core: GO ZENDCORE/ZCMENU, Option 5 then 1

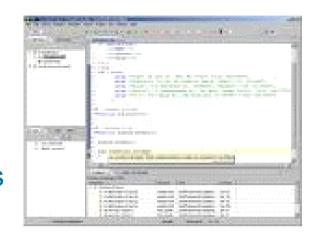
Apache PHP jobs run in ZEND

Look in Zend subsystem for Apache/PHP jobs



Zend Studio for Eclipse, IBM i Edition

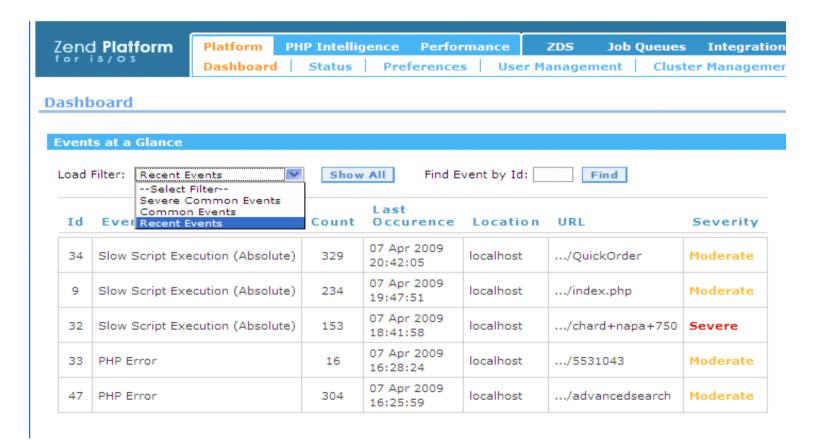
- **Better IDE than "Notepad"**
- Free for IBM i customers
 - http://zend.com/en/products/studio/downloads
 - Look for "IBM i Edition"



- Alerts you to any syntax errors or other mistakes; offers interactive debugging and code completion (similar to how green screens provide an F4 prompt)
- For good performance, your PC needs 2GB RAM

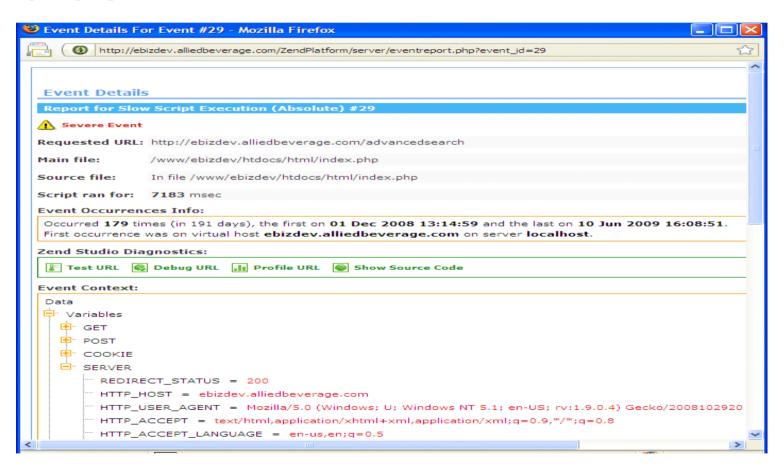
Zend Platform (optional)

Provides caching (fast!), debugging and event tracking, integration with Zend Studio (IDE)



Zend Platform: detail

Drill down to find the cause of performance lags or errors



Zend Server...sneak peek

Zend Server for IBM i

- Next generation of PHP stack for IBM i
- Best of both Zend Core and Zend Platform
- Single Licensed Program Installation
- Two levels
 - Zend Server for IBM i Community Edition
 - Available at no charge per IBM partnership
 - Includes "Optimizer+" that speeds up code
 - Zend Server for IBM i
 - Subscription available from Zend
 - High value extra features
 - Higher Support SLAs

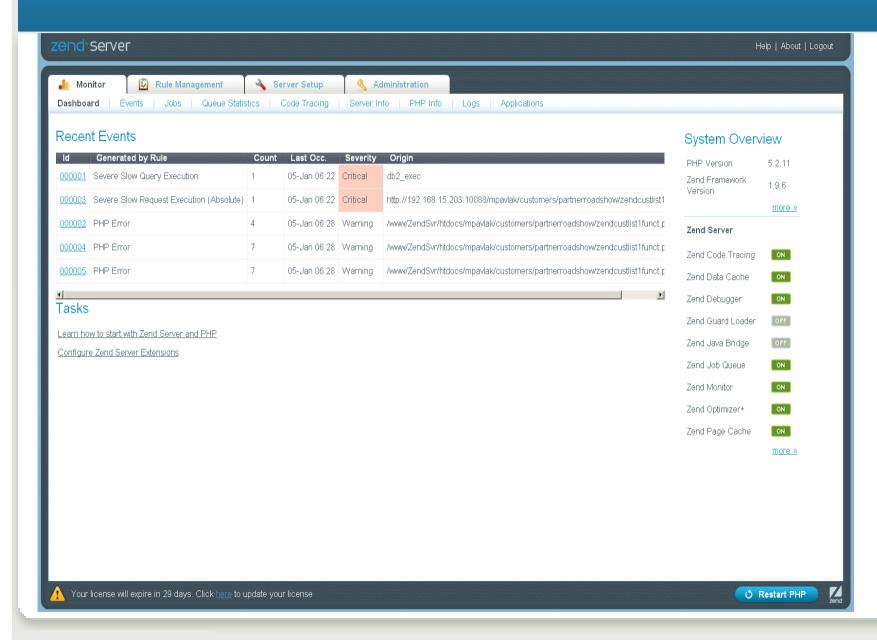
Zend Server Installation

- Current installation is beta
 - http://www.zend.com/en/products/server/zend-server-5-new-ibmi
- Fast CGI built by IBM requires PTF's
 - Current group for 57nnDG1 IBM HTTP Server for i5/OS
 - http://www-912.ibm.com/s dir/sline003.nsf/GroupPTFs?OpenView&view=GroupPTFs
 - V5R4
 - PASE SI36004
 - HTTP SI36026
 - i6 1
 - PASE SI36005
 - HTTP SI36027

Zend Server Administration

- Single interface for "Core" and "Platform" controls
- Apache changes
 - Single server (YAY!)
 - PASE server eliminated
 - IBM HTTP Server Powered by Apache
 - PHP implemented using Fast CGI developed by IBM
 - Restart button saves round trip to green screen!

Zend Server's Interface



Review: PHP basics on i

Review of PHP basics: Step 1

Learn some basic HTML

- Try http://w3schools.com/html
- Tables (,,) useful for business data
- "View Source" in browser to borrow bits of HTML

Optional: learn as needed

- **Javascript**
 - Adds dynamic functionality to pages
- Cascading style sheets (CSS)
 - Modern way to specify colors, fonts, and other attibutes of how a site looks

Step 2: Try a simple PHP script

- PHP scripts are text files that reside in the IFS
- Save script in /www/zendcore/htdocs/helloworld.php
- Run in browser URL: http://i5system:89/helloworld.php

```
<?php
    // simple script to test PHP
    echo "Hello, world!";
?>
```

"Hello, world!" in browser

The output of helloworld.php



Step 3: Access db2

- Example:
 - Connect to db2 on i
 - Select records from a db2 table
 - Load the records in an HTML table
 - **Display the output**



Connection to DB2 for i

- Need three things (OK to leave blank for default):
 - Database name
 - User ID
 - Password

```
// Standard DB connection to DB2...
$conn = '*LOCAL'; $name = '';$pwd = '';
$i5link = db2 connect($conn, $name, $pwd);
if (!$i5link)
echo 'Connection failed: '.db2_stmt_error().' : '.db2_stmt_errormsg();
$sql = "SELECT * from prodlib.customer";
stmt = db2 exec(si5link,sql)
or die("Failed query:".db2_stmt_error().":".db2_stmt_errormsg());
?>
```

Reading data

Loop through record set

```
<h1> Customer list for a company</h1>
<TABLE BORDER="10" BORDERCOLOR="blue"><TBODY BGCOLOR="DEB887">
<TR><TD>Customer Number</TD><TD>Customer Name</TD><TD>Address Line 1</TD>
<TD>Address Line 2</TD><TD>City</TD><TD>State</TD><TD>Zip Code</TD></TR>
<?php
echo " <TR><TD> $row['CUSTNUM'] </TD>
    <TD>$row['CUSTNAME'] </TD>
    <TD>$row['CUSTADDR1']</TD>
    <TD>$row['CUSTADDR2'] </TD>
    <TD>$row['CUSTCITY']</TD>
    <TD>$row['CUSTSTATE'] </TD>
    <TD>$row['CUSTZIP']</TD></TR>":
echo '  ':
db2 close($i5link);
?>
```

Resources

- My basic PHP presentation: http://www.sbsusa.com/php/
- Support: Zend Core includes one year of "silver" support
- Forums and lists
 - forums.zend.com (look for IBM i forums)
 - lists.nyphp.org (general PHP questions)
- **Books (online and print)**
 - PHP Manual: http://php.net
 - Zend Core for i5/OS Redbook
 - PHP on IBM i book by Jeff Olen & Kevin Schroeder (MC Press)
- **PHP User Groups**
 - nyphp.org, liphp.org

RPG/PHP side by side

That age-old issue

- "New users don't like the green screens"
- "We need to open up our apps/data to the outside, safely, and with a GUI"
- But we don't want to lose our investment in RPG code
- We still want stability...and to run on the "i" !!

First thought: automatic webfacing

- Tools such as NewLook do it fast, but:
 - Often require java or plug-ins for browser
 - Users know they're not true web apps
 - Still green screens in disguise
- Zend has "5250 Bridge" for PHP
 - Pulls 5250 data stream into a PHP app
 - Shows promise but:
 - Not automatic
 - Slow
- These solutions serve a purpose but don't get you something new

Next thought: approach for true web apps

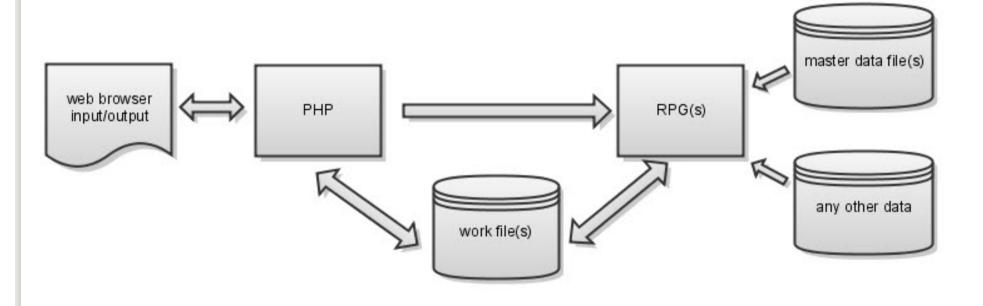
- I used it with my team at SBS for the first time in 2002 (before PHP on i)
- A smart 'i' friend of mine just came up with the same approach independently
- It's time to talk about it
- All it needs is a catchy name

Magic formula

- PHP calls RPG with a unique session id and other key values
 - RPG looks up data, does calculations, validation
- Returns data and error messages in work file(s)
 - Redirect output to a file instead of the screen
- PHP reads the work file using SQL, outputs data on page
- It is worth the effort if your RPG is complex and valuable

Flow of PHP/RPG

- PHP controls the flow
 - Receive input from browser
 - Zero-pad numeric fields
 - Write records (if any) to work file(s)
 - Call appropriate RPG(s)
- RPG processes, calculates, validates
 - Writes results to work files(s)
 - Returns status flag to PHP
- PHP reads work file(s) and shows any validation results and data



Parameter list of updated RPG

```
- (*CHAR 11) - transaction sequence #
0008.00 H* PARAMETERS
                           : SEO
0009.00 H*
                             SESS - (*CHAR 25) - session key
0010.00 H*
                             FLAG - (*CHAR 1) - Success Flag (Y/N)
0011.00 H*
                                     Y = ... Processed Normally
0012.00 H*
                                     N = Not Processed Normally (validation error)
0137.00 C
              *ENTRY
                            PLIST
0138.00 C
                                                    SEQ
                            PARM
                                                                     11
0139.00 C
                                                                     25
                            PARM
                                                    SESS
0140.00 C
                            PARM
                                                    FLAG
                                                                      1
```

Work files to get validation messages from RPG

Transaction work file containing data

```
Transaction sequence 284
Order Number
                  332
Sales Rep 105
Dollar total 100.35
Validation Request 2951
Validation Group 1
```

- Validation log file containing validation errors and so on
 - "group" is used like: group 1 = header
 - Each detail line can have its own group of messages.
 - group 2 = a detail line, group 3 another detail line. ctc.

```
Validation Request
                          3673
Validation Group
                         2951
Validation Unique
Message Id VOR4039
Message Severity 60
Message Text Invalid model year/exterior/interior combination.
```

Use MONMSG

- Avoid any possibility of a crash in RPG/CL
 - If an RPG/CL does not complete, it won't return control
 - Web page will "hang" till it times out
- Use MONMSG in CL; provide a return flag to tell PHP that an error occurred
- You could even email yourself the error message
- This technique will avoid head-scratching while you test, change file layouts, etc.!

Tip: Encapsulate i5 calls

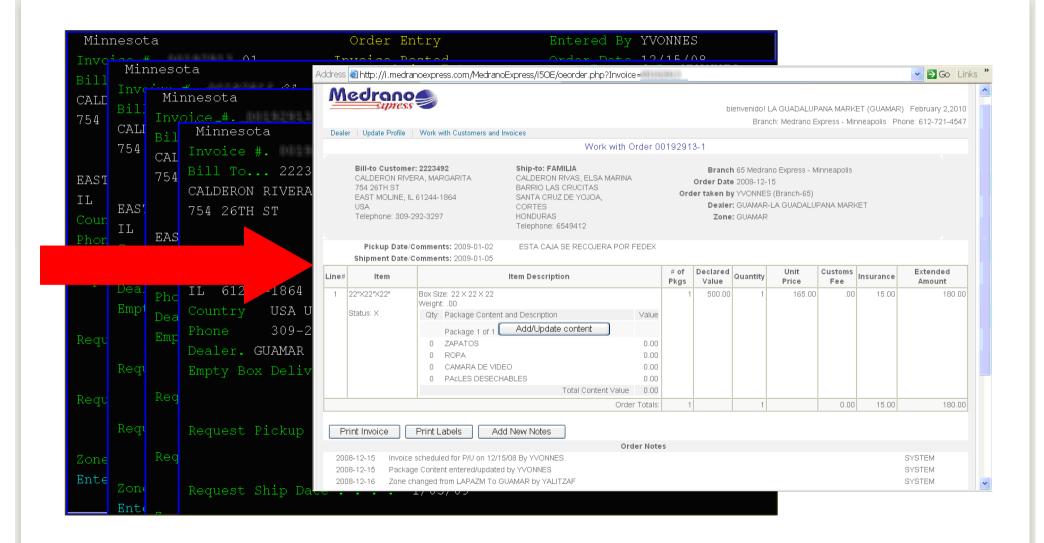
```
// PARTIAL CODE from our SBS i5 "class" (grouping of functions)
$ outputParms = array();
public function callProgram($programName, $description, $parmsIn) {
// for programName, library is optional, e.g. MYLIB/MYPROG.
// if successful, fill the outputParms array with output values
$pgm = i5 program prepare($programName, $description);
// get field names (keys) from description array.
$parmNames = array keys($description);
// generate output parm array from them.
foreach($parmNames as $parmName) {
    $parmsOut[strtoupper($parmName)] = strtoupper($parmName); // looks like
    "AMOUNT"=>"AMOUNT"
}//(foreach($description as $key=>$descArray))
$ret = i5 program call($pgm, $parmsIn, $parmsOut);
// create array of key=>value pairs from the variables created on i5 program call
$this-> outputParms = compact($parmsOut);
public function getOutputParms() {
// return outputParms, an array.
return $this-> outputParms;
```

Now call the encapsulated i5 function

```
// In your mainline code:
$programToCall = "MYPROGRAM";
$description = array("SESS"
                             => array(
                        "Name" => "SESS",
                        "IO" => I5 INOUT,
                        "Type" => I5 TYPE CHAR,
                        "Length" => "25"),
                     "SEO"
                              => array( // and so on...
// create array of input values
$parmsIn = array('SESS'=>$sessionKey,
                 `SEO'=>$zeroPaddedSequence,
                 `FLAG'=>$actionFlag);
// "callProgram" handles prepare and call.
$i5Call = new SBS i5();
$success = $i5Call->callProgram($programToCall, $description, $parmsIn);
if ($success === false) {
   throw new Exception('Could not call program.');
}//(if ($success === false))
// if we got this far, program ran successfully.
$returnValues = $i5Call->getOutputParms();
// validatedOK is true if FLAG = Y.
$validatedOk = (($returnValues['FLAG'] == 'Y') ? true : false);
```

Order Entry Case Study #1

Medrano Express: four into one



Screen #1. Order header

```
Minnesota
                       Order Entry Entered By YVONNES
Invoice #. Order Date 12/15/08
Bill To... 2223492 (F4=Search) Ship To FAMILIA
CALDERON RIVERA, MARGARITA Name... CALDERON RIVAS, ELSA MARINA
                             Addr1.. BARRIO LAS CRUCITAS
754 26TH ST
                             City... SANTA CRUZ DE YOJOA
EAST MOLINE
                      Region. CORTES
IL 61244-1864
Country USA United States Country HONDURAS
Phone 309-292-3297 Phone. 504-- -654-9412
Dealer. GUAMAR LA GUADALUPANA Reference#
Empty Box Delivery Date . 12/15/08 Delv.Time. (F4=Search)
Request Pickup Date . . . 1/02/09 Pickup Time 0 (F4=Search)
                    ESTA CAJA SE RECOJERA POR FEDEX
Request Ship Date . . . 1/05/09
Zone./ Branch ..... GUAMAR / 65
Enter=Continue F4=Search F12=Previous F20=Override Zone F22=Change Ship-To
```

Screen #2, Order detail

```
OEORDD
              Order Inquiry
                                         Entered By YVONNES/Minneap
Region
           Minnesota
       MN
                                         Order Date 12/15/08
                                         Invoice # -01
Bill To CALDERON RIVERA, MARGARITA
Ship To CALDERON RIVAS, ELSA MARINA
                                        Order Status Invoice Posted
Country 504 HONDURAS
                                          Customs Delivery Extended
 Oty Oty Item/Desc Weight Price Insure$ Fee Charges Amount
 2=Edit 4=Pkg Content 5=Adjust Comm 6=Change Posted Item 7=Coupon
 1 1 22
                            165.00 15.00 .00 .00 180.00
        22"X22"X22"
                                  Invoice Date/By. 12/15/08 YVONNES
 #/Pkas
    1 Declared Value... $500.00 Package Scanned. 1/08/09 YALITZAF
 Ln# 001 Inv Seq-01 Comm 30.00 Invoice Posted... 1/08/09 YALITZAF
                                                            Bottom
                                            Order Total. 180.00
                                        Invoice 01 Total.
                                                           180.00
Enter=Accept F1=New Box F2=Other Charges F7=Summary F24=More Keys
```

Screen #3, Content package from detail

(Option 4 from order header)

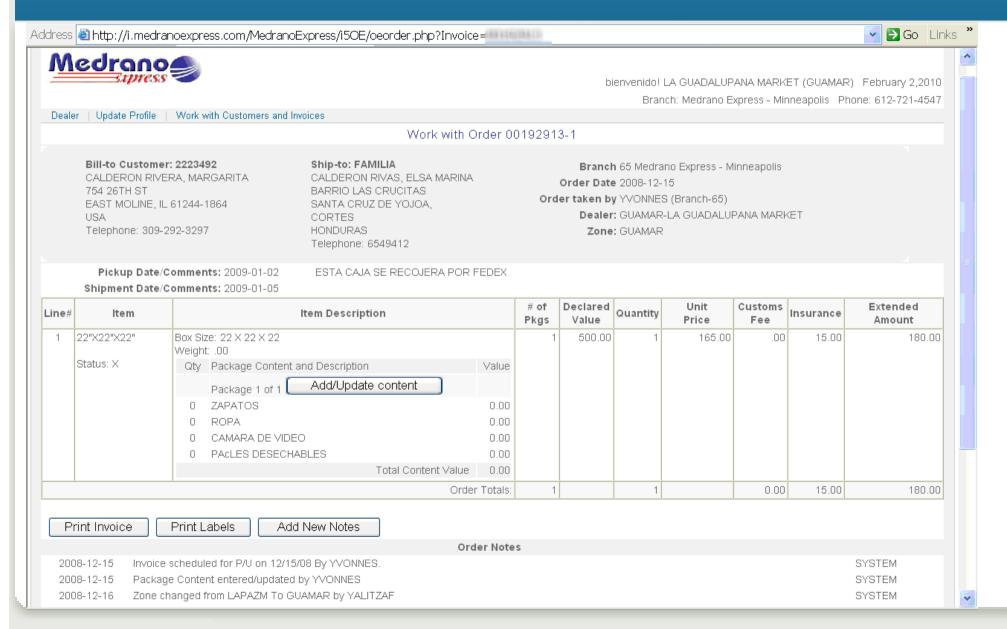
```
Package Contents
                                                      JESSIE
Invoice#. - 1
Line#.... 0001 22"X22"X22"
                           Dist Branch..... Honduras (50400/516-279-5205)
                          Delivered by..... FERNANDO ARGUIJ
Declared Value(Ins) 500 Delivery Date.... 2/01/09
Insurance Charges.. 15.00 Delivery signed by ELSA MARINA CALDERON
Pkg# Package Content/Detail Descriptions
1=Enter/Edit Content 2=Enter Claim 3=Assign Claim 4=Comment 5=Close Claim
6=Enter Customs Value
   1 -ZAPATOS
     -ROPA
     -CAMARA DE VIDEO
     -PAÑALES DESECHABLES
                                                                  Bottom
   Enter=Accept F2=Print F12=Previous
```

Screen #4, Notes from order detail

F9 key launches this

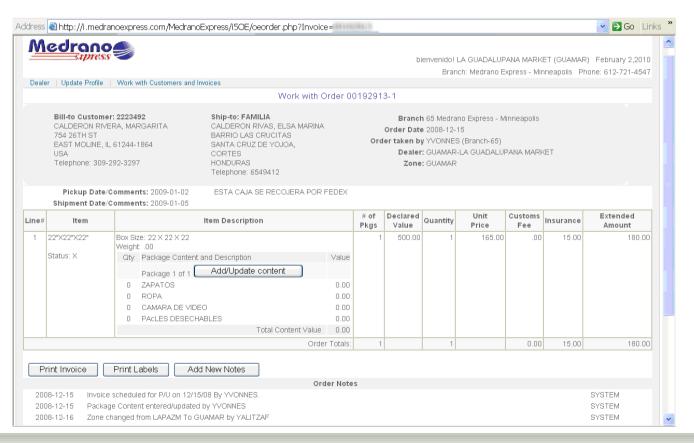
JESSIE Invoice Notes	
INVOICE	
Date Notes	<u>Created By</u>
2=Edit 4=Delete	
$_{\perp}$ 1/04/09 Label 00192913-01 printed by YVONNES.	SYSTEM
$_$ 1/04/09 Invoice -01 printed by YVONNES.	SYSTEM
$_{-}$ 1/04/09 Dealer changed from LAPAZM to GUAMAR by YVONNES	SYSTEM
$_$ 12/16/08 Price Overridden from 175.00 to 165.00 by YALITZAF	SYSTEM
CORRECCION	
$_$ 12/16/08 Zone changed from LAPAZM To GUAMAR by YALITZAF	SYSTEM
$_$ 12/15/08 Package Content entered/updated by YVONNES	SYSTEM
$_$ 12/15/08 Invoice scheduled for P/U on 12/15/08 By YVONNES.	SYSTEM
	Bottom
Add Notes	
days	
Enter=Continue <mark>F3</mark> =Exit	

Web page combines all 4 "green screens"



How do we fit all that on one page?

- Vertical scrolling
- **Contrasting fonts and colors**

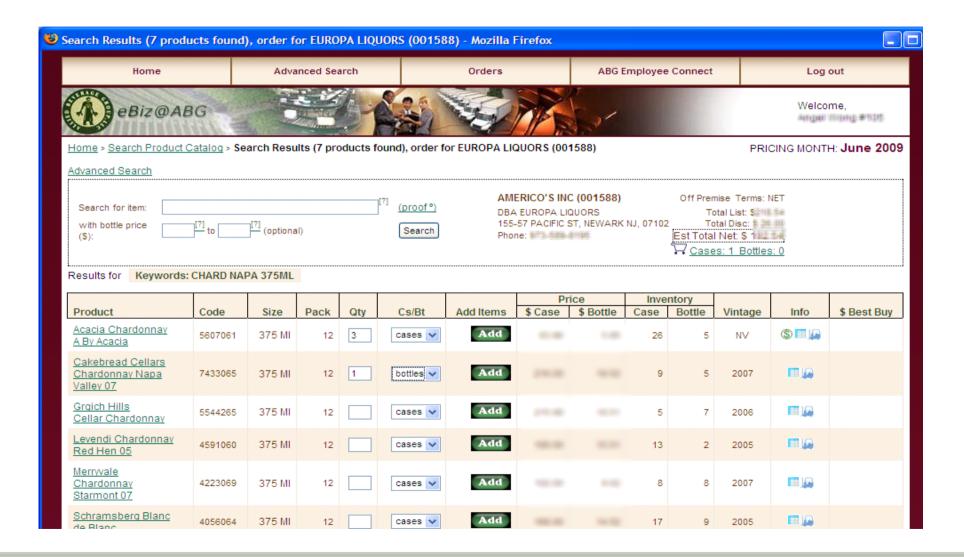


One PHP script, four RPG programs

- Call each RPG; it fills a work file with data to read
- Repeat 4x!
- "header" RPG returns useful information for calling "detail" RPG, etc.
- Show results in one PHP "view"
- (Thanks to Jessie Clark)

Order Entry Case Study #2

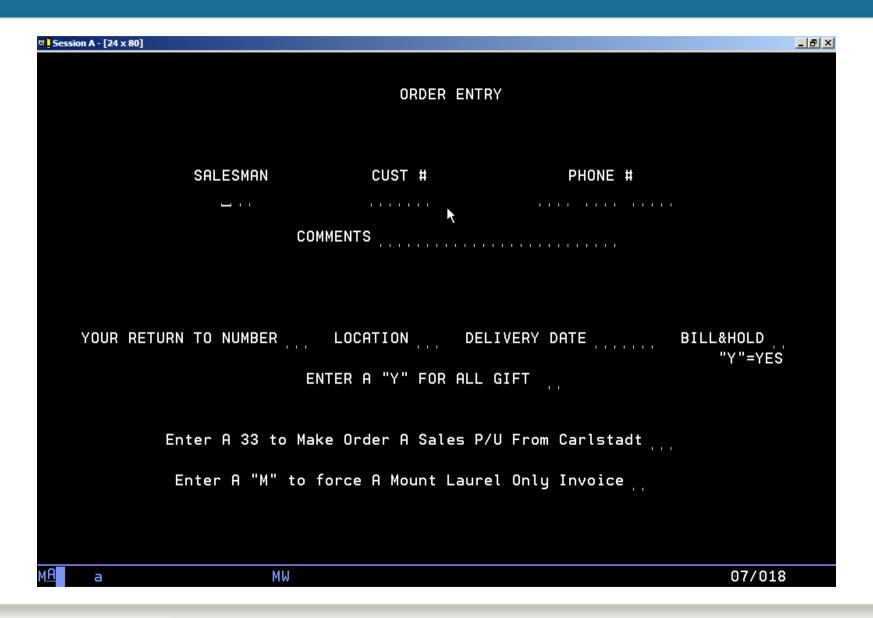
Allied Beverage Group



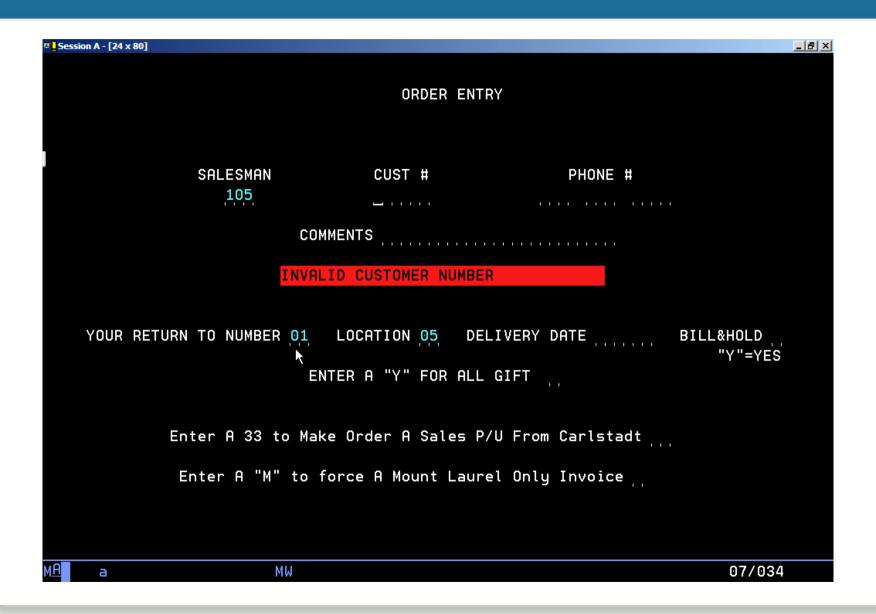
Original 5250-mode order entry process

- Aimed at expert customer service users
- Sales reps accessed it using Jadvantage java applet in browser
 - Better than nothing
 - S-I-o-w
 - Forced reps to have expert knowledge of system
- Dicey wireless signals on the road = lost sessions
- RPG did important work but was too complex to make major changes to

Intro screen



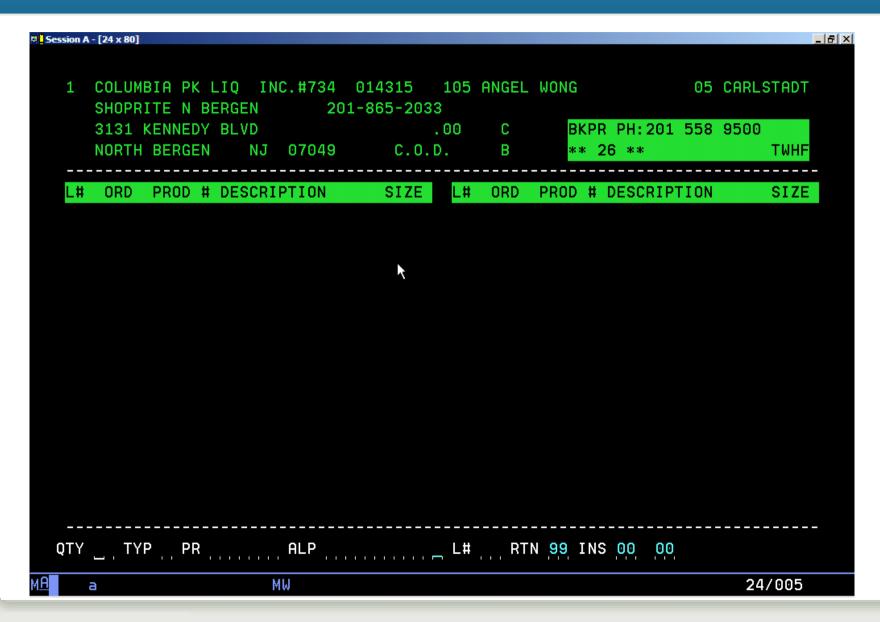
Intro with error message (customer)



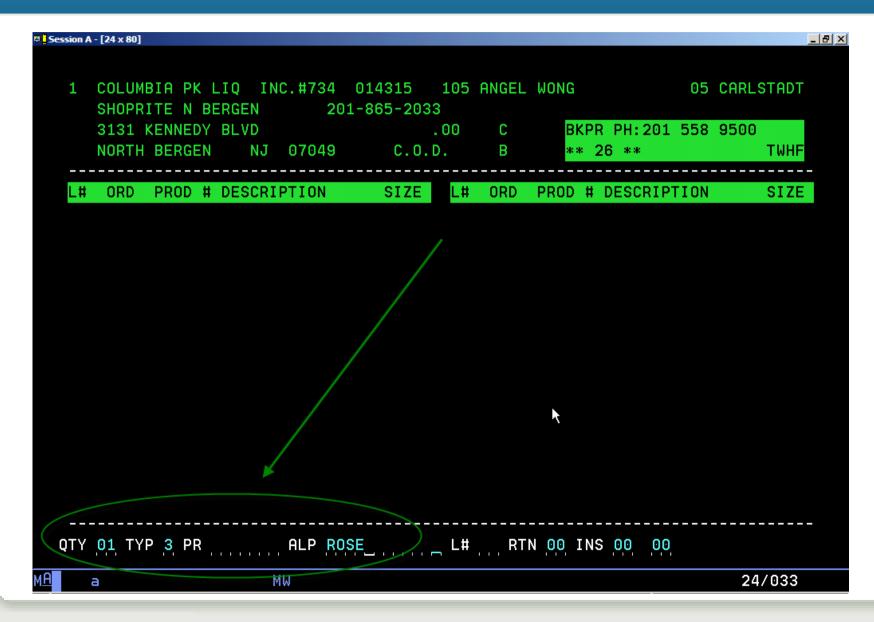
Intro with error message ("return to number")



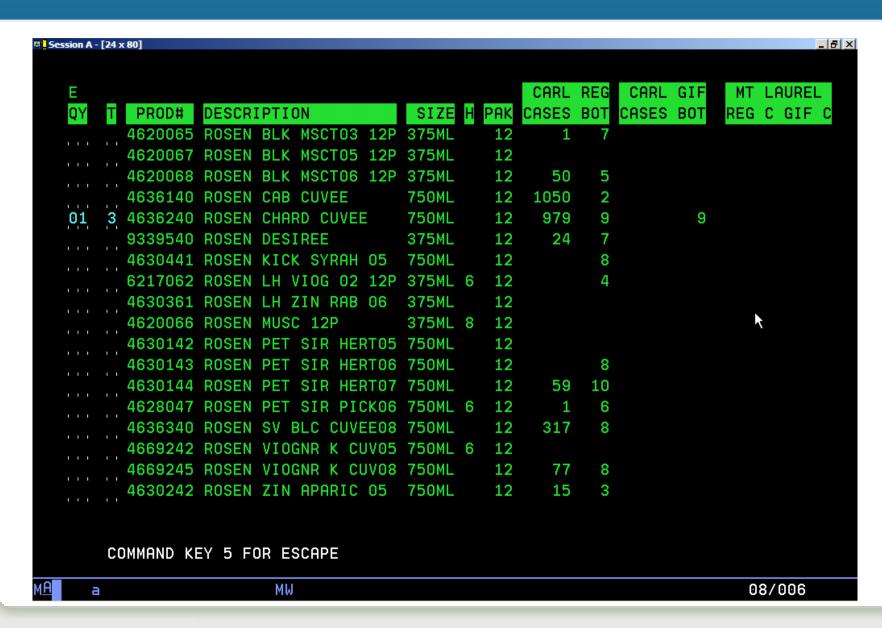
Main screen



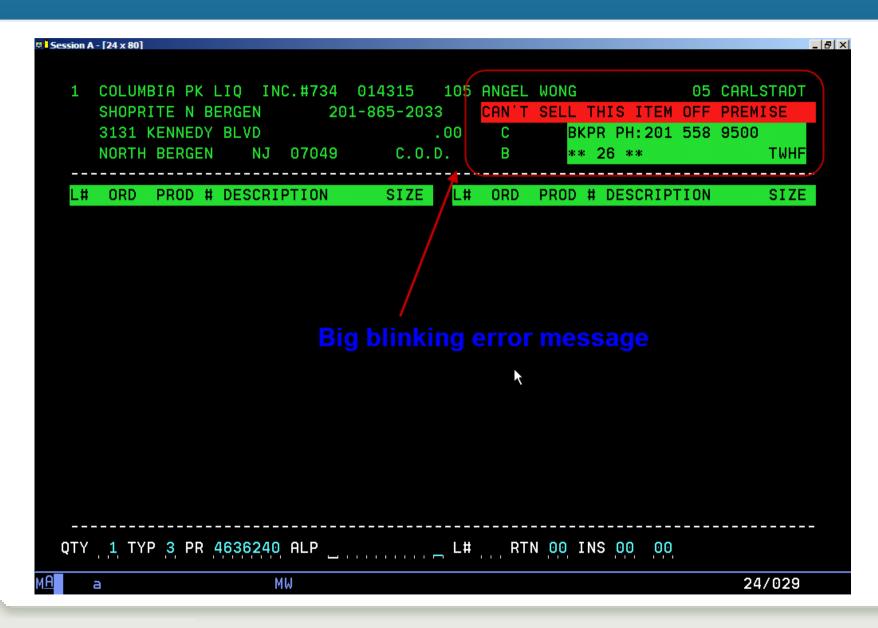
Search for a product by description



Select a product



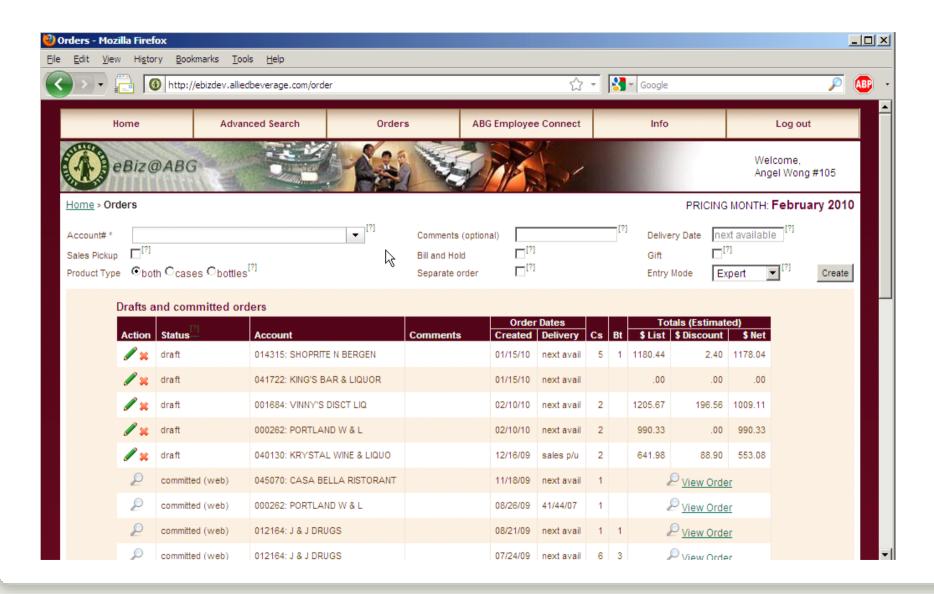
Help!



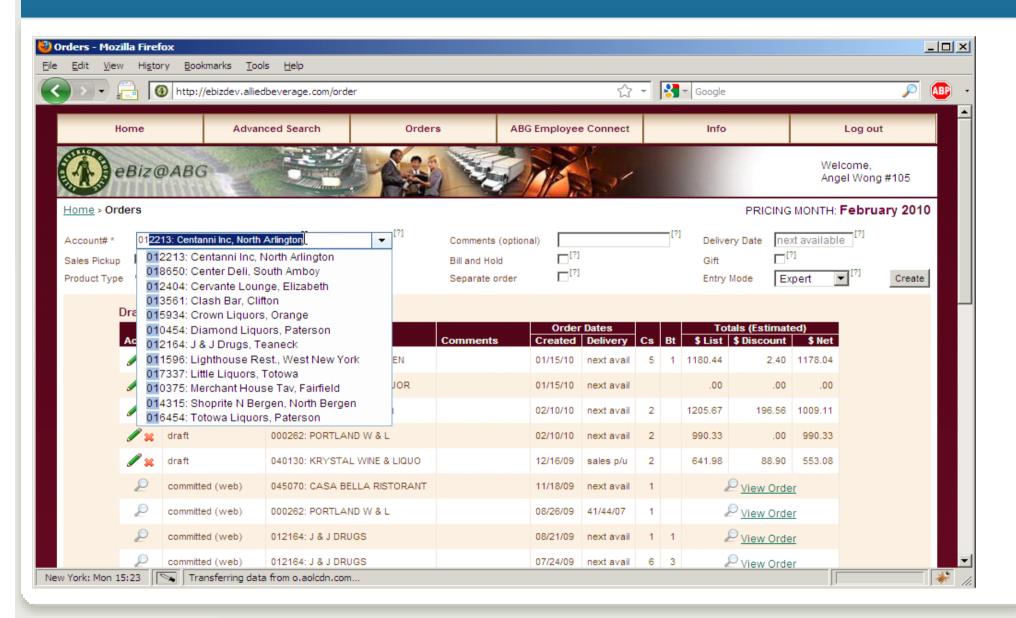
What Allied wanted in web-based order entry

- Good for sales reps and customers
 - Keep speed while making easier for newcomers
 - Reps can copy from past orders
 - Lots of information at fingertips (fewer clicks)
- Users can save drafts of orders
 - We use the old RPG logic, but we're not tied to it
- No problem if temporarily disconnected
 - Stateless web connection can easily resume later
- Overcome 90-item limit
 - So we didn't have to treat that as an error
 - Internally we split order into 90-item bunches and sent multiple orders to RPG

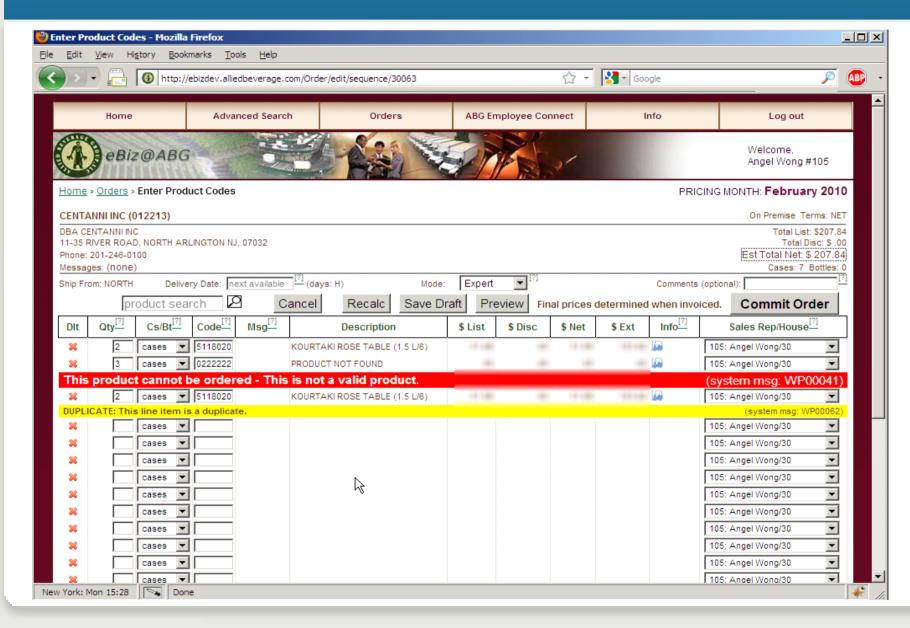
Web ordering intro page



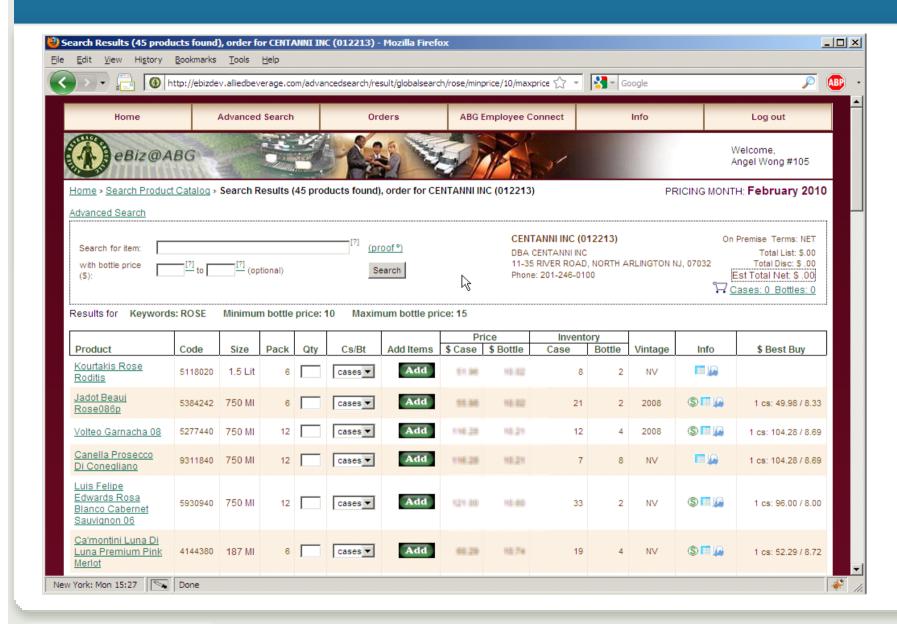
Web with account type/search box



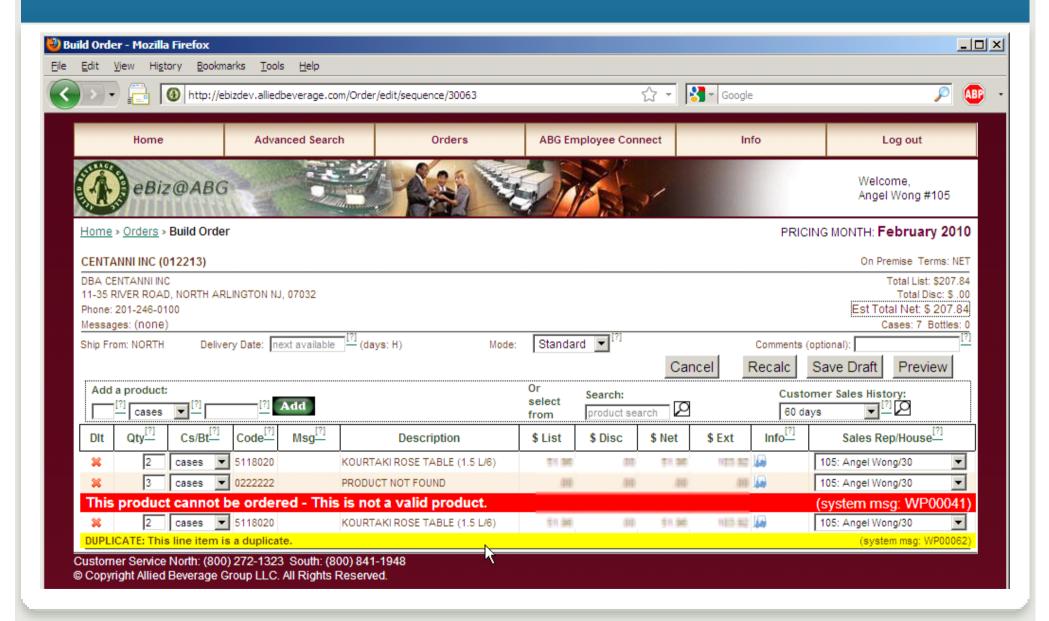
Web Mode #1: Quick Order Entry



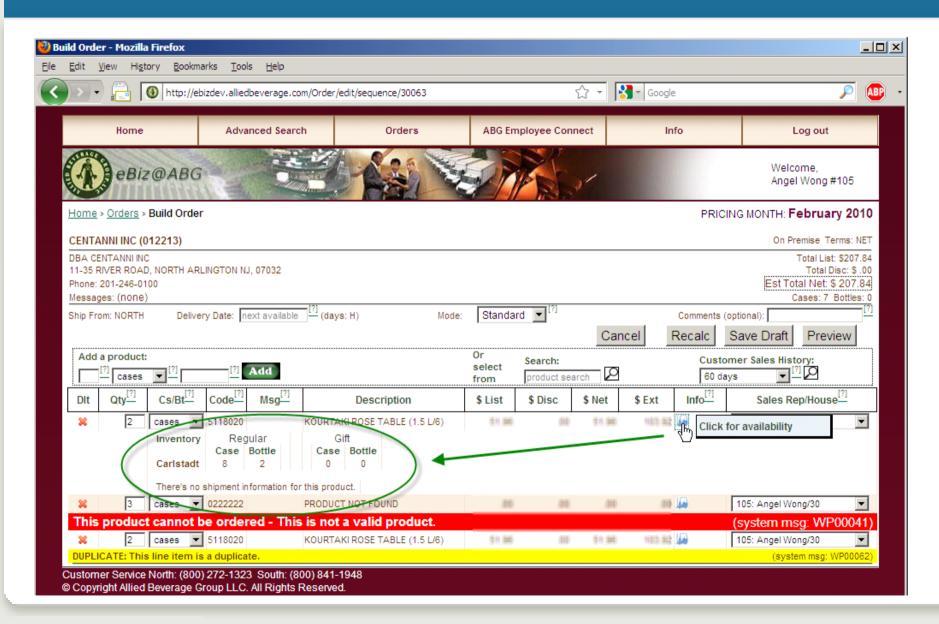
Search results



Web Mode #2: Standard Order Entry



AJAX technology (javascript) loads dynamic info



Usability tips

Check error messages for user friendliness

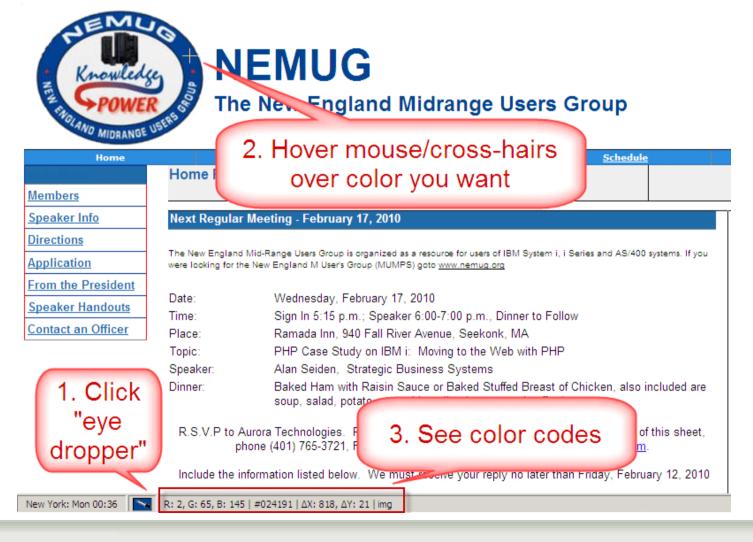
- Don't assume users are experts
- Old style
 - "CODE NOT ON FILE"
- New style
 - "We're sorry, but the warranty code you entered was not valid."
 - (Better: provide a lookup to avoid errors)
- Old style
 - "WARNING-LIMIT EXCEEDED"
- New style
 - "You entered more than the maximum number of line items (100)."
 - (Better: find a way to allow more items, perhaps by calling the old RPG program once for each 100 you need to process.)

Graphical appeal = usability and "sizzle"

- Need HTML skills or know someone who does
- **Use corporate logos or graphics**
- Photoshop, Snagit, or other graphic programs
- **Borrow from sites that you like**
 - Use "View Source" command in browser
- Match colors for instant professional look
 - See next slide for a tip

Colorzilla for Firefox

https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/271



Now it's your turn

Questions? And more at TGIF

Alan Seiden aseiden@sbsusa.com or 201-327-9400



To receive free PHP/i tips by email, write to aseiden@sbsusa.com with subject: "PHP tips."