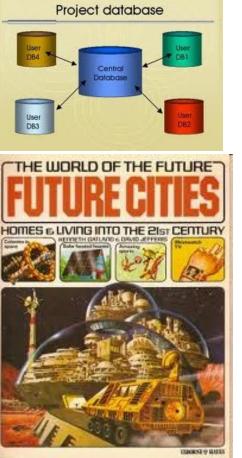
First a bit of history 11 12 1 9 9 3 3 3 3 7 6 5 4 4 4 7 6 5 4 4

Light Department Database History / Situation



The current status at this time



Closer to a perfect world

Recommendations for the future



The Light & water yard Computer / Software History



Back in 1985 the light department kept their records in a card file (hard copy). At the office, data was stored on a main frame type system. Work orders from the office (general work orders & meter changes & new installs) were sent out as hard copies.

By 1989 personal computers started showing up and we started keeping data in spread sheets & word processer formats. The spread sheets of the day were Lotus 1-2-3 and Quattro Pro. For word processing we used Word Perfect & Word Star. The OS was DOS in 1985 and Windows 3.1 around about 1991.

In the early days we used sneaker net to move data around. About the time Windows 3.1 came out we started Novell netware lite. That was a coaxial cable system that took care of the Light & water yard and the Substation at the Angeleno yard.

By about 1995 the city started using a database named Paradox database. That's because the word-processer at the time was Word Perfect which was owned by Borland software company. This was Borland's first public offering of a database at that time.

By 1998 the City started to set up software support in an attempt to standardize the hardware & software that was being used by all City departments. As time went by the Office and the Light & Water yard were connected to an Ethernet network.

Currently the various databases are running on a server based at the construction yard on 10th street.

Because of the work we do as a utility it was difficult to buy a software package that did all the things you needed. At first there were no all in one Utility software packages you could buy. Then when they did come on the scene they cost an arm & a leg. So we tried our hand at low end software development (on the down low) Click here for more info. Software & hardware are changing at a rapid rate. As a result software & hardware can get out dated quickly. Fortunately at this time (2011) there many tools available for a small utility as we are.

Now lets review how the Electric Test Shop have managed this information over the last 22 YEARS! Here are some screen shots with a short description

The next 13 slides show some of the programs we have used over the years that relate to the kind of work that we do for the Light Dep

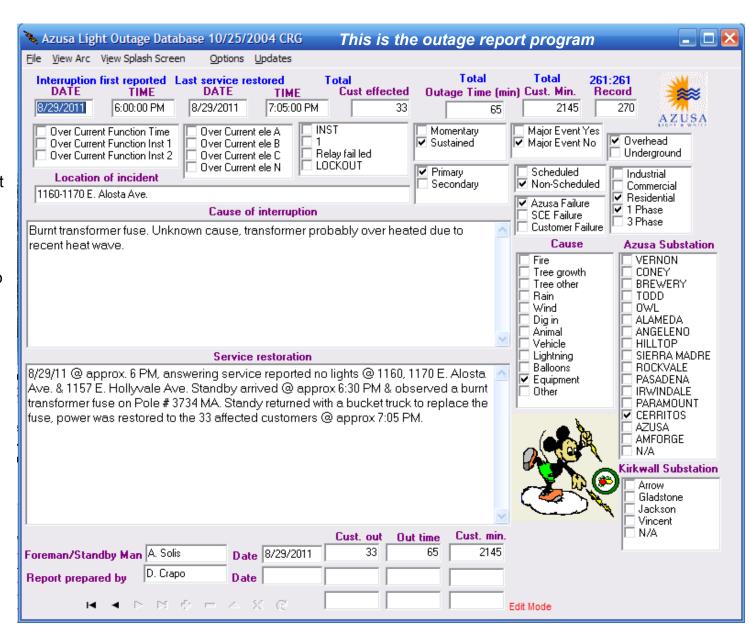
This program tracks the outages that happen in the City. This data is included when considering the power quality report.

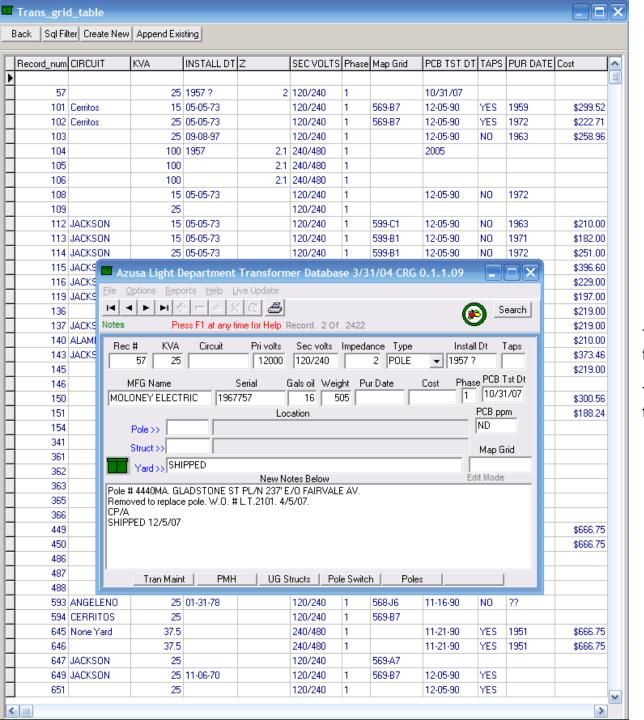
One of the nice features about this program is that it prints the data out to a word document.

A recommendation would be to use a web browser to display this data.

Click here for an example

The URL link examples take a little to fire off so please be patient, also these links only work from with in the City's network.



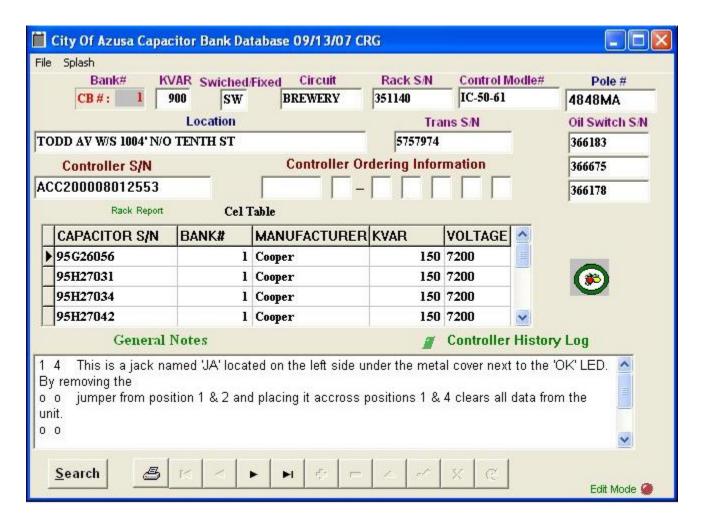


This and many of the following programs were compiled from Pascal source code using what they call RAD (rapid application development). It cuts down on the amount of manual coding that needed to be done. The application development system used to make these programs was called Delphi.

This database is for the distribution transformers.

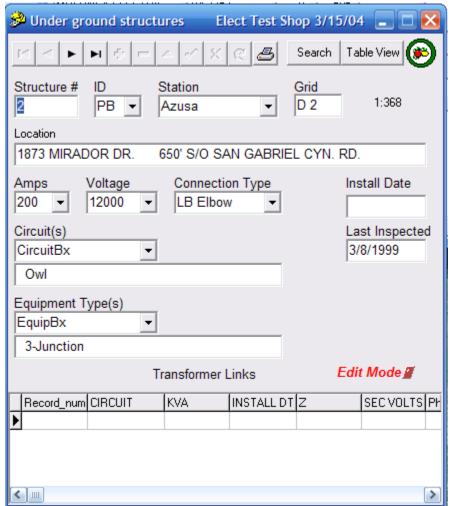
These include the overhead & underground facilities in the field.

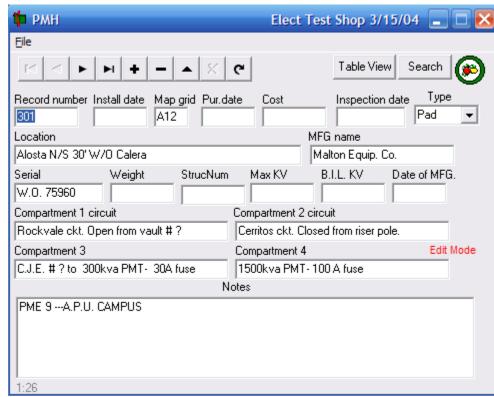
Notice the date on the window bar. This refers to the last time the was updated not when it was created.



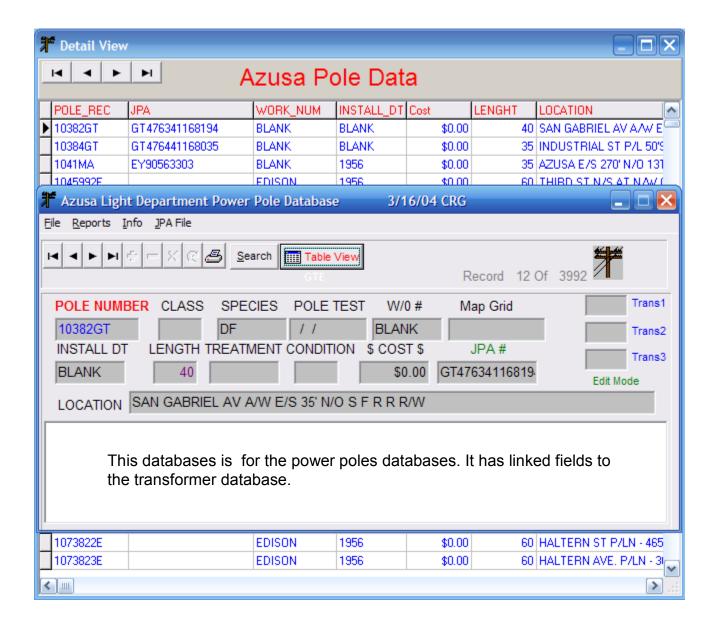
This database is for the capacitors.

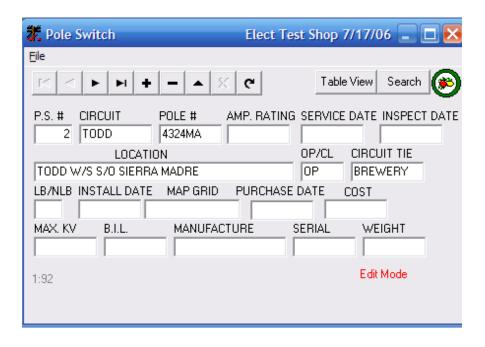
These include the overhead & pad mount facilities in the field.





These databases are for the underground structures & the PMH databases.



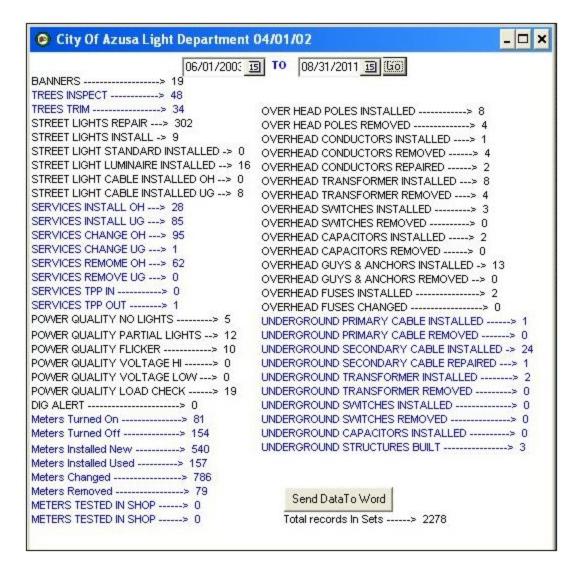


This database is for the pole switch databases.

This application was ahead of its time. The management at the time did not appreciate it.

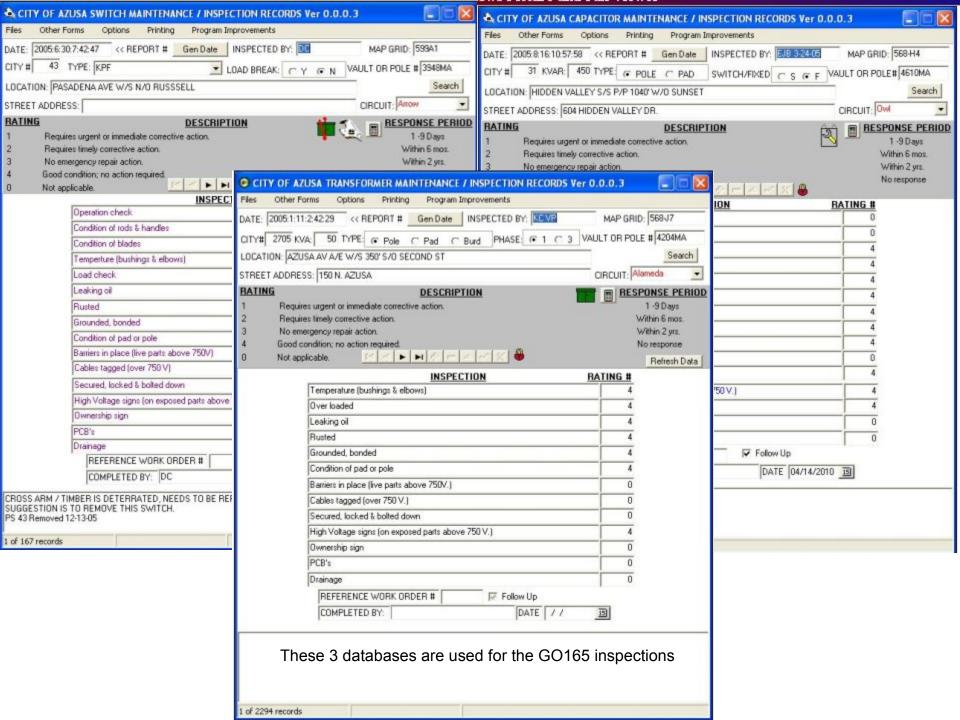
It covered all the types of work that was done by the Light Crews & the Electric Meter Test Shop.

I suspect it would be valued now.



This was a report that could be generated over a range of dates. It was linked to many other database sources to show overall work done by All in the light department.

It also printed out a nice form using "Word".

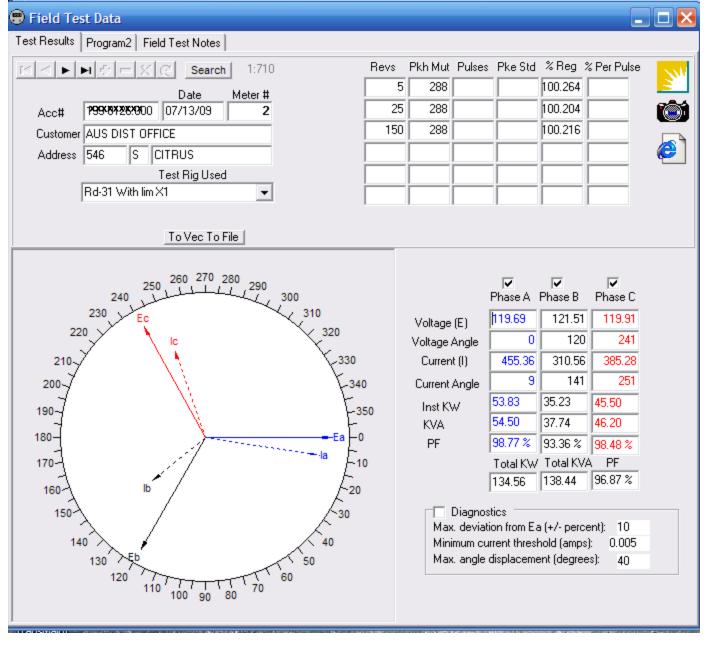


G0165 Star Trans Switch		Inspections Querys	Need To Do		3/6/2007				
Trans Omicir	Саро	PATROL	Transformers	DETAILED					
Overhead	1317	Years Per Cycle ->	1 Unit Per Month ->	109. Years Per Cycle ->	3 Unit Per Month ->	36.5			
	131		Chik'r Crinionar 2		Total of Moral y	Jacobson			
Underground		Years Per Cycle ->	1 Unit Per Month ->	10.9 Years Per Cycle ->	Unit Per Month ->	10.9			
Pad Mounted	706	Years Per Cycle ->	1 Unit Per Month ->	58.8 Years Per Cycle ->	3 Unit Per Month ->	19.6			
Total Transformers In field 2154 Total Transformers In database 2422 NOTE: This data comes from the transformer database									
PATROL Switching / Protectice Devices DETAILED									
Overhead	92	Years Per Cycle ->	1 Unit Per Month ->	7.66 Years Per Cycle ->	3 Unit Per Month ->	2.55			
Underground	0	Years Per Cycle ->	1 Unit Per Month ->	O Years Per Cycle ->	5 Unit Per Month ->	0			
Pad Mounted	26	Years Per Cycle ->	1 Unit Per Month ->	2.16 Years Per Cycle ->	3 Unit Per Month ->	0.72			
Total Transform	ers In fiel	d 118		NOTE: This data comes fro	om the Pole Switch and PMF	l databas			
		PATROL	Capacitors / Regula	tors DETAILED					
Overhead	29	Years Per Cycle ->	3 Unit Per Month ->	0.80 Years Per Cycle ->	3 Unit Per Month ->	0.80			
Pad Mounted		Years Per Cycle ->	Unit Per Month ->	Years Per Cycle ->	Unit Per Month ->				
Total Caps In Da	tabase 3	В		NOTE: This data comes fro	om the capacitor database				
3711		PATROL		INTRUSIVE					
3123 <mark>Poles Under 1</mark>	5 Years	Poles C	Over 15 Years without Int						
		Gen R	pt In Word ♀ Run Que ♀	Gen Html ତ୍ୱ					

This was a report from the three GO165 databases. You would enter in your numbers Then push the "Run Que" button



This is the same report as above showing the results tab. The report also printed a nice report using "Word"



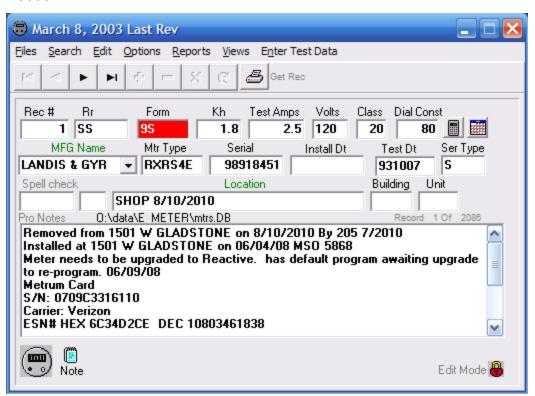
This is the database we currently keep our electric meter field test in.

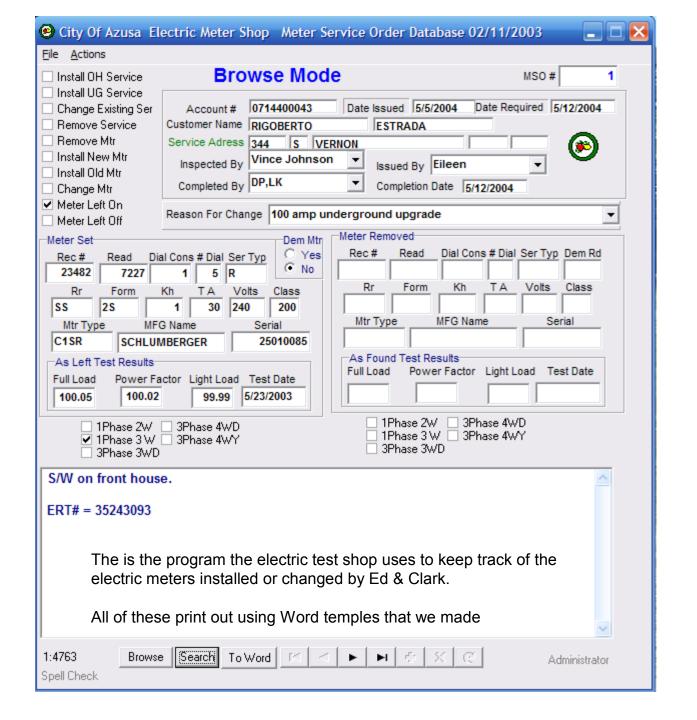
This is the original meter card database. It only stores in it the electric meters that are field tested.

Because the current Enquesta database dose not have all the fields in this record that we require and making changes to the Enquesta database are costly so we still use this one.

All the meters that we don't field test (mainly residential) are stored in the Enquesta system.

Even though we are not allowed to edit the residential meters stored in the Enquesta system we have been able to export the data for our needs.





This is free and open source forum software.

It has many, many features and levels of security.

It's a bit of over kill for what I'm using if for but it works Very well and I haven't had any problems with it so I still use it.

Its free flowing. For example I'll track a customer, any thing done on this account I keep track of. I can attach files, images, urls pretty much what ever I what.

A lot of the electric meter test shop information is stored here.

Now lets switch gears and consider the billing system and our interface to it. (at least from my perspective).



clarkgetty/index.htm

The City Of Azusa Electric Test Shop

🔍 Search...

Last visit was: Thu Aug 25, 2011 5:13 pm

Search

Advanced search

⊕ Board index	VA^
ឱUser Control Panel (0 new messages) ◆ View your posts	@FAQ &Members @Logout [cgetty]

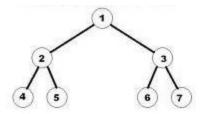
It is currently Thu Aug 25, 2011 9:38 pm [Moderator Control Panel]

View unanswered posts • View new posts • View active topics

Mark forums read

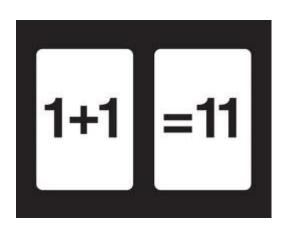
	FORUM	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST	
	G1 Tracking	77	77	by cgetty Q on Wed Aug 17, 2011 11:12 pm	
	G2 Tracking	96	96	by cgetty Q on Thu Aug 25, 2011 9:22 pm	
d	TOU Tracking To keep track of things that happen that effect customer accounts. Emails sent back & forth, reasons explaining changes made to meter programs, things like that. So that two years after some shit hits the fan & splatters all over the place I can review what I did & why I did it!		97	by cgetty 12 on Tue Jul 05, 2011 11:41 pm	
	No new posts Elect Meter Test Shop	27	41	by cgetty 1 on Wed Jul 06, 2011 4:16 pm	
	Elect Test Shop Weekly Activity List	6	6	by cgetty Q on Tue Jan 04, 2011 5:14 pm	
	Substations Substation Tracking Files	3	3	by cgetty	

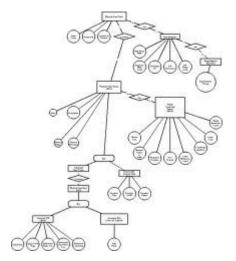
Before S&S the billing system had a data structure like this.

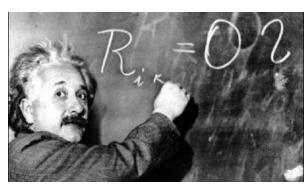


After S&S we now have a data structure worse then the one below! We went from about 100 tables to what seems like a 1000 tables of data.

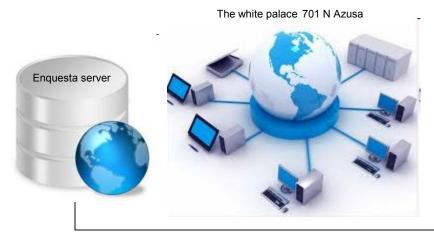
In many cases the tables are almost identical. This structure smacks of "I need job security" or if you give S&S the benefit of the doubt, very poor database structure design. You could hire a consultant to tell you what you want to hear. I'm just telling YOU straight up as one who has tried to extract data from this morass.







Although I don't appreciate the need for this kind of data structure keep in mind I don't get to see the whole picture. Maybe this type of structure is necessary .

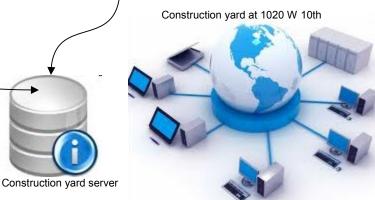


Data Dump From enQuesta server

enQuesta server data via Impromtu was gathered by the electrical test shop and displayed using a web browser.

No need to load software on client PCs, No license issues to be concerned with, easy access to all who cared to use it.

All other data resides here, transformers capacitors, meter records...



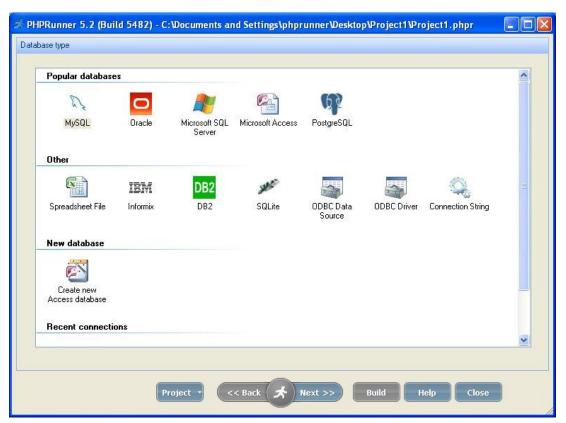
Because data can not easily be imported into enQuesta the meter records are entered in by the office via hard copy. The electric test shop keeps separate databases because of the inflexibility & cost issues that would be involved importing this data into enQuesta .

When S&S came on line the desire of the Test Shop was to query the database directly. The vendor S&S was not in favor of this. Impromtu was the vendor recommended interface.

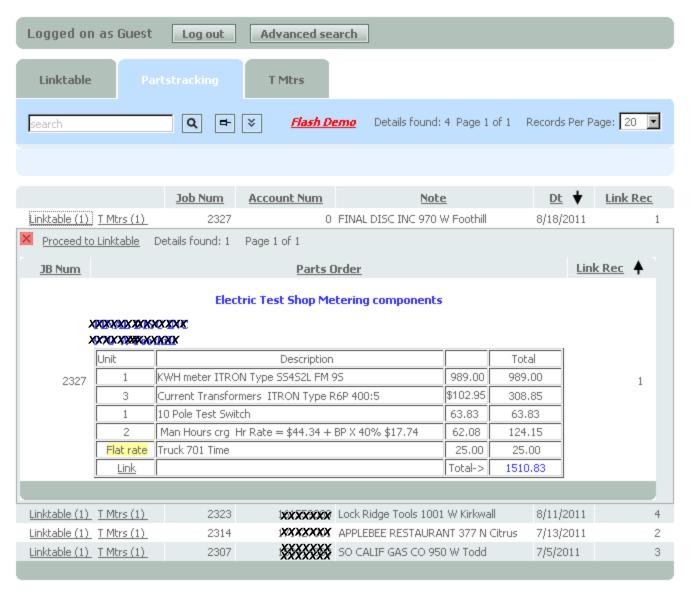
With out complaining too much we went along with Impromtu and cobbled a system together to get the data we need (Thank you for your help Margret).

Now the S&S vendor recommended interface has changed. And we are back to where we started.

The City owns a software program that will allow us to query data right out of the database. The program is Phprunner. With out the need to know how to program you can make tools to get the data that you need with out a bunch of fluff. This program only cost \$600.00. No special hardware to run it. No maintenance contract required to keep it going.

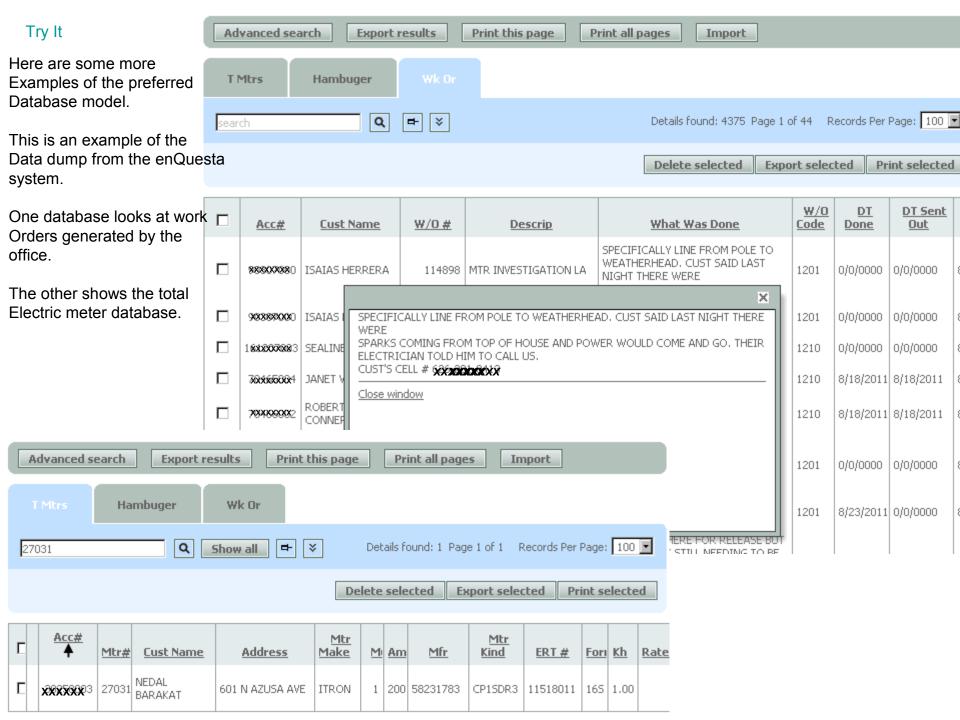


The next few slides show some examples with URLs that you can try for yourself

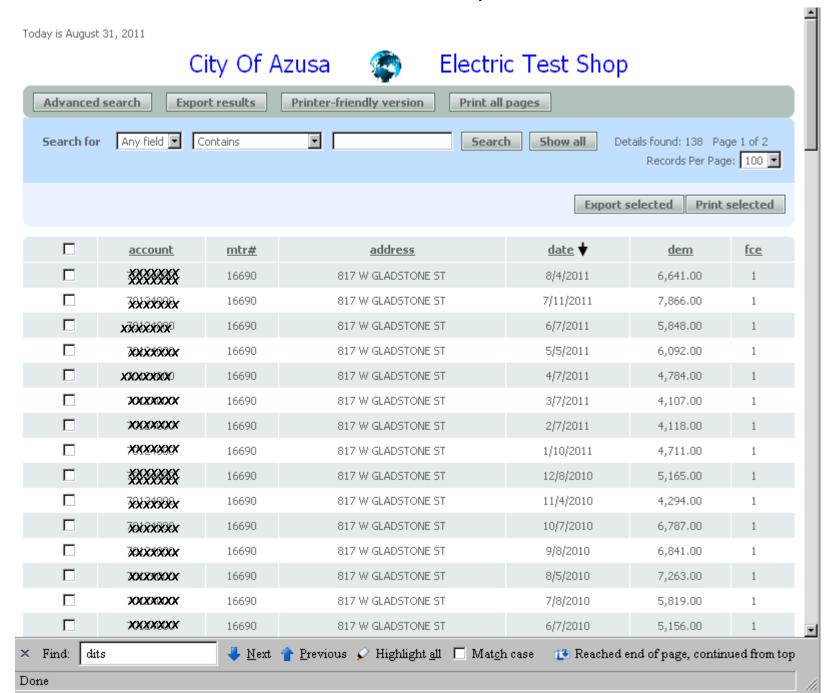


This database keeps track of the electric metering equipment used for new electrical services.

This is an example of the model the we (Clark) prefers today. A web browser is used instead of An OS based front end (zero configuration). The database is a true SQL / client server model It is recommended that all the databases be converted over into this format. Try it



This database show the electric customer load back as far as the year 2000. For a demo click here



Do you ever get this feeling?



The City wants something







Lets Try Something New

For the Test Shop the new reporting tool dose not get the job done.

To the extent that we can we should avoid using the services of S&S if we are able. We should the use the tools & knowledge we already have in house.

Mike said technically what we are asking is not an issue. We could read the data directly with out needing to export data. Click For Next



- * All the databases could reside in one common location.
- *The people making the hardware & software would not always be adding a bunch of fluff to their products just to keep the business rolling in.
- •The training & software support would be reasonably priced.
- * Software integration between software systems would be easer (its getting there).



We don't live in a perfect world



- Use opensorce software whenever possible.
- But there is still hope
- •Start using a real SQL client / server database.
- •A OS independent front end and back end should be used (like a web browser for the front end).
- •Discussion about how the databases should be structured, linked fields, consolidating common fields...
- •A yearly amount should be budgeted put in place for software upgrades and for using contractors as needed.
- •Train your people in house and retain them! When your in a pinch its nice to have some locally to fix you problem.

The End