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APIs by Example: User Index APIs, Part One

[System iNetwork Programming Tips Newsletter](#)

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For the next couple of installments of APIs by Example, I will discuss the User Index APIs. In this installment, I will present a command interface for the Create User Index (QUSCRTUI) API. A Delete User Index command, DLTUSRIDX, is already part of the operating system, but for some reason no command is included to take care of the need to create user indexes from a command line or a CL program.

As discussed in the Programming Tips Newsletter of January 29, 2004, an API command interface offers a number of advantages in the form of syntax checking and parameter documentation, as well as making it much easier to call the API in a CL-program. In this week's example, the command definition is accompanied by a help panel group that helps document both the QUSCRTUI API and its individual parameters.

Here is what the prompted Create User Index (CRTUSRIDX) command looks like:

```

= = = = =
=

                                Create User Index (CRTUSRIDX)

Type choices, press Enter.

User index . . . . .                               Name
  Library . . . . .                               Name, *CURLIB
Extended attribute . . . . .                       *NONE          Name, *NONE
Entry length attribute . . . . .                   *FIXED          *FIXED, *VARYING
Entry length . . . . .                             1-2000, *SHORT, *MAX
Sequence . . . . .                                 *NONE          *NONE, *KEYED
Key length . . . . .                               1-2000
Force to auxiliary storage . . .                   *NO            *NO, *YES
Index optimization . . . . .                       *RANDOM         *RANDOM, *SEQ
Authority . . . . .                                *LIBCRTAUT     Name, *LIBCRTAUT, ...
Text 'description' . . . . .                       *BLANK

                                Additional Parameters

Replace . . . . .                                  *YES           *YES, *NO
Domain . . . . .                                  *DEFAULT       *DEFAULT, *SYSTEM,
...
Usage tracking . . . . .                           *NO            *NO, *YES
Index size option . . . . .                         *MAX4GB        *MAX4GB, *MAX1TB

```

Now that you are able to create a user index quite easily, the next challenge that you face is to find out exactly what programmational potential a user index offers and exactly how to take advantage of these system objects.

To learn much more about user indexes and where and how to use them, I highly recommend a series of articles, The Power of User Indexes I-III, that Gary Guthrie wrote in 1999. Apart from the change in maximum user index size introduced in V5R2, everything else discussed in the three articles still applies. For your convenience, I've provided links below to the three articles.

In the next installment of APIs by Example, I will put the CRTUSRIDX command and a number of User Index APIs into action to help you build a utility that is able to externalize all of the text constants in a display file source. The retrieved text constants are then placed in message descriptions in a message file, giving you the option of changing the constants at a moment's notice, as well as translating the constants in order to support other languages in your applications' screens without having to maintain an equivalent number of display file sources and objects.

<http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/iseres/v5r2/ic2924/info/apis/qusertui.htm> You can retrieve the source code for this utility from

Programming Tips Newsletter of January 29, 2004, can be found here:

[fuseaction=ShowNewsletterIssue&ID=17970](#) The Power of User Indexes, parts I-III are available online here: Part I: <http://www2.systeminetwork.com/resources/artarchive/index.cfm?>

<http://www2.systeminetwork.com/resources/artarchive/index.cfm?>

<http://www2.systeminetwork.com/resources/artarchive/index.cfm?>

(All three articles require ProVIP membership to access.)

The above article was written by Carsten Flensburg. If you have any questions, you can contact Carsten at <mailto:flensburg@novasol.dk>.

Source URL: <http://iprodeveloper.com/rpg-programming/apis-example-user-index-apis-part-one>