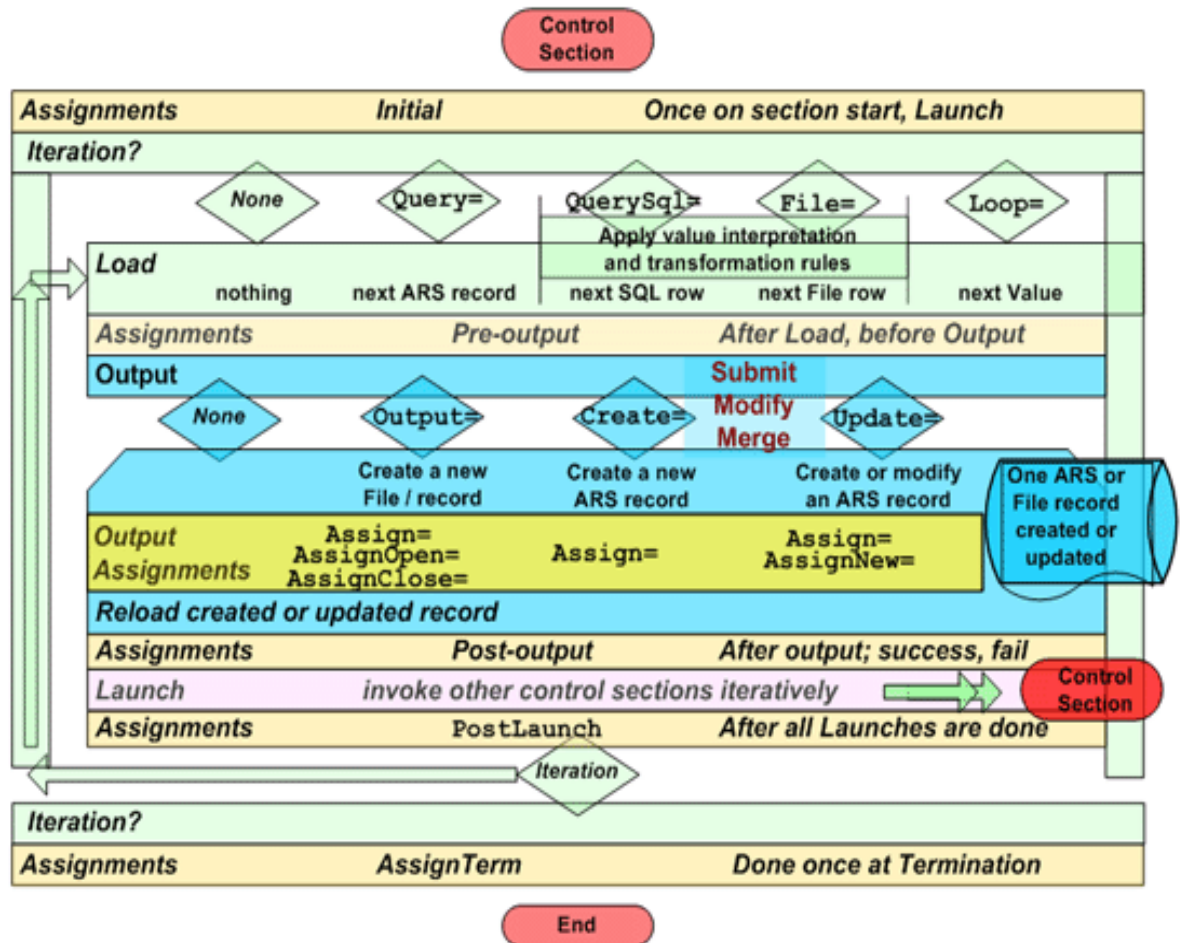




Meta-Update Script Process

September 30, 2010



Introduction

Meta-Update scripts are simple sectioned ASCII files.

A **Meta-Update** script looks like a "Windows ini file". It has two types of sections: **Control** and **Assignment**.

Control Sections specify **Meta-Update** operations.

A control section can be performed exactly once, or, it can iterate through results of a Query, SQL Query, File, or, a Diary Field's or delimited string's entries.

In each iteration or loop, an Output to an ARS record or ASCII file may be done. Output ARS records are automatically reloaded. The section can launch other sections to output more records.

Each Control Section specifies Assignment Sections to be performed at various times during its life.

These are used to load other records, LookUp and translate values, assign script variables,

output field values, fire server or client processes, control the script operation.

Assignment Sections

Assignment Sections are where you specify what values will be assigned to which fields for an output record.

Assignment Sections also allow you to:

- set script variables
- fire server and client processes
- translate and look up values against internal lists, CSVs, Queries and SQL Queries
- load other ARS records
- use regular expressions to match and extract values
- use arithmetic expressions
- conditionally include other Assignment Sections

Assignment Sections support:

- fully nested conditionals
- automatic type conversions
- copying values based on field ids or names

Iteration

Each **Control Section**

- can be executed exactly once
- can loop through the records returned by a Query or SQL Query
- can loop through each record of a CSV file
- can loop through a Diary Field's entries
- can loop through a "Delimited" String's values
- can loop while an expression is true

On each iteration, the next record is loaded into the Tag specified.

For SQL Queries and File records, interpretation and transformation masks are applied.

Output

Each Control Section can either not output or:

- Create an ARS record
- Update or Create an ARS record
- Output a new CSV record or a new ASCII pattern file or record

For ARS records, Merge can be used and workflow can be inhibited.

Any records updated or created are reloaded so that the complete record, including any workflow changed values, is available to your script.

The form being updated and the query for the update record may be references. ARS queries may use field database names.

If no changes are detected, the update is inhibited by default

Launch

Control Section can Launch other control sections.

So, for example, a first section can output a People record to a file, then Launch a section that queries this person's rights and saves them in a separate file.

Similarly, when migrating say HelpDesk tickets across releases,

A first section queries the records to be migrated on the source server.

It then launches a section to create or update the new Incident on the target server. That launched section then Launches a series of sections

- to loop through that ticket's Diary field entries creating or updating appropriate HPD:WorkLog entries,
- to transfer any attachments into a special WorkLog,

In this way, trees of dependent data can be handled a complete tree at a time.

Meta-Update

Uses the ARS API and runs at API speeds.

- Enables your ARS developer to perform complex scripting ***without any programming knowledge at all*** using the ARS language he already speaks.

Pays for itself with a single file import or batch operation.

- ❖ **No** perl, Java, VB, c API work at all.
- ❖ No temporary import forms and complicated merge filters.
- ❖ Easy, single file, script maintenance.

I recommend Meta-Update for all those who want the flexibility of a scripting language to handle bulk ARS data."

Data Migration Manager, Logica UK, after his off-shore team successfully implemented data migration scripts from ITSM 5.5 to ITSM 7.

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