

# 3

## **PlanetPress: Intelligent Form Software**

### **CHAPTER CONTENT**

**Overview**

**Requirements**

**Key Features of PlanetPress 3**

**Intelligent Forms**

**PlanetPress Form Design**

## OVERVIEW

PlanetPress makes moving from pre-printed impact printer applications to laser printed forms simple and cost effective. It is the design tool for the PlanetPress Suite of products. Documents can be created to run directly on the printer with no host or server software. PlanetPress documents can be printed, archived, e-mailed and/or faxed as part of a sophisticated output management application driven by PlanetPress Watch.

Documents including business forms, mail pieces, insurance forms, as well as industrial labels can be developed with ease. Documents can then be integrated with variable data coming from most host computers.

PlanetPress is specifically designed to be easy-to-use so that anyone can design Intelligent Forms, whether you are a novice or a professional. Power-users also get their share of highly advanced features so they can create truly sophisticated forms.

## REQUIREMENTS

To create Intelligent Forms, you do not need to know PostScript. PlanetPress requires the following:

- Windows 95, 98, NT 4.0 or 2000
- 32 MB of free RAM
- 100MB of hard disk space
- Pentium II or better processor
- PostScript printer

## KEY FEATURES OF PLANETPRESS 3

- Simplifies migration of existing mission critical applications to an industry standard network-printing platform.
- Enables printing of mission critical print applications anywhere on the corporate network.
- Application data remains separate from formatting information, eliminating future legacy application conversion problems.
- Network downloading of Intelligent Form resources.
- Supports existing print streams without changes to the application.
- PC-based WYSIWYG development process ensures rapid application migration and development. PlanetPress uses a Windows-based front-end and visual editor for form creation with powerful design capabilities.
- On-screen design of forms with traditional desktop publishing capabilities such as a selection of fonts and graphic elements (lines, boxes, shading, logos).
- Intelligent print stream processing extracts, formats, and repositions text on the page, and lets you set the type and quantity of copies to be produced including image overlays (i.e., logos or signatures).
- Supports the use of commercial Windows-based software to design forms and images.
- PlanetPress pages can be created from one or more images.
- Formats selections of application data with different fonts, line spacing, orientation and placement.
- Creates multiple copies of data to be placed on multipart forms with the possibility of applying different formats to each part.
- Supports scanned images for logos and signatures.
- Ability to adjust any of the above based on the presence or absence of characters in the application data stream.
- PlanetPress Intelligent Forms include all of the instructions for interpreting the print stream and the images placed on the pages, as well as the code required to process print jobs.
- Provides a screen preview via a PostScript Interpreter (included).
- Optional image capability for output. PlanetPress converts the data stream to an industry standard image format and creates a database index to easily retrieve imaged forms.
- Offers optional fax output capability.
- Grey bar chart reports.
- Comprehensive context-sensitive help.
- Version control through comments in the form's native format and compiled versions. Directory of printer hard disk can be accessed from PlanetPress to display comment information.
- Annotate pages with formatted text.

- Print multiple logical pages of data on one physical page (n-up printing).
- Print multiple collated copies (requires printer hard disk).
- Provides access to the powerful features of PostScript printing without having to learn PostScript.
- A simple command at the beginning and end of the application data starts and stops the formatting carried out by the Intelligent Form.

## INTELLIGENT FORMS

Because Intelligent Forms are supported by the latest printing solutions, they eliminate the need for, and the handling of, pre-printed business forms designed for impact printers. This approach uses laser printers for invoices, statements, reports, and even MICR (Magnetic Ink Character Recognition) checks. Standard company paper (whether plain bond, letter head or colored paper) can be used for a variety of forms instead of pre-printed paper.

Intelligent Forms are platform-independent PostScript programs that run at the printer level. They do not require ANY MODIFICATION to your current applications. Because they reside in the printer's RAM, flash, or on the printer's hard disk, these forms merge graphics and data inside the printer, providing ultimate throughput and reduced network traffic. Intelligent Forms are triggered by a simple command at the beginning of the print stream, which can be embedded in your network queue definition.

Unlike forms produced by other commercial electronic form packages, Intelligent Forms do not require data merging software on the host computer. It is almost as easy as unplugging the impact printer and plugging in the laser printer. As far as the operator is concerned, there is no need to learn any new software or perform printer alignments.

Simple text-based data stream  
from host applications  
(legacy data, line printer, etc)

```
David Oberhofer  
40 Nile High Blvd.  
Denver CO 80202-4321  
  
047 0001  
0365 151MCITY 2000 SPECIAL EDITION 564.99  
0365 151/WIH95/DOS CD  
0365 151/COPTER WIH95 CD ...
```

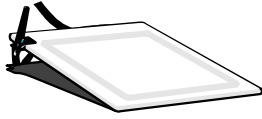
On any host, simply add the reference to the  
Intelligent Form (a few lines of text) or use  
PlanetPress Watch's automated data recognition process



### PlanetPress

#### Intelligent Forms Designer

WYSIWYG forms design  
package with conditional  
overlays and data format/  
mapping



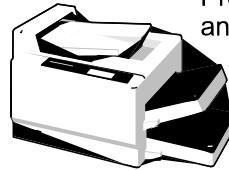
Compile Intelligent  
Form for printer storage

Compile Intelligent Form for  
PlanetPress Fax, PlanetPress  
Image and PlanetPress Watch

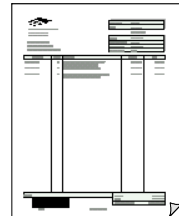
### PostScript Printer

(may include hard disk, flash Ram or extra memory)

Process Intelligent Form  
and create formatted page



Use locally  
stored Intelligent  
Forms (1)



# PLANETPRESS FORM DESIGN

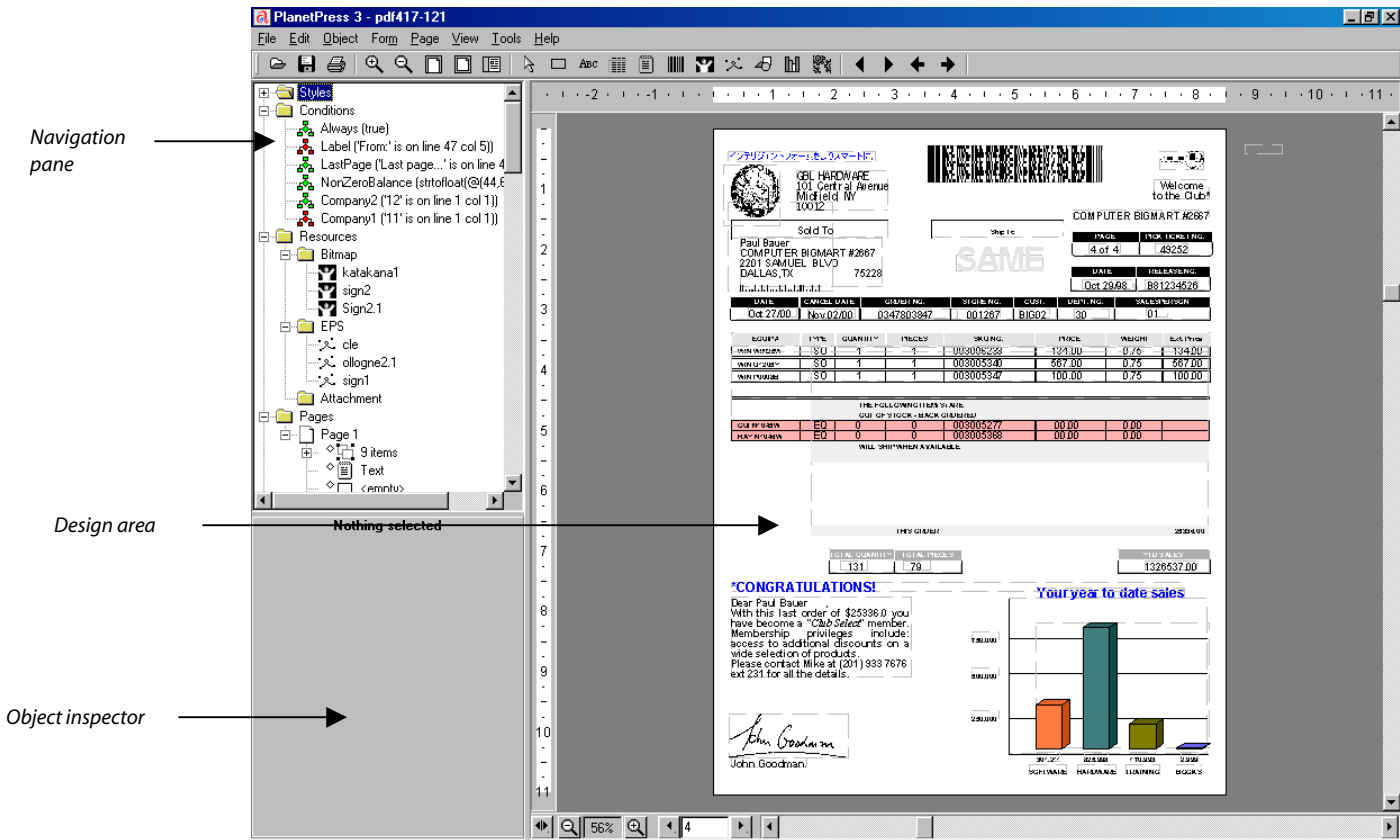
Although the following explains how to create basic and advanced elements in a form sequentially, you can create form elements in a different order.

## DESIGNING FORMS

With PlanetPress, it is simple to create forms. The forms are created using the menu and tool bar. The forms are displayed in the design area and can be modified using the features in the navigation pane.

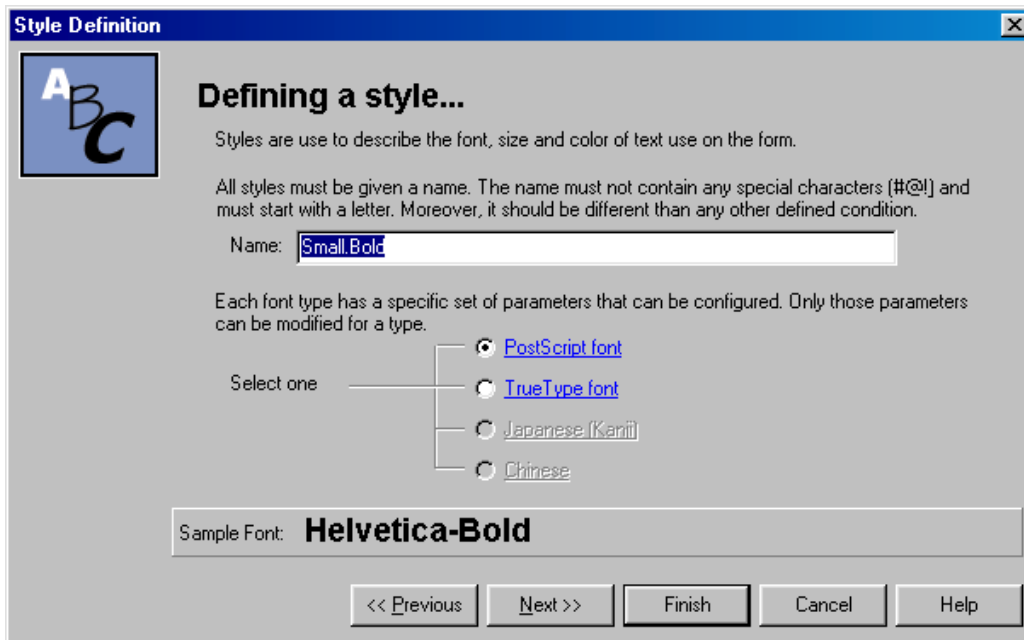
PlanetPress is a complete graphic design tool. It provides an explorer-like navigation tool so you can easily select any object.

The **PlanetPress 3** window allows the user to define a style, add formatted text, barcodes and macros, select data, attach conditions, design business forms, etc. Every feature can be called upon through the navigation pane or the menu bar, or by double-clicking on the appropriate button in the tool bar.

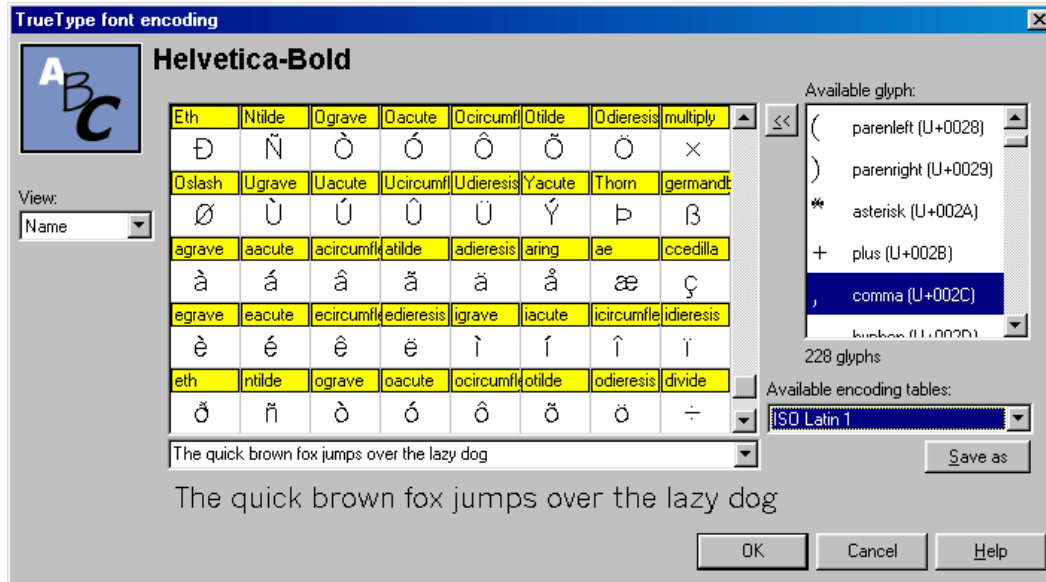


## DEFINING A STYLE

The **Style Definition** dialog box is used to select the font, size and color used for the form. You can name the newly created style and define it as PostScript, TrueType or as a double-byte font.



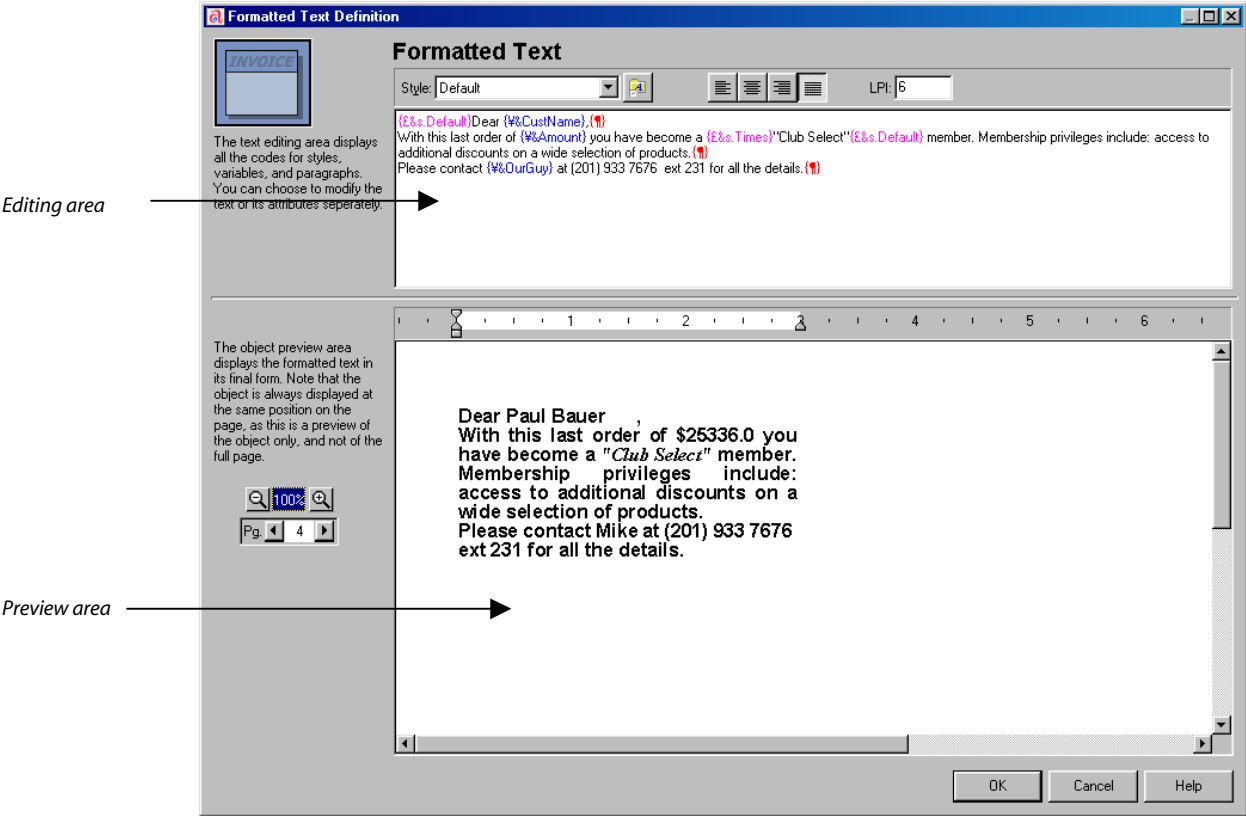
Once the name of the new style is defined, you can define the characteristics and attributes of the new style. PlanetPress also provides an encoding vector editor. You can apply any encoding vector, or create new encoding vertices, for the selected style.




The style definition not only allows you to define color and size, it also includes a ratio factor that enables the font to be scaled along the X-axis.

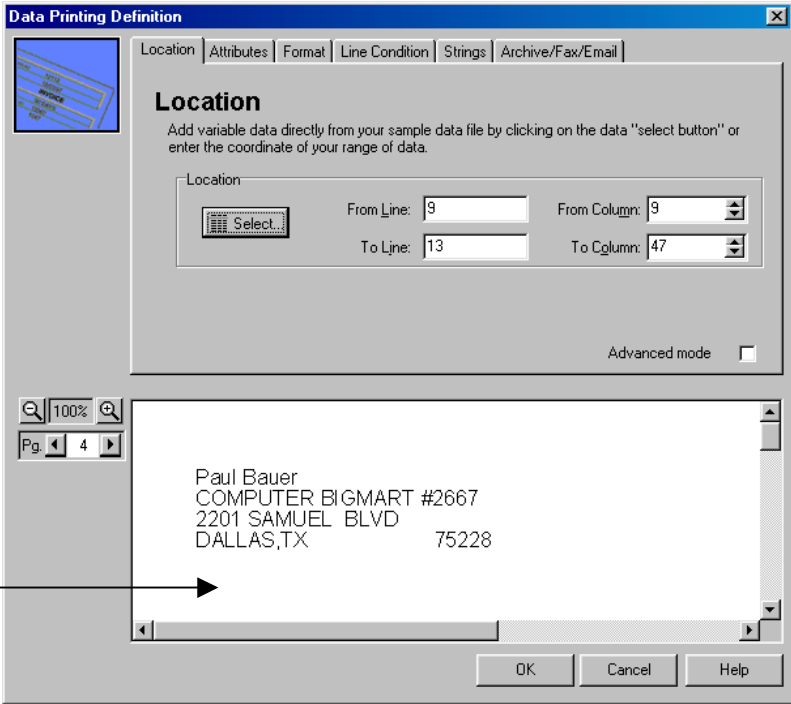
### ADDING FORMATTED TEXT

The **Formatted Text Definition** dialog box lets you add static and dynamic text to a form, and format it using standard editing tools. These editing tools provide more flexibility than the static text because you can change the style, insert a variable, modify the alignment, and so on. To help users add text, PlanetPress designed an editing area where the style codes are displayed in magenta, paragraph marks in red, and variable codes in blue. The lower portion presents the inserted text, as it will be displayed in the form.



It is also possible to add static text by clicking  in the tool bar. This function lets you enter text in a predefined style and alignment. Text always appears as entered, even if data is merged with the form.





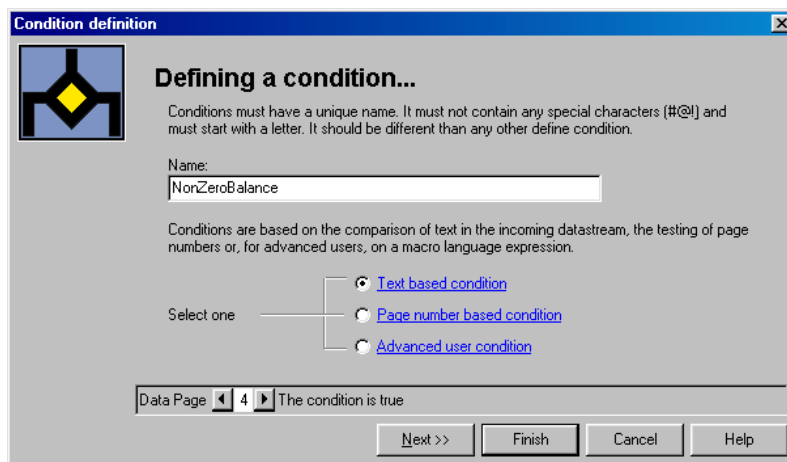
Preview area

Using the tabs in the **Data Printing Definition** dialog box, enter the name, style, format of the data selection, conditions for printing, etc. The properties you enter in this window are sent to the printer as instructions to merge and print variable data.

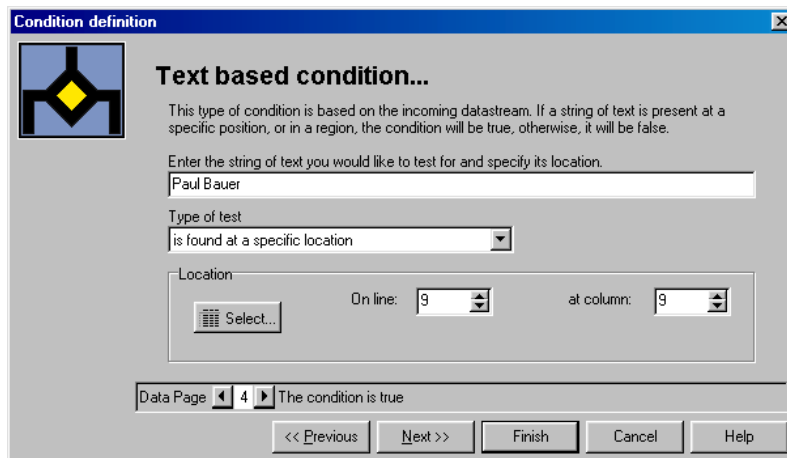
## INSERTING CONDITIONS

All elements of a PlanetPress form can be conditionally placed or printed based on the information in the variable data stream. This makes documents dynamic (they change from page to page).

To control the appearance of text, graphics or pages, you can define conditions based on incoming data. In the **Condition definition** dialog box, select the name of the desired condition, the location of the key field in the variable data and make links to other conditions. Then, the new condition can be applied to as many elements of the form as desired.



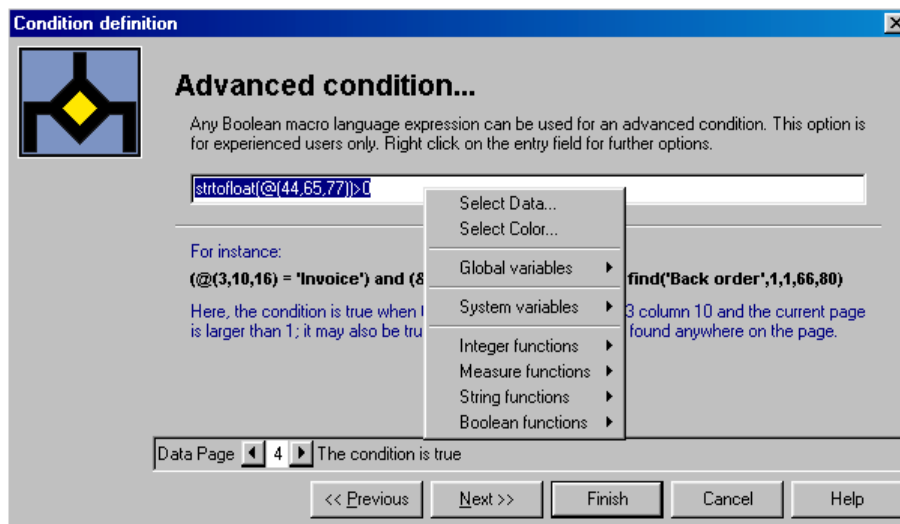
PlanetPress also supports line conditions, changing for example the font or color of a line, based on information in that line.



The **Text based condition...** section defines at what string of character and location, the condition defined previously is True.

PlanetPress also lets you combine conditions using operators such as AND and OR. Using logical operators, you can determine if one or more conditions must be true in order for the new condition to be true.

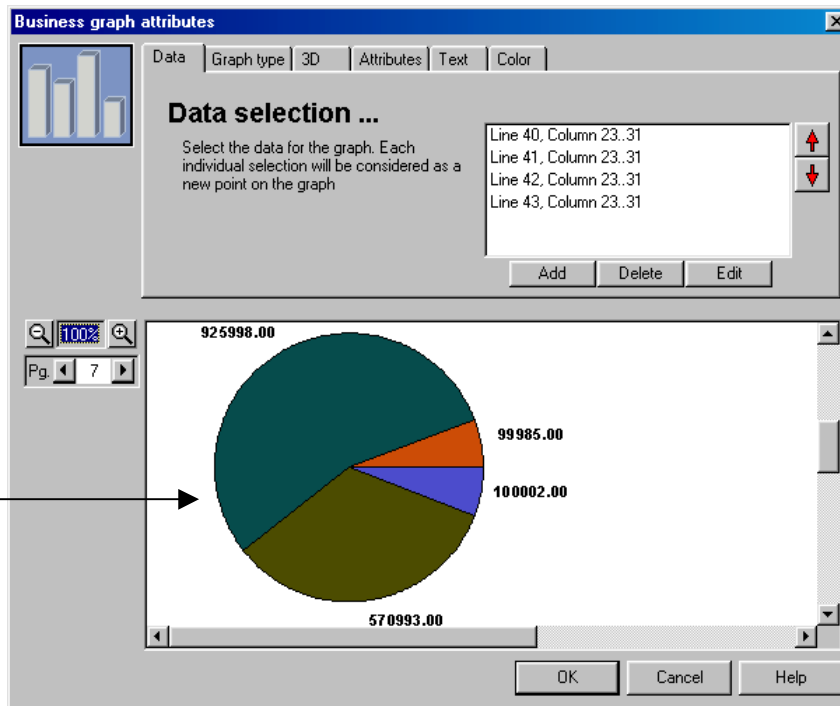
You can also add advanced user conditions by writing code yourself to create more complex data conditions.



When you create the condition, it is always displayed in **PlanetPress 3** window's navigation pane.

## DESIGNING BUSINESS GRAPHICS

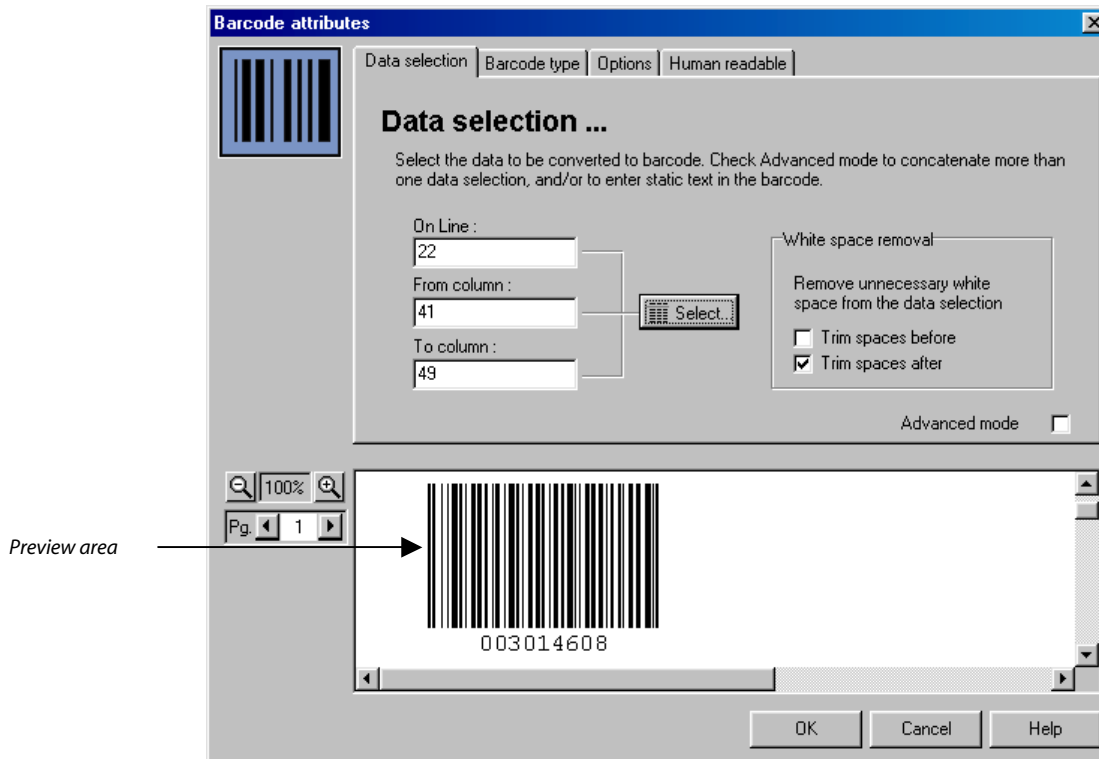
PlanetPress lets you include business graphics in forms. The **Business graph attributes** dialog box displays a bar graph by default. You can also create pie, bar and line graphs from variable print data and incorporate them into an Intelligent Form. The tabs display controls used to enter text under graphs, define graph colors, etc.



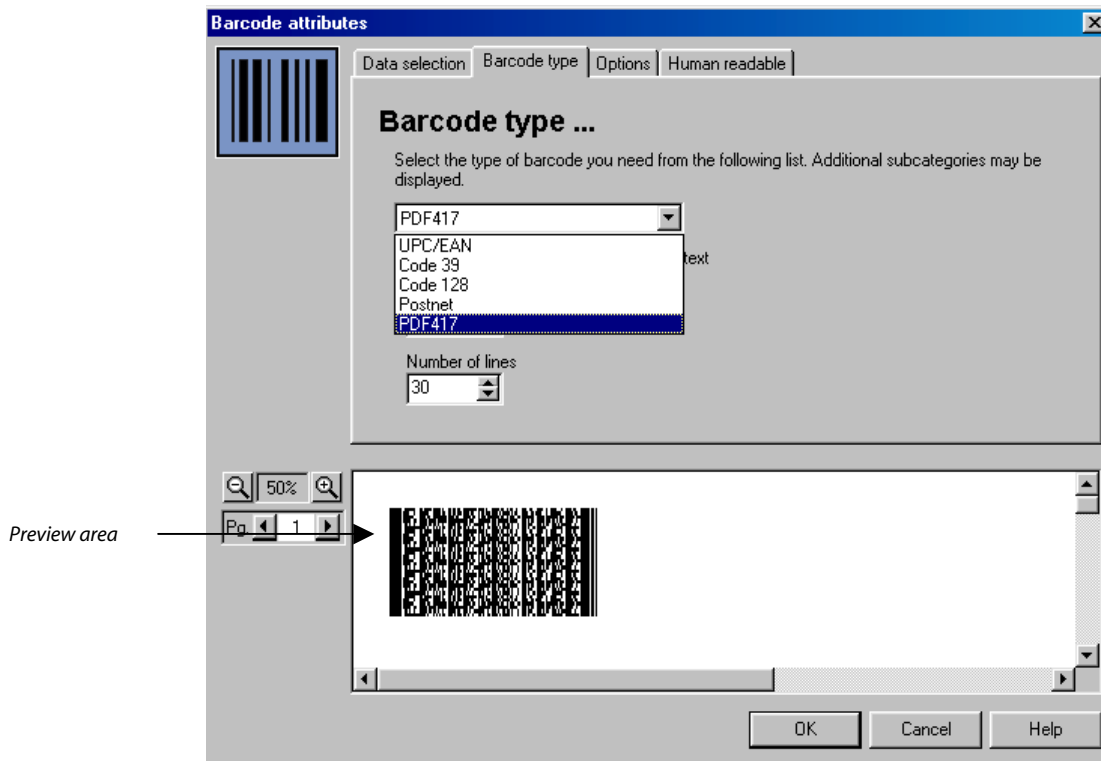
## INSERTING A BARCODE

The new technology presents a good bar coding system. PlanetPress 3.0 expands the **Barcode attributes** dialog box so you can identify the data required for the barcode, determine which barcode is used on the form, and modify its attributes. A preview area is also provided.

For barcodes such as EAN 128, you can automatically create start, stop and checksum digits without modifying host files. Data in barcodes can be concatenated to simplify application development.

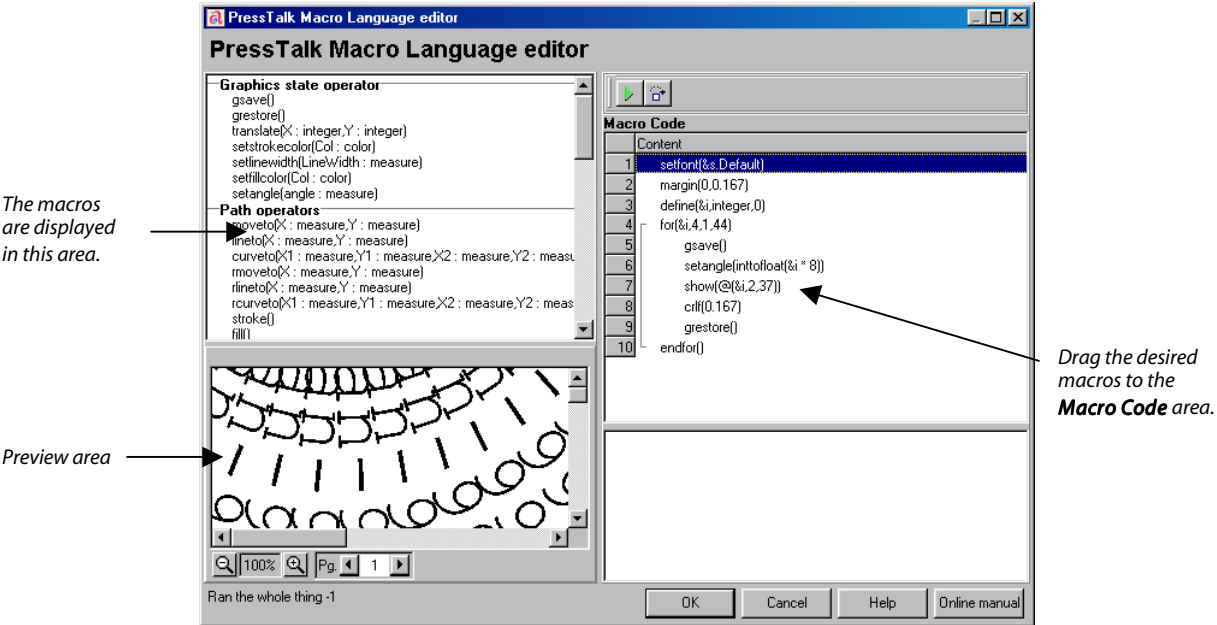


The barcode wizard supports industry standard barcodes including the two dimensional PDF-417. This standard barcode can include a considerable amount of data such client name, invoice date and invoice total.




### ADDING MACROS

For complex applications, PlanetPress also includes PlanetPress Talk, a unique intuitive macro language. You can create a macro by dragging predefined macros from the **Graphic state operator**, **path operators** lists, etc. to the **Macro Code** area. Macro results are displayed in the preview area.





The following is a form that contains all the features presented in this chapter

インテリジェントフォームをよりスマートに。



**GEL HARDWARE**  
101 Central Avenue  
Midfield, NY  
10012





Welcome  
to the Club\*

<b>Sold To</b>	Ship To	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>PICK TICKET NO.</b>
Paul Bauer COMPUTER BIGMART #2667 2201 SAMUEL BLVD DALLAS, TX 75228	SAME	4 of 4	49252
		<b>DATE</b>	<b>RELEASE NO.</b>
		Oct 29/98	B81234526

DATE	CANCEL DATE	ORDER NO.	STORE NO.	CUST.	DEPT. NO.	SALESPERSON
Oct 27/00	Nov 02/00	0347803847	001267	BIG02	30	01

EQUIP#	TYPE	QUANTITY	PIECES	SKU NO.	PRICE	WEIGHT	Ext. Price
WIN WIN25W	SO	1	1	003006233	134.00	0.75	134.00
WIN U1205Y	SO	1	1	003005340	567.00	0.75	567.00
WIN P0008B	SO	1	1	003005347	100.00	0.75	100.00

THE FOLLOWING ITEM(S) ARE  
OUT OF STOCK - BACK ORDERED

EQUIP#	TYPE	QUANTITY	PIECES	SKU NO.	PRICE	WEIGHT	Ext. Price
QUI N1045W	EQ	0	0	003005277	00.00	0.00	
HAY N1045W	EQ	0	0	003005368	00.00	0.00	


WILL SHIP WHEN AVAILABLE

THIS ORDER 25336.00

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>TOTAL QUANTITY</th> <th>TOTAL PIECES</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">131</td> <td style="text-align: center;">79</td> </tr> </table>	TOTAL QUANTITY	TOTAL PIECES	131	79	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>YTD SALES</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1326537.00</td> </tr> </table>	YTD SALES	1326537.00
TOTAL QUANTITY	TOTAL PIECES						
131	79						
YTD SALES							
1326537.00							

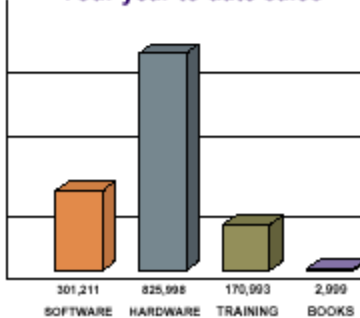
**\*CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dear Paul Bauer,  
With this last order of \$25336.0 you  
have become a "Club Select" member.  
Membership privileges include:  
access to additional discounts on a  
wide selection of products.  
Please contact Mike at (201) 933  
7676 ext 231 for all the details.



John Goodman.

Your year to date sales



SOFTWARE	HARDWARE	TRAINING	BOOKS
301,211	825,998	170,993	2,999

