



SMASER

TRACER

TRIPsystem
Product Documentation



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About this document

The following document describes the prompts received from the TRACER utility and how to respond to them in order to successfully analyze the records or data blocks in a database.

Conventions used in this document

Xyzzy (x) is a prompt from TRACER to the user (where 'x' is the default response provided by TRACER and taken if the user simply hits the RETURN key)

IF <condition> ... Else is a block whose entry is determined by the validity of the condition given to the IF clause. If the condition is false, the block following the "ELSE" keyword is to be executed.



What is TRACER?

The BAF Tracer allows you to examine the content of a discrete data block or a discrete record within the database. This is useful when the BAF Doctor has reported a discrepancy or error and you want to try and examine what the error could be. It is always easier to diagnose an error if you can read what the system thinks the data really is and thereby check whether the data really is messed up, or whether TRIPkernel has simply misread the data design (in the case where a user has changed the structure of an existing field, for instance).

Using the BAF TRACER

The TRACER utility is located in the directory with the same path that is defined as TDBS_EXE in the TRIPsystem configuration file tdbb.conf. Run TRACER from the command line:

```
<TDBS_EXE>/tracer
```

To see the arguments of TRACER use :

```
<TDBS_EXE>/tracer --help
```

which will print out a list of the switches that the TRACER understands.

Prompts from TRACER

If TRACER is started without providing the necessary arguments, you will be prompted as follows:

Username :

Specify here your TRIP username.

Password :

Specify here your TRIP password.

Database :

Specify here the name of database whose records or data blocks you wish to examine.

Record/Block :

Specify here the record number or the data block number that you wish to examine.



“Real world” examples of using TRACER

The first record of the ALICE demo database will look like this in TRACER:

```

**** TRIP System Utility BAF TRACER - Examine BAF structures ****
      Version 6.0-0   10-Dec-2008 09:23:29

Username : system
Password :
Database : alice

Record, Block, Quit? [Q] : R
Record # : 1
  Field number   : 1
    Field name   : CHAPTNR
    Field type   : INteger
    Field value  : 1
  Field number   : 2
    Field name   : CHAPTER
    Field type   : PHrase
    Field value  : Down the Rabbit-hole
  Field number   : 3
    Field name   : PERSON
    Field type   : PHrase
    Field value  : Alice's sister
    Field value  : White Rabbit
  Field number   : 5
    Field name   : TXT
    Field type   : TExt - multi paragraph vector
    Paragraph #  : 1
    Block #      : 4
    Field value  : Alice was beginning to get very tired of
                  sitting by her sister on the bank, and of
                  having nothing to do: once or twice she had
                  peeped into the book her sister was reading,
                  but it had no pictures or conversations in
                  it, "and what is the use of a book," thought
                  Alice, "without pictures or conversations?"
    Paragraph #  : 2
    Block #      : 4
    Field value  : So she was considering, in her own mind (as
                  well as she could, for the hot day made her
                  feel very sleepy and stupid), whether the
                  pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be
                  worth the trouble of getting up and picking
                  the daisies, when suddenly a white rabbit
                  with pink eyes ran close by her.

      ***** NOW CHECKING PREVIOUS VERSIONS ( IF ANY ) *****

Record, Block, Quit? [Q] : Q

Elapsed: 00:00:13

```