

CHAPTER 20

Quick Books Interface

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COM-Interface to Quick Books

The ERP2020 provides a direct COM/DCOM interface to Quick-Books Pro and Quick-Books Premier versions. The COM/DCOM interface provides a direct down-load of data from the ERP2020 to Quick Books. The COM/DCOM interface is facilitated by one of two Semilabs-proprietary QuickBooks plug-ins.

When the QBLite COM interface plug-in is used, the Quick-Books application must be open on the same work-station as the ERP2020 client and the DCOM interface is not available.

When QB_ERP2020 the DCOM interface plug-in is used, the Quick-Books data-file can be directly accessed by the ERP2020 without the need of a Quick-Books application being open. The DCOM interface available via this plug-in also allows the data-file to reside on a remote work-station.



Notes:

The Semilabs Quick-Books plug-ins require the installation of the QBXMLrp2.dll (version 4.0 or higher) via the QBXMOLRP2 Installer (version 4.0 or higher) provided by Intuit.

When the QB_ERP2020 plug-in is being used to communicate directly with the QB data-file, the latter must be configured to grant access to the ERP2020 via it's COM identifier (defined in the Accounting Constants Record). See Figure 11.64 on page 11.124. To configure access permission open the data-file (via the QB application) and issue a request from the ERP2020. In the dialog issued by the QB application check "Always" button to grant permission for subsequent direct access. Once the permission has been set, the ERP2020 will be able to subsequently access this file without the QB application being open. The QB date-file's preferences settings must match those shown in Figure 20.1 on page 20.3

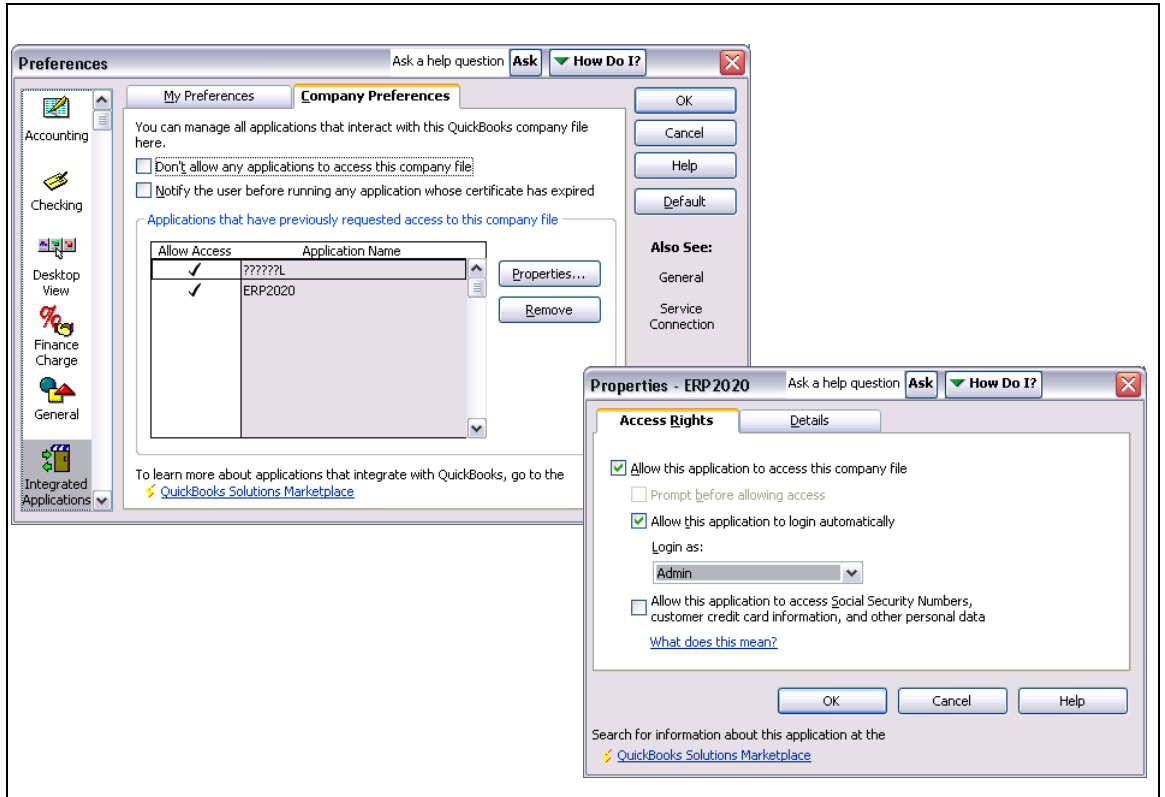


FIGURE 20.1

Quick Books COM interface

The COM interface is fully automated. Complete periodic accounting information is transferred via a single command. Typically the user will transfer data on a month-end basis. Alternatively multiple periods may be transferred in a single session. Since the ERP2020 maintains full internal accounting, the balance-sheets and income statements between the two applications may be compared at any time.

Quick Books DCOM interface

The Quick Books DCOM interface is used for accessing a Quick Books data file open on a single server over the network from other clients. The following are the prerequisites that must be in place before the DCOM interface can function:

- 1) The qbxmlrp2.dll version must be 4.0 or higher.
- 2) You must have Quick Books Premier and Quick Books SDK version 5.0 downloaded and installed on both the server hosting the Quick Books company file and the clients.
- 3) If any of the machines are behind firewalls, they must have the port 3790 unblocked.

To setup multiuser access for a company file over the network, go through the following steps:

- 1) Install Quick Books RDS Server that came with the Quick Books SDK 5.0 on the hosting server machine.
- 2) Setup a username (and a password if necessary) for the desired Quick Books company file. You will have to be in single user mode when setting up the user.
- 3) Staying in single user mode, go to the edit menu, select preferences, go to "Integrated Applications" and grant ERP2020 and RDS Server the access as the username you just setup in step 2.
- 4) Switch to multiuser mode.
- 5) Start the RDS Server.
- 6) On the RDS Server, click the "Change Options" button and select "the open company file" and click okay. The Quick Books company file will automatically pick up on the RDS Server trying to access it and grant it access.

- 7) Go to a client machine and start ERP2020. Make sure that the client has Quick Books Premier and Quick Books SDK 5.0 installed.
- 8) Go to the "Accounting" menu and under GL Accounts menu, select "General Journal Spreadsheet".
- 9) Under the post menu in the resulting spreadsheet, go to "Accounting Constants Record".
- 10) Make sure that in the "Main" tab, ERP2020 is entered as the COM Identifier and click on the green check button.
- 11) In the second field under the "QB" box, enter 2. This will enable ERP2020 to invoke and force start the RDS Client when you try to access the company file over the network. You can either click on the compare button or try consolidation of GL Accounts under the "Quick Books" menu button.

Following the steps given above should force the RDS Client to start and exchange data between ERP2020 and the RDS Server where the Quick Books company file is residing.

Log-file and data backup

To maintain full traceability of the transfer-activity the ERP2020 maintains

- 1) A log-file in the 4D-Client directory. This log-file details all the transactions in the session. In the single -user mode of the ERP2020, the log-file is stored in the same directory as the structure file.
- 2) If the QB_ERP2020 plug-in is being used for a direct transfer to the data-file (as specified in the Accounting-Constants record, see Figure 11.63 on page 11.121) the data-file is first automatically copied to a new file "nnnnnn.qbw" (where "nnnnnn" is the date-time stamp of the beginning of the transfer session) before the upload to Quick Books is started. If the data-file name is **not** specified in the Accounting-Constants record then the ERP2020 will access the data-file current data-file (opened via the Quick Books application), if one exists.

INotes on data transfer

Sales

Invoice-data is extracted from the Archives Table to ensure that the invoice is not open to any modification in the ERP2020 system. In preparation for invoice-data downloaded to Quick Books, ERP2020 will first download the following to the Quick-Books company data-file:

01. The Income (sales) accounts.
02. Item-Sales-Tax entires for each Sales-tax-rate that exists in the ERP2020. The name of the Item-Sales-Tax will be set to "Tn_nnn" where "n_nnn" is the Sales-Tax percentage. For example, for a Sales-Tax rate of 7.120% in ERP2020, the corresponding Item-Sales-Tax called "T7_120" will be created in quick-books. The ERP2020 will also create two Sales-Tax-Codes named "TAX" and "NON". The transferred invoices will refer to either one of these codes to reflect a taxable or non-taxable item.

Note that starting from release F of the ERP2020, the Sales-Tax rates and the taxing agency data is stored in the table called "SalesTaxCodesTable". In the previous versions the ERP2020 was only saving Sales-Tax rates in a list called "Sales Tax Rates." When upgrading from a previous revision of ERP2020 the user must upgrade the data-file. This procedure will automatically transfer the sales-tax list to records in "SalesTaxCodesTable".

03. . Sales data is exported on a monthly basis. The operation can be performed as many times as desired, although only **new** invoices (invoices which do **not** exist in Quick Books) will be loaded into Quick Books. To initiate the COM download, the user must first choose the month for which data is to be exported. The ERP2020 then creates a selection of all invoices archived for the month. Based on the selection it determines the number of unique Processes and unique Customers contained in the selection. The ERP2020 must first make sure that all new Processes and Customers are downloaded before the invoice information can be download. The ERP2020 will accordingly follow the following export process:

- 1) For each unique Process determine if a list-item exists in Quick-Books. If a list-item corresponding to the Process-name exists then the List-ID will be returned. If one does not exist then the List-item is created.

Quick Books Field or List-item	ERP2020 Field or Value
Item Name	Invoice Process
Account Ref	Default Sales Account (Income)

TABLE 1.

2) For each unique Customer determine if the Customer exists in Quick-Books. If the Customer does not exist then a Customer record is created in Quick Books.

Quick Books Field or List-item	ERP2020 Field or Value
Bill Address1,2,3,4. Quick Books field length is limited to 41 characters for each of the fields.	The ERP2020 has Bill-Addr1 and Bill-Addr2 fields which are 80 characters each. The ERP2020 system will reconstruct the address-words and use as many of the four address fields that may be required to fit the ERP2020 address in the four address fields of Quick Books.
Ship Address1,2,3,4. Quick Books field length is limited to 41 characters for each of the fields.	The ERP2020 has Ship-Addr1 and Ship-Addr2 fields which are 80 characters each. The ERP2020 system will reconstruct the address-words and use as many of the four address fields that may be required to fit the ERP2020 address in the four address fields of Quick Books.

TABLE 2.

3)For each invoice to be exported, determine if the invoice already exists in Quick-Books. If the invoice already exists then no action is taken. If the invoice does not exist then a new invoice is created in Quick-Books.

Quick Books Field or List-item	ERP2020 Field or Value
RefNumber	ERP2020 invoice-number
CustomerRef Fullname	Customer Name
Bill Address1,2,3,4. Quick Books field length is limited to 41 characters for each of the fields.	The ERP2020 has Bill-Addr1 and Bill-Addr2 fields which are 80 characters each. The ERP2020 system will reconstruct the address-words and use as many of the four address fields that may be required to fit the ERP2020 address in the four address fields of Quick Books.
Ship Address1,2,3,4. Quick Books field length is limited to 41 characters for each of the fields.	The ERP2020 has Ship-Addr1 and Ship-Addr2 fields which are 80 characters each. The ERP2020 system will reconstruct the address-words and use as many of the four address fields that may be required to fit the ERP2020 address in the four address fields of Quick Books.
Purchase Order Number. Quick Books field length is limited to 25 characters.	If the Purchase-Order number is more than the maximum-allowable of 25 characters in Quick Books, then the ERP02020 will first remove any blank spaces and if still necessary then truncate the value to 25 characters. A note will also be added in the Memo field of Quick-Books to document the change in the Purchase Order value.

TABLE 3.

Quick Books Field or List-item	ERP2020 Field or Value

TABLE 3.

Payables information.

Payables information (closed invoices) is downloaded via the Buy-Items spreadsheet. Payable data is extracted from the Buy-Order Table:

- 04. The Accounts Payable account must be setup in ERP2020. This account will be automatically duplicated in Quick-Books if it does not already exist.

- 2) For each unique Vendor determine if the Vendor exists in Quick-Books. If the Vendor does not exist then a Vendor record is created in Quick Books.

TABLE 4.

Creating a new Quick Books data file

To transfer information to Quick Books via the COMM interface, a new qQuick-Books data-file must be created. This file requires very limited setup and can be created in a couple of steps:

- 1) Launch the Quick Books application and create a new company. Enter the company name & address. Choose “General Business” as the template.
- 2) Go to Edit-- Preferences (company preferences) and click the “Do you charge Sales Tax” radio button to set it to “Yes” as shown below:

The screenshot shows the 'Preferences' dialog box with the 'Company Preferences' tab selected. The 'Sales Tax' category is highlighted in the left sidebar. The 'Do You Charge Sales Tax?' section has the 'Yes' radio button selected. The 'Owe Sales Tax' section has the 'As of invoice date (Accrual Basis)' radio button selected. The 'Pay Sales Tax' section has the 'Monthly' radio button selected. The 'Set Up Sales Tax Items' section has the 'Default' dropdown menu selected for 'Most common sales tax' and the checkbox 'Mark taxable amounts with "T" when printing' is checked. The 'Default Sales Tax Codes' section has 'Tax' selected for 'Taxable' and 'Non' selected for 'Non-Taxable'. The 'Also See:' section on the right lists 'General'.

Enter “Default:” in the “Most Common sales tax field”. Upon clicking OK, QuickBooks will prompt you to create the “Sales Tax Item”. Enter information as show below:

Save the forms and you are ready to transfer information from ERP2020 into Quick-Books.

Start the transfer process via the menus available under the QuickBooks Icon in the General Journal Spreadsheet, keeping the Quick Books application launched. The ERP2020 will cause the Quick Books application to issue Access Authentication Dialog. Validate the dialog and the data transfer will proceed. If the “Always” option of the Access Authentication Dialog is chosen then subsequent access by the ERP2020 may be conducted in the background mode without the need to launch Quick-Books again. See “Quick Books COM interface” on page 2-20.4.

