



Report Generator

The quick and easy way to produce school reports

iSV
Products

3QD
DEVELOPMENTS LTD

APDL

Report Generator

Copyright © 3QD Developments Ltd & Andrew Veitch 2026
All rights reserved.

No part of this product may be reproduced in whole or part by any means without written permission of the publisher. Unauthorised hiring, renting, lending, public performance or broadcasting of this product or its parts is prohibited.

While every care is taken, the publisher cannot be held responsible for any errors in this product, or for loss of data or consequential effects from the use of this package.

Software and Documentation supplied by
APDL
a part of
3QD Developments Ltd
Single User version downloaded from the free of charge software section of
www.riscos.com

Please note that any free of charge downloads from RISCOS.com are supplied without any technical support package as per the licence agreement.

This document last edited on 29/09/26



If you have found this application and this manual useful please consider making a donation to help cover the costs of cataloguing, documenting, updating and hosting the APDL applications. Scanning the QR code will take you to our donations page.

Introduction

Report Generator is an application for all Acorn RISC OS computers allows teachers to write reports quickly and easily, while still retaining full control over the individual requirements of each pupil's report.

It does this by allowing the teacher to create banks of statements which can be accessed by a couple of clicks of the mouse. Once the statement appears on the screen, it may be entered into any report that is being written in a RISC OS compliant word-processor or desktop-publisher with a further mouse click. Alternatively, it may be altered and then sent to the report, without having to update the statement bank.

By allowing the teacher to build up the data banks required, the package can be instantly customised to each teacher's requirements, with necessary information available instantly.

Installation

Your Report Generator system consists of a simple set of files:



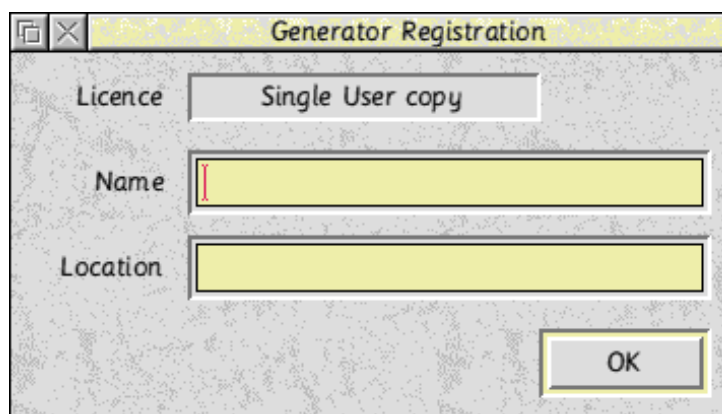
!!ReadMe A textfile containing details of upgrades and changes (if any) to the application or manual.
(only supplied if there are differences between the manual and the software)

!Generator The main Report Generator application.

!GenData The application where all the statement banks are stored.

Copy Protection (Floppy disc copy only)

Report Generator is designed for use on the RISC OS desktop. The original software disc supplied must be registered before it can be copied. When you run the software for the first time it will invite you to enter your name and location, which will then be encoded into the software as a form of copy-protection.



Important Note

The !GenData application can be copied to any storage medium, as long as it is accessible when the application is being run. You can have more than one copy of the !GenData application, each with different sets of statements stored in it. Report Generator will only access the current one, which is the one that was double-clicked on last. Please note that !GenData needs to be stored in a location which has both read and write access, so a protected network or hard disc partition is unsuitable, as is a protected floppy disc.

Installing onto a hard disc

To install the software onto a hard disc, you need to open directory viewers for both your hard disc and the floppy disc/compressed archive that contains the Report Generator software.

If you have downloaded Report Generator from the APDL section of www.riscos.com then it will be supplied in a RISC OS format .zip file. You can open this archive using !SparkFS, !Sparkplug or any other RISC OS application that supports .zip files.

Then create a directory on your hard disc to hold the Report Generator system. You can do this using the New Directory option from the directory viewer menu. A name such as 'Generator' would be suitable for RISC OS 3.8 or earlier. RISC OS 4.02 and later supports long file names allowing you to use a more descriptive name such as 'Report_Generator'

When you have created your destination directory, open a directory viewer onto it and then drag all the files from the floppy disc/compressed archive into the hard disc directory viewer. This will copy all the contents of the disc onto your hard disc.

Installing onto a network directory

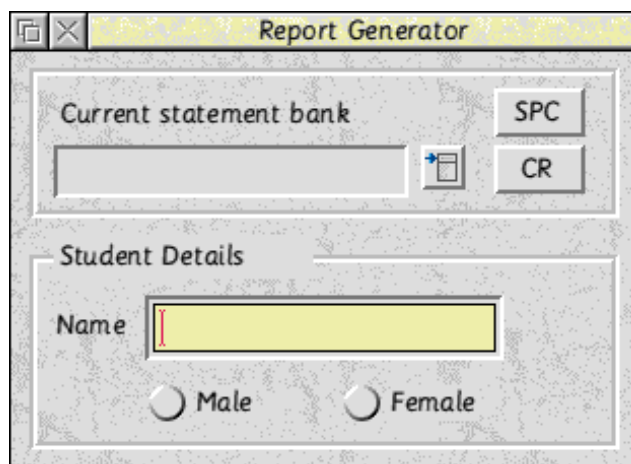
This process is very similar to installing onto a hard disc. First of all, log onto the network so that you can access the area in which you want to store Report Generator. This should open a directory viewer for this area. Once this directory viewer appears, you can create a directory to hold the Report Generator system, using the New Directory option as detailed in the Installing onto a hard disc section above.

Once you have created your destination directory you can, following the instructions in the second paragraph of Installing onto a hard disc, copy the contents of the original or backup disc onto the network.

Getting Started

Once you have installed the Report Generator application onto either a network or hard disc, or made a backup copy from the original floppy disc, you need to start off by double-clicking on the !GenData application to set it as the current storage place for statement banks. A message will appear to let you know you have selected this storage area as the current one.

Once you have done this, double-click on the !Generator application. After a short delay, an icon will appear on the icon bar. This will look exactly the same as the icon in the filer window. Click once with the left or right mouse button (SELECT or ADJUST) to open the main Report Generator window.



Creating a new statement bank

To create a new statement bank, click the left or right mouse button (SELECT or ADJUST) over the menu icon just below and to the right of the Current Statement Bank label. A menu will appear with the option 'New ...' at the top and a list of any existing statement banks. Click once on new and another window will appear asking you to type in the name for your new statement bank. This must be less than 10 characters long and not include spaces. Once you are satisfied with the name, click on Create to add the new statement bank to the menu. This will close the window. If you do not want to create a statement bank, click on Cancel and the bank will not be created.

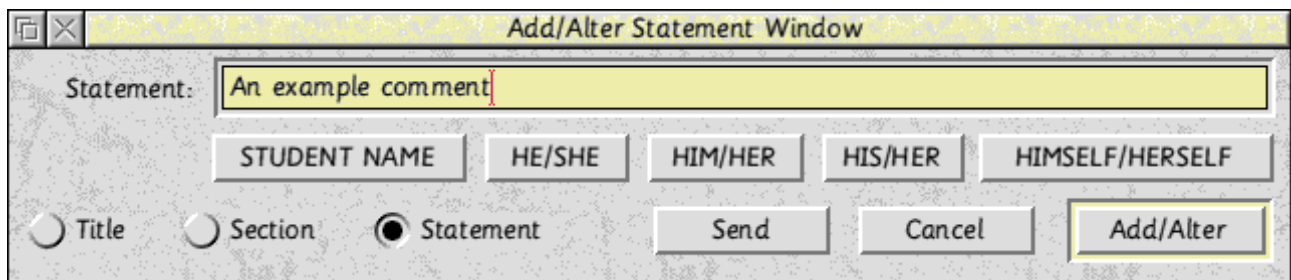
Accessing existing statement banks

To access an existing statement bank, click the left or right mouse button (SELECT or ADJUST) over the menu icon as detailed in Creating a New Statement Bank, and then click once over the name of the statement bank you wish to access. A new window will appear showing the contents of the statement bank that you have just selected. If you have not added anything to the bank, then its contents will be a single line : 'An empty statement bank'. This window that has now been opened is the main control centre for Report Generator and will provide most of the facilities needed to generate reports.

Updating statement banks

To update or alter a statement bank, or to add comments to a bank, you must first choose the comment which you want to alter, delete or add a comment before or after. You do this by pressing the middle button (MENU) with the pointer over the statement that you want. If you are successful, then the first entry on the menu displayed will contain the start of the comment you have chosen. To alter this comment, or add another comment before or after the current comment, move the pointer right and select the appropriate menu option. To delete the comment, move the pointer right and select the Delete option from the sub-menu. Note however that you cannot delete the last comment that remains in a statement bank.

If you chose to add or alter a comment, then you will be presented with a new window.



You can now use this window to add or alter your comments. Whenever you want the student's name to appear in your report, click on the button marked Student Name. This will place a marker (%STUDENT) in your comment which will automatically be replaced by the student's name when the comment is sent to a report.

Likewise, when you want he or she to appear in your report, click instead on the button marked He/She and the correct word will be chosen when the comment is sent to the report, according to the gender selected in the main window.

You can also replace the words 'Him or Her', 'His or Her', or 'Himself or Herself' with a marker so the appropriate word is selected, just by clicking on the appropriate button. Note also that this selection will also detect the correct case of the word, using capitals at the beginning of the word if it is the first word in a comment, or if it follows a full-stop by less than 3 spaces.

By selecting Title, or Section, you can divide your statement bank up, with titles appearing in red and being unsendable, and sections appearing in light-blue and also being unsendable. The most common option will be Statement, which will allow you to send the comment to the report, and also ungrey the Send button.

When you have finished updating or adding the comment, click on Add/Alter to update the statement bank, or Cancel to cancel the operation and not update the statement bank. Alternatively, if the comment is a statement and not a title or section heading, you can click on Send and send the updated comment to the report, without updating the statement bank. This allows the user to make subtle changes to stored comments and adjust them for each individual student if necessary.

Sending comments to a report

To send a comment to a report, you first need the main control centre of your statement bank open. This is the window that appears when you select a statement from the statement bank menu in the main window. Then you need to enter a student name in the main window box. Do this by clicking in the box so that it gains the caret, enter the student name and press RETURN. Then click on the appropriate button to select the gender of the student.

Load your word-processor or desktop-publisher and arrange the windows on the screen so that you can see the statement bank window and also the window of the word-processor or desktop-publisher where your report is. Click in the window of the word-processor or desktop-publisher so that it gains the caret where you want the comments to appear. Once you have done this, clicking on a comment should send it to the word-processor or desktop-publisher, with the correct student name and also the correct gender of words.

Once the report has been created by selecting appropriate comments from the statement bank, you will need to refer to your word-processor or desktop-publisher manual to find out how to print and/or save the report. Then you can alter the student name and gender and start a new report.

By clicking on the button marked SPC in the main window, you can send a space character to the report. Also by clicking on the button marked CR, you can send a carriage return or line feed character to the report.

Saving a statement bank

It is important that you save a statement bank before quitting the program or selecting a different statement bank. Failure to do this will result in the loss of your statement bank, or any changes you had made to it since you last saved it. To save the statement bank, press the middle button (MENU) over the statement bank window and click on Save Bank. This will save the statement bank.

If you want to get rid of your statement bank permanently, then you can click on Delete Bank on the same menu. This will prompt you to see if you really want to delete the statement bank. If you click on OK, then you will lose the statement bank forever.

Importing and exporting statement banks

You can also pass statement banks between your colleagues. To do this, open a statement bank and then press the middle button (MENU) over the icon bar icon. A menu will appear with Info and Quit on it. However, you should move the pointer right over the save option to bring up the save box for the current statement bank. This by default has the save name of the current bank in it. This can be altered to any name you want. By dragging the icon in the window to a filer window (or text editor window if the !Scrap application has been seen) you can save your current statement bank as a textfile.

Likewise, you can prepare your statements as a textfile, or obtain statements prepared by someone else in the manner described above and drag them to the icon bar icon. You will be asked if you wish to add this file to the statement bank. If you click OK and the file does not already exist, then the statement bank will be added. It can then be accessed like any other statement bank from the main window statement menu.

Interactive help

Please note that Report Generator fully supports Acorn's interactive help program !Help, so you can easily pickup the program without the manual by using this system. Note on RISC OS 2, no support for help over menu items is provided. This is because the operating system does not support this, and is not a failure of Report Generator.

Internationalisation

At present Report Generator only supports English language reports.

Possible errors and solutions

Here is a list of some errors you may encounter when running Report Generator, and if possible, how to solve the problem causing the error. Other errors are usually caused by an external factor to Report Generator and there is nothing ARMVision Computing can do about them. If another error occurs, caused by Report Generator, which you cannot solve, please write to ARMVision Computing at the address in the front of this manual.

Please double-click on your !GenData directory first.

This means that Report Generator doesn't know where to find your statement banks. Double-click on one of your !GenData applications and try the operation again.

This is not a ReportGenerator data file

Somehow a file not created by Report Generator has managed to get into the !GenData directory. Either ignore it, or delete it from the !GenData statements directory.

Please enter a student name

You are trying to send a comment to a report without having entered a student's name. Enter the student's name in the main window, select the appropriate gender, place the caret in the report window and try the operation again.

Insufficient space to add a comment in statement bank

You have run out of space in your current statement bank. Either delete some redundant comments or create a new statement bank for your new comments.

This statement bank already exists in the statement bank

You have tried to add a statement bank with the same name (non-case-specific) as one which already exists. Choose a different name for your statement bank and try again. If this occurs when you drag a file to the icon bar, rename the file and try again.

To save, drag the icon to a directory display

Unlike other Operating Systems, RISC OS cannot simply save a file. You must tell it where you want to save the file by dragging the icon to a filer window or typing a valid pathname in the writable icon in the save box.

You can only run one copy of ReportGenerator at once

You have tried to run ReportGenerator twice. Either quit the first copy, or don't try to run two copies of Report Generator at once.

ReportGenerator has been supplied without a valid configuration file.

The software needs a valid configuration file to function correctly. For some reason, your copy has not been supplied with one. You should download a replacement copy of Report Generator from the APDL website.

(<http://www.riscos.com/apdl/products/isv/repgen/index.htm>)

Here are just a few of the other products you will be able to
download from RISCOS.com free of charge
(You can make a donation to help support future product releases but this is entirely voluntary)



This Documentation is © 3QD Developments Ltd 2026
Some of the products shown above might not be available immediately.
Not all products will run on all versions of RISC OS, check the product information page for details.

Other Products list last updated 29/2/26