

# From the BASIS DD to a Barista App in a Flash

By Jim Douglas

If you have a BASIS Data Dictionary definition of your data files, you are well on your way to turning your older GUI or CUI application into a modern GUI application. Because Barista is a data dictionary-based development tool, you can quickly use the Barista Data Dictionary Import Tool to get a head start on your development efforts.

We'll show you how to:

- ✓ Import the Data Dictionary
- ✓ Build a file maintenance form
- ✓ Automatically add a standard report
- ✓ Create a menu
- ✓ Add an existing report to the menu
- ✓ Test-drive the form
- ✓ Exercise the built-in SQL inquiry feature
- ✓ Produce output in a PDF format
- ✓ E-mail the result from within Barista

In the space of a few minutes we'll go from this:

The screenshot shows the BBJ Enterprise Manager interface. The main window displays 'CD-Store' information, including 'Dictionary Information' with fields for 'Type' (Legacy BBx Format), 'DATA' (C:\Program Files\basis\guibuilder\cd-store\data), and 'DICTIONARY' (C:\Program Files\basis\guibuilder\cd-store\bdict). Below this, there are tabs for 'Date Info', 'File Types', 'Misc', and 'User Props'. A secondary window, 'BBJ EM - CDINVENTORY', is overlaid, showing a table definition for 'CDINVENTORY'. The table has columns: CDNUMBER (Character, VARCHAR, 6), TITLE (Character, VARCHAR, 50), ARTIST (Character, VARCHAR, 50), LABEL (Character, VARCHAR, 50), PLAYINGTIME (Character, VARCHAR, 6), RECORDINGTYPE (Character, VARCHAR, 3), MUSICTYPE (Character, VARCHAR, 15), BINLOCATION (Character, VARCHAR, 10), NUMBEROFTRACKS (Numeric, NUMERIC, 10), and ONHAND (Numeric, NUMERIC, 10). The 'General' tab is selected, showing 'Length Type' as Variable, 'Max Length' as 0, 'Dim' as 0, 'Precision' as 2, and 'Pad / Terminator' as 10. Buttons for 'Save', 'Save & Update', and 'Cancel' are visible at the bottom.

Column	Type	SQL Type	Length	Description
CDNUMBER	Character	VARCHAR	6	CD Inventory Number
TITLE	Character	VARCHAR	50	CD Title
ARTIST	Character	VARCHAR	50	Artist Name
LABEL	Character	VARCHAR	50	Recording Label
PLAYINGTIME	Character	VARCHAR	6	CD Playing Time
RECORDINGTYPE	Character	VARCHAR	3	CD Recording Type
MUSICTYPE	Character	VARCHAR	15	Type of Music
BINLOCATION	Character	VARCHAR	10	Location of Bin containing t...
NUMBEROFTRACKS	Numeric	NUMERIC	10	Number of Tracks
ONHAND	Numeric	NUMERIC	10	Quantity on Hand

Figure 1. Original database in need of a GUI modern front end

continued...



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To this:

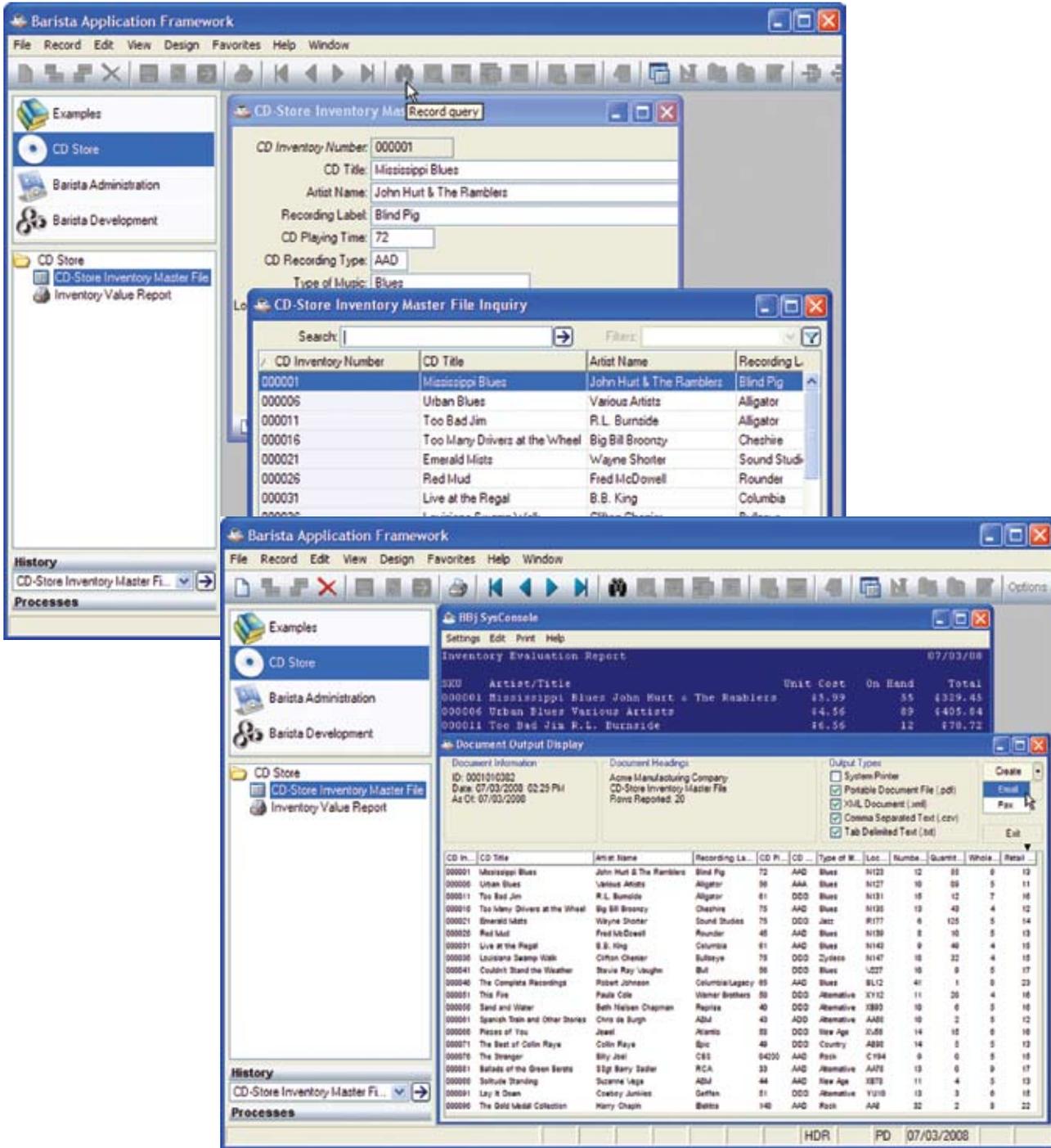


Figure 2. Newly created application using Barista

## Conclusion

Your current BASIS Data Dictionary is perfect raw material for your first Barista-brewed application. Barista facilitates the extremely rapid creation and modernization of business applications. Cut out the enormously time-consuming GUI design and management tasks normally associated with the creation of a GUI application. Add luster and shine to your trusted and proven solution and leverage BBj's access to Java libraries, such as faxing modules, to extend your applications functionality.

Take a few minutes to follow the steps laid out online and transform your venerable application to a tasty eye-catching delight.

There is more!

For a hands-on example of creating a modern GUI application, follow along at [www.basis.com/advantage/mag-v12n1/barista2.pdf](http://www.basis.com/advantage/mag-v12n1/barista2.pdf)

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