

Roundtable White Paper

Creating Personal Schema Sandboxes

Summary

Question: How do I manage personal schema sandboxes in Roundtable?

Development environments have many diverse needs. Many times, people will assume that RTB (Roundtable) will not support their needs simply because they do not see a "how-to" in the manual. A manual that covers every possible "how do I do this using Roundtable" would take volumes and volumes. To answer these types of questions you must first ask, "how do or would I do it without Roundtable?"

How Would I do it Outside of RTB?

In most "schema sandbox" environments, developers are able to modify the schema of their own local database only. They check out code to their local task directory (taken from the central DEVEL source) and test their modifications while connected to this local DB. When they are ready to complete their changes, they give the schema changes to the admin who approves the changes and applies them in the true (central) DEVEL database.

Schema Sandbox in RTB

You implement the same method, only you are able to automate it with RTB.

Database Connections

The database connections defined in RTB for the workspace databases are simply for connection purposes. You can "blank-out" the physical name, telling RTB not to try to manage the connection for this database. You then use the change-workspace hook to manage the connections "your way" (see `rtb_evnt.p` or the RTB user's guide for information on using the RTB event hooks). When the workspace is selected, you can:

- * always connect the developer to his personal databases
- * prompt to ask if they want the local DB or the central
- * prompt for all connection parameters
- * etc.

Promoting Changes to the Central DB

When developers have completed their changes, they submit the schema changes to the DB admin (which may or not be the same developer that made the changes). When entering the workspace, the admin selects the central database then does one of the following:

- * Makes the changes within RTB then updates the physical DB
- * Applies an incremental .df (provided by the developer) to the physical DB then loads the changes into RTB.

Test Compiling and Checking In Objects

RTB uses the physical database for compiling and the logical definitions in RTB for XREF. Developers can test compile the objects in their task directory against the new schema, but they cannot compile with XREF. Once the schema is registered in RTB by the admin, then the developer can compile the code with XREF and check it in.

This adds security to your sandbox system. Developers cannot check in code that references new schema until it is applied to the physical DB. This means that developers can never accidentally check in programs that reference schema that will NOT be added to the true DEVEL database.