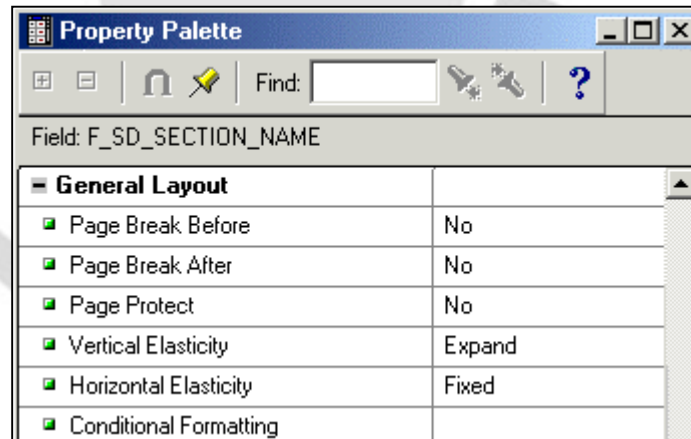




Conditional Formatting

The Developer will already be aware that all objects have properties and that these properties can be used to influence the content and appearance of the object when printed.

There is another property however, which can be used to suppress or change the output of an object completely, Conditional Formatting.





In previous versions clicking on the property edit Format Trigger would bring up the Program Unit Editor. However, Reports 6i displays a wizard for the Developer to dictate what conditions will effect an object's output, this wizard can be run more than once and also creates a Program unit which can be edited. This can be useful to identify which objects have formatting on them.

This property can also be used to set colours/ fonts for an object, to red for example when negative.

In the following example, a frame will be suppressed if a value in a parameter isn't set to 'Y'. Please note that due to the layering aspect of Reports, all children of this frame will also be suppressed, therefore a large number of objects can be affected by one conditional format.

Conditional Formatting



Format Exception

If the value of:

P_LOCATION is Not Equal to Y and AND

BACKGROUND is Between and AND

BACKGROUND is Between and AND

Format

Hide the Object

Text Color: Font...

Fill Color:

Border Color: Reset Format

OK Cancel

EX1_1: Program Unit - M_G_ED_ID_NO_HDRFORMATTRIGGER

Compile Revert New... Delete Close Help

Type: Object Level Object: Frame M_G_ED_ID_NO_HDR

Name: Format Trigger

```
function M_G_ED_ID_NO_HDRFormatTrigger return boolean is
begin
    -- Automatically Generated from Report Builder.
    if ((:P_EMPLOYEE != 'Y') or
        (:P_EMPLOYEE IS NULL))
    then
        return (FALSE);
    end if;

    return (TRUE);
end;
```

Not Modified Successfully Compiled



Conditional formatting can also be used to suppress boilerplates when no data has been retrieved, as well as being very useful when overlaying objects on top of each other according to some value in another column, for example, number of axles when a vehicle is HGV, number of seats when it is PSV.



You can communicate to users via the Report using Conditional formatting or the Format trigger behind it.

By returning False instead of the normal True the object will not display. Reversing that round, if an object should only be displayed if a criteria hasn't been met then this coding will suffice ...

```
function F_1FormatTrigger return boolean is  
begin  
  if :section_number is null then  
    return (TRUE);  
  else  
    return(FALSE);  
  end if;  
end;
```



A similar technique can be applied to restrict certain users from viewing certain report data.

For example, report objects are displayed depending on the username entered. An error message could also be displayed if the user doesn't have the necessary privileges to view any data the report returns.

```
function M_G_SECTION_GRPFRFor return boolean is  
begin  
  if :p_1 = 'low_user' then  
    return(FALSE);  
  else  
    return (TRUE);  
  end if;  
end;
```