Technical Document

Document No:	**14-01002**
Document Title:	**Using CPYTOIMPF to Convert Packed Numeric Fields**
Category:	**Hints, Tips & FAQ**
Functional Area:	**Miscellaneous**
OS/400 Release:	**V4R2 and above**

Document Description:

This document describes how to easily convert files with packed numeric fields to either ***.csv** comma separated value or plain ASCII text files using the **CPYTOIMPF** command so that the file can be sent via FTP.

There is an easy way to create a ***.csv** (Comma Separated Value) or plain text file from an OS/400 database file that contains packed decimal fields.

For a number of years, the FTP product was limited by the fact that it did not translate "special numeric representations..." like packed decimal fields, which are the default numeric data type for OS/400.

The **CPYTOIMPF** command lets you copy a database file into a 'flat' file with the record delimiters of your choice. You can also specify a *FIXED format, which results in a man-readable flat file with no record delimiters. This may also be used to create files that would nicely fit some of Windows NT's EOR delimiter needs, too.

The trick here is to use FTP in ASCII mode, not BINARY. **CPYTOIMPF** does not translate EBCDIC to ASCII. We have to let FTP do that for us. Both ***.csv** and flat files from databases with packed fields are easily created. There has never been an easy way to do this before.

There is also a **CPYFRMIMPF** command that should allow you to copy your spreadsheet files directly into OS/400 database files.