Chapter 5:
Introduction to Forms Builder

Lesson A Objectives

After completing this lesson, you should be able to:

- Display Forms Builder forms in a Web browser
- Use a data block form to view, insert, update, and delete database data
- Create a data block form that displays a single record at a time
- Use the Object Navigator to change form object names
- Use the Data Block and Layout Wizards to modify form properties
- Create a tabular-style data block form that displays multiple records

2

Concepts | Terminology

- Data Block form
  - Form associated with one or more tables
- Forms Services window:
  - Oracle 10g displays forms in Forms Services window
  - The Forms Services window appears as a Web page within the Web browser.

3

Concepts | Terminology

- Java Applet
  - Self contained program that runs in a Web browser's generic Java Runtime Environment (JRE)
- OC4J process
  - Web browser's program that translates the form design into Java applet and passes it browser for display
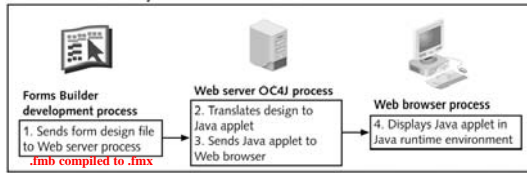
Workstation main memory

Figure 5-3 Displaying a Forms Builder form using a Web browser
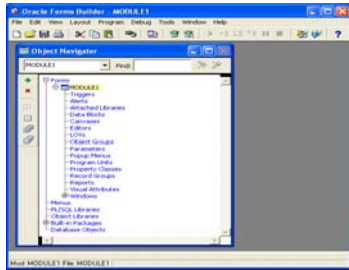

Create or Open a Data Block form

- If the table(s) for which you want to create the form is/are not created, you need to create the table(s) in SQL Plus
- If not already done, start the OC4J process and minimize its window
- If not already done, start the Form Builder application
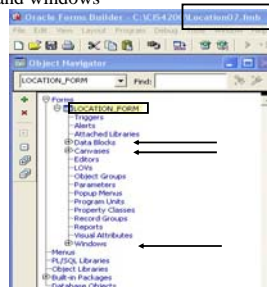- To open an existing form, use the File/Open menu or the Open button tool

5

Opening existing form

- The Location07.fmb file is opened
- Corresponding form appears in the Object Navigation window (LOCATION_FORM)
- Form has: data blocks, canvases, and windows

- Window: rectangular area on screen where form's items appears.
- Data Block: items (text, labels associated with the table's fields)
- Canvas: area of window in which you place GUI objects (labels, buttons, etc.)

Running a form

1. Run the form to see the actual form
   - From Form Builder menu, choose Program/Run Form
   - Or click the Run Form button in tool bar
2. When asked log on (username, password, oralab)

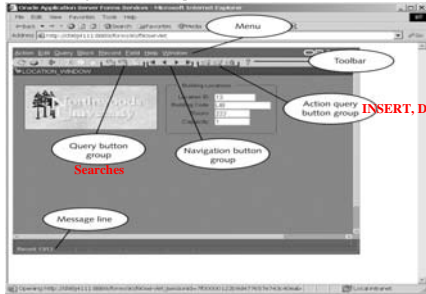This compiles .fmb file to create .fmx file

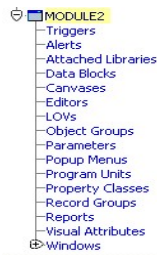Figure 5-4 Forms Services window

7

Create a new form

1. If necessary, switch to Oracle Forms Builder
2. **Select Forms node** in Object Navigator
3. Click the Create button (+) on the Toolbar
4. The form appears as MODULE2 or MODULE3, etc. in Object Navigator tree
5. There is **no Data Block or canvas for the form**

Creating data block

1. Select Data Blocks under MODULE2. Then, click the Create button (+) or choose Edit>Create

   OR
2. Select MODULE2. Then click the Data Block Wizard button ( )
3. Follow the procedure to create the data bock and set its layout.
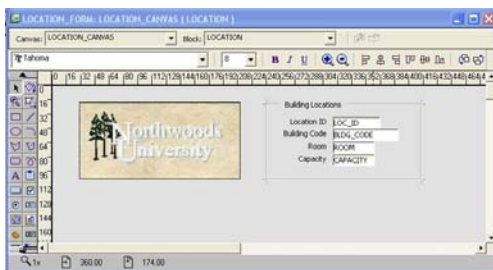4. Give the form a name other than MODULE2 when saving it.

Displaying a form in Layout Editor

1. Select the form name (like LOCATION_FORM) from the Object navigator
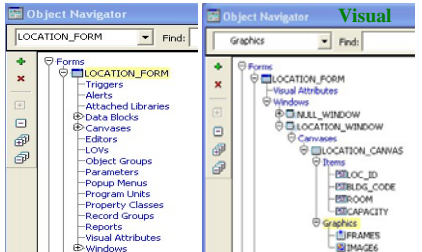2. From Forms Builder menu, choose Tools/Layout Editor

Object Navigator views

- **Ownership** view
  - Data blocks, canvases, windows, etc. appear as objects under the form's node
- **Visual** view shows hierarchical relationships
- To switch view, select form name and choose the view in View menu.

- To switch view
  - Select form's name
  - Click the View menu
  - Select Visual or Ownership

Shutting down OC4J

- Start > Programs > Oracle Developer Suite > Forms developer > Shut Down OC4J Instance

11