

Designing Database Applications - WOLF User Guide

WOLF User Guide

Designing Database Applications - About This Guide

This section describes the purpose and structure of this document.

Audience and Purpose

This document describes the basics of getting started with WOLF Platform as a Service and Designing Database Applications. It is intended for business analysts, web developers, software developers and knowledge workers who have an understanding & concept of designing software applications but not necessarily WOLF Platform or technical coding.

To use this guide, you should be familiar with the basic building blocks of web application software and using the internet.

The chapters of this document deal with basic concepts including system requirements, key terms & concepts, and an introduction to the different environments of the Platform. The final chapter lists the typographical conventions that will be used in subsequent documents.

Document Structure

This document is divided into the following topics:

1. Technical Requirements
2. Key Terms in WOLF Platform as a Service
3. Different Environments in WOLF
4. Concept of Nodes in the Designer
5. Typographical Conventions

How to Use this Document

Review the “**Technical Requirements**” section to get an understanding of the system requirements for optimum use of the Platform.

The “**Key Terms in WOLF Platform as a Service**” section helps you to become familiar with some of the commonly used terms and concepts when working with the Platform.

It is important to get an understanding of the “**Different Environments in WOLF**” before beginning to build your own web application using WOLF.

The “**Concept of Nodes in the Designer**” section throws light on different nodes available in the Solution Explorer while building an application.

The “**Typographical Conventions**” is a table that contains the typographical conventions that will be followed in the rest of the handbook.

Technical Requirements

The following are the recommended system requirements for using WOLF Platform-as-a-Service.

Software Requirements

- A **web browser** installed on your computer. The list of supported internet browsers are:
 - Microsoft Internet Explorer version 6.0 and above
 - Mozilla Firefox 3.0 and above
- **MSXML version 6.0:** The latest version is available as a free download on the [Microsoft](#) Website. Click [here](#) to download.

Note: You will need to install MSXML version 6.0 only if you use Microsoft Internet Explorer browser to access WOLF.

- **JavaScript** enabled on your internet browser.

Other Requirements

- Access to the internet - Recommended connectivity speed of 256 kbps or above

Key Terms in WOLF Platform as a Service

The following is a list of key terms and concepts in WOLF Platform-as-a-Service.

General Terms

Term	Definition
Registered User	A person with a valid WOLF Login ID.
Account	A workspace for a WOLF Registered User which holds his/her unique profile information, business plan details and list of Applications created with access to the Design and Run environments.
Application	Unique instance of software which electronically manages a business process. Each Registered User Account may have numerous Applications.
Add an Application	The action of a Registered User adding a new WOLF Application to his/her Account.

Users

Term	Definition
User	The end user of a WOLF Application having a specified set of security and access permissions to use the Application.
Super User	The Administrator for a specific WOLF Application. Every Application by default has a Super User who can access the Designer and Run Environments. The Super User becomes the Application administrator and creates other Users using the Run Environment.

Environments

Term	Definition
Designer	The environment to design a WOLF Application.
Run	The Runtime environment of a WOLF Application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. When accessed by the Super User of an Application, it presents the Administrative interface allowing the Super User to control

	administrative, security and access features of an Application. b. When accessed by the User of the Application, it presents the End User Interface of the Application.
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Designer

Term	Definition
Designer Controls	The Designer has five Designer Controls or Widgets arranged in a chronology of logical order. The WOLF Entity Designer, WOLF Navigation Designer, WOLF Rules Designer, WOLF Reporting Designer and WOLF Chart Designer which assist you to develop, use and distribute your Application online.
Solution Explorer	The iframe window in the left panel of the Designer that allows creation, opening and manipulation of WOLF Designer controls (such as Entities, Navigation Items, etc.).
Node	The Designer Controls which are currently present in the Solution Explorer possess a hierarchical structure in the form of Nodes and Sub Nodes.
Save	Update recent changes made to the currently selected Node and its Sub Nodes since the last Save.
Publish	Update recent changes made to the currently selected Node and its Sub Nodes and make these changes reflect in the Run Environment of the Application. A Publish performs an implicit Save.
Entity	Holds data or table of data is an Entity.
Edit Screen	An Entity is represented by an Edit Screen. An Edit Screen is a form with fields. It is used to display the fields/data of an Entity and to provide a means for data entry. Edit Screens are of 2 types – Default Edit Screen and Custom Edit Screens.
Tab	Every Edit Screen in WOLF must have at least one Tab. Tabs are used for logical grouping of data/Fields in an Edit Screen.
Section	Every Tab must contain at least one Section. Sections are used for logical grouping of data/Fields in a Tab.
Field	An element that holds a particular data type. WOLF supports a large number of Field types.
Search Screen	Also referred to as a Search Template. Search Screens allow listing as well as filtering of the records of an Entity. Search Screens allow inline and mouse operations for editing data. Search Screens can be configured for representation of data in different formats.
Business Rule	The Business Rules manage, change and generate the state of the Application and its Entities. Business Rules consist of a set of predefined actions that can be configured and invoked as and when required in any sequence.
Navigation Item	Navigation Items or Menus are access points to different areas of an Application or external web pages. Example: To access an Entity form you must create a Navigation Item and link it with the Entity form.
Report	A Report is an analytical expression designed using a Business Rule and presented using the WOLF Report template. Reports can be configured for representation of data in different formats.
Category	An element that helps to categorize and organize your Application Designer controls (such as Entities and Navigation Items).
Properties	The iframe window below the Solution Explorer that allows modification of the properties for the current active element in the Solution Explorer (such as Entity, Report, Navigation Item, etc.). Different control elements have different associated properties.

Run

Term	Definition
Splash Screen	The landing page of the Run Environment. Displays the Application navigation & different items made available to the User once he/she is logged in.
Dashboard Widget	A box on the Splash Screen which exposes a specific section or functionality of an Application.
Role	A profile which has specific privileges – permissions. Once created, any number of Users can be given membership to this Role.
Folder	Every Application has a Root Folder which holds all the data and Role-User security rights specific to the Application. A Folder is a possible ‘Tenant’ for a Multi-tenant Application.
Access	To provide the rights to perform an action (such as View, Edit or Delete) on a particular item of an Application (such as Entity or Navigation Item).

Miscellaneous

Term	Definition
WOLF Frameworks Website	http://www.wolfframeworks.com
WOLF Widget	A WOLF Widget is a portion of a larger WOLF Application, much smaller than the complete Application which exposes a part of its functionality to a third party software system. WOLF Widgets are embeddable elements and are often embedded as a part of a third party web page.

Different Environments in WOLF

Every WOLF Application contains two distinct environments:

1. Designer
2. Runtime

Designer Environment

Designer Environment of a WOLF Database Application: This is a browser based point and click environment which has ready controls to design and develop a WOLF Application. Different WOLF Controls help you in the development process of your Application.

By default, the Designer is accessible by the Super User. However, Users can also be given access to the Designer.

Run Environment

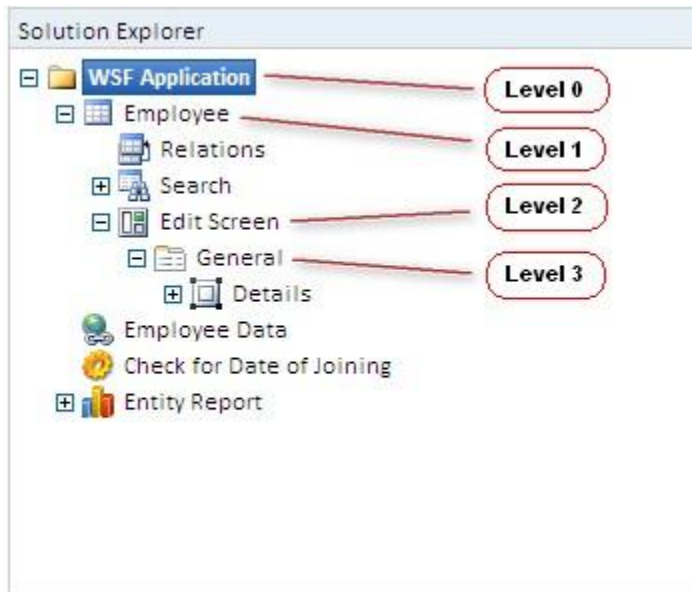
Run environment of a WOLF Database Application: The Run Environment is used for Application Administration & also for using the designed Application as an end user. Depending on the user who is logged into this environment, the Run environment presents different Application interfaces.

- a. When accessed by the Super User of an Application, it presents the Administrative interface allowing the Super User to control administrative, user security and access control features of an Application. The Super User can add, modify and delete Roles, Users and Folders of an Application using this interface.

- b. When accessed by a User of an Application, it presents the End User interface of the Application. Depending on the security and access privileges given to a User, the end user can access different elements-items of an application.

Concept of Nodes in the Designer

The Solution Explorer in the Designer allows creation, opening and manipulation of WOLF Designer controls (such as Entities, Navigation Items, etc.). The elements of the Designer which are currently present in the Solution Explorer possess a hierarchical structure in the form of Nodes and Sub Nodes. The diagram below illustrates this concept:



The WSF Application or simply the Application node is the top level (Level 0) node of the application. The other WOLF Designer Controls (such as Entity, Navigation Item, Business Rule, Report or Chart) are the Level 1 nodes.

Tip:

1. If a Node is expandable (such as the Entity Node) there will be a “+” sign beside it. Clicking on the “+” sign will expand the selected Node and allow you to see the Sub Nodes inside it.
2. The Nodes are aligned in accordance with their hierarchy. The Application Node (Level 0) is leftmost aligned and the Level 1 Nodes are slightly more right aligned than the Application Node.

The Entity is a Level 1 node which can be expanded to view the sub nodes defined inside it. The “Relations”, “Search” and “Edit Screen” are all Level 2 sub nodes existing inside the Entity node.

Similarly, expanding the “Edit Screen” node shows the sub nodes defined inside it.

Note: It is not necessary that all the nodes are expandable. The “Navigation Item” and “Business Rule” are Level 1 nodes that are not expandable.

Typographical Conventions

The following table lists the typographical conventions that will be followed in the rest of the User Guide documents.

Convention	Meaning
emphasis	Bold text is used for headings and user-interface elements – buttons, field labels, menu options, etc.
Terminology	Capitalized text is used for WOLF terms being introduced. These terms have been defined in the “Key Terms in WOLF Platform as a Service” section of this document.
<i>[placeholder]</i>	Italic text specifies a placeholder that you replace with an appropriate value.
Note:	Used to emphasize a point or remind readers of something.
Tip:	Hints or tips to the reader.
Caution:	To warn readers about potential problems in the outcome of what they are doing.

For More Information

For more information about WOLF products and services, call the WOLF Sales Information Center at +1 (703)-953-1053 (US) or +91 80 4207 5425 (India). To access information using the World Wide Web, go to: <http://www.wolfframeworks.com>