# vtiger 5.x Developer Manual

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## **Revision History**

Version 0.1	October 16, 2007
Version 0.2	October 20, 2007
Version 0.3	October 28, 2007

#### References

PHP <a href="http://php.net">http://php.net</a>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP

Smarty <a href="http://smarty.php.net/crashcourse.php">http://smarty.php.net/crashcourse.php</a>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smarty

SQL <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL</a>

http://www.w3schools.com/sql/default.asp

http://in.php.net/mysql

## **Source Organization**

vtiger source is moderately structured. Some of the folder and file organization details are described below:

File or Folder	Description
install	Contains file required for installation of product
install.php	It is the entry point for installation. It includes files from install folder depending on the condition (or steps).
	Both install folder and install.php is renamed after successful installation.
adodb	Contains adodb 3 <sup>rd</sup> party library files.
cache	Cache directory (configurable during installation) holds temporary files like home page dashboard chart (generated by GD library)
cron	Contains files which calls php scripts offline, the shell scripts can be used by crond (scheduler) with suitable modifications
data	Base class CRMEntity and Tracker file is present in this directory. CRMEntity is extended by our module files.
include	Contains several include files and 3 <sup>rd</sup> party library.
logs	Logging directory, the logs are created as defined in log4php.properties.
modules	Contains vtiger's module files.
schema	Contains DatabaseSchema.xml which is the snapshot of database structure, it is used by adodb during installation to create the required tables and indexes.
Smarty	Contains Smarty library files and all the required templates to generate the UI is present in the templates directory.
	Smarty compiles the template files (.tpl) to (.tpl.php) at runtime into the folder templates_c directory.
soap	Contains files which exposes API for our plug-ins.
user_privileges	This directory is used to store the user_privilege and sharing_access computation as .php file. It will also contains files based on the settings enabled in vtiger. These files are created dynamically.

## **Application Entry Point**

The basic entry point to the application are handled through the following files:

## index.php

All the actions within vtiger application passes through this file. This file basically contains the logic of dispatching or including other required files for a particular action.

## vtigerservice.php

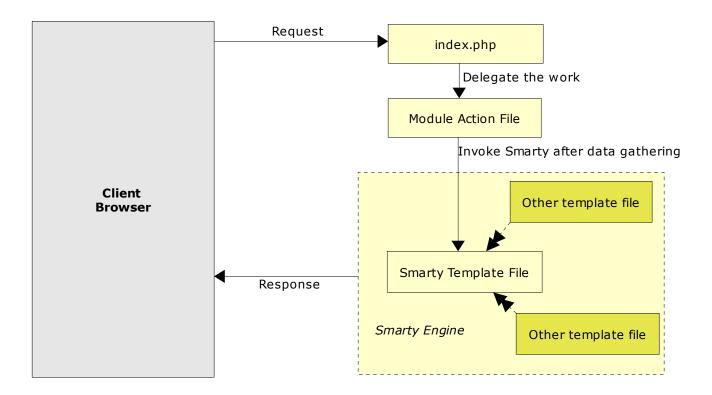
This handles the request from the soap plug-ins (Customer Portal, Firefox, Thunderbird ...) It has the logic to delegate the task by file inclusion in (soap directory) based on the requested task.

## Popup.php

The window pop-up that is shown within vtiger sends request through Popup.php

#### **Control flow overview**

Here is the visual representation of the basic control follow that is involved in serving the response to the request from the application.

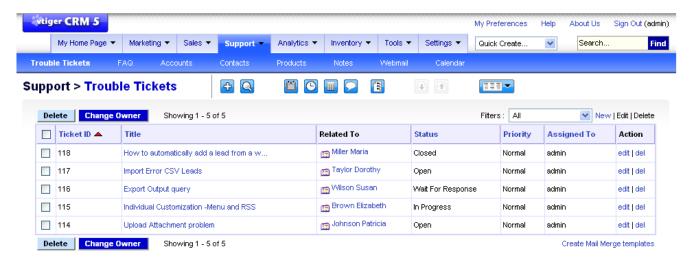


The client request goes into the index.php which delegates the work to the module action file. The module action file will gather the required data and calls the Smarty template file. The Smarty template file in turn can include several other template files to generate the UI.

**NOTE**: Smarty templates also does some special case handling while generating the UI. However all the data access logic are within the module action file.

#### **Understanding code base**

Let us understand how the UI is generated when you click on the 'Trouble Tickets'.



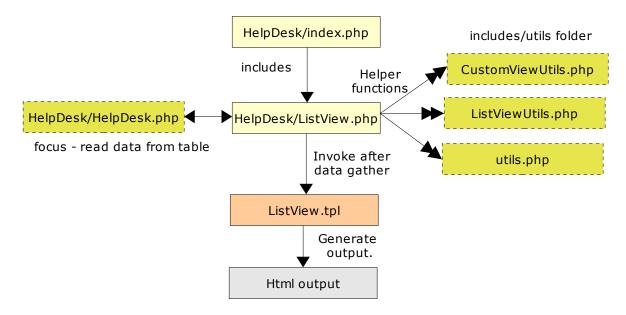
When click on 'Trouble Tickets' under Support menu. The following url is invoked:

index.php?module=HelpDesk&action=index&parenttab=Support

As already discussed **index.php** is the entry point to most of the actions within vtiger application, the delegation of work from index.php is based on the **module** and **action** parameter input.

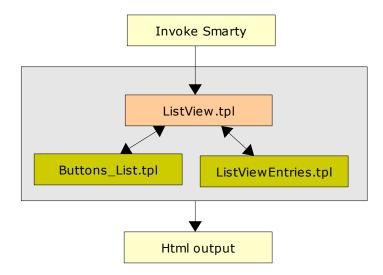
index.php includes the output generated by **module/action.php** generally, expect few special cases like export and ajax actions where the delegation of work slightly defers.

In the current case, **modules/HelpDesk/index.php** file output is included. Given below is the pictorial representation of final output from this file.

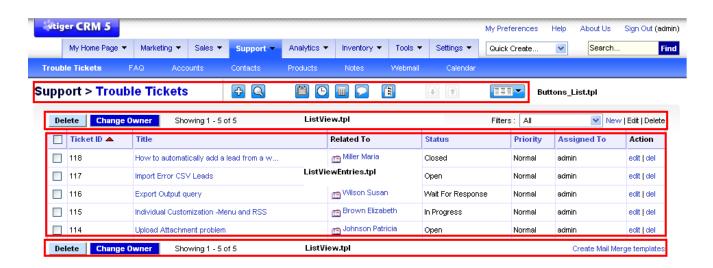


ListView.tpl file is present in the Smarty/templates directory. Smarty\_setup.php file defines vtigerCRM\_Smarty class that extends Smarty class. It the place where Smarty template directory is initialized.

**NOTE:** Smarty will compile the template file into php file and stores in the compile directory (Smarty/templates\_c). If the changes you made doesn't not reflect try to clear the file in compile directory.



The UI generation handled by Buttons\_List.tpl and ListViewEntries.tpl is shown below.



## **Localization support**

vtiger has been localized to nearly 20 different languages. It is important to understand how the strings are organized to support easy translation.

File	Description
include/language/en_us.lang.php	Defines the language strings used commonly across the application \$app_strings
modules/ <module>/language/en_us.lang.php</module>	Defines module specific strings \$mod_strings
.js (Javascript)	Several javascript also contains strings that are to translated by language pack

The language pack maintainer (or owner) will bundle only the translated language files (and Javascript files) with the same directory structure.

At the time of sign-in the available languages are shown for selection. The key used to identify the languages (from config.inc.php) are used to include the required language file for translating the strings.

#### NOTE:

If you are going to develop a module or customize application make sure you add entries in the language file.

While invoking smarty template the following are the general language variable assignments:

- 1. \$APP to \$app strings defined in include/language/<sign-in language key>.lang.php
- 2. \$MOD to \$mod\_strings defined in include/modules/<modulename>/language/<sign-in language key>.lang.php

To make other languages available during signin, you have to first unpack the language pack into root directory and then update \$languages variable in config.inc.php

By default en\_US (English) language files exists in the product and in config.inc.php

Example: To add German language in config.inc.php

\$languages = Array('en\_us'=>'US English', 'de\_de' =>'German');

### **Customizing Menu Label**

Our aim is to change the menu label 'Support' to 'Customer Support' as shown in the figure:





Let us try to understand the way in which we can approach the changes knowing very little about the vtiger code.

index.php delegates the work of generating header portion of application (based on theme selected) to header.php file.

By default, bluelagoon theme is selected (during signin) so the file which handles header generation in our example is: theme/bluelagoon/header.php

theme/bluelagoon/header.php gathers the required data and invokes Header.tpl

In Smarty/templates/Header.tpl, the following code exist

Look at **\$APP[\$maintabs]** we understand the string is getting translated from the application language file. \$maintabs is each key item of the **\$HEADERS** array.

**\$HEADERS** was assigned in Header.php as:

```
$header_array = getHeaderArray();
$smarty->assign("HEADERS",$header_array);
```

getHeaderArray() is in include/utils/CommonUtils.php

In this function, we are reading the information from the following files:

```
include('parent_tabdata.php');
include('tabdata.php')
```

**NOTE:** This file is created during the time of installation, to improve the overall performance of the application. The menu and sub-menu details are stored in the table vtiger\_parenttab and vtiger\_tab tables. Instead of reading the information each time the main page loads from the database, the parent\_tabdata.php and tabdata.php are included.

Looking at the vtiger\_parenttab table, we find:

parenttabid	parenttab_label	sequence	visible
1	My Home Page	1	0

2	Marketing	2	0
3	Sales	3	0
4	Support	4	0
5	Analytics	5	0
6	Inventory	6	0
7	Tools	7	0
8	Settings	8	0

getHeaderArray() creates a result array with parenttab\_label as the key (based on the visiblity, sequence and user privilege). The menu item is taken into account only if has subtabs.

So \$maintabs in Header.tpl refers to parenttab\_label, to achieve the required customization we need to update \$APP['Support'] = 'Customer Support'. This can be done by updating the entry in application language file include/language/en\_us.lang.php

The following the change:

```
$app_strings = array(
...
'Support' => 'Customer Support',
...);
```

Instead of:

```
$app_strings = array(
...
'Support' => 'Support',
...);
```

The impact of this change will occur at all places where this language key was referred to. You can see the new label is appears in the UI generated by Buttons\_List.tpl (for ListView) as well.



## Exercise:

1. Change the 'Customer Support' to 'HelpDesk'.

#### **Customizing Sub-menu Label**

Our aim is to change the sub-menu label 'FAQ' to 'Knowledge Base' as shown in the figure:



[This customization is similar to menu label expect few minor difference].

Looking getHeaderArray() function again, we arrive at the following conclusion: Each of the submenu is tied to the module, the information is available in vtiger\_tab table and

## vtiger\_tab information:

tabid	id
name	Module name
presence	UI presence, 0 - default
tabsequence	Overall display order
tablabel	Sub-menu label, used as key in language file
modifiedby	Last modified user
modifiedtime	Time of last modification
customized	
ownedby	Userid who owns this record

The FAQ tab record has the following information:

tabid	name	presence	tabsequence	tablabel	modifiedby	modifiedtime	customized	Ownedby
15	Faq	0	14	Faq	NULL	NULL	0	1

#### NOTE:

The relation between the menu and sub menu (parenttab and tab) is obtained from vtiger\_parenttabrel. Naming convention for relational table:

Table connecting two other table vtiger\_first and vtiger\_second is named as vtiger\_firstsecondrel.

So \$module in Header.tpl refers to tablabel, to achieve the required customization we need to update \$APP['Faq'] = 'Knowledge Base'. This can be done by updating the entry in application language file include/language/en\_us.lang.php

The following is the change:

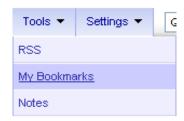
```
$app_strings = array(
...
'Faq' => 'Knowledge Base',
...);
```

Instead of:

```
$app_strings = array(
...
'Faq' => 'FAQ',
...);
```

#### **Exercise:**

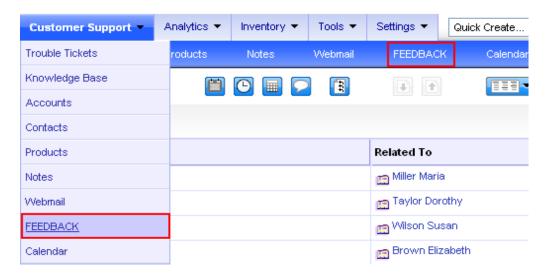
1. Change the 'My Sites' to 'My Bookmarks' under Tools menu, as shown in the figure:



HINT: The link to 'My Sites' is index.php?module=Portal&action=index&parenttab=Tools

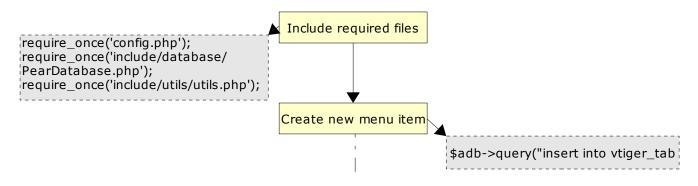
#### **Adding Sub-menu Item**

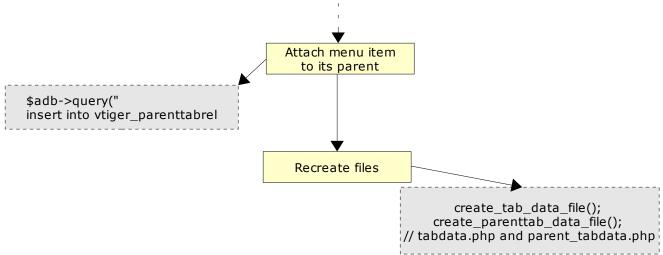
We want to add a 'FEEDBACK' menu item under our 'Customer Support' as shown in the figure:



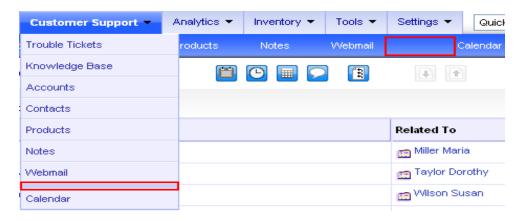
To achieve this we have written this script (tut-addsubtab.php), to execute this you have to copy it to vtigercrm root folder.

Given below is the pictorial description of the above script:





The result of the above changes is shown in the figure.



One final step to make the menu item appear is to a the tablabel mapping in the language file.

The following entry needs to be added in include/language/en\_us.lang.php

```
$app_strings = array(
...
'Feedback' => 'FEEDBACK',
...);
```

**NOTE:** If the mapping already exist in language file, there is no need of duplication.

#### Excerise:

- 1. Add a new menu 'Conference' with the following items:
  - a) Skype
  - b) Webex



NOTE: Menu is not shown if it no items is associated with it.

#### **UI Views Introduction**

Following are the different UI views we need know:

- 1. List View
- 2. Create | Edit View
- 3. Detail View
- 4. Quick Create View
- 5. Popup View

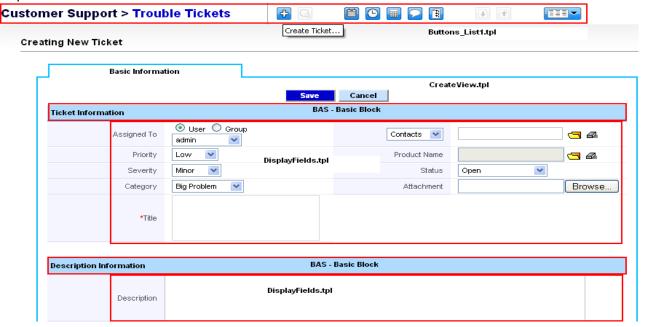
#### **List View**

The module records are listed in the tabular format based on the filter (custom view) selected (or set as default). This is the default view for most of the modules as shown in the figure below.



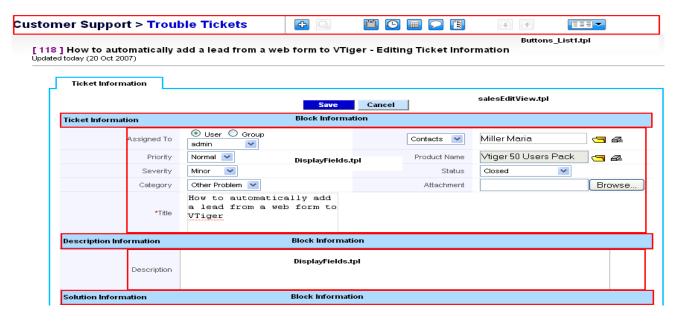
#### **Create View**

When a new record for a module is created this create view is shown. Create view can be further break down into Basic Information and Advanced Information tabs which are displayed based on the module. Each of the tabs further has the blocks. The blocks contains the actual fields of inputs.



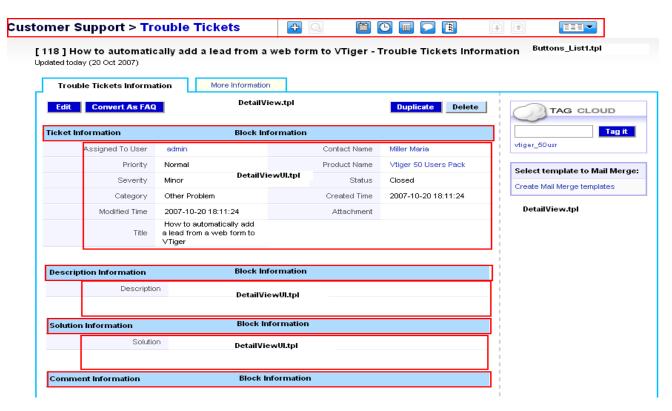
#### **Edit View**

When a module record is under edit, Edit View is displayed. The Edit View is similar to Create View with few modification, it can contain more blocks, the input fields are pre-populated with the data.



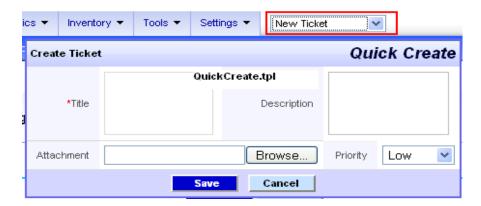
#### **Detail View**

When individual record is displayed or after a new record is created the detail view is shown. Based on the edit permission the field editing is allowed. If SinglePane detail view is not set, then the blocks are grouped under basic module information and more information tabs.



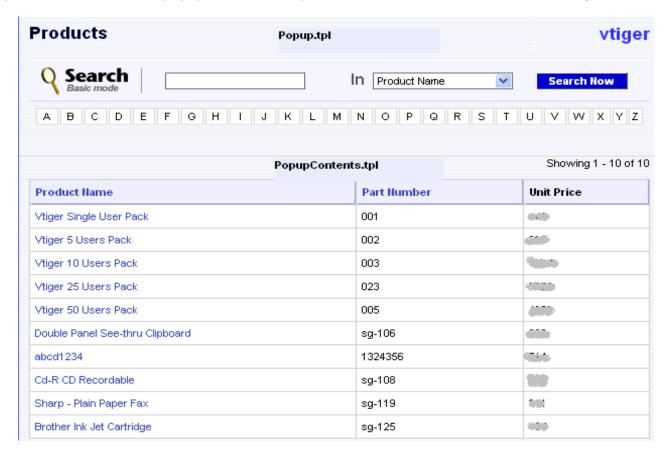
#### **Quick Create View**

Many modules support quick create. Using this minimal (required) information can be entered instead of entering all the information in the CreateView. Shown below is a simple quick create form to create new ticket.



## **Popup View**

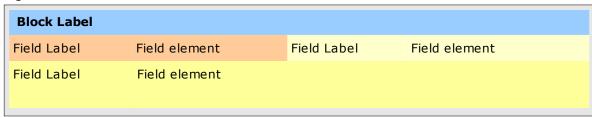
Popup view is displayed for input selection. For example, when creating the quote the product list is shown in popup view and the product can be selected as shown in the figure below:



#### **UI Block and Field**

The UI generation for various forms is driven by database and hence customizing it is very simple. Understanding the form structure is important to achieve required level of field customization.

In the previous section we learnt about various views. Each view (except ListView) has the following basic structure.



The field which comprises of label and the ui (input) element is enclosed under the block. The block can also have the label. Each block has several rows split into two columns. The fields are layed out in each column based on the sequence number as shown in the above figure.

In this section we shall understand how to add a new block, field and customize it. For code refer script (tut-addnewblockfield.php).

#### Add block with field

We want to add 'Version Information' block for the Trouble Tickets module, with a single 'Version' text field, as shown in the figure:

*Title	Test Field and Block Addition	
Description Information		
Description		
Version Information		
Version	0.3	
	Save	Cancel

To achieve this we need entries in vtiger\_block and vtiger\_field tables as shown below:

```
// Get tabid to use
$tabres = $adb->query("select tabid from vtiger_tab where name='HelpDesk'");
$tabid = $adb->query_result($tabres, 0, 'tabid');

// Get max blockid in use
$blockres = $adb->query("select max(blockid) as maxblockid from vtiger_blocks");
$blockid = $adb->query_result($blockres, 0, 'maxblockid');

$adb->query("insert into vtiger_blocks values(" . ($blockid+1) . ", $tabid,
'LBL_VERSION_INFORMATION', 4, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)");
```

```
$fieldid = $adb->getUniqueId("vtiger_field"); // use this instead of max(fieldid)
$adb->query("insert into vtiger_field values($tabid, $fieldid, 'version',
'vtiger_troubletickets', 2, 1, 'prodversion', 'version', 1, 0, 0, 100, 1,".($blockid+1).",
1, 'V~0', 1, null, 'BAS')");
```

## vtiger\_blocks information:

blockid	id for the block
tabid	module to which the block is associated (vtiger_tab)
blocklabel	Label to display as block title (used as key in modules/module/language/en_us.lang.php – language file)
sequence	Determines the placement order on the page (blocks are stacked one below the other)
show_title	0 - show title, 1 - hide title
visible	0 - show field, 1 - hide field
createview	0 – show in create view, 1 – hide in create view
editview	0 – show in edit view, 1 – hide in edit view
detailview	0 – show in detail view, 1 – hide in detail view

## vtiger\_field information:

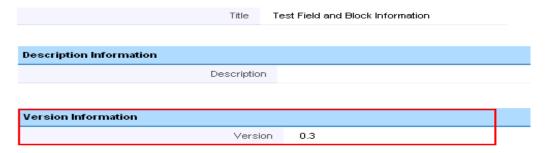
tabid	module to which the field is associated (vtiger_tab)
fieldid	id for the field, use adb->getUniqueId("vtiger_field")
columnname	Name of the table name where values are stored
tablename	Name of the table for this field
generatedtype	
uitype	Refer UI Type information below
fieldname	Name to identify this field, used in special cases like. (vtiger_ <fieldname> is taken as the picklist value table)</fieldname>
fieldlabel	Label to display on the UI (for most modules this is the key for module string in the file: modules/module/language/en_us.lang.php)
readonly	1 – allow edit, 0 – disallow edit (could be handled by uitype)
presence	1
selected	1
maximumlength	Length associated with this field element
sequence	Order of field placement inside the block
block	blockid to which this field is associated
displaytype	1 – show field inside block, 0 – hide field inside block
typeofdata	Refer TypeOfData information below
quickcreate	0 – show field in quickcreate view, 1 – hide field in quickcreate view
quickcreatesequence	Order of field placement inside quickcreate view
info_type	BAS – basic information, ADV – advanced information

When adding the new field we have associated it with tablename=vtiger\_troubletickets and columnname=version, this means the value of this field should be stored in this column.

To achieve this we execute this statement:

```
// Add the table column
$adb->query("alter table vtiger_troubletickets add column version varchar(10)");
```

Now when a new trouble ticket is created the detail view of the ticket also shows the version information as shown below.



NOTE: The block is not displayed if it does not have any fields associated with it or all the fields of the block are hidden.

#### **Field Access Control**

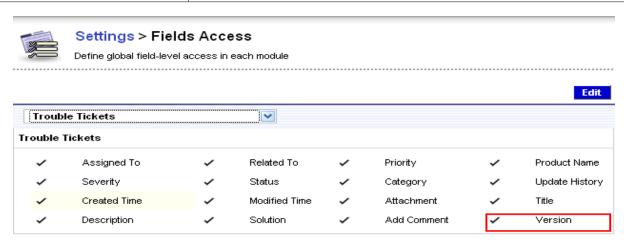
vtiger\_def\_org\_field table stores the information which controls the field access across the organization. With this administration can control the display of the field of the module through the Settings -> Field Access page.

To achieve this we have to execute this statement:

\$adb->query("insert into vtiger\_def\_org\_field values(\$tabid, \$fieldid, 0, 1)");

vtiger\_def\_org\_field information:

tabid	module to which the field is associated (vtiger_tab)	
fieldid	field id	
visible	0 - show, 1 - hide [for non-admin]	
readonly	0 - true, 1 - false	



## **Profile Level Sharing Access:**

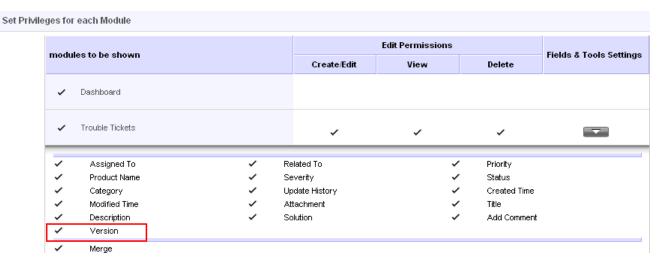
vtiger\_profile table stores the information about the field access for each profile. To enable field administration through Settings -> Profile UI we need to add suitable entry into this table.

When a new field is added we can enable its access to all the profile. Later its access can be restricted selectively for each profile through the Settings -> Profile UI.

The following snippet of code enables access to new field to all the profile:

## vtiger\_profile information:

profileid	id of the profile
tabid	module to which the field is associated (vtiger_tab)
fieldid	field id
visible	0 - show, 1 - hide
readonly	0 - true, 1 - false



## **TypeOfData information:**

This information is used field validation (when form is submited) from the client.

It can have more than two parts separated by  $\sim$ . The general format is as follows:

## DataType~ValuePresence~OtherRulesForValidation

## DataType options:

С	Boolean
D	Date
DT	DateTime
E	Email
I	Integer
N	Number
Р	Password
Т	Time
V	Varchar

## ValuePresence options:

0	Optional
М	Mandatory

## Example:

- 1. V~M The field is of type varchar and mandatory.
- 2. D~O~OTH~GE~support\_start\_date~Support Start Date

Refer: include/js/general.js - function formValidate for usage understanding

## **UI Type information:**

UI type determines the HTML element generation for the different view:

1	Text box
2	Text box, mandatory entry
3	Text box with Inheritance
4	Text box with Inheritance, mandatory entry
5	Date
6	Date, default to currenttime
7	Number box
8	Non editable text box
9	Percent
11	Phone
12	OrgUnit pickbox
13	EMail
14	Organization multiselect pickbox
15	Picklist
16	Picklist, mandatory entry
17	URL
18	URL with Inheritance
19	Textarea with colspan=2
20	Textarea with colspan=2, mandatory entry
21	Textarea
22	Textarea, mandatory entry
23	Date
24	Textarea, mandatory entry
30	Time left
31	Text box, Extending Inheritance
32	Text box, Extending Inheritance, mandatory entry
33	Multi-select combo box
34	Large multi-select combo box
50	Popup select box for account, mandatory entry potentials module.
51	Popup select box for account and contact addresses
52	Picklist for username entries
53	User picklist
54	Group picklist
55	Salutation type picklist
56	Checkbox
57	Contacts popup select box
-	

58	Campaign popup select box
59	Product non-editable capture, popup picklist
61	Attachments, file selection box
62	Names out of entities popup picklist
63	Duration minutes picklist
64	Calendardate
66	Names out of entities popup picklist
67	Names out of entities
68	Names out of entities popup picklist
69	Products attachments
70	Date
71	Currency
72	Currency, mandatory entry
73	Popup select box for Accounts, mandatory entry
75	Vendor name
76	Potential popup picklist
77	Picklist for secondary username entries
78	Quote popup picklist
79	Purchase order name
80	Sales order popup picklist
81	Vendor name, mandatory entry
83	Tax in Inventory
85	Skype
90	
98	Role name popup picklist, mandatory entry
99	Password, mandatory entry
101	User capture popup picklist
103	Text box
104	EMail, mandatory entry
105	User image
106	Text box, mandatory entry
107	Company logo
111	Non editable picklist
115	Non editable picklist
116	Currency in user details
156	Admin toggle, checkbox
357	Email, Popup picklist

[Mandatory ui types show \* mark beside the field label. Smarty/templates/DisplayField.tpl and include/utils/EditViewUtils.php file gives more information on how the uitype is used to control field display. ]

## Making the field mandatory

When a field is made mandatory its input value cannot be empty during save. Let us change the newly added text field (version) for Trouble Tickets previously as mandatory.

The script (tut-makefieldmandatory.php) shown below is written to achieve this effect:

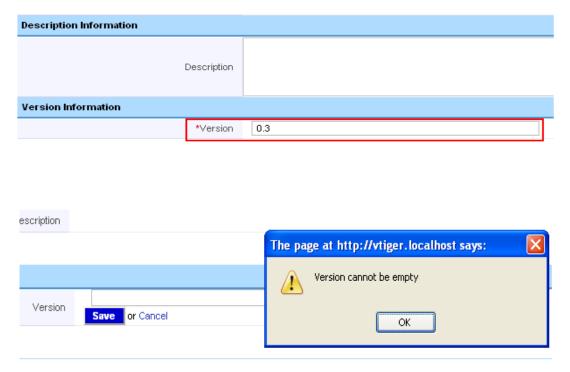
```
// Get tabid to use
$tabres = $adb->query("select tabid from vtiger_tab where name='HelpDesk'");
$tabid = $adb->query_result($tabres, 0, 'tabid');

// Get fieldid to work with
$fieldres = $adb->query("select fieldid from vtiger_field where tabid=$tabid and columnname='version' and tablename='vtiger_troubletickets'");
$fieldid = $adb->query_result($fieldres, 0, 'fieldid');

if($fieldid != '') $adb->query("update vtiger_field set uitype=2, typeofdata='V~M' where tabid=$tabid and fieldid=$fieldid");
```

As you can see, we have set the UI Type to be 2 (to show \* on UI) and typeofdata as V~M.

After this script is executed, you can see the changes when creating new ticket or updating the version field of existing ticket.



#### **Exercise:**

- 1. Add 'Updated On' field to 'Version Information' block of Trouble Tickets module.
  - The value should be saved in 'updatedon' column in vtiger\_troubletickets table.
  - o The default value should be '0000-00-00 00:00:00' if no value is selected from user.
  - o Field Access control should be available for this.
  - o Profile level access should be available for this field in all existing profiles.



#### Display field in default filter

The default filter for the modules is 'All', this cannot be customized through UI. Let us now try to add our new field 'version' created previously to be shown in this filter along with the other fields.

The filter information are stored in vtiger\_customview and vtiger\_cvcolumnlist tables.

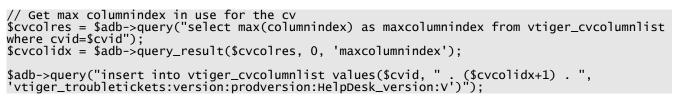
vtiger\_customview information:

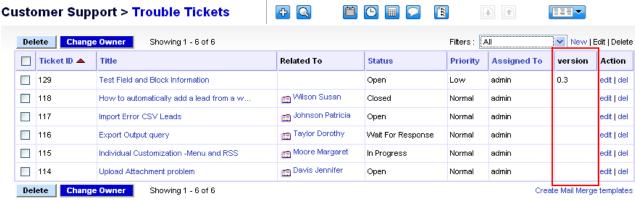
cvid	id of the custom view
viewname	Name of the custom view (filter)
setdefault	0 – no, 1 – yes [mark this filter as default for the module]
setmetrics	0 - no, 1 - yes [display on the home page the data count]
entitytype	Module name to which the custom view is associated

vtiger\_cvcolumnlist information:

cvid	id of the custom view (from table vtiger_customview)	
columnindex	Position at which this column should appear in the list view	
columnname	Colon separated column information, has the following format: tablename:columnname:fieldname:ModuleName_ListViewDisplayLabel:DataType	
	Example: vtiger_troubletickets:parent_id:parent_id:HelpDesk_Related_to:I  In list view the column heading will be <b>Related To</b>	

The following snippet of code will add the version field to 'All' filter of Trouble Tickets module:





#### **Configurable PickList Field**

Having version field as the select box is more preferable than a text field. vtiger lets you configure the select box, this is called pick list. The PickList Editor under Settings allows the configuration of values for each module field which are picklist fields (15, 16, 33, 111)

In this section we are going to understand the conversion of text field version to picklist field version.

To identify the initial need you can look at modules/Settings/PickList.php which handles picklist value configuration.

The basic assumption behind the picklist field are as follows:

- 1. The UI type is one of these values (15, 16, 33, 111)
- 2. The picklist values are stored in the table vtiger\_<fieldname> where fieldname is the value entered in vtiger\_field for the field.
- 3. vtiger\_<fieldname> should be created before using picklist editor and should have the following basic structure:

id	Auto increment column to keep uniqueness of value
<fieldname></fieldname>	Column name should be same as fieldname column used in vtiger_field
sortorderid	int defaut 0 column – to store sorting order of values
presence	int default 1 column – control value edit using picklist editor.

NOTE: The number and the order of column is very essential item in the picklist field table. When the value is saved from the picklist editor insert statements sends only 4 values without columnname. If you have any other columns in this table make sure to have proper default values for the other columns.

The following code snippet will convert the previously added version text field to mandatory picklist field. (Refer tut-makefieldpicklist.php for complete code)

After the field is converted to picklist you can see it under picklist editor when Trouble Tickets module is selected as shown in the figure below:



The values can be configured by editing, as shown below:



These values are stored in vtiger\_prodversion table that was created us.



The picklist version field is shown in detailview, create/edit view of the Trouble Ticket module.



#### **Exercise:**

- 1. Add mandatory picklist field 'Release' to 'Version Information' block of 'Trouble Tickets'
  - The input value should be stored in release column of vtiger\_troubletickets table
  - o Field Access and Profile Level Access should be available for this column.
  - o The picklist values should be (Stable, RC, Validation)
  - The Stable value should not be editable in the picklist editor.

