

# Collector Window Overview

In Advanced Revelation, collector windows are used to gather information from the user, such as the start date and end date of a report, and then passing that information to another process, such as a report. The report would then be based on the date range entered by the user.

In OpenInSight, the preferred method of gathering this type of information is to use a **dialog box**. You create a dialog box in the Form Designer by creating a form with the **No Table** option, and then add controls to the form to gather the information. A typical dialog box displays as follows:



The dialog box has a title bar with the text "Enter the date range for the report" and standard window controls (minimize, maximize, close). The main area contains two labels, "Begin Date" and "End Date", each followed by a text input field. The "Begin Date" field contains the text "01 JAN 2003" and the "End Date" field contains "31 JAN 2003". Below these fields is a button labeled "Run Report".

Many times a dialog box is called from a window. Often that window needs to pass information to the dialog box. A dialog box might be invoked from a button in this window:



The window has a title bar with the text "Run a Report Based on a Date Range" and a close button. The main area contains a single button labeled "Run Report Based on Date Range".

The following discussion will describe:

- How to pass data from a window to a dialog box

and

- How the dialog box passes the user response back to the window.