# What's the Deal with the New Windows ClearQuest Eclipse Client?

As some of you may have noticed, when IBM Rational ClearQuest 7.0 was released, it included two clients for launching ClearQuest defect tracking. Prior to version 7.0, there was only a single client on Windows, so there was no question of which one to use. Now, however, we are in a temporary situation where there are two ClearQuest clients. Let's talk a bit about what's going on with each of the ClearQuest clients and their relative pros and cons.
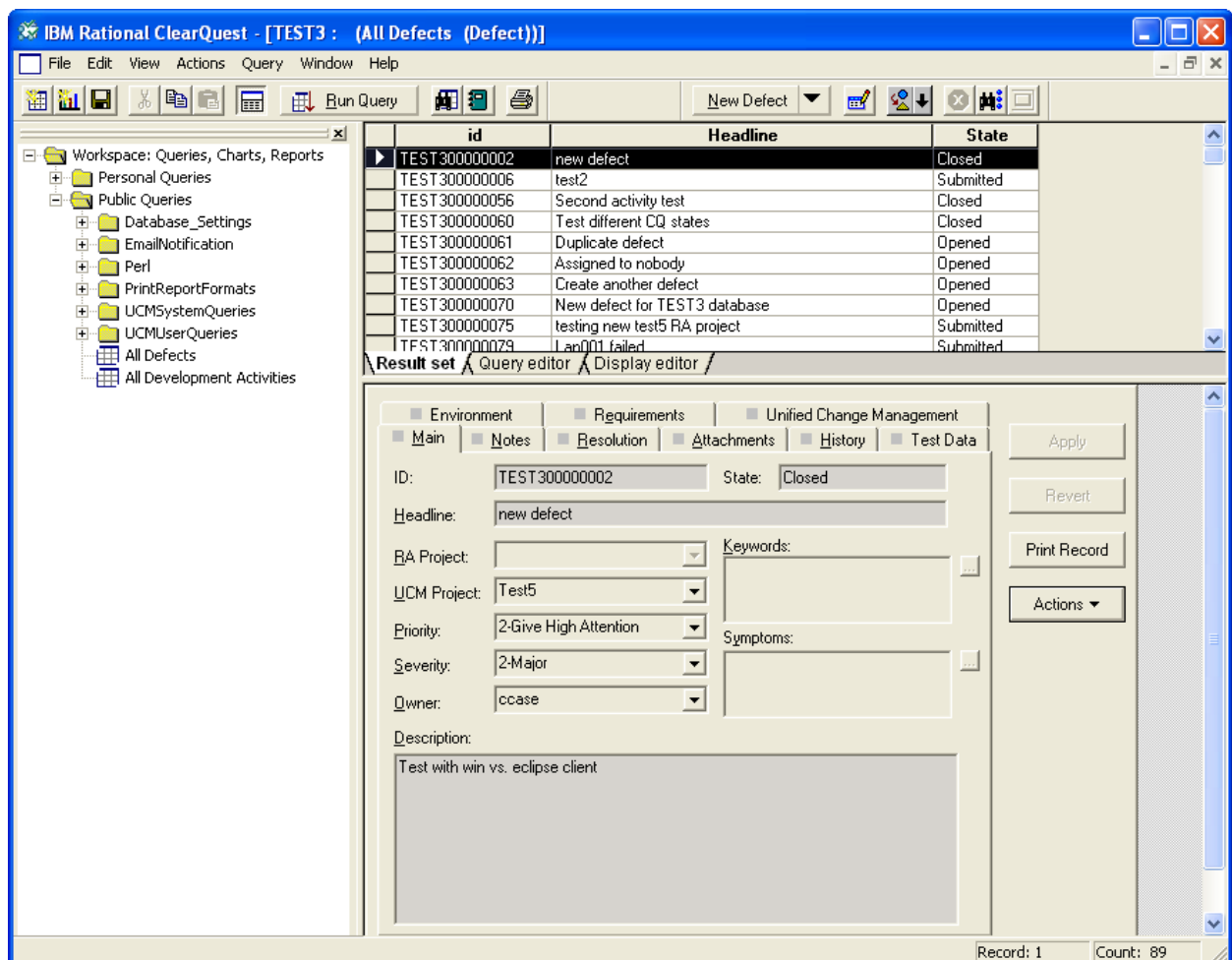
To begin, let's identify each of the ClearQuest clients and show how each is launched. In the screen shot below, we see that it's possible to launch two different ClearQuest clients.
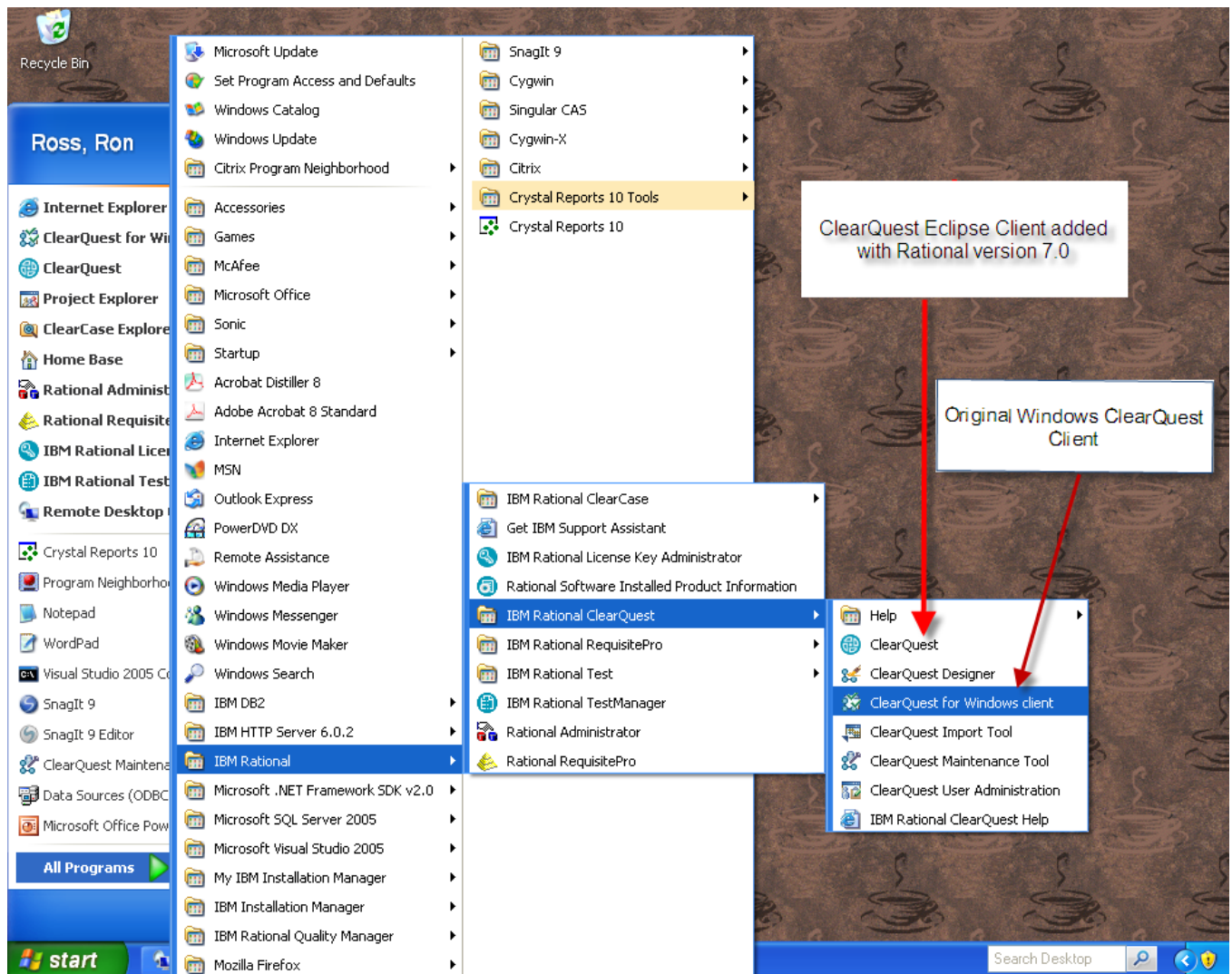
First, we have the original client which is shown in the startup menu as "ClearQuest for Windows client". If this one is launched, we get what we are used to seeing in ClearQuest versions prior to 7.0. This client provides continuity between version 7.0 and prior releases.

For reference and comparison purposes, we show below an example screen shot of the ClearQuest Windows client. An important thing to understand about the ClearQuest Windows client is that is slated to be discontinued. That's right, when Rational 8.0 comes out (rumored in late 2011, or early 2012) this client will no longer be supported or distributed.

So, if we're talking in terms of pros and cons, the pro is that nothing has changed if you use the ClearQuest 7.0 Windows client. The con is that this is going to change in the Rational 8.0 release. As in goodbye, forever! This is a good reason to familiarize ourselves with the new ClearQuest Eclipse client, which is shown next.
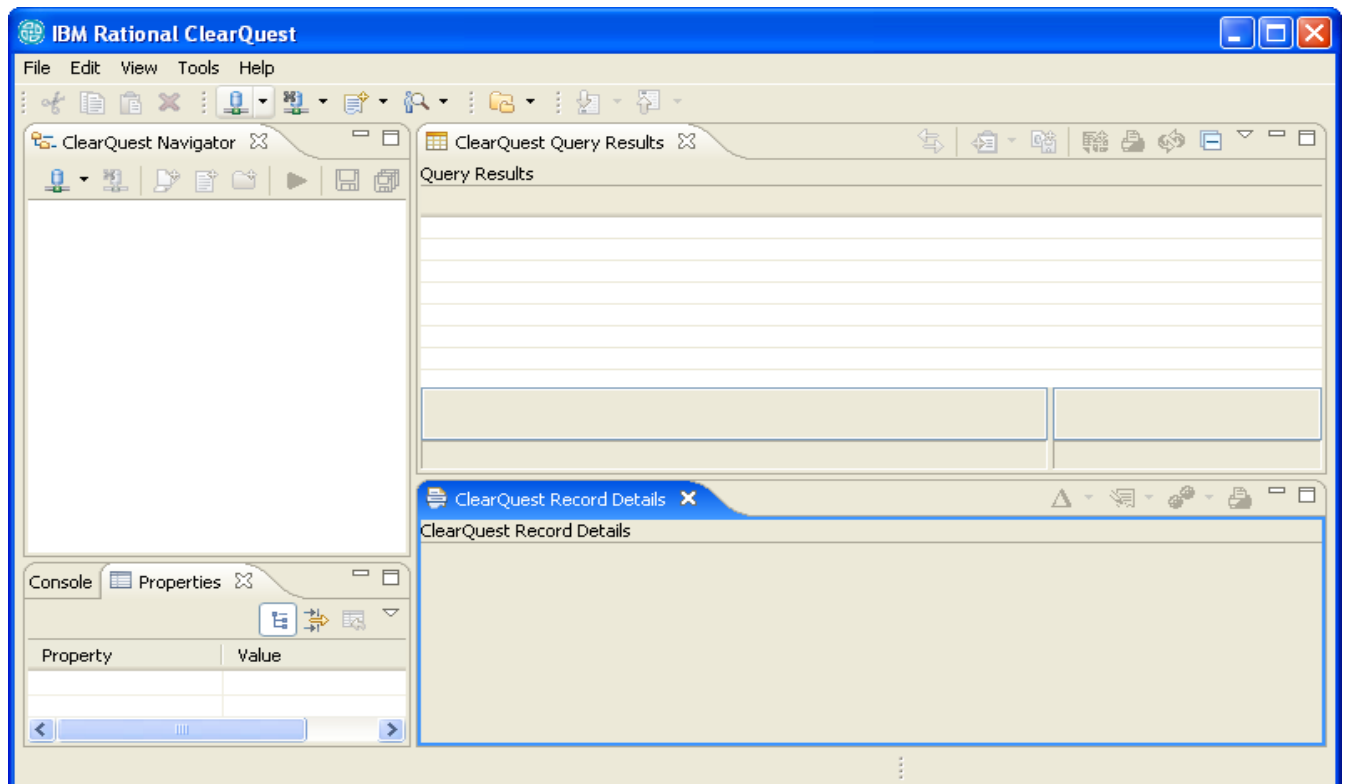
Here we show the results of launching the ClearQuest Eclipse client. After launch, we see the Eclipse client below. The first thing we notice is that there is no database connection shown, as is usual when starting the other ClearQuest Windows client. With the Eclipse client, it is normally necessary to open the connection from the client after, not during startup. The good news is that we can now create and have multiple database connections open at the same time! We will show how to do this next.

To open a connection, pull down the File menu as shown below, and request New Connection.

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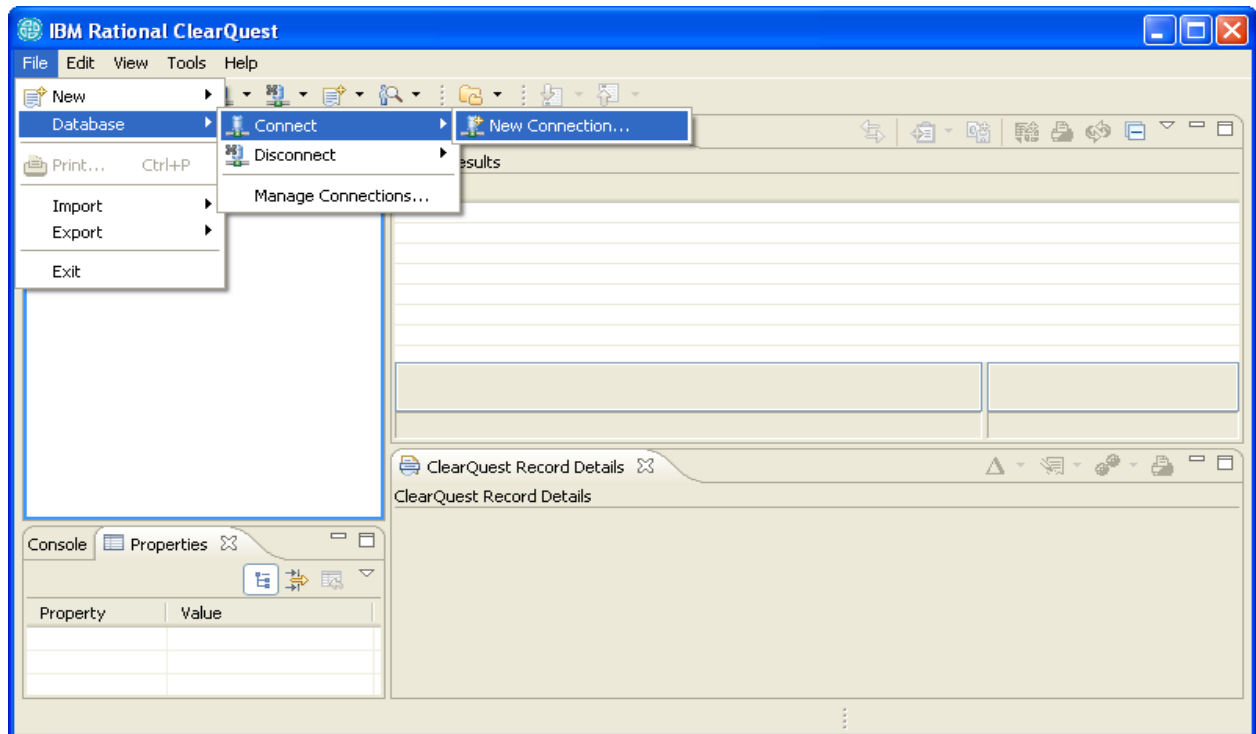
You will then be asked to specify the schema repository, which can be selected from the dropdown menu in the New Connection pop-up as shown below. Click Next.
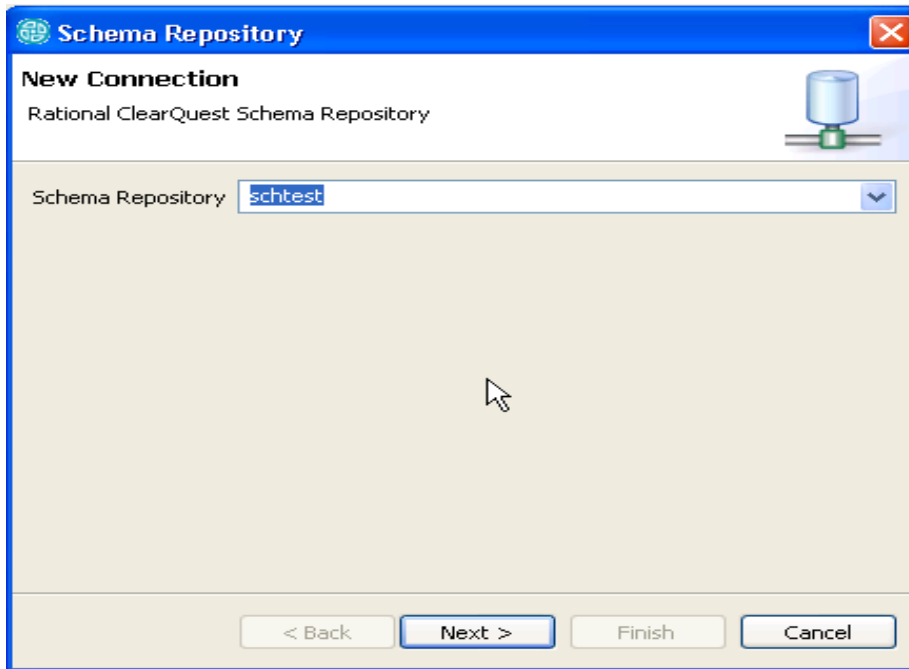
Once the Schema Repository is selected, login information needs to be specified for the database. Enter the login username and click Finish.
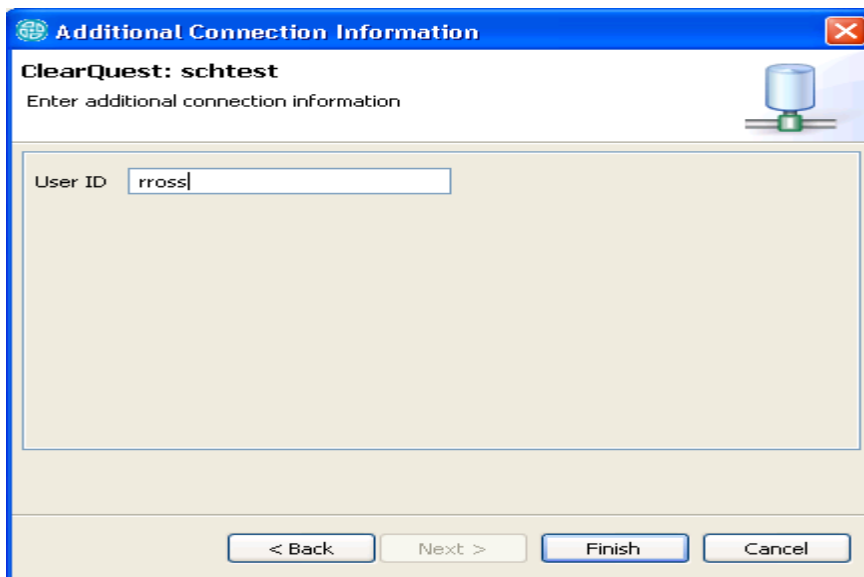
We are then presented with a Connection popup where the username password must be entered, and a database associated with the Schema Repository needs to be selected. Click OK.

And voila! We now have a connection to a ClearQuest database. The result looks somewhat similar to the ClearQuest Windows client. Queries can be run, and the results displayed in the window on the upper right part of the panel. The results of the connection can be viewed in the Console tab in the lower left of the panel.
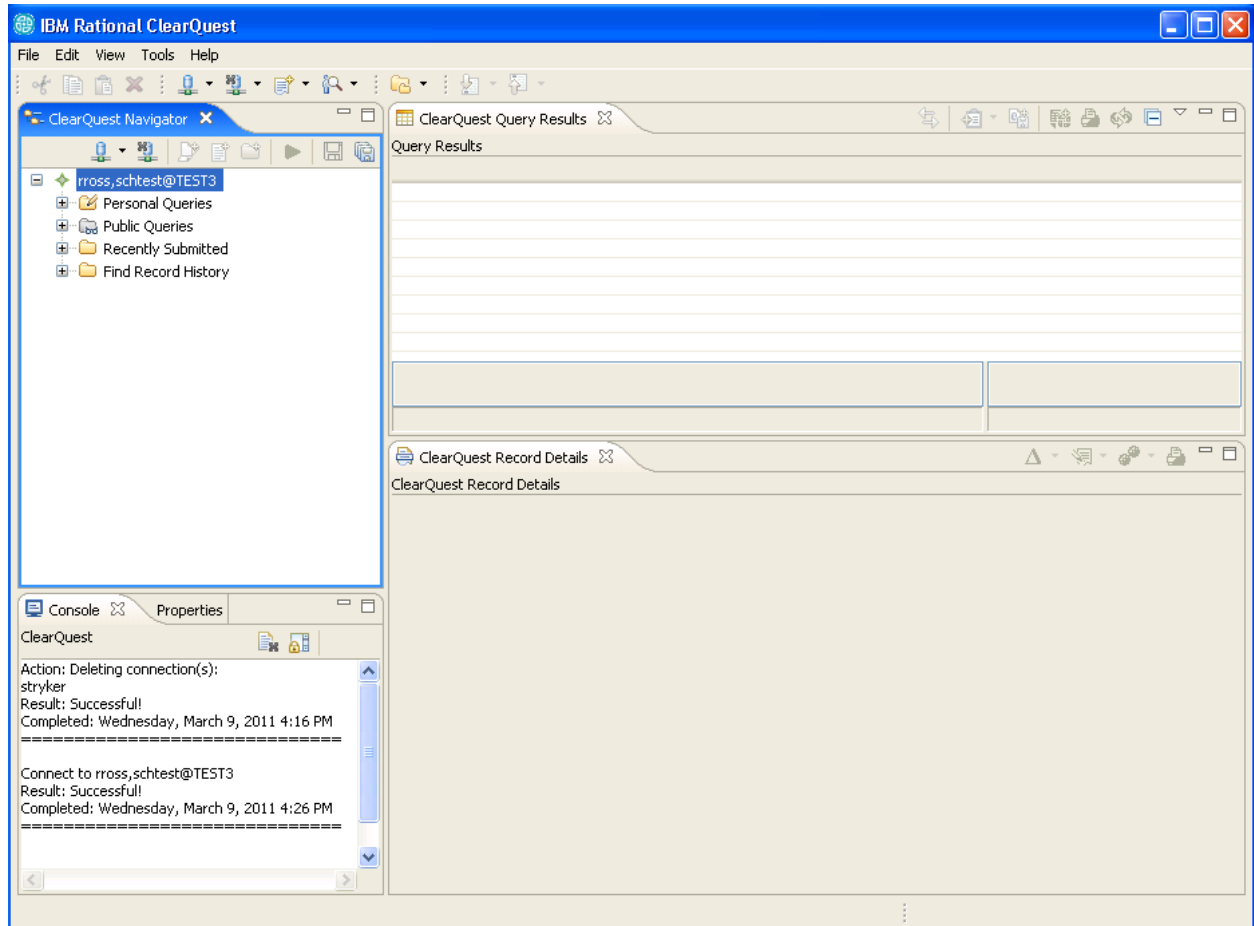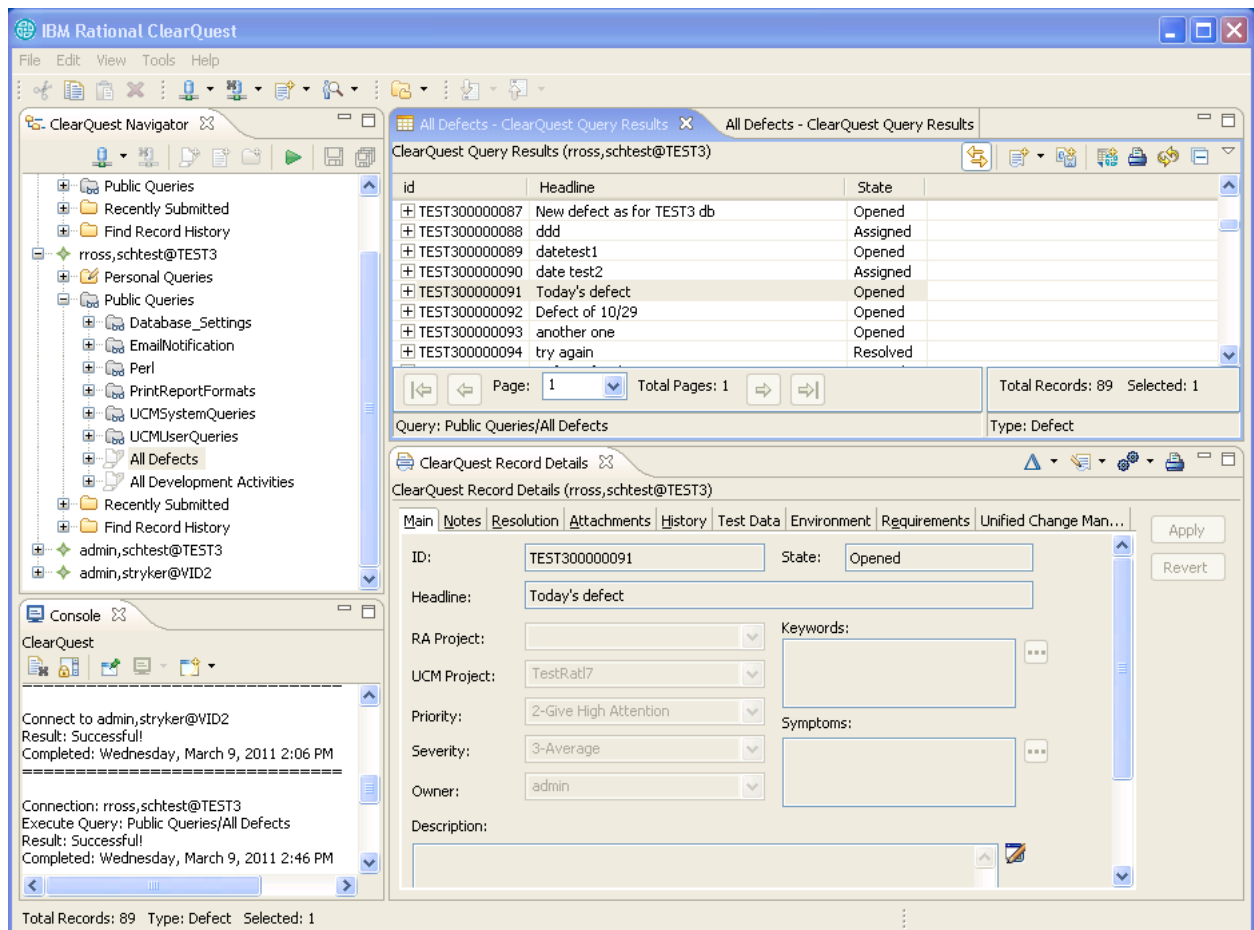
One of the more interesting features about the ClearQuest Eclipse client is that the connection information is persistent across launches of the Eclipse client. As shown below, there are multiple previously defined connections that can be reacquired just by selecting one from the menu list. If the "Remember the password" box was checked, the connection is made without prompts, else the password is prompted for.
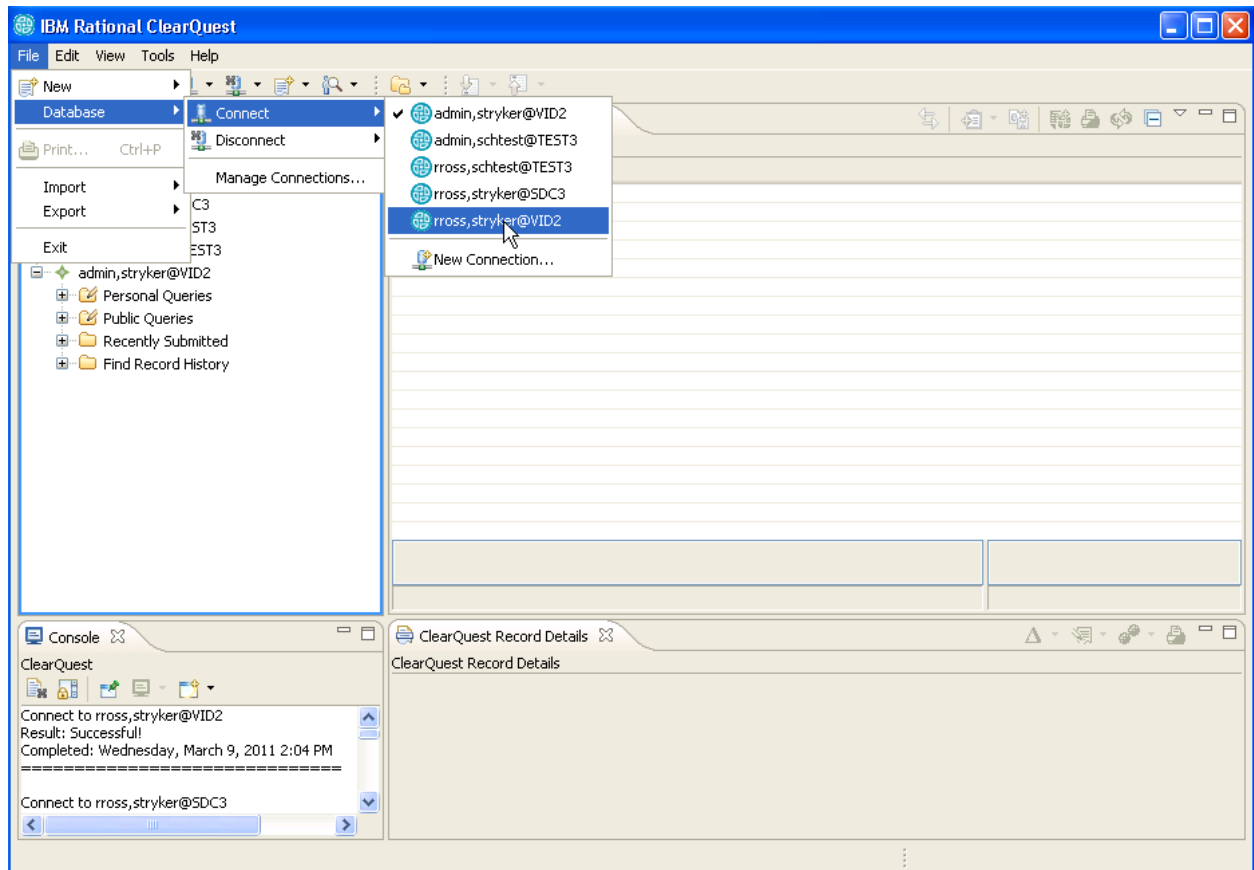
As before, note the successful connection information in the Console tab, located in the lower left part of the panel.

Here we see multiple connections in the ClearQuest Navigator tab, with the schtest@TEST3 database expanded. We have double-clicked on the All Defects query which displays the logged defects on the upper right. The details of defect 91 are shown in the lower right corner of the panel, with tabs available for Notes, Resolution, Attachments, History, etc.

One very handy feature of the ClearQuest Eclipse client is its Connection Management facility. Select Manage Connections as shown immediately below, and the ClearQuest Connection Management panel will be displayed.
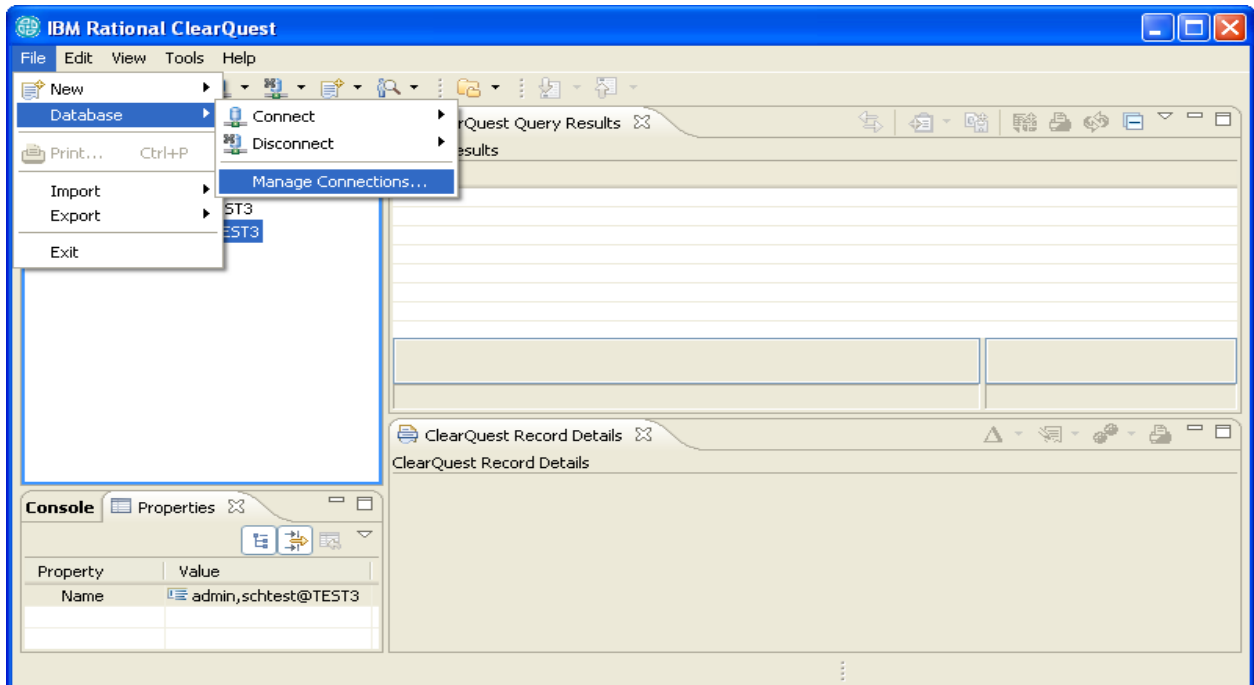
With this Connection Management window, it's a snap to Add a new Database Set, or a new connection. And for existing connections, the database connectivity can be discontinued, re-established, or the connection can simply be removed. It's a flexible way of quickly setting up database connections that will be used now or in the future and tailoring the details of each connection.
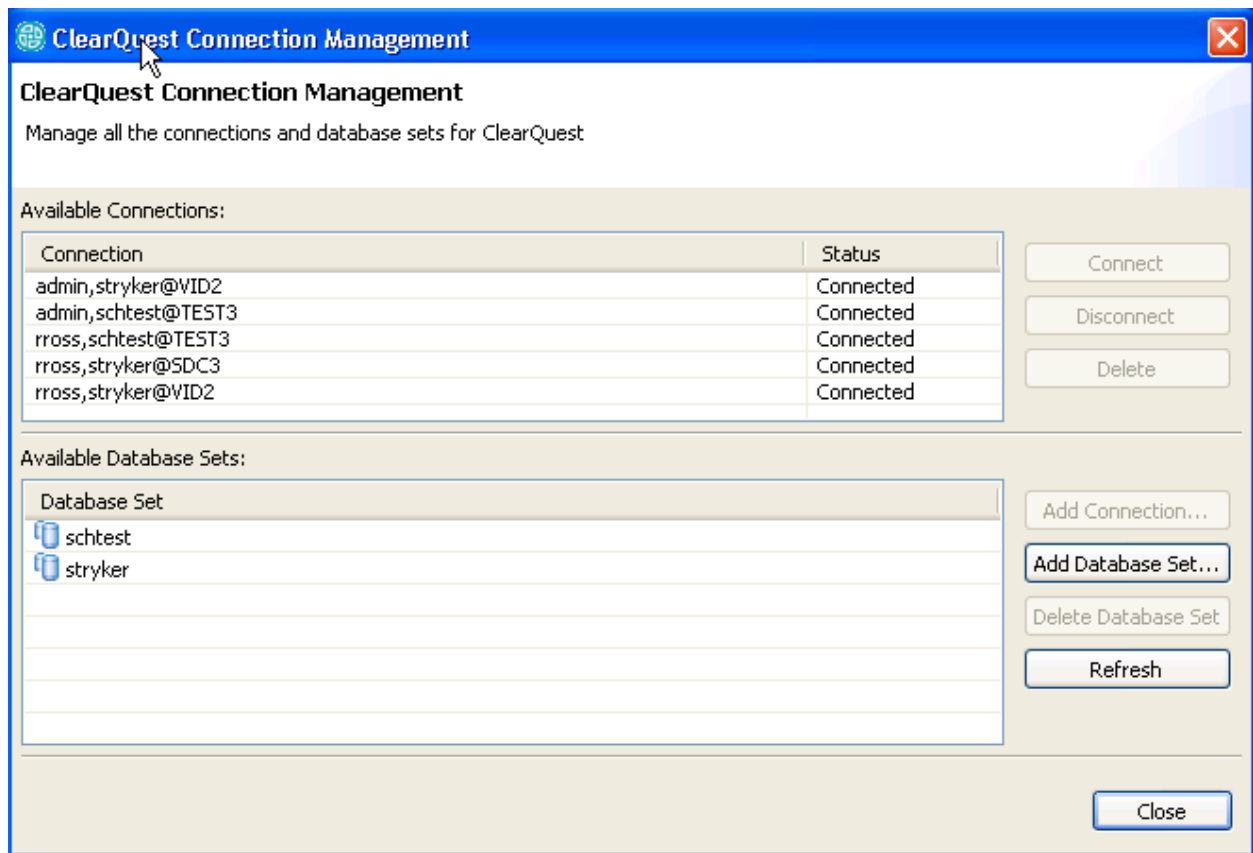
All in all, the ClearQuest Eclipse client has some useful flexibility which is lacking in the ClearQuest Windows client. It's great to have all needed databases fully available without having to first close one database before opening another as is currently the case with the Windows client. And we haven't even really dug into any of the other features of the Eclipse client, which are beyond the scope of this brief examination.

And as a parting reminder, it would be good to familiarize oneself with the Eclipse client and encourage any supported users to do so as well. The Eclipse client is the direction IBM Rational plans on taking ClearQuest in the future, so it's probably worthwhile to get

on board now vs. waiting for the Windows client to disappear and being forced to convert.

Remember, ClearQuest 7 has both Windows and Eclipse clients for the purpose of easing this user migration. This will change in the not too distant future!