



# NEWSLETTER

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## CHIPS Payroll Introduced For Windows 9X/NT

By Don Frey



The CHIPS payroll system has been released for **Beta** testing. It is the last major Frey & Company application to be delivered for Microsoft's Windows.

CHIPS was redesigned and rewritten specifically for the Windows 9X/NT environment. It is much more than a *touched-up* MSDOS/UNIX application.

When we began working on the CHIPS project, we assessed the features customers liked and disliked in the *old* system. We also looked at added features that would be useful in a robust payroll application. As a result of this analysis, we are bringing to our customers the benefits of Frey's two decades of payroll experience along with best features of the Windows® 9X/NT processing environment.

Field sizes have been expanded to accommodate the larger amounts being processed today. The number of pays/deductions has been dramatically increased. Year 2000 compliance has been incorporated as-well-as-international date standards.

The ability to handle complex cost distributions is an especially important feature in fund based payroll systems. We have revamped this function to provide the user with more power, flexibility and ease-of-use.

A new General Ledger Distribution Code scheme has been developed to make setups and changes easier, faster and more accurate.

Payroll distribution accounts are now directly validated against the BUCS general ledger accounts. This improves editing and reliability. It also enhances the integration with the BUCS fund accounting system.

Formulas that are more powerful and options have been developed for the calculation and management of sick, vacation and comp time.

Numerous fields and files have been added for Human Resources

and Emergency Contact information. Employee pictures information is now available.

A Skills file has been added so that an inventory of an employee's skills can be entered. This information can be searched easily to locate personnel with special talents.

A new Notes function has been developed to track important miscellaneous information about personnel. A *Note Alert* feature is included that causes a message to be displayed telling the user to view notes when that employee is accessed.



*User Defined Fields* have been added to provide more freedom and flexibility for the user. The fields can contain text, amounts, values and/or dates.

The payroll check has been redesigned with a free-form stub to give it a cleaner and easier-to-read *look*. It is also much more flexible than the old format.

ACH (Automated Clearing House) processing has been introduced which replaces the *old-fashioned* direct deposit process. ACH allows the user to create files to send to the bank electronically which will automatically create deposit transactions for employee checking and savings accounts.

Crystal Reports is the new retrieval and reporting system for CHIPS. Crystal is a major product advancement. It works with Microsoft's ODBC gateway and is loaded with all kinds of features. Because it is widely used, classes and publications on Crystal are readily available from a variety of sources.

CHIPS has a brand new user guide. The manual is the new compact format. It is similar to the other user guides provided with our Windows products. Windows *on-line* help is a copy of the hard-copy book, without report samples and screen shots. Those were eliminated to reduce the on-line manual's size.

Finally, included in the release, are the latest enhancements to Frey's Windows software. These enhancements include faster print spooling, floating windows and other major features. If you aren't currently using the CHIPS payroll system, now is the time to consider it. ☐

## 1998 User Conference Another Resounding Success



The 1998 Frey & Company User's Conference was held August 9 - 11 at the Regal Cincinnati Hotel located in Cincinnati. It set new milestones in attendance and enthusiastic participation.

The theme of this year's conference was *Polishing Windows*. In 1996, Frey & Company began introducing a new family of applications designed for Microsoft's Windows 9X and NT systems. This year, the final application, CHIPS payroll, made the transition.

Over the years, we have relied on annual surveys and periodic input from users to guide improvements. This year we wanted to emphasize a more proactive dialogue in the form of group discussions. Sessions were being held on all three products to discuss new releases, likes, dislikes and possible improvements.

Reactions to the new format from those attending were overwhelmingly in-favor of the new conference format. There was more time for demonstrations, questions and general dialogue.



**Ready and Raring to Go!**



**Discussing CHIPS Features**

**Attendees Receiving 10 Year Awards**

The program included additional topics about the use of Crystal Reports along with tips on how to get more power from Client/Server networks.

The evening event was a dinner cruise with entertainment on the riverboat, Spirit of Cincinnati.

The 1999 Frey & Company User's Conference will be held August 8 - 10. The location will be in the Greater Cincinnati Area. Make sure to mark your calendar and start gathering your comments and suggestions for the next exciting conference. ☐

# 1998 Release of CUBIC On the Way



The 1998 release of CUBIC is in-programming and will be out soon. Since the initial release of the Windows version of CUBIC in 1996, many new software *tools* have become available. We have also learned a great deal about Windows 9X/NT. This year we are concentrating on updating the product with features like *Tabs*, which will make the system easier to use. We are also tuning the software to provide better performance on local area networks. Below is a partial list of the coming enhancements.

- Option to post accounting entries to BUCS in-summary.
- Eliminate lines from Route Sheets and Payment/Adjustment reports.
- Ability to view Work Orders in Customer File Maintenance.
- Add meter readings to the Usage History.
- Allow the user to edit Usage and Bill/Pay History.
- List Unapplied Cash on the Aged Trial Balance report.
- Put Posting File Purge function in the Billing Update.
- New print spooling routines for faster processing.
- User can specify if Summer Sewer is applicable, by rate.
- Analyze programs for performance improvements.

The number of CUBIC users has grown dramatically in the last two years. This acceptance will lead to even more features in the coming years. ☐

## <http://www.drffrey.com>



The Internet continues to be a major source of new business for Frey & Company. It has caused our firm to enjoy steady and healthy growth in the last several

years.

Earlier this year, we began offering a new support service on the Internet. We are now offering SIU (Software Interim Updates). It has been met with tremendous acceptance. Those using the service have been delighted with the opportunity to get software *fixes* and other improvements on such a timely basis. If you have not visited our Internet site lately, we encourage you to do so. ☐

## Tips From User Support

*By Mike Emmerich and Dean Eldridge*

*Please Get an Internet Connection* - We are urging all users to get an Internet connection. Interim updates eliminate software problems almost immediately. E-mail allows us to quickly alert users to important information about Frey & Company systems and services. The Internet has become a vital component in our support system.

*Compact Disks for Updates* - Frey & Company is now using CDs for the distribution of new software and Annual Updates. We have found this media to be easier for the customer to use, more reliable and in-keeping with current technology. Those who do

not have a CD drive are urged to acquire one. The cost is very reasonable.

*ZIP Disk Drive* - We recently added a 100 MB ZIP drive to our system. Many clients have been using these units. It was added to make it more convenient for customers who need to ship files to us for analysis.

*Added Support Personnel* - Brian Hilner joined our firm this summer. Brian is a senior at Northern Kentucky University, majoring in Information Systems. He is working in the Support and Programming departments. Later, he will be joining our programming staff full-time. We are in the process of adding an additional support person to our staff. We hope to have this completed this fall.

*New Training Schedules* - We have prepared our 1999 training schedules. We will be holding CUBIC training the 1st Thursday and Friday of each month. BUCS training will be the 2nd Monday through Wednesday of each month. CHIPS will be the 2nd Thursday through Friday each month. There is an exception to this in August due to the User Conference. If you have questions, please give us a call. At 1-800-659-3739. ☐

## Frey & Company Expands

We have been adding programming, support and administrative personnel in the last year to maintain our high quality service levels. This led to some serious crowding problems.

Because of growth, we acquired the office suite adjacent to our current headquarters. This acquisition has permitted us to expand our office space by fifty-percent.

We plan to maintain our offices at the present location for the foreseeable future. They are conveniently located in close proximity to the airport, hotels and downtown complex of Cincinnati, Ohio. ☐

## New Users

**Arkansas:** City of Maumelle: BUCS, CUBIC, CHIPS; **California:** City of Bishop: CUBIC; Cedarripines Park Municipal Water Co.: BUCS, CUBIC; **Florida:** Collier County Tax Collector: BUCS, CHIPS; **Illinois:** Tazwell County: BUCS, CHIPS; **Indiana:** City of Huntington: BUCS, CUBIC; **Kentucky:** City of Augusta: BUCS, CUBIC, CHIPS; City of Crescent Springs: BUCS; City of Danville: CUBIC; City of Greenup: BUCS, CUBIC, CHIPS; City of Independence: BUCS, CUBIC; Mountain Comprehensive Care Center: BUCS, CHIPS; **Massachusetts:** Wampanog Tribe: BUCS, CHIPS; **Minnesota:** City of Roseau: CUBIC; Warren County : BUCS, CHIPS; **Ohio:** Ohio Super Computer Center: BUCS, CUBIC; **Pennsylvania:** New Eagle Borough: CUBIC; Springfield Township Sewer Authority: CUBIC; Westmorland-Fayette Municipal Sewer Dist.: CUBIC; **South Dakota:** Mid-Dakota Rural Water System: BUCS, CUBIC; **Utah:** Town of Saratoga Springs: BUCS; **Wisconsin:** Marquette County: BUCS, CHIPS; Pell Lake Sanitary Dist.: CUBIC; **Wyoming:** Albany County: BUCS.

1998 is going to be another record year. This is because the applications we offer are designed for Windows/NT, are Year 2000 Compliant and offer quality affordable solutions. ☐

# GOVERNMENT ♦ NONPROFIT ♦ UTILITIES

## Fund Accounting, Payroll, Utility Billing

**ESTABLISHED**, in 1974 with installations throughout the US We *understand your business and special needs!*

**EASY TO USE**, Microsoft Windows interface with on-line Help, ODBC and extensive *search* tools. *Programs that make your work easier and more enjoyable!*

**RELIABLE**, withstood the rigors of audits in dozens of states for years, *Problem free accurate programs!*

**ECONOMICAL**, unique pricing model that lets you purchase just what you need. *More value for your money!*

**PORTABLE**, designed for multi-user systems and personal computers. Frey applications run on hundreds of computers and can easily be moved from one to another. *Freedom of choice for you!*

**ADAPTABLE**, programs that can grow with your needs! Our annual updates keep your programs tuned to the latest in technology. *Software that is always state-of-the-art!*

**SUPPORT**, help when you need it! Anywhere! A **Free** 800 number for your convenience. *Support you can swear by, not at!*

**INTEGRATED**, applications that talk to each other. ODBC and Crystal Reports allow you to easily transfer data from Frey packages to spreadsheet, word processor and other application systems. *A team approach to your needs!*

**SPECIAL SERVICES**, custom designed modifications; full range of computer related consulting services. *Professionalism and competence on which you can rely!*

<b>Call Toll Free</b>	<b>1-800-659-3739</b>
<b>Internet</b>	<b><a href="http://www.drfrey.com">http://www.drfrey.com</a></b>
<b>e-mail</b>	<b><a href="mailto:drfrey@drfrey.com">drfrey@drfrey.com</a></b>

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Now All Windows & Year 2000 Ready!