



# NEWSLETTER

---

Number 54

Established 1974

October 1999

---

## Software Updates Coming Via Internet Starting January, 2000

By Don Frey

In 1998, Donald R. Frey & Company began providing software updates via the Internet on an experimental basis. After 1-1/2 years of providing such a service, it has proven to be a resounding success. Over fifty-percent of our clients are taking advantage of this mechanism. Currently, we are supplying about 4 - 5 updates per application, per year.

Providing software updates on the Internet is nothing new. However, Frey & Company's approach is revolutionary because it utilizes an e-mail notification system. The e-mail allows us to notify clients when an update has been made available on the Internet. Another feature of Frey Internet updates, is the ease of downloading and installation. Only a few clicks are required to complete the process. What are the advantages?

**Error Fixes:** In the past, if an error occurred, we would correct the problem. However, the update was supplied on an as-needed basis. This was the only practical mechanism to use because any other method would be too complex and expensive. During the year, we regularly add new edit checks and other improvements to our products. Formerly, delivery of improvements was provided when the annual update is shipped. Internet updates allow us to provide you with those improvements and corrections on an ongoing basis.

**Messaging:** E-mail allows us to contact you immediately, when an update has been placed on the Internet. The

message sent to you provides the passwords to gain access to the update and contains the address where the update is located. Additionally, we have been using e-mail to notify clients about other important information and events. As a client, you also have the ability to send messages and suggestions to us in a faster, more convenient way. Our support e-mail address is [sptfrey@aol.com](mailto:sptfrey@aol.com).

In January, 2000, the Internet will become the *standard* vehicle for providing updates for all Frey software. In order to gain access to the updates, clients will need access to the Internet for e-mail and downloads.

What if you don't want an Internet connection? The choice is yours. However, you will be on an outmoded support system without a regular stream of updates and messaging. After December 31, 1999, updates will be provided on a CD, when requested, but there will be a handling fee for the service. We were confronted with the same situation when we migrated from diskettes to CDs. There were a few customers who didn't have CDs. It wasn't fair to hold the majority of clients back from new, highly beneficial technology, because a few didn't want to move on.

What about manuals? The "read-me" will suffice for most updates. However, we will reissue the manual when the extent of changes requires it. I would expect these to occur every few years. Currently, that is the industry standard timetable. ■

## NFC Rates BUCS In Top Ten Percent



The *Nonprofit Financial Center* is an organization which provides resources for nonprofit and religious organizations. Earlier this year, they prepared a report rating financial systems for nonprofit organizations. This study was entirely independent of any trade magazine or other vested interests. Frey & Company was totally unaware of the evaluation process. We thought they were merely reviewing a demo. Twenty vendors were evaluated. The BUCS fund accounting system was **rated number two**.

The Windows version of the CHIPS payroll system had not been released at the time of the evaluation which caused our ranking to suffer. Out of a possible 24 points, we scored a 20.48. We missed the top spot by only 5/100ths of a point. We invite you to visit the page describing the report at [http://www.nonprofitfinancial.org/press\\_release](http://www.nonprofitfinancial.org/press_release). You may want to visit their home page at <http://www.nonprofitfinancial.org/> ☐

## New BUCS Update Released



The BUCS 8.2 Release has been shipped. It is loaded with many new and exciting features. Below is a sampling of the latest improvements.

**RESTRICT DATA ENTRY CAPABILITIES FOR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:** This feature allows only the users assigned to the MASTER or SUPERVISOR group to Release or Change the status of invoices. Users who are in other groups such as PAYABLES are restricted to the options of Add, Edit, View, Delete, Print or Load. Even though they have update permission in the Invoice Entry program, they will see the option of Release and Change Status grayed out, since it is unavailable to groups other than MASTER or SUPERVISOR.

**ABILITY TO DELETE ALL ACCOUNTS FOR A FUND.** This feature allows the deletion of all accounts, without active balances, of a fund through the use of the chart editor.

**ENCUMBRANCES:** This program has been modified so that, upon completion, it prompts you for another encumbrance.

**BANK RECONCILIATION:** The bank reconciliation program has been modified so, upon completion of clearing a range of checks, the program prompts you for another range of checks.

**BANK RECONCILIATION REPORT:** The bank reconciliation report program has been modified so that when there is a break in the sequence of check numbers an asterisk (\*) is printed at the beginning of the line where the break occurs.

**SYSTEM CONTROLS:** System Controls has been modified to allow the user to disable Adding Vendors *on the Fly*.

**NEW REQUISITION CONTROL MODULE:** Controls the encumbrance and purchase order process by establishing an approval mechanism based on spending limits for individuals.

**INTERNET UPDATES:** Since the release of the Windows version of BUCS, we have made numerous updates and changes.

Those of you downloading updates from the Internet have received many of these updates. All of these changes have been incorporated in the new release.

We would like to thank the users who volunteered to be beta sites. They are critical to the timely and accurate release of all new software. ☐



<http://www.drffrey.com>

Our Internet Software Update service has now been established as the primary means of delivering updates to clients. Virtually all-new customers are on the service. Over fifty percent of our current clients have acquired an Internet service provider to take advantage of this excellent service.

Recently, inquiries about our CUBIC utility billing system have been exceptionally strong. It appears that many utilities have been waiting until the *last minute* to change to Year 2000 compliant software. Unfortunately, they don't realize that they need time to procure forms, convert data files, train personnel, etc. If you know of anyone using software that is not Year 2000 compliant, you should advise them of the need to act NOW! ☐

## 1999 User Conference Conquering The Millennium

The 1999 User's Conference, held August 8 – 10, was another resounding success. This year, the event was held at the Embassy Suites, located on the Ohio River, in Covington, Kentucky.

This year's theme was, *Conquering The Millennium*. With the Y2K and transition to a graphical Windows environment complete, the attention was turned to future directions.

As in recent years, separate sessions were held on applications. All updates were reviewed and open discussions were held about product performance and potential enhancements.

Don Frey announced the coming of an enhanced Internet system of updates beginning in the year 2000. He also spoke about the need to shift emphasis from pure feature based software to a greater blend of feature and user based improvements. He referred to this shift in-emphasis as going from *Technology to Human Based* software.



United States Air Force Museum Modern Flight Exhibit

The evening event was held at the United States Air Force Museum, located at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, just East of Dayton, Ohio. This museum, the largest military air force museum in the world, contains over 300 aircraft; along with

numerous artifacts and special exhibits. The typical reaction to the venue was "overwhelming" and awe inspiring!



Some of the Frey staff, left to right: Jim Gramer, Dean Eldridge, Angie Finke, Ed Lovett, Erica Sebastian, El Frey, Don Frey, Mike Emmerich, Jim Nedderman, Scott Meiners and Brian Scott in the foreground

Mark your calendar and start making plans for the Year 2000 user conference that will be held August 6-8, 2000. ☞

## CUBIC Release 8.3 Goes Into Beta



The CUBIC 8.3 update contains major enhancements, performance improvements and refined usability features. Below are highlights of the major changes and new features found in CUBIC 8.3.

**THREE NEW METERED SERVICE MODULES:** There are now three new user defined modules, which are available for purchase. These modules work similar to water, gas, and electric. They can be used for services such as compressed air, chilled water, or any other metered service.

**MULTIPLE METERS:** CUBIC now handles multiple meters for a given service. It allows up to 99 meters for all metered services and 40 unmetered services for a given customer.

**COMPOUND METERS:** These meters can now be handled through the use of the new multiple meter feature.

**REASONABILITY TESTS:** The billing and receipts programs now contain new reasonability tests. The ranges for these tests are contained in system controls. In the billing program, if the amount of the bill is greater than the last bill by the range specified in system controls the system will display a message. In the receipts program, if the amount keyed is greater than the amount owed by the range in system controls, the program gives a warning that it is excessively high.

**NEW CUSTOMER SEARCH:** A new customer search based on the meter number is now available.

**TOTAL DEPOSITS:** The total amount of deposits is now displayed on the billing information screen inside of customer maintenance. This was requested by several clients.

**DELINQUENT JOURNAL:** There is a new field on the report to show if the customer has been final billed. The customer's phone number has been added to the report.

**SEWER SERVICES:** When adding the sewer service to a customer that has a water service, the program automatically defaults the sewer service to use the water reading for billing.

**DEPOSIT REFUNDS:** When creating deposit refunds through BUCS, The description line now reads "UTIL REFUND BOOK# ACCOUNT#" (UTIL REFUND 1 10). This was provided to make the description more informative for the customer.

**BILLING:** When adding bills, using the Random Run option, you now have the ability to change the read date for each bill.

**NEW PRORATION:** Now, you have the ability to prorate unmetered services. In the past, proration applied only to metered services.

**RESOLUTION:** CUBIC will now work with different screen resolutions. In the past if you were to run CUBIC on a screen with a resolution greater than 640x480 it would not take up the whole screen. Now CUBIC will fill the whole screen for the 640x480, 800x600 and 1024x768 screen resolutions.

**LASER PRINTING:** We now have the ability to print Delinquent Notices, Labels, and Postcard Bills on laser printers. The laser printer needs to be PCL6 (Printer Control Language 6) compliant. PCL6 is a Hewlett-Packard printer control language. The laser labels print on the Avery standard 5160 address labels.

We at Frey & Company would like to thank everyone who responded to the 1999 CUBIC survey and the *beta* testing of the product. The ideas and suggestions that we receive from our users are the driving force behind the changes that are implemented into CUBIC. We anticipate that the 8.3 release will complete *beta* testing and be shipped in October. ☞

## Kenton County Library Tops In KY

For the second year in a row, the Kenton County Library system was rated number one in Kentucky for the population it serves (100,000 – 250,000).

We congratulate them for their fine achievement. The Library has been a Frey client since 1995, using the BUCS fund accounting system. ☞

## Donald R. Frey & Company In The News

Several press releases have appeared in the local press and trade publications about our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and new product releases. An article appeared in the Cincinnati Post describing our twenty-five years in the software business. You can find it at: <http://www.cincypost.com/business/frey081099.html>

The *American City & County* magazine, a major governmental publication, had a feature article on "Choosing a fund accounting system" authored by Don Frey. We have started advertising in the *American Water Works Association*, which is the major water industry publication of the US. We are also advertising in some other regional publications.

Advertising is being increased in-support of our Internet site and favorable software reviews that we have received. Additional articles, in the near future, will be appearing in national trade publications authored by Don Frey. ☞

# 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 updates keep your programs tuned to the latest in technology. *Software that is always state-of-the-art!*

**SUPPORT**, help when you need it! A **Free** 800 number for your convenience. Internet update services. *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>

## NEWSLETTER

### IN THIS ISSUE:

**NFC Evaluates BUCS Fund Accounting**

**Software Updates Via The Internet**

**1999 User Conference: Conquering The Millennium**

**New BUCS Fund Accounting Features**

**New CUBIC Utility Billing Features**

**Kenton County Library Tops In KY**

**Frey & Company In The News**

Windows & Year 2000 Ready!