

NEWSLETTER

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BUCS® Fund Accounting Grows

By Don Frey

The 10.0 release of BUCS offers a dramatic new interface, many new modules, and features. This release represents the largest number of major changes to the product since 2002.

The main interface has been completely redone to allow users to more quickly access programs. However, one can also access programs in the former manner. It offers a new means of quickly navigating in the system without having to come up a steep *learning curve*. It also extends the *preferences*

allowing the user to select the order in which action buttons are presented. That is, Add, Edit, View, etc. This allows each user to customize the processes to meet their personal needs.

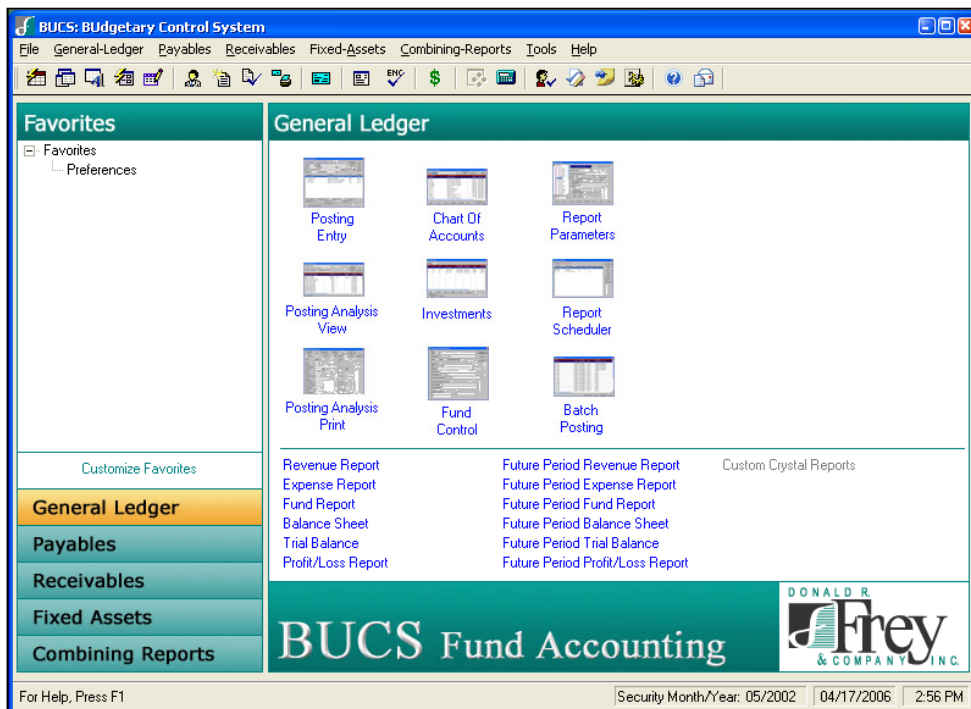
The introduction of several new modules greatly expands the powerful processing capabilities of BUCS and extends the

scope of the product. BUCS now has eighteen optional modules available. Three new modules are available with 10.0.

Positive-Pay is a new module that allows the user to create a database containing check numbers, dates, and amounts which will be transmitted to their host bank. When checks are processed by the bank, they are compared to the database to verify that the checks have not been altered. This prevents individuals from altering check amounts. In the past, banks protected users from altered

checks. Banks are now pressing clients to use Positive-Pay as a means to protect the interests of both the client and bank. This has become a prominent requirement with many of our clients.

CC-Tracker is a new module that streamlines and enhances the processing of credit card transactions. This has been de-



veloped to improve the handling of company credit card transactions. Typically, in the past, credit card charge tickets would be placed in a file to await the receipt of credit card statements. Processing would then occur. When the statement was processed, the expenses were assigned to the appropriate accounts. However, the credit card company appeared as the vendor. This disguised who was the ultimate vendor used in the transaction. This presented problems when vendor spending limits are enforced. Placing credit card purchase slips in a file also presented an awkward processing procedure. With CC-Tracker, the charge slips are entered as invoices and are associated with the appropriate credit card, such as Visa. When the statement arrives, a *grid* is presented showing the entered charge slips. It works in a very similar manner to bank reconciliation. With the expanded use of credit cards by companies, this becomes a very valuable processing and control tool.

Advanced-Allocations is a new module that handles the processing of complex allocations. BUCS has provided the ability to process allocations in the past. One could distribute a *pooled* account to various accounts by amount or percentage. The *Advanced* module will allow the user to dynamically express percentages in the flow of *pooled* accounts to individual expense accounts. An example of this might be the accumulation overhead expenses into a pooled account that will be distributed to various project and/or grants. The allocation amounts will be determined by the total salary expenses incurred for each project or grant. A percentage breakdown is determined for each project and the pooled accounts are distributed using the percentages. These allocations may or may not cross funds. BUCS automatically resolves the interfund balancing. This may sound complex. It is, but the clients who manage many projects and/or grants will find this to be very useful. Those who need such a tool will readily recognize its value.

The new feature list is extensive. Here are some of the highlights.

- **Fund Control:** A *Generate Fund* wizard has been created to walk you through the process of creating a new fund. It will generate the fund controls, chart-of-accounts, and reports from an existing fund. This is extremely useful for users that have to work with numerous projects and grants. It is also useful for those who just need a new fund.
- **Chart-of-Accounts:** A comment field has been added to store additional descriptive details. This field will appear on search screens.
- **Journal Entries:** The maximum number of items for a specific journal entry has been increased from seventy-five to two-hundred.
- **Report Scheduler:** The interface has been redesigned for easier maintenance and the number of reports in a single schedule has been increased from eighteen to fifty.
- **Fixed Assets:** Notes have been added. These work in a similar fashion to those for Vendors and A/R Customer notes.

- **Spell Checker:** BUCS has a new embedded spell checker that will allow you to spell check your notes, comments, etc.
- **Security:** New options to force a password for every user; force the changing of passwords periodically; and an option to prevent the user from changing their password. All of these are user controllable.

Over thirty major changes have been made to BUCS this year. They are a good reason for you to attend our User Conference so that you can make full use of these new capabilities. ☒



2006 User Conference

This year's conference will focus on an *Extreme Makeover: Software Edition – New Faces For Frey Applications*. The dates are set for August 13 – 15 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Covington, Kentucky.

Our users will study how the dramatic new makeover will facilitate greater ease-of-use while simplifying your day-to-day operations. They will also see how the new processing model will allow one to tailor the system to meet their operational needs.

The sessions will include instruction on the use of the many new features in this year's releases along with open interactive discussions about product use and potential future improvements.

For a conference brochure, visit:
<http://www.drffrey.com/UserConfBrochure.pdf>

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CUBIC® 10.0 Release In Development

Work has started on the next release of CUBIC. The new graphical interface will be included to maintain the *standard* interface found in all Frey software. Below are some of the highlights of the new release.

Customer Maintenance: Owner's address will be added to the search options in Customer Maintenance.

Customer Maintenance: Allow the user to assign names to phone numbers and provide for multiple numbers. Example: Work, Home, Cell.

Customer Maintenance: Provide an option to display on the Customer screen the amounts and rate codes that make up miscellaneous balances.

Customer Maintenance: In the Bill/Pay History tab, display the disconnect date, if the bill is not paid. This would eliminate the need to manually calculate it.

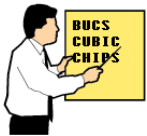
Billing: **NEW!** A new module to provide the capability to perform *Budget Billing*. It would create a constant amount to be used for billing. The budget amount would be calculated by adding up previous bills and the account balance. The result would then be divided by a factor.

Meter Maintenance/Backflow Devices: **NEW!** A new module that will maintain a database that would store meter and backflow device information and testing history. It would also schedule testing dates. Information would include manufacturer, serial number, purchase date, cost, and test results.

Rate Study: Ability to select a meter size for rates to print on the rate study report.

Internet Inquiry/Payments: The payment portion of this module is now in-place. Clients can elect to use the payment portion of the module. If used, the utility customer will be charged a handling fee for the service. The charge is dependent on the size of an average bill for that utility company.

Almost three dozen new or improved features were added to CUBIC this year. Frey & Company is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art software and timely, competent support at affordable prices. ☐



Tips From Your Support Staff

By Dean Eldridge

CHIPS: In the 9.3 Release of CHIPS, a new option was added to the Bank Reconciliation which allows CHIPS checks to be sent to BUCS to assist in the Reconciliation Process. Once checks are marked as cleared in CHIPS, click the Send to BUCS button on the Check Reconciliation screen. This will prompt for a Check Date Cut-off (for example if reconciling March, key in March 31, 2006). Once this has been done, the Cleared/Outstanding Check totals in BUCS will include these amounts also. The user will no longer need to manually add in the outstanding checks in CHIPS to BUCS to reconcile.

CUBIC: If the option to Auto Apply Deposits For Final Bills is used in CUBIC, there's an option to mark a customer to not have their deposit auto applied. This would be used if a customer is moving within the same utility district. Instead of applying the deposit, the deposit will be transferred. By checking this box on the Customer Service Location screen prior to the final billing, the deposit would be excluded from being applied to the customer's final bill. The user could then use the Deposit Transfer option to transfer the deposit to the customers' new account.

BUCS: Multiple Mailing addresses. Instead of setting up multiple vendors to accommodate this, an individual vendor can have up to 99 separate Remit Addresses. To add these, Edit a Vendor and click on the Remit Address tab. Add the additional addresses. When entering an Invoice, the user can choose to use a different Remit Address. This will generate a separate check displaying the different address that was selected.

By Mike Emmerich

BUCS: Future Period Reports & Future Posting Journal – By going into General Ledger – Reports – Future Period Reports – Generate Database you can generate a database to show you the future posting entries on reports in BUCS.

Example: If today is April 7th and you still have BUCS in the month of March, and have been posting journal entries, receipts and invoices into BUCS for April, this option gives you the ability to run the reports for the present period of time. You will then go to General Ledger – Reports – Future Reports then pick the report category you wish to run. You will notice the Month/Year will show 04/2006 for this example. If you wish to see the Future Postings/Journal Entries go to General Ledger – Posting Analysis – Print, then under the Posting File selection, click on Future – 04/2006, then select the options you want to view.

Budget Planning – Users that have the Budget Planning and Data Dictionary modules can get a five Year Expense/Revenue plan sent to Excel showing Budgets and actual Expenses and Revenue for each of the five years. To do this, go to General Ledger – Budget Planning – Prior Budget Analysis then change the Number of Years to Analyze from 1 to five years. The maximum is five years and you will have had to use BUCS for five years to get five years of history.

By Jeff Koors

CUBIC: If a NSF check is processed, there is an option to automatically add a NSF fee to the customers account. Once a rate code is setup for the amount that is charged for a NSF check, go to system controls and click on the cash receipts tab. In the bottom left, check the box to automatically add a charge for NSF transactions and then choose the rate code you setup. The next time you process a NSF check through receipts, a charge will be automatically billed to the customers account.

BUCS: In Bank Reconciliation, BUCS can now track any bank charges and interest that appear on your bank statement. First, the accounts for bank charges and interest would need to be added to fund control maintenance. Once added, when reconciling your statement simply click the bank charges/interest on the bottom of the bank reconciliation screen. A pop-up screen will appear prompting you to enter in the amounts for the bank charges and/or interest for the month. Once entered, they will appear on the main bank reconciliation screen. ☐

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