



NEWSLETTER

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CUBIC[®], Lots of New Options/Features

By Don Frey

The 10.0 release of CUBIC has expanded beyond the scope described in the Spring Newsletter. The number of new features and options has grown to the point that we felt it worthy to feature it in this newsletter.

CUBIC is offering a broader scope of options. In the past, the product has catered almost exclusively to the billing, collections, and customer information side of the business.

Now, options have been added for the operations side of the business with the addition of two new options and the expansion of Work Order features. And while Inventory has been available for years as an option in CUBIC, it is often overlooked because it tends to be more oriented to operations rather than billing.

Meter Maintenance is a new option that is reaching into the operations side of the business. It provides a mechanism for the scheduling of meter reliability testing at user-defined intervals, maintenance of test results records, and the expansion of meter-related information pertinent to operations. Meter testing is important because it insures the accuracy of metering devices. Many state regulators require such testing as a part of the utility's operation. There is also another good reason for testing. Meters tend to under record usage as they get older because of scale, etc. There was a local utility that never had such a program in-place. A study was conducted and it was discovered that they were only billing for about sixty percent of the water they were distributing. Money out the door! You can check your own figures by comparing your *pumped* volumes to those billed by CUBIC. The billed volumes are readily available in CUBIC reports. There is no need to be concerned about operations field personnel accessing sensitive customer data. They can be restricted so that they do not have access to that information.

Backflow Prevention is another new powerful operations tool. Backflow testing is required where customers have a piping arrangement where backflow into the public water system might occur. They are common in industrial applications and also can be found in residential settings where irrigation systems are in place. These systems require regular testing either by the utility operator or by licensed plumbers. The software prints notices at the prescribed interval and provides follow-up reports for those who have not submitted the *proof of testing* documents. Currently, these records are being maintained in a separate database which is awkward and time consuming. CUBIC integrates all of this information into its customer database. Operations personnel can be restricted so that they do not have access to sensitive customer data. System contamination issues are the concern here.

Work Orders have been expanded and improved over the last several years. The features are too numerous to detail here. However, one recent new feature is the ability for field personnel to access the database from the field using a wireless connection and Microsoft's Terminal Services.

Inventory is another option that is very useful. It tracks usage and all the other information that one might need for managing stocks. Numerous reports are available like reorder, valuation, stock status, and activity reports.

The *billing* side of the operation has two new options.

Budget Billing is an option that allows customers to be billed a set amount. There is a settlement period when the budget amount is adjusted to reflect the past experience. The budget amount is calculated programmatically. However, the user may override the calculated amount. We have offered

Levelized billing as a standard part of CUBIC for years. Levelized billing tries to keep billed amounts about the same. However, it will fluctuate with extreme changes in temperatures, commodity costs, and usage patterns.

E-Billing works in conjunction with the Internet Inquiry/Payments option. E-Billing allows bills to be e-mailed to the customers desiring such a service. Did you know that it can cost around forty cents to prepare and send out a bill? E-Billing offers a great opportunity to cut those costs.

Interface changes have been made that reflect the new style being offered in our other products. Each user can now define their own favorites and access the items in the *Task* pane with just one click of the mouse. Everything about the new presentation is exciting.

A Spell Checker is now a part of CUBIC. The embedded spell checker will allow you to automatically spell check your notes, comments, etc.

Security has been expanded with 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.

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. ☐



2006 User Conference

This year's conference focused on an *Extreme Makeover: Software Edition*. It was held August 13 – 15 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Covington, Kentucky.

It was marked by a record attendance and visitors came from as far away as Alaska. Our users studied how the dramatic new makeover will facilitate greater ease-of-use while simplifying day-to-day operations. They also observed how the new processing model will allow one to tailor the system to meet their operational needs.

Sessions included instruction on the use of the many new features in this year's releases and open interactive discussions about product use and potential future improvements.

We did a *Human Factors* survey again this year and discovered that the most common error in BUCS was incorrect date selection. We are studying remedies to solve this problem.

The Celebration Riverboats provided the perfect atmosphere for our evening event with a cruise on the Ohio River. The weather was perfect and a background of folk music de-

lighted the attendees. Start planning now for our next User's Conference slated for mid-August, 2007. ☐

Exciting News From Frey & Company...



BUCS has been reviewed by Dr. Roberta Jones who is a CPA and PHD. Dr. Jones is the Assistant Professor of Accounting, University of Hawaii, Hilo. Her review will appear in the *Journal of Accountancy*. She has reviewed twelve products. Our review has been outstanding and will appear in that journal in the coming months. The *Journal* is the official publication of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. It is a very prestigious publication. Needless to say, this is very good publicity for Frey & Company. It's also a testament to your good taste in financial software.

Adam Best recently joined us. He is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University with a degree in Information Systems. He was recently married, bought a home and started a new job all at almost the same time!

Subscription Pricing: We began offering a Subscription pricing model about two years ago. This is a way for one to acquire our products with a more gentle cash flow model. It decreases your up-front investment while building equity in the software. If you would like to know more about the plan ask Matt. He will be happy to explain the benefits to you

Expanding Product Options now include areas that go beyond just bookkeeping and billing. We are providing more enterprise-wide offerings in order to meet the growing needs of our clients. As a result of this, it is important that you let your co-departments know of our new offerings.

Manatron is a real estate tax billing firm that serves many of our Florida county clients. They recently developed an interface with our software for the Brevard County Tax Collector. Our users in Florida are very pleased with the cooperation displayed by the two firms.

Many Returning Users: Over six former clients rejoined us this year. We are delighted to have them back. Some had been absent for almost ten years. ☐

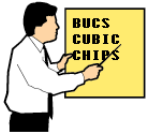


CHIPS Updates In Development

Surveys results have been analyzed and we have started work on the 10.0 release of the CHIPS payroll software. Below is a partial list of scheduled updates.

- Major interface changes similar to BUCS and CUBIC.
- New security rules to better protect your system.
- New spell checker for notes.
- Improved employee change logs.
- New distribution interface to simplify the process.

Over two dozen updates are under consideration. Additional information will be forthcoming soon. ☐



Tips From Your Support Staff

By Dean Eldridge

CUBIC: Sometimes people use the Follow up Note Alert option and find that once the follow up date has passed; the note doesn't come up anymore. By going into FILE-PREFERENCES and to Customers-Note Follow-Up Alerts, the 'Set Default Follow-Up Dates to Current Date' option can be unchecked. Then, where the Follow Up Status options are listed, uncheck Completed (so only 'Not Completed' is checked). Then, anytime you access CUBIC, any Not Completed Notes will be displayed, regardless of date. This option is User login name specific, so it only would affect the login name the preference was setup under.

BUCS: Suppressing data on financial reports: In the System Controls on the G/L tab there is an option to suppress accounts with zero balances and no activity. Any of the financial reports may use this option (Revenue, Expense, Fund, Balance Sheet, Trial Balance and Profit/Loss). By checking these boxes, accounts that have no activity will not print on the report (meaning if all numbers for this account would be zero on the report, then it won't print at all). This option can be useful in shortening the length of reports when there are numerous accounts that aren't being used anymore.

CHIPS: Department heads entering in time payroll: In the CHIPS security section, a group can be set up just for department heads that only gives them access to certain areas of CHIPS. For example, a group can be setup that can only access Time Payroll Processing and Viewing in employee maintenance. When adding users to this group, specify the department an individual user can access. This not only would allow a department head to access the employee records in their department, it would also allow them to key in the time payroll for those employees in their department.

By Mike Emmerich

BUCS: Chart of Accounts in the General Ledger section now contains Asset, Liabilities, Revenue and Expenses in one grid along with additional columns such as "Uncommitted" and "Comments". Re-size your grid to allow you to see the uncommitted column on your screen, so you can quickly see what's left in the budget for each expense line item. This is a great feature for department heads to quickly see what's available and can eliminate calls, or enable you to quickly answer their questions. (Each user of BUCS will have to do this, and save it in their user preferences which mean BUCS will remember the way they set the grid).

BUCS: Posting Analysis Print: To include the Vendor Name or A/R Customer name on the report, you need to click on the field "Additional Detail Line" under the option of Additional Report Lines.

CUBIC: Transfer of Deposit: When a person is moving from one area of town to another, you can use Transfer Deposits to move the deposit to the new account.

CHIPS: Global Changes are available for Change Employer Retirement Percentage, Change Employees Holiday Hours

Due, Change Employees Pay Rate and Change Employees Deduction/Earnings. These tend to be most helpful in January when you need to make massive changes at once. An example of this is Holiday Hours Due to each & every employee where the number of hours is normally the same. (Ex. January 1 – Add 72 Holiday Hours to all employees for the 9 Holidays they receive). You'll be able to zap 72 holiday hours into each employee within seconds. Along with these global change types are options within the programs so you can select by Department Range, Employee Number Range and Employee Status.

By Jeff Koors

CUBIC: There is a function within CUBIC to allow Work Orders to bill customers for services performed by technicians. In System Controls on the Work Orders tab there is a checkbox to "allow job codes to assess charges". When checked, this will allow rate codes to be associated with the job codes on the work order. When a completion date is entered on the work order, the customer is automatically billed for the work performed.

BUCS: Default an account for a particular vendor: From within Vendor Maintenance there is the ability to default an expense account to any vendor. By adding the account on the Vendor Maintenance screen, the next time an invoice is processed for this vendor, this account will already be added as a line item and only an amount will need to be entered.

CHIPS: If an employee chooses to have Added Federal, State, County or Other taxes withheld from their paycheck, this can be done on a percentage or a dollar amount basis. On the Payroll tab of the Employee Maintenance screen, you can change the way Added Withholding Taxes are calculated by clicking your mouse inside the box and then selecting the F8 key. This will change the % sign to a \$. This can also be utilized when entering tax exemptions for an employee on the same screen. By clicking your mouse inside of the Federal, State, County or Other Exempt box and selecting the F8 key, exemptions can be entered as either a number (#) or a flat amount (\$).

By Adam Best

CUBIC: When installing Data Dictionary (ODBC) be sure it is installed in the correct location. To check the location, go to the CUBIC icon on your desktop, right click and go down to properties. For example: most clients have CUBIC installed at C:\program files\frey\Cubic. Install the cubicdd.exe file, CUBIC data dictionary, in the C:\program files\frey folder. This will update your DATA folder in CUBIC with the correct information. If you install the files in the CUBIC folder, the program will not be able to find them because the install path will look like this: C:\program files\frey\Cubic\CUBIC\Data.

BUCS: When designing report parameters, always give yourself enough space to fill in between later. You never know when you will need to add more files. If this is already a problem, that is ok. It can be fixed by re-numbering. When you have your report parameters up, click re-number and select a number from 1 to 500. It will re-number by the increment you selected. For example, if you number by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. and you re-number it will be by 10, 20, or more. ☐

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