

As the Wrench Turns

CPMS User's Journal

CPMS 4.0... Ready!

Beta Testing commences

This has been a long development process and it's great that we have finally reached the end of the road. See "The Plan" to review specific instructions as to what is necessary to implement CPMS 4.0 at your plant.

Be assured that every effort is being made to have a smooth transition from version 3.1a to 4.0. But, in order to do this we need to have as many plants as possible participate in parallel testing. This has long been the standard for all major upgrades in the software industry.

Because CPMS 4.0 also includes a brand-new version of our RBase data base manager, we need to make sure that before you become fully operational you are comfortable

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using CPMS, and any remaining glitches have been fixed. It is a lot more meaningful to use your actual plant's data for this purpose. For many of our customers we already have a recent confidential copy of your files. We can send you a complete system to copy onto your local PC and go through some of your day to day activity.

Why don't we just send out an update disk and go for it? Well, there are a number of reasons. A good example was relayed recently to us by one of our customers. They went to a new accounting package "at the stroke of midnight" and there had not been any, or certainly not enough, parallel testing. It didn't go well and they had effectively burned any bridges necessary to return to the prior system.

We are going to a new data base platform and face a similar challenge. If you started using the new CPMS 4.0 immediately, and a few days later find something not working properly or not to your liking, and you decided to go back to version 3.1, you will need to reenter all of the work done since the upgrade. The best way to avoid this potential problem is to "run in parallel".

"The Plan"

1. Send us a recent copy of your CPMS data files in the Zip file format or check if we already have a recent copy.
2. We will convert your data to run on CPMS 4.0 and send you a complete system for training and evaluation purposes.
3. There are a number of things we would like you to look for and let us know about as soon as possible.
 - a. Most importantly would be anything you notice that doesn't seem to be working properly.
 - b. Next, would be something which works differently than in 3.1a and you prefer the old functionality.
 - c. And lastly, would be a change or enhancement which you think we forgot and you were counting on being in 4.0.



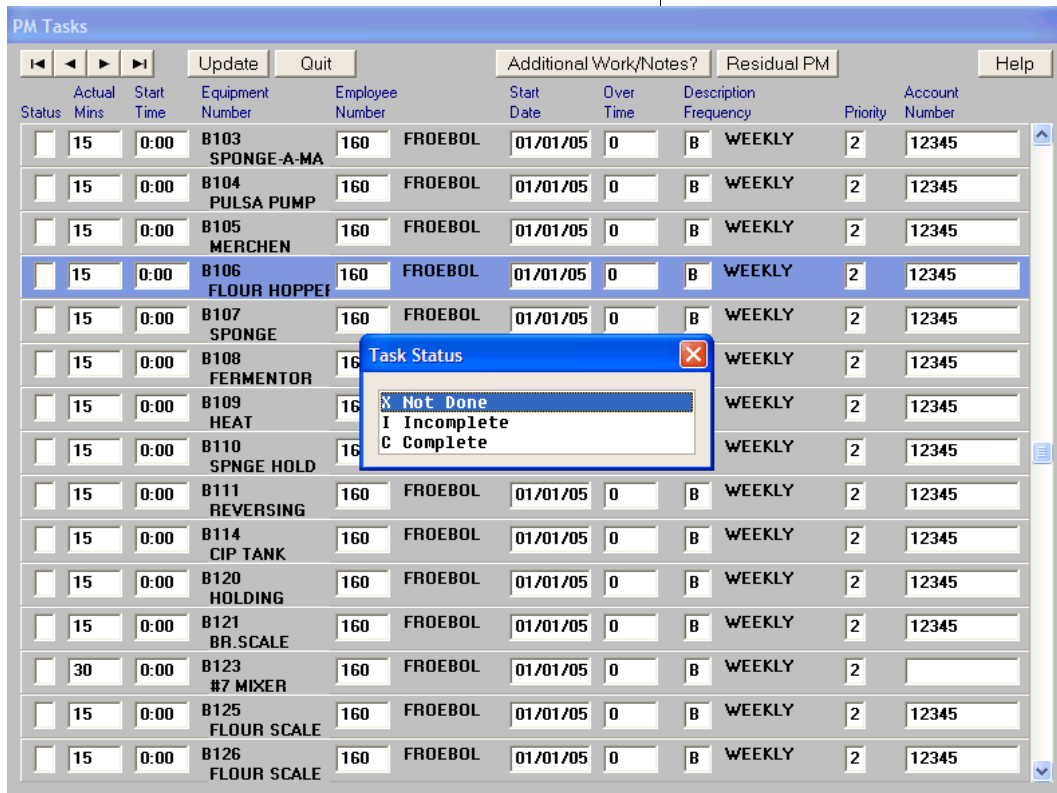
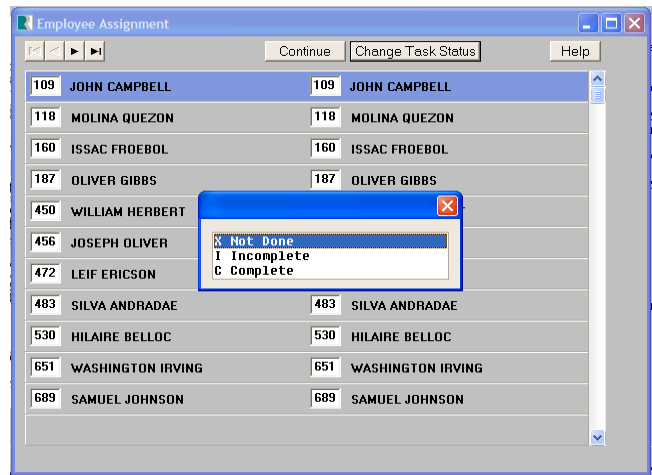
For our multi plant customers, you may feel that if one plant participates, that should be OK for everyone. Probably not. We have found that each plant uses CPMS slightly differently, even for the same company, and for this reason we encourage as many of our customers as possible to use the “beta version”.

More new stuff

Currently, one of the time-consuming tasks for Preventive Maintenance, is Processing Work Cards. It would be great if all of your mechanics completed all or most of their assignments, but in the real world this is just not the case.

We have made a number of changes in this function in order to speed up the process. Specifically, there is no need to type in an “X” or “I” for work which was Not Done or was Incomplete. When you move to any row, the new status box pops up automatically.

Also, how about a case where one or more mechanics missed all or most of their assigned tasks. Using the new “Change Task Status” on the Employee Assignment screen, you can change all of the tasks for as many employees as desired. Then, when you go to the process PM Tasks screen, any “global” changes are already complete! And, with the new scroll bar, the editing process is a snap.



CPMS 4.0 Pricing?

We have had a number of inquiries with regard to the price of the CPMS 4.0 and the RBase programs. Because of the delay in releasing this exciting new version, there will be no charge for the program development cost for CPMS. However, there are three new components to our RBase data base manager. They are RBase 7.1 (the data base manager itself), the new spell checker, and the graph program.

We have purchased the unlimited license agreement for these three products and we will pass the cost onto our customers. As soon as we know what the price per customer/plant is, we will let you know.

And the Winners are...

Renee Gable at Canada Bread, Langley, BC and Tracey Elrick at Weston Bakeries, Calgary, ALB. Congratulations!

We had a number of "almost right" answers as to what was wrong with the new PM Work Card report. The answer we were looking for was that the new vertical column "Repair Minutes" was missing (just to the right of "Repair Done").

CPMS Quiz

This may have happened to you once and it's good to know that there is almost always a way to still get what you want.

Assume you ran your Part Transaction program which prints out a report for validation and then, if OK, is followed by the Transaction Processing report. Once your Open Transactions have been processed, they are moved to the Closed Transactions table.

When you go to print your report, the printer jams and your report is damaged or lost completely. What would be a good way to reprint those same part transactions?

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