

As the Wrench Turns

CPMS User's Journal

CPMS- "Extreme Make over"

CPMS 3.1a & 4.0

Please take a look at pages 2-3 to see an example of what is coming in CPMS 4.0 using the new version of RBase 7.0. We are in full blown program development mode in order to get this new system out to you by early next year and in time for review at our CPMS Work Shop in April (See page 3.)

In the meantime, CPMS 3.1a was recently posted on the CPMS website- www.TheBestCMMS.com Please go there to download this important update. Always make sure to stay current and to load CPMS updates in sequence if you should ever fall behind. The current version of RBase 6.5++ is also available for downloading.

In anticipation of CPMS version 4.0, please let us know your requested

CONTENTS

<i>CPMS User's Journal</i>	1
<i>CPMS 3.1a & 4.0</i>	1
<i>Sending PDF's</i>	1
<i>New Reports</i>	2
<i>New Forms</i>	3
<i>CPMS Work Shop</i>	3
<i>CPMS Quiz</i>	3
<i>And the Winners are...</i>	4

enhancements. Also, you should be using at least an 800 x 600 screen resolution. With the larger and higher resolution monitors in use today, many of you have probably found that you like your work area filling up just 2/3 of the available screen area. If this is the case, then you probably want to set your screen resolution to 1024 x 768.

Sending PDF's

One of the easiest ways to quickly send reports to your management is by using email attachments. The "PDF" format has been around for some time, but many of you may have just recently started using it. A PDF Reader is available at no charge from Adobe Acrobat®. But, you will need a PDF Writer in order to save a Windows report as a file.

CPMS 4.0, using the new RBase 7.0, can save reports in the PDF format. But, in the meantime, you can still save CPMS reports in the PDF format if you have a PDF Writer available as one of your available printers. Check with your IT department to see if you have a PDF writer available.

An inexpensive PDF writer (driver) is available on the Internet from

www.zeon.com.tw which links to www.pdfwizard.com. There is a free trial version which displays a watermark "PDF Driver Trial" or you can purchase the Lite version for one PC for \$14.95.

When printing any report you can change your printer to the PDF printer/driver, indicate where you want the report file saved, and attached it to your email. A lot easier, quicker, and less expensive than faxing or mailing.



CPMS Work Shop

Our annual CPMS Work Shop is scheduled for next April in Las Vegas. CPMS 4.0, using the new RBase 7.0, will be featured. All of the current screen forms and reports are currently being rewritten along with major portions of the CPMS program modules.

This might be similar to installing a new production line in your plant to replace an existing line. You still need to maintain and enhance the current line and possibly upgrade small portions of the line in order to meet the needs of your customers. That means you must still make minor changes to the current system, while upgrading certain equipment, while building a new line. Three separate

projects! As much as possible, we are focused on the conversion and moving all the significant changes to CPMS 4.0, instead of doing the job twice.

Our data base company has spent the last fifteen months building the new data base and programming system. We have been one of the many beta testers, using many of the CPMS forms and reports you use ever day to make sure the new system is solid. We are confident you will benefit from all the enhancements which make CPMS a true Windows system using the only industrial strength PC relational data base manager.

CPMS Quiz

OK, we'll try again.

How would you print out the parts report for just those parts which have been ordered at least once this year?

The screenshot shows the SCEDM_EDIT application window. At the top, the title bar reads 'R:BASE 7.0 [Connected: mmis] - [R> Prompt]'. The menu bar includes Database, Tools, Settings, Utilities, Window, and Help. The main form area is titled 'SCEDM_EDIT' and contains several data entry fields: Equipment Number (B124), Description (#7 MIXER), Procedure Number (B124), Description Ident (B), and a CALENDAR for October 2002. A tooltip points to the Procedure Number field, stating: 'The default Procedure Number is the Equipment Number. Refer to a different equipment number to use those PM Duties.' Below the calendar is a table of PM duties with columns for LN, PM Du, and dates. The duties listed are: 1. CHECK, 2. AGITA, 3. DOOR:, 4. COMPLETE LUBRICATION, 5. ELECTRICAL PANELS: MAIN CONTROL PANEL, 6. CHECK DOOR LIFTING CHAINS, 7. CHECK SPIDERS FOR CRACKS, 8. CHECK DOOR SEAL CONDITION, LEAKAGE & SPACING BETWEEN DOOR & SEAL, 9. AGITATOR DRIVE CHAIN, DRAIN, FLUSH AND REFILL HOUSING, 10. AGITATOR DRIVE CHAIN, DRAIN, FLUSH AND REFILL HOUSING, 11. CHECK CLEARANCE OF AGITATOR SPIDERS, 12. CHECK DOOR WEAR STRIP, BRONZE WEAR PAD FOR PROPER SETTING. Other fields include Skills Required (M), Scheduled Shift (Time 00:00), Employee (187 JOHNSON, SAMUEL), Skills (M), Shift, Minutes/Cost (30 \$5.61), and buttons for Save, Delete, Duplicate, AForm, EForm, and Help.

New Forms

This is where the real programming effort is taking place. There are so many new features available in the new forms designer that the temptation is to rebuild all of our forms from scratch. But, that is not the plan.

Three of the new features are shown in the example above. First, a 'hint' is available for every data entry field on each screen form. When you place your cursor over the value, the hint pops up. We plan to have this as an option which will be very helpful to new users.

The popup calendar has been enhanced. You can type in a date or click the arrow to choose a date. There are pros and cons of using a four-digit year, and we will be talking a lot more about this and other changes.

Last but not least, the long awaited scroll bar! In this case it is used for all your PM duties. Finally!

And the Winners are...

Nobody! Were the questions that hard? A number of folks got one question right. Better luck this month.

The answers to the last newsletter quiz:

1. How would you print Parts Inventory for a specific Vendor where the parts on hand are at or below minimum?

The key word in the question is "Vendor". A number of folks knew how to print the standard parts report where on hand is less than or equal to minimum and where the *Manufacturer = ???* But, we were looking for vendors.

In order to do this you need to print out parts if they have a matching part number in the part/vendor cross reference table. The format is the same as the "Look in" button option on your Power Search screen.

```
PR_NBR IN (SELECT PR_NBR FROM VREF
WHERE VN_ID = "ABC") AND PR_ONHD <=
PR_MIN
```

In English, print out all parts in the Parts table where the part number is in the Part/Vendor cross reference table and has the desired vendor Ident (ABC) and the on hand quantity is less than or equal to the minimum.

2. If you were printing Parts Inventory and you wanted to see just the first rack sorted by bin location, and the 33 bins on the rack were number from 1-A-1 to 1-A-33, what would cause the report to skip bins 2 through 9?

A number of folks got this one right. Remember that your part location for all of your parts should use the same format. In this case the correct format is R-S-BB and it is a mistake to have a single digit for bins 1-9 and then two digits for 10-33. This will cause problems for both sorting and selecting. If you print out parts sorted by location, the location will look like:

1-A-1
1-A-10
1-A-11
1-A-12

1-A-13
1-A-14
1-A-15
1-A-16
1-A-17
1-A-18
1-A-19
1-A-2
1-A-20
1-A-21
etc.

Your data, especially if you have been doing a good job of keeping it up to date and accurate, can be very valuable. Recently, Ken Redden at Klosterman's Baking, used question one in our last quiz to check on prices for the same parts from different vendors. By running the Parts report using this option, he was able to quickly identify where they were paying too much for parts. The result was a savings of thousands of dollars for his company.

If you found out that there was a suitcase full of cash in your garage, would you leave it there? Your plant's data is out there just waiting to save you some money.

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