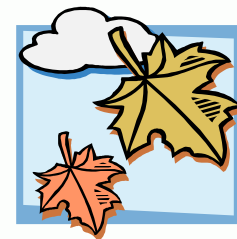


Solution Time

Fall 2002



In this Edition

- Success story for the Fall Quarter -page 1
- Put the Period at the End by: Allan Harlan -page 2
- MAS 90/MAS 200, what's the difference? -page 2
- Spotlight on a module- Business Alerts -page 3
- BusinessWorks Gold Version 3.0 now shipping. - page 3
- Would you like to see more training classes? - page 3
- Upcoming BusinessWorks web seminars - page 3
- Customize your MAS 90/ MAS 200 software - page 4
- Have you Upgraded yet? - page 4

AND THE WINNER IS...

Brenda Harper, for 'christening' our newsletter Solution Time .

Brenda is with Staley Electric; a MAS 90 customer in Little Rock. Staley Electric have been using Best Software products Since 1995. A BusinessWorks user until December of 2001 when they upgraded to MAS 90. Brenda has been with Staley Electric since 1990.

With several excellent suggestions to choose from, Brenda's entry was chosen.

Congratulations Brenda, and enjoy your DVD player.



Brenda Harper of Staley Electric, and Brad Youngblood of Software Solutions

MAS 90 Success Story

MAS 90 with Visual Integrator is the "One" for Arkansas One - Call and ARKUPS.

MAS 90 Modules in Operation

Accounts Payable
Accounts Receivable
Bank Reconciliation
Crystal Reports
Custom Office
General Ledger
Library Master
Purchase Order
Visual Integrator

The Arkansas One-Call Center was established in 1978 in Central Arkansas and expanded state-wide in 1981. It was created to provide an

easy way for excavators to notify multiple utilities before digging with just one free phone call. Arkansas Utility Protection Services, Inc. (ARKUPS) was created in November 1998, as a nonprofit corporation owned by Arkansas One - Call System, Inc. The ARKUPS team includes over 100 Damage Prevention Specialists providing statewide service to their partners. When Arkansas One - Call contacted Software Solutions they were using Peachtree for their accounting system and looking for a more robust business management software

Continued on Page 4



by: Allan Harlan



Monthly period end processing is one of the most commonly overlooked MAS 90/ MAS 200 procedures. Many MAS 90 users do not realize that each module, with the exception of Bank Reconciliation, Work Order and Bill of Materials, has its own period end processing. The reason it's overlooked is that it has no effect on the General Ledger posting period and financial statements; trial balance reports, etc. will work just fine without the bother of running period end for Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Sales Order, etc. So who cares, right?

If you're one of those users who is reading this and thinking, "I close payroll every quarter whether I want to or not, and once a year my CPA makes me close the General Ledger module. You mean there's more?" Have you ever wondered why the *period-to-date*, *year-to-date* and *last year* totals for vendor and customer history always stay the same? And there's this 'Future' button that has really huge numbers in it. The current period of each module controls which total amount gets increased when transactions are updated. ALL transactions with a date beyond the current module period are added to the 'Future' totals, regardless of how far the transaction dates are in the future.

Maybe these totals in customer history such as year-to-date sales are not very important when it comes to reconciling the bank account each month, but if maintained properly, these totals by vendor, customer or inventory item can provide really valuable information for others in your company.

Also, period end processing is when MAS 90 cleans up several files that build up large amounts of data over time, such as the list of open invoices for customers and vendors. If someone in your company is constantly complaining that it **takes forever** for the screen to come up when I pick the 'Invoices' tab in accounts receivable or accounts payable, then maybe you should re-think this whole period end processing issue. When the software was set up, each module established settings such as 'number of days to retain paid invoices; or 'number of months of check history; or 'number of days to retain completed purchase orders', etc. But these settings are only looked at by the system during the period end processing for that module.

So to put the period at the end of this article, let's keep the system working well and perform period end processing on each module on a regular basis. Of course, if this has raised questions for you about your system, give us a call and we'll be glad to assist you and step you through the process. Just mention this article and the call is on us!! ♦

MAS 90 VS. MAS 200

What's the difference?

Do you know what the difference is between MAS 90 and MAS 200? MAS 200 was formerly known as MAS 90 Client Server. MAS 200 is virtually the same as MAS 90 with a few key differences. Most notably speed. Because MAS 200 is server based, the speed of tasks performed can be increased between 100 - 200%!

If your company is experiencing growth and you find that your system seems to be a lot slower than it used to be, you may be ready for an upgrade to MAS 200. All of your current data will be converted automatically from MAS90 to MAS 200. Depending on the number of workstations, MAS 200 can typically be installed in less than a day.

Are you ready for MAS 200?

- Is MAS 90 working well, but becoming slow while posting and reporting?
- MAS 200 will only operate on a Windows NT/2000/XP server, so you won't be able to use MAS 200 if you are currently using Novell as your networking system.
- MAS 200 will offer significant speed increases with no increase in computer maintenance costs.
- MAS 200 is easy to switch to. There is no difference in the data file structure from MAS 90.
- All modules are the same in both systems, and new modules are the same price as in MAS 90.

MAS 90 • MAS 200
Authorized Reseller

You Need to Know What's Going on in Your Company



Business Alerts will keep you up to date on what's happening in your company. This innovative module utilizes your e-mail system to notify you whenever something significant happens in your MAS 90/MAS 200 database. (ex. you receive an email when an invoice is 90 days due). The standard notifications you select can easily be tailored to suit your specific needs. Or, you may choose to create custom alerts based on your company's unique needs. In addition to keeping your staff better informed, Business Alerts can also send email notifications to your customers and vendors. This feature is especially useful for sending past due billing notices, shipping notices, low inventory alerts and more.

FAQ's

How does the application 'talk' to my database? - *Business Alerts communicates with the MAS 90/MAS200 database via ODBC and operates in a similar fashion to Crystal Reports.*

Does Business Alerts come with any predefined alerts? -

Yes, Business Alerts ships with numerous pre defined processes, and all can be modified to meet the needs of your company

Can I create my own alerts? -

Yes, you can create as many alerts as you want.

Will any version of Outlook

work? - *No, If you are running Business Alerts on Windows NT 4.0 you will need Outlook 97 or later. For Windows 2000, you will need Outlook 98 or later.♦*

BusinessWorks Gold Version 3.0 Now Shipping



The next generation of BusinessWorks is here! Best Software is pleased to introduce BusinessWorks Gold. BusinessWorks Gold Version 3.0 was built upon the ease of use and stability of BusinessWorks v. 12. With an interface that serves as your desktop, BusinessWorks Gold gives you navigational ease by allowing you to create shortcuts to your daily functions as well as integrate your tasks in other applications. With the conversion of the Job Cost module to the BusinessWorks Gold 32-bit platform, this release completes the upgrade of the original BusinessWorks product line to the Gold platform. Now, all 11 modules that constituted the previous, 16-bit BusinessWorks product are available in the 32-bit version.

BusinessWorks Gold now has expanded field lengths, greater storage capacity, Windows 2000 compatibility, and built-in access to the Web. The networking features of BusinessWorks Gold support concurrent users, and its 11 fully integrated modules provide the flexibility to build a system that fits any business. BusinessWorks Gold is the gold standard in small to medium - sized accounting applications and will help your company shine with greater efficiency and profit potential.

This is a quarterly newsletter, if you do not wish to continue to receive it, simply reply with: "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

More than ever, Business works is designed to work the way you do.

Here are a few of the advanced new features you will find in BusinessWorks Gold:

- ◆ Powerful New Security
- ◆ New Database
- ◆ Web-Enabled Launcher
- ◆ Reprint Invoices
- ◆ New Cash Management Module
- ◆ Quick View Graphical Reports
- ◆ City and State Separate Fields
- ◆ E-Business Readiness
- ◆ Usability Improvements
- ◆ Updated ZIP codes
- ◆ Electronic Manuals

Upcoming BusinessWorks Web Seminars:

Oct. 16,23,30 "What's new with BusinessWorks Gold V. 3.0" 12:00

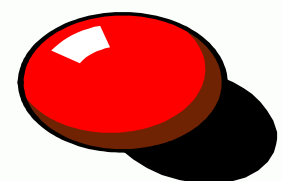
Oct 15 "Tips and Tricks" 1:00

Register on-line at www.bestwebevents.com

Would you like to see more training opportunities?

Please take a moment to let us know if there are any training sessions you would be interested in attending.

Click on the button below to answer a couple of questions.



Customize your MAS 90/MAS 200 to fit the needs of your company.

Many MAS 90 / MAS 200 users have specific needs within their company that aren't addressed in the basic functionality of the software.

While your MAS 90 / MAS 200 software offers many options you can select to tailor the software to fit your companies needs , often you need a little extra.

There are several master software developers that work closely with Best to come up with answers to your problems.

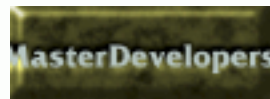
Arkansas One-Call

cont.

program to increase efficiencies in their operations and provide integration with their billing and timekeeping systems. Using the Data Migrator and Visual Integrator, Software Solutions worked with Patti Stobaugh, Arkansas One - Call Business Manager, to quickly set up and configure MAS 90 for training and an accelerated implementation. With continued consulting services, Software Solutions scripted import jobs in Visual Integrator to import data from ARKUPS custom timekeeping program to MAS 90 payroll, from the call tracking system to Accounts Receivable data entry for billing, and from a fleet management system to MAS 90 Purchase Order. They also imported data from their damage investigation system (DIS) into MAS 90. "We are very pleased with MAS 90 and the amount

Don't give up and decide that your software just can't do what you need it to do. The Best website has a list of enhancements that have already been developed. There's a good chance that someone else has had the same problem as you and has had the work done already. This website shows the entire list of enhancements for MAS 90 / MAS 200 that have already been written. And, since they have already been written, they are much less expensive than if you had to have them done specifically for your company. You'll also find that since they were written for someone else, all the bugs have been found and fixed! ♦

Here is the link to the Best Website.



of time we are saving with Visual Integrator, " says Patti Stobaugh. "We have eliminated so much data entry and freed up time to move human resource management work from my desk to other administrative personnel ! "

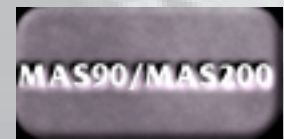
Have you upgraded to version 3.70?

We have given the OK for everyone to upgrade to 3.70. We've done several upgrades and everything is going very well.

We suggest that everyone who received the upgrade go ahead and have it installed. Not only because of all the new enhancements, but Best only supports two previous versions (3.60 & 3.61). Even if you don't see any new enhancements in the areas that you use the most, it's always best to stay up to date.

If you are planning on doing your own upgrade, and haven't done so yet, you need to make sure to follow this link to download any available patches for 3.70.

This page on the Best Website has a download for the fixes that have already been done.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Software Solutions, LLC
650 South Shackelford, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72211

Phone: 877-954-7171
Central Arkansas: 501-954-7171
Fax: 501-954-7197

