

Volume 3
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Upgrade News

We have some important information for you regarding operating system configurations and the new MAS 90 and MAS 200 Version 4.0. With the powerful new features incorporated into the upcoming Version, it is not surprising to learn that the operating system platforms required to run 4.0 need the latest technology. There are new recommended minimum system configurations for workstations and servers and some single user/client workstation and server configurations that will no longer be supported.

Retired Single User or Workstation Configurations

- ▶ Windows 98 (excluding 98 SE)
- ▶ Windows ME
- ▶ Windows NT 4.0 Workstation
- ▶ Windows XP Home Edition

Retired Server or Peer-To-Peer Configurations

- ▶ Windows 98 (excluding 98 SE)
- ▶ Windows ME
- ▶ Windows NT 4.0 Workstation
- ▶ Windows XP Home Edition

If you are currently running one of these configurations, give us a call. We will work with you to recommend a cost-effective solution. Investing in your company's technology makes smart business sense. Current technology is less expensive to support and helps keep your business running smoothly. ★

It's Almost Here MAS 90 and MAS 200 Version 4.0!

Get ready for the big one. MAS 90 and MAS 200 Version 4.0 is about to enter its pre-release beta testing phase and should begin shipping to current maintenance subscribers in late autumn. Best revealed more details of the highly anticipated release at the recent Insights Partners' Conference. This article will highlight what we learned and what new features you can expect. Many of the enhancements are in the General Ledger module, but there are also global changes such as security enhancements and system requirement changes well worth discussing here.

Role Based Security

MAS 90 always has provided for a robust and flexible security system. Version 4.0 expands on that system and gives you precise control over who has access to your data. What's more, the new role based security is straightforward to set up. Define roles such as Order Entry Clerk or Inventory Manager and assign the rights belonging to each role. Users then are assigned one or more roles, conveniently granting them just the rights they need to perform their roles.

The 4.0 General Ledger and Library Master modules carry this role based security one step further by allowing you to filter access to specific tasks. For example, various screens will have con-

trols such as: Full Control, Create, Modify, Delete, and View Only. You will set these attributes by role within each screen, thereby enabling you to offer data entry clerks Create authority only in General Journal Entry. This feature provides an exceptional level of control over who can create, modify or delete entries.

Grid Entry Screens

As each module is released in Version 4.0, the data entry screens will follow a grid entry system, a new standard in Windows design.

The screens are handsome, uncluttered, functional, and user-friendly. In this release the grid entry screens are only available in General Ledger, but Best plans to incorporate them into

every module in subsequent releases. Perhaps you're saying, "What can a grid entry screen do for me?" The benefits are real and substantial.

Many diehard number crunchers skeptically embraced Windows based data entry screens. The fact is, data entry is often faster in a DOS char-

acter-based application than in a Windows application. No reaching for the mouse, no tabbing from here to there—a tap of the enter key moved you anywhere you wanted to go. With the introduction of the grid entry system in Version 4.0, those skeptics may at last be satisfied. The use of the grid entry system will result in near



MAS 90 and MAS 200 Version 4.0 represent the latest evolution in software development that started in 1984 with MAS 90 Version 1.0

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It's Almost Here — MAS 90 and MAS 200 Version 4.0 Continued

limitless data entry screen flexibility. Where appropriate, screens will utilize a dual entry grid, allowing you to place more frequently used fields in the primary grid, and lesser-used fields in the secondary grid. Each grid may contain a maximum of five columns and five rows. Resize either grid by grabbing a corner. Sort and resize the columns within either grid. Any non-required field may be hidden from view—entire columns can be hidden from view. You can quickly add, delete, and re-order lines. You will have the ability to move columns in any order desired, and even move a column from one grid to another. A scroll bar will automatically appear when a grid entry window contains more data than its size permits viewing. This system truly enables you to design data entry windows that work best for your company, streamlining operations, and for perhaps the first time, making Windows entry screens faster and easier than the old character-based screens.

Put It Back!

Did you ever just wish you could put the screen back the way it was before you started? A new feature in General Ledger 4.0 gives you the ability to return individual lines, or all modified lines, to their original values at the beginning of the data entry session.

Expanded GL Number

The General Ledger Account Number will now support up to 32 characters and a maximum of 10 segments. The new longer GL account number structure also will be added in all MAS 90 and MAS 200 non-SQL modules at the release of version 4.0.

Big Transactions

Version 4.0 introduces expanded numeric capacity within General Ledger. Individual transactions up to \$999,999,999.99 are supported, as are account balances up to \$9,999,999,999.99, and financial reporting totals up to \$99,999,999,999.99.

Basis Allocations

Create allocations based on square footage, revenue, or head count.

Infinite Budgets

With the ability to save an unlimited number of budgets, you can retain all of your historical budgets for reporting purposes, while con-

structing future fiscal period budgets in a new and efficient grid entry screen.

Restrict Postings To Active Accounts

Designate an account as active or inactive, and optionally enter a starting and ending date for which posting to that account will be allowed. This is a great feature to use when you're in the process of renumbering your chart of accounts, or want to limit postings to an account to a particular date range.

Calculators And Calendars

Click on a calendar or a calculator whenever you need a date or an amount. The results of your selection automatically will populate the field selected. This is a terrific convenience for busy users.

Comments In History

Remember those journal entry comments you entered? If not, it's because before version 4.0 these comments were not saved to history. With version 4.0 you will be able to reprint journals exactly as they originally appeared, complete with those detailed comments.

One Step Bank Transfers

Post to your cash accounts and your bank codes in Bank Reconciliation from a single entry in Transaction Journal Entry.

User Defined Fields

Add user-defined fields (UDFs) to any data file within General Ledger. The user-defined field instantly will be available to the new Business Insights Reporter. Harness even more power by creating validation tables for your UDFs and selected existing fields.

Batches Keep You Organized

General Ledger data entry will benefit from the addition of batch entry functionality. You can create multiple data entry batches that can be reviewed and updated individually. Use batches to segregate the work of different operators, different posting dates, different departments, etc. Batches are a great way to organize your data entry tasks.

General Ledger Set Up Wizard

Whether you are just beginning with MAS 90, or creating a new company in an established installation, you will benefit from the help and advice of the new General Ledger Set Up Wizard. One way the wizard can help is by offering

sample chart of accounts from a long list of industry types.

Account Roll Up

A powerful feature new to version 4.0 is the addition of Roll Up Codes. Assign Roll Up Codes to individual account numbers for a consolidated grouping of those accounts on selected Financial Statements.

Friendly Financial Statements

A new user friendly wizard walks you through the process of creating financial statements, making the whole procedure simpler. Version 4.0 also adds more financial statement formats and provides the ability to group reports for streamlined printing.

Save Those Report Settings

Do you have a favorite style of report? Favorite sorts, filters, and printer selections that you frequently use? Now you can save those selections as a style with a unique name. Simply select your favorite style at run time and save time and frustration.

Right Mouse Clicks Increase Usability

A right mouse-click now will bring you pertinent information such as: Company Code and Company Name, User Code and Name, Module Date, and Number of Records in Masterfile. Additionally, the right-mouse click will show you Related Tasks, enabling you to move through the system more efficiently. As you would expect, the information is only accessible to those with security to the tasks presented.

New System Requirements

There are new system requirements for version 4.0. Please see our *Upgrade News* for more information.

Don't Miss Out

The changes incorporated in Version 4.0 look to add tremendous functionality and usability to the software. Be certain your software subscription is up to date so you can begin to take advantage of these features as soon as they become available. As always, call us with any questions or concerns you may have. ★