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**Headline News**

Start Magazine, a publication focused on solving manufacturing industry business issues through technology, named Best Software one of its *Hottest Companies of the Year*. Start recognizes companies for their contributions and accomplishments in delivering technology to the manufacturing sector. Only 40 companies were selected as Hot, and Best Software is one of only 17 repeat winners. Congratulations Best Software.



MAS 90 MAS 200 MIP  
BUSINESSWORKS GOLD

## New Release Scheduled For Year End Preview Of MAS 90 Version 4.05

**B**y now, many MAS 90 users have upgraded to MAS 90 Version 4.0 and are enjoying the substantial set of new features offered by this release. Not resting on its laurels, Best Software announced Version 4.05, slated for release near the end of 2004. The release includes maintenance for Version 4.0, and will deliver any year-end legislated changes required for Payroll, Accounts Payable, and Magnetic Media. This release also incorporates **23 Extended Solutions** into the core MAS 90 product, as a subscription benefit for existing customers. These extended solutions deliver often asked for functionality to the Job Cost, Accounts Payable, and Payroll modules. Let's take a closer look at the features Best plans to include in this upcoming release.

### Payroll Changes

The seven Extended Solutions selected for inclusion into Version 4.05 of Payroll are intended to add flexibility when posting by department and offer better integration with the Job Cost module.

### Enhanced Validation And Default Options

Included in Version 4.05 is a feature that will help provide a safeguard for your Payroll data integrity. During Employee Maintenance, if you enter a social security number that is already on file, the program will reject the duplicate number. If you

prefer, you can configure the option to warn the user, but allow the matching entry. To speed up payroll processing, you now will be able to specify the default values for the **Auto Pay** and **Auto Deduction** prompts that appear during Payroll Data Entry.

### Benefit Accrual By Department

The benefit time your employees accrue is typically considered a liability to your company. Until now, you've had no simple way to account for this liability. Version 4.05 incorporates a feature

to allow you to specify a liability and corresponding expense account for each benefit type (sick, vacation, other). During the update of the Payroll Check Register, one posting per department is made that summarizes the benefit liabilities for each employee in the department.

### Earnings Codes And Voluntary Deductions

MAS 90 supports the posting of labor expenses by department in Department Maintenance by allowing you to specify up to 10 earnings codes and

their corresponding expense accounts. In Version 4.05, you will no longer be limited to 10—you will be able to maintain a list of any number of **Earnings Codes** and the expense account to be used instead of the standard payroll expense account.



In Version 4.05 Best incorporates 23 Extended Solutions into MAS 90.

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# Preview Of MAS 90 Version 4.05 Continued

A similar feature for **Deduction Codes** is provided as well. From a new screen in Department Maintenance, you will be able to maintain an unlimited list of Deduction Codes and the specific accrual account you wish to use when posting from this department. Then, during the Check Register Update, if there is a department-specific Accrual Account matching the Employee's Home Department for a Deduction Code, it will be used in place of the account named in Deduction Code Maintenance.

## Workers Comp Codes

Here's a new feature that helps you configure the Job Cost and Payroll modules to better suit the way you do business. From Worker's Compensation Maintenance, you may enter a list of Job Cost Codes you wish to associate with this Worker's Comp Code. Then, during Payroll Data Entry, as you type in a Cost Code, the first Worker's Comp Code that references this Cost Code is returned to override the existing value in the Worker's Comp Code field.

## Wage Expense By Labor Code

Another popular user-requested feature incorporated into Version 4.05 is the ability to post wage expenses by Labor Code. A new field is added to Labor Code Maintenance for Wage Expense Account. The account number you enter here may consist of a full account number or an account number masked with wildcard characters. During the Check Register Update process, the Wage Expense Account Number is first determined in the usual manner, from Earnings Code Maintenance and Department Maintenance. Then, each non-wildcard character from the Labor Code setup is substituted into the corresponding position of the wage expense account.

## Job Cost Changes

Six Extended Solutions selected for Version 4.05 Job Cost add enhanced reporting capabilities and a new Perpetual Job Cost History enhancement.

### Enhanced Reporting

Incorporating another often-requested feature, Version 4.05 allows you to include the employee name as part of the posting comment to Job Cost. When posting labor from TimeCard or

Payroll to Job Cost, the posting comment can consist of the Employee Last Name, First Initial, and the Payroll Period End Date.

Printing the **Job Transaction Detail Report** can generate an enormous amount of paper. In Version 4.05, you'll have an option to suppress the printing of jobs with no activity in the selected date range. This report also will have an option to include the **Bill Amount** and **Labor Units** for each job's labor transactions.

The **Job Close Out Report** changes the status of Completed jobs to Closed so they can be purged during the next period-end processing. With this new release, you are granted finer control over which jobs will be closed out when running this report. You can enter a cutoff date on the report's selection screen. Job Cost transactions dated after the cutoff will be excluded from the report and the subsequent update to Job Cost and General Ledger. Only those jobs that have no transactions beyond the cutoff date will have their status changed to Closed. If you prefer, an additional option allows you to indicate that no jobs should have their status changed.

### Perpetual Job Cost History

A consistent complaint of MAS 90 Job Cost users is that during month-end processing, completed jobs are purged, leaving no history to draw on in the future. **Perpetual Job Cost History** is part of Version 4.05, acting to preserve those purged jobs by writing them into a new set of history files. You can report on these historical jobs and even restore the job back into the active files if needed.

## Accounts Payable Changes

Seven Extended Solutions for Accounts Payable are added with the Version 4.05 upgrade.

### Vendor Sort Fields

In Version 4.05, you can use a range of Vendor Sort Fields on the AP Invoice Payment Selection screen. Select by a range of Regions, Payable Managers, or whatever informative value your Sort Field holds.

### Added Flexibility

With Version 4.05 you can select invoices to pay based on a new **Greater Than Or Equal To** or **Less Than Or Equal To** value you specify. Only vendors whose Balance Due fits within the pa-

rameters you indicate are selected for payment.

If your vendors utilize a separate payment processing center, the address you send your payments to is a different one from the vendor's mailing address. Version 4.05 adds a new **Remit To Address** to the Vendor Masterfile. New form fields allow you to print the Remit To Address on standard and manual checks.

Many businesses treat their different divisions almost as separate companies, with separate bank accounts. Version 4.05 includes a feature to facilitate this type of processing by providing the ability to post to a separate Cash Account number for each AP Division. You can enter a full account number or an account mask using wildcard characters. During the update, the account number is determined by combining this new account mask with the cash account number from bank code maintenance.

As each AP transaction is posted to the General Ledger, MAS 90 constructs a posting comment that becomes part of each individual transaction. Version 4.05 adds a high degree of flexibility to choose the information that makes up that posting comment. You can choose from seven formats, many of which include the vendor number, vendor name, the invoice header comment, the line detail comment, and/or the invoice number.

## Other Enhancements

This new version offers tighter control over the posting process, ensuring that only activated cost codes for a job are used. Now from Job Posting Entry, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, TimeCard, and Inventory, users are prevented from entering a cost code that has not been activated for the job. If you choose, you can elect to allow a non-active cost code if the user enters a password set up for this purpose. MAS 90 Version 4.05 is feature packed, offering flexible, productive tools to further ensure MAS 90 meets the needs of your business.

For those of you who use MAS 200 SQL, release 3.72 will offer the same features as MAS 90 4.05, plus it will include Paperless Office Journals and Registers.

We'll keep you posted on the availability of the release, as well as other feature details as they become available. ★