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IMS



Useable News

OSAS 7.0 is coming your way

Frequently Asked Questions — and Answers

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How to eliminate Travel Time charges!

In order to eliminate Travel Time charges, we are recommending that you install—or have us install—one of two programs which allow us to “dial in” and take care of most problems on-line instead of driving to your location. This is a win-win-win situation:

1. You win, because you don't have to pay for our traveling time.
2. We win, because we can spend more time productively as opposed to sitting in our cars
3. The environment wins. No pollution from our dialing in to you.

How?

There are two programs available that we can recommend and support. One is called PC Anywhere and it allows us to dial in through a regular phone line and take care of most problems, transfer files (both directions), and install updates and more. PC Anywhere (by Symantec) costs approx. \$100 and requires a modem and a phone line.

The other program is called Netmeeting and it utilizes the speed and accuracy of the internet. It is at least 10 times faster, and maybe best of all: It is free! It comes with most newer versions of Windows.

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Q: Do I have to pay additional fees to obtain OSAS v7.0?

A: There are no additional fees. All users who are current on Maintenance at the time of release of OSAS v7.0 will receive it at no additional charge.

Q: What does OSAS 7.0 run under?

A: OSAS v7.0 runs under BBx as well as under BBj. You must run it under BBj to take advantage of some of the new Java-based features in OSAS v7.0, such as the new multitasking user interface. However, OSAS v7.0 will also run under BBx without these additional features.

Q: How do I take advantage of the free client/server upgrade?

A: Simply obtain the fulfillment of OSAS v7.0. When you upgrade to version 7.0, your license will be automatically converted to an “enterprise” license, giving you the ability to connect to the data server. You can install the data server and implement it as usual under BBx, or install it using the new installation process for BBj. Note that the data server is free **only** with OSAS v7.0, not with v6.5.

Q: What if I didn't use or have GUI (Graphical User Interface)?

It comes free with 7.0 but as is the case now, the option to use it or not is selectable by workstation. The graphical menu structure is new.

Q: How do I take advantage of the free ODBC driver under BBj?

A: Under BBj, the RM user count can be used for any type of user (OSAS or ODBC). You do not need to allocate a user for the ODBC driver at the time of installation; the interpreter and ODBC driver simply checks out a user from the common pool when you use either one.

Therefore, if a BBj user has an eight-user license, they can have any combination of OSAS sessions and ODBC connections totaling eight or less at any one time.

Please note however, that unlike starting multiple instances of OSAS, if a user starts OSAS **and** invokes the ODBC driver on the same workstation, they will use 2 licenses to do so.

The entire ODBC Kit, including all the productivity reports, pivot tables, etc., will be included free in OSAS 7.0

Q. If I have an eight-user RM today and get my fulfillment of OSAS 7.0, then do I also get ODBC at no cost?

A: The eight users (under BBj) can perform as either BBj or ODBC licenses. So, in essence, you will have access to ODBC as long as their eight users are not all using OSAS at that time.

Q. What if I already own ODBC? How will that affect the user count with 7.0?

A. Let's say you have a 12-user RM and a two-user ODBC license running OSAS 6.5 today. When you receive fulfillment on version 7.0, you will receive a 14-user license. Any of those 14 users can now use ODBC or OSAS as desired.

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OSAS 7.0 coming your way...

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Q. What if I have modifications in my current version of OSAS?

A: Most BBx version 6.5 programs will run under BBj as they are. Programming changes are generally not required unless the program uses keywords (for example, language verbs) as variable names. Less frequently, changes will be required



for system-related programming (changes to Resource Manager menus, for example).

The biggest exception is that users running GUI who have had changes made to the graphical screens will have to have them redone.

Q: What does OSAS 7.0 look like?

A: It has an enhanced User Interface: The new menu system in OSAS 7.0 under BBj allows you to run multiple application functions in more than one company simultaneously.

For example, you can use this flexibility to check on an order status in one company while entering general ledger transactions in another, without having to leave GL and return. This enhanced working environment gives you the flexibility to handle the conflicting demands of the everyday office world by allowing you to perform several tasks at one time.

Q: What about installation?

It will be easier. Version 7.0 running under BBj offers a streamlined installation process for Resource Manager and for the applications.

Q: When can we get it?

A: IMS will start beta testing it now. Hopefully, by the time 7.0 is out, we will have everyone on 6.5, modifications and all. We anticipate letting you take advantage of this technology (and for some, new modules) early in 2005.

In summary:

Program changes are rarely required to run existing BBx programs under BBj®, **meaning that most of your modifications will move with you without the need for program changes or reprogramming.**

And OSAS 7.0 works either way: you can make the move to BBj painlessly, or you can remain on the proven BBx platform and switch at your convenience, all with the same license.

OSAS 7.0 represents a major change in technology for the OSAS software line.

Do you
Google™?

Travel Time Charges

continued

Netmeeting allows us to “take over” your PC and do it in “real time”. This means that we can operate your PC with the same speed as if we were sitting at your desk! There is virtually no delay.

Having a fast so called Broadband connection, such as DSL, T1 or Cable, will involve a monthly fee. However, if only one of your vendors, such as IMS, can save one trip per month by using this program, the cost of that fast connection has been gained back in savings! In addition there are of course other advantages to having a fast internet connection.

Over 80% of IMS' clients already are using a broadband connection, but there are some who don't - yet. Many people worry over the risk of picking up viruses and worms by being connected on-line. This is a concern. However, there are many



ways to avoid them. So called firewalls, anti-virus software and many others ways exist to make your computer system more secure.

So, start saving on Travel Time charges: Call us to set up a time for us to help you set it up!