The Leading Edge

Adaptive

Open Systems held their annual reseller conference in Minneapolis last week and named Adaptive Business Solutions a **Top 25 Reseller** for the sixth straight year. We could not have done it without the wonderful customers that we have.

Thank you all for helping us at ABS achieve success!

Backup:

By the time you know you need it and don't have it, it's usually too late to perform one...

Protecting Your Data Through Backup

We process data, create word processing, spreadsheet and other documents without much daily thought to loss. How do you know that your data is recoverable in the event of hardware failure or other business catastrophe?

Every computer system should have a data backup on a regular basis. There are many devices available to perform a backup, some of which can be scheduled to back up unattended. The latter will usually log the success or failure of backup upon completion. Do you check your server display or logs to see if a tape is worn out, or backup is incomplete because one tape is no longer sufficient to hold all the files? Are all disks in the network being backed up, or only the server? Do users store files "locally" (on their own PCs) that need to be backed up? If there is a power failure, does the backup schedule reset itself for the next scheduled time, or must it be reset manually? Do you rotate backup media, retaining backups taken just before/after significant events for an extended time? Is at least one full backup stored off-site for recovery in the event of fire or theft? Realizing that a partial backup is of almost no value (since related files must be "in sync"), do you have a complete (second) backup set available if your system should fail in the middle of the backup process itself?

If you have any questions about backup, don't wait until its too late. Call ABS for a review of your backup device and procedures today!

Ad Hoc Reporting

You know that the data needed for reporting exists in your database, but how do you get it out in the form that has been requested? "Ad Hoc" is an adverb meaning "for one particular purpose or situation only". Both OSAS and

File Security

All of today's operating systems can control access to files and databases. Users are granted "rights" to specified folders though login/password. Without such authorization, the user cannot access the folders/files even if the user's PC contains the necessary software to read the file. ABS can assist you in setting up a file security plan on your network if you do not have personnel to do so for you.

OSAS
OPEN SYSTEMS® Accounting Software

Microsoft Certified
Solution Provider

TRAVERSE®

Ad Hoc Reporting (continued)

Traverse have the ability to create single-purpose reports through integration with other tools.

OSAS has both the GENERAL Report Writer and ODBC for such reporting. The OSAS GENERAL Report writer will produce fully-formatted reports or output to files (CSV and fixed-length record). OSAS version 6.5 can output individual statements to comma separated variable (CSV) files.

ODBC provides data to ODBC-compliant software through a common interface. There is usually a less sophisticated output formatting capability since the product performing the ODBC request (Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Crystal Reports and a number of other products) is assumed to be able to address data selection and report formatting requirements.

Because ODBC interface is native in Traverse, no add-on software is required to use the ODBC interface. OSAS requires the ODBC Connection add-on module. With it, users can export data into files and other databases. There is no ongoing connection to the database once the initial export has been accomplished, so the OSAS data represents a "snapshot".

Contact ABS for more information or demonstration of any tools or capabilities mentioned here.

Indiana Local Taxes

Effective July 1, 2004, 89 of the 92 Indiana counties will have a local payroll tax requirement. Twenty of the 89 counties will change rates on that date. Remember that check date, not pay period ending date, determines the income reporting period and applicable tax rate.

Technology Corner: Antivirus Updates

Hardly a day goes by that we don't hear about another "computer virus". Nearly every antivirus product requires a periodic update to the virus dictionary to maintain its ability to recognize and quarantine such new viruses.

An annual subscription fee assures access to such updates, but does not force you to obtain them. In most cases, the update can be downloaded via automated schedule. Depending on the product, deployment may require human intervention. An out-of-date definition file only provides a false sense of protection since it is usually the latest viruses that infect a system, not the older ones.

Make sure that your antivirus product remains capable of intercepting and disabling viruses by subscribing to, downloading and distributing the updates!

eCommerce

eCommerce is the term used to describe web-enabled business. The "shopping cart" model is the most common eCommerce presentation, but certainly not the only form that eCommerce can take. Both OSAS and Traverse have eCommerce capability, ranging from the posting of safeguarded data to business web sites, customer response documents (registration, email, information request, etc.) to the aforementioned shopping cart capability.

ABS has helped several of our clients implement eCommerce on their own web sites. Please let us know if you need our assistance adding eCommerce capability to your site.