SACS Newsletter

SACS

SACS News Letter

By Keith Scott

It has been a while since SACS has put out a newsletter, due to the amount of work created by the changes at HUD. You will begin receiving a newsletter each quarter. This will let you know what is going on at SACS. If you have any suggestions or comments for the newsletter, please send me an e-mail to keith@sacsinc.com

Web Update

Our web page has been redesigned. It is easier to use, and features a searchable knowledge base. You will be able to request and select your own passwords on-line now. The process of granting access, however, will be much faster and can now be completed in minutes. Because of the redesign, your old user id and password are no longer valid. If you have not requested a new user id and password please go to the support page and apply. If you see anything that you would like to have added, please e-mail doug@sacsinc.com.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Programmer's Corner

By Danny Lloyd

Like many of you, we have spent this summer waiting on HUD to release the new HUD-50058 sub-module. As of today, we don't know when HUD plans to move forward with the implementation. I keep checking the form-50058 page to see if there is any new information under quick update. Here is the address to that web page http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/systems/pic/50058/ . As soon as we hear something, we will send e-mail to all of you that are registered for our e-mail service.

While we have been waiting on HUD, your development staff has been busy here completing user program change requests. We have completed 106 changes since the last update was mailed. During this month, we should begin the process of sending out the V4.8 software release. You will be notified as soon as it is ready.

You should have already received a letter advising you that SACS is changing development systems. We have entered into an agreement with AcuCorp, the makers of AcuCobol, to provide our development system and runtimes. I believe that AcuCorp's development tools will allow us to develop a windows based GUI application much faster and easier. It will also allow us to use features that were not available with RMCobol. AcuCorp has been providing development software for over 13 years.

We have converted the SACS Housing Software programs to AcuCobol and are now testing them for proper operation. Our in-house accounting staff are using the new programs now and have not had any problems. You will be receiving another letter from SACS in the coming weeks outlining the steps that are required for conversion. It will take us a couple of months to migrate all of our users to this new system.

One of the features, that this new development system gave us, is the ability to accept responses in upper or lower case. The V4.8 AcuCobol programs will allow the operator to enter "ADD" or "add" when prompted for function. At the same time, use "YES" or "yes" to answer the data ok prompts. This tends to make life easier for everyone.

Continued on the next page.

There are other enhancements, that we will be using in future updates. For right now we are going to make the transition easy, so the programs will look and feel like they have in the past. My development staff and I like this new system and see it as a way to move SACS Housing Software into the future.

Administration/Marketing Corner

By Sherri Blasingame
SACS would like to send a warm WELCOME to the Following Authorities: Wakulla, FL – Cadiz, KY Cario, GA – Pell City, AL – Oneonta, AL – Arab, AL and Washington County, AL. These Authorities have recently started using SACS Housing Software and have had a smooth transition. However, as each of us realize, it is always nice to find a friend along the way and I would encourage you to welcome them to our SACS family and offer any ideas that you have found beneficial.

Technical Support

By Brandon Ingram
On a day-to-day basis, we receive a large number of calls about printers not working. Before calling, please check the following, they may fix your problem: make sure that the printer is on-line or selected, is an adequate supply of paper installed, does the ribbon or toner cartridge need replacing. If you call for support, make sure to tell the technician about any flashing lights on the front of the printer control panel.

It is a good idea to follow the checklists provided with the software. These are updated with each software release and can be printed by pressing the F9 key from any SACS menu screen. When you call for support, we may ask you what step in the processing sequence, that you are having trouble with. It will assist the support staff if you can provide this information.

Many of you are upgrading your computer systems to the latest technology. Please remember that you need to make sure that SACS can dial into the machine that has the tape drive. This will give our support technicians the ability to assist you with restores.

As a reminder to everyone, you should be doing a backup daily, one day per tape. We also recommend that you make another backup at the end of the month on a different tape.

New Employee's

We welcome these new employees to the SACS family: Allison Whitehead, Programmer; Danny Sinclair, Jimmy Martin, Nancy Gordon, Ken Peters, Grant Dark, JR Jones, Shane Bolt, Mark Worthy Technicians; and Doug Johnson, Administrative Assistant.

All personnel e-mail addresses can be found on the SACS Home page at *http://www.sacsinc.com*.

Annual User Meeting

By Keith Scott
The User Meeting for 2001 was a success. We had 435 people to attend from agencies all over the southeast. During the 2 days of the conference, we covered a lot of material on SACS Housing Software. This meeting also provided a forum for agencies to exchange ideas. I have reviewed your evaluation forms, and will use them to enhance and improve next years meeting. I would also like to thank the 2001 User Meeting Committee for the great job they did in preparing for the meeting.

SACS 2002 User Meeting

We are now preparing for the 2002 User Meeting. This meeting will be April 24 & 25, 2002 at the Sheraton in Birmingham, Alabama. To make your reservations now, you can call 1-800-325-3535 or 205-324-5000. Please tell them you are registering for the SACS User Meeting. We will be sending additional information later this year. We are looking forward to next years meeting.

2002 User Committee Members

The following users have agreed to serve on the User Committee for 2002. If you have any ideas for the meeting, please let us know or contact one of the following people.

Cathy Wood	**Sylacauga Housing**
Janet Eustis	**Dora Housing**
Mary Allen	**Warner Robins Housing**
Ann Rasco	**Columbiana Housing**
Shaundra Clark	**Tifton Housing**
Katherine Sapp	**Albany Housing**
Ellen Smith	**Bristol Housing**
Brenda Bice Smith	**Anniston Housing**
Sara Collins	**Milton Housing**
James Craft	**Mississippi Region 8**
Susan Leger-Boike	**Cordele Housing Authority**
Nichol Bailey	**Dublin Housing Authority**
Dannie Duke	**Warner Robins HA**
Frances Nicholes	**Montgomery Housing**
Julie Drinker	**Selma Housing Authority**
Lynn Daniels	**Dublin Housing Authority**
Thea Green	**East Point Housing Authority**
Sam Beck	**Clayton Housing Authority**
Greg Butts	**Winder Housing Authority**

This year's committee meeting has been scheduled for Dec. 12th. We encourage all committee members to try to attend this meeting.

Purchasing

By Kevin Scott
SACS is not only your first choice for Custom Housing Software, we are also a premier reseller of PC's, printers and computer accessories. Please contact Kevin @ 256-329-1205 ext.110 for pricing information. To place an order, please contact Kevin, Keith or Sherri