2010 SACS User Conference

The SACS User Committee met on September 9th to plan the 2010 User Conference. With their hard work, we have the agenda ready. Registration forms and class outlines were mailed on October 1st. Do not forget, if your conference registration is paid by the end of November, you will receive a 10% discount for each registration. You can also find conference information on our website at www.sacsinc.com/conference.

We are excited about the 2010 conference. It will be a time for training, exchanging ideas, and learning about our latest software enhancements.

If you haven't received your registration packet or if you need assistance with registration or hotel reservations, please give us a call.

SACS ShowMeHow™

Our technical support department has a new tool for helping customers. SACS ShowMeHow™ uses the latest computer remote access technology. It allows our technicians to quickly access your system.

With this technology, you can see what the technician is doing. This allows our technicians to *show you how* to complete a procedure or view a problem. When needed, our technicians will direct to you to remote.sacsinc.com to start a screen sharing session.

Welcome Aboard

Please join us in welcoming our latest SACS Users:

Beaufort Housing Authority	Beaufort, NC
Shelby County Housing Authority	Memphis, TN
Tuskegee Housing Authority	Tuskegee, AL
Warrenton Housing Authority	Warrenton, GA
Harlem Housing Authority	Harlem, GA

Serving the public housing industry for 40 years.
http://www.sacsinc.com

SACS Applicant Inquiry

SACS Applicant Inquiry was released in August. It is a productivity tool that allows you to quickly search the PIC database for a housed family member.

You can perform this check without having to leave the SACS menu. This fraud reducing step has not been used by many agencies because of the amount of time it takes to access the PIC system.   Access to this valuable information is now just a click away.

Contract Management

Our developers are working on a new Contract Management module. This module will interface with Accounts Payable and allow you to track bids and contracts all the way through to payment. If this is something that you would like to use, please let us know. We would like to include your suggestions and requirements during the design phase.

Our next beta release will include changes to the Purchase Requisition and Purchase Order programs. These changes will implement departments and email notifications. They will work with the new Contract Management system.

Protect Your Data Assets

Performing a backup is one of the most important tasks that you do each day. This insures the safety of your valuable data. Daily backups to removable media along with off-site storage are the beginning of a good data protection strategy.

Routine testing of your backups is also vital.   When a restore is required, you do not want to discover that the backup has not been working properly or was not backing up the correct folders.

SACS Classic users should backup the AcuCorp and Housing folders. SACS Net customers should backup the DatabaseBackup folder, along with the Letters folder.

You may also have other valuable data that needs to be backed up. Do not forget your personal letters, emails and spreadsheets. These should be included in your data protection strategy.

Keeping Your System Secure

It is good practice to routinely change your workstation and server passwords. SACS recommends that you use a combination of letters and numbers for passwords. Simple passwords can be guessed by hackers. This can unknowingly lead to unauthorized access to your system.

SACS.Net Build 3507 New Features

SACS.Net build 3507 contains a number of new features that are not enabled by default. In order to access these new features, your system administrator will need to give the appropriate employees access to the items on the menu.

Here is a brief list of the enhancements:

- Added 120 day aging fields for the rent, retro, excess and other balance fields.
- Added a Pet tab for recording pet information. Users can now record information about each pet along with the pet's picture.
- SACS Applicant Inquiry – Added a new program that will allow users to enter an applicant's SSN and find out if the applicant is housed at another housing authority. The program uses the PIC HA Query subsystem for its data source. Users will need to use the setup screen to enter their HUD identifier and password. This program is located on the HUD-50058 Processing Menu.
- Salary Change / Salary Increase – The system now supports future pay changes. Changes made in these programs, for a future date, will not be posted immediately to an employee's record. The Pre-Posting program will now look for pending pay changes and implement those based on the effective date entered in the Personnel system. A pending pay change that occurs during the middle of a pay period will be active for the entire pay period.

If you do not see these items on your menu, ask your system administrator for access. If you are a system administrator and need help with setting up and maintaining user access, please contact technical support at (256) 329-2646.

Our developers release beta versions of their changes every two to three weeks. If you are interested in being a beta test site, please send an email to Grant Dark, grant@sacsinc.com.

Next Software Release

The next full software release is scheduled for November. We are completing the final beta tests now.

Windows 7

Microsoft's *Windows 7* operating system was released on October 22nd. Windows 7 contains a number of new features and is considered a big improvement over Windows Vista.

Companies worldwide have been reluctant to adopt Windows Vista. We have found that sentiment among our customers also. Windows 7 addresses many of the issues that kept businesses from adopting Vista.

You can purchase Windows 7 as an upgrade or preinstalled on a new computer. We believe that most customers will purchase it on a new computer.

Windows 7 comes in several different versions. Each version contains different features which appeal to home or business users. We recommend the Professional edition.

Windows Vista users can upgrade to Windows 7. You must have service pack 1 installed before performing the upgrade. For XP users, the upgrade is not so simple. It requires a clean install, which means that all software must be reloaded. Older XP computers may not run Windows 7 due to hardware and driver incompatibility.

Several customers have already asked about upgrade and compatibly. Our applications are compatible with Windows 7.

Employee Spotlight

Cody Cheatham, Technician

Cody has been with SACS since October of 2007. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Faulkner University. He is a traveling technician specializing in software training and new software installations. At 25 years of age, he is one of our young and rising stars.