SACS News

News and information from SACS Software

Product Spotlight

SACS Investigator

SACS Investigator is a full featured background add-in for SACS Housing Software. Easily perform secure tenant screening and background checks from within SACS Housing Software. There is no need to rekey applicant information in another system.

When your background check is complete, you receive an email and view the results in SACS Housing Software. It cannot be any easier.

SACS Investigator is priced for anyone's budget. There is no monthly contract, no monthly minimum, you simply pay for what you order.

SACS Remote Backup

The most valuable asset that your agency owns is your data. The SACS Remote Backup service will automatically backup your database files to our data center.

Your data is encrypted and securely stored for 30 days. In the event of data loss, your data can be restored.

Contents

SACS Notes

By Keith Scott

As we look back on 2015 and forward to 2016 and beyond, we have to acknowledge the support of our customers. You continue to push us to new heights. We are starting this year with more customers. You will see a list of those on page 3. All of you have learned the value of SACS Housing Software.

We are preparing now for the 2016 state and national conferences. Our sales staff will be out in force showing off SACS Housing Software. Please take time to come by our booth. We will be glad to show you the latest software enhancements.

I am happy to announce that the next release of SACS Housing Software will support credit and debit card processing. We have received a number of inquires asking about the ability to process credit and debit cards.

Our solution integrates credit and debit card processing into Payments and Charges. This seamless solution allows agencies to begin taking credit and debit cards. If you are interested in this service, please contact SACS Sales at sales@sacssoftware.com

Microsoft Releases Windows 10

Microsoft released Windows 10 on July 29, 2015. This is a free upgrade for Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 users. Many of our customers have taken advantage of this free update. We are happy to report that SACS Housing Software works great with this version of Windows.

This free upgrade will expire on July 28, 2016. After this date, you will be required to pay for the Windows 10 upgrade. We are encouraging customers to upgrade while it is free. Microsoft is committed to keeping Windows 10 updated for the life of your computer.

The upgrade takes approximately 1 hour. If you need assistance, contact SACS Sales to schedule an upgrade appointment.

Build 5815 Highlights

SACS Software Build 5815 was released on 12/3/15. Listed below are some highlights from this release.

After installing this update, you can view the full release notes from the SACS Main Menu by clicking Help then Release Notes.

Tenants Over Income Limit
A new report has been added to allow agencies to easily identify families that are over income limits.

Advanced Search
The applicant and tenant search screens now have an advanced search option. This option allows users to easily filter the search results.

Tenant Leases
You can now have different leases for each authority number.

Application Listing
The report's name has been changed to Waiting List.

Accounts Payable Payments
The new Payments Receiving program can be used to receive checks from vendors.

Payroll ACA Enhancements
A number of enhancements were made to the Payroll module to support the new ACA reporting requirements.

Developer's Corner

By Danny Lloyd

Our developers spent a lot of time during the last quarter of 2015 working on changes for the new ACA reporting requirements. Our technical support staff also answered a large number of calls. We appreciate your patience as we all figure out this new requirement. Now that we have the first year out of the way, reporting for the 2016 tax year should be easier.

As announced on the cover page, SACS Software now supports taking debit and credit cards. This capability is integrated into Payments and Charges. When you take a payment, the payment terminal will automatically show the amount that will be charged. Contact SACS Sales for more information on this new feature.

The next software release removes the requirement to have Microsoft Word installed on every end-user computer. Microsoft Word was required to print all of our letters and leases.

An option has been added that will allow you to view all letters and leases as PDF documents. You will still need Microsoft Word if you want to modify the source Word documents.

We are working on changes in the Inspection system to make it more responsive. Look for changes that will allow you to have different letters based on the inspection type.

We are continuing to make changes to address Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) requirements. For those of you using PBRA, we have completed work to tie Section 8 and Conventional Housing together. This will allow the Section 8 system to update the rent information to Conventional Housing.

We have a number of enhancements planned for 2016. Make sure you are receiving our SACS News Flash emails.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and input. Send your suggestions to changerequest@sacssoftware.com.

Tech Tips

By Mark Worthy

We have found that many of our customers are not using our batch report printing capability in Conventional Housing and Section 8. Batch printing allows you to specify the letters, leases and other documents that should be printed during move-in, reexam, and move outs.

You can configure different letters, leases and other documents based on the type of action being processed.

These actions include applicant, move in, interim reexam, annual reexam, transfers, and move out.

Batch printing insures that you print or store in Document Manager all of the forms needed for the action being processed. This eliminates the need to remember all of the different documents needed for each action.

If you are not using this capability, give us a call. We will be glad to help you setup batch printing.

Welcome New Customers!

SACS continues to grow. Please welcome our newest customers! We now serve 362 housing authorities in 17 states.

- Parkersburg Housing Authority — Parkersburg, VA
- The City of Thibodaux — Thibodaux, LA
- The Housing Authority Queen Anne's County — Centreville, MD
- Tallulah Housing Authority — Tallulah, LA
- Paris Housing Authority — Paris, AR
- Columbiana County Housing — Lake City, FL
- Oak Ridge Housing Authority — Oak Ridge, TN
- Easley Housing Authority — Easley, SC
- Regional LCM Housing Authority — Hartselle, AL
- Boone County Housing Authority — Columbia, MO
- Boone County Housing Authority — Burlington, KY
- City of Richmond Housing Authority — Richmond, KY
- Murfreesboro Housing Authority — Murfreesboro, TN
- Berea Housing Authority — Berea, KY
- Four Square Community Action, Inc. — Andrews, NC
- Cleveland Housing Authority — Cleveland, TN
- Breaux Bridge Housing — Breaux Bridge, LA

More and more housing agencies are learning about the SACS Advantage ™ . We appreciate you sharing your experience with SACS Housing Software with the authorities in your area.

We grow our business with the success of one customer at a time.

Virus Alert!

Several of our customers have recently been attacked with crypto viruses. These viruses are commonly called ransom ware. They encrypt all of the affected user's Word, Excel and PDF documents. A message is displayed asking the user to send money to get the documents unencrypted.

We have found that this virus comes through emails. Simply opening an attachment infects the computer. At this time, there is no way to decrypt the destroyed documents. Paying the ransom is not advised. The only recourse is to restore the documents from backup.

In some cases, anti-virus software will catch and delete these viruses. In other cases, even with up-to-date anti-virus software, they still get through. We recommend that you do the following:

1. Be aware that emails can contain viruses.
2. Do not open emails with attachments from someone you do not know.
3. Never open an attachment unless you are expecting something from that person.
4. Make sure that all computers have up-to-date anti-virus software.
5. Perform routine backups of your entire computer and/or your documents.

We cannot over emphasize the need for routine backups. They are the only way to insure that your valuable documents can be restored.