



COMPUTER CHRONICLES

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A newsletter of NMPP Energy and Salt Creek Software



New options for 2007 Utility Billing

There is one new module and one modified module for Utility Billing 2007 program that users may find helpful.

Budget Amounts

Budget Amounts is a new Utility Billing maintenance option.

To access the option, click on File - Menu Editor - User's to add it to your menu options.

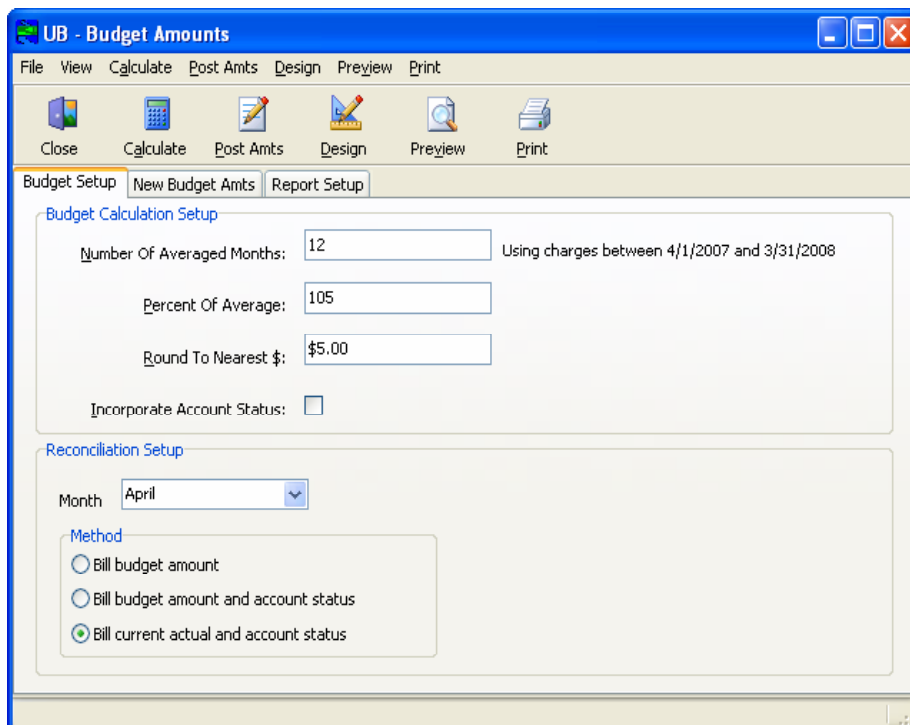
The module is used to calculate, edit, generate form letters, and report on new budget amounts before they are posted to your customer records.

This module is also used to determine the amount to bill budget customers during the budget reconciliation month

Compute Charges module includes budget reconciliation

The Compute Charges module has been modified to reconcile budget customer's balances owed for a month of your choosing or through a method of your choosing. To reconcile by month, select "Month" to reconcile budget customer's actual charges and payments.

If the reconciliation month is not set to none, then select one of three methods to determine how budget



customers should be billed during the reconciliation month:

- Bill budget amount - simply bills whatever is entered for the customer's budget amount. If you want to bill the new budget amount, be sure you have posted the new budget amounts to update the customer records.

- Bill budget amount and account status - bills the customer's current budget amount plus or minus their current account status.

- Bill current actual and account status - bills the customer's current month's actual charges plus or minus their current account status.

Value Support Plan ensures users of newest software



The response for enrolling in the PowerManager® Value Support Plan has been excellent. For those who are in the plan, it ensures always having the current software version with new features as soon as it is available.

CheckVantage offers check processing service

PowerManager® software users may be interested in services provided by CheckVantage, a provider of a seamless electronic check processing solution for your municipality specifically in the field of mailed-in remittances. The services provided by CheckVantage are compatible with PowerManager® software.

CheckVantage eliminates the need to post your payments manually, which drastically improves the efficiency and productivity for your municipality.

Eliminating the tedious task of posting and depositing money adds up to more hours spent taking care of other tasks.

To set up an online demonstration, contact Stephanie Searcey at (913) 207-8717 or steph@checkvantage.com.

What's new for 2008?

Cash register module in the works

One of the additions to the PowerManager® lineup for 2008 is a new cash register module. This module is used to enter all payments you receive, regardless of what is being paid for. The module may be used with a cash drawer or simply used for batch payment entry.

Features

- Support for cash drawers and customer receipt printers;
- Support for multiple drawers and multiple payment entry operators;
- Integrated with PowerManager's® Utility Billing and Accounts Receivable modules;
- UB and AR customer number, name, and amount owed lookup;
- Cash drawer editing - fix problems before payments are posted to customers;
- Cash drawer balancing before payments are posted to customer accounts;
- Option to print both customer and utility receipts;
- Variety of reports – deposits, balancing, drawer history, and payments by destination and type;
- Ability to export payment data to a file;
- User-defined payment export destinations (UB, AR, other);
- User-defined payment types (cash, check, charge, etc.);
- User-defined payment entry operator codes;
- User-defined amount of cash register history.

PowerManager® Problem Solving 101

The scoop in resolving “suspicious dates” pop-up window

Recently, we have received a number of calls regarding a message that pops up in parts of the Utility Billing module. The message indicates a particular date appears suspicious and asks if it is OK to use the date.

This is something new that was added to Utility Billing in 2007 to minimize the chances that transactions and/or meter readings will be posted to dates that are either too far in the past or too far into the future.

Why does it inform you that today's date appears suspicious? Because today's date does not fall within the range of valid posting

dates. Along with checking for suspicious dates, the idea of a range of valid posting dates was implemented in PowerManager® 2007. This range of dates can be found and edited in two places:

• **File | Company Information** – go to the Utility Billing tab. You will find the fields Earliest Valid Posting Date and Latest Valid Posting Date. You may edit either of the dates here.

• **Utility Billing | Processing | Finalize Bills** – near the bottom of the Finalize Bills form there is a section titled Valid Posting Dates Fall Between. This section contains the same Earliest Valid Posting Date and

Latest Valid Posting Date fields that are found on the Utility Billing tab in Company Information. Additionally, there are two larger buttons on the right edge of this section. These buttons allow you to bump both dates up or down one month. The idea of placing the section on the Finalize Bills form was that after finalizing bills, you would bump the dates up one month.

Typically, the Earliest Valid Posting Date would be set to the first day of the month prior to the current month and the Latest Valid Posting Date would be set to the last day of the month following the current month.

Need to contact us?

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