



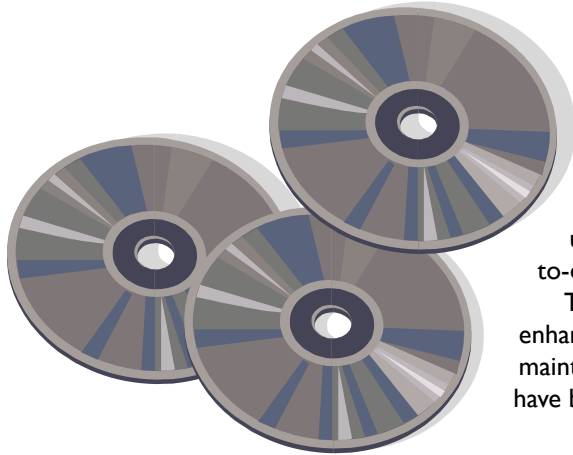
# COMPUTER CHRONICLES

Sept. 2008

A newsletter of NMPP Energy and Salt Creek Software



## CD 2008 updates will be coming out soon



The PowerManager® 2008 updates will be distributed soon in the form of a compact disc. The CD release is part of the Value Support Plan, an ongoing effort to keep PowerManager® users current with the most up-to-date software available.

The CD contains all the enhancements, additions and maintenance programming that have been done since last year's

CD distribution. A list of all the enhancements and additions as well as all features will be included with your CD packet.

A Cash Register module was added with the ability to use a cash drawer and receipt writer. The module allows users to download PC payments to the Utility Billing, General Ledger and Accounts Receivable programs. Also, a sample budget customer letter has been added to the generic reports.

## 19th annual PMUG Conference set Sept. 17-19

The 19th annual PowerManager® Users Group (PMUG) Conference is scheduled for Sept. 17-19, 2008. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites, Minneapolis Airport, 7901 34th Avenue South, Bloomington, Minn.

A great conference program is being planned.

Mitch Mullins of Salt Creek Software will serve as the main instructor for the conference along with help from Salt Creek Software's Stan Reinke and PowerManager® Business Coordinator Lana Claycomb.

A round table discussion is set on all topics related to PowerManager® software as well as some topics not related to PowerManager®.

### 2008 PMUG Conference

Registration forms for the 2008 PowerManager® Users Group Conference have been sent out. If you need more information, contact Bonnie Hayes at (763) 746-0707. Remember to bring your laptop computer and favorite forms and reports to share!

The conference will also feature:

- What's New in PowerManager® CD 2008;
- The new Cash Register program;

- Tips and Tricks covering all applications;
- Report Builder;
- What's New in PowerManager® CD 2008.

Perhaps most importantly, the conference will include networking opportunities with PMUG users. This has proved to be a helpful conference over the years for the users of PowerManager® software. We expect more of the same type of camaraderie and information sharing for this year's conference.

Conference participants are encouraged to bring their laptop computers and any favorite forms or reports to share with other conference participants.

We hope to see you there!



### Upcoming Event

### 16th Annual Refresher Course

Week of Oct. 20 • Locations TBD

## Having a solid backup plan now avoids headaches later

You make backups, right?

Hopefully, you make backups every night before you go home, take the backup home for off-site storage and bring back the tape you had at home the next day.

You're confident you have a backup plan for the worst-case scenario. But, do you have a backup of the information you really need?

We recently talked with a town clerk whose hard disk crashed. In restoring the backup, it was found they had all sorts of files backed up, but no PowerManager data. That folder was not on the tape. Fortunately for them, they were able to recover the data from the failed hard disk.

If you have an old computer sitting around, why not take the time to restore a backup to the old computer, just to make sure you have everything on the backup to run your business. The old machine may be old and slow, but it could save you weeks of work if you find some critical files are missing from your backups.

Make it part of your annual disaster recovery program to verify you could quickly start from a new computer in case the worst happens.

## Consider compatibility issues when purchasing new hardware, software

You've been given the go-ahead in purchasing a new computer for your office along with a new handheld device for reading meters.

You painstakingly do the research of what equipment will meet your needs and make sure the price is within budget.

Before you pull the trigger on a new technology purchase, there's one more vital thing that needs to be considered: Check for software compatibility issues.

There's nothing more frustrating than finding out after you've purchased new software or hardware that it isn't compatible

with the other equipment or software you use.

A good example is Microsoft's Vista operating system. A PowerManager® user recently purchased a handheld device and a new computer loaded with Microsoft Vista and later discovered the handheld device was not compatible with Vista.

PowerManager® software is compatible with Vista, but your handheld devices may not be. Whether it's Vista or any other off-the-shelf software program, follow the rule that it's better to be safe by checking at the time of purchase than being sorry afterward.

## Web site provides Q&A section for users

The PowerManager® Web site members' section is an informational tool in learning about individual programs or in finding answers to questions you might have.

The members' section includes a list of Frequently Asked Questions and the opportunity to ask questions that will be answered by Salt Creek Software staff. The answers that could be beneficial to all PowerManager®

users will be posted, giving users a chance to learn as much as possible about their respective programs.

If there is anything else you'd like to see on the Web site, please contact Lana Claycomb at (800) 234-2595.

Users will be provided a password to gain access. To obtain a password, contact Lana Claycomb at (800) 234-2595.



### Tips and Tricks

#### Printing efficiency

To make your printer toner or cartridge last longer, change your printer settings to "quick print."

The option can be found by going to your control panel, clicking on printers and then selecting the printer preferences. Most printers have various levels of print quality. By choosing a lower level of print quality for everyday printing, you can save money by extending the life of your toner/cartridge.

**Need to  
contact us?**

[www.powermanagerplus.com](http://www.powermanagerplus.com)



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