COMPUTER CHRONICLES

PowerManager®

nmpp ENERGY Salt Creek Software, Inc.

Our goal: Providing the highest quality software and service

I've been involved with all aspects of PowerManager since its beginnings in 1983. This includes programming, documentation, customer support, installations, conferences, refresher classes, and on premise training.

As co-owner and president of Salt Creek Software my goal is to provide the highest quality software and support possible.

My wife of 32 years, Pam, teaches 1st grade. My daughter Mikhaela lives in Denver and works for Denver Urban Gardens. My son Spencer lives in Lincoln and is a chef at Talent Plus. Pam and I share our house

Mitch Mullins

with two dogs, Gunner an English Setter, and Lily a German Shorthair Pointer.

I enjoy bowling, cooking, hunting, fishing, and riding and working on motorcycles.

Upcoming Events

Refresher & Training Courses
• **Session 1 – North Platte, Neb. (Oct. 10-12)**
• **Session 2 – Lincoln, Neb. (Oct. 18-20)**

This year's three-day sessions include a refresher course on the first day for experienced users. New features for 2017 PowerManager will be discussed followed by a Q&A discussion for each program. Days 2 and 3 include training on each program with a focus on beginner users.

Registration forms were emailed in late August. If you need another form emailed, please contact Nicole Kubik (nkubik@nmppenergy.org). The registration form includes discounted room rates and contact information for hotels for each session. Space is limited to 30 seats per day so make your reservation as soon as possible. Registration deadline is Oct. 4. Contact Amber Degner (adegner@nmppeenrgy.org) or (800) 234-2595 with questions.

PMUG Annual Conference
September 20-22, 2017
Best Western Hotel,
Bloomington, Minn.
(Mall of America)

The annual PowerManager Users' Group Conference is an opportunity to meet with the developers of the PowerManager software. They will review what's new, go over the many components of PowerManager and gather ideas for future program improvements. The conference is a great opportunity to visit with other users to share how to's and get answers to questions you may have and even some you didn't realize you had. For more information, contact Rita Kelly, director of administration, Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association, at rkelly@mmua.org.

Be safe, not sorry: Backup your files regularly!

There are horror stories: hard drives crashing, offices burning, tornadoes destroying, flood waters rising. Be prepared – create a backup of your PowerManager files today! Create a backup with these simple steps:

1) Login to PowerManager
2) Click on "File"
3) Click on "Backup"
4) Select your company name
5) Check box: Add date to file name

Saving your backup to a USB drive is a good destination. Contact Nicole (nkubik@nmppenergy.org) if you need assistance with your backup.

PowerManager®
User Spotlight

Name: Chris Rodman
Title: City Clerk
City: Wall Lake, Iowa

What are you paid to do? I like to say whatever one of my 800 bosses asks me to do, but really the city clerk is the leader of the employees in Wall Lake. Along with the normal tasks performed by the city clerk, I prioritize the many tasks for our employees and work with department heads to provide planning for our utilities. Also I write grants for projects we are trying to complete.

What PowerManager program(s) do you use? Accounting, Payroll, Billing,

If you weren't in your current job, what would you do? Couple of things interest me. I love to write grants that tell a story and I am interested in business so I would probably own my own business writing grants for small cities.

Where were you born/raised? Born in Armstrong Iowa, and raised here in Wall Lake.

Biggest pet peeve? Not doing what you said you would.

One food I can't resist is... chocolate brownies, pork chops, cheesy potatoes, peanut butter pancakes, chocolate ice cream, nachos — obviously I can't pick one.

My favorite show to binge-watch is... Friends.

People would be surprised to know that... I teach Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) for my church.

The best advice I have ever received is... I read a book called "How to Win Friends and Influence People". It is amazing what you can ask people to do when they believe you have their best interest in mind.

The best part of my job is... helping people — mad or sad or happy, I like to help them all.

Two committees serve PowerManager software users by providing a forum for input and discussion as well as reviewing potential PowerManager services.

Computer Services Review Committee

The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool recently appointed its Computer Services Review Committee. Committee members are:

Nancy Bryan	Stromsburg, Neb.
Kellie Crowell	Ravenna, Neb.
Lanette Doane	Ansley, Neb.
Stephanie James	Wisner, Neb.
Karla Rader	Cozad, Neb.
Pam Rasmussen	Gibbon, Neb.
Mary tenBensel	Arapahoe, Neb.
Kari Wilson	Haxtun, Colo.
Nicole Kubik	NMPP Energy
Mitch Mullins	Salt Creek Software

The committee reviews PowerManager® software program requests from software users and assists in providing input and recommendations on software upgrades and improvements.

PMUG Steering Committee

The PowerManager Users Group (PMUG) Steering Committee will hold elections at its September PMUG Annual Conference. Current members include:

Laurie Oelke	Blue Earth, Minn.
Kristin Beck	Spring Valley, Minn.
Debbie Boyer	Sauk Centre, Minn.
Debra Ebner	Preston, Minn.
Chris Hart	Delano, Minn.
Peg Japenga	Sanborn, Iowa
Kathy Ohman	Princeton, Minn.
Jon Panfil	Traer, Iowa
Lynne Rice	Tell City, Ind.
Kari Woodard	Coon Rapids, Iowa
Rita Kelly	MMUA
Nicole Kubik	NMPP Energy
Mitch Mullins	Salt Creek Software

The Steering Committee serves as a forum for input regarding PowerManager software. If you are interested in joining the PMUG committee, contact Rita Kelly (rkelly@mmua.org).

Budget Billing Overview

By Mitch Mullins

PowerManager® allows you to bill customers a set monthly budget amount in lieu of their actual charges. The underlying idea is customers pay more than actual charges during low usage months and less than actual charges during high usage months. The budget billing option allows customers to know the amount of their utility bill in advance and it avoids large monthly bill fluctuations.

Each customer's budget amount is calculated based on an average of their actual past charges. The average is based on a number of months of your choosing. Each type of service allows you to enter a percentage of that service's average. Typically these percentages are between 100 and 105. Finally, the budget amount is rounded up or down to a dollar increment of your choosing. Alternatively you may enter your own value for a customer's budget amount. Leaving the customer budget amount at $0.00 indicates the customer is not on a budget plan.

PowerManager includes several options for an annual budget customer reconciliation. These options include simply billing a new budget amount, or billing actual charges plus or minus the account status. Letters may be produced for your budget customers to advise them of their new budget amounts prior to the next billing cycle. If you have Utility Billing interfaced with Accounts Payable, refund checks may be automatically generated for budget customers with credit account status values.
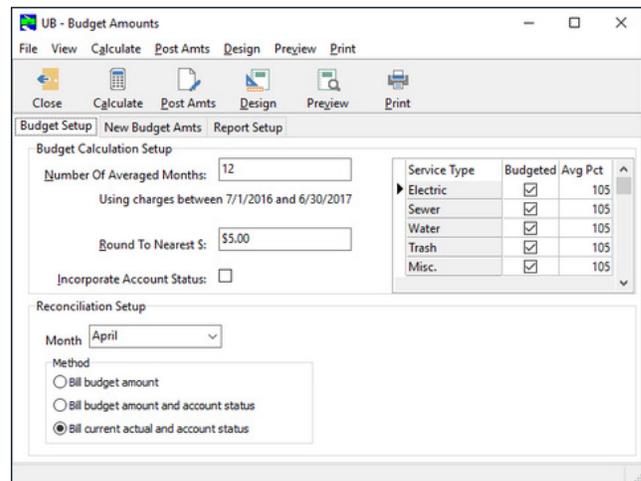
Customer bills are printed with the current month's charges, an account status value (the difference between actual and budget amounts over time), and the budget amount owed. Budget billing is a popular option for customers that have their utility bills paid directly from their bank accounts.

Late payment penalties consider if the customer has been paying their monthly budget amount in a timely manner. Budget customers are expected to make a monthly payment even if they have a credit account status. Setup does allow budget customers to be ignored when determining past due customers.

Accounts receivable reports include both budget amounts and account status values to assist you when reviewing budget customer balances owed.

Adjustments has a section to allow editing of budget charges and payments.

PowerManager Partners

Bill Flash
Billing and payment services
www.billflash.com

Invoice Cloud
E-payments and Electronic Bill Presentment and Payment
www.invoicecloud.net

NeonLink
Online bill pay, printing/mailing, paperless
www.neonlink.com/powermanager