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Custodian

MSS Custodian gathers momentum as new and existing clients identify potential cost savings.

Custodian products have been well received in both the Commercial and Health sector markets and MSS continues to further enhance the functionality of these products.

MSS is pleased to announce that it has expanded its connectivity and data storage options to include the following databases:

DB2

Sybase

Oracle

MS SQL

MS Access

My SQL

MSS development policy for open interface architecture now actively supports the Linux 'Open Source' platform.

Major enhancements regarding bar code processing and printing has been introduced.

MSS development strategy extends the system to include Purchasing and Creditors authorisation imaging and flow.

Custodian *i*

The Business Intelligence module is has been enhanced in response to client requests. Database updating routines are based on user defined data category views.

Additional enhancements assist when exporting views into Excel spreadsheets.

Custodian *r*

MSS is proud to present our Custodian Remote Ordering Software.

After more than two years of Beta testing on the latest application, Custodian *r* (remote ordering) has been completed and is ready for distribution.

This PDA system is based on the Microsoft Pocket PC and provides for an interface to ERP order processing systems. This opens up many possibilities in the use of a handheld PC within an organisation, e.g. stock counting, asset audits etc.

An Internet B2B system has also been successfully installed enabling both order receipts and immediate confirmation returns to source. A confirmation order is returned immediately after stock validation and credit checking routines have been completed.

Custodian *u*

MSS has added utility products to the product list. These include:

Custodian Document Maker

This allows for Word documents to be designed with direct access to IBM iSeries data files.

Custodian *ftp*

Custodian FTP is a user friendly program which allows the user to perform FTP functions by simply clicking a button.

IBM iSeries Object Distribution

This automates the distribution of IBM iSeries libraries and files to and from remote sites.

Custodian *omr*

Optical Mark Recognition is now available. This system identifies tick box marked forms for automated database storage.

AS/400 GENERAL ENHANCEMENTS

Interface Control

Interface control has been introduced. This enhancement provides source transaction drill down capability, which facilitates the explosion of summary postings into source transaction for enquiries. This enhancement is provided free of charge to all customers with annual maintenance agreements. For each interface an interface number is generated. For each interface a "from system" and a "system " record is generated. Interface records remain on the system until the interface has been fully processed and a month-end for both systems have been completed.

Interface reversal

Interfaces can now be reversed after the system has done the necessary checks.

For additional documentation regarding the interface control and reversal options contact the MSS Support team at Sales@mss-group.co.za.

Direct Updating

Direct updating allows for AS/400 data files to directly update information onto a PC database.

Upload of Excel spreadsheets to GL

With a very simple format, General Ledger journals can be entered onto a spreadsheet and then uploaded directly onto the MSS General Ledger. Statistical information can also be uploaded from Excel using this option. Security checking, account validation and balancing is carried out directly from the PC before an upload is processed. This PC based software is provided free of charge to all customers with MSS annual maintenance agreements.

Parameterised printing

The parameter settings to automate the choice between batch and interactive printing has now been extended to include all selection screens.

Cash Book

Standard transactions may now be captured in the Cash Book system. At month end, the dates and periods on the standard transactions will automatically increment the month by one.

Cash Book now caters for EFT payments.

The interface of debtor receipts to Cash Book now writes individual records from the interface file to Cash Book as the accumulation has already been done in the Debtor system.

The General Ledger enquiry now caters for a drill down to the related Cash Book transactions and allocation values that have been interfaced to General Ledger.

Interface control records are created for interfaces to Creditors, Debtors and General Ledger.

Creditors

Custodian CX has been enabled via the creditors system. Original Supplier documents may be scanned either prior to processing in batch mode or during

processing. A command key passes index information from the transaction screen to Custodian CX for indexing of the stored images. A function key has been introduced to enable PC users to view previously scanned images of supplier documents (e.g. invoices) without leaving the AS400 transaction input program.

Interface control records are created for interfaces to Cash Book and General Ledger.

The General Ledger enquiry now caters for a drill down to the related Creditors expenses or cheque transactions, which have been interfaced, to General Ledger. If the invoice (expense) is a Purchase Order invoice, the user can drill down further to display the Purchase order invoice together with the associated GRV and Order.

Posted batches can now be reversed under password control.

Debtors

AS400 printed documents may now be e-mailed or faxed using the Custodian FLY (a Custodian subsystem). This program will take copied spool files such statements and invoices and automatically burn the text onto stored images(overlays) or blank forms.

The e-mail address has been increased to 40 characters in the Debtors Master File.

Users preferring a Windows Graphical User Interface (GUI) share the same data files as those using a character based interface and there are no implications for non-PC users.

Interface control records are created for interfaces to Cash Book and General Ledger.

Price and promotion enquiries can now be accessed via MSS Debtors system.

Ten additional names and dates have been included in the Debtor Master Marketing file for customer specific information..

Additional credit control functionality has been delivered where a parameter on the debtors master record can be set to allow orders to be entered so that they will be placed on credit hold regardless of normal credit check validation.

The interface of Debtor receipts to Cash Book has been changed to interface the total of Open Item receipts per document, rather than the individual receipt values.

A drill down has been provided from the General Ledger enquiry to display debtor monthly transactions associated with that interface ID.

Posted batches can be reversed.

Executive Information/Business Intelligence

An additional drill down function has been created to display sales value by depot.

The EI system now allows certain categories to be broken down into sub-categories, with sub-category totals being held in different elements to the category total in the summary files. A sub-category is a defined field in the database (e.g. supplier, product group). Specific values of the field may be selected and grouped together in the summary files. The sub-category totals are updated at the same time as the overall category total.

The system now caters for different subsystems for different file groups when scheduling tasks.

Fixed Assets

Provided a drill down window on for asset interfaces to General Ledger .

General Ledger

The General Ledger system now caters for importing '.csv' type files for transaction input. Transactions can be entered in Excel and then uploaded to the MSS General Ledger System. This Utility is provided free of charge to all MSS clients who have an annual maintenance contract with MSS.

VIP Payroll information can now be imported into the MSS General Ledger.

All interfaces now have an associated interface number. It is easy to view the origin of each interface. Interfaces can also be reversed and rerun. This is subject to password control.

A drill down facility has been implemented which allows the user to drill down into transactions in the general ledger system to view the original source document.

All changes made to batches are written to the batch history file.

Inventory

Numerous printer queues and properties can now be set up per user per document type

A Stock to General Ledger interface for issues, receipt, and adjustments are now available.

Existing interface programs and files have been amended to function via the new interface control procedures for interfaces to General Ledger.

Receipt, issue and adjustment processing in the Inventory system now cater for serial number and lot/batch number processing. All serial numbers related to a product can be displayed on the screen.

An option to partially receive products from goods in transit file after generating branch transfers from the re-order system is now available.

The receiving of branch stock transfers from Goods in Transit has been changed to enable users to do multiple receipts of the same stock transfer. An option exists to cancel remaining quantities.

Price and promotion enquiry programs have been created for the MSS Inventory system.

The Inventory system can now be set up to take buffer stock into consideration when calculating available stock for branch transfers.

Cost roll up for product structures can be called from day-en procedures.

Cost value and mass override indicators have been included in the Stock Transaction Input file. Transactions can be posted in detail or summary per General Ledger Allocation account.

Bill of Material Listing can print FIFO cost and extended cost with or without wastage.

Main System

When using the LK system to create orders, a message will be displayed indicating the number of orders which have been suspended.

Purchase Orders

The option to select different print formats when printing purchase orders and GRV's is now available.

A user field of 10 characters can now be entered on the GRV header to enable weighbridge numbers to be entered. This field will be displayed in the GRV enquiry program. GRV listings allows for range selections.

The multiple products purchase price maintenance function has been upgraded. The prices may be viewed in product code, description, and from-date sequence, Discounts and local and foreign unit prices may be entered for set 1 and set 2 date ranges. New price records may be created. A single price record or a range of price records may be deleted.

A supplier company code range selection has been included in the Abbreviated Purchase Price Master List.

At month-end, obsolete purchase price master records are removed from the file and moved to a history file. These records are available for enquiry via the multiple product price maintenance program.

The Purchase Price History File has been created. Its records are an exact copy of the records removed from the Purchase Price Master file.

An option is now available to display all non-stock item variances for associated products. These variances can be selected so that the associated product cost can be updated via a value only stock adjustment.

A method of entering different costs for products for freight, storage, rail etc. is now available. These costs can be entered as a value, percentage or R/Kg and will be able to be grouped together using a costing method, which will be linked to product. On invoicing, variances will be calculated against all lines including the subordinate lines.

GRV processing in the Purchase Ordering system now allows serial numbers and lot/batch numbers to be recorded against inventory products. The numbers are carried through to the inventory system.

Accrual accounting is now available in the Purchase Order/ Inventory to General Ledger interfaces. Accrual accounts have been set-up on the Purchase Order company file and the product group file. Non-stock items will use the accrual account on the company file and normal stock items will use the accrual account on the product group file. When the Invoice transaction is interfaced to the

General Ledger, the accrual is cleared and variances are optionally passed back to stock or expense accounts.

The accrual accounts will be updated when the receipts are posted and reversed when the invoices are updated to creditors and the Creditor to GL interface is run. Variances for individual stock lines will also be catered for so that the different variance accounts may be used for each stock item.

The data interface between Purchase Ordering and General Ledger is now governed by the interface control system. A number is allocated to the interface together with a "from" and "to" system. Detail of documents can be viewed on the screen and interfaces can be reversed.

GRV enquiries can now be displayed in user field one sequence.

Sales Orders

Orders can now be created via an a PC or PDA. Full audit trails are provided. A message is sent notifying users if orders have been suspended.

Interfaces from Sales Orders to General Ledger is available. Incorrect interfaces can be reversed, corrected and re-run.

Reprinting of consolidated invoices in invoice number sequence is now available.

An option is now available within waybill processing to change the hub/destination code. The hub code has been added to the waybill report selection screen.

Customer contact information can now be transferred from PDAs to an AS/400.

The data interface between Sales Orders and General Ledger is now governed by the interface control system which generates an interface number and allows the user to drill down to order line level. Reversal of interfaces are available under password control.

During invoice release a picker name can be entered and validated.

Invoice printing can now be done for a range of Railage Service types.

A new validation program has been created for use in the Invoice Releasing. It compares the quantity ordered and quantity despatched and displays an error window if they differ by more than a user-defined percentage. The user may then

enter 'Y' to accept the variance or 'N' to reject the variance and halt further processing of the line until an acceptable quantity despatched is entered.

The telephone monitor program has been changed to also pick up incoming calls where the first character in the file is 'I'.

Provide extra price keys to enable product group/ statement account and product group/ price policy code combinations to be available for price lookup.

A drill down has been provided from the General ledger enquiry to display sales documents associated with that interface ID.

Production Requirements.

A production department has been included in the selection for the materials requirement report, production requirement summary, update of requirements file and maintenance of quantities.