

DSG, Inc.

Data Systems Group

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TIPS OF THE TRADE

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Windows95®

by Scott Beene, Diversified Technologies, Inc.

Prior to July 24th, I was probably the Mid-South's greatest skeptic as to the merits of upgrading to Microsoft's latest adventure in operating systems. Like yourself, I have heard all the promises and pledges of how wonderful this new product would be, and how it would solve all of my computer problems; all the while watching the final shipping date of the product get pushed further, and further back.

However, my skepticism soon had given way to excitement, for on July 28, I had completed the week long Microsoft Technical Training Course. Instead of basing my evaluation on rumor, second-hand knowledge, and other's opinions, I had experienced the product first-hand with over 36 hours of continued use and abuse. Here is what I discovered.

Say Good-bye forever to those endless and tedious "OUT OF MEMORY" errors. The new Dynamic Memory Manager in Windows95 is nothing less than *awesome*. Let me cite one example. One of the lab exercises consisted of opening multiple applications of the operating system. My fellow classmates and I took the test to the extreme by opening up the following all at the same time: twenty-nine (29) 16-bit Windows3.11 applications, fifty-seven (57) 32-bit Windows95 applications, five (5) MS-Dos prompts, and Windows95 ScanDisk. At the same time, someone from another workstation (all the computers in the lab were linked together) was using their Windows95 system monitor to observe the following on the machine running the multiple applications: Processor Usage, Kernel Usage, Total Memory Available, and Total Free Memory. All of these applications were running simultaneously and the computer (a 486DX2-66 with 20 MB of RAM) never stopped running. Obviously, each subsequent application was running slower as the others were opened up, but IT NEVER STOPPED RUNNING. Personally, I was impressed. We never got an out of memory error, and all of the ninety plus applications continued to function with no errors between them.

The GUI (graphical user interface) for Windows95 is vastly improved over past

versions of Windows. After 1½ hours of use, I was very comfortable with the way that it works. The organization is logical and straight forward, while eliminating all the clutter of icons that were required before. Opening files, checking status on communications, printing, opening new documents, and starting new applications now only require you to use either the start button or a customized icon you can create for those frequently used applications. One of my personal favorite new features is the Customized User Interface. With Windows95, each user must log on to the machine in order to use it. Stored with your log on name are all of your user preferences. That means your screen saver, wallpaper, shortcut icons, printer and network mapping are now associated with your log on. That means multiple users can use the same machine and have their own customized interface.

The network utilities and tools that come with Windows95 are worth the upgrade price all by themselves. Assuming that your network is installed properly, superior utilization of Novell, Microsoft, or Banyan resources are easy to get to, easy to reconfigure, and simple to install.

Overall, I am very pleased with the product. However, because this new operating system does function vastly different than its predecessors, and owing to the differences in computer and network configurations inherent in business computer systems, I recommend that all business customers purchase their upgrades from a vendor who can give on-site support, otherwise you may take a week to finish your upgrade.

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Multiple Receipts for the Same PO is OK. However . . .

Are there times when you want to enter multiple receipts for the same Purchase Order and in the same batch? Here are some of the system responses and options to consider.

If an additional Receipt of Goods is entered for a Purchase Order Number in the current receipts batch, the following message will be displayed:

THIS PO NUMBER ALREADY EXISTS IN RECEIPT OF GOODS ENTRY NUMBER XXXXXX. PRESS <ENTER> TO RE-ENTER. (END):

Type **OK** to continue entry of this receipt of goods.

If the invoice number for a purchase order is re-entered for a Receipt of Goods/Invoice in the current receipt batch, the following message will be displayed:

THIS INVOICE NUMBER ALREADY EXISTS IN THE RECEIPT OF GOODS ENTRY NUMBER XXXXXX. CONTINUE WITH THIS NUMBER? (Yes, No, END):

Answer **Y** to continue with the receipt of invoice for this purchase order number. Answer **N** to return to the INV NO: field. Type **END** to return to the RE-

CEIPT NO: field.

You may encounter both messages if you are entering a Receipt of Goods and Invoice multiple times.

However, receiving a line twice may cause the QTY ON HAND and/or QTY ON PO to be incorrect in the Quantity On Hand & Reorder Data screen in Inventory Maintenance. Over receipt of a line item in a Receipt of Goods/Invoice entry will be included on the Receipt/Invoice Variance Report.

Remember: Use the Rebuild Application Sorts Utility for PO if you should find that your quantity on hand and/or your quantity on PO are incorrect. When the system asks:

“WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECALCULATE OPEN PURCHASE ORDER QUANTITIES IN INVENTORY MASTERFILE ALSO?”

Answer **YES**.

Our PO Level 2.0 has been enhanced to display a Y/N option to receive multiple items. The need to rebuild sorts is eliminated.

from Tips and Techniques, a State of the Art publication

Library Master Offers Tracking

Library Master contains a “tracking” feature that record the last 999 “significant” events that occurred on your system, and displays or prints these results when you select the **SYSTEM ACTIVITY LOG** from the Utilities Menu. This information can at times be vital when diagnosing an issue.

Significant events include Period End Processing, Parameter Changes, Records of Installations, File Deletions/Creations, and any Errors that may have occurred. Not all Errors display an Error Message, but all are recorded in the System Activity Log. Only Errors of significance that require your immediate attention are displayed on the screen.

The System Activity Log includes the date, time, user, company code, and description of the activity.

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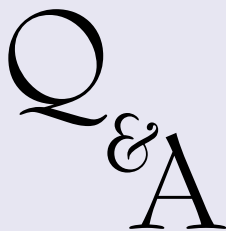
Tip of the Month



Update Crashes and Restarts

If an upgrade stops with an error message and you have to leave the update program with an end statement or release statement:

Once the update is restarted, after corrections have been made or attempted, make sure you restart the update with the same date used the first time or the transaction journal update will have two separate journals that look out of balance for each date, but in balance when taken collectively.



Q: *I was thinking about customizing my M•A•S 90 software. How do I know when this is necessary?*

A: While customizing your M•A•S 90 software is certainly a good idea in most instances, and can make your job easier, it isn't always the answer. There is a possibility that the

modules you use can already provide the unique feature that you need. Check with your support person at DSG, Inc. to see if customization is necessary to get your job done right.

Installing Or Upgrading

Whether you are installing a new module or upgrading an existing module, your diskette's packaging contains important installation information usually titled "Product Announcement." **Before you install your new diskettes always read this important information.** It contains specific instructions regarding your installation/upgrade and is often the only communication you will receive regarding important issues such as compatibility requirements, existing data file conversion effects, forms regeneration requirements, and late-breaking product information. The majority of the installation-related questions can be answered by this document. Reading this information before installation will speed your installation and may save you from potential problems. It will also boost the productivity of your firm since you'll avoid needless delays and mistakes.

Your Library Master Users Manual contains the installation instructions for your specific operating system. You may want to review this information before installing any diskettes. Of course, if an issue arises or you are uncertain how to proceed with an installation, your technical support person at DSG, Inc. will be happy to assist you.

*from Tips and Techniques, a
State of the Art publication*

Technical Support for any
M•A•S 90 product can be obtained
by contacting DSG, Inc.

(901) 384-6600
FAX (901) 384-6602

MODULES

New Module Enhancements for Report Master Make Giving Reports a Breeze

There are many new enhancements to Report Master, all designed to make your job a little bit easier.

Excel XLS and Lotus WK4 file formats are supported now, making it possible for you to save your reports for use in these programs.

You can now define a default printer to each record, which provides printer flexibility. The number of lines per detail record have been increased from 9 to 60, making it possible to print one page per record.

Fields have also been enhanced. Constant fields make it possible to create a calculated column and have fields within the calculation change. Conditional fields make it possible to create a report based upon conditional statements that you define.

Other enhancements include on-the-fly links, password protection, the ability to use date math, and access to BBx variables in the Data Section. Contact your DSG, Inc. representative for more information.

Good News For Mac Users

For those of you who use Macintosh® computers in your office, accounting software is available from STATE OF THE ART, the parent company of M•A•S 90. Due to the merger of STATE OF THE ART and Manzanita, MACP&L™ and FlexWare™ are now available.

The MacP&L software is ideal for small and medium sized businesses, and FlexWare, designed to use the graphical user interface of System 7.0, is the software for larger companies.

For more information about software for your Mac, contact your representative at DSG, Inc.



In Your Opinion . . .

At DSG, Inc., we strive to make your work easier. Currently, we are researching the possibility of creating a M•A•S 90 users group. Please take a minute to complete and return the following survey. You can look for more information concerning the users group and the results of our survey in upcoming newsletters.

1. How many people in your office would be interested in participating in the users group?

- 1-5 6-10 11-15
 16-20 21-25 over 25

2. What areas of M•A•S 90 would be of interest to you for possible group meeting topics?

3. On what day(s) would you be available to meet?

- Monday Tuesday Wednesday
 Thursday Friday Saturday

4. What time would you be available to meet?

- Day Night

5. What other types of support would you like to see from a M•A•S 90 users group?

6. Who would you like to receive this newsletter in your company?

Name _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

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